Fourteenth Series, Vol. XII, No. 17

Wednesday, August 17, 2005
Sravana 26, 1927 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fifth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XII contains Nos. 11 to 20)

Gazettes & Debates Unit
Parliament Library Building
Room No. FB-025
Block 'G'
Acc. No. 10
Dated 17th Aug. 2006

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 80.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

P.D.T. Achary
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

Kiran Sahni
Principal Chief Editor

Harnam Dass Takker
Chief Editor

Parmesh Kumar Sharma
Senior Editor

Ajit Singh Yadav
Editor

[ORIGINAL ENGLISH PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN ENGLISH VERSION AND ORIGINAL HINDI PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN HINDI VERSION WILL BE TREATED AS AUTHORITATIVE AND NOT THE TRANSLATION THEREOF.]

CONTENTS

[Fourteenth Series, Vol. XII, Fifth Session, 2005/1927 (Saka)]

No. 17, Wednesday, August 17, 2005/Sravana 26, 1927 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Questions Nos. 321-324 and 326	1—41
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Questions Nos. 325 and 327-340	41—67
Unstarred Questions Nos. 3283-3506	67—434
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	435—439, 509—510
COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES	
Statements	439—440
CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	
(i) Need for Legislation for Reservation to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in Higher Educational Institutions	440—460
Shri A. Krishnaswamy	440, 442—443
Shri Arjun Singh	441—442, 459—460
Shri K. Subbarayan	444
Prof. M. Ramadass	444—446
Shri Sushil Kumar Modi	446—448
Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran	448—449
Shri S.K. Kharventhan	450
Shri P. Mohan	450
Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal	450—451
Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav	451—453
Shri Mohan Singh	453—454
Shri Ilyas Azmi	454

*The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that member.

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Arjun Sethi	455
Shri Nitish Kumar	455—456
Dr. M. Jagannath	456—457
(ii) Need to expedite approval of Kalasa and Banduri Nala projects	460—470
Shri Ananth Kumar	460, 462—465
Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi	461—462, 467—470
Shri Pralhad Joshi	465—467
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	476—485
(i) Need to provide special economic package to Himachal Pradesh for its all-round development	
Shrimati Pratibha Singh	477
(ii) Need to release commemorative stamp on the birth centenary of Dr. Soundram, a freedom fighter, falling on 18 August, 2005	
Shri N.S.V. Chitthan	477—478
(iii) Need to extend 315A and 316A rail services upto Muri via Jalda in West Bengal and re-route Shakti Puja Express via Muri, Jalda and Bokaro Steel City	
Shri Bir Singh Mahato	478
(iv) Need to clear the proposal for setting up of Chanshal-Simla-Solan for multi-purpose water supply project in Himachal Pradesh	
Dr. Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram Shandil	478—479
(v) Need to grant environmental clearance to the pending irrigation projects of Andhra Pradesh	
Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao	479—480
(vi) Need to take steps to check use of drugs by youths in Punjab	
Shri Avinash Rai Khanna	480
(vii) Need to increase the percentage of reservation provided to Banjara and other nomadic tribes for their socio-economic and educational upliftment	
Shri Haribhau Rathod	480
(viii) Need to release adequate funds for speedy completion of Keonjhargarh-Daitani-Banspani railway section of Orissa	
Shri Ananta Nayak	480—481
(ix) Need to continue the permission granted to Ayurvedic doctors for using Allopathic system of medication in Maharashtra and other parts of the country	
Shri Hansraj G. Ahir	481

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(x) Need for construction of a Coastal Highway between Haldia and Digha in West Bengal and also establish Tourism and Small Scale Industrial Complex in the region	
Shri Prasanta Pradhan	481—482
(xi) Need to provide special package to the Government of Uttar Pradesh to meet the imminent threat posed to the villages on the banks of river Ghagra, in Salempur Parliamentary Constituency due to rise in its water level	
Shri Harikewal Prasad	482
(xii) Need to provide relief to the farmers whose crops have been affected due to erosion caused by river Gomti in Haliapur and Jagdishpuri in Sultanpur district	
Shri Mohd. Tahir	483
(xiii) Need to open Technical Educational Institute in Phulbani Parliamentary Constituency, Orissa for the benefit of tribal population	
Shri Sugrib Singh	483
(xiv) Need to take suitable measures for speedy disposal of pending cases in courts	
Dr. M. Jagannath	484
(xv) Need for inclusion of more areas under the North East Industrial Policy, 1997 with a view to create employment in the region	
Shri Sarbananda Sonowal	484—485
PAYMENT OF WAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004	485—490, 491—509, 510—545
Motion to Consider	485
Shri K. Chandrasekhar Rao	485
Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot	485—490
Shri Madhusudan Mistry	491—498
Shri Santasri Chatterjee	498—502
Shri C. Kuppusami	502—503
Shri Shailendra Kumar	503—505
Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy	505—509
Shri K. Subbarayan	510
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	511—514
Shri S.K. Kharventhan	514—518
Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu	518—521

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Rajaram Pal	521—523
Shri Basu Deb Acharia	523—526
Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava	527—530
Chaudhary Lal Singh	530—531
Shri Ram Kripal Yadav	531—534
Shri Joachim Baxla	534—536
Shri K. Chandrasekhar Rao	536—543
Clauses 2 to 11 and 1	544
Motion to Pass	545
STATEMENT BY MINISTER	
Reduction in fee for issuance of duplicate Passports	490—491
ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR	
Cancellation of Sitting of the Lok Sabha and Re-Fixing of Private Mamber's Business	527
ANNEXURE-I	
Member-wise Index to Starred Questions	560
Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	561—568
ANNEXURE-II	
Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions	569—570
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	569—572

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

THE SPEAKER
Shri Somnath Chatterjee

THE DEPUTY-SPEAKER
Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN
Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal
Shri Giridhar Gamang
Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan
Shri Ajay Maken
Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey
Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan
Shri Arjun Sethi
Lt. Col. (Retd.) Manabendra Shah
Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav

SECRETARY-GENERAL
Shri P.D.T. Achary

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, August 17, 2005/Sravana 26, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Question hour should be suspended.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have rejected your Adjoumment Motion.

[Translation]

Please sit down, you know that every one gets opportunity.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: He does not need your *madad.*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Connecting Eastern and Western Coast

*321. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme to connect the Eastern Coast and Western Coast of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the total amount likely to be spent by the Government thereon?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) and (b) The Government is implementing Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project, which envisages cutting of a ship channel to connect the Gulf of Mannar and Bay of Bengal through Palk Bay and Palk Satrait so that most of the ships, depending on draft required, moving between the east and the west coast of India, could have a continuous navigable sea route around the Peninsula within India's own territorial waters.

(c) Once complete, the benefits, which are likely to accrue after implementation of the project are as under:

— The channel will save upto 424 nautical miles of navigable distance and upto 30 hours of sailing time for ships sailing between the east and the west coast of the country leading to reduction in maritime transportation coast and thereby promoting coastal movement of domestic cargo.

— Development of ports on the coast along the channel may spur economic and industrial development in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu.

— The project is of strategic importance from national defence and security point of view, enabling quicker access between the coasts as well as shortened response time for Naval and Coast Guard ships.

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

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister, in his reply has mentioned many benefits that

*Not recorded.

are likely to the overall economy of the country after connecting both the coasts by water way. I do not want to repeat them and would congratulate to the hon'ble Prime Minister that he announced the implementation of this project in Madurai. This will cost more than Rs. two thousand crore. Through you, I would like to know the present status of the project. I want to know whether the plan and its estimate have been prepared and the process of awarding contract of this project has been initiated. At what stage the project is pending and how much time will be taken by the Government to complete this project?

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, at the time of the launching of this particular project, the dredging has started 35 kms. Away from Point Calimere. So far we have dredged about 7,86,000 cubic metres. The work is going on day and night. For the other three structures, the bids have been called for and we will be finalizing it during the course of next month. DPR has already been prepared and only after the preparation of DPR, the project will be taken up.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to extend my thanks to the hon'ble Minister that he has assured to complete the project at the earliest. Some of the important projects of the country have been included in fast track plan for their implementation. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government propose to include the said project in the fast track plans to complete project at the earliest, as the said project will improve the economy of not only the coastal regions of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka but it will also help in improving the economy of the entire nation.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, this particular project will be completed on time within three-and-a-half years and even before that. As such, the things are moving like that only.

We will be saving 424 nautical miles of navigable distance and up to 30 hours of sailing time. So fuel and time will be saved. These are the things that I would like to tell to the hon. Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Wish you best wishes!

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Over and above the Sethu Samundram Project, there was a plan and a Project of the NDA Government to connect the western coast and the eastern coast by land route.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any plan or Project to connect the western coast and the eastern coast—that is from Saurashtra to Kolkata—by land route. If so, what is the progress made in respect of that Project, and when will it be completed?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Road Project of East-West Corridor will be completed by December, 2007.

MR. SPEAKER: Very straight answer.

Shri Ravichandran Sippiparai.

*SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Hon Speaker, Sir, I am happy to share my joy that a hundred and fifty year old dream of the Tamils have been accomplished with the commencement of the Sethu Samundram project. But some vested interests who cannot bear to see the implementation of this project are creating fears in the minds of fishermen and are inciting them spreading rumours that they may be affected. So fishermen in some places are worried and concerned. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any hazardous effect affecting fishermen and the steps taken by the Government in this regard to allay the fears and to protect the interests of fishermen with safeguard measures to help the fishermen there.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, should I answer in Tamil or in English?

MR. SPEAKER: You may answer in Tamil.

*SHRI T.R. BAALU: Thank you, Sir.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, we the Tamils are sharing happiness especially all the Members of Parliament happily rejoice on the birth anniversary of our former Union Minister for Industry & Commerce, Thiru. Murasoli Maran. Today, that is, 17th of August is his 71st birthday and on this day I have got an opportunity to give reply in Tamil in this august House and I am proud of it and

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

heartily thank the Chair for providing me with the opportunity.

Sir, we are for taking care of the interests of our fishermen who form part of the weaker sections of the society. We will be protecting them, safeguarding their livelihood. Leaders and members of all the constituent parties of this United Progressive Alliance have visited the localities, the villages of the fishermen folk and taken them into confidence while evolving this project to allay the fears in their minds. We have invited their community leaders and their representatives and held meetings to analyse treadbare the implications of this project and held consultations even for long duration ranging from 4 to 5 hours. I would like to emphasise in particular that there is no scope for any apprehension in the minds of the fishermen to carry on with their traditional occupation. Certain vested interests with ulterior political motives instigate them and try to incite them against this viable project. Whenever such mega projects take shape it is not uncommon to find opposition. No responsible Government can either ignore it or succumb to it. Amidst all these, this project has been inaugurated on 2nd of July 2005 by our beloved Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, at Madurai. The project was commenced in the presence of our UPA Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi and our beloved leader Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi. Lakhs of people gathered there while we took up that prestigious project. It fulfils 145 years of dream. As part of this project, fishermen can get the benefit of the development of certain small ports like Rameswaram, Nagapattinam, Mallipattanam, Sethubava Samudram in the vicinity of the new navigational route being dredged. These ports would benefit the fishermen. In general, there is an apprehension about the availability of fish and depletion in the quantity of their availability. There is no valid ground for such apprehension. In a survey conducted by the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) it has been seen that the quantity of fish has not depleted but it is always on the increase. The quantity of fish catch in 1992 was 55,320 tonnes, in 1993—66,141 tonnes, in 1994—78,210 tonnes, in 1995—95,981 tonnes, and in 1996 it was 1,02,898 tonnes. I would like to point out that the survey findings only show that the quantity of fish have always been increasing especially even after the construction and completion of Tuticorin port. As the availability of fish is on the increase, there is no scope for any apprehension in the minds of fishermen. So I would like to point out that proper care is taken, appropriate steps are underway and suitable incentives will be extended to the fishermen when we are in the process of completing the Sethu Samudram project.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rajaram Pal—not present.

Dr. Sujan Chakraborty.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, all of us know that Kolkata port is one of the oldest ports. It is a river-end port. Transportation to Kolkata port is a long-pending issue and it is being discussed for long. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when connectivity to Kolkata port is going to be finalized. By what time it is going to be finalized?

MR. SPEAKER: Port connectivity with what?

MOHD. SALIM: It is a multi-mode connectivity. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Is it from road to port?

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, it is from road to Kolkata port.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, this matter has already been discussed with the Chief Minister of West Bengal as well as the Members of Parliament. Yesterday I was discussing with him. After 15 days, I am going to meet the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal and the Members of Parliament. We will sort out the matter. We are going to have *pucca* port connectivity.

[Translation]

Delayed/Wrong/Non-Delivery of Letters

+

*322. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) whether the Government has received complaints from the general public against the post offices regarding delayed delivery/non-delivery/wrong delivery of letters etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise/circle-wise alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the redressal of such complaints

[English]

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

Statement

(a) Some complaints regarding delayed delivery/non-delivery/wrong delivery of letters etc. have been received. However, the number of such complaints is very few in comparison with the total volume of mail handled by the Department as may be seen from the complaint to traffic ratio for such complaints given below:—

Unregistered Letters	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02
Traffic (in lakhs)	84216	88716	108134.5
Complaints (in thousands)	8.6	6.9	10.3
Complaint to traffic ratio (%)	0.0001%	0.00008%	0.0001%

(b) The details of complaints regarding delayed delivery/non-delivery/wrong delivery of letters circle-wise is given below:—

For Unregistered Letters

Name of Circle	No. of complaints about delay in delivery			No. of complaints about non-delivery			No. of complaints about wrong delivery		
	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Assam	25	116	9	0	6	0	0	0	0
Andhra Pradesh	44	34	36	84	40	20	0	0	0
Bihar	72	20	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	6	1	4	0	0	0	4	0	0
Delhi	475	401	320	0	0	0	0	0	0
Gujarat	259	701	298	7	73	9	0	13	0
Haryana	30	12	33	0	0	0	0	0	0
Himachal Pradesh	8	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jammu and Kashmir	0	42	23	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jharkhand	14	73	59	3	4	0	0	0	0
Karnataka	560	376	288	63	50	39	0	2	0
Kerala	914	1336	2154	238	131	153	14	2	8
Madhya Pradesh	70	164	53	0	0	3	0	0	0
Maharashtra	467	634	329	1	5	0	0	0	0
North East	8	12	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orissa	29	11	13	3	0	0	0	0	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Punjab	58	28	32	7	0	3	0	0	0
Rajasthan	84	70	38	14	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	684	374	744	76	54	45	0	126	0
Uttar Pradesh	712	443	254	0	60	9	0	0	0
Uttaranchal	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Bengal	490	394	240	2	2	2	0	0	0
Army Postal Service	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5010	5247	4944	498	381	283	18	143	9

The reasons for delayed delivery/non-delivery/wrong delivery include cancellation/late running of trains/airlines/ buses, incomplete and wrong addresses on the letters, non-use of Postal Index Number (PIN) Code, growth of unplanned colonies in some areas, heavy seasonal work load during festival time, change in residence of the addressee without intimation to the concerned postmaster etc.

Settlement of complaints is a continuous activity and of all the complaints received in 2004-05, 90.53% were settled within 3 months of receipt.

(c) The Department takes immediate action on the complaints received for their redressal. On individual complaints, an enquiry is made by a responsible official of the Department to examine whether there is a short coming in the mail delivery arrangements for that area or any other lacuna giving rise to the complaint. Corrective action is taken on the basis of the result of the enquiry. Improvement of mail delivery is an ongoing exercise and the Department has taken various steps in that direction including installation of automatic mail processing centres in Mumbai and Chennai, segmentation of mail into various channels for local, metro and international mail for quicker sorting and transmission, regular monitoring through test letters and trial cards, live mail surveys, surprise checks on delivery staff, rationalizing and restructuring delivery work in new developing areas, encouragement of presorting by bulk mailers, encouraging use of post bags and boxes in post offices, coordination with transmission agencies like airlines, railways and road-ways. For quick redressal of complaints the Department has provided the facility for registration of complaints online and has set up 1116 computerised customer care centres all over the country to receive and process complaints through a specially designed, interconnected web based system.

[Translation]

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, postal service is the only means of sending letters in rural areas. However, on account the vacant posts of postal employees in rural areas the letters are not delivered timely. What is the procedure of Government for filling up the vacant posts?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, what are you going to do for filling up the vacant posts?

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Member and the House that the Indian Postal Network is the biggest postal network of the world and everybody will appreciate this submission. China is bigger than our country in terms of population and area. However, the number of post offices in China is less than seventy thousand whereas the number of post offices in India is more than one lakh fifty five thousand. The number of regular employees, who are called departmental employees, in the postal department, is nearly two and half lakh. The total number of employees in the Department of Post is nearly 2.98 lakh. The Planning Commission suggested us not to open new post offices and maintain the existing number. The

opening up of new post offices and appointing new staff will have adverse financial implication. However, we have posted employees as per the requirement and wherever it is essential staff will be relocated and new staff will be appointed. However, we can take further action as per four financial capacity and condition and the existing expansion of the network would be done as per the guide lines of the Planning Commission.

SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has submitted that vacancies in the department will be filled up keeping in view the financial condition of the Government. My Second question is that there is an increase in the Courier Services by the private Companies in the country and it is on account of this that the revenue of the Postal Department has been on declining. I would like to ask whether the Government have formulated any scheme to control the Courier Services of the private companies in order to increase the revenue of the Postal Department.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that some of our works have been taken up by the courier services. Courier services are regulated under Indian Postal Act, 1898 and it is clearly mentioned in this Act that the Courier Services can not handle certain type of letters like personal letter between two persons and if they do so they cannot charge for this. Taking advantage of this provision, they do not mention 'letter' in their advertisement, rather they always use documents. Keeping in view this fact the Department has decided to amend the existing Act of 1898 which is more than hundred years old and the Act will certainly be amended by the end of the year. Courier Services will be brought under the law and all necessary action will be taken in this regard.

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at one point of time our postal system was considered the best postal system of the world. However, on account of inefficient performance and pressure from bureaucracy it is not only losing its credibility but is also suffering heavy losses. Even today, letter is one of the most important means of communication in the rural areas. However, due to faulty delivery system and the negligence of postal employees, the people either do not receive letters or of they do, get after months or years. In the year 2004-05 alone 44329 complaints regarding the non-delivery of letters were registered.

MR. SPEAKER: You please ask your question.

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Sir, similar is the situation regarding the delivery of postal articles and money orders. The Government have said that the efforts are being made to modernize postal department including the computerization of post offices for improving the efficiency and capacity of postal system as well the revenue generation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please ask your question.

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know whether the Government also propose to modernize the post offices in the rural areas. If not, whether the Government propose to increase the number of Group D employees and the post offices to ensure the timely and proper delivery of postal materials.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I hope you have looked into the report of the Standing Committee on this.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Yes Sir, hon'ble Member has stated that there are a large number of complaints that the postal articles are not delivered on time. It is true that such complaints may exist in such a vast postal network. Sir, through you, I would like to apprise the House and country about the percentage of such complaints. Primarily, the letters are handled dividing them in three categories namely-unregistered mail, speed post and registered mail.

The percentage of complaints during the year 2003-04 in regard to unregistered mail is 0.0001 while it is 0.107 and 0.089 in regard to speed post and registered letter respectively. Sir, the percentage of complaints is less despite we are handling so many mail services. But though it is one percent, it shows there exist some sort of a lacuna and we are making consistent effort to plug that lacuna. We have made efforts for mechanization and then are 1116 computerised care centres in the country. If anyone has any complaint be it regard to delivery of mails, then he can lodge his complaint in the post office. The complaints are then referred to the 116 computerised care centres which are directly linked with our Headquarters. We can monitor it from there.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will be pleased to learn that during the year 2003-04, ninty to ninty one percent unregistered mails have been delivered on time and we have also disposed of ninty seven percent complaints in regard to registered mails. We will also dispose of the remaining three per cent every soon. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We, all of us, should try.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Sir, I would like to ask only one more question.

MR. SPEAKER: No, you have already asked. You have been given a chance and you asked a very long question. We have to go by the rule.

Shri Madan Lal Sharma.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your name was called, you asked a question and Hon. Minister gave its reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you are not satisfied with the reply there is a way to challenge it. You give it.

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister that my question is related to far flung and hilly areas. Our country made progress and this department was also considerably expanded out in the bordering state of Jammu and Kashmir particularly, in the rural and hilly areas on the border where it takes 2-3 days to reach on foot, this, complaint is very frequent that either the letters are not received on time or are not received at all. Whether the hon. Minister or his department has prepared any programme to redress this problem of the people? If the educated unemployed youth particularly in our state apply for a job in any part of the country, they do not even get call letters on their address. Even if it reaches, it happens so after the interview date. If feel that future of lakhs of educated unemployed youth is linked with it. Whether he or his department has prepared any programme for the redressal of this problem?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, through you, I would like to apprise the House that this question is not restricted to border areas only. This question is concerned with the entire country. Hon. Member is associated with the state of Jammu and Kashmir. In this regard, I would like to inform that a total of 42 complaints relating to unregistered letters were received in the year 2003-04 which came down to 23 in the year 2004-05. There is no complaint of non delivery of letters of Jammu and Kashmir and similarly there is no complaint of wrong delivery, letters. If Hon. Member has any specific cases then we will definitely look into it. The department is ready to redress the complaints received and take action on them. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the House that we have taken action against the officers and staff on complaints received during the last five years. Action has been taken against 62 supervisors and 94 clerical staff in the year 2001-02.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is being asked in this. If somebody does not get his interview letter in time then what can you do?

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: That matter will also be probed but we can not conduct interviews. Inquiry is held on a specific but in regard to this all the departments will have to take a decision. If the fault lies with the Postal department then we can hold an inquiry. If responsibility is fixed then we take action against that person concerned.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now Hon. Minister in regard to delay in delivery and wrong delivery of letters, informed the House that the percentage of complaints is 0.0001. In regard to Maharashtra he said that the number of complaints was zero in the last year 2004-05, but number of the complaints were more than 50 in my district alone. Just now, the Hon. Member submitted that interview letters are not received on time. To cite an example, a person received the letter of appointment after one year. Call letters for examination are received after the exam. One postman is assigned the job to look after 10 or 12 villages and it is ensured that he will cover two villages once a

week on a scheduled date. It means that he is able to go only once a week for the delivery of letters in the course of which dates get expired.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is only the second Question, and we have already spent 25 minutes. Please ask question.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Mr. Question is that postman covers only one village in a week. He should go at least twice a week for delivery of letters in a village. Whether the Hon. Minister is likely to make any provision in this regard?

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, whatever has been submitted by the Hon. Member in regard to Maharashtra, I have accepted it in my reply that there are 329 complaints even this year but the percentage quoted by me is for entire country and in regard to late delivery, so within three months. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, No cross talk please. The hon. Minister is replying.

[Translation]

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, action is taken within three months, six months or twelve months. We take action within three months on a matter on which 90 percent postal complaints are received. That is why if the Member has any specific complaint in regard to a case then we can constitute an inquiry.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ramdas Athawale, please put a very brief specific question with no prefaces.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, postal department is the most prominent department across the world but the delivery is very slow. My question is as to how many people have been found guilty for late delivery of posts and out of the said officials what is the number of those against whom action has been taken? Second question is that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No second question. Mr. Minister, you answer only the first part.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, several post offices are running in a school buildings which causes great inconvenience to school children, there is a need to wind up post offices that exist in schools and open new post office in villages.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as Athawale Sahib's query is concerned as to what action has been taken, I was telling that in the year 2001-02 action had been initiated against 270 officials on public complaints. In the year 2002-03 action was initiated against 326 people because of non delivery or late delivery and against 451 officials in the year 2003-04.

As far as closing of post office is concerned, it depends upon the specific location of the post office. Whenever we talk about closing a post office the people of that area have objection to that. If there is any specific matter of some particular school and hon. Member submits in writing them we can conduct an inquiry into that.

[English]

Setting up Food and Drug Testing Laboratories

*323. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up more food and drug testing laboratories and to upgrade the existing laboratories in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, location-wise alongwith the amount earmarked for the same;

(c) the time by which these laboratories are likely to be set up;

(d) whether the proposed laboratories are equipped to test all varieties of drugs;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Statement

(a) to (f) Under the World Bank aided Capacity Building Project for Food Safety and Quality Control of Drugs, technical capabilities of the existing food and drug laboratories are being upgraded and modernized and new modern food and drug laboratories are being set up including in the three newly created States of Jharkhand, Chattisgarh and Uttaranchal. The State-wise location and the amount earmarked for the food and drug laboratories in the State sector and the Central Sector are enclosed as Annexure-I and Annexure-II respectively.

The upgradation/setting up of all these laboratories will be completed within the Project period *i.e.* upto December, 2007.

With the upgradation of the laboratories, it will be possible to test most of the existing approved varieties of drugs.

Annexure I

The location of Laboratories covered under the capacity building project on Food and Drugs in the State Sector

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Food Sector	Sl.No.	Drug Sector
		Laboratories being strengthened/new laboratories being set up		laboratories being strengthened/new laboratories being set up
1	2	3	4	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad & Vizag	1.	Hyderabad
2.	Assam	Gauwahati		
3.	Bihar	Patna		
4.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur*	2.	Raipur*
5.	Goa	Panaji	3.	Panaji
6.	Gujarat	Bhuj and Rajkot	4.	Vadodara
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Solan	5.	Kandaghat
8.	Haryana	Chandigarh	6.	Chandigarh
9.	Jharkhand	Ranchi*	7.	Ranchi*
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	Jammu	8.	Srinagar and Jammu
11.	Karnataka	Bangalore	9.	Bangalore
12.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram, Kozhikode, Cochin & Calicut	10.	Thiruvananthapuram
13.	Maharashtra	Pune & Mumbai	11.	Mumbai and Aurangabad
14.	Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	12.	Bhopal
15.	Manipur	Imphal & Moreh		
16.	Meghalaya	Shillong		
17.	Nagaland	Kohima		
18.	Orissa	Bhubaneshwar	13.	Bhubaneshwar

1	2	3	4
19.	Punjab	Chandigarh	
20.	Rajasthan	Jaipur, Jodhpur	14. Jaipur
21.	Sikkim	Gangtok*	
22.	Tamil Nadu	Guindy, Pallayamkottai & Thanjvur	15. Chenai
23.	Tripura	Agartala	16. Agartala
24.	Uttaranchal	Rudrapur*	17. Rudrapur*
25.	Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow, Meerut & Gorakhpur	18. Lucknow
26.	West Bengal	Kolkata	19. Kolkata
27.	Andaman and Nicobar	Port Blair	
28.	Delhi	Delhi	20. Delhi
29.	Pondicherry	Pondicherry	21. Pondicherry
	Total	42	23

Note: *New laboratories being set up

Annexure II

The Location of Laboratories covered under the capacity building project on Food and Drugs in the Central Sector

Sl.No.	Name of laboratory	Sl.No.	Name of Laboratory
1.	Central Food Laboratory Kolkata	1.	Central India Pharmacopoeia Laboratory, Ghaziabad
2.	Central Food Laboratory, Mumbai*	2.	Central Drug Testing Laboratory Mumbai
3.	Central Food Laboratory, Kandla/Bhuj*	3.	Central Drug Testing Laboratory, Chandigarh
4.	Central Food Laboratory, Raxaul*	4.	Regional Drug Testing Laboratory, Guwahati
5.	5 central food labs on Indo-Nepal Border*	5.	Central Drug Laboratory, Kolkata
6.	Central Food Laboratory, Attari*	6.	Central Drug Testing Laboratory, Chennai
7.	Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore		
8.	National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad		
9.	Food Research and Standardisation Laboratory Ghaziabad		

Note: *New Laboratories being set up

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Mashelkar Committee was constituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in January, 2003, under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar to examine all aspects of drug-related infrastructure including the problem of spurious and sub-standard drugs and to give its recommendations to tackle this problem and also suggest a roadmap for implementing its recommendations. The Committee had submitted its Report in November, 2003. The major recommendations relate to enhancement of penalties that have been provided under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. I would like to know whether the Government would bring forward a Bill for implementing the recommendations of the Mashelkar Committee.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: There were two sets of recommendations. One is the set of interim recommendations and the other is the full Report. On the basis of the interim recommendations on enhancement of legal and penal provisions, a Bill has a already been introduced in the other august House last Session and we are going to go forward on that with stricter legal provisions and enforcement.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: The Central Drug Laboratory, Kolkata, is the appellate laboratory under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and is to act as analyst for all the 28 States and seven Union Territories as well as for samples drawn by Central Drug Inspectors. I would like to know whether the Government has any proposal to start another appellate laboratory in South India, particularly in Chennai.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Currently, we do not have a proposal to have an appellate laboratory but a proposal for modernizing the drugs and food laboratories, both of the Central and the State Governments, under the World Bank's Capacity-building Project has been undertaken. In fact, we are going to have a new drug-testing lab in Chennai, which would be one of the best in the country. Apart from Chennai and Mumbai, already we have in Kolkata, the Central Drug Laboratory, which we are modernizing. We are trying to bring it up to have world-class facilities.

SHRI VINOD KHANNA: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, Sir.

Since the hon. Minister has said that we do not have laboratories which meet world standards and are in the process of upgrading our laboratories, has the Government considered going into a public-private partnership? The maintenance of standards in food and drugs is a very important issue which the whole world takes very seriously but we do not even have laboratories of food testing right now. As far as packed food is concerned, the ingredients of that particular food like how much protein, how much carbohydrate, how much fat and how much sugar it contains are displayed in most of the countries. So, has the Government any plan, since we do not have laboratories right now which meet world standards, to go in for a public-private partnership because we have world-class laboratories in the private sector?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Currently, like I said, we are going for capacity building where Rs. 356 crore are being invested into modernising the laboratories, for making them world-class labs. Out of that, about approximately Rs. 214 crore are going to food labs and approximately Rs. 110 crore are going to drug labs.

Today, we are modernizing approximately about 84 labs, both State and Central drug and food labs across the country, in the sense that we are bringing them up to world standards. As it is, today, we do not have an option or going in for public-private partnership on these labs because these need to be regulated. But we are going in for a National Drug Authority concept where it is going to be an independent drug authority catering to the needs of the country, making stricter and more stringent enforcement of rules where the industry would also play a role. In the National Drug Authority, there would be participants of the industry, consumers, the State Governments, the Central Government and legal luminaries. All of them would be a part of the National Drug Authority.

Coming to the second part of the question, the Government is having a proposal of making mandatory the labeling of food products in the country where not only the contents but also the nutritional status would have to be displayed. So, when we notify them after a few months, in all the food products in the country, mandatorily, there has to be a mention of the calories, fat content and other nutritional contents. We are going to notify that. In a few months, we would be notifying that.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Food and drug testing laboratories are very much essential to detect and combat adulteration and contamination of food and also drugs. Therefore, I think, where the import and export of drugs

are handled, it is necessary to have laboratories. The laboratories are located in the capitals of the States. For example, in Haldia, there is a port but there is no laboratory for testing food and drugs which are being handled in the port. There is a distance of 130 kilometres between Haldia and Kolkata. The port is having difficulty in testing food and drugs handled in the port. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to set up drug and food testing laboratories in the precincts or premises of the Haldia Port to combat adulteration and contamination of food and drug items.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Today, we have a proposal to start new food testing laboratories at the borders of the country, namely Central Food Laboratories at Kandla in Gujarat, Raxaul in Bihar, Attari in Wagah border and Moreh in Manipur. These are new labs proposed to be set up in the borders. For handling import of food items, we are strengthening the airport and port labs at Kolkata, Chennai, Cochin and Kandla. In fact, we are strengthening the existing labs at Kandla Port and Delhi, Jodhpur Inland Container Depot, Visakhapatnam, Attari, Raxaul and Sonali in Gorakhpur.

MR. SPEAKER: Haldia *door ast.* You have very ably espoused your cause.

DR. P.P. KOYA: The hon. Minister is proud because we have a chain of laboratories which is capable of handling any situation. The Members are anxious about their health because some of our food materials available are mixed with poison or very unhealthy products.

My pointed question to the hon. Minister is this. Most of the food produced in this country is adulterated with pesticides. It is being reported that birds who take these food grains are dying. It is also reported that many animals are dead because they are poisoned with pesticides. In this situation, do our laboratories have the capacity to ascertain the extent of pesticides poisoned in the foodgrains and remedial measure thereafter?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I share the concern of the hon. Member about the adulteration of food products in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, what are you eating alone?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. It is just throat testing. I hope you share my agony.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I accept that today the capacity of the food testing laboratories in the country, needs to be upgraded. We need to have more samples being lifted and tested and we want more capacity of the personnel. But my problem is again the State Governments. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not say the problem is the State Governments.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: But I would not let the onus of the problem to be with the State Governments. We are working and co-ordinating together and we are training their personnel. We are upgrading their laboratories because this is the country's problem and definitely both the State and the Central Governments are concerned on that. These new modern food laboratories are going to have facilities where the pesticides are going to be tested. But we cannot be testing all the food products in the country for pesticides. We have lifted all the samples. During 2003, we had lifted about 80,000 samples and out of those samples; we found adulteration in about 9,226 samples, the percentage being 11 per cent. But this adulteration means that there is some error in packaging also. There are different types of adulteration. So, a small erroneous labelling also could be called adulterated. In fact, we have prosecution launched in about 5,768 cases and convictions in about 900 cases. So, these are going. I accept that we need to strengthen this, not only to strengthen but also the enforcement mechanism. That is why, we are training the food inspectors and drug inspectors. We are having this management information system, electronic linkage between the State and the Central Governments whereby if there are any issues, they will be notified immediately. We are doing all those things. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VINOD KHANNA: That is why, it is very important to have a regulatory body and private laboratories where all these things can be done. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to submit to the hon. Minister it is not that much important as to whether or not the Government purpose to open new laboratories our how many of them are and proposed to be opened. My question relates to an important aspect as to what steps are proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that the people get pure and unadulterated food and medicines so that the apprehension from the mind of the people could be dispelled that the milk or medicines they are taking is of substandard quality or does contain residues of pesticides and insecticides? We ourselves cannot go to the laboratory for testing the quality of milk. Today, this situation is prevailing everywhere. I would like to tell them that daily thousands of litres of adulterated milk is being supplied in the neighbouring areas of Delhi. All this is taking place without any restriction, which means there is no check on such activities. Out of this fear I have stopped taking milk in Delhi. I would only like to know that how they intend to build public's faith in this regard?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed him. It is important. Please listen to the reply.

...(Interruptions)

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I share the concern of the hon. Member. That is why, I accept that our capacity needs to be increased, laboratories need to be modernized and the personnel have to be increased also.

The onus is not only with the Central Government but on the State Drug Controllers and the State personnel. They have to be employed. For example, in Uttar Pradesh, more personnel need to be inducted, more drug inspectors need to be there, and more food inspectors need to be there. They have to be there for a huge State like that. The State Government needs to recruit more, and then we will train their personnel and we will increase the capacity for them.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: They will have to be recruited at the border.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I appreciate. But I do not know what will happen to milk.

[Translation]

Ram Kripal Yadav ji please cut short your question.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would ask a small question only.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has stated in his reply that with the funds allocated by the World Bank, they are statewise going to strengthen the laboratories at country level and make them technically sound too. Bihar has been mentioned in the reply submitted. There is one laboratory in my constituency Patna that is meant to detect adulteration of the food stuffs but there is none to test as to whether the drug is spurious or not. Through you I would like to know from Hon. Minister as to how much fund allocation they are going to made for making the fertilizer laboratory situated at Patna technically sound and whether the Government also propose to establish a drug test laboratory also?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I will look into this matter. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He will look into it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What more can he say? He has promised to look into your problem.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Nothing has been mentioned about the proposed fund allocation. It is a very simple question as to how much funds they are allocating for modernization. It is a very simple question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has to find out. It is not possible to give every detail.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I will inform the hon. Member about all the details about allotment to food and drug laboratories.

Land at Nominal Rates to Private Hospitals

*324. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:

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

(a) whether certain private hospitals have been allotted land at very nominal rates by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these hospitals are being run commercially under the garb of charitable institutions in contravention of the guidelines;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make these hospitals/institutions adhere to the conditions laid down in this regard?

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

Statement

Health being a State subject under the Constitution of India, it is for the respective State Government to formulate guidelines for the allotment of land to private hospitals. As per available information, in Delhi, the Land & Development Office, Ministry of Urban Development allotted land to 5 private hospitals at pre-determined rates and Delhi Development Authority allotted land to 50 hospitals/institutions at zonal variant rates. Of the 50 hospitals/institutions allotted land by DDA, 23 hospitals were allotted land on the condition providing 25% free beds in the IPD and 40% free treatment in the OPD for poor patients and the same were incorporated in the lease deeds. In case of land allotted by Land & Development Office, in two cases, condition of 70% free beds for poor patients were prescribed.

The Land & Development Office, Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation has informed that VIMHANS did not adhere to condition of free beds for economically poor section. Hence, after issue of Show Cause Notice, the allotment of land in favour of VIMHANS was cancelled. A representation made by VIMHANS against the cancellation order is under consideration in the Ministry of Urban Development.

The Delhi Development Authority has informed that a Committee headed by Secretary, Urban Development, pointed out names of 10 hospitals found violating terms and conditions of allotment which were allotted land by Delhi Development Authority. Subsequently, Delhi Development Authority issued show cause notices to all the ten hospitals and their replies were sent to Directorate of Health, Government of NCT of Delhi for detailed examination as the sponsoring department is responsible for monitoring day-to-day conduct of the hospitals.

MR. SPEAKER: It has nothing to do with the Centre. You put something where the Central Government is concerned.

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Mr. Speaker Sir, VIMHANS, ESCORTS and other such hospitals are not extending medical facilities to the poorer sections of the society, as agreed upon by them while getting the Government land at an astonishingly low cost but ignored while fleecing the public with astronomically high charges.

These hospitals are run as 5-star hotels in an era of medical tourism without paying much to the exchequer like hotel industry.

Hence will the Government nationalize these hospitals as a necessity and if the Government feels that the Government has no business to be in the business will the Government consider it all the more important to natiionalise these hospitals and sell them off at a premium price like Centaur Hotel sales thereby ensuring additional funds for the coffers of the Government and ensuring social justice and standard health facilities to the hapless people in the lower strata of the society?

MR. SPEAKER: It is a State matter. How can he answer?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, as you said it is a State matter and respective States have their own individual policies. We are concerned about the quality of the treatment and about the negligence of doctors etc.

SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Sir, even in Delhi also, VIMHANS and ESCORTS hospitals are there. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

MR. SPEAKER: He has included Delhi also.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is answering about Delhi.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, as far as Delhi is concerned, the Land and Development Office has issued permission for five hospitals from 1960s and when they had issued the permission for the first hospital in early sixties, there was no permission was given and in the case of last two hospitals namely VIMHANS and Veeranmudi International Hospital, there was a clause stating that 70 per cent of the in-patients should be treated free of cost, those who are living below the poverty line patients. This has not been followed by VIHMANS. There were other issues where the DDA had issued land to about 50 hospitals and out of these 50 hospitals, for 23 hospitals a condition was put in which it was mentioned that 25 per cent of the in-patients need to be treated free of cost and 40 per cent of the out-patients need to be treated free of cost.

So, in that regard, there were a lot of issues in the L&DO. Hon. Members raised some issues. A PIL was also filed in the court and orders were issued.

In respect of VIMHANS Hospital, there was a Show Cause Notice issued that the land should be surrendered. The matter is still under consideration of the Ministry of Urban Development. Pertaining to Veeranwali Hospital, there is no issue and they are doing free treatment of their patients. Out of 23 hospitals, Show Cause Notice has been issued to 10 hospitals. In fact, the Ministry of Urban Development has been taking up this issue and they are trying to sort out it, like by having a health insurance scheme for the people living below the poverty line or selling that land at the current market price value to the hospitals today. All these issues have been taken up by my colleague, the Minister of Urban Development. If permitted by you, he will be in a better position to reply.

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Sir, whether it is a fact that these hospitals are run with a commercial motive and hence there is no standardized treatment charges resulting in their whimsical and exorbitant fee structure and treatment methods.

This calls for a standardization and supervision under the guise of Medical Council of India to ensure quality medical facilities to the needy people especially the people from economically weak and underprivileged sections of the society.

So I would like to know whether the Government would consider ensuring health care to the really needy people in these hospitals which have been given land by the Government at a very low rate.

MR. SPEAKER: MCI does not treat.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: MCI is only for medical education. MCI has nothing to do with hospitals as such. Pertaining to other part of the question, my colleague, the Minister of Urban Development could answer.

MR. SPEAKER: Unsolicited, I cannot permit him.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a large number of branded hospitals have mushroomed in the country, particularly in the metropolitan cities just like five star hotels. The hospital administration charge exorbitantly from the patients at the time of discharge which creates other mental, physical and financial problems before the patients. Similarly nursing homes situated in small towns charge arbitrary and exorbitant fees from the patients. I would like to ask hon. Minister that why do not they form some Act for the hospitals so that this kind of loot may be prevented.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, these are private institutions and we are not in a position to have a legislation for them. Definitely, we will like to maintain the quality of health care provided and in some places where the public institutions are not there, we are trying to have a public-private partnership to bring down the prices and have accessibility for all patients. Today, unfortunately, in our country, only 20 per cent of the total health care facilities are in the public sector and 80 per cent are in the private sector. So, we are going and trying to have lot of public-private partnership to bring down the cost. We are also urging the hospitals to have more social commitment to the needy people, but we cannot have a legislation on that. We can only request them and urge them. We are also trying to bring down

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

the cost of surgery by encouraging indigenous manufacturers of equipment and doing all those things.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Sir, through you, I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister. Some of the hospitals in Delhi, which were given land at concessional prices with the clause that 25 per cent of the patients should be treated free of cost, have come out with a proposal—they have already violated all the norms—that they will be paying the current cost of the land which they had taken on low priced lease instead of giving free treatment, which has to go for many years.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Is the Government agreeing to such a proposal and selling the land to such particular type of institutions? Some of the hospitals, in spite of having got land 15 or 20 years back, have not constructed any building and lands are lying vacant. I would like to know whether the Government is planning to take back that land and utilize it in some other way.

MR. SPEAKER: I think that this question should be addressed to the Minister of Urban Development.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Yes, Sir. Therefore, I would request the Minister of Urban Development to answer this question.

MR. SPEAKER: I think that you have put the question to the wrong Minister.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: But the main question was regarding this issue itself.

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the private hospitals are running on commercial basis, whereas the land belongs to the Government. However, it is necessary to seek Government' approval for running post graduate medical course. In this context I would like to know as to whether it would not be prudent on the part of the Government to lay this condition that it will only permit those hospitals to run PG Course which give 25 per cent concession to the patients and those who violate this condition would not be granted permission for taking Post graduation courses. Besides, hospitals are already running commercially so they will also run post graduation courses simultaneously.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I would like to welcome the suggestions made by the hon. Member.

As regards the issue of Post-graduation, there are two bodies involved in it, namely, the MCI and the National Board. The MCI gives Post-graduation only for medical college hospitals, and the National Board gives permission for the hospitals. We could take suggestions from the hon. Member for our future reference.

[Translation]

MOHD. SALIM: It is true that the question relates to the Ministry of Urban Development. However, the hon. Minister of Health has mentioned. "The Government is urging...." I feel that the Ministry of Health is also not that much helpless in this regard. The report of Standing Committee HRD had also stated that private hospitals are given concession, but they violate the conditions on which the concession is given and the Ministry of Health cannot do anything about it. The Ministry of Urban Development has been empowered to take action by the Standing Committee. I would like to ask that as Patil Saheb also rightly said that post graduate institutes of both State Government and Central Government, have to get their licences renewed and that is done by Director of Health Services. Secondly just like the issue of land the equipments also need constant upgradation and these hospitals are given custom duty concession for that. Will they do it on 20-25 per cent concession or for free? Will he blacklist such hospitals and no further concession would be allowed to them in any form?

The second option that has also been applied by the Ministry of Urban Development is that the land is provided to the hospitals at the prevailing market price and that money should be utilized for providing treatment to the poor patients at concessional rates. Similarly they can also recover concession amount given to the hospitals as per the present market rate and then divert 25 or 30 per cent of that as concession towards the poor patients for treatment.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you can answer the first part of the question of the hon'ble Member, and you can convey the second part of the question to your colleague.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, there are two different issues involved in this question asked by the hon. Member. One of it is about the concession. We are bringing a new Bill called the Clinical Establishment Act, whereby all the hospitals in the country are going to be registered to an authority. We are going to have a national authority, a State authority, and a district authority, and all the hospitals and diagnostics must compulsorily register with these district authorities. We will have some parameters set for these hospitals, and the laboratories and the hospitals have to fulfil the treatment norms. Therefore, we are going to have all the parameters in place.

I also had a consultation with about 50 medical professional bodies last month, and everybody including IMA, Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Societies of India (FOGSI) and other associations, which had come there, welcomed this proposal of Clinical Establishment Act, whereby we will regulate the hospitals and make them more quality-oriented.

As regards the issue of concession, there are some problems as monitoring was not there in giving permission to these hospitals when they said that 25 per cent in-patients and 40 per cent out-patients are treated free of cost. But, unfortunately, the State Government could not monitor cases on patient to patient basis, and on hospital to hospital basis. Today, we have come to situation where there is a stalemate as there are a lot of cases out there like this. We have come to a situation whereby we have to say that we accept that there was a problem. But the hospitals could give today's market rate for them, and settle this issue once and for all as a one-time measure.

The second issue involved in it is that the corpus money created could be made use of in the health insurance schemes for the patients who are below poverty level. They could be treated free of cost through the health insurance schemes. But the Urban Development Ministry is still considering these issues.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 325, Shri Giridhari Yadav—Not present.

Shri Sunil Kumar Mahato—Not present.

MR. SPEAKER: Q 326-Shri N. Janardhana Reddy—not present.

Shrimati Neeta Pateriya is here. I think, you did not expect it. Therefore, I want to choose the questions.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Sir, as I was late, I could not see that, so I would like to apologise.

MR. SPEAKER: It is all right, it happens.

[English]

We want to go a little faster.

[Translation]

Do you have any supplementary question. Although there is a long reply, still you can ask.

[English]

Under-Utilization of CRF

+

*326. SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

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

(a) whether there is large scale under-utilization of the Central Road Funds by the States during the last three years;

(b) if so, the names of the States which have fully utilized or failed to utilize the funds;

(c) the details of the funds which remained unutilized as against the sanctioned amounts of each State alongwith the reasons for non-utilization;

(d) whether the Union Government has set up any machinery to monitor the proper utilization of funds;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Union Government to accelerate the pace of construction of roads within the time schedule laid down for the purpose?

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

Statement

(a) to (c) The percentage of under-utilization of Central Road Fund (CRF) by the States is indicated below:-

Year	% of Unutilised Amount
2002-03	3.03
2003-04	14.47
2004-05	14.94

The names of the States which have fully utilized/ under-utilised the CRF, along with the unutilized amount, during the last three years are given at Annexure-I. The reasons for non-utilisation of the funds by the States are at Annexure-II.

(d) to (f) These works are on State roads. The Government of India gives administrative approval and provdies funds for these works. The State Governments submit progress report which are reviewed at the time of release of funds. The funds are released only on the basis of utilization certificate furnished by the states.

Annexure I

Details of State-wise accrual, utilization and un-utilized amount under Central Road Fund during the last three years

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	2002-2003			2003-2004			2004-2005		
		Accrual	Release	Un-utilized amount	Accrual	Release	Un-utilized amount	Accrual	Release	Un-utilized amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	81.45	111.24	-29.79	77.08	77.08	0.00	74.70	74.70	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10.86	10.08	0.78	9.71	9.71	0.00	9.25	0.25	0.00
3.	Assam	15.40	35.64	-20.24	14.44	14.35	0.09	13.57	13.57	0.00
4.	Bihar	33.90	23.99	9.91	24.49	14.71	9.78	21.91	12.90	9.01
5.	Chhattisgarh	17.28	42.85	-25.57	20.79	8.71	12.08	20.28	0.00	20.28
6.	Goa	4.09	1.31	2.78	4.02	1.28	2.74	4.02	1.39	2.63
7.	Gujarat	68.13	63.76	4.37	59.83	59.83	0.00	55.21	55.21	0.00
8.	Haryana	35.75	21.03	14.72	33.56	33.56	0.00	32.09	32.09	0.00
9.	Hiamchal Pradesh	10.75	11.89	-1.14	10.13	6.30	3.83	9.75	9.75	0.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	31.05	22.70	8.35	28.37	14.65	13.72	27.43	20.56	6.87
11.	Jharkhand	11.25	5.39	5.86	16.15	9.72	6.43	17.44	0.00	17.44
12.	Karnataka	58.13	76.34	-18.21	55.11	55.11	0.00	52.76	52.76	0.00
13.	Kerala	27.71	6.68	21.03	25.68	19.56	6.12	25.20	25.20	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	66.59	80.65	-14.06	55.35	42.50	12.85	52.01	52.01	0.00
15.	Maharashtra	101.41	96.81	4.60	98.87	98.87	0.00	91.60	91.60	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
16.	Manipur	3.24	2.60	0.64	2.83	1.50	1.33	3.06	3.06	0.00
17.	Meghalaya	4.29	6.64	-2.35	3.96	3.96	0.00	3.96	3.96	0.00
18.	Mizoram	2.96	0.96	2.00	2.68	2.68	0.00	2.55	2.55	0.00
19.	Nagaland	2.47	2.11	0.36	2.22	3.80	-1.58	2.13	2.22	-0.09
20.	Orissa	29.82	18.21	11.61	27.31	38.09	-10.78	27.27	21.17	6.10
21.	Punjab	40.43	54.12	-13.69	38.48	28.66	9.82	37.36	28.66	8.70
22.	Rajasthan	76.71	99.34	-22.63	71.02	47.23	23.79	67.87	67.87	0.00
23.	Sikkim	1.10	1.55	-0.45	0.99	0.99	0.00	1.06	1.58	-0.52
24.	Tamil Nadu	67.22	62.30	4.92	62.46	62.46	0.00	57.98	57.98	0.00
25.	Tripura	1.93	2.09	-0.16	1.78	1.12	0.66	1.74	0.00	1.74
26.	Uttaranchal	7.59	10.55	-2.96	10.81	5.09	5.72	10.13	7.43	2.70
27.	Uttar Pradesh	96.43	50.19	46.24	82.47	70.55	11.92	80.61	54.64	25.97
28.	West Bengal	36.88	23.82	13.06	35.01	35.01	0.00	32.59	32.59	0.00
29.	A&N Island	1.83	0.00	1.83	1.83	0.00	1.83	1.69	0.00	1.69
30.	Chandigarh	2.21	2.86	-0.65	2.21	2.21	0.00	2.04	2.02	0.02
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.07	0.41	0.66	1.07	0.41	0.66	0.99	0.00	0.99
32.	Daman and Diu	0.76	0.00	0.76	0.76	0.00	0.76	0.70	0.00	0.70
33.	Delhi	27.05	0.00	27.05	27.05	8.16	18.89	24.98	0.00	24.98
34.	Lakshadweep	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.05
35.	Pondicherry	2.19	2.19	0.00	2.19	1.09	1.10	2.02	1.64	0.38
	Grand Total	980.00	950.29	29.71	910.76	778.95	131.81	868.00	738.36	129.64

Annexure II

The main reasons for non-utilisation of CRF by the States/Union Territories are as under:-

1. Slow implementation of the works by the respective States.
2. Withholding of releases of funds to seven States due to issue of special passes/tokens/cards by the States which facilitated overloading of vehicles in the year 2003-04.
3. General elections in the country and State elections in some States in the year 2004-05, which affected the sanction of new projects.
4. Reimbursement procedure for release of funds.
5. Non-submission of adequate proposals by the States; and
6. Law and order problem in some States.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Sir, during the last three years, there is large scale under-utilization of the

Central Road Funds by the states. If so, which are those states which have fully utilized the said funds or which could not fully utilize those funds. I would also like to know the details about the unutilized fund in comparison to the sanctioned funds to each of the states and the reasons for non-utilization of the fund. ...*(Interruptions)*

MOHD. SALIM: Sir, the hon'ble Member is reading the original question.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Member, it is true that you did not expect it. I have nothing to hold against you.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know as to how much amount has been given by the Government to the Madhya Pradesh State under the Central Road Funds.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The information has been given in the reply, but for her benefit, you may give the reply.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, in 2002-03, the total accrual was Rs. 980 crore; funds released were Rs. 950.29 crore, and the unutilized amount was Rs. 29.71 crore. Next year, in 2003-04, the total accrual was Rs. 910.76 crore; funds released were Rs. 778.95 crore, and the unutilized amount was Rs. 131.81 crore. In 2004-05, the total accrual was Rs. 868 crore; funds released were Rs. 738.36 crore, and the unutilized amount was Rs. 129.64 crore.

MR. SPEAKER: You need not read out the figures because they are mentioned in the written statement. If you have any additional information, you can give it to the hon. Member. You do not have to read it again.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: In 2004-05, Madhya Pradesh has fully utilized the released amount. If she wants, I can pass on all the information to her.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have any other supplementary?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: The Government of Madhya Pradesh has fully utilized the fund. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the time by which the remaining amount will be released to the State.

[English]

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Last year, they have fully utilized the released amount. It is an on-going process. Only after getting the utilization certificate, we will be able to say whether they have fully utilized the amount this year or not.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Central Road Fund is used for repair and strengthening of State highways. For the year 2005-06, the Government of West Bengal sent four projects concerning CRF. May I know from the Minister whether the Government has sanctioned these four projects, which were recommended by the Government of West Bengal long back, at least, three months back? I would like to know whether the Minister has cleared these projects or not.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I will send a note to you on this.

MR. SPEAKER: It requires a separate notice.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, the hon. Minister in his answer has mentioned that, "These works are on State roads." It means that CRF is meant only for the State roads. Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana provides money for new connectivity. District roads and other important roads are the main arteries of an area which require funds very badly. Will the Minister consider expanding the ambit of CRF so as to cover such district and other important roads?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Under the protocol, these works are considered by my other friend. I am concerned with the national highways. All I can say is that State roads will be funded by CRF.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the Question Hour is over. I am thankful for the kind cooperation of all the hon. Members. I had put a proposal earlier that all the hon. Members and all the hon. Ministers should be ready with their questions and answers. Allow me to be a little indiscriminate, discriminate rather. Maybe we can give it a try one day.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, that is not the answer given by the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He said it belongs to the State. He has no answer.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: CRF is being sanctioned by the Ministry of National Highways.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Swain. That is your suggestion and I am sure the Minister will keep it in mind.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Fire at Jharia Coal Mine

*325. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total area of the Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) affected due to underground fire, the quantum of coal burnt so far and the progress made in regard to fire fighting project;

(b) the estimated coal reserve in Jharia area and the coal reserve out of it affected due to subsidence caused by fire smouldering therein;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to put off the smouldering fire and save Jharia town;

(d) whether the Government is formulating any scheme to relocate Jharia town;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the proposed rehabilitation scheme; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Total area affected by fire in Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) as per study conducted by Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd. (CMPDIL) in 1999 is around 8.9 sq. km., out of the total leasehold area of about 270 sq. km. Total reserve lost due to fire is estimated at around 37 million tonnes. 10 fires have been extinguished and the remaining fires are by and large kept under control.

(b) Total geological reserve in BCCL leasehold area as assessed by Geological Survey of India (GSI) as on 1.1.2005 upto a depth of 1200 metre is 18.27 billion tonnes. Reserve blocked due to fire/subsidence caused by fire as estimated in 1995 is approximately 1453 million tonnes.

(c) The following measures are being taken by BCCL to control fire depending upon the conditions:

—Blanketing/surface sealing/sealing;

—Sand flushing;

—Inert gas injection;

—Trench cutting;

—Water pooling etc.

(d) to (f) A Master Plan for 'Dealing with Fire, Subsidence and Rehabilitation in the Leasehold of BCCL' has been prepared in April 2004. The Master Plan envisages rehabilitation of unstable and uncontrollable subsidence prone habitated areas of Jharia Coalfield. There is a no proposal to relocate the main Jharia Town. However, parts of Jharia town adjacent to surrounding areas have been identified to be shifted due to effect of fire and subsidence. The total capital outlay of the Master Plan is Rs. 5792.21 crores, out of which the cost of rehabilitation will be Rs. 2446.91 crores (March 2004 base).

[English]

Adolescent Motherhood

*327. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children below 15 years who attained motherhood during the last three years;

(b) the number of such mothers as per the last census of 2001 and the number out of them married; and

(c) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken to prevent such motherhood?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) (a) and (b) Information on the number of children below 15 years who attained motherhood during the last 3 years is not available. However, a statement showing State wise number of ever-married mothers of age below 15 years as per Census 2001, Office of Registrar General of India, is enclosed.

(c) The effectively prevent such motherhood, following remedial measures have been taken by the Government:

(i) The Child Marriage (Restraint) Act, 1929, is already in vogue. However, the proposal for the amendments of the Act is presently under consideration of the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel Public Grievances, Law and Justice.

(ii) Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH) taken up the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, efforts are being made to address the health needs of adolescents.

(iii) Increasing awareness about availability of and access to contraceptive services including emergency contraceptive services.

(iv) To enhance the awareness among the masses with regard to the right age of marriage a media campaign/activities are being conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(v) The Department of Woman and Child Development has initiated the "Kishori Shakti Yojana" in selected blocks of the country. Specialised counseling and dissemination of IEC materials have been taken up to create awareness about the adverse consequences of early teenage conception.

Besides above, the Government of India has recently launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), which seeks to provide quality health care to all sections of the people in the rural areas of the country, including the adolescents.

Statement

Number of ever-married mothers of age Below 15 years India/State/UT

Census of India 2001

Sl.No.	State/UTs	No. of ever married mothers
1	2	3
	India	296790
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12848
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	267
3.	Assam	7045
4.	Bihar	31665
5.	Chhattisgarh	4060
6.	Goa	127
7.	Gujarat	12300
8.	Haryana	7605
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1280
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5159
11.	Jharkhand	5713
12.	Karnataka	11822
13.	Kerala	3504
14.	Madhya Pradesh	16211
15.	Maharashtra	15672
16.	Manipur	349
17.	Meghalaya	458
18.	Mizoram	115
19.	Nagaland	464
20.	Orissa	8565
21.	Punjab	8387
22.	Rajasthan	21156
23.	Sikkim	129
24.	Tamil Nadu	15896
25.	Tripura	728

1	2	3
26.	UT of Andaman and Nicobar	74
27.	UT of D and N Haveli	19
28.	UT of Daman & Diu	18
29.	UT of Delhi	2348
30.	UT of Lakshadweep	4
31.	UT of Pondicherry	112
32.	UT of Chandigarh	213
33.	Uttar Pradesh	73408
34.	Uttaranchal	1987
35.	West Bengal	27082

Opening of Sports Academies

*328. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to open Sports Academies for training young sports persons in the country with the help of private organizations/ companies;

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

(c) the amount earmarked for development of sports related activities in the said Academies;

(d) the total funds released by the Government to these organizations/companies so far;

(e) whether the Government has ensured the availability of the required facilities in these Academies;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the number of such Academies proposed to be opened by the Government during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Government of India has introduced a Scheme of State Sports Academy for implementation during the Tenth Five Year Plan period. The main objective of the Scheme is to select the best available talent in sports between the age group of 10-13 years, as well as, the top performers in State/National competitions in the age group of 10-18 years and prepare and groom them over the years for winning medals for the country at the international level.

The Scheme envisages setting up of State Sports Academy with joint funding by the Central Government, State Government/UT Administration and a Sponsor as a co-operative venture. The financial assistance to the Academy in respect of capital, non-recurring costs with an upper cap of Rs. 8.30 crore is to be shared between the Sponsor, the Central Government and the State Government in the ratio of 51:25:24. In addition, recurring cost upto Rs. 17 lakh per annum or 25% of actual expenditure, which ever is less, is payable for a period of three years by the Government of India.

(c) to (g) The total outlay for 10th Five Year Plan for the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'State Sports Academy' is Rs. 93.24 crore. In 2003-04 and 2004-05, budget provision was Rs. 7.00 crore each. The amount allocated for this Scheme in the Budget Estimate (B.E.) for 2005-06 is Rs. 5.00 Crore. During the 2003-04 and 2004-05, no funds could be released for want of viable proposals. Funds released during the remaining period of the 10th Five Year Plan will depend on receipt of viable proposals from State Governments.

Clinical Trial of Drugs

*329. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of existing procedure to permit foreign companies to conduct clinical trials of drugs in the country;

(b) whether the said procedure in not as strict as in other countries, particularly USA;

(c) if so, the details thereof in the country vis-à-vis other countries; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make the procedure more stringent?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS) (a) to (d) Norms for conducting clinical trial in the Cosmetics Rules

122DA to 122-E and Schedule Y to the Rules. The Rules prescribe specific application form and relevant document requirements for seeking permission to conduct clinical trials. The data/documents are evaluated in consultation with subject experts.

Permission to conduct phase-I trial *i.e.* first time use in human being is presently not permitted for new drugs developed in foreign countries. The multicentric trials at phase-II and III stage are permitted only if similar trial has been approved by regulatory authorities of concerned foreign countries.

Schedule Y, which prescribes requirements for permission to conduct clinical trials and/or manufacture or import of new drugs for marketing in India has been extensively revised in January, 2005 to lay down safety and ethics norms, responsibilities of sponsors, investigators and Institutional Ethics Committee etc. Modalities for obtaining informed consent from clinical trial subjects, and the specific forms have also been prescribed. The Rules also provide that prior approval of Institutional Ethics Committee necessarily have to be obtained before undertaking any clinical trial in the country.

The Government has brought out detailed guidelines on Good Clinical Practices (GCP) that are required to be followed during conduct of a trial.

These norms prescribed in India, are at par with international practices including that of USA.

[Translation]

Ill-effects of Consumption of Gutka

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

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

(a) whether the Union Government has sought the report from the Indian Council of Medical Research regarding harmful effects of consumption of Gutka;

(b) if so, the time by which the said report is likely to be received;

(c) whether some State Governments have banned the sale of Gutka in view of its harmful effects;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government has also sought the reports prepared by certain State Governments;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (f) An expert committee constituted by Directorate General of Health Services to examine use of tobacco in pan masala and Gutka and its effects on public health concluded that consumption of Gutka and chewing tobacco are hazardous to health.

The Government has not sought reports from ICMR regarding harmful effects on consumption of Gutka.

The States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Goa had prohibited manufacture and sale of Gutka under section 7 (iv) of the PFA Act, 1954, which empowers Food (Health) Authority of States/UTs. to prohibit any article of food for the time being, in the interest of public health.

Subsequently, the Supreme Court judgement in case of Godawat pan masala products limited and others Vs. Union of India and others—SLP No. 24449 of 2002, decided on 02.8.2004, concluded inter-alia that section 7 (iv) of the Act is not an independent source of power for the State Authority and impugned notifications are unconstitutional and void. Therefore, the notifications issued by the State Government banning sale of Gutka were revoked.

The Government has enacted the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition or Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003, with the objective to discourage use of tobacco and tobacco products and to prohibit the advertisements to Cigarette and other tobacco products including Gutka.

Production of Coal

*331. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN": Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of coal is meagre as against the large coal reserves in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the production of coal to meet the growing demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) The production of coal in the country is planned based on the demand projections of Planning Commission. If the demand of coal increases, the production can be correspondingly increased but the production potential is decided by a combination of factors like technological compatibility, conservation, safety and safeguarding of environment etc. The coal seams are required to be mined in a systematic manner with due economic consideration. The All India production of coal during 2004-05 was 382.14 million tonnes, while the proved coal reserves of the country as on 1.1.2005 are 92,960 million tonnes. Coal India Limited has exceeded its Annual Action Plan target for coal production during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05.

(c) The following steps have been taken by Government to increase the production to meet the growing demand:—

(i) 101 mining projects have been considered to be taken up during Tenth Plan.

(ii) Advancing of planned production of CIL.

(iii) Mechanization/modernization of existing mines.

(iv) Improvement in equipment utilisation.

(v) Increasing productivity in underground and opencast mines.

(vi) Timely implementation of projects.

(vii) Allotment of coal blocks to end users for captive mining.

[English]

Ban on Sale of Ayurvedic Drugs in Foreign Countries

*332. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that some Ayurvedic Drugs have been banned in some foreign countries as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 22 July, 2005;

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

(c) the names of the companies and their products which have been banned;

(d) the adverse impact thereof on Indian Ayurvedic Medicines market abroad;

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

(f) if so, the findings thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to clarify the doubts in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Canadian Government has recently imposed a ban on the following Indian Ayurvedic and Unani Medicinal products on the ground that they contain high levels of metals such as lead, mercury and/or arsenic:

Sl.No.	Products Banned	Name of the Company
1	2	3
1.	Karela Tables	Shriji Herbal Products, India
2.	Karela Capsules	Himalaya Drug Co. India
3.	Maha Sudarashan Churna Powder	Zandu Pharmaceuticals, Mumbai, India
4.	Maha Sudarshan Churna Powder	D&K Pharmacy, Bhavnagar, India
5.	Maha Sudarshan Churna Powder	Chhatrisha Lalpur, India

1	2	3
6.	Maha Sudarshan Churna Powder	Dabur India Ltd. New Delhi, India
7.	SAFI Liquid	Hamdard-WAKF-India
8.	Yograj Guggul tablets	Zandu Pharmaceuticals, Mumbai, India
9.	Sudarshan tablets	Zandu Pharmaceuticals, Mumbai, India
10.	Shilajit capsules	Dabur India Ltd., New Delhi, India

(d) to (g) The Canadian Government has been officially requested to provide detailed information regarding the methodology of testing and corresponding analysis carried out by them on the basis of which the ban has been imposed. The manufacturers of Ayurvedic medicines mentioned in the ban have been directed to get safety/toxicity studies carried out for their products by National Accreditation Board of Laboratories (NABL)/Good Laboratory Practices (GLP) accredited laboratories and sent their reports in respect of acute, sub-acute and chronic safety/toxicity drugs studies. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has also undertaken a study on the toxicity of metal based Bhasmas. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Department of AYUSH, is committed to standardization and quality control of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unnai (ASU) drugs in pursuance of which a number of initiatives have been taken. These include extension of assistance for state drug testing laboratories and pharmacies, laying down of pharmaceuticals standards, notification of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for compliance by the drug manufacturers, etc. A Golden Triangle Project in partnership with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has also been initiated for scientific validation of existing Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani (ASU) drugs and development of new ASU drugs.

The Health Canada warning may have an adverse impact on the export of Ayurvedic medicines to that country. However, it seems unlikely that there would be a major adverse impact globally.

Increasing Tele-Density in Jammu and Kashmir

*333. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tele-density at present in the State of Jammu and Kashmir is around 1%;

(b) if so, whether BSNL has chalked out a plan to increase the tele-density in that State to 10% by 2007;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total projection made by BSNL for mobile and WLL phones in the State during the current financial year; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken to meet the above projection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The teledensity in Jammu & Kashmir, as on 30.06.2005 was 5.71%.

(b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) has chalked out a plan to increase the teledensity in the state to about 16.6% by December, 2007.

(c) During the period from April 1, 2005 to December, 2007 BSNL aims to add about 13.5 lakh phones in the state. The year-wise details are given below:-

Type of Telephones	2005-06	2006-2007	2007-2008 (upto December, 2007)	Total
WLL & Fixed	0.5 lakh	0.9 lakh	1.0 lakh	2.4 lakh
Cellular	3.5 lakh	4.0 lakh	3.6 lakh	11.1 lakh
Total	4.0 lakh	4.9 lakh	4.6 lakh	13.5 lakh

(d) During the current year (2005-06), BSNL has planned a capacity of 3.50 lakh lines of mobile (GSM) phones and 90,500 lines of WLL equipment in Jammu and Kashmir.

(e) Following steps have been taken:

GSM—The equipment for 2.8 lakh Global System for Mobile (GSM) lines have been received. Out of this, capacity of one-lakh lines has already been installed. Commissioning of the remaining equipment is in progress. In addition, equipment for about 70,000 GSM lines are expected to be received soon.

WLL—Out of the 90,500 lines WLL capacity allotted for J&K for the current year, 11,000 WLL lines capacity has been installed of which acceptance testing is in progress. Further, purchase orders have been placed for a capacity of 79,500 WLL lines.

Nuclear Agriculture Programme of BARC

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nuclear agriculture programme of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) covers development of high yielding crop seeds to be used in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the crop varieties released so far and notified for commercial cultivation in the country?

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

(b) BARC has been working on the genetic improvement mostly in oilseeds and pulses (groundnut, mustard, soyabean, sunflower, mungbean, pigeonpea, uridbean, and cowpea) and also in cereals such as rice and wheat by using radiation induced mutations and recombination breeding. The breeding lines with various desirable characters like high yield and disease resistance are evaluated in the all India coordinated varietal trials organized by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) or in the state agricultural universities before the mutants or mutant derivatives are released for commercial cultivation. The breeder seeds of the varieties in demand are multiplied by BARC or in collaboration with state agricultural universities and supplied to National and State Seeds Corporations, State Agricultural Universities, Research Institutes, Agricultural Departments, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, NGOs, seed companies, farmers etc. As a result, quality seeds of the BARC varieties have reached the farmers. BARC has developed linkages and interactions with Department of Agriculture and Cooperation (DAC), Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, Departments of Agriculture in different States, National Centres under ICAR, many Agriculture Universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras etc.

(c) So far twenty five (25) such improved crop varieties have been released for commercial cultivation. These include 4 of blackgram, 4 of greengram, 2 of pigeonpea, 10 of groundnut, 2 of mustard and 1 variety each of rice, jute and soyabean. The detailed characteristics of these varieties are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Crop varieties developed at BARC, Trombay

(Released and Notified)

Crop	Name	Year of Release/ Identification	Maturity (M) Yield (Y) Yield increase (YI)	Released for	Seed source
1	2	3	4	5	6
Blackgram	TAU-1	1985	M: 70-75 days Y: 800-1000 kg/ha YI: 24%	Maharashtra	MSSC, Akola
	TAU-2	1992	M: 70-75 days Y: 900-1000 kg/ha YI: 18%	Maharashtra	MSSC, Akola

1	2	3	4	5	6
	TPU-4	1992	M: 70-75 days Y: 900-1000 kg/ha YI: 22%	Maharashtra Madhya Pradesh	MSSC, Akola
	TU 94-2	1999	M: 70 days Y: 900-1000 kg/ha YI: 19-37%	Andhra Pradesh Karantaka Kerala, Tamil Nadu	BARC Mumbai
Greengram	TAP-7	1983	M: 60 days Y: 700-800 kg/ha YI: 23%	Maharashtra Karnataka	MSSC, Akola
	TARM-2	1992	M: (Rabi 90 days) Y: 1000-1100 kg/ha YI: 80%	Maharashtra	MSSC, Akola
	TARM-1	1995	M: 80 days Y: 765 kg/ha YI: 45%	Maharashtra, Gujarat, MP, AP, Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Orissa	BARC Mumbai
	TARM-18	1995	M: 65-70 days Y: 1051 kg/ha	Maharashtra	BARC Mumbai
Pigeonpea	TT-6	1983	M: 135-140 days Y: 1200- 1300 kg/ha YI: 15%	MP, Maharashtra Gujarat, AP, Karnataka, Kerala	MSSC, Akola
	TAT-10	1985	M: 110-115 days Y: 900-1000 kg/ha	Maharashtra	MSSC, Akola
Ground	TG-1	1973	M: 130-135 days Y: 2400-2500 kg/ha YI: 15-20%	Maharashtra, Gujarat	BARC, Mumbai
	TG-17	1985	M: 115-120 days Y: 1700-2000 kg/ha YI: 15-20%	Maharashtra	BARC, Mumbai
	TG-3	1987	M: 110 days Y: 2000-2500 kg/ha	Kerala	OUAT & OSSC, Bhubaneswar
	TGS-1	1989	M: 110-125 days Y: Kharif 2000 kg/ha YI: 23%	Gujarat	GAU, Junagarh BARC, Mumbai

1	2	3	4	5	6
	TAG-24	1991	M: Kharif 100-105 days & Summer 112-117 days Y: Kharif 1300 kg/ha Summer 2500 kg/ha YI: Kharif 24% Summer 50%	Maharashtra West Bengal Rajasthan Karnataka	MSSC, Akola NSC, New Delhi UAS, Dharwad
	TG-22	1992	M: Kharif 115-120 days Y: Kharif 1677 kg/ha YI: 30%	Bihar	BAU, Ranchi
	TKG-19A	1994	Y: 120-125 days Y: summer 2000-2500 kg/ha YI: 12-13%	Maharashtra	MSSC, Akola
	TG-26	1995	M: 110-120 days Y: Summer 2500 kg/ha YI: 23-39%	Gujarat Maharashtra, MP	MSSC, Akola, UAS, Dharwad MPKV, Rahuri
Groundnut	TPG-41	2004	M: 120 days Y: Summer 2407 kg/ha YI: 26%	All India	BARC, Mumbai
	TG-37A	2004	M: 110 days Y: Kharif 1993 kg/ha YI: 26-38%	Rajasthan, UP, Punjab, Haryana	BARC, Mumbai
Mustard	TM-2	1987	M: 90 days Y: 1370 kg/ha YI: 25%	Assam	BARC, Mumbai
	TM-4	1987	M: 95 days Y: 1470 kg/ha YI: 35%	Assam	BARC, Mumbai
Rice	Hari	1988	M: 135-140 days Y: 6000 kg/ha YI: 20%	Andhra Pradesh	BARC, Mumbai
Jute	TKJ-40	1983	M: 125-130 days Y: 2800-3100 kg/ha YI: 10-13%	Orissa	BARC, Mumbai
Soybean	TAMS-38	2005	M: 93 days Y: 2248 kg/ha YI: 23-25%	Vidarbha M.S.	Dr. PDKV, Akola

[Translation]

Nuclear Power Reactors

*335. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction work on pressurised heavy water reactors at Tarapur has been completed;

(b) if so, whether it is the largest indigenously designed and built nuclear power reactor in the country;

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

(d) whether the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. has designed, constructed and operationalised nuclear reactors in the country;

(e) if so, the details of power generated from each of them alongwith the expenditure incurred on them;

(f) whether the said power generated is below the target set;

(g) if so, details thereof and steps taken in this regard;

(h) the details of nuclear power reactors currently under construction and likely to be set up in the country alongwith allocation of fund for the purpose, location-wise; and

(i) the time by when they are likely to start production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The construction work for TAPP-4 (540 MWe), first reactor of twin unit TAPP 3&4 (2x540 MWe) Pressurised Heavy Water Reactor Project at Tarapur, Maharashtra has been completed. The unit has also been connected to the grid on 4.6.2005. The construction work of the second unit (TAPP-3) is also at an advanced stage and is expected to be completed during the year 2006-07.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The unit size of PHWRs earlier set up by NPCIL was 220 MWe. NPCIL has designed, constructed and now put in operation a 540 MWe nuclear power reactor. This is largest size of indigenously designed nuclear power reactor in the country. The unit size of 540 MWe is also highest in the country when compared to thermal power plants, which have a maximum unit size of 500 MWe.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The details of the completion cost, based on yearly expenditure and actual generation of electricity of each of the reactors are as follows:

Unit	Commercial Operation Date	Completion cost (Rs. crore)	Generation till March 2005 (MUs)
TAPS-1	28-Oct-1969	93	34209
TAPS-2	28-Oct-1969		34231
RAPS-1	16-Dec-1973	176	12039
RAPS-2	01-Apr-1981		24996
MAPS-1	27-Jan-1984	246	19921
MPAS-2	21-Mar-1986		19124
NAPS-1	01-Jan-1991	724	17733
NAPS-2	01-Jan-1992		17315
KAPS-1	06-May-1993	1367	15945
KPAS-2	01-Sep-1995		15450
KAIGA-1	16-Nov-2000	2896	6704
KAIGA-2	16-Mar-2000		7679
RAPS-3	01-Jan-2000	2511	7542
RAPS-4	23-Dec-2000		6833
	Total		239728

(f) The performance of NPCIL in terms of annual average plant load factor for reactors in operation has been above national average for thermal power stations. The actual generation from the nuclear power stations has consistently exceeded the targets for last so many years.

(g) Not applicable in view of (f) above.

(h) and (i) Nine reactors, including TAPP-4 which has been connected to the grid and expected to commence commercial operation soon, are presently under construction. The details of the projects under construction with are as follows:

Project	Location	Capacity MWe	Completion Cost* Rs. crore	Scheduled Commercial Operation
Tarapur Atomic Power Project Units-3&4	Tarapur, Maharashtra	2x540	6525	Unit-4 March 2006 Unit-3 Jan. 2007
Kaiga Atomic Power Project Units-3&4	Kaiga, Karnataka	2x220	3282	Unit-3 March 2007 Unit-4 Sep. 2007
Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project Units-1&2	Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu	2x1000	13171	Unit-1 Dec. 2007 Unit-2 Dec. 2008
Rajasthan Atomic Power Project Units-5&6	Rawatbhata, Rajasthan	2x200	3072	Unit-5 Aug. 2007 Unit-6 Feb. 2008
Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR)	Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu	1x500	3492	Mar. 2011

*The completion cost is inclusive of the escalation till completion of the project and Interest during Construction (IDC) on borrowed funds.

[English]

Formation of South Asian Parliament

*336. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a gathering of 120 odd MPs from South Asia who attended the recently held South Asia Free Media Association (SAFMA) meet has supported the idea for the formation of a South Asian Parliament;

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

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to pursue the said proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the fact that Members of Parliament, editors and experts from South Asia attended South Asia Free Media Association (SAFMA)'s meeting on Evolving South Asia Fraternity at Islamabad & Bhurban, Pakistan from May 15-20th, 2005. From India, 31 MPs participated in the meeting. The Bhurban Declaration adopted by the meeting speaks of concrete steps for achieving South Asian Free Trade Area, South Asian Tariff/Customs/Monetary Union, South Asian Parliament, South Asian Energy Grid, cooperative security and conflict resolution mechanism, South Asian Union, etc.

(c) to (e) The Bhurban Declaration and its recommendations would receive due consideration by SAARC and its member states.

Popularisation of Indian System of Medicine

*337. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Systems of Medicine has not gained importance at the international level;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has made efforts for the development of Indian Systems of Medicine and to make it popular in the global market;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the budgetary allocation is not sufficient for proper development of Indian Systems of Medicine;

(f) if so, whether the Government is considering to increase the fund for the purpose; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) and (d) A statement is enclosed.

(e) to (g) The budgetary allocation of the Department of AYUSH has been increased from Rs. 181.00 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 350.00 crore in 2005-06 *i.e.* 93.4% increase in a single year.

Statement

Government of India has been striving for the promotion and propagation of the Indian Systems of Medicine abroad. The efforts have gained added momentum after the establishment of a separate Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopahty in 1995. From the year 2001 AROGYA, which a promotional exhibition, is being organized annually at Delhi and now in some of the other larger cities as well. Alongwith the drug manufacturers and practitioners of these systems, Government of India has also participated in presentations-cum-exhibitions abroad to increase awareness about the Indian Systems of Medicine. Government has also prepared documentaries, literature, etc. for promotion and propagation of these systems. There is a global resurgence of interest in Ayurveda and Yoga which is borne out by the increase in the export of drugs of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy, plants and plants products, saps and extracts, etc. from Rs. 1056.28 crore in 1997-98 to Rs. 1227.06 crore in 2003-04. Institutions in such countries as USA, West Indies, Russia and Hungary have requested for experts to teach Ayurveda in these countries. Seeing the growing interest in the Indian Systems of Medicine, seats in selected educational institutions have been reserved for foreign nationals. Special courses are run for professionals from foreign countries at Banaras Hindu University and Gujarat Ayurveda University, which are being attended by professionals from USA, Poland, Germany, Brazil etc.

Annual Economic Growth Rate

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

(a) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the annual economic growth target;

(b) whether the Government has an action plan to boost agricultural growth to push up GDP growth;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the plan will help in pushing the agricultural growth to over 4% to achieve the GDP growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The measures proposed to improve the growth target in the economy are detailed in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan (2002-2007), which has been placed in the Parliament library. Some of these include raising public investment in different sectors particularly in agriculture, infrastructure, viz. power, roads, greater focus on health and education, improving governance, etc.

(b) and (c) The steps proposed in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan to boost agricultural growth include raising public investment in irrigation and

water resources management; watershed development and reclamation of waste/degraded land; provision of water entitlements for implement decentralized irrigation system, micro irrigation with appropriate technical inputs, rejuvenate support systems like extension, credit, accelerate agricultural processing and marketing. The Government has also increased the outlay for agriculture and allied sectors substantially during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06.

(d) According to the Mid-Term Appraisal agreed to the National Development Council the likely growth rate of the Agriculture sector is 2.2 percent during the Tenth Five Year Plan period as against the target of 4 per cent. Longer term projections are not available.

National Commission for Youth

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up the National Commission for Youth (NCY);

(b) if so, whether the NCY has reviewed the existing youth related schemes and programmes;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) the measures suggested by the NCY for better implementation and co-ordination of existing youth related schemes; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) National Commission for Youth (NCY) was set up with effect from 15.03.2002 and wound up on 30.09.2004.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. As per the Terms of Reference, the National Commission for Youth has reviewed the following major existing youth related schemes/ programmes:-

(i) National Service Scheme (NSS);

(ii) Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS);

(iii) Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development (RGNIYD);

(iv) National Service Volunteer Scheme;

(v) Scheme of Financial Assistance for Promotion of Youth Activities and Training;

(vi) Promotion of National Integration;

(vii) Scheme for Promotion of Adventure;

(viii) Youth Hostel Scheme;

(ix) Scheme for Awards to outstanding Youth Clubs;

(x) Scheme for Assistance to Rural Youth and Sports Clubs; and

(xi) Scheme for Promotion of Scouting and Guiding.

(d) The various measures suggested by the National Commission for Youth for better implementation of existing youth related schemes are as under:

(1) Merger of schemes run by various departments;

(2) Establishment of an Inter-Departmental Committee on Youth Affairs;

(3) Strengthening and revitalizing of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS);

(4) Expansion of the National Service Scheme (NSS); and

(5) Revitalizing of Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development (RGNIYD).

(e) As a first step in this direction, convergence of various youth related schemes/programmes with different Ministries/Departments, has been taken up. Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth Development (RGNIYD) has been revitalized. Action with regard to the expansion of the NSS and strengthening of NYKS, has already been initiated and the matter has been referred to the Planning Commission and Department of Expenditure respectively.

Mid-Term Appraisal of Tenth Plan

*340. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations/suggestions made in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Plan;

(b) whether all State Governments agreed to implement the recommendations/suggestions made in the Mid-Term Appraisal;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the issue of raising the cash component under the food for work programme has been discussed; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The recommendations/suggestions made in the Mid-Term Appraisal of Tenth Plan have been listed in the Appendix of the Mid-Term Appraisal Document of the Tenth Five Year Plan which has already been placed in the library as well as the publication counter of the Parliament.

(b) to (d) The National Development Council with consensus expressed broad agreement with the goals and policies suggested in the Mid-Term Appraisal which could act as a blue print for further action on development matters in the Tenth Plan and as the starting point for initiating work on the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The Planning Commission was directed to examine a number of valuable suggestions made by Chief Ministers during the course of discussions which require a review of some of the policies, programmes and approaches.

(e) and (f) While discussing the Employment Guarantee Act, the NDC noted the suggestions that payment of wages should be mostly in cash since there were problems in movement of food grains to backward areas and directed to consider it for inclusion in the final draft of the National Employment Guarantee Bill.

Breakdown in Mobile Service

3283. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether frequent breakdown of BSNL's mobile service is due to over utilization of Main Switching Centre (MSC) at the Sakkardara Exchange at Nagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the capacity of MSC at Sakkardara Exchange and its present utilization; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the said situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) No, Sir. A new GSM (Global System for Mobile Communication) based Mobile Switching Center (MSC) has been commissioned at Sakkardara Exchange. Capacity of this MSC is for 1,50,000 lines and its present utilization is 1,49,000 and as such the loading of the Exchange is within its planned capacity. However, the MSC is in the process of getting stabilized. In the past 3 months of its operation there have been some teething problems with the system software due to which a few interruptions were experienced.

(d) Following steps have been taken to improve the situation:—

(i) Continuous monitoring of the switch and the mobile network.

(ii) Posting of experts from vendor of the equipment to enable easy availability of help in case of need.

(iii) Ensure adequate spares.

Shrubs on Central Verges on National Highways

3284. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether shrubs have not been grown on the Central verges upto the height of 5 feet on National Highways such as N.H. No. 1, 2, 8, 24 etc. and wherever grown, the shrubs are scanty;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by when the shrubs are likely to be grown on N.Hs.; and

(c) the amount spent by the Government in this regard during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) As per the guidelines issued by the Ministry, provision of plantation of the shrubs in the medians must be made on all the National Highways where 4-laning or 6-laning is done. The height of the shrub should not exceed 1.5 metre and it should not be planted in the vicinity of road junctions and median openings as also in the locations where the median is

tapered for a turning lane. Shrubs have been planted and maintained on various National Highways on a continuous basis in the central verges/medians having width more than 1.5 metre, including those sections of National Highways No. 1, 2, 8 and 24 where 4/6 laning has been completed. There is no central verge on two lane roads. In several places, due to local reasons and public interference, particularly in the built-up areas, shrubs have not grown to the required density.

(c) The plantation of shrubs is done as part of the 4/6 laning project, or the shrubs are planted out of maintenance funds in some cases. Since no separate estimate is generally being approved for the plantation and maintenance of shrubs, it is not possible to indicate the expenditure incurred exclusively thereon.

Fraud at Mulund Post Office, Mumbai

3285. SHRI SURESH WAGHMARE:
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3257 on March 23, 2005 and state:

(a) whether the money has been refunded, returned to the small investors of Mulund Post Office;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the present status thereof;

(e) whether the signature verification work at the GPO, Mumbai and EOW, Mumbai has been delayed;

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

(g) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to expedite the case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The claims of those investors that were found genuine stand settled.

(b) to (d) Claims of 12 depositors amounting to Rs. 2,34,364/- have already been sanctioned, whereas approval for payment of Rs. 2,40,420/- in another 14 cases has also been issued. Other claims are under process. Thirty one vouchers have so far been verified by the handwriting expert at Hyderabad, whereas verification reports in respect of 10 vouchers each are awaited from handwriting experts in Kolkata and Hyderabad. Remaining vouchers will be sent to handwriting experts in Kolkata and Hyderabad in a phased manner for verification. The cases have also been lodged with EOW, CB CID, Mumbai and Mulund Police Station. Directions have also been issued for handing over the case to the CBI.

(e) and (f) No voucher has been sent to Mumbai GPO for verification. However, 112 vouchers have been handed over for verification to EOW, Mumbai since August, 2004.

(g) The EOW, CB CID, Mumbai has been requested to intimate the status of the case. The Court of Law and Police has also been approached for initiating ancillary action in the matter.

Departmental Promotion Committees

3286. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that policies/guidelines with regard to promotion of Group 'A' officers of Central Government are strictly followed by Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs);

(b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the proceedings of DPCs are transparent and according to their guidelines;

(c) whether it is mandatory for DPCs to record the reasons for promoting or not promoting officers;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the reports for period of probation, known as the 'Performance Appraisal Reports' should also be considered by DPCs for the purposes of promotion; and

(f) if so, the details 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) and (b) For promotion of Group 'A' officers to higher posts, Chairman/Member, UPSC is generally associated with the DPC except in respect of posts exempted from the purview of UPSC. He also functions as Chairman of the DPC. Where UPSC is not associated, a DoPT nominee is associated with DPC in certain cases. Further, proceedings of the DPC are reflected in the minutes. Appointing Authority is required to satisfy himself about the correctness of the proceedings of the DPC before accepting the recommendations. Proceedings of the DPC can also be reviewed later at any time through a Review DPC, if on the basis of a representation or otherwise, an error or omission is in the proceedings of the original DPC is detected. Aggrieved person can also seek legal remedy through Central Administrative Tribunals.

(c) and (d) As per extant instructions, DPCs are required to assess the officer as 'Fit' as per their seniority in the feeder grade to the extent of number of available vacancies.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Generation of Electricity from Fusion Reactor

3287. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that an Institute in Ahmedabad is working on research project to develop fusion reactor which can generate electricity as reported in the 'Rashtradoot' dated July 5, 2005;

(b) the details of the facts reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the action plan of the Government to generate electricity from fusion reactor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Institute for Palsma Research (IPR), Gandhinagar is cayrring out fusion research programme as an experimental activity.

(b) and (c) The Scientists and Engineer at the Institute for Plasma Research in Gandhinagar (Gujarat) have been carrying out experiments in Tokamak device—a magnetic bottle that can hold multimillion degree hot plasmas. The first Superconducting Steady State Tokamak (SST1) designed, fabricated and assembled at the IPR is awaiting commissioning. When SST-1 is put into operation, it is likely to be one of the first machines in the world to produce thousand second long-diverter plasma discharge. Taking into account the technology development related to fusion research being carried out in the IPR which is comparable with the laboratories in USA or Europe and even better in certain areas, the Government of India has approved the proposal for Indian participation in the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) which will demonstrate scientific and technical feasibility of fusion energy for peaceful purposes, an essential feature of which would be achieving sustained fusion power generation.

(d) As IPR is only carrying out experimental activities on fusion research at present, it is premature to think about any action plan to generate electricity from fusion reactor at this stage.

Curbing Activities of Quacks

3288. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

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

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal to constitute a task force to curb the activities of quacks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to take decision in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) Health is a State subject and the State Government and the Medical Councils who grant registration to practitioners take action where called for. Provisions exist in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956,

Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and Homoeopahty Central Council Act, 1973, to take action against unregistered practitioners of medicine. Any person who acts in contravention of the provisions can be punished with imprisonment and fine under the respective acts.

[English]

Health in the Concurrent List

3289. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that due to poor health care services in various parts of the country many precious lives are lost every year;

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

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to include 'Health' in the Concurrent List to monitor the health services in various States; 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) Deaths still occur from preventable infections like diarrhea, pneumonia, under nutrition, child birth related complications, TB, malaria, and HIV/AIDS. The Government is implementing six National Disease Control Programmes namely National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, Tuberculosis, Leprosy, AIDS, Cancer and Mental Health which have contributed towards improving rates of decline.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal.

[Translation]

AIDS Children in Coastal Areas

3290. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that in view of alarming increase in the incidents of sexual exploitation of helpless children in coastal areas in the country, the cases of HIV infection/AIDS amongst them are increasing;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey to find out the total number of said children suffering from HIV/AIDS;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir. However, the details of reported AIDS cases among children in the country for the last three years is as below:

Year	Reported Cases in Children
2002	759
2003	1013
2004	1419

Some of these may be because of sexual abuse of children.

(b) and (c) As per the information available with National AIDS Control Organization as on 31st June, 2005, out of the total number of 1,11,608 AIDS cases reported, 4854 were in the age group of 0-14. Some of these may be due to sexual exploitation.

(d) In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, Govt. of India has launched a comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme, currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme under following components:-

- Preventive interventions for high-risk populations through targeted interventions adopting a multi-pronged strategy including peer counseling and behaviour change communication.
- Preventive interventions for the general population through programmes for blood safety, voluntary counseling and testing services, Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission (PPTCT), Information Education and Communication (IEC).
- Provision of low cost care and support services by providing community care services, treatment

of opportunistic infections, free Antiretroviral therapy in designated centres and prevention of occupational exposure.

- Collaborative efforts to promote inter-sectoral programme activities including workplace interventions and public-private partnerships.
- Build technical and managerial capacities for programme implementation through Surveillance, Traininig, Monitoring and Evaluation, Technical Resource Groups, operational research and Programme management.
- A new paediatric initiatives has been taken by NACO by setting up a Child Rights Division which will look into all child and HIV/AIDS issues, including exploitation.

[English]

Export of Medicines

3291. SHRI G.M. SIDDHESWARA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of exports of medicines used in Indian System of Medicines & Homoeopathy separately during the Ninth Plan Period;

(b) the export target set for the Tenth Plan period;

(c) the extent to which this target has been achieved so far; and

(d) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to increase export of Homoeopathy, Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The details of export of medicine used in Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy drugs including raw drugs during the Ninth Plan period is enclosed as statement.

(b) and (c) There is no separate export target set for the medicines of Indian Systems of Medicine.

(d) For promoting export of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy systems of medicine, Government have taken the following steps:

(i) Established the National Medicinal Plants Board for integrated development of the medicinal plants sector.

(ii) Sent official delegations comprising trade representatives to various countries to promote ISM&H systems and medicines.

(iii) Supported industry to participate in International Trade Fairs to exhibit their products.

(iv) Relaxation of labeling provisions to facilitate export.

(v) Expansion of testing facilities.

(vi) Notification of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP).

(vii) Department of Bio-technology has also supported research and development projects on medicinal and aromatic plants used in the country.

Statement

Value of exports of Homoeopathic, Ayurvedic & Unani Herbs and Medicines from 1997-98 to 2001-02

(Rs. Crores)

Sl.No.	Item Description	Item Code	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	Total Ninth Plan
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Plants and parts of plants (including seeds and fruits), of a kind used primarily in perfumery, in pharmacy or for insecticidal, fungicidal or similar purposes, fresh or dried whether or not cut, crushed or powered	1211	254.64	268.75	191.45	375.45	370.95	1443.24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2.	Ayurvedic & Unani Herbs Not elsewhere specified	12119026	22.76	39.76	18.51	22.50	31.70	135.23
3.	Ayurvedic & Unani Medicines for therapeutic prophylactic uses not put up for retail sale	30039001	42.24	34.76	36.23	96.54	92.26	302.03
4.	Homoeopathic Medicines for therapeutic prophylactic uses not put up for retail sale	30039002	3.10	0.37	0.67	2.19	2.04	8.37
5.	Ayurvedic & Unani Mediciens put up for retail sale	30049001	118.77	98.85	108.80	124.97	147.53	598.92
6.	Homoeopathic Medicines put up for retail sale	30049002	0.79	1.33	3.19	8.97	3.74	18.02
	Total (S.No. 1+S.No. 3 to S.No. 6)		419.54	404.06	340.34	590.12	616.52	2370.58
	Total (S.no. 2 to S.No. 6)		187.66	175.07	167.40	255.17	277.27	1062.57
7.	Vegetable Saps and extracts; pectic substances, pectinates and pectates; agar-agar and other mucilages and thickeners, whether or not modified, derived from vegetable products.	1302	636.74	826.79	921.42	698.99	593.19	3677.13

Source: Monthly Statistics of the Foreign Trade of India-Annual Numbers brought out by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Kolkata-700001

[Translation]

Indian Sports/Games in International Events

3292. SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Indian sports/games given recognition in Olympics and Asian Games;

(b) the details of sports/games lying pending for such recognition; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Kabaddi and Chess are games of Indian origin included in Asian Games, Hockey and Wrestling are included both in Olympics and Asian games.

(b) The decision on recognition of various sports/ games for Olympic/Asian Games is taken by the International Olympic Committee and Olympic Committee of Asia, respectively, who would inter-alia consider inputs from the concerned National Sports Federation and Indian Olympic Association.

(c) The Government has no role in this regard.

[English]

Employment to Land Oustees

3293. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the land oustees of Ardha-Gram, Kalidaspur and Bakulia Collieries of ECL have been provided employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the dilapidated road from Mejia to Kalidaspur will be repaired by ECL;

(e) if so, by when;

(f) whether the Government has plan to modify Jhanjsa Project to increase the production of coal; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) The status of employment provided by Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL) to the land losers of Ardhagram OCP, Kalidaspur Project & Bakulia Project are given below:—

Ardhagram OCP: 50 employments out of 61 have been offered; proposals of 2 applicants are under examination and further claims have not been received from land losers due to dispute among applicants themselves.

Kalidaspur project: Out of 12 cases 11 have been offered employment and in remaining 1 case document relating to ownership of land was not fund in order.

Bakulia Project: The project could not be implemented because Damodar Valley Corporation who had earlier expressed to enter into an agreement with Eastern Coalfields Ltd. on "cost plus basis" subsequently changed their mind. No employment to land losers was given in this project.

(d) and (e) Mejia to Kalidaspur road passed through Joresa More, of which only 1.0 km belongs to ECL and rest belongs to Government of West Bengal. ECL has taken steps for repair of 1.0 km of road in its share and this portion would be repaired in this financial year.

(f) and (g) The Jhanjra Under Ground (UG) project is under foreclosure. To increase coal production from Jhanjra UG Project, following action has been taken:

(i) Project Report for introduction of continuous miner technology for a capacity of 0.42 Metric Tonnes/year at an investment of Rs. 69.28 crore has been approved by Board of Coal India Ltd.

(ii) Proposal for introduction of Powered Support Longwall Technology (PSLW) for a production capacity of 1.70 Mt/year at an investment of Rs. 280.81 crores at R-VI sea of Jhanjra UG Project has been approved by ECL Board.

[Translation]

Increase in Health Allowance to Pensioners

3294. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 100/- p.m. is being paid as medical allowance to the Central Government pensioners in lieu of Government healthcare facilities since 1997;

(b) if so, whether this amount is adequate for the hilly and remote areas where health care facilities are very costly;

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to increase this allowance; and

(d) 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) Based on the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission, the Government of India, during December, 1997, introduced the scheme of payment of Fixed Medical Allowance of Rs. 100/- (Rupees One hundred only) on monthly basis to those Central Government pensioners and family pensioners residing in areas not covered by Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) administered by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and corresponding health schemes administered by other Ministries/Departments for their retired employees for meeting expenditure on day-to-day medical expenses that do not require hospitalisation.

(b) The Fifth Central Pay Commission did not make any distinction between the normal and hilly & remote areas while making recommendation referred to in part (a) above.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal at present to increase this allowance.

Survey Regarding Sickle-Cell Patients

3295. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ICMR, New Delhi has conducted any survey regarding sickle-cell patients in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has any proposal for setting up of care centres for treatment of sickle-cell thalassaemia patients; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), sporadic studies conducted in 4 States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Orissa have revealed that its prevalence rate varies from 0.6% to 25% in the studied population. According to ICMR the disease is also prevalent in the States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and North-Eastern region of the country. The ICMR has also stated that through its network of Institutes/Centres etc. it has carried out interventions and follow up activities in Sickle Cell Anaemia. As these disorders are hereditary in nature and there is no cure for them diagnostic facilities for Sickle Cell disorder and other genetic defects, carrying out population genetic survey to detect carriers and sufferers, providing health education, genetic counseling, marriage counseling and pre-natal diagnosis wherever required are being provided.

[English]

Authorised Local Chemists

3296. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of authorized local chemists under CGHS in National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) the criteria for appointing local chemists attached to CGHS dispensary;

(c) whether the medicines supplied by these chemists to CGHS are verified properly; and

(d) if so, the number of samples verified by the Government during the last two years and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) There are thirty-six (36) Authorised Local Chemists under CGHS Delhi.

(b) The procedure followed for appointing Authorised local chemists under CGHS Delhi is as under:—

1. Advertisements are placed in the leading Newspapers regarding issue of Tenders for appointment of Authorised local chemists under CGHS Delhi which includes the satellite towns of Faridabad, Ghaizabad, Noida and Gurgaon.
2. A Committee duly constituted opens and scrutinises the Tenders on the basis of the criteria laid down in the tender document. All the approved bids are referred to another Committee duly constituted for inspection of the establishment/premises of the bidding chemists.
3. The Inspection Committee recommends the names of bidders found suitable for being appointed as Authorised local chemist.
4. The criteria for appointment of Authorised local chemists under CGHS are mainly based on the maximum discount offered on the printed/Retail Price of the drug/medicine by the bidding chemist and the proximity of the chemist's shop/ establishment to the CGHS dispensary.
5. The Authorised local chemists under CGHS Delhi are appointed for a period of two years.

(c) Yes, Sir. The medicines supplied by the CGHS Authorised local chemists against the individual prescription of the beneficiaries are verified and checked by the CMO In-charge and the Pharmacist/Storekeeper of the concerned CGHS dispensary before it is given to the CGHS beneficiaries.

(d) Under Section 23 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO), North Zone Office, has drawn samples for test analysis from the various CGHS dispensaries and Medical Stores Depot under CGHS, Delhi, as per details given below:—

Year	No. of samples drawn	No. of samples declared not of standard quality	No. of samples declared spurious
2002-03	21	Nil	Nil
2003-04	86	4	Nil

In addition to the above, during 2004-2005, the CDSCO, (North Zone) Office inspected twenty-six. Authorised local chemists appointed under CGHS Delhi having their shops/establishment in the NCT of Delhi and has drawn eighteen samples for test and analysis.

Development of Krishnapatnam Port

3297. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has given Krishnapatnam port in Andhra Pradesh to private/public company for its development;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the progress made in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government has any proposal to take back the Port from the private firm;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Krishnapatnam Port in Andhra Pradesh is not a major port and hence is not under the control of Central Government. The responsibility for the development of ports other than major ports lies with the State Governments concerned which also have administrative control including giving ports to private/public company for their development.

[Translation]

Geological Survey by Coal Mines

3298. SHRI MANOJ KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the geological survey conducted on the mines of several companies of Coal India Ltd. during the last three years, mine-wise;

(b) the details of the decline in the ground stock of several companies of Coal India Ltd. and the percentage of decline which is overlooked, mine-wise; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government or the company against the persons found guilty for such decline in ground stock?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Coal inventory is assessed by Geological Survey of India annually for different coalfields only and not colliery-wise of coal companies. The company command area-wise distribution of coal resources as on 1.1.2005 is given below:—

(figures in million tonnes)

Company Command Area	Proved	Indicated	Inferred	Total
Eastern Coalfields Limited	15319	22539	8029	43887
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	15078	4352	0	19430
Central Coalfields Limited	16404	15424	5033	36860
Western Coalfields Limited	6327	3177	2005	11509
South Eastern Coalfields Limited	11261	28947	4640	44838
Northern Coalfields Limited	4728	5488	2290	12503
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	15161	30976	14846	60983
North Eastern Region	432	109	369	910

(b) Physical coal stock of Coal India Limited has not declined.

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

[English]

Facilities to Senior Citizens relating to Passport Issuance

3299. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to extend certain facilities in the issuance of passports to senior citizens;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) The Government has been extending special facilities to the senior citizens in the issuance of passports. They are exempted from Police Verification at the time of issuance of passport provided at least one of their children holds a valid passport. They are also granted ECNR (Emigration Check Not Required) at the time of issuance of the passport. There are separate queues for senior citizens at all passport offices.

(c) Not applicable.

Installation of Telephone Exchanges

3300. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new telephone exchanges installed in West Bengal, Sikkim and NER during the last three years, district-wise and year-wise;

(b) the details of the telephone exchanges proposed to be set up during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 in these States, district-wise;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of new telephone exchanges installed in West Bengal, Sikkim and NER during the last three years (*i.e.* 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05) district-wise and year-wise is given in the statement-I enclosed.

(b) The details of the telephone exchanges proposed to be set-up during the year 2005-06 in these States, district-wise is given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(c) Already 6 exchanges have been commissioned out of 62 planned for 2005-06.

Statement I

New Telephone Exchanges Installed during the last three years

State	Name of District	No. of Exchanges			Total
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	
1	2	3	4	5	6
West Bengal	Howrah	11	2	1	14
	Hooghly	8	2	2	12
	24 Praganas (S)	29	17	2	48
	24 Praganas (N)	26	10	10	46
	Kolkata	76	14	15	105
	Bankura	7	0	1	8
	Birbhhum	7	1	0	8

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Burdwan	16	2	1	19
	Coochbehar	1	4	2	7
	Darjeeling	2	2	0	4
	Jalpaiguri	4	3	0	7
	Malda	3	0	1	4
	Midnapur (East)	8	2	2	12
	Midnapur (West)	3	0	2	5
	Murshidabad	5	0	0	5
	Nadia	11	3	6	20
	Purulia	5	0	2	7
	Total	222	62	46	331
Sikkim	Sikkim (East)	2	0	0	2
	Total	2	0	0	2
Assam	Bongaigaon	0	1	0	1
	Dibrugarh	6	2	2	10
	Jorhat	1	0	0	1
	Kamrup	3	4	0	7
	Nagaon	10	1	1	12
	Sibsagar	5	0	0	5
	Golaghat	5	1	0	6
	Kokrajhar	3	3	0	6
	Nalbari	2	1	0	3
	Golpara	3	1	0	4
	Barpeta	4	2	0	6
	Dhubri	5	2	0	7
	Tinsukia	4	1	0	5
	Morigaon	2	4	0	6
	Hailakandi	3	0	0	3
	Karimganj	1	2	0	3
	Cachar	1	0	0	1
	Darrang	2	0	0	2

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Lakhimpur	1	1	0	2
	Sonitpur	1	0	0	1
	Total	62	26	3	91
Nagaland	Longleng	1	0	0	1
	Kohima	0	1	3	4
	Dimapur	0	1	0	1
	Total	1	2	3	6
Arunachal Pradesh	Papum Pare	2	0	0	2
	Dibong Velley Lower	1	0	0	1
	East Siang	3	0	0	3
	Total	6	0	0	6
Manipur	Thoubal	1	0	1	2
	Tamenglong	1	0	0	1
	Senapati	1	1	1	3
	Churachandpur	0	2	0	2
	Chandel	0	0	1	1
	Total	3	3	3	9
Meghalaya	East Khasi Hills	2	0	1	3
	West Khasi Hills	0	0	2	2
	Jaintia Hills	4	0	0	4
	RI Bbhoi	0	0	1	1
	West Garo Bills	0	1	0	1
	East Garo Hills	0	0	2	2
	Total	6	1	6	13
Mizoram	Aizawal	1	0	0	1
	Kolasib	1	0	0	1
	Total	2	0	0	2

1	2	3	4	5	6
Tripura	Dhalai	1	0	0	1
	South Tripura	2	1	1	4
	North Tripura	2	1	0	3
	West Tripura	1	2	3	6
	Total	6	4	4	14

Statement II

No. of Exchanges proposed to be set up during the year 2005-06

State	Name of District	No. of Exchanges proposed to be set up
West Bengal	Hooghly	1
	24 Parganas (S)	18
	24 Parganas (N)	12
	Kolkata	19
	Total	50
Aruanchal Pradesh	West Siang	1
	Total	1
Meghalaya	Jaintia Hills	1
	East Khasi Hills	1
	Total	2
Tripura	West Tripura	1
	South Tripura	1
	Total	2
Assam	Nalbari	2
	Tinsukia	1
	Sibsagar	1
	Cachar	2
	Bongaigaon	1
	Total	7
	Grand Total	62

Motor Race

3301. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to organize/ facilitate formula 1 motor race in one of the metro cities of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for establishment of a motor racing circuit and automobile testing facilities for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government of India does not organize such events. The Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI), the recognized National Sports Federation for Motor Sports in India, has also informed that there is no formal application in this regard to the management of Formula One, who are the commercial rights holder for Formula 1 Race in India.

Various Health Indices

3302. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the current ratio of Primary Health Centres to the total popoulation;

(b) the current ratio of registered doctors and hospitals beds to the total population in rural and urban areas; and

(c) the reasons for difference in these indices during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) On an average a Primary Health Centre covers 32129 population, in the country, as per 2001 census.

(b) As per information provided by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI), there are 59.24 Allopathic registered medical practitioners available per 1,00,000 population and one allopathic Government hospital bed serves a population of 2834 on an average, in the country.

(c) Government has been making all possible efforts to improve these indices and there has been some improvement in the doctor-population ratio and hospital bed-population ratio, in the past three years.

Visit of Pakistan Pilgrims

3303. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of pilgrim centres in the country which are presently thrown open to Pakistani pilgrims;

(b) whether the Government proposes to open more pilgrim centres for;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is a proposal to hold a Pakistani Film Festival in India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) In terms of the bilateral 'Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines-1974', the Pakistani pilgrims are permitted to visit the following pilgrim centres:

1. Hazart Khawaja Moinuddin Chisti, Ajmer Sharif
2. Hazart Amir Khurso, Delhi
3. Hazrat Mujaddid Alf Sani, Sirhand Sharif
4. Hazarat Khwaja Allauddin Ali Ahmad Sabiri, Kalyar Sharif
5. Hazarat Nizamuddin Aulia, Delhi

As a measure to increase people to people contact between the two countries, Government has also been allowing additional pilgrim places outside the Protocol.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During the Secretary (Culture) level talks held on July 26-27, 2005 in Islamabad, it was agreed to expand the Protocol to increase the number of shrines in both the countries as also the number of pilgrims. The details of additional pilgrim centers will be finalised by mutual consultation.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) This will be finalised by mutual consultation.

Eradication of Leprosy

3304. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of leprosy cases detected during each of the last three years till date, State-wise;

(b) the total number of leprosy hospitals in the country as on date and the number of hospitals opened during 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 till date;

(c) the amount provided by the Union Government during 2002-03 and 2003-04 and the current year so far, State-wise;

(d) the details of the foreign assistance provided to these hospitals during 2002-03 and 2003-04; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government for the eradication of leprosy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The total number of leprosy cases detected during 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 till date, State-wise is given at statement-I enclosed.

(b) The total number of leprosy hospitals in the country as on date is given in the statement-II enclosed. No new hospitals for leprosy were opened during 2003-04 and 2004-05 and during 2005-06 till date.

(c) The details of the amount provided by the Union Government to States under National Leprosy Eradication Programme during 2002-03 and 2003-04 and the current year so far, State-wise is given as Statement-III enclosed.

(d) No foreign assistance has been provided to these hospitals during 2002-03 and 2003-04 through Government of India.

(e) The Government of India has set the goal of elimination (not eradication) of Leprosy by December, 2005. Elimination of leprosy means to bring down the Prevalence Rate (PR) of leprosy to below 1 case per 10,000 population. The current PR is 1.23. To achieve this goal following steps have been taken:—

(i) Decentralization and Institutional Development under which State Leprosy Societies have been formed in 27 major States and District Leprosy Societies in all the Districts in the country which are responsible for proper planning, implementation, monitoring and timely corrective action.

(ii) Integration of Leprosy Services with General Health Care in the country for better out-reach and utilization of services by community.

(iii) Early Leprosy Case Detection and Free Multi Drug Therapy to all patients through all Government Primary Health Centres, dispensaries and Hospitals in the country.

(iv) Intensified Public Awareness Campaigns through Mass Media as well as local media at periphery.

(v) Training of General Health Care Staff in leprosy and in disability prevention and care.

(vi) Prevention of deformity and care.

Statement I

National Leprosy Eradication Programme

State-wise number of new leprosy cases detected for last 3 years

Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of new cases detected			
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (June 2005)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	39115	31816	18751	2280
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	126	104	66	15

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Assam	1570	1331	1227	403
4.	Bihar	94561	65019	40395	7464
5.	Chhattisgarh	18468	15385	13110	2810
6.	Goa	294	320	290	71
7.	Gujarat	11564	10229	6900	1213
8.	Haryana	718	643	449	77
9.	Himachal Pradesh	280	308	252	78
10.	Jharkhand	28982	17719	19131	2116
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	572	356	298	88
12.	Karnataka	13071	10598	7850	1590
13.	Kerala	2512	1891	1500	286
14.	Madhya Pradesh	16570	12699	7626	1658
15.	Maharashtra	48549	44192	32618	4321
16.	Manipur	108	53	41	13
17.	Meghalaya	78	17	27	5
18.	Mizoram	23	18	18	3
19.	Nagaland	58	55	59	63
20.	Orissa	38349	21201	20595	2885
21.	Punjab	1356	1345	1173	369
22.	Rajasthan	2212	2000	1299	384
23.	Sikkim	46	47	39	8
24.	Tamil Nadu	24767	16051	11244	1894
25.	Tripura	80	93	60	13
26.	Uttar Pradesh	90586	80072	48010	10104
27.	Utaranchal	2246	1917	1280	237
28.	West Bengal	32243	25050	28091	4330
29.	A & N Islands	60	55	48	11
30.	Chandigarh	323	346	289	64
31.	D & N Haveli	268	616	195	48

1	2	3	4	5	6
32.	Daman & Diu	18	5	2	2
33.	Delhi	5975	5362	4221	1055
34.	Lakshadweep	27	4	3	0
35.	Pondicherry	225	226	106	12
	Total	476000	367143	260063	45969

Statement II

National Leprosy Eradication Programme

Number of Leprosy Hospitals, State-wise as on date

Sl.No.	State/UT	Govt. of India	ILEP**	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	26	26
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	1	1
4.	Bihar	—	3	3
5.	Chhattisgarh	1	7	8
6.	Goa	—	—	—
7.	Gujarat	—	—	—
8.	Haryana	—	—	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	—	1	1
10.	Jharkhand	—	4	4
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—
12.	Karnataka	—	8	8
13.	Kerala	—	4	4
14.	Madhya Pradesh	—	3	3
15.	Maharashtra	—	12	12
16.	Manipur	—	—	—
17.	Meghalaya	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Mizoram	—	—	—
19.	Nagaland	—	—	—
20.	Orissa	1	6	7
21.	Punjab	—	2	2
22.	Rajasthan	—	—	—
23.	Sikkim	—	—	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	1	24	25
25.	Tripura	—	—	—
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1*	10	11
27.	Utaranchal	—	2	2
28.	West Bengal	1	7	8
29.	A & N Islands	—	—	—
30.	Chandigarh	—	—	—
31.	D & N Haveli	—	—	—
32.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—
33.	Delhi	—	2	2
34.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—
35.	Pondicherry	—	—	—
	Total	5	122	127

*Under ICMR

**ILEP—International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations.

Statement III

State-wise Release under National Leprosy Eradication Programme

Sl.No.	States	2002-2003 Assistance Released	2003-2004 Assistance Released	2005-2006* Assistance Released
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	179.22	174.80	12.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	115.96	72.75	5.35

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	97.48	93.28	4.42
4.	Bihar	855.85	413.77	31.80
5.	Chhattisgarh	354.41	305.60	59.32
6.	Goa	8.10	7.53	1.49
7.	Gujarat	99.65	88.21	28.62
8.	Haryana	43.89	2.16	5.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	30.45	36.15	6.50
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	96.39	21.90	8.31
11.	Jharkhand	257.46	147.60	39.59
12.	Karnataka	122.66	70.46	14.00
13.	Kerala	69.36	15.00	7.50
14.	Madhya Pradesh	676.61	225.91	48.62
15.	Maharashtra	263.14	83.01	87.62
16.	Manipur	101.25	65.50	0.75
17.	Meghalaya	46.24	1.99	1.00
18.	Mizoram	76.50	22.50	5.00
19.	Nagaland	112.44	83.00	1.50
20.	Orissa	478.63	403.22	52.52
21.	Punjab	40.27	25.19	5.00
22.	Rajasthan	52.32	23.42	17.00
23.	Sikkim	39.36	23.54	1.50
24.	Tamil Nadu	240.63	230.02	71.90
25.	Tripura	33.60	8.50	3.00
26.	Uttaranchal	120.01	43.78	7.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1508.04	1168.93	75.82
28.	West Bengal	599.55	412.47	92.35
29.	A & N Islands	20.22	0.50	0.68
30.	Chandigarh	10.13	10.50	0.25
31.	D & N Haveli	6.00	6.00	0.50

1	2	3	4	5
32.	Daman & Diu	14.50	9.50	4.75
33.	Delhi	93.42	100.50	0.50
34.	Lakshadweep	7.26	5.50	0.50
35.	Pondicherry	6.0	0.35	0.65
	Total	6877.00	4403.04	700.31

Statement includes the expenditure of GIA, Cash Assistance & Drugs (MDT)

Road Linkage between Paradip Port, Iron Ore Mines and Steel Plant

3305. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Central Sector Project is under consideration of the Government to provide road linkage between Paradip Port Iron ore mines in Keonjhar district and the steel plant in Kalinga Nagar in Orissa;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the Project and the fund sanctioned therefor; and

(c) the target date fixed for the completion of road linkage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) The National Highways connecting Paradip port to the iron ore mines of Keonjhar District and the steel plant of Kalinga Nagar are proposed to be widened to 4-lanes. Four laning of stretch of National Highway No. 5A from Paradip Port to Chandikhole is in progress at an estimated cost of Rs. 428 crore and likely to be completed by June 2007. Four laning of stretch of National Highway No. 5 from Chandikhole to Panikoili has already been completed in May 2005. The stretches of National Highway No. 215 from Panikoili to Roxy and National Highway No. 200 from Chandikhole to Duburi via Kalinga Nagar are included under NHDP-IIIA at an estimated cost of about Rs. 490.00 crore and Rs. 160 crore respectively. Bids for preparation of DPR for four laning of these stretches have been invited. Both the project are targeted for completion by December 2009.

Alleged Wrong Billing of Calls

3306. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a number of complaints from the subscribers alleging wrong billing of their calls;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Complaints are received from subscribers alleging wrong billing from time to time. However, the number of complaints of wrong billing of calls in BSNL and MTNL is well with-in the norms fixed by TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India).

(b) State-wise details of such complaints of wrong billing are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) BSNL & MTNL examine the wrong billing complaints, as per well laid down procedure and if found justified rebate is given to the subscribers.

Statement

State-wise details of wrong billing complaints

Sl.No.	Name of the Circle	2002-03 No. of complaints	2003-04 No. of complaints	2004-05 No. of complaints
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	68	206	200
2.	Andhra Pradesh	10822	14342	11159
3.	Assam	2677	2518	2652
4.	Bihar	2723	3302	1974
5.	Jharkhand	875	1350	2638
6.	Gujarat	12180	19162	12063
7.	Haryana	3599	6055	5196
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1996	2648	2776
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1589	1438	1546
10.	Karnataka	9075	12997	10609
11.	Kerala	8730	8182	6039
12.	Madhya Pradesh	7365	11893	9281
13.	Chhattisgarh	1706	1868	1381
14.	Maharashtra	12209	16257	11653
15.	Goa	952	1192	773
16.	Meghalaya	1529	887	489
17.	Mizoram	85	312	256
18.	Tripura	166	454	392
19.	Nagaland	857	822	603
20.	Manipur	615	353	102
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	236	225	384
22.	Orissa	6201	12617	6161
23.	Punjab	7357	21466	7891
24.	Rajasthan	5423	7525	6097
25.	Tamil Nadu	9540	15424	13225

1	2	3	4	5
26.	Pondicherry	76	100	192
27.	Uttar Pradesh	8867	11001*	12777
28.	Uttaranchal	298	369	327
29.	West Bengal	10104	9943	9502
30.	Sikkim	473	476	132
31.	MTNL Delhi	14800	36234	18425
32.	MTNL Mumbai	14018	17229	17552

[Translation]

Trauma Centre in Patna District

3307. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had opened a Trauma Centre on the National Highway at Vikram in District Patna in Bihar during the year 2002 at a cost of Rs. 1.5 crore;

(b) whether the Trauma Centre has been equipped with the latest facilities for providing emergency medical aid to the victims of accidents;

(c) whether the doctors and staff have not been posted there even after lapse of two years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the Government proposes to make the Trauma Centre operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Under the scheme for grant of financial assistance for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities in the Government Hospitals located on National Highways, Model Bikram Referral Centre, Patna was upgraded with an assistance of Rs. 1.5 Crores (Rs. 1.10 crores for the building and Rs. 0.40 crores for the equipment). Under the scheme, it is for the State Government to provide the necessary manpower for operating the trauma services.

Global Tenders for Coal Mining

3308. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to float global tenders for coal mining by private and foreign companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the tender floated by M.S.E.B.;

(c) whether such a decision would adversely affect the opportunities of employment to local people, encourage contract system and exploitation of labour; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Three projects of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL) have been recently approved by the Government, where outsourcing of some activities have been permitted in the interest of more cost effective coal mining.

(b) As per the information received, neither MCL nor Maharashtra State Power Corporation Company Limited have so far floated any tender for coal mining by any private and foreign companies.

(c) and (d) Fresh investment in new projects should help in creating new employment opportunities. The work arrangements shall be governed and guided by the relevant statutes.

[English]

Construction of Ship by Hindustan Shipyards Ltd.

3309. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Administration of Lakshadweep has placed any order with the Hindustan Shipyards Limited (HSL) for construction of ship;

(b) if so, the details including the payment made therefor;

(c) whether the ship has been delivered by the HSL to the Administration of Lakshadweep;

(d) if so, the details therefor;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the HSL has diverted the funds meant for construction of ship;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the steps taken by the Union Government to sort out the issue?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Administration of Union Territory of Lakshadweep (UTL) has placed an Order worth Rs. 121.47 crores with M/s. Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) for construction of 1 No. 700 Passenger-cum-160T. Cargo Vessel in the year August, 2000 scheduled to be delivered by February, 2003. The UTL Administration has so far made a total payment of Rs. 107.44 crores to HSL.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The vessel is still under construction at M/s. HSL. The vessel was floated on 30.09.2004 and outfitting works are on hand at HSL Jetty. The main reasons for delay are as follows:

(1) Delay in finalization of Design & Documentation to meet the rules and norms.

(2) Delay in procurement of Second phase steel.

(3) Non-availability of Building Dock for commencement of erection of panels since Building Dock was pre-occupied by 500 CU. Meter Grab Hopper Dredger of Visakhapatnam Port Trust and INS Vagli, Submarine of Indian Navy.

(4) Working Capital problems faced by M/s. HSL.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. As M/s. HSL was facing severe financial crisis. It has diverted an amount of Rs. 51.56 crores to meet the unavoidable obligation of payment of salaries and wages to its employees. This was done to pre-empt industrial unrest of any sort arising out of non-payment of salaries and wages.

(h) The Rehabilitation-cum-Financial Restructuring of M/s. HSL is under active consideration of the Government of India which inter-alia includes its Working Capital requirement to complete its old projects.

[Translation]

Reducing Rate of Postal Stamps

3310. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the rules for putting postal stamps of different values on a post card;

(b) the definition of printed material on post card under the relevant law;

(c) whether the Government proposed to formulate any scheme for reducing the rate of postal stamps on post cards and other cards meant for condolence messages; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Section 7 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 (read with its First Schedule) provide putting of postage stamps of different values on post cards of different categories.

(b) The definition of printed material on post card is given in rule 11 (2) of the Indian Post Office Rules, 1933 under the provisions of Section 7 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

(c) and (d) For the present, there is no proposal to formulate any scheme for reducing the rate of postal stamps on post cards and other cards meant for condolence messages.

[English]

Delay in Disbursement of Benefits

3311. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH:
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that there is inordinate delay in the disbursement of benefits under the National Family Benefits Scheme and the National Social Assistance Programme;

(b) if so, the total number of cases and the amount outstanding to be disbursed, State-wise, especially in Kerala; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to clear the pending cases and the measures to avoid pendency in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) For 2005-06, the first release for the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) which includes two components National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) and National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) was made in the month of July, 2005.

(b) and (c) The scheme was transferred to the States/UTs with effect from 2002-03 with a view to provide requisite flexibility to the States/UTs in the choice and implementation of the scheme. The funds for the scheme are provided as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) to the States. As such the details regarding the list of cases and the amount outstanding for NFBS and NSAP are not maintained by the Ministry of Rural Development as these fall under the purview of State Governments. In 2004, Kerala had requested for an enhancement of Rs. 50 crores for NSAP. The State Government was informed that NSAP is not demand driven and any shortfall in coverage is to be met by the State Government. The NSAP only seeks to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in providing social assistance benefits to poor households in the case of old age and death of primary breadwinner. Further, it was also informed that the States have been given considerable flexibility to spend the funds allocated to them on NOAPS and/or NFBS as per their priorities. It may also be mentioned that in 2004-05, the total ACA for NSAP and Annapurna was enhanced from Rs. 679.87 crores to Rs. 1189.87 crores. Accordingly, the allocation for Kerala increased from Rs. 1762.99 lakhs to Rs. 2872.43 lakhs during 2004-05. For 2005-06 the combined allocation for National Social Assistance Programme and Annapurna for the State of Kerala is Rs. 2874.17 lakhs.

Road Map for Infrastructure Development

3312. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a road map for the development of airports, national highways, ports, railways and other sectors and to create an environment for world class infrastructure in the country has been prepared by the Planning Commission; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) A Committee on Infrastructure has been set up under the chairmanship of Prime Minister to create an enabling environment for world class infrastructure in the country. The Committee is being serviced by the Planning Commission.

A road map for airports and national highway development was presented to the Committee in December 2004 and January 2005 respectively. Similar road maps for ports and railways were presented in the Committee in May, 2005.

In the highway sector, the investment envisaged is Rs. 1,72,000 crore by 2012, Rs. 40,000 crores in airport sector by 2010 and Rs. 50,000 crore in the port sector by 2012.

Meeting of WGIG

3313. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether currently the power to control and govern the internet rests with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Number (ICANN), based in California;

(b) if so, whether the Government is contemplating to wrest control of internet on expiry of MoU in September, 2006 between ICANN and the Department of Commerce of the USA;

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

(d) whether India has attended meeting of Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) held in Geneva in mid-June 2005;

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

(f) the outcome of the meeting and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) ICANN is an internationally organized, non-profit corporation that has responsibility for Internet Protocol (IP) address space allocation, protocol identifier assignment, generic (gTLD) and country code (ccTLD) Top-Level Domain name system management, and root server system management functions. As a public-private partnership, ICANN is dedicated to preserving the operational stability and security of the Internet.

(b) and (c) No Sir. Government after consultation with all stakeholders have declared that governments and all stakeholders should have effective say in all deliberations on Internet policy. These should be transparent, inclusive and democratic.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A delegation from India attended the WGIG meeting held in Geneva in mid-June 2005. India presented its view point in the form of response to the Questionnaire circulated by WGIG Secretariat on various spects of public-policy issues and ICANN functions, structure and governance.

India maintained that Internet has a very important role to play and its stability, reliability and security is very vital for communication and variety of applications such as e-Commerce.

It was suggested that the organizational form which will be charged with the management of Public Policy issues related to Internet Governance and should be multilateral, transparent, and democratic. This will be with the full involvement of the Governments, the Private Sector, Civil Society and International Organizations.

(f) Based on the deliberations by various countries and organizations, four models of Internet Governance and its institutional mechanism were brought out in the WGIG report. India has maintained that this report will pave the way for further deliberations in the World summit on Information Society.

Uniform Price of Blood

3314. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the charges of blood price are very high and non-uniform throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to have uniform price of blood throughout 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) to (e) No charges are leviable for blood as it is collected from voluntary and replacement donors who are not paid for donating blood. Since the donated units are subjected to mandatory screening of transfusion transmitted diseases, blood grouping and cross matching, before it is issued for transfusion to the patients, subsidized service charges are recovered for each unit of safe and screened blood. The Government has laid guidelines for Government, Voluntary and Private Blood banks to recover service charges for donated blood unit. A copy of the guidelines is enclosed as Statement.

As per these guidelines, all Government and Voluntary Blood banks can recover service charge of Rs. 250/- for each blood unit before issuing it to the patients

of their own hospitals or to other Government or Voluntary sector hospitals. The private blood banks may however recover cost towards service charges to a maximum of Rs. 500/- per unit.

But patients suffering from Thalassemia and Hemophilia are exempted from these service charges in the country in Government and Voluntary Blood Banks. Quite a few private/commercial blood banks are also offering free service.

Statement

Guidelines for Recovery of Service Charges for Blood

Recovery of service charges for handling of blood including its mandatory testing for transfusion transmitted diseases before it is issued by blood banks operated by various sectors may be regulated as under:

1. No charges are leviable for blood as such, as it is to be collected from either voluntary donors or from replacement donors who are not to be paid for donating blood.

2. The processing cost of blood is estimated to be about Rs. 500/- per unit.

3. The cost recovery in respect of blood banks located in various sectors shall be on the following lines:

3.1 **Government and Voluntary Blood Banks:**

(a) The Government and voluntary blood banks issuing blood to patients of their own hospitals or to other government or voluntary sector hospitals may charge Rs. 250/- per unit and subsidise the rest of the cost.

(b) No cost should be charged for issue of blood/ blood components to cases of Thalassemia and Haemophilia, who require repeated blood transfusion a life saving measures.

(c) These blood banks while issuing blood to private nursing homes/hospitals may realise full processing cost of Rs. 500/- per unit of blood.

3.2 **Corporate and Commercial Blood Banks:**

The blood banks run by corporate sector hospitals and commercial blood banks may recover cost towards service charges to a maximum of Rs. 500/- per unit.

If the corporate/private hospitals do not have their own blood banks they may get blood from either government hospitals or blood banks run by voluntary sector. In such cases, the private nursing home/corporate hospitals should not charge from patients more than what they pay to obtain the blood from such blood banks. They may, however, recover charges for additional (other than mandatory) tests done, if any.

4. All blood banks would take steps to generate quantity of blood to be collected from voluntary donors.

Cost: One Unit of Blood (Rs. 500/-)

Sl.No.	Item	Charges (in Rs.)
1.	**Mandatory test**	
(a)	Haemoglobin	5.00
(b)	Grouping (ABO & Rh)	30.00
(c)	Cross matching	15.00
(d)	Quality control, wastage Discard and issue of Blood to accident cases/ poor patients.	100.00
(e)	Transfusion Transmitted Diseases: (VDRL/HbSAg/HIV/MP)	100.00
2.	**Cost of Blood Bag**	50.00
3.	**Consumables, disposables & Other miscellaneous items**	50.00
4.	**Additional Tests (other than mandatory)**	150.00
		500.00

[Translation]

Hot-Line between India and Pakistan

3315. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to start a new hot-line between India and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main reasons behind the same;

(d) the amount proposed to be spent on the said hot-line by the Government; and

(e) the time by which this new hot-line is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (e) In December 2004, India and Pakistan had agreed to establish a dedicated and secure hotline between the Foreign Secretaries. In the recent India-Pakistan Expert Level Dialogue on Nuclear Confidence Building Measures held in New Delhi (5-6 August 2005), the two sides emphasized the importance of early operationalization of this hotline link through their respective Foreign Offices, to prevent misunderstandings and reduce risks relevant to nuclear issues. In this connection, discussions on related technical parameters were held. Details about implementation and testing schedules were exchanges. It was agreed that the hotline link would be established in September 2005.

[English]

Assistance to People from Health Minister's Discretionary Grant

3316. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of financial assistance given to the poor and indigent patients from the Health Minister's discretionary Grant to defray a part of the expenditure on hospitalization/treatment during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the number of patients given financial assistance out of the said grant during the said period;

(c) whether funds remained unutilized during the above period;

(d) if so, the reasons for non-utilisation of the allocation in full; and

(e) the number of patients still awaiting release to grant from the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b)

(Rupees in lakhs)

Years	Total expenditure	No. of beneficiaries
2002-03	103.00	595
2003-04	53.00	303
2004-05	43.19	227

(c) Yes.

(d) The reasons for non-utilisation of the allocation in full are given in the statement enclosed.

(e) About 900 applications are still under consideration.

Statement

(i) Non receipt of application complete in all respects.

(ii) Annual Family income is more than Rs. 50,000/-

(iii) Request for assistance for re-imbursement of expenditure already incurred, not admissible.

(iv) Non-admissibility of financial Assistance for treatment of TB or diseases of common nature.

(v) Treatment in private hospital not admissible.

(vi) The patient a Central Govt./State Govt/PSU employees.

(vii) Replies of Commitment letters are not received from the hospitals to whom the funds are released for the treatment of patients.

(viii) After initial application, patients do not respond.

[Translation]

Ratio of Expenditure on Development Schemes

3317. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the ratio of expenditure in the rural and urban areas on the development schemes undertaken by the Government; and

(b) the norms adopted for villages and towns separately for pursing development schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Centrally Sponsored Schemes are designed with a specific objective(s) and generally the norms and funding pattern depends on provision under the scheme. The schemes are monitored by central administrative Ministry concerned and are implemented through State Governments/their agencies. The guidelines are formulated in consultation with the State Governments. Generally, the schemes monitored by Rural Development Ministry are meant for the rural areas and those monitored by Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation are meant for the urban areas.

The budget expenditure/RE against approved Central Plan Outlay for the M/o Rural Development, Urban Development and Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation during the last two years 2003-2004 & 2004-05 as indicated in the Budget documents are as follows;

(Rs. crore)

	Ministry/Department	2003-04 (Actual)	2004-05 (RE)
I.	Ministry of Rural Development		
	D/o Rural Development	15501.18	13866.40
	D/o Land Resources	954.35	1050.00
	D/o Drinking Water Supply	2769.52	3300.00
	Total (M/o Rural Development)	19225.05	18216.40
II.	Ministry of Urban Development	2610.71	2017.04
III.	Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation	634.28	650.00
	Total (M/o Urban Development and M/o Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation	3244.99	2667.04

Regulatory Commission for Coal

3318. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the action being taken by the Government on the proposal sent by the Government of Madhya Pradesh regarding the constitution of a regulatory commission for proper control on the price and quality of coal supply; and

(b) the time by when the said proposal is likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) The Government has decided that the Tariff Commission will be involved in pricing of coal for power sector and to suggest modalities for pricing of coal for other sectors.

[English]

National Development Council Meeting

3319. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of States have voiced their apprehension over the issue of market borrowings at the meeting of National Development Council held recently in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

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

(b) States have raised a number of concerns regarding raising the loan component of Central assistance directly from the market. Some States wanted this to be introduced after advance preparation. Others wished that the matter had been discussed with them before the new policy was introduced. It was also felt that Government of India should extend loans at rates equal to those of treasury bills to States unable to raise market loans directly due to any reason. Some States wished the existing method of Central assistance to continue. There was support also for direct market borrowings in lieu of Central loans provided Government of India offered assistance to States if there is a shortfall. It was feared that the shorter maturity period and bullet payment requirements of market borrowings could neutralize the repayment relief obtained by States through re-schedulement of loans as recommended by the Twelfth Finance Commission. The shorter maturity period of market borrowings compared to Central loans could lead also to additional fiscal stress. A suggestion was made that the Centre should borrow from the market on behalf of States and pass on assistance to them at market rates.

(c) The Union Government has brought about changes in the loan component of the Central assistance mechanism of funding State Plans as recommended by the Twelfth Finance Commission. However, for fiscally weak States, the Ministry of Finance will continue to raise market borrowings and provide the support required during the transition period. Other States could borrow within permissible borrowing limits, in consultation with Ministry of Finance and Reserve Bank of India, but if there is difficulty Ministry of Finance will borrow for them as the need arises.

Visit of EAM to Bangladesh

3320. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has recently visited Bangladesh and held discussion with various leaders on different issues; and

(b) if so, the details of discussions held and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes Sir, External Affairs Minister visited Bangladesh from 6-8 August 2005.

(b) During the visit, External Affairs Minister met the Prime Minister, Finance Minister and Leader of Opposition in addition to having delegation level talks with the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh. Issues pertaining to security, illegal immigration, border fencing, trade and commerce, investments and UN reforms were discussed. The two sides also concluded a Cultural Exchange Programme during the visit. The visit was warmly welcomed by the government of Bangladesh.

[Translation]

Widening of National Highway No. 10

3321. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to widen National Highway No. 10 (Delhi-Rohtak Road) into six lane road;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Delhi-Hissar section of NH-10 which includes Delhi-Rohtak Road, has been approved for upgradation to four lanes on BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer) basis under NHDP (National Highways Development Project) Phase-IIIA. The preparation of DPR (Detailed Project Report) is in progress. The target date of completion for the four laning is December 2009.

Four-Laning of Byavar-Pali-Sirohi Road

3322. SHRI PUSP JAIN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of vehicles plying daily over Byavar-Pali-Sirohi road falling under National Highway No. 14;

(b) whether the Government has any scheme regarding four-laning of Byavar-Pali-Sirohi road under National Highway No. 8; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The traffic on Bayawar-Pali-Sirohi section of National Highway No. 14 is about 4527 CVD (Commercial Vehicles per Day) and 18430 PCU (Passenger Car Units).

(b) and (c) Bayawar-Pali-Sirohi-Pindwara road of National Highway No. 14 has been identified for four-laning on BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) basis under the NHDP (National Highway Development Project) Phase III. National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has been asked to prepare the Detail Project (DPR). The date of completion will be known after work is awarded.

[English]

Conversion of Bridge under NHDP to Four-Lane

3323. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any representation for conversion of the two-lane bridge under the National Highways Development Programme (NHDP) to a four-lane bridge at Saraighat along NH-31;

(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 SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) National Highways Authority of India, under East West Cooridor programme of NHDP, has planned construction of an additional three lane road bridge at 40 Meter downstream of the existing rail-cum-road bridge at Saraighat, Guwahati, on NH-31. The detailed project report alongwith prequalification of civil contractors has been completed and bids are likely to be invited shortly.

[Translation]

Liberalising Visa Rules between India and Pakistan

3324. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the journalists of India and Pakistan have urged their respective Governments to liberalise the visa rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in view of the request of the journalists, the Government is contemplating to relax the visa rules;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) South Asia Free Media Association (SAFMA) has been suggesting liberalisation of visa rules by India and Pakistan. During the South Asian Parliamentary Forum organised by SAFMA at Bhurban from May 15-20, 2005, the Association called for revision of visa policies by the Governments concerned and requested to allow free movement of media persons and products across the borders.

(c) and (d) Government has progressively liberalised the visa regime for Pakistani nationals. In September 2004, Government announced liberalised visa procedures for accredited journalists, academicians, professors, Vice-Chancellors medical doctors accompanying patients and visitors for conferences approved by Government. Exemption from Police Reporting for persons above the age of 65 and increase in number of places permitted from 3 up to 12 have also been announced. Liberalised visa scheme for Pakistani students coming to join at school level in reputed international schools and professional courses in recognised educational institutions have been put in place since February 2005. India also introduced grant of visas on arrival at Attari Check-post for people above the age of 65 and below the age of 12 with effect from April 1, 2005. This facility would also be

available for members of groups who have been already cleared by Government.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Acquisition of Land

3325. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of acquisition of land required for widening of NH-47 into four-lane in Coimbatore district has been completed;

(b) if not, the time by when the required land is likely to be acquired; and

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

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

(b) and (c) The land acquisition required for widening of NH-47 into four-lane in Coimbatore district is likely to be completed by 2006 and the project is likely to be completed by 2008.

[Translation]

Export of Nuclear Material

3326. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries with which agreements have been reached during the last three years for the export of nuclear material;

(b) whether the said export is likely to have any adverse impact on the power generation in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No agreement have been entered into during the last three years for export of any nuclear fuel material.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Financial Assistance for Mentally Challenged Children

3327. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

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

(a) whether India is one of the countries where a large number of children are mentally challenged;

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

(c) the city-wise number of such children in the metropolitan cities in the country;

(d) the financial assistance provided during the last three years and till date in order to tackle this problem; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to tackle this growing problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per Census of India 2001, the number of children in the age group 0-14 years suffering from mental disabilities in India is 5,34,818 (Male-3,12,908; Female-2,21,910).

The most common reasons for mental retardation in our country include severe maternal malnutrition, iodine deficiency, inadequate pre and perinatal care and socio-cognitive deprivation.

(c) The number of mentally challenged children in this metropolitan cities is not centrally maintained.

(d) A statement indicating financial assistance provided by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for rehabilitation services of the persons with mental disabilities is enclosed.

(e) The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in promoting mental health care. Efforts of the Government now are to diagnose the mentally ill patients at the early stage and treat them through the general health care delivery system. Adequate medical facilities are available to treat the mentally ill

patients. In order to provide increased access and better quality of mental health care, the Government's National Mental Health Programme during the Tenth Five-Year Plan envisages to expand District Mental Health Programme (DMHP) to cover 100 districts in the country with additional congruent districts, strengthen the 37 Government mental health institutes and also psychiatric wings of 75 medical colleges, undertake Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities and research and training. So far 94 districts have been covered under the DMHP; funds have been released for upgradation of psychiatric wings of 9 medical colleges and strengthening of one mental health institute. Further, funds have also been released for undertaking research and IEC activities.

Statement

Details of Financial Assistance provided by the Government for providing Rehabilitation Services to the persons with Mental Disabilities

Scheme	Amounts Released (Rs. in lakhs)			
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (i.e. till 13.08.2005)
Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (implemented through NGOs)	2848.62	2543.10	2659.12	432.40
Scheme for Community Based Training of Caregivers (implemented through National Trust for Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation & Multiple Disabilities)	78.33	62.03	41.90	4.94
Reach and Relief Scheme (implemented through above National Trust)	366.44	67.78	407.01	46.20
State Nodal Agency Centres (SNAC) (implemented through above National Trust)	—	14.16	40.53	4.5
Guardianship Scheme (implemented through above National Trust)	—	7.8	6.42	0

[English]

Prevention/Eradication of Diseases

3328. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of disabled persons in the country, State-wise;

(b) the total number of patients suffering from TB, Goitre, Cancer, AIDS etc. in the country, State-wise; and

(c) the funds allocated to prevent and eradicate these diseases in each plan period from 1st Plan to 10th Five Year Plan?

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

Construction of New Harbours

3329. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state the details of the proposals under consideration of the Government for construction of new harbours in the country, State-wise, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): There is no proposal for setting up of any new major Port under

consideration with the Government of India. State Governments have overall jurisdiction over Ports other than major Ports and are also responsible for their construction.

Minimal Access Surgery Units in Hospitals

3330. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government for setting up of minimal access surgery units in Hospitals across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when the Government proposes to make such units functional in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There is no exclusive unit for minimal access surgery in Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. RML Hospital and LHMC & Associated Hospitals. However, the procedure of minimal access surgery is carried out by various departments of the above mentioned hospitals.

Telephone Exchanges in Rajasthan

3331. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has installed any new Telephone Exchange in Rajasthan during the last three years;

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

(c) the number of exchanges installed in rural areas;

(d) the capacity of each exchange; and

(e) the details thereof?

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

(b) Details of new telephone exchanges opened by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in Rajsthan during last three years, location-wise and year-wise are given in Statement I, II & III respectively.

(c) BSNL installed a total 74 exchanges in rural areas during the last three year. Details are as under:

Year 2002-03	—	57
Year 2003-04	—	16
Year 2004-05	—	01

(d) and (e) Capacity of the exchange and details are given in Statement I, II & III respectively.

Statement I

Details of new Exchanges Opened during 2002-03

Sl.No.	SSA	Location of Exchange	Capacity	Urban/Rural
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ajmer	Aj-Gandhi Nagar	1950	U
2.	Ajmer	AJ-Paharganj	1300	U
3.	Alwar	Piplaz	488	R
4.	Alwar	Badala	32	R
5.	Alwar	Bansur Main	808	U
6.	Alwar	Bhiwadi	1000	U

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Alwar	Dumroli	152	R
8.	Alwar	Karanpura	32	R
9.	Alwar	Mazri-Khurd	488	R
10.	Alwar	Nayagaon Partapur	32	R
11.	Alwar	South West Block	1000	U
12.	Bikaner	Badnu	152	R
13.	Bikaner	Beeramsar	152	R
14.	Bikaner	Bikaner-MDV Colony	3000	U
15.	Bikaner	Khada	48	R
16.	Bikaner	Sahjarasar	24	R
17.	Barmer	Bhunia	152	R
18.	Barmer	BMR-Old Exch.	1000	U
19.	Barmer	Chawa	152	R
20.	Barmer	Dhudhwa	152	R
21.	Barmer	Ramji Ka Gol	152	R
22.	Barmer	Siyani	152	R
23.	Bundi	Ovan	152	R
24.	Banswara	Banswara-II	1500	U
25.	Banswara	Banswar-M/W	2000	U
26.	Banswara	Bori	152	R
27.	Banswara	Dungarpur	1000	U
28.	Banswara	Modar (MCPC)	152	R
29.	Banswara	Sagwadiya	152	R
30.	Bharatpur	Bari	1000	R
31.	Bharatpur	Baroli	152	R
32.	Bharatpur	Jarga	152	R
33.	Bharatpur	Mithawali	152	R
34.	Bharatpur	Sadpuri	152	R
35.	Churu	Churu	488	U

1	2	3	4	5
36.	Churu	Dhanderu	152	R
37.	Jodhpur	Chamu	152	R
38.	Jodhpur	JDP-Chopasani HB	3000	U
39.	Jodhpur	JDP-Kudi Bhagtasni	1000	U
40.	Jodhpur	JDP-Pratap nagar	2000	U
41.	Jodhpur	JDP-Sur Sagar	2000	U
42.	Jodhpur	Jetiwas	152	R
43.	Jodhpur	Jodhpur-Mandore IA	1000	U
44.	Jodhpur	Kakelav	152	R
45.	Jodhpur	Newra	152	R
46.	Jodhpur	Salwa Kalan	152	R
47.	Jhunjhunu	Kot	152	R
48.	Jaipur	Bhabroo	152	R
49.	Jaipur	JP-Hasanpura	2000	U
50.	Jaipur	JP-Murlipura	1490	U
51.	Jaipur	JP-Ramganj Chopar	1992	U
52.	Jaipur	JP-Sethi Colony	480	U
53.	Jaipur	JP-Tara Nagar	992	U
54.	Jaipur	Nirman Nagar	1968	U
55.	Jaisalmer	Khuiyala	152	R
56.	Jaisalmer	Loharki	152	R
57.	Jaisalmer	Ola	152	R
58.	Jaisalmer	Rajmathai	152	R
59.	Kota	Kaithuni-Pole	2000	U
60.	Kota	Kota-DCM	2000	U
61.	Kota	Kota-Rampura	2000	U
62.	Pali	Falna City	488	U
63.	Pali	Khandi	152	R
64.	Pali	Panota	152	R

1	2	3	4	5
65.	Pali	Ranigaon	488	U
66.	Pali	Sardar Patel Nagar	488	U
67.	Pali	Zitara	184	R
68.	Sri Ganganagar	4-O (RSU)	500	R
69.	Sri Ganganagar	Bhopalpura	152	R
70.	Sri Ganganagar	HGH. Jn. B.S. Chowk	1000	U
71.	Sri Ganganagar	Rampura	152	R
72.	Sri Ganganagar	SGR-OCB (Main)	2000	U
73.	Sri Ganganagar	SGR-OCB	2000	U
74.	Sikar	Dantru	152	R
75.	Sikar	Fatehpur	4000	U
76.	Sikar	SIK-Krishi Mandi	1256	U
77.	Sirohi	Bichhawadi	16	R
78.	Sirohi	Dhanta	32	R
79.	Sirohi	Golasan	16	R
80.	Sirohi	Khara	32	R
81.	Sirohi	Khirodi	32	R
82.	Sirohi	Raipur	152	R
83.	Sirohi	Sanpur	152	R
84.	Sirohi	Sarwana	16	R
85.	Sirohi	Siloyia	152	R
86.	Sirohi	Sivera	304	R
87.	Sirohi	Tatol	152	R
88.	Sawai Madhopur	Mandrayal	152	R
89.	Tonk	Tonk	488	U
90.	Udaipur	Badwali	152	R
91.	Udaipur	Teekhi	16	R
92.	Udaipur	Udaipur-Kakarwas	1000	U
93.	Udaipur	UPR-Bohra Ganesh	2000	U
94.	Udaipur	UPR-TP Nagar	2000	U

Statement II

Details of New Exchanges opened during 2003-04

Sl.No.	SSA	Location of Exchange	Capacity	Urban/Rural
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ajmer	Ajainagar	3016	U
2.	Alwar	Thumrella	152	R
3.	Bharatpur	Deeg MBM	500	U
4.	Churu	Mehari	184	R
5.	Churu	Dhani Asha	184	R
6.	Jaipur	RTTC	1000	U
7.	Jaipur	Chitrakoot	2000	U
8.	Jaipur	Prithvi Raj Nagar	2000	U
9.	Jaipur	Kardhani (West)	1000	U
10.	Jodhpur	BJS Colony	2000	U
11.	Jodhpur	Bhatinda	152	R
12.	Jodhpur	Khudiyala	152	R
13.	Jodhpur	Fitkasni	152	R
14.	Jodhpur	Ketukala	152	R
15.	Jodhpur	Shekhasar	152	R
16.	Jodhpur	Rajlani	152	R
17.	Kota	Vallabhbari	2000	U
18.	Kota	Railway Colony	2000	U
19.	Kota	Keshabpura	2000	U
20.	Kota	Talwandi	2000	U
21.	Kota	Mahaveer Nagar	2000	U
22.	Pali	Jaitaran MBM	360	U
23.	Pali	Kharlaneev	152	R
24.	Pali	Sumerpur DTO	488	U
25.	Pali	Tagore Nagar	488	U
26.	Sawai Madhopur	Karauli MBM	1000	U

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Sikar	Bidoli	152	R
28.	Sikar	Gyana	128	R
29.	Sikar	Sikar EWSD	2000	U
30.	Sikar	Sikar RSU	2000	U
31.	Sirohi	Binani	488	R
32.	Sirohi	Pawta	152	R
33.	Sirohi	Vishala	152	R
34.	Sri Ganganagar	Sherda	56	R
35.	Sri Ganganagar	Sri Ganganagar DTO	6000	U

Statement III

Details of New Exchanges opened during 2004-05

Sl.No.	SSA	Location of Exchange	Capacity	Urban/Rural
1.	Ajmer	Madanganj RIICo	488	U
2.	Ajmer	Parabatpura	992	U
3.	Banswara	Sagwara RSU	1000	U
4.	Jodhpur	Jodhpur-Chandpole	2000	U
5.	Jodhpur	Jodhpur-Subhash Nagar	1000	U
6.	Kota	RLU-Vigannagar	2000	U
7.	Kota	NTPC-Anta	300	U
8.	Sikar	Raipur Patan	88	R
9.	Udaipur	JK Gram	360	U

Expansion of BSNL Mobile Network

3332. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is planning massive expansion of its mobile network;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the estimated cost thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the extent to which BSNL is likely to earn revenue and create employment as a result of it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is presently engaged in expanding its mobile network to augment the network capacity by an additional 14 M lines during the current financial year. The total cost of mobile equipments for expansion is expected to be around Rs. 5,000 crores. The state-wise

details of expansion is given in the statement. BSNL further proposes to expand its network by an additional 40 M at an estimated cost of mobile infrastructure of Rs. 13,600 crores for next two financial years.

(c) Current trends indicate that the project breaks even in around 24 months. The revenue likely to be earned is largely driven by the dynamic market conditions in the competitive environment and the purchasing power of the general public and expected to average around Rs. 5,000 crores annually over three years. The project has a high potential to generate employment in the handset manufacturing, servicing, sales outlets, turn key infrastructure provisioning etc., which are in the public domain and being extended to BSNL. The assessment of the same is not feasible.

Statement

State-wise details of expansion of BSNL Mobile Network

Sl.No.	Name of the Circle	Mobile Expansion in progress 2005-06	Estimated Cost (In Rs. Crs.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	20000	7.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	963000	337.05
3.	Assam	250000	87.50
4.	Bihar	455000	159.25
5.	Chennai TD	450000	157.50
6.	Chhattisgarh	150000	52.50
7.	Gujarat	1050000	367.50
8.	Haryana	528000	184.80
9.	Himachal Pradesh	221000	77.35
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	280000	98.00
11.	Jharkhand	250000	87.50
12.	Karnataka	802354	280.82
13.	Kerala	950000	332.50
14.	Kolkata TD	625000	218.75
15.	Madhya Pradesh	450000	157.50
16.	Maharashtra	1350000	472.50
17.	North East I	100000	35.00
18.	North East II	100000	35.00
19.	Orissa	500000	175.00
20.	Punjab	900000	315.00
21.	Rajasthan	850000	297.50
22.	Tamil Nadu	834800	292.18
23.	UP (E)	650000	227.50
24.	UP (W)	570000	199.50
25.	Uttaranchal	201500	70.53
26.	West Bengal	700000	245.00
	Total	14200654	4970.23

[Translation]

Accidents on N.Hs.

3333. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified maximum accident prone areas on the National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that there has been a continuous increase in the number of accidents taking place in the Kasara Ghat area in National Highway No. 3;

(d) if so, the details of people died/injured there during the last three years and till date; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to prevent accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Accident-prone specific locations on National Highways are identified on a

continuing basis and road safety aspects are taken into consideration while formulating proposals for development and maintenance of National Highways.

(c) As per the report received from State Public Work Department (PWD) there has been no increase in the number of accidents in Kasara Ghat area on NH-3 as various measures are being taken continuously to ease the traffic movement at this location.

(d) As per the report received from State PWD, the year-wise details of person died in accidents at Kasara Ghat are given below:

Year	No. of Persons died
2002	8
2003	10
2004	8

(e) Various engineering measures are being taken on a continuous basis to prevent accidents. Four laning of Vadape to Gonde section of National Highway No. 3 is also envisaged as part of NHDP, phase III A.

[English]

Transfer of Nuclear Technology by Britain

3334. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether British Government has refused to relax the curbs on transfer of nuclear technology to India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Prime Minister during his recent visit to U.K. raised the issue with British Prime Minister and requested for a review of the ban; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the British Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (d) The Government of UK is an active member of the Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG). The UK earlier had a policy of denying export licensing applications for items listed in the NSG dual use list to nuclear and nuclear related end users in India, which exceeded the restrictions imposed by NSG. Recently the UK Government has adjusted its policy with regard to nuclear related transfers and scientific contacts with India in line with their NSG commitments. Accordingly while the UK will continue to deny applications in respect of items on the NSG Dual Use list when they are destined for unsafeguarded nuclear fuel cycle or nuclear explosive activities, it will now consider on a case-by-case basis license applications for items on the NSG Dual Use list destined for other activities in India.

India and the UK are engaged in comprehensive dialogue as part of their close and multi-faceted relationship. In September 2004, Prime Ministers of the two countries launched a Joint Declaration "Towards New and Dynamic Partnership" in which they agreed to expand cooperation in the field of civilian nuclear activities in accordance with their international obligations.

[Translation]

Increasing Thickness of N.Hs.

3335. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:
SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:

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

(a) whether the present thickness of National Highways of Maharashtra and Rajasthan is too less in comparison to the norms specified by the IRC standards;

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

(c) the funds sanctioned for the purpose;

(d) whether the Government has allocated the necessary funds required for the periodic maintenance and repair of National Highways in Rajasthan;

(e) if so, the estimated cost likely to be incurred thereon; and

(f) the time by which the funds would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Some stretches of National

Highways particularly newly declared National Highways are deficient in thickness to cater to the present day traffic.

(b) Development of National Highways is a continuous activity and strengthening is being done in a phased manner depending upon availability of funds.

(c) Funds allocated for the state of Maharashtra and Rajasthan for Development of National Highways during 2005-06 are Rs. 93.00 crore & Rs. 70.00 crore respectively for the National Highway entrusted with the State Government. Some of the National Highway stretches are developed by National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) for which funds are released project-wise and not state-wise.

(d) to (f) Total allocation for the state of Rajasthan under Periodical Renewal in the financial year 2005-2006 is Rs. 30.70 crore. 24 numbers of works amounting to Rs. 28.76 crore in 322 km. length has been sanctioned in the year 2005-06 and the works are in progress. Funds are released according of the works. In addition, some of the stretches of National Highways in Rajasthan are maintained by NHAI, for which Rs. 14.52 crore have been released so far during the current year.

Overloading/Underloading of Goods by Coal Companies

3336. SHRI MANOJ KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several coal companies were found guilty of overloading or underloading of goods in a recent search operation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry was conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof alongwith the action taken against guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Coal Reserves

3337. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the average consumption of coal every year in the country; and

(b) till when the coal reserves in the country are expected to last?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The total demand of coal in the country is assessed by the Planning Commission and is increasing every year. The total coal demand assessed by the Planning Commission and the actual production during the last two years are given below:-

(Figures in million tonnes)

Year	Demand	Production
2003-04	380.900	361.156
2004-05 (Provisional)	404.190	382.137

(b) At the current rate of production, the reserves to production ratio works out of 243, which indicates that coal reserves at current rate of production would last for 243 years.

Rise in Caesarean Cases

3338. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) has expressed concern over the increasing rate of caesarean deliveries in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI

PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) WHO, in the "World Health Reprot-2005" have expressed concern that caesarian section rates are increasing throughout the world. No specific communication or concern has been received or expressed by the WHO with regard to India.

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

Health Insurance Scheme

3339. MD. INGRID MCLEOD:
SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 93, dated December 1, 2004 and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected; 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 assurance given in respect of the above reply has been transferred to Ministry of Finance. The information on present status is being ascertained.

Participation of Private Companies in Coal Mining

3340. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the private companies have not been forthcoming to undertake captive mining of coal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to attract private companies in coal mining;

(d) whether the Government proposes to modify the guidelines and amend the act to attract more private companies;

(e) if so, the details of the guidelines; and

(f) the blocks identified for allocation to private sector?

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

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer given to part (a) of the question.

(c) to (e) A Bill, namely, the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 which seeks to allow mining of coal to any Indian company without the restriction of captive use, was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 24.4.2000 and is pending for consideration. Also under the existing policy of captive mining, in order to ensure timely commissioning of the end use project, the Government has decided to allow early development of associated captive coal mining block so that by the time and end use project is ready in stages the coal mine could have reached full capacity of coal production to meet the coal requirement of the end use plant. Since the mine has to be developed to its full capacity over a period of time, coal is produced during the development period, while the end use plant may not be in place. Therefore, Government has allowed transfer of surplus coal extracted from the captive mine during the development period to the local Coal India subsidiary company to avoid the hazards of storing of coal for long periods.

(f) Government has identified 146 coal blocks for allocation to private/public sector specified end-users of coal out of which 86 blocks stand allocated/have been decided for allocation.

Contradictory Figures Relating to AIDS Cases

3341. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there has been contradictory details between NACO and UNAIDS regarding the actual figures of AIDS related deaths in the country;

(b) if so, the steps/measures taken by the Government to arrive at correct statistics regarding reported AIDS cases and deaths during the last three years;

(c) whether there is any proposal before the Government for a collaborated study on this aspect by the NACO and the UNAIDS; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No Sir, NACO & UNAIDS both feel the AIDS deaths in India are under reported due to stigma associated with HIV/AIDS or ignorance of symptoms.

(b) The States have been asked to give regular monthly report of AIDS deaths.

All the district hospitals/Medical College Hospitals have been asked to identify a physician responsible for management of AIDS to report AIDS deaths to respective State AIDS Control Societies and they in turn send this information to NACO. The details of reported AIDS cases and deaths during the last three years are as below:

Year	No. of reported AIDS cases	No. of reported Deaths
2002	19077	1247
2003	21587	1541
2004	27472	1324

(c) and (d) A joint NACO/UNAIDS meeting on estimation of HIV related mortality was organized on 20th July 2005. During the meeting it was decided to form a Technical group on mortality estimation.

Setting up of Nursing Schools

3342. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Nursing Schools in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has any proposal to set up new Nursing schools in the current year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) According to the Indian Nursing Council, the number of nursing institutions in the country, state-wise, is as indicated in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) There is proposal to upgrade the Schools of Nursing attached to Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Lady Harding Medical College and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi to colleges of Nursing. A college of Nursing at JIPMER, Pondicherry is also being set up. Under the scheme of upgradation of the School of Nursing attached to Medical Colleges in State Government into college of Nursing, there is a provision for financial assistance to two identified institutions at the rate of Rs. 1.5 crores per institution as a one-time assistance.

Statement

Distribution of Nursing Educational Institutions upto 31st March, 2005

Sl.No.	States and Union Territory	Total No. of Nursing Educational Institutions in India recognised by INC								
		ANM	GNM	DNE&A	B.Sc. (N)	PBBSC (N)	M.Sc. (N)	Short Term Syllabus	M. Phill	Ph.D.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	A.F.M.S.		6							
2.	Andaman and Nicobar	1	1							
3.	Andhra Pradesh	30	119		68	1	2			
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	2							
5.	Assam	7	11		2			1		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6.	Bihar	25	13							
7.	Chandigarh			1	1	1				
8.	Chhattisgarh	2		4						
9.	Delhi	1	16	1	5	2	1			
10.	Goa	1	1			1				
11.	Gujarat	2	22		3	1				
12.	Haryana	10	19		2					
13.	Himachal Pradesh	2	6							
14.	Jharkhand	1						1		
15.	Karnataka	4	274		149	20	20		1	
16.	Kerala	15	91	1	12	2	3			
17.	M.I.B.	4	4							
18.	Madhya Pradesh	9	22	2	19	4	2			
19.	Maharashtra	16	58	1	11	5	2	2		
20.	Manipur	3	4							
21.	Meghalaya		5							
22.	Mizoram	2	4		1					
23.	Nagaland	1	1							
24.	Orissa	16	10		4					
25.	Pondicherry	1	1		5					
26.	Punjab	33	80		14	5				
27.	Rajasthan	8	57		3					
28.	S.I.B.	3	18		2	1	2			
29.	Sikkim		1		1					
30.	Tamil Nadu	7	66		38	5	19		1	1
31.	Tripura	1	3							
32.	Uttar Pradesh	30	34		2	1				
33.	Uttaranchal				1					
34.	West Bengal	20	28		2	1	2	1		
	Grand Total	254	979	5	349	50	54	5	2	1

1-Punjab=Punjab+J&K

ANM: Auxiliary Nurse Midwives

GNM: General Nursing and Midwives

DNEA: Diploma in Nursing Education and Administration

B.Sc. (N): Bachelor in Nursing, M.Sc. (N) Master in Nursing

PBBSc. (N) Post Basic Bachelor in Nursing

Amount for Commonwealth Games

3343. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount assured to the Government of NCT of Delhi for construction of world class infrastructure and facility for the Commonwealth Games, 2010;

(b) the funds allocated therefor in the budget for the year 2005-06;

(c) the details of world class infrastructure and facilities for the Games, location-wise;

(d) whether the Government has prepared a report regarding the infrastructural support for the games; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Government of NCT of Delhi has submitted a budget of Rs. 1314 crores for upgrading civic infrastructure & amenities in Delhi to Government of India. The matter has been considered by Finance Sub-Committee of the Group of Ministers which has expressed its views that since the Government of NCT of Delhi was already receiving plan allocation as determined by the Planning Commission, the additional plan support required by Government of NCT of Delhi for Commonwealth Games could be included in their overall requirements and firmed up with the Planning Commission.

(b) So far, no funds have been sanctioned during 2005-06 to Government of NCT of Delhi for holding the Commonwealth Games, 2010.

(c) Presently, following infrastructure and facilities are available for the Commonwealth Games—Jawarharlal Nehru Stadium, Lodi Road; Dr. S.P. Mukherjee Swimming Complex, Talkotora Road; Indira Gandhi Stadium & Yamuna Velodrum, I.P. Estate; Dhyan Chand National Stadium, India Gate; Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range, Tuglakabad; Shivaji Stadium, Connaught; Place; DDA Siri Fort Sport Complex, Siri Fort. Besides these, Commonwealth Games Village is proposed to be constructed.

(d) and (e) A Task Force for upgradation/renovation of Sports Authority of India's infrastructure has been set up and the consultancy on SAI's existing infrastructure has been assigned to CPWD. Condition Survey of SAI's existing five Stadia at Delhi has been completed. Besides, Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has engaged M/s Event Knowledge Service (EKS) for Venue-Reappraisal and the study team of EKS has submitted draft report. The draft report has suggested various options for clusterisation of sports venues and raised issues in respect of location of Games Village. There are being examined in consultation with stake holders.

Opening of Post Offices

3344. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:
SHRI MANOJ KUMAR:

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

(a) the number of post offices and Branch Post Offices proposed to be opened in Karnataka, West Bengal and Jharkhand during the current financial year, district-wise, location-wise;

(b) the number of post offices opened in urban and rural areas of these States;

(c) the funds allocated to these States for this purpose during the current year;

(d) the target set and the achievement made in these States during the year 2004-05;

(e) the steps being taken by the Union Government to improve the postal services in these States; and

(f) the time by which new post offices are likely to be opened in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No targets have been fixed under Plan for opening post offices during the current year. Post offices are being opened on the basis of relocation of existing single and double handed post offices in urban areas as well as EDBOs and EDSOs in normal rural areas that do not fulfil the distance norms, to areas that justify a post office based on all the three norms. This is an ongoing process.

The number of post offices opened in urban and rural areas in Karnataka, West Bengal and Jharkhand till date in 2005-06 are given below:

Karnataka

Urban Area: Bajpe Airport Non Delivery Sub Post Office—Dakshina Kannada District.

West Bengal

Rural Area: Basantapur Departmental Sub post office—District Murshidabad.

Jharkhand

Urban Area: Bokaro Steel Plant Departmental Sub post office—District Bokaro

(c) No funds are being allocated under Plan for this purpose as new post offices are being opened only through redeployment of existing manpower and relocation of existing post offices.

(d) No targets were set for opening post offices in 2004-05. However, details of post offices opened in 2004-05 in Karnataka, West Bengal and Jharkhand through relocation of existing post offices are given below:

Karnataka

Departmental Sub Post Offices	—	3 (Urban-2, Rural-1)
Extra Departmental Branch PO	—	3 (Rural-2, Urban-1)

West Bengal

Non Delivery Sub post office	—	2 (Urban-2)

Jharkhand

Non Delivery Sub post office	—	1 (Urban-1)

(e) The measures being taken to improve postal services in these states include the following:

1. Modernization and computerization of major post offices and mail offices.
2. Induction of technology to improve efficiency in postal services.
3. Setting up computerized customer care centres and web based grievance handling system to provide more needy areas.
4. Expansion of the postal network to needy areas.
5. Introduction of new products to cater to the needs of specific customer segments.

(f) Post offices are opened subject to compliance of distance, population and income norms and availability of resources under Plan. Hence, no time frame can be set for opening new post offices. It is an ongoing process.

Participation in International Sports Events

3345. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total number of sports persons and non-sports persons separately who participated in various international sports events held abroad during the last three years;

(b) the norms laid down for non-sports persons to attend such events; and

(c) the total number of foreign visits made by non-sports persons during the last three years and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Construction of Central Zone Centre of SAI

3346. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the slow pace of construction work of the central zone centre of the Sports Authority of India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Delay in finalizing tender of hostel and multipurpose Hall, stay granted by Hon'ble High Court in

laying of synthetic track, delay in resolution of dispute pertaining to access in construction of boundary wall are the important reasons for not completing the sanctioned works at the Central Zone Centre of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) at Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh). These works are in progress and are expected to be completed during the next financial year.

[English]

Restoration of Military Aid to Nepal

3347. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks have been held between India and Nepal regarding restoration of military aid to that country;

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

(c) the outcome thereof and;

(d) the details of aid/assistance likely to be provided to Nepal thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) The issue of military supplies to Nepal remains under continuous review taking into account the evolving situation in that country.

Following the lifting of the Emergency in Nepal on April 29, 2005 and the release of several political party leaders and activists, Government of India has released some of the non-lethal supplies in the pipeline. The GOI decision has been communicated to the King along with our expectations that HMGN should take further and early steps towards the lifting of curbs on civil liberties and restoration of multi-party democracy in Nepal.

Excise Duty on Coal

3348. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:
SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the excise duty is levied on coal mines and despatched from the collieries in the country;

(b) if so, the amount of revenue collected from these mines during the last three years;

(c) the number of coal mines working illegally in the country;

(d) whether any assessment has been made about the evasion of tax by them; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government to recover tax from them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount of revenue collected from these mines during the last three years is given as under:—

Years	Revenue Collected (In Rs.)
2002-03	118,77,60,980.00
2003-04	230,34,74,170.00
2004-05	373,97,16,891.00

(c) As reported by Coal India Limited, there is no illegal mine as such in CIL areas. However, illegal mining is carried out stealthily and clandestinely from abandoned/closed/disused mines or from outcrop regions.

(d) and (e) Primarily, it is the responsibility of the State/District Administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop curb/illegal mining. Since illegal mining is clandestinely done it is not possible to make any assessment about tax evasion.

Reducing Cost of Tests

3349. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring down the cost of various tests viz. CD4, CD8, Cell counts and Viral Lort test related to AIDS in view of the alarming increase in number of AIDS patients in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the study conducted in this regard?

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

Under the National AIDS Control Programme, CD4 count is monitored among the AIDS patients put on ART. Following steps have been taken to reduce the cost.

1. The CD4 testing is arranged at selected Government ART centres at a subsidized cost for initial screening.
2. Under the free ART programme, this test is done free of cost for all patients registered for ART treatment at the identified Government hospitals.

Development of Sports Infrastructure

3350. SHRIMATI S.C. SUJATHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of projects for development of sports infrastructure in Kerala waiting clearance from the Union Government;

(b) the reasons for the delay in granting clearance by the Union Government;

(c) the expesnes estimated for each of the project alongwith details of the contribution by the Union Government in each of the project; and

(d) the time by when the Union Government is likely to give its clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) The Sports Infrastructure Schemes have been transferred to state sector w.e.f. 1.4.2005. The State Governments including Government of Kerala, were informed in February 2005 about the transfer of the Scheme. Thus, the sports infrastructure projects have to be funded by the State Governments out of their own resources.

[Translation]

Donation of Eyes

3351. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that one lakh eyes are needed per year as per an estimate of WHO;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for creating awareness amongst public and encouraging them to donate eyes;

(d) whether at present 1.25 crore people are blind in the country;

(e) if so, whether in the opinion of Eye Specialists blindness can be treated in 80% of the cases;

(f) whether in 60 percent of said cases cataract is the main cause of blindness;

(g) if so, the percentage of persons who regained vision after treatment;

(h) whether the number of eye patients has increased in the recent years; and

(i) if so, the main reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Donated eyes are required for treatment of corneal blindness. To clear the backlog of corneal opacity and treatment of new cases, one lakh donated eyes are required every year. Presently, about 25000 eyes are collected which are transplanted on bilateral corneally blind persons.

(c) Following steps have been taken to create awareness among the public and to encourage them to donate eyes:

- Organizing Observance of National Fortnight on Eye Donation from 25th August-8th September every year.
- Enhance mass awareness through messages on television, radio, press and printed materials.
- Training hospital staff on grief counseling for motivating relatives of terminally ill patients for eye donation.
- Provide financial assistance to eye banks in Government and voluntary sectors.

(d) It is estimated that there are about 1.21 crores blind persons in the country.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The success rate following cataract surgery is over 90% in the country.

(h) There is no evidence to suggest increase in eye patients.

(i) Question does not arise.

[English]

Establishment of Indoor Stadiums

3352. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to establish indoor stadiums in some States including Maharashtra during the Tenth Plan;

(b) if so, whether locations for the proposed indoor stadiums in each State have been identified; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) 'Sports' is a State Subject. It is for the State Governments, including Maharashtra, to establish Indoor Stadia in States. Government of India supplemented their efforts in this direction till 31.3.2005, by providing Central assistance in accordance with the approved pattern under the Sports Infrastructure Schemes subject to the receipt of viable proposals from the State Governments. The scheme has been transferred to State sector w.e.f. 1.4.2005 and accordingly, no allocations have been made in the budget for 2005-06 for Sports Infrastructure Schemes. Thus, fresh proposals for the Sports Infrastructure projects have to be funded by the State Governments out of their own resources. All States were informed in this regard in February, 2005.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

National Coastal Protection Project

3353. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposal from Government of Maharashtra for Central Assistance worth Rs. 195 crore under the national Coastal Protection Project;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) whether the Union Government has sanctioned Central Assistance as proposed by the Government of Maharashtra;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the stage at which the project stands at present; and

(f) the cost escalation of the project if any, on account of the delay in granting sanction for the same?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) 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 (NCPP). The proposal includes 72.36 km of anti-sea erosion works in Mumbai, Mumbai Suburban, Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg District.

(c) to (f) As the NCCP has been planned for seeking external funding, an approach paper on coastal protection has been prepared and submitted to the Planning Commission. Planning Commission has taken up the matter with Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) for exploring the possibility of getting external funding.

[Translation]

Supply of Coal to Badarpur Power Plant

3354 SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Badarpur Thermal Power Plant in Delhi has not been getting regular supply of coal as per demand for the last few month;

(b) if so, the details therefor;

(c) the total quantity of coal supplied to this power plant during the last three years and till date and the gap between the supply and demand; and

(d) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government for regular supply of coal to this power station as per demand?

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

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

(c) This power plant has not taken long term linkage nor has signed Fuel Supply Agreement. However supply of coal to Badarpur plant during the last three years is as follows:—

(figures in '000 tonnes)

Year	Coal quantity dispatched
2002-03	3511
2003-04	3674
2004-05	4004
2005-06 (till July-05) Provisional	1366

(d) An Inter-ministerial Sub-Group has been monitoried coal supplied to power stations on regular basis. Whenever a power station faces coal stock crisis, the SUb-Group takes decision for contingency movement of coal for building up stock so that generation is not adversely affected. Since Badarpur TPS has been holding comfortable coal stock (23 days' stock as against average all India Stockholding of 14 days at power station), there is no need for taking any special effort at present for augmenting coal stock for the plant.

[English]

Side Effect of Viagra

3355. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Viagra can cause blindness among some men as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 28 May, 2005;

(b) if so, whether the said drug or its substitute manufactured by Pfizer inc, is being sold in the Indian market; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) There have been some instances abroad, where patients of erectile dysfunction taking the drug Viagra (Sildenafil Citrate) have reported blindness. However, causal relationship of the reported cases of blindness with Sildenafil has not been established.

(b) Sildenafil Citrate tablets are currently being marketed in the country by various firms under various brand names.

(c) The matter was examined extensively including by Drugs Technical Advisory Committee (DTAB). As per the recommendations of DTAB, the matter is being examined in consultation with subject medical experts including urologists.

Effect of Mosquito Mats and Coils on Human Health

3356. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a number of private companies are manufacturing "Mosquito Mats and Coils";

(b) if so, whether it is made under different brand names and there is neither any quality check nor its effects on health on human beings;

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

(d) whether the Government has made any study about its adverse effects on human health;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Reservation of SCs/STs in Scientific and Technical Posts

3357. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Law and Justice had made a recommendation in its 8th Report regarding reservation of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes in the scientific and technical posts also;

(b) whether the Government has conducted any survey to determine the population of these communities in the total population in order to provide them representation on the basis of their population; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) As per Census 2001, the percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the total population is 16.2% and 8.2% repsectively. Keeping in view the proportion of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the population of respective States/ Union Territories, quantum of reservation in case of direct recruitment to Group C and Group D posts normally attracting candidates from a locality or a region has been revised vide Department of Personnel and Training's O.M. No. 36017/12004-Estt. (Res.) dated 5th July, 2005.

Recruitment of Management Trainees

3358. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether recruitment of Management Trainees in various streams have been advertised by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that minimum percentage of marks in the qualifying examination for advertised posts for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes candidates is fifty five;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it will adversely affect the participation of candidates from these communities; and

(e) if so, the corrective steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir, MTNL is operating in highly competitive and skill intensive industry. To ensure world class service to our esteemed customers at competitive price, MTNL needs to have a cutting edge over their competitors—both in manpower as well as in technology. It is, therefore, a necessity for MTNL to acquire and retain quality manpower with good academic records.

In a similar exercise conducted in the year 2002, the response from reserved category candidates was encouraging. Moreover, the candidates belonging to SC and ST communities who joined service of MTNL secured more than 55% marks in their respective qualifying degrees except only one candidate each from both the communities. Therefore, MTNL has decided to specify at least 55% marks in the qualifying degree for SC, ST and PH candidates and 60% for all other category of candidates.

(d) and (e) No. Sir, in view of the past experience. However, in order to give maximum exposure of present recruitment to the candidates of SC and ST communities. MTNL has published advertisement in the dailies having maximum reach in the areas of such demographic characteristics.

Shortage of Mobile Connection in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

3359. SHRI MANORANJAN BHATKA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is an acute shortage of BSNL mobile connection in Andaman & Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by when the shortage of BSNL mobile connection is likely to be met?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There is no shortage of mobile connections at Diglipur, Mayabunder, Rangot, Garacharma, Cambellbay, Kamorta, Hutbay and Carnicobar areas in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. However, due to capacity constraints, Pre-Paid Cellular connections in Port Blair Municipality area are not being provided at present.

(b) and (c) BSNL is augmenting its Cellular Network in Andaman & Nicobar Islands and the shortage of BSNL Pre-paid connection in Port Blair area is expected to be met by the end of current financial year.

Loss to National Highways and Ports

3360. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:

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

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the damage/loss suffered by various National Highways and Ports due to recent flood in the country particularly in Orissa, Maharashtra and Gujarat;

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

(c) the estimated loss of revenue to the exchequer;

(d) the number of days road and shipping transport remained suspended in the States; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to deal with such a situation in future?

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

(e) Restoration works are carried out immediately to keep National Highways and Ports in traffic worthy condition.

Statement

Sl.No.	State	Assessed damages in Rs. Crore	Disruption in traffic
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13.00	2 Days on NH-16 at Km. 35
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.19	7 Days on NH-52
3.	Assam	3.84	6 Days on NH-52
4.	Bihar	21.55	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	3.24	—
6.	Goa	3.60	—
7.	Gujarat	49.94*	Traffic suspended on NE-1 from 30.6.2005 (Evening) to 2.7.2005 and on NH-8 (Chiloda-Ahmedabad-Vadodra) from 30.6.2005 to 2.7.2005
8.	Haryana	2.00	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	43.18	Road is blocked since 26th June 2005 on NH-22

1	2	3	4
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2.36	—
11.	Jharkhand	7.50	—
12.	Karnataka	10.00	—
13.	Kerala	9.00	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	6.00	—
15.	Maharashtra	79.2*	Vessel operations and cargo movement were affected for 7 days on Mumbai port and Jawaharlal Nehru Port. Traffic suspended on Penganga Bridge on NH-7 for 13 hours.
16.	Manipur	11.26	—
17.	Meghalaya	3.00	—
18.	Mizoram	7.15	—
19.	Nagaland	1.53	—
20.	Orissa	18.37	Few hours on NH-23 and NH-215
21.	Punjab	1.00	—
22.	Rajasthan	0.50	—
23.	Sikkim	0.14	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	38.62	—
25.	Tripura	0.30	—
26.	Uttaranchal	8.00	—
27.	Uttar Pradesh	10.88	2 Days on NH-76

*This includes damages to port also.

[Translation]

Coal Depots

3361. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open coal depots in all tehsils of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the norms fixed by the Government for the sanction of coal depots;

(d) the procedure for obtaining its agency; and

(e) the number of such coal depots operating in Bihar?

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

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

[English]

Promotion of Group 'A' Officers

3362. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the minimum under of Confidential Reports (CRs) required for the purpose of promotion of Group 'A' officers of Central Government;

(b) whether an officer who has less than five CRs can be promoted on the basis of available CRs if the grades in the same are upto the mark;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether officers are promoted only on the basis of confidential reports or whether the 'service record' of officers are seen in totality for the purpose of promotion; and

(e) if so, the details that constitute "service record"?

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) As per the extant guidelines, assessment for promotion is to be made on the basis of Confidential Reports (CRs) for five preceding years which became available in the years preceding the vacancy/panel year.

(b) and (c) Normally, assessment has to be made on the basis of 5 preceding CRs. However, if a total of five CRs do not become available even after considering all CRs for the existing grade as well as for the lower grade, assessment may be made on the basis of available CRs.

(d) and (e) Besides the set of 5 preceding CRs, service record in the form of details of the penalties imposed on the officer in the last ten years, if any, vigilance clearance etc, are also taken into consideration by the DPC.

[Translation]

Centrally Sponsored Sports Scheme in Jharkhand

3363. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any centrally sponsored scheme regarding sports activities being run in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the guidelines issued for the said scheme; and

(d) the amount allocated under the said scheme during the last two years and the amount proposed to be allocated during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) Under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of "Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure" and "Grants for Installation of Synthetic Playing Surfaces", Central assistance was provided till 31.3.2005 for creation of sports facilities in accordance with the approved pattern subject to the receipt of viable proposals from the state governments. The Central assistance approved/released during the Xth Plan till 31.3.2005 under the aforementioned schemes for Jharkhand are given below:

Jharkhand (Approved projects) Status as on 31.3.2005

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Amount approved in principle	Amount released
1	2	3	4
1.	Additional facilities in the Districts Sports Complex, Hazaribagh	35.45	30.00
2.	Swimminig Pool category-III and Indoor Stadium category-II in the District Sports Complex, Hazaribagh.	64.55	

1	2	3	4
3.	Indoor Stadium category II at Barhi, Distt. Hazaribagh	42.85	—
4.	Indoor Stadium at Ramgarh, Distt. Hazarigabh	60.00	—
5.	Synthetic Athletic Track at Jamshedpur	100.00	100.00

The Government had decided to transfer the sports infrastructure Schemes to State sector w.e.f. 1.4.2005 and accordingly, no funds have been allocated in the budget for 2005-2006 for these schemes. All State Governments had been informed about the transfer for the Schemes in February, 2005. Thus, it is for the State Government to complete the ongoing projects. However, Planning Commission has recently informed that funds would be provided for ongoing approved sports infrastructure projects. Subject to availability of funds, the admissible Central assistance will be considered for release during the Xth Five Year Plan for the incomplete sanctioned projects on receipt of requisite documents viz; utilization certificate, progress reports, completion certificate etc. from the state governments and other agencies.

[English]

Alleged Misuse of Funds

3364. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the latest report of the CAG has slammed Rs. 41 lakh, spent on furniture and furnishings for the foreign secretary residence during 2000-03 as reported in the *Times of India* dated May 9, 2005;

(b) if so, whether the Government has enquired into the alleged irregularities;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) the persons held responsible for the same;

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to discourage such avoidable expenditure in future;

(f) whether any guidelines already exist in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for violation of these guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (g) In July 1987, the Government decided to designate 3 Circular Road as the official residence of the Foreign Secretary and the Ministry of External Affairs was permitted to furnish the entertainment area of this designated house. This special dispensation was provided taking into amount the Foreign Secretary's special responsibilities of receiving and entertaining senior diplomats and foreign dignitaries at his official residence. No scale of furniture has been prescribed. Accordingly, the entertainment area of the residence was furnished keeping in view the functional needs. Hence, as such, no irregularity or violation of the norms was committed. However, in the absence of specifically prescribed scale, the audit had raised an objection which was included in the CAG's Report. The Ministry has replied to/explained all the issues raised by this Report to the concerned authorities.

[Translation]

Promotion of Ayurveda in Foreign Countries

3365. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ayurveda is getting popular in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for the promotion of Ayurvedic system in foreign countries during the last three years, country-wise?

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

Government of India has been striving for the promotion and propagation of Ayurveda abroad. The efforts have gained added momentum after the establishment of a separate Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy in 1995. The Department has been renamed as Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH). Some of the important actions of the government are as follows:

- Along with the drug manufacturers and practitioners of these systems, Government of India has also participated in presentations-cum-exhibitions abroad to increase awareness about the Indian Systems of Medicine. The Department organize a Seminar-cum-Exhibition at Geneva in 2003 and 2004 during the World Health Assembly in which the participation of AYUSH drug industry and exhibition of AYUSH medicines generated a lot of interest. Industry's participation and the exhibition of their products generated great interest.

- Seeing the growing interest in the Indian Systems of Medicine, seats in selected educational institutions have been reserved for foreign nationals. 30 scholarships have been offered for students of BIMSTEC countries for studying traditional medicine in India.

- Special courses are run for professionals from foreign countries at Banaras Hindu University and Gujarat Ayurveda University, which are being attended by professionals from USA, Poland, Germany, Brazil etc.

- An Indo-US Workshop on Traditional Systems of Medicine and Research has been organized jointly by National Centre for Complementary and Alternative Medicine (NCCAM); National Institute of Health (NIH), USA and Department of AYUSH during 20th-24th October, 2003 at New Delhi for identifying and formulating collaborative research proposals.

- Hon'ble Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare and Secretary participated in the deliberations in the 5th International Congress on Traditional Asian Medicine held at Halle (Saale) Germany in August, 2002 under the aegis of International Association for the study on Traditional Asian Medicine (IASTAM). In the congress the stregth of Indian System of Medicine, vast infrastructure and regulatory bodies for these systems, drug and standardization, research capability were duly appreciated by the participants.

- Secretary (AYUSH) visited Germany during the 10-14th October, 2003 to participate in the inauguration of the Ayurveda Academy in Castrop-Rauxel, met officials of Ministry of Health, Nordrheim-Westfien and attended other programmes.

- Secretary (AYUSH) visited Armenia & Georgia during 25th June to 1st July, 2003 to propagate Ayurveda in these countries and for creating awareness about the strength of AYUSH. She held discussion with Deputy Minister of Health of Armenia and Deputy Minister, Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affair of Georgia. Both countries showed interests in adoption of Ayurveda for health care facilities in these countries.

- From the year 2000 onwards AROGYA exhibition is being organized at Delhi; China and Nepal participated in Arogya, 2004.

- Joint Secretary (AYUSH) visited Russia to attend a meeting of Joint Committee on Russian Indian ILTP Centre for Ayurvedic Research in Moscow in October, 2004. He also discussed promotion of Ayurveda in Russia.

- The Department of AYUSH made effective intervention during the SAARC Health Ministers Conference held in November, 2003 in New Delhi. "National Policy/Programme of Traditional Systems of Medicines", "Issues relating to Quality Control & Standardization of Drugs of Traditional systems of medicine" and "Intellectual Rights" were deliberated during the conference.

- During the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas, held in New Delhi in January 2004, stalls exhibiting the strength of Indian traditional medicines were put up, a detailed note providing information on activities of Department of AYUSH was distributed and a film on Ayurveda was screened.

- In the sixth workshop on "Herbal Medicine-Advancing Caribbean Herbs in 21st Century" organized at St. Augustine, Port of Spain,

Trinidad, a key-note address on "Ayurveda-The Health Care Legacy of India" was delivered in the first scientific session.

- There was comprehensive participation of experts and officials in the meetings organized by World Health Organization on "Global Atlas of Traditional Medicine", Kobe, Japan in June, 2003.
- An Ayurvedic pavilion was put up in the exhibition "Incredible India 2003" at Putra World Trade Centre at Kaula Lumpur, Malaysia from 2-6th December, 2003.

Lifting of ban of Khesari Pulse

3366. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sent any proposal to the Union Government regarding lifting of ban on Khesari (Lakhodi) pulse;

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

(c) the reasons for imposition of ban on Khesari pulse;

(d) whether the Government has fixed any time-limit for lifting the ban on Khesari pulse; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra had sent a proposal for withdrawing the ban for sale of Khesari *Dal* in Maharashtra. However, since, no new facts/conclusive evidence that Khesari *Dal* is not harmful was provided by the Government of Maharashtra, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare did not concur with the proposal for revoking the "ban on sale", notified by the Government of Maharashtra, presently in vogue under Rule 44-A, of the PFA Rules, 1955.

(c) The sale of Khesari *Dal* has been prohibited under the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, as its consumption is associated with the disease "Lathyrism" causing crippling paralysis due to presence of toxin (BOAA) content in Khesari *Dal*.

The High Powered Committed on Khesari *Dal*, constituted by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture on Khesari *Dal* under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Agriculture Research and Education-cum DG, ICAR, with the approval of Agriculture Minister, has examined the matter in depth and has recommended as follows:—

"1. It was evident that continued consumption of Khesari (Lathyrus sativus) which contains B-N-Oxalyl Amino Alanine (BOAA), causes lathyrism."

2. The High Power Committee has also recommended that the threshold levels are levels are yet to be precisely established to determine in specific quantitative terms about the use of Khesari, hence, it is essential to undertake further researches and data generation towards achieving this end.

The Report of the High Power Committee on Khesari *Dal* has been unanimously adopted by the Standing Committee on Agriculture, in its sitting held on 08.11.2001.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

LTC for Visiting Srinagar

3367. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Central Government Group 'A' and 'B' employees who visited Srinagar and availed LTC for promoting domestic tourism in Kashmir Valley by National Carrier between New Delhi and Srinagar during the last one year till date; and

(b) the total air fare amount actually reimbursed to the employees during the above 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) The powers to grant permission to avail Leave Travel Concession to Central Government Group 'A' and 'B' employees and reimburse their claims vest with the controlling officers in the respective Ministries/Departments and its attached/subordinate offices located all over India. Hence, information in this regard is not centrally available.

Losses Incurred by Mines of WCL

3368. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 37 out of 65 coal mines of Western Coalfields Ltd. spread across Vidarbha and Madhya Pradesh are incurring heavy losses;

(b) if so, the details of such losses in each of the last three years;

(c) the steps taken by the WCL to make these loss-making mines profitable during the last two years; and

(d) the outcome obtained as a result of these efforts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Out of 78 working coal mines of Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) spread over Vidarbha and Madhya Pradesh as on 31.03.2005, 34 mines were incurring losses.

(b) The details of losses incurred by loss making mines for the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are as under:

Year	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005 (Prov.)
No. of Loss making Mines	49	44	34
Loss (Rs. Crore)	424.22	395.09	233.53

(c) The steps taken by WCL to make these loss-making mines profitable are as under:—

(i) Progressive mechanization of underground mines wherever geo-mining conditions permit.

(ii) Re-organisation of loss making mines by amalgamatioin of mines and conversion of transport network from haulage to belt conveyor.

(iii) Adoption of Mass Production Technology *i.e.* Continuous Miner Technology in underground mines.

(iv) Conversion of underground mines to opencast mines wherever geo-mining conditions permit.

(d) A total of 49 mines were in loss as on 01.04.2003. After taking above measures, the number of loss making mines have been reduced to 34 as on 01.04.2005.

Investment by VSNL in Tata Tele

3369. SHRI SURESH WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an enquiry regarding investment of Rs. 1200 crores by VSNL in Tata Tele has been completed;

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

(c) whether the Government has received any representation in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, no enquiry has made regarding investment of Rs. 1200 crore by Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL) in Tata Tele Services. However, after the Government's intervention and decision, a Committee was set up to sort out the views of VSNL's investment in Tata Tele Services Ltd. (TTSL). The Committee agreed to the investment plan of VSNL in TTSL.

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

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Sir, the representations on the subject were received from the following Hon'ble Members of Parliament addressed to Hon'ble MOC&IT:

(i) Shri Suresh G. Waghmare.

(ii) Shri Pushpdan S. Gadhavi.

(iii) Dr. Vallabhbhai Kathiria.

(iv) Shri Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre.

(e) Sir, Hon'ble MOCT&IT has given the appropriate reply to all the four Hon'ble Members of Parliament.

[Translation]

Assessment of Performance of IAS/IPS/IFS/IRS Officers

3370. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce the system of assessment of performance by a panel of eminent persons in the case of IAS/IPS/IFS/IRS Officers;

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

(c) whether the said panel has been constituted;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the reports of the said panel would form the basis of their further promotion; and

(f) if so, the details 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) to (f) Pursuant to the recommendation of the Group constituted under the Chairmanship of Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Surinder Nath to review the system of performance appraisal, promotion, empanelment and placement for the All India Services and other Group "A" Services, a number of initiatives have been proposed for assessment of performance of officers. These inter alia include the constitution of an Eminent Persons Group. The views of the State Governments have been solicited in this regard.

[English]

Traffic Signages Along National Highways

3371. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to install traffic signages with international norms on all the National Highways across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the traffic signages on all the National Highways with uniform colour, font size and global standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) Traffic signs are invariably provided along the National Highways as per the specifications and guidelines covering colour scheme, size of boards, font size, type of material to be used etc. laid down by Indian Roads Congress in this regard for the safety of road users.

Release of Commemorative Stamp

3372. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is a long pending demand for the release of commemorative stamp in honour of Tyagi N.G. Ramaswamy of Coimbatore, a freedom fighter and who also actively participated in the trade union movement;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken by the Government in this matter?

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

(b) to (d) The proposal was examined in the light of guidelines laid down by the Philatelic Advisory Committee in order to ensure the philatelic value of the stamps issued. On examination, the proposal was found to be not in consonance with the stamp issue guidelines for the present and the result of examination of the proposal has been communicated to the stamp proponents.

Setting up of First Transplant Hospital

3373. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up first transplant hospital in the country at Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this hospital will conduct all types of transplantation including that of pancreas and small intestine;

(d) if so, the total estimated expenditure likely to be involved in such transplantation;

(e) whether this hospital is being set up with the collaboration of foreign agency or central help; and

(f) if so, the amount likely to be provided by the Union Government for this purpose?

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

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

Stem Cell Research

3374. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government on Stem Cell Research;

(b) whether the Government has any plan to involve foreign research/commercial institutions in this research;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal to allow institutions/ Centres involved in Stem Cell Research to export their expertise to foreign countries;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) Realizing the potential of the Stem Cell Research in modern therapeutics and biomedical research, the Indian Council of The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Department of Biotechnology have strongly recommended that Stem Cell Research and its clinical applications should be promoted in the country. However, it was emphasized that newer technology should be thoroughly examined before approving any research. Draft guidelines on the regulatory aspects of stem cell research have been formulated and put on the ICMR web site for public consultation. These are to be finalized on the basis of suggestions received and with reference to the international policy documents available on stem cell research and therapy. ICMR has further informed that in Stem Cell Research, research institutions from UK, US, Korea, Japan, China and Singapore, etc. are also being involved and an international symposium on Stem Cell Research is scheduled to be held in Mumbai on 18-21 September, 2005, where the Indian scientists will have chance to interact with international delegates, exchange ideas and expertise in the field. The policy document on stem cell research, which is yet to be finalized, clearly states that for international collaboration in the Stem Cell Research, Collaboration will be permitted only after a joint proposal with appropriate MOU between the countries duly approved by the Apex Committee, followed by the approval from the Health Ministry's Screening Committee.

Shortage of SIM Card in Orissa

3375. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total subscribers of landline and mobile telephone in Orissa;

(b) whether the demand for landline telephone has declined after the induction of mobile telephone;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is a shortage of mobile SIM card in the state; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the number of landline subscribers and mobile subscribers in Orissa as on 30.06.2005 is 7,66,391 and 7,78,478 respectively.

(b) and (c) A churn has been observed from wireline to wireless services among the telephone users. Subscribers are presently more inclined towards wireless services due to its advantage of mobility, flexibility and availability of number of value added services. This phenomenon is universal and not particular to Indian Telecom Scenario. There has been a healthy trend in telecom growth with wireless witnessing a higher growth compared to basis wireline services.

(d) and (e) The SIM cards are made available in adequate quantities commensurate with available capacity. Due to capacity constraints, release of BSNL's pre-paid

cellular connections is temporarily controlled. BSNL is in the process of augmenting its cellular network by 5 lakh lines during 2005-06 and the Prepaid SIM cards are expected to be available on demand by the end of current financial year.

[Translation]

Use of DDT

3376. SHRI HARISH CHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI SURAJ SINGH:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI;

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

(a) whether DDT is used in large quantity in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the purpose for which DDT is used;

(d) whether use of DDT in large quantities is harmful;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government proposes to reconsider the use of DDT; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Use of DDT for agricultural purposes has been banned since 1989. Limited use upto a maximum of 10000 MTs of Technical DDT per annum was permitted for public health purposes except in case of major outbreaks of epidemics (Statement-I) by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture. Considering the concerns expressed by the Ministry of Commerce that presence of residues of DDT has been affecting export of agriculture products, the issue was considered during 1997 by the Committee of Secretaries. Since DDT is an insecticide of choice for control of malaria and Kala-azar in the country by undertaking indoor residual spray in view of its cost-effectiveness and efficacy in specific locations (where the vector is susceptible to DDT), the committee of Secretaries decided that the use of DDT be mandated by a Group under the Chairmanship of Union Health Secretary with representatives from the Deptt. of Agriculture and Co-operation, Deptt. of Biotechnology and Planning Commission and Director General of Health Services. Accordingly, the Group was constituted on 29th January, 1997 (Statement-II). The quantity of DDT 50% wdp used during the last four years for the control of Malaria & Kala-azar is as under:

Year	Quantities (in metric tonnes) of DDT 50% wdp		Total
	For Malaria Control	For Kala-azar Control	
2001-02	5774	376	6150
2002-03	5800	242	6042
2003-04	6000	2208	8208
2004-05	6000	2500	8500

DDT is manufactured in the country a sole manufacturer namely M/s Hindustan Insecticides Ltd., a Public Sector undertaking of Govt. of India.

(d) and (e) WHO has reviewed the toxicity of DDT in detail and concluded inter-alia that:

- The information available does not provide convincing evidence of adverse effects of DDT exposure as a result of indoor residual spraying as carried out in Malaria control activities.
- There is, therefore at this stage, no justification on toxicological or epidemiological grounds for changing current policy towards indoor spraying of DDT for vector borne disease control.

(f) and (g) Government is already using DDT under vector borne disease control programme as per recommendation of WHO. DDT is listed among the twelve Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) under the Stockholm Convention, which has entered into force on 17th May, 2004 in pursuance of Article 26. India has signed the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) on 14th May, 2002 and has taken steps to ratify the convention. The Stockholm convention on POPs permits the production and use of DDT strictly for disease vector control, under WHO recommendations and guidelines. The convention states, inter-alia, that:

- The production and use of DDT shall be eliminated except for parties (to the Convention) that have notified the Secretariat of their intention to produce and/or use it.

- Each Party producing and/or using DDT shall restrict such production and/or use for disease vector control in accordance with the World Health Organization recommendation and guidelines on the use of DDT and when locally safe, effective and affordable alternatives are not available to the party in question.

- Commencing at its first meeting, and at least every three years thereafter, the conference of the Parties shall, in consultation with the World Health Organization, evaluate the continued use, need for DDT for disease vector control on the basis of available scientific, technical, environmental and economic information.

WHO proposed and supports the continued use of DDT for disease vector control under the Stockholm Convention of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

Statement I

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(Department of Agriculture and Cooperation)

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, the 26th May, 1989

S.O. 378(E)-Whereas, with a view to reviewing the continued use in India of pesticides that are either banned or restricted for use in other countries, the Government of India had set up an Expert Committee.

Now, therefore, after considering the recommendations of the said Expert Committee, and in consultation with the Registration Committee, set up under the Insecticides Act, 1968, the Central Government, in exercise of the powers conferred on it, under sub-section (2) of section 27 read with Section 28 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, hereby passes the following order:—

1. The use of DDT in agriculture is hereby withdrawn. In very special circumstances warranting the use of DDT for plant protection work, the State or Central Government may purchase it directly from Messers Hindustan Insecticides Limited, to be used under export Governmental supervision.

2. The use of DDT for the public health programme to 10,000 MTs per annum, except in case of any major outbreak of epidemic is hereby restricted.

3. The Central Government further orders that the registration certificates issued by the Registration Committee to various registrants under section 9 of the said Act shall stand modified/cancelled to give effect to this order.

4. It is also ordered that all the holders of the registration certificates for manufacture and import of DDT should return their registration certificates to the Secretary Registration Committee, Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage, NH-IV, Faridabad (Haryana) by the 15th June, 1989.

5. However, non-endorsement/correction of the registration certificates will not be taken as permission/approval to operate upon original certificate of registration in contravention of the provisions of this order.

6. Certificates not submitted by the due date shall be deemed to have been cancelled.

Sd/-
(B. Narasimhan)
Joint Secretary to the Government of India

Statement II

No. T-14020/10/94-Mal.

Government of India

Ministry of Health & Family Welfare

Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated the 29th January, 1997

ORDER

Sub: Constitution of a Group to mandate use of DDT in the Public Health Programme.

In pursuance of the directives of Committee of Secretaries contained in the Minutes of the meeting of

Committee of Secretaries held on 3rd January, 1997, it has been decided to constitute a Group under Chairmanship of Secretary, D/o Health, Ministry of Health & F.W. determining the use of DDT under the Public Health Programme.

2. The composition of the Group will be as under—

Secretary, D/o Health, M/o Health & F.W.	—	Chairman
Representatives from Planning Commission	—	Member
Representatives from D/o Bio-Technology	—	Member
Representatives from D/o Agriculture & Cooperation	—	Member
Director General of Health Services	—	Member
Director, NMEP	—	Member-Secretary

3. The terms of reference of the Group shall be as follows:

(a) To specify parameters for the use of DDT on the basis of review.

(b) To identify specific areas every year for the targeted use of DDT in the Public Health Programme.

4. The Member-Secretary shall fix the dates of the meeting of Group in consultation with the Chairman and circulate the Agenda in which the incidence and endemicity of Malaria would be projected location specific basis alongwith the susceptibility of the vector-borne spraying. The Group would take into consideration the needs of special epidemic prone areas like Bihar and the North East Region where the use of DDT can be continued in a targeted manner.

This issues with the approval of Secretary, Health & Family Welfare.

Sd/-
(M. Kannan)
Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India

To

1. Secretary (Health), M/o Health & F.W.
2. Secretary, Planning Commission
3. Secretary, D/o Agriculture & Co-operation
4. Secretary, D/o Bio-Technology
5. Director, General of Health Services
6. Director, NMEP
7. Director (Shri Vijay Chibber), Cabinet Secretariat

Copy to:-

1. PS to MOS
2. PS to Additional Secretary (H)
3. PS to JS (RSD)
4. Sanction Order File.

Sd/-
(M. Kannan)
Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India

Accidents on N.Hs.

3377. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of road accidents is on the rise on the national highways;

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

(c) whether the causes of such accidents are attributed to trucks; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent the road accidents?

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

(b) As reported by the States/Union Territories, the number of road accidents on National Highways during 2001 and 2002 are 115824 and 131738 respectively.

The increase in population, growth in number of motor vehicles and expansion of roads space are some of the contribution factors for rise in road accidents.

(c) As per information available, trucks were involved in 67515 accidents out of the total number of 405637 accidents during the year 2001 and 69571 accidents out of the total number of 407497 accidents during the year 2002, on all roads. The information regarding number of accidents involving trucks, separately on National Highways is not compiled by this Ministry.

(d) Enforcement of provisions of Motor Vehicles Act and rules made thereunder to ensure safety of roads users is the responsibility of the State Government. Some of the important steps taken by the Central Government to check the road accidents on National Highways besides highway design are as under:

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

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

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

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

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

(6) Tightening of fitness norms for transport vehicles.

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

Telecom Services in Hilly/Far-flung Areas

3378. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the services in the rural, hilly, far-flung and border areas especially the difficult terrains of Himachal Pradesh are not satisfactory;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is also aware that telephone exchanges sanctioned by the Department of Telecommunications in far-flung areas have not been set up;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether target has been fixed by the Government to provide telecommunication facilities to all the villages of the country; and

(f) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to achieve the said target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) On the basis of key performance indicators such as fault rate, trunk efficiency and fault repair etc. in comparison with national averages, it is seen that there is no deterioration of services in Himachal Pradesh including the maintenance of telecom services in far flung/remote areas of H.P. Telecom Circle. The achievement in respect of various performance parameters are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) No exchange, planned by Department of Telecom for rural areas is pending for commissioning. However, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is planning of deploy Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) technology exchanges in a big way, covering each Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) in the country. In addition, the wireline rural exchanges in far flung areas are being provided at places having a minimum demand of 150 within 5 Kms. radius of the proposed exchange site.

(e) and (f) The office of Administrator Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund has entered into an agreement with BSNL for providing village public telephones in 66,822 unconnected villages by November, 2007. This excludes villages lying in thick forest, naxalite infested area or having less than 100 population. Out of 1,002 uncovered villages in HP, 139 have been provided with VPTs as on 30.6.2006. The balance 863 villages will be covered by November 2007.

Statement

1. Achievement in respect of performance parameters of Telecom Services in All India and Himachal Pradesh Circle during the year 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 (1st Quarter) in respect of performance parameters

Sl.No.	Parameter In %	Achievement in 2001-02		Achievement in 2002-03		Achievement in 2003-04		Achievement in 2004-05		Achievement in 2005-06 (1st Quarter)	
		All India	H.P.	All India	H.P.	All India	H.P.	All India	H.P.	All India	H.P.
1.	Fault rate	11.6	10.90	9.90	10.10	8.4	9.90	7.60	10.10	7.10	9.61
2.	Trunk Efficiency	86.1	79.20	86.70	77.10	88.4	81.90	89.10	91.70	87.30	86.50
3.	*CCR*										
	Local	57.95	55.57	57.40	48.80	57.86	55.95	59.89	60.74	59.53	57.30
	Junction	47.32	27.77	46.40	31.00	47.88	37.06	54.18	35.58	54.45	38.73
	STD	38.30	28.94	38.30	28.70	40.57	32.93	43.70	32.38	47.39	33.80
4.	*Fault repair*										
	Same day	65.50	81.00	70.50	81.70	75.78	78.98	77.30	81.80	77.10	83.20
	By next day	85.80	94.50	88.00	92.30	90.29	95.19	90.20	95.50	90.30	94.70
	Within 7 days	97.40	99.80	97.90	99.90	98.23	99.89	98.70	99.70	97.60	99.90
5.	Repeat faults	1.50	1.27	0.99	0.23	0.87	0.12	0.58	0.06	0.59	0.05

2. Fault rate, fault clearance by next day and within 7 days of Himachal Telecom Circle in Rural/Urban for the year 2004-05 and for the 1st Quarter of 2005-06.

Sl.No.	Parameter	2004-05		1st quarter (2005-06)	
		Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
1.	Fault rate	10.45	9.95	9.96	9.26
2.	Fault clearance				
	By next day	93.07	97.87	93.38	95.96
	Within 7 days	99.42	99.91	99.73	99.98

3. Problems/constraints in provision/maintenance of Telecom. Services in far flung/remote areas of H.P. Telecom Circle,

(i) Adverse weather condition like heavy rain fall/ snow fall/and slides/storms/flash floods etc.

(ii) Lightening prone areas.

(iii) Low voltage problem in remote areas.

(iv) Lack of approach roads/road blockades due to inclement weather during monsoons/winters.

(v) Due to hilly/difficult terrains, out door network is mostly overhead and actual distance to be covered for fault rectification by road/on foot is much more than the aerial distance.

[English]

Computerisation in Postal Department

3379. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether computerization in Postal Department has increased the paper work instead of reducing it;

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

(c) whether computerization has also added to the possibilities of frauds and embezzlement; and

(d) if so, the security measures put in place by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is reduction in paper work after computerization as experienced by the Department of Posts.

(c) and (d) The Department has put in place the required security measures to guard against possibilities of fraud and embezzlement. The application software being used for computerization of Post Office have several in-built security features and they are constantly improved upon. Security instructions to be followed in all computerized Post Offices have also been issued.

[Translation]

Per Capita Income

3380. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN": Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the increase in the annual percentage of per capita income has been lesser than the rate of consumer-price-index in the country;

(b) if so, the annual increase registered in pre-capita-income of the country during the years from 2000 to 2004, year-wise; and

(c) the percentage of the population whose standard of living has came down as compared to the previous year in the country as a result thereof the aforesaid situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) During the years, 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, the per capita income at current prices in the country has registered an annual increase of 6.0%, 7.7%, 6.8%, 10.2% and 10.7% respectively, as against the increase of 3.8%, 4.3%, 4.0%, 3.9% and 3.8% in these years in consumer price index for industrial workers, respectively.

(c) Does not arise.

Supply of Coal to Neyveli Lignite Corporation

3381. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Northern Coalfield Limited has not given consent for supplying coal to coal based power plant of Neyveli Lignite Corporation in Madhya Pradesh, despite obtaining approval of State Government for the said project;

(b) if so, the MoU could not be signed in the absence of the said consent;

(c) if so, the details of the efforts being made by the Govt. to remove the obstacles in getting the said consent; and

(d) the time by when this project is likely to be come operational?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply given at (a) above.

(d) The gestation period of a mine to become operational is long and depends on various factors. Hence there is no time frame stipulated.

[English]

Progress of Land Reforms in States

3382. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tenth Plan identified land reforms as an important policy instrument for the alleviation of rural poverty;

(b) if so, the progress made in various States in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has expressed unhappiness over the lack of progress in this regard in the plan appraisal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) Land reforms have been an important plank of poverty alleviation strategy in the country. The Tenth Five Year Plan had indicated that demographic factors, changes in the agricultural technology and increasing importance of market forces had considerably weakened the case for a land reform programme that concentrated on abolition of intermediaries and reduction in land ceilings to generate ceiling surplus land for redistribution. The Plan suggested that there was need to implement the ceiling laws with greater vigour, re-examine the issues of tenancy, address the question of tribal alienation and incorporate more gender friendly laws in the context of feminisation of agricultural operations.

The State Governments implement various provisions related to land reforms. These include conferment of ownership rights to tenants, detection of ceiling surplus land and its distribution, restoration of alienated tribal lands and distribution of government wastelands among the poor. The State Governments have so far provided ownership rights to 124.22 lakh tenants covering an area of 156.30 lakh acres. Similarly, 57.46 lakh beneficiaries were distributed 54.03 lakh ceiling surplus land. 147.47 lakh acres of wastelands has been distributed to the poor. Upto 31st March, 2004, 4.47 lakh acres of alienated tribal land had been restored to the tribal community.

The Mid Term Review of the Tenth Plan has reiterated that there is a need to vigorously pursue land reforms to enable the poor access to land.

[Translation]

Pending Health Care Services Proposal of M.P.

3383. SHRI AJIT JOGI:
SHRI RAMSEVAK SINGH:

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

(a) whether the proposal for upgradation of basic health care services and mother and child care hospital with the assistance of Japanese Government in certain districts of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh is pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government on the said proposal; and

(c) the time by when the Government is likely to accord approval and release funds for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has conducted a Project Formulation Study for upgradation of Basic Health Care Services in certain districts of Sagar Division of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The Basic purpose of the study was to identify priority issues in Reproductive Health Sector and to formulate a project design for the Reproductive Health Improvement project in certain districts of Madhya Pradesh. Both the Government of India as well as the Government of Madhya Pradesh facilitated the study by JICA.

(c) It would be premature to consider approval of the program and release of funds prior to submission of a final proposal by JICA through the State Government.

[English]

Sri Lankan Business Venture in India

3384. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether Sri Lanka proposes to open the first office of its Board of Investment (BOI) at Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Office of the Board of Investment (BOI) of Sri Lanka has already commenced operations in Bangalore. The BOI office was inaugurated

by Mr. Anura Bandaranaike, Sri Lanka's Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment Promotion on May 23, 2005. Government of Sri Lanka is making various efforts to attract investment from India through the BOI office in Bangalore.

Intake/Outgo of IAS/IPS Officers

3385. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the annual intake/outgo of IAS and IPS officers; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to attract talented persons to these services?

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) As per information available with the Central Government, the following number of IAS/IPS officers were appointed by direct recruitment during the last three years, year-wise:

IAS	
2002	59
2003	71
2004	88
IPS	
2002	34
2003	54
2004	83

The outgo from the Services includes resignation, superannuation retirements and voluntary retirements after 20/30 years of service and 50 years of age. This information is not centrally maintained.

(b) IAS and IPS officers are given attractive terms of employment and service. Regarded among the premier services of the country, the two All India Services naturally attract talent.

Sir Creek Issue

3386. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the border dispute regarding Sir Creek on the basis of a joint survey was discussed between India and Pakistan during May 2005;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to resolve the said issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) Joint Survey of the boundary pillars in the horizontal segment of the international boundary had been conducted in January 2005. Talks on the Sir Creek issue under the Composite Dialogue Framework were held in Rawalpindi on 28-29 May 2005, to discuss the demarcation of International Boundary between the two countries in the Sir Creek area. No final agreement was reached. The two sides, however, agreed to continue their discussions aimed at an early resolution of the issue for the mutual benefit of the two countries.

[Translation]

Decline in Capital Investment in Industrial Sector

3387. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fresh capital investment by the Government in the industrial sector for its future expansion is declining continuously over the previous years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the additional capital investment made by the Government in the industrial sector during each year from 2000-01 to 2004-05; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for further increasing capital investment in industrial sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) As per National Accounts Statistics (2005) prepared by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) in Public Sector in the Industrial Sector has been as follows:

Year	Gross Fixed Capital Formation in Industrial Sector* (Rs. Crore)	
	At Current Prices	At Constant (1993-94) Prices
2000-01	49114	30827
2001-02	53067	31209
2002-03	54319	30634

*Comprising mining & quarrying, manufacturing, electricity, gas & water supply and construction.

The information on capital formation is available only upto 2002-03. As may be seen, the gross fixed capital formation has increased at current prices, however, the same at constant prices shows a fluctuating trend.

(d) The Government is taking several steps to increase capital investment in industrial sector, which include following broad strategies.

- Revival and re-structuring of Public Sector Enterprises (PSES) as per National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP).
- High priority to infrastructure sector which will also generate demand for industrial products and induce industrial investment.
- Removing the constraints in PSEs decision-making process.
- Setting-up of Investment Commission.
- Granting fiscal incentives such as lowering rates of corporate tax and import duties.

[English]

Community Information Centres

3388. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has laid down guidelines for opening of Community Information Centres (CIC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Kerala has implemented a scheme called AKSHAYA;

(d) if so, whether this pertains to an IT scheme launched there;

(e) if so, whether the Union Government contemplates to include the said scheme in CIC;

(f) whether the Government of Kerala has approached the centre for the same; and

(g) if so, the response of the Union Government 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.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Non-availability of Diagnostic Test facilities in Safdarjung Hospital

3389. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the agents of private laboratories through the Safdarjung Hospitals as reported in the Hindi daily *Jansatta* dated 25 May, 2005;

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

(c) whether on the pretext of non-availability of diagnostic test facilities, the patients are forced to get their tests done from this Private Labs;

(d) if so, the details of medical equipment/machinery/ test facilities that are not available in Safdarjung Hospital as on date and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to replenish the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) It is not correct to say that the agents of private laboratories throng the Safdarjung Hospital. Various investigations are done in Safdarjung Hospital in the Department of Lab Medicine, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Histopathology, Blood Bank, Radiology and Hematology. The patients, however, has the choice to get investigation done from outside. The total number of investigations undertaken in the above mentioned Departments per day is 6510 approximately. Moreover, single window system for various investigations including ECG, X-Ray, CT Scan, Ultrasound is in existence in Emergency Department. However, for any specialized test for which facilities are not available in the Safdarjung Hospital, the patients are advised to get the same done from outside. CGHS beneficiaries are advised to get the same done from any C.G.H.S. approved center. Procurement of latest and modern medical equipment in replacement of obsolete/out-dated equipment depending on requirement and availability of resources is a continuous ongoing process.

Launching of Internet Protocol Television

3390. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the leading telecom players are planning to roll out the latest broadband technology-IP-TV (Internet Protocol Television);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether the facility shall also be available to MTNL subscribers;

(e) if so, the guidelines thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the benefits likely to be derived to TV viewers both in urban and rural areas as a result of this facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (f) Internet Protocol—Television (IP-TV) is a new technology and various Telecom licensees are reportedly evaluating this technology for its commercial usage. The roll out of any new technology, including IP-TV, is expected to be deployed by Telecom Service Providers, including BSNL and MTNL, after ascertaining the feasibility and viability of the technology in Indian market and after meeting the licensing and regulatory requirements.

(g) TV viewers in urban and rural areas are expected to have the following benefits through this service:

(i) More economical packages comprising of broadband internet access and TV services.

(ii) Better quality.

(iii) Flexibility to watch programmes at the convenient timings.

(iv) Single Bill to the customers for his communication and entertainment needs.

Revitalisation of Cancer Institute

3391. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Atomic Energy has signed a Tripartite Agreement with the North-Eastern Council and the Government of Assam for revitalization of Cancer Institute, Guwahati;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a similar clinical trial centre in other tribal dominated areas of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Department of Atomic Energy have signed a Tripartite Agreement on 8.9.2004 for the period from 2004-2005 to 2008-2009 with North-Eastern Council and Government of Assam to extend financial assistance to the Dr. Bhubaneshwar Barooah Cancer Institute (BBCI), Guwahati with the objective of enhancing the facilities for diagnosis and treatment of all types of cancer primarily for the patients from the North Eastern Region as also for facilities for research and training. The total financial liabilities on account of this works out to Rs. 5019.06 lakh [Recurring Rs. 2929.67 lakh and Non-Recurring Rs. 2089.39 lakh.] The recurring expenditure will be borne by North Eastern Council [NEC] and Government of Assam in the ratio of 70% & 30% respectively. The Non-recurring expenditure will be equally [50% each] borne by DAE & NEC.

(c) There is no firm proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

Disinvestment of NLC

3392. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to disinvest the Government equity in Neyveli Lignite Corporation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No decision has been taken on disinvestment of Government equity in Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer given in part (a) of the question.

Funds for National Highways

3393. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:
SHRI RAKESH SINGH:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:

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

(a) the details of National Highways in each State;

(b) the details of funds allotted per kilometre for the new construction and maintenance of National Highways during 2005-2006, State-wise and project-wise; and

(c) the details of main works or construction of National Highways likely to be completed during the current financial year, 2005-2006, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) State-wise details of National Highways are given in the enclosed statement I.

(b) The allocation of funds for the development and maintenance of National Highways in various States depends not only on length of National Highways but also on type of terrain, lane width, traffic density, type of soil, extent of damages, distance of source of construction materials, intensity of rainfall and availability of funds etc. Funds for development of National Highways to the State Governments are allocated State-wise and not project/kilometer-wise. Funds for development of National Highways entrusted to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)/Border Roads Organisation (BRO) are not made State-wise. On the above basis, the State-wise details of funds allocated or development of National Highways through state PWD and funds allocated to NHAI and BRO during 2005-2006 are at statement-II. State-wise details of funds allocated for maintenance of National Highways through State PWD and expenditure released upto July, 2005 by the NHAI, during 2005-2006 are at statement-III. Regarding maintenance of the National Highways under the charge of BRO, the funds allocated per kilometre are based on the road width which varies from Rs. 33500 to Rs. 70200.

(c) The State-wise details of main works likely to be completed during the current financial year 2005-2006 are at given in the enclosed statement-IV.

Statement I

List of State-wise National Highways in the Country

Sl.No.	Name of State	National Highway No.	Total Length (in km.)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4, 5, 7, 9, 16, 18, 43, 63, 202, 205, 214, 214A, 219, 221 & 222	4472
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	52, 52A & 153	392
3.	Assam	31, 31B, 31C, 36, 37, 37A, 38, 39, 44, 51, 52, 52A, 52B, 53, 54, 61, 62, 151, 152, 153 & 154	2836
4.	Bihar	2, 19, 28, 28A, 28B, 30, 30A, 31, 57, 57A, 77, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 98, 99, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107 & 110	3537
5.	Chandigarh	21	24
6.	Chhattisgarh	6, 12A, 16, 43, 78, 200, 202, 216, 217, 111 & 221	2184
7.	Delhi	1, 2, 8, 10 & 24	2184
8.	Goa	4A, 17, 17A & 17B	269
9.	Gujarat	NE-1, 6, 8, 8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, 8E, 14, 15, 59 & 113	2871
10.	Haryana	1, 2, 8, 10 21A, 22, 64, 65, 71, 71A, 72, 73, 73A & 71B	1468
11.	Himachal Pradesh	1A, 20, 21, 21A, 22, 70, 72, 88 & 73A	1208
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	1A, 1B & 1C	823
13.	Jharkhand	2, 6, 23, 31, 32, 33, 75, 78, 80, 98, 99 & 100	1805
14.	Karnataka	4, 4A, 7, 9, 13, 17, 48, 63, 67, 206, 207, 209, 212 & 218	3843
15.	Kerala	17, 47, 47A, 49, 208, 212, 213 & 220	1440
16.	Madhya Pradesh	3, 7, 12, 12A, 25, 26, 26A, 27, 59, 59A, 69, 75, 76, 78, 86, 86A & 92	5069
17.	Maharashtra	3, 4, 4B, 4C, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 16, 17, 50, 69, 204, 211 & 222	4176
18.	Manipur	39, 53, 150 & 155	959
19.	Meghalaya	40, 44, 51 & 62	810
20.	Mizoram	44A, 54, 54A, 54B, 150 & 154	927
21.	Nagaland	36, 39, 61, 150 & 155	494
22.	Orissa	5, 5A, 6, 23, 42, 43, 60, 75, 200, 201, 203, 203A, 215, 217 & 224	3704
23.	Pondicherry	45A & 66	53

1	2	3	4
24.	Punjab	1, 1A, 10, 15, 20, 21, 22, 64, 70, 71, 72 & 95	1557
25.	Rajasthan	3, 8, 11, 11A, 11B, 12, 14, 15, 65, 71B, 76, 79, 79A, 89, 90, 113, 112, 114 & 116	5585
26.	Sikkim	31A	62
27.	Tamil Nadu	4, 5, 7, 7A, 45, 45A, 45B, 45C, 46, 47, 47B, 49, 66, 67, 68, 205, 207, 208, 209, 210, 219 & 220	4183
28.	Tripura	44 & 44A	400
29.	Uttaranchal	57, 72, 72A, 73, 74, 87, 94, 108, 109, 123, 119, 121, 87 Ext. & 125	1991
30.	Uttar Pradesh	2, 2A, 3, 7, 11, 12A, 19, 24, 24A, 25, 25A, 26, 27, 28, 28B, 28C, 29, 56, 56A, 56B, 58, 72A, 73, 74, 75, 76, 86, 87, 91, 91A, 92, 93, 96, 97 & 119	5599
31.	West Bengal	2, 6, 31, 31A, 31C, 32, 34, 35, 41, 55, 60, 60A, 80, 81 & 117	2325
32.	Andaman and Nicobar	223	300

Statement II

(A) Allocation of Funds for Development of National Highways through State PWD during 2005-2006

Sl.No.	Name of State/ Union Territories	Allocation (Rs. Crore)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	86.23
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7.00
3.	Assam	61.50
4.	Bihar	79.00
5.	Chandigarh	2.00
6.	Chhattisgarh	53.70
7.	Delhi	5.50
8.	Goa	5.50
9.	Gujarat	69.77
10.	Haryana	47.00
11.	Himachal Pradesh	42.00
12.	Jharkhand	35.00
13.	Karnataka	74.61
14.	Kerala	55.96
15.	Madhya Pradesh	99.03
16.	Maharashtra	100.65
17.	Manipur	16.07
18.	Meghalaya	26.21
19.	Mizoram	21.50
20.	Nagaland	11.00
21.	Orissa	67.63
22.	Pondicherry	5.00
23.	Punjab	49.01
24.	Rajasthan	75.36
25.	Tamil Nadu	90.91
26.	Uttaranchal	25.06
27.	Uttar Pradesh	139.30
28.	West Bengal	256.30
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	5.00

(B) Allocation of Funds for National Highways Authority of India during 2005-2006

1.	Development of National Highways	7669.74

(C) Allocation of funds for Border Roads Organisation during 2005-2006

1.	Development of National Highways	865.00

Statement III

Allocation of Funds for Maintenance & Repair during 2005-2006

(Amount Rs. in Cr.)

Sl. No.	Name of State/ Union Territories	Allocation for Maintenance & Repair Fund through state PWD	Fund Released by NHAI upto July 2005
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	32.76	2.87
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.32	0.00
3.	Assam	25.08	16.33
4.	Bihar	30.78	2.12
5.	Chandigarh	0.50	0.00
6.	Chhattisgarh	19.03	0.00
7.	Delhi	0.42	0.00
8.	Goa	2.55	0.00
9.	Guajrat	27.00	1.75
10.	Haryana	10.52	8.73
11.	Himachal Pradesh	14.70	0.08
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.42	0.00
13.	Jharkhand	17.96	0.00
14.	Karnataka	33.60	1.53
15.	Kerala	14.85	1.34
16.	Madhya Pradesh	54.14	2.84
17.	Maharashtra	42.50	2.16
18.	Manipur	10.08	0.00
19.	Meghalaya	8.63	0.00
20.	Mizoram	4.33	0.00
21.	Nagaland	3.44	0.00
22.	Orissa	34.56	0.00
23.	Pondicherry	0.80	0.00
24.	Punjab	18.68	1.41
25.	Rajasthan	45.54	14.38
26.	Tamil Nadu	31.78	3.12
27.	Uttaranchal	11.60	0.00
28.	Uttar Pradesh	46.32	28.30
29.	West Bengal	21.40	1.65

Statement IV

State-wise Target for completion of main works on National Highways during 2005-2006

Sl. No.	State	Widening to four lane (Kms.)	Sidening to two lane (Kms.)	Strengthening of weak two lane (kms.)	Improvement of Riding quality (IRQP) (kms.)	Bridges (Nos.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	157	30	192	14	13
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	12	10	0	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Assam	0	40	18	98	4
4.	Bihar	123	27	123	200	5
5.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Chattisgarh	0	87	4	160	6
7.	Delhi	31	0	31	4	0
8.	Goa	0	0	0	20	3
9.	Gujarat	50	78	140	55	9
10.	Haryana	40	85	44	40	2
11.	Himachal Pradesh	0	80	10	70	1
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	17	31	17	0	0
13.	Jharkhand	121	14	136	120	3
14.	Karnataka	266	60	264	70	15
15.	Kerala	0	10	0	75	3
16.	Madhya Pradesh	0	70	20	300	10
17.	Maharashtra	90	80	330	120	30
18.	Manipur	2	16	1	56	3
19.	Meghalaya	0	12	2	59	3
20.	Mizoram	0	7	4	45	2
21.	Nagaland	0	3	2	51	2
22.	Orissa	117	75	120	80	3
23.	Pondicherry	0	2	3	0	0
24.	Punjab	0	0	32	89	2
25.	Rajasthan	2	170	81	25	0
26.	Tamil Nadu	81	50	201	50	15
27.	Tripura	0	30	0	35	4
28.	Uttar Pradesh	227	40	227	450	5
29.	Uttaranchal	0	42	10	83	12
30.	West Bengal	133	19	164	40	0

Wage Agreement

3394. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the seventh wage agreement for workers in the Coal Sector applies to the private sector employees also;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the mandatory safety norms for coal mines' employees are also applicable to the private coal companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any change in Coal India Limited's land acquisition and rehabilitation policy of providing employment to members of land oustees; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The private coal companies did not join Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry-VII, a body to negotiate National Coal Wage Agreement-VII.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. All the statutory legislation relating to safety viz., The Mines Act, 1952, the Coal Mines Regulation, 1957 and Rules and by laws framed thereunder are applicable to private Coal companies also.

(e) and (f) Coal India Limited is implementing Rehabilitation & Resettlement policy formulated in 1994 and subsequently amended in 2000. The existing policy has not been revised so far.

'Creation of a Post-Graduate Medical Education Board

3395. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to create a post graduate medical education Board in the country on the lines of those exiting in UK, Canada and other developed countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when the said Board is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) At present as per the provisions of the Medical Council of India Act,1956, the Central Government has constituted a Post-Graduate Medical Education Committee in the MCI for prescribing the standards of post-graduate education for the guidance of Universities and for advising of Universities in the matter of securing uniform standards for post-graduate medical education throughout India.

Setting up of Medical Institutes

3396. SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether experts have expressed concern over the lack of science institutes in the country;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to set up more institutes like PGIMER to train medical professionals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) There are a number of basic/applied science institutes being run in the Universities belonging to State/Central Governments. In so far as medical institutions, there are 241 medical college institutions and 205 Dental college institutions in the country.

Under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), it is proposed to set up one AIIMS-like institution each in the states of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal. Apart from providing medical treatment in speciality/Super speciality discipline, these Institutions will provide under-graduate medical education/PG/doctoral courses in various speciality/Super speciality discipline. It will provide a fillip

for raising the prevailing standards of medical education and provide a capable medical workforce of not only medical graduates but also well-trained specialist and super-specialists comparable to the level of those coming out of AIIMS. Necessary clearances are being obtained for implementation of the PMSSY Scheme.

[Translation]

Waiving of Bills by MTNL

3397. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Delhi has proposed to waive of bills amounting to Rs. 6 crore due from its subscribers of "Garud" mobile service;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the type of subscribers proposed to be covered thereunder; and

(c) the manner in which the MTNL/Government proposes to make up for the loss likely to be suffered as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Amount for proposed AIIMS at Rishikesh

3398. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to the unstarred question 898 dated March 9, 2005 and state:

(a) the present state of sanction of CCEA;

(b) if not sanctioned the reasons for this abnormal delay;

(c) the allocation of funds, if sanctioned, for each of these locations for the current Financial Year; and

(d) the scheduled date of completion of each of these institutions and their becoming functional?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) AIIMS, Rishikesh (Uttaranchal) is one of the six AIIMS like Institutions proposed to be set up under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). After obtaining the approval of Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) to the PMSSY Scheme, a draft CCEA Note has prepared and circulated to appraising agencies. The sanction of CCEA to the PMSSY has not been obtained.

(c) During the current financial year 2005-2006, there is a provision of Rs. 250 crores (Budget Estimate) for the entire Scheme and the funds have not been allocated for individual location.

(d) These Institutions are expected to become operational after three years from the date of approval.

Youth Centres

3399. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to establish a National Youth Centre with capital grants by the Centre during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of National Youth Centres and State Youth Centres proposed to be set up in the country, State and Union Territory-wise;

(d) the facilities proposed to be provided to youths by these Centres; and

(e) the extent to which these Centres will help the youths to exhibit their talents?

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

(b) Planning Commission had, in its Tenth Five Year Plan Document, identified the establishment of a National Youth Centre and State Youth Centres with outright capital grants by the Central Government, as one of the programmes.

(c) and (d) Draft Scheme is under consideration with the Planning Commission for giving 'in-principle' approval.

(e) These Centres will provide a platform where youths of the country can find all the facilities required for their self-expression, actualization and development of their overall personality.

Insulin Inhaler

3400. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that an insulin inhaler device containing insulin in powder form as replacement of insulin injections is being used by the patients in some foreign countries;

(b) if so, whether this inhalers have gone through a successful clinical trial;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is considering any proposal to introduce this oral insulin system in the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) research has been going on for non-invasive ways to administer insulin in the form of nasal and oral sprays, patches, tablets and inhalers. These are at various stages of research & development including clinical trial.

Vacant Posts in CIL

3401. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of posts of mining Engineers, Sr. Executives and others are lying vacant in Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries;

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

(c) whether the production of coal has decreased and accidents in coal mines have increased over the years for want of adequate officers and staff;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total production of coal in each Subsidiary of Coal India and the total number of accidents that occurred in each subsidiary of CIL during the last three years and till date; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government for filling these vacant posts as well as increasing production and reducing accidents in mines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) The job of assessment of vacancies/requirement is being entrusted to an Institute of Management of repute.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) Subsidiary-wise coal production during last three years and current year up to July, 2005 is as under:

(In million tonnes)

Company	2005-06 (upto July 05 (prov.)	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03
ECL	8.07	27.25	28.00	27.18
BCCL	6.23	22.32	22.68	24.15
CCL	10.76	37.38	37.33	36.98
NCL	14.88	49.96	47.03	45.10
WCL	13.39	41.41	39.53	37.82
SECL	25.08	78.53	71.08	66.60
MCL	21.47	58.08	60.05	52.23
NEC	0.19	0.63	0.73	0.63
Total	100.97	323.58	306.36	290.69

Mine accident statistics are maintained calendar year-wise in accordance with Director General Mines Safety (DGMS) practice. As such the number of accidents in each subsidiary company during the last three years and current year till July is given below:

Company	2002		2003		2004		2005	
	Fatal	Serious	Fatal	Serious	Fatal	Serious	Fatal	Serious
ECL	9	191	13	171	18	177	4	25
BCCL	10	68	12	60	11	71	8	13
CCL	11	26	6	27	10	21	1	7
MCL	3	17	7	12	4	15	4	2
NCL	1	9	2	18	3	6	1	4
NEC	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—
SECL	13	111	11	92	8	73	4	38
WCL	15	60	9	67	13	52	4	15
Total	62	482	60	447	69	416	26	104

Note: Including disaster at Central Saunda Colliery on 15.6.2005. All figures for 2004 and 2005 are subject to reconciliation with DGMS. Serious accidents in CCL and WCL in 2003 are subject to reconciliation with DGMS.

(f) Regarding filling up vacant post in executive cadre at entry level, it is stated that CIL has already issued an advertisement for filling up 364 posts in various disciplines including 196 posts for mining discipline.

CIL has taken several steps to increase coal production which are as under:

(i) 101 mining projects are envisaged to be undertaken in X Plan, which is planned to produce the incremental output.

(ii) Improvement in equipment utilization.

(iii) Mechanization/modernization of existing mines.

(iv) Timely implementation of projects.

(v) All new mines being planned with mechanization.

(vi) Increasing productivity in underground and opencast mines.

(vii) Allotment of coal mining blocks for captive end use.

To reduce accidents in mines, the following steps have been taken by CIL and the subsidiary companies:

(i) Thrust on training and retraining of workmen, supervisors and managers to increase safety awareness.

(ii) Issue of guidelines for safer operations in identified thrust areas through circulars.

(iii) Promoting participation of workers in safety management.

(iv) Promoting self regulation by management.

(v) Tri-partite and Bi-partite review of safety status at various levels.

(vi) Observance of safety week and safety compaigns.

(vii) Generating safety awareness and information dissemination.

(viii) National Conference on Safety in Mines.

(ix) National Safety Awards.

(x) Interactions at different forums with a view to promote safety, health and welfare of persons employed in mines.

(xi) Introduction to the concept of Risk Assessment, preparation of Safety Management Plan and development of Emergency Response System.

(xii) Facilitating introduction of new technology in mining with low potential risk.

Setting up of New Coal Companies

3402. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal under consideration to set up some new coal companies;

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

(c) the steps taken in this regard; and

(d) the time by which new coal companies are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, there is a proposal from CIL to form a new wholly owned subsidiary company of CIL with the name Coal Videsh. This follows from a review meeting with the Planning Commission for venturing into coal business opportunities abroad considering the widening demand-supply gap and the amount of coal imported into India.

Admiralty Bill, 2005

3403. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalised the Admiralty Bill, 2005;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the benefits likely to be derived therefrom; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to become an Act?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The Admiralty Bill, 2005 has already been introduced in Lok Sabha on 11th May, 2005. The Bill has since been referred to Department-related Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture.

Satellite Telephone System in Inaccessible Areas

3404. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) proposes to install satellite telephone systems in inaccessible villages across the country where even wireless telephony is out of reach;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of villages selected for this purpose, State-wise;

(d) the number of villages/areas where this satellite system is currently in operation State-wise;

(e) the time by when that said system is likely to be installed in the rest of the inaccessible villages/areas; and

(f) the estimated expenditure for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Office of the Administrator Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for the provision of 14,183 Village Public Telephones (VPTs) through Digital Satellite Phone Terminals in undisputed, inaccessible and inhabited villages having population more than 100 as per Census 1991 which otherwise cannot be covered by any terrestrial technology including Wireless in Local Loop (WLL). The Telecom Circle/State-wise details are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) As on 30.6.2005, 294 villages are provided with telecom facility by International Mobile Satellite (INMARSAT) Terminals as per details given in the Statement enclosed.

(e) All these villages are to be provided with Satellite telephones progressively by November, 2007.

(f) The estimated expenditure for the provision of 14,183 Satellite telephones is around Rs. 105.72 crores.

Statement

Telecom Circle/State-wise details of number of villages provided with telecom facility with INMARSAT Terminals as on 30.6.2005 and no. of villages to be covered with Digital Satellite Phone Terminals

Sl.No.	Name of Telecom Circle/State	No. of villages to be covered with Digital Satellite Phone Terminals	No. of villages provided with telecom facility with INMARSAT Terminals as on 30.6.2005*
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	—	5
2.	Andhra Pradesh	115	1
3.	Assam	279	18
4.	Chhattisgarh	88	7
5.	Haryana	—	4
6.	Himachal Pradesh	275	17
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	465	98
8.	Karnataka	—	24
9.	Madhya Pradesh	433	—
10.	Jharkhand	1694	—
11.	Maharashtra	496	—
12.	North East-I		
	Meghalaya	500	5
	Mizoram	20	3
	Tripura	58	3
13.	North East-II		
	Arunachal Pradesh	543	21
	Nagaland	16	9
	Manipur	730	8
14.	Orissa	4899	—
15.	Rajasthan	18	1
16.	Tamil Nadu	—	33
17.	Uttaranchal	3544	18
18.	West Bengal	—	19
	Total	14183	294

*Note: INMARSAT terminals working in 294 villages were already provided with satellite phones before signing of agreements between USO & BSNL. These 294 number of satellite terminals are not included in 14,183 villages mentioned in Column 3.

Artificial Protein Power

3405. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that artificial protein powder is being sold in the market for weight loss;

(b) if so, whether that powder has ill effects on health;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any investigation has been done into the matter;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof;

(f) whether the Government has any proposal to ban the sale of such protein powders; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (g) Some powders are reported to be sold in the market as food supplements which make claims for facilitating weight loss. Since these products do not come under the definition of "food" under PFA Act 1954, there is no proposal at the present moment to ban the sale of such powders.

However, to regulate the sale and quality control of such products, the Ministry of Health drafted a Health Food Supplement Bill to cover such categories of products. Since the draft Integrated Food Law being piloted by Ministry of Food Processing Industries has reference to health foods, the aforesaid draft Bill prepared by Ministry of Health was forwarded to Ministry of Food Processing Industries for suitable incorporation in the draft integrated food law.

Sports Infrastructure of SAI

3406. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that sports infrastructure created at various Sports Authority of India (SAI) Centres in the recent past have become defective and useless;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of synthetic tracks and artificial hockey turfs laid in the country during the past five years and the present condition of these artificial surfaces;

(d) the number of sports infrastructure facilities started during the past five years but remained incomplete causing disruption in the schedule of training of talented sportspersons;

(e) whether the responsibility for mismanagement in the creation of new sports infrastructure has been fixed;

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

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The sports infrastructure of Sports Authority of India (SAI) is subject to normal wear and tear due to use. The synthetic surface at Bangalore, laid recently, needs replacement and corrective action is being taken.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has given financial assistance for laying 13 synthetic tracks and 33 artificial hockey turfs in the country during the last five years. Out of these 5 synthetic tracks and 9 artificial hockey turfs have since been laid. Sanction for laying one synthetic track has been cancelled.

(e) to (g) "Sports" is a State subject and, therefore, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to create sports infrastructure facilities in the country. However, under the 'Infrastructure Scheme', financial assistance is released after receiving the utilization certificate for earlier released grants. It is the duty of the State Governments to maintain these infrastructures. So far as, SAI infrastructure is concerned, there is a technical team headed by an officer of the rank of Superintending Engineer who supervises the construction of infrastructure.

Re-opening Majdia-Daultangunj Route

3407. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to re-open Majdia-Daultangunj route on the Indo-Bangladesh border;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) No Sir. Reopening the Majdia-Daultungunj route on the Indo-Bangladesh border is not presently under consideration.

(b) and (c) The zero point on the India-Bangladesh border near Majdia, called Tungi, was declared a Land Customs Station in 1994. However it has not been operative as there is not much cargo that can move through this point since there is no important industrial area/commercial centre in the vicinity. Moreover no infrastructure has been developed at this point.

[Translation]

Kala-Azar Control Programme

3408. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is running a Kala-Azar Control Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the first line medicine-Sodium Gluconet Antimony (SAG) prescribed for the treatment of Kala-Azar in Bihar has proved to be a failure;

(d) if so, whether the miltiforin and paramomisin medicines are being used in place of SAG;

(e) if so, the factual position regarding the effectiveness of the KCP so far;

(f) whether the Government has any proposal under the consideration to modify the KCP; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government of India is running a Kala-azar Control Programme in the country since year 1990-91 in the endemic districts of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal & Uttar Pradesh.

The Kala-azar Control Programme has five major activities.

(a) Interruption of transmission through vector control by undertaking DDT Indoor Residual Spray in affected areas.

(b) Early diagnosis & complete treatment of Kala-azar cases through Primary Health Care System.

(c) Health Education and Community Participation.

(d) Integrated disease and vector surveillance.

(e) Operational Research.

(c) No Sir. The first line medicine sodium antimony gluconate is still effective in treatment of Kala-azar cases in the State of Bihar except in certain areas where Amphotericine B injection is being used.

(d) Based upon the recommendations of the Expert Committee on Kala-azar under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Service, Govt. of India, Central Government is under the process of introducing the oral anti-kala-azar drug miltefosine on pilot basis in some of the endemic districts and tablet miltefosine as first line drug in the programme from the year 2005-06. Necessary codal formalities for procurement of tablet miltefosine is under completion. An Expert Group Meeting held on 10.8.2005 has also endorsed the use of tablet miltefosine as first line drug in place of injection SAG in selected pilot districts of Bihar. Injection Paromomycin is still at clinical trial phase & not approved by drug regulatory authority in India.

(e) The Kala-azar Control Programme was effective in bringing down the Kala-azar cases and deaths as is evident from the following statistics.

Year	No. of Cases	No. of Deaths
1	2	3
1991	61670	838
1992	77102	1419
1993	45459	710
1994	25652	384
1995	22625	277
1996	27049	687
1997	17429	255
1998	13627	226
1999	12886	297
2000	14753	150
2001	12239	213
2002	12140	168
2003	18214	210
2004	22699	150

(f) and (g) The National Health Policy 2002 aims to eliminate the Kala-azar i.e. reducing the number of cases to 1 per 10,000 at sub districts and districts level by year 2010. In order to achieve this goal, Govt. of India took a decision in the year 2003 to provide 100% cash and commodity assistance to endemic states for the effective implementation of the programme.

[English]

Transfer of Telephones

3409. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any policy has been fixed by the MTNL/ BSNL for the transfer of telephones from one exchange of the State to another exchange of the State and the one city to another city on transfer of residence after retirement from the Government service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such cases pending with the Government; and

(d) the time by when telephones are likely to be shifted as per the policy framed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, there is no separate policy made by BSNL or MTNL for shifting of telephones exclusively for Government servants on retirement. Policy for telephone shifting for Government servants is same as that applicable for the general public.

(c) No separate data of applications received from retired Government servants is maintained.

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

[Translation]

Combating Blindness

3410. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that India is one of the most effected country in blindness in the world;

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

(c) the number of blind persons in the country, State-wise;

(d) the financial assistance provided to tackle this problem during the last three years till date, State-wise; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the growing problem of blindness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) There is estimated about 12.14 million blind persons in the country.

(b) The main causes of blindness are—Cataract, Uncorrected Refractive Errors, Corneal Opacity and Glaucoma.

(c) A Statement-I showing number of blind persons (State-wise) is enclosed.

(d) A Statement-II showing details of funds released to States/UTs under National Programme for Control of Blindness during last three years is enclosed.

(e) The steps taken under National Programme for Control of Blindness to check the growing problem of blindness are as under:

1. Setting up of State Blindness Control Societies and District Blindness Control Societies in States/UTs.
2. Providing Eye care facilities to the needy people at Primary, Secondary and Tertiary level through Primary Health Centres, District Hospitals, Medical Colleges and Regional Institutes of Ophthalmology.
3. Strengthening of Eye Banks in Government/Voluntary Sector.
4. Financial support to NGOs for strengthening of their existing infrastructure for Eye care.
5. Organizing Eye Donation Fortnight every year from 25th August to 8th September.
6. Screening of school children for detection of refractive errors and providing free glasses to poor children.
7. Strengthening of Regional Institutes of Ophthalmology by providing assistance for development of paediatric eye units/low vision units/retina units and training infrastructure.
8. Strengthening of medical Colleges by providing assistance for development of paediatric eye units/low vision units/retina units.
9. Imparting training to Ophthalmic Surgeons from Government Hospitals/Medical Colleges in various specialities of ophthalmology.
10. Intensification of IEC activities.

Statement I

Estimated Blind Persons in India—2001-04

State	Census Population 2001*	Prevalence of Blindess (Survey 2001-04)	Estimated Blind Persons
1	2	3	4
Andaman and Nicobar*	356265	1.10	3919
Andhra Pradesh	75727541	1.42	1075331
Arunachal Pradesh	1091117	2.28	24877

1	2	3	4
Assam	26638407	3.05	812471
Bihar	82878796	0.78	646455
Chandigarh*	900914	1.01	9099
Chhattisgarh	20795956	1.61	334815
Dadra and Nagar Haveli*	220451	1.07	2359
Daman and Diu*	158059	1.07	1691
Delhi	13782976	1.13	155748
Goa	1343998	1.52	20429
Gujarat	50596992	1.07	541388
Haryana	21082989	1.89	398468
Himachal Pradesh	6077248	0.70	42541
Jammu and Kashmir	10069917	1.61	162126
Jharkhand	26909428	1.41	379423
Karnataka	52733958	1.78	938664
Kerala	31838619	0.56	178296
Lakshadweep*	60595	1.10	667
Madhya Pradesh	60385118	1.16	700467
Maharashtra	96752247	0.95	919146
Manipur	2388634	1.38	32963
Meghalaya	2306069	0.74	17065
Mizoram	891058	0.78	6950
Nagaland	1988636	1.05	20881
Orissa	36706920	1.40	513897
Pondicherry*	973829	0.78	7596
Punjab	24289296	1.01	245322
Rajasthan	56473122	1.55	875333
Sikkim	540493	0.65	3513
Tamil Nadu	62110839	0.78	484465
Tripura	3191168	0.77	24572

1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh	166052859	0.94	1560897
Uttaranchal	8479562	0.56	47486
West Bengal	80221171	1.19	954632
Total	1027015247	1.10	12143952

*Source: Census of India 2001

Statement II

National Programme for Control of Blindness

Expenditure to States/UTs as Cash, Kind GIA to DBCS/SBCS/NGOs

(Rs. In lakhs)

States/UTs	Cash Grants Release	GIA to DBCS/ Release	Kind	Total assistance	Cash Grants Release	GIA to DBCS/ Release	Kind assistance	Total	Cash Grants		GIA to DBCS/ SBCS/NGOs	Kind	Total assistance
									Release	Exp.	Release		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Major States													
Andhra Pradesh	523.30	211.06	100.46	834.82	15.00	335.92	99.51	450.43	35.21	7.50	252.98	37.67	325.86
Bihar	41.30	91.50	25.17	157.97	10.00	220.00	27.88	257.88	38.38	0.90	17.00	16.62	72.00
Chhatisgarh	37.80	70.00	57.43	165.23	10.00	116.00	60.59	186.59	67.28	136.34	175.00	35.24	277.52
Goa	5.00	0.00	5.52	10.52	5.00	13.25	9.84	28.09	15.50	11.00	3.00	2.79	21.29
Gujarat	41.60	127.48	62.37	231.45	15.00	279.07	83.38	377.45	60.50	5.41	293.47	110.26	464.23
Haryana	12.80	0.21	32.35	45.36	10.00	77.76	60.14	147.90	12.87	20.43	99.84	47.41	160.12
Himachal Pradesh	8.00	23.22	22.89	54.11	10.00	66.25	21.97	98.22	11.36	3.67	0.00	91.64	103.00
Jammu and Kashmir	8.00	26.14	32.65	66.79	10.00	59.25	25.25	94.50	149.26	0.91	0.00	38.95	188.21
Jharkhand	20.10	64.03	34.44	118.57	10.00	128.75	22.54	161.29	101.43	6.02	67.00	1.35	169.78
Karnataka	42.90	308.53	16.87	368.30	20.00	411.89	219.86	651.75	97.78	57.57	396.18	5.51	499.47
Kerala	10.00	93.12	50.10	153.22	10.00	167.98	75.63	253.61	64.27	9.70	115.44	14.38	194.09
Madhya Pradesh	177.80	362.90	126.59	677.29	15.00	386.82	55.34	457.16	264.57	309.78	581.63	33.29	879.49
Maharashtra	201.50	191.50	234.15	627.15	15.00	404.50	104.43	523.93	47.31	13.14	271.62	32.60	351.53
Orissa	123.80	169.00	32.00	324.80	15.00	248.25	38.93	302.18	170.19	4.93	105.67	68.19	344.05
Punjab	14.10	50.04	125.11	189.25	10.00	103.50	23.05	136.55	11.43	0.00	0.00	11.63	23.06

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Rajasthan	125.40	305.00	96.53	526.93	15.00	238.75	74.26	328.01	236.07	13.73	350.00	16.51	602.58
Tamil Nadu	425.43	1076.48	151.12	1653.03	15.00	1417.55	62.74	1495.29	295.54	225.03	997.82	16.82	1310.18
Uttar Pradesh	383.57	494.94	184.69	1063.20	15.00	759.83	226.61	1001.44	368.74	0.00	406.18	228.82	1003.74
Uttaranchal	35.00	65.00	15.02	115.02	10.00	87.50	41.13	138.63	76.10	53.45	32.00	2.14	110.24
West Bengal	40.30	182.27	82.55	305.12	15.00	303.75	67.24	385.99	37.97	9.97	11.49	73.14	122.60
Total	2277.70	3912.42	1488.01	7678.03	250.00	5826.57	1400.32	7476.89	2161.76	889.48	4176.32	884.96	7223.04
Arunachal Pradesh	4.00	10.12	2.10	16.22	4.00	10.63	19.41	34.04	4.22	2.00	37.50	4.15	45.87
Assam	5.35	30.27	0.08	35.70	10.00	89.50	7.59	107.09	10.97	0.00	17.52	19.53	48.02
Manipur	4.00	11.85	4.28	20.13	4.00	21.15	2.69	27.84	8.60	0.00	0.00	3.94	12.54
Meghalaya	4.00	11.84	9.28	25.12	4.00	14.90	14.49	33.39	2.60	10.23	35.00	1.89	39.49
Mizoram	9.35	18.32	4.05	31.72	4.00	13.38	7.75	25.13	9.28	2.00	0.00	1.88	11.16
Nagaland	4.00	16.62	2.60	23.22	4.00	10.50	0.68	15.18	8.50	22.96	0.00	4.75	13.25
Sikkim	4.50	15.74	0.32	20.56	3.00	6.25	7.11	16.36	4.84	3.65	0.00	1.35	6.19
Tripura	6.00	21.51	12.37	39.88	6.00	36.50	12.21	54.71	11.90	9.13	0.00	12.44	24.34
Total	41.20	136.27	35.09	212.56	39.00	202.81	71.93	313.74	60.91	49.97	90.02	49.93	200.86
UTs													
A&N Island	1.50	0.00	0.09	1.59	3.00	3.50	0.80	7.30	4.89	2.28	1.00	0.33	6.22
Chandigarh	1.50	5.00	3.57	10.07	3.00	6.38	10.20	19.58	7.38	3.97	4.05	0.53	11.96
D&N Haveli	1.50	1.50	1.16	4.16	2.00	3.50	2.37	7.87	1.05	0.10	0.00	0.00	1.05
Daman and Diu	3.00	1.00	0.97	4.97	2.00	3.50	0.21	5.71	6.05	1.60	0.00	0.19	6.24
Delhi	0.00	21.34	0.96	22.30	10.00	22.77	16.09	48.86	13.68	11.68	32.43	1.96	48.07
Lakshadweep	1.50	0.00	0.06	1.56	2.00	3.50	0.54	6.04	1.02	0.00	3.00	0.45	4.47
Pondicherry	1.50	0.00	0.54	2.04	1.50	6.38	5.22	13.10	5.02	6.34	3.00	0.01	8.03
Total	10.50	28.84	7.35	46.69	23.50	49.53	35.43	108.46	39.09	25.97	43.48	3.47	86.04
				525.06				662.63					1210.16
Grand Total	2329.40	4077.53	1530.44	8462.43	312.50	6078.91	1507.68	8561.71	2261.76	965.42	4309.82	938.36	8720.10

*Provisional

[English]

Survey by WHO and UN Centre for Disease Control and Prevention

3411. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organisation and United National Centre for Disease Control and Prevention have conducted any survey in the country recently;

(b) if so, whether they have released any report in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The World Health Organization and Centre for Disease Control (CDC), Atlanta, USA sponsored "India Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS), 2004-05", which has been conducted in all States in India.

(b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and Centres for Disease Control (CDC), released the findings in a Report entitled "Tobacco Control in India, 2004" which has been widely disseminated.

(c) The major findings of the survey areas under:

- Tobacco is used by the youth all over India with a wide range of variation among states.
- Two in every ten boys and one in every ten girls use some tobacco product.
- There is no statistical difference in rural-urban current tobacco use among students aged 13-15 years.
- Early initiating before the age of 10 years is increasing.
- States having higher levels of curricular teaching have a low prevalence of tobacco use by students.

(d) The Government of India has implemented "The Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of advertisement and Regulation of Trade & Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act and has initiated IEC campaigns to raise public awareness about the dangers of smoking and tobacco use as well as dangers of second hand smoke. Some State Governments have also developed tobacco control programme in schools based on the findings of their respective State survey reports.

Manufacture of Mobile Telephones

3412. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the units of Indian Telephone Industry (ITI) manufacturing mobile telephones;

(b) the present capacity of these units;

(c) whether any steps are being taken by the Government to produce mobile telephones at cheaper rates; 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) ITI does not manufacture Mobile telephones.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In order to reduce manufacturing cost of mobile phones, all the inputs required have been exempted from custom duty. Excise duty has also been exempted by Government.

Seamen's Provident Fund

3413. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of the Government to recoup the Seamen's Provident Fund lost in the scam;

(b) if so, the present status of the said proposal; and

(c) the time by which the Seamen's Provident Fund is likely to be recouped?

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

(b) and (c) The proposal is under consideration of the Government for recoupment of the lost funds at the earliest.

Placing of Orders by ITI Limited

3414. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that CAG in its report No. 5 of 2005 (Commercial) has pointed out that ITI Limited placed orders for purchase of material based on mere inquiries without any definite order from Army Headquarters resulting in locking up of funds to the extent of Rs. 4.74 crores and consequential loss of interest of Rs. 1.41 crores upto June 2004;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the action taken against the guilty officials for causing financial loss to the company; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The CAG report No. 5 of 2005 had been received by the Government. This is being examined.

Shortage of Postal/Non-Postal Stamps

3415. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is shortage of postal and non-postal stamps in the post offices located in various Gram Panchayats of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

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

(d) the time by which stamps will be available adequately in all the post offices located in the Islands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There is no shortage of Postal and Non-Postal stamps in the Post Offices including those located in various Gram Panchayats of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

(d) Adequate quantities of stamps will be available adequately in all the post offices located in the Islands?

Damage/Loss of Telephone Exchanges

3416. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the damage/loss suffered by various telephone exchanges in Gujarat/Maharashtra due to recent flood;

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

(c) the amount of loss to the exchequer;

(d) the number of days telecom facilities remained out of order in these State; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to bring normalcy in telecom sector as early as possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. The assessment of damage/loss suffered by Telephone Exchanges in Gujarat has made. But the assessment of damage/loss suffered by Telephone Exchanges in Maharashtra has not been done as the restoration work is still going on.

(b) Total 248 Telephone Exchanges and 79 Mobile BTSs were affected by flood in Gujarat. In Mumbai, 51 Exchanges and 176 GSM base station and 25 CDMA base station were affected. In rest of Maharashtra, 298 telephone exchanges and 170 Mobile BTSs of BSNL have been affected so far.

(c) The amount of loss occurred in Gujarat is estimated to be around Rs. 21.62 crores. The assessment of loss in Mumbai and rest of Maharashtra has not been done as the restoration work is still going on.

(d) Telecom facilities were affected in Gujarat from 26.6.2005 to 11.7.2005. The services in Mumbai were mainly affected from 26.7.2005 to 3.8.2005. In rest of Maharashtra, the telecom service were affected from 25.7.2005 to 11.8.2005. However, restoration of cable fault due to heavy rain in some parts of Mumbai and restoration of 8 telephone exchanges in rest of Maharashtra is in progress.

(e) Most of the restoration work is already over. However, a close watch is being kept on the progress of restoration work at Circle level, Corporate Office level and at the Ministry level.

Modernisation of Ports

3417. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to modernize six ports viz. Arnala, Jivana, Agardanda, Sakimara and Harne in the Konkan region;

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

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

(d) whether the Union Government has also planned development of ports in other States also;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the cost thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (f) The responsibility for the development of Ports other than major Ports lies with the State Government concerned. State Government concerned also has administrative control over such Ports under the provisions of Indian Ports Act, 1908. Therefore, the responsibility for the development of Arnala, Jivana, Agardanda, Sakimara and Harne, which are not major Ports, lies with the concerned State Government.

Clearance for Imported Sports Equipment

3418. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sports persons are required to wait for clearance from the Government for imported sports equipment;

(b) if so, the number of applications received by the Government for import of rifles and revolves from sports persons during the last one year;

(c) the time fixed by the Government for the clearance of applications that fulfil all the conditions;

(d) the number of applications pending at present for clearance; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to expedite the clearance of such applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER 'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) As per existing procedure, eminent sportspersons are allowed duty free import of sports equipment. Only in case of shooting, the renowned shooters are required to have recommendations of this Ministry to Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) for issue of import license for import of arms/ammunitions, as import of these items is under restricted category. Such applications are processed expeditiously as and when received.

(b) During the last one year i.e. from January 2004 to December, 2004, 11 proposals have been received for import of rifles and revolvers from sports persons through National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).

(c) No specific time limit is prescribed for clearance of applications. As stated in (a) above, such applications are processed expeditiously as and when received.

(d) No application is pending with the Ministry as on date.

(e) The Government has been taking various measures to streamline the import of arms & ammunitions.

Recently, restrictions on import of air weapons have been removed for shooters registered with Rifle clubs or District/ State/National Rifle Association. Their import has been placed in the OGL.

[Translation]

Target Fixed for Tenth Plan Period

3419. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to make changes in the targets and priority areas of the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether various Ministries/Departments are finding it difficult to achieve the target fixed for the Tenth Five Year Plan and the progress of work in this regard is very slow; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The target growth rate for the Tenth Plan has been revised from 8.1% per annum to 7% in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan as agreed to in the meeting of National Development Council held on 27th-28th June 2005. The Mid Term Appraisal has identified 59 priority areas of action in agriculture, irrigation, rural development, watershed development, horticulture, fertilizer pricing, food processing, energy, social sector, power, rural energy, coal, petroleum, transport, infrastructure, labour and employment, industry, governance, etc. The details are available in the Mid-Term Appraisal of Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007), which is available in the Parliament library.

(c) and (d) The revised targets and the priority areas in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan have been determined in consultation with different Ministries and the State Governments and these were agreed to in the meeting of the National Development Council.

[English]

Computerisation and Networking of Post Offices

3420. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of post offices/postal accounts offices/administrative offices in Haryana;

(b) the number of offices which have been computerised so far;

(c) the reasons for slow pace of computerisation of post offices in Haryana; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government for full computerisation and networking of all post offices in the country at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There are 2643 Post Offices, one Postal Accounts Office and 12 Administrative Offices in Haryana.

(b) All 16 Head Post Offices and 140 important Sub Post Offices have been provided with computers. Similarly, the Accounts Office, 5 Railway Mail Service Operative Offices, one Administrative Office and one Postal Stores Depot have been provided with computers till date.

(c) The pace of implementation of the scheme for computerizing Post Offices, Accounts Office and Administrative Offices is dependent on the resources allocated for them under the Annual Plan. The highest allocation has been given to this plan scheme in the Annual Plans 2004-05 and 2005-06, so that the plan targets are achieved throughout the country, including Haryana. All major Post Offices proposed to be covered under the 10th Plan in Haryana have already been supplied computers.

(d) In the 10th Plan, all 839 Head Post Offices and 6861 important Sub Post Offices [having more than two (2) public counters] have been approved for computerization. There is a plan to computerize the remaining 18,465 Departmental Sub Post Offices, subject to receipt of additional plan resources. There is, however, no proposal to computerize the Extra Departmental Post Offices.

Financial Sanction for Diagnostic Facilities

3421. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted proposal to strengthen the diagnostic facilities to the Union Government for sanction of grant amounting to Rs. 150 lakhs.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main reasons for delay in granting sanction for the same; and

(d) the time by when the Union Government is likely to accord its sanction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) A proposal was received from Government of Karnataka seeking financial assistance for strengthening of diagnostic facilities at Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore under the Pilot Project for providing financial assistance to the selected Government Medical Colleges for strengthening of diagnostic facilities. The proposal was processed and certain additional information was called for from Government of Karnataka. However, the required additional information was received from Government of Karnataka only in April, 2003 by which time the scheme was discontinued and as such no grant could be released.

Norms for Appointment as Member of TAC

3422. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA:

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

(a) the norms followed by appointment of members in the Telephone Advisory Committee;

(b) the total number of the Telephone Advisory Committees (TAC) all over the country, State-wise;

(c) the number of members nominated to the Telephone Advisory Committee on the recommendation of each Member of Parliament alongwith the details thereof;

(d) the number of letters from Members of Parliament, Lok Sabha related to the TAC forwarded by the PMO to the Ministry of Communications & Information Technology.

(e) whether any action has been taken thereon;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The Telephone Advisory Committees (TACs) are constituted Secondary Switching Area (SSA) wise and the norms followed for appointment of members in the Telephone Advisory Committee (TAC) are as follows:

- The members of TAC are taken from all segments of society such as Social Workers, Press, Trade, Commerce, Industry, Medical and other professionals etc.
- Each member of Parliament may recommend five names of eminent persons from his/her constituency to be considered for nomination in the TAC.
- The Hon'ble Members of Parliament shall be members of only one TAC falling within their constituency by virtue of their office. In case of nominated Rajya Sabha MPs, they may be nominated in the TAC falling within their adopted constituency [with regard to the constituency adopted for Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) programme].
- However, Hon'ble MPs who become Ministers shall not be nominated/cease to continue in the TAC.
- When appointments are made, all efforts are made to ensure that all segments of society are appropriately represented.

(b) and (c) The total number of TACs all over the country, State-wise and the number of members nominated to TAC on the recommendation of Hon'ble Member of Parliament is given in the Statement.

(d) to (g) Letters from two Hon'ble Members of Parliament (Lok Sabha) forwarded by PMO regarding nominations for Delhi TAC for four persons have been received and the case has been submitted to competent authority.

Statement

Number of TACs and Number of Members in the TAC, Recommended by the Hon'ble MPs, State-wise

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Number of TAC in this State	Number of Members Recommended by MPs of the State
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22	321
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	16
3.	Assam	7	109
4.	Bihar	19	343
5.	Chhattisgarh	6	64
6.	Delhi	10	75
7.	Goa	1	14
8.	Gujarat	18	326
9.	Haryana	9	59
10.	Himachal Pradesh	6	35
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	5	34
12.	Jharkhand	6	118
13.	Karnataka	19	164
14.	Kerala	11	126
15.	Madhya Pradesh	34	460
16.	Maharashtra	39	303
17.	Manipur	1	11
18.	Meghalaya	1	16
19.	Mizoram	1	10
20.	Nagaland	1	5
21.	Orissa	13	121
22.	Punjab	10	70
23.	Rajasthan	24	174
24.	Sikkim	1	5
25.	Tamil Nadu	21	390
26.	Tripura	1	00
27.	Union Territories	4	25
28.	Uttar Pradesh	49	426
29.	Uttaranchal	6	31
30.	West Bengal	17	220
	Total	363	4071

[Translation]

Ill-effects of Radiations from Mobile Phones

3423. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that radiation emitted by mobile phones have harmful effects on brains of children;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to save children from radiations emitted by mobile phones;

(c) whether the Government has issued instructions to mobile companies for taking preventive steps in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), World Health Organisation (WHO) is conducting research to identify links between use of mobile phone and its effects. However, according to the published literature of WHO and other agencies, there is no conclusive evidence of adverse health effect of use of mobile phones on human beings.

[English]

Economic Growth Rate

3424. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the year in which the country registered maximum growth rate alongwith the extent thereof;

(b) the State in the country with maximum growth rate;

(c) the economic growth rate of each State separately;

(d) whether economic growth rate of the country has slowed down;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) As per the information available from the National Accounts Statistics brought out by the Central Statistical Organisation the country registered maximum growth rate during the year 1988-89, when the rate of growth of the economy measured in terms of GDP at market prices was 9.9% in 1988-89.

(b) Based on the information available from Central Statistical Organisation, the State in the country with highest growth rate since the beginning of the Ninth Plan (1997-98 to 2003-04), was Jharkhand that achieved a growth rate of 7.5% in this period. However, if the Union Territories are included alongwith States, then the rate of growth is highest in Pondicherry i.e. 10% during this period.

(c) The growth rates for different States and Union Territories during the period (1997-98 to 2003-04) are given in Statement.

(d) There has been no slowdown in the economy in the recent years. However, the rate of growth fluctuates from one year to another mainly due to fluctuation in the growth rate in the agriculture sector.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Statement

Growth Rate of Gross State Domestic Product at Constant (1993-94) Prices

Sl. No.	State/UT	Growth rate 1997-98 to 2003-04
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5.5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.0
3.	Assam	3.0
4.	Bihar	3.5
5.	Jharkhand	7.5
6.	Goa	NA
7.	Gujarat	5.8
8.	Haryana	5.7
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6.4
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	NA
11.	Karnataka	7.0
12.	Kerala	5.0
13.	Madhya Pradesh	4.5
14.	Chattisgarh	5.0
15.	Maharashtra	4.9
16.	Manipur	7.3
17.	Meghalaya	NA
18.	Mizoram	NA
19.	Nagaland	NA
20.	Orissa	5.6
21.	Punjab	3.7
22.	Rajasthan	4.5
23.	Sikkim	NA
24.	Tamil Nadu	4.4

1	2	3
25.	Tripura	NA
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2.6
27.	Uttaranchal	NA
28.	West Bengal	7.1
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	NA
30.	Chandigarh	7.8
31.	Delhi	8.4
32.	Pondicherry	10.0
	All India GDP	5.7

NA: Not Available.

[Translation]

Development of Basic Infrastructure

3425. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has approved the policy relating to formulation of projects in various spheres to the private sector as part of development of basic infrastructure in the country;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether 40% of the costs of these projects is expected to be borne by the private sector and the rest by the Government;

(d) if not, the facts in this regard;

(e) the margin of profit of the private sector as determined on the basis of capital investments to be made by them; and

(f) the role assigned to domestic and foreign investors by the Government for the development of infrastructural facilities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (f) A Committee on Infrastructure has been set up under the chairmanship of Prime Minister to create an enabling environment for world class infrastructure in the country. The steps include encouraging investors—both domestic and foreign—through Public Private Partnership to invest in infrastructure projects. However, since many infrastructure projects may not be commercially viable, and, therefore, not attractive to investors, a scheme to provide Viability Gap Funding for such projects has been approved. The scheme envisages that the total Viability Gap Funding under this scheme shall not exceed twenty percent of Total Project Cost provided that the Government or statutory entity that owns the project may, if it so decides, provide additional grants out of its budget, but not exceeding further twenty percent of the Total Project Cost. The amount of Viability Gap Funding will be determined for each project by competitive bidding. The remaining capital cost would be borne by the investors.

Revamped Malaria-Control Scheme

3426. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of development blocks of Chhattisgarh covered under the revamped malaria-control scheme;

(b) the number of development blocks which could not be covered under the scheme and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the remaining blocks are likely to be covered under the aforesaid scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) A total of 86 Development Blocks in 13 districts in the State of Chhattisgarh are covered under World Bank assisted Enhanced Malaria Control Project (EMCP).

(b) and (c) 60 Development Blocks could not be covered under the scheme, as these Blocks are not fulfilling the criteria for inclusion under EMCP. However, anti-malaria activities are being carried out in these Blocks for prevention and control of Malaria.

[English]

Opening of CGHS Dispensary in Dwarka, Delhi

3427. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is no Ayurvedic, Allopathic, Homoeopathic and Unani CGHS dispensary in Dwarka sub-city of Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a contract unit of CGHS in Dwarka; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There is no sanction for opening of a new dispensary in Dwarka under CGHS Delhi. Further, due to constraints of resources and manpower, it will not be possible to open a new CGHS dispensary in Dwarka at present.

(c) and (d) In view of (a) & (b) above, the question does not arise.

Access Deficit Charge

3428. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

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

(a) whether the Government extends financial support by way of Access Deficit Charge to BSNL/MTNL; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Government is not extending any financial support by way of Access Deficit Charge (ADC). Payment of ADC to any operator is a part of cost based interconnection charges implemented by Telephone Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) w.e.f. 1.5.2003 and recovered by sharing of revenue among service providers derived from providing telecommunication services. In addition to BSNL and MTNL, other Private Access Service Providers are also eligible for ADC for providing access to fixed services at affordable tariffs, which is below justified cost based tariff.

Construction of Nursing Home in Safdarjung Hospital

3429. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is only one nursing home for the Government servants/pensioners/their families/politicians in Dr. R.M.L. hospital;

(b) if so, whether a demand had been made in the past for the construction of a second nursing home in Safdarjung Hospital; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to construct a nursing home with modern facilities in Safdarjung Hospital?

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

(b) and (c) No proposal for construction of a nursing home in Safdarjung Hospital is under consideration.

Protecting Indians in Malaysia

3430. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Malaysian employer forcibly cut the hair of a few Sikh employees as reported in the *Asian Age* dated July 11, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken up the matter with Malaysia;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken to protect the religious sentiments of Sikhs in Malaysia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Eighteen Indian workers from Punjab, recruited

by a company called JUJU Power Sdn Bhd, came to Malaysia in April 2004. They were sub-contracted to another company PSEB Electronics Sdn Bhd. The workers were reportedly subjected to humiliation and deprived of food and money legitimately due to them. The employer also allegedly forced three of the Sikh workers to cut their hair and forbade them from wearing their turban. Though they worked for four months, there were not paid their wages. The Indian workers escaped from further abuse of the employer and took shelter in a Gurudwara in August, 2004.

(c) to (e) On being informed, a Consular Officer from the Indian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur visited them on 5.8.2004 in the Gurudwara. The High Commissioner also met them during the second week of August 2004 and assured them of all possible assistance. The matter was taken up with the Malaysian Foreign Office on 28th August, 2004, expressing our grave concern over the incident and seeking their urgent intervention for the redressal of the grievances of the Indian nationals. Eleven of the workers have since returned to India during the amnesty period declared by the Malaysian Government. A case that was earlier filed in the Labour Court in Malaysia against the employer is still pending. The hearing has been postponed several times with the Malaysian employer pleading illness and even getting herself admitted to the hospital. The matter has been again taken up with the Malaysian Foreign Office reiterating the need to protect the religious sentiments of the sikhs. The High Commissioner has also personally met the Malaysian authorities concerned to underline the seriousness with which the Government of India views this incident and to request them to expedite the process of redress.

Combating Heart Diseases

3431. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

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

(a) whether India is more prone to heart-diseases in comparison to the people of other countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any study in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the effective measures taken by the Government to combat heart diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Some studies from India have shown a lower prevalence rate of coronary artery disease (CAD) than that from western countries at a given point of time. Some studies also report that Indian immigrants have a higher mortality due to CAD as compared to reference population of the host countries where they live. Studies conducted in India also reveal a higher prevalence of CAD in urban adults in comparison to adults in rural areas.

(d) Since CAD is related to lifestyle practices, the Government is running health awareness and education campaign. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has initiated steps to obtain in-principle approval of Planning Commission to start a National Programme on Cardio Vascular Diseases.

Induction of Clean Coal Technology

3432. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is the world's third largest producer of coal but its sustainable development and production are the primary concerns to meet the growing energy demand of the country in the future;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by the Government to induct clean coal technology;

(c) whether the Government proposed to allow private sector participation in order to bring in clean coal technology; and

(d) if so, the details of changes proposed by the Government in the regulatory and legislative frame-work for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the steps taken to induct clean coal technologies are as follows:

(i) Government has notified thermal power stations located in specified areas to use coal with ash

content not exceeding 34%. Govt. is encouraging setting up of coal washeries by private operators on behalf of coal consumers.

(ii) In order to harness Coal Bed Methane (CBM) potential in the country, Govt. formulated a CBM policy in 1997. A total of 16 CBM blocks have been awarded so far for exploration and production of CBM. In addition a demonstration project named Coal Bed Methane Recovery & Commercial Utilization has been taken up in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Global Environment Facility (GEF). The project has been sanctioned by Govt. of India in September, 1999 and is under implementation at Sudamdih and Moonidih mines at BCCL.

(iii) To establish underground coal gasification technology, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has already been approved by Board of Directors of CIL. Initial work of data exchange needed for identification of trial site has been taken up.

(iv) Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) proposes to take up a Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) project in a suitable lignite block in Rajasthan under Ministry of Coal's S & T programme and Department of Science & Technology funding at a total cost of Rs. 1125 lakhs.

(c) and (d) Private Sector is already participating in the development of clean coal technologies like CBM and coal washeries.

Separate fund to combat various diseases

3433. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:
SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY:
SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI:

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

(a) the annual death rate per one lakh population caused by T.B., AIDS, Heart Disease, Cancer, Diabetes and other diseases in the country separately, State-wise;

(b) the allotment of funds earmarked to combat these diseases and the result thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering any proposal to create a separate fund for the treatment of diseases like Cancer, AIDS and Kidney related ailments for people below poverty time and those who cannot afford to pay; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

[Translation]

Imbalance in Development of States

3434. SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is imbalance in the pace of development of various States in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the special steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remove this imbalance; and

(d) the current rate of growth, State-wise?

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

(b) The reasons for imbalance in the pace of development of various States include historical and geographical factors, differences in resource endowment and infrastructure development.

(c) In addition to various Special Area Programmes already in place for the realization of this objective, a new programme, namely, Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana has been initiated in the Tenth Five Year Plan aiming at focused development programmes for backward areas to reduce imbalances and speed up development. From the current year, the Backward Regions Grant Fund has been established for this purpose.

(d) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Growth Rate of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP)

At Constant (1993-94) Prices

Sl.No.	State/UT	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4.6%	2.6%	7.6%
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.7%	-1.6%	10.3%
3.	Assam	4.5%	3.3%	5.5%
4.	Bihar	-8.6%	17.9%	-6.7%
5.	Jharkhand	-0.4%	16.0%	9.7%
6.	Goa	4.4%	6.5%	NA
7.	Gujarat	7.7%	10.1%	15.4%
8.	Haryana	5.3%	5.0%	8.6%
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4.9%	4.5%	8.2%
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	5.2%	NA	NA
11.	Karnataka	2.5%	5.3%	6.2%
12.	Kerala	1.5%	6.6%	6.3%
13.	Madhya Pradesh	8.6%	-5.6%	18.6%
14.	Chhattisgarh	14.1%	1.6%	16.8%
15.	Maharashtra	5.0%	7.8%	7.3%
16.	Manipur	9.4%	9.8%	10.5%
17.	Meghalaya	4.5%	5.1%	NA
18.	Mizoram	NA	5.2%	NA
19.	Nagaland	6.7%	NA	NA
20.	Orissa	6.1%	-0.1%	14.4%
21.	Punjab	1.6%	1.4%	5.3%
22.	Rajasthan	8.6%	-6.5%	14.7%
23.	Sikkim	8.4%	NA	NA
24.	Tamil Nadu	-2.2%	3.0%	3.6%
25.	Tripura	2.8%	6.5%	NA

1	2	3	4	5
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3.0%	0.4%	5.8%
27.	Uttaranchal	5.4%	NA	NA
28.	West Bengal	7.0%	7.2%	7.5%
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1.1%	3.4%	NA
30.	Chandigarh	7.9%	8.7%	10.9%
31.	Delhi	3.3%	7.5%	9.3%
32.	Pondicherry	4.5%	3.5%	3.9%
	All-India GDP	5.8%	4.0%	8.5%

Sources: For Sl. No. 1-32—Directorate of Economics & Statistics of respective State Governments, and for All-India—Central Statistical Organisation.

NA: Not Available.

[English]

Review of Schemes of Sports Authority of India

3435. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recommendations made by the sub-committee constituted by the Government to review all schemes of the Sports Authority of India;

(b) whether these recommendations have been incorporated in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government has reviewed the performance of the Sports Authority of India after incorporation of these recommendations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Planning Commission had constituted a Working Group on Sports and Youth Affairs for the formulation of Tenth Five Year Plan, under which a Sub-Group had been constituted for Sports. The Sub-Group has reviewed all the schemes of the Sports Authority of India (SAI). Major recommendations related to conversion of the National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC) into non-residential centres, change of age group in certain groups like Swimming and gymnastics, enhancing norms for diet selection and monitoring of the training by a committee of experts etc.

(b) Most of the recommendations have been incorporated while amending the schemes of SAI.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The changes are expected to result in improved performance in the long term.

[Translation]

National Reconstruction Corps Scheme

3436. SHRI BAPUHARI CHAURE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Reconstruction Corps Scheme has been implemented for enabling the youths to take part in the process of national building;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the districts identified, particularly the list of backward districts, for the implementation of the said scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government had implemented the National Reconstruction Corps (NRC) Scheme through Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) on a pilot basis for a period of two years i.e. from 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2003.

(b) The NRC Scheme was designed to inculcate the spirit of patriotism and voluntarism in the society and to harness the full flow of vital youth energy in constructive channels. The NRC scheme had the twin objectives of man making and nation building. Under the scheme, volunteers were enrolled at a monthly honorarium of Rs. 1000 p.m. to implement the identified projects.

(c) The details of identified districts including backward districts for the implementation of the NRC Scheme are given in enclosed statement.

Statement

State & District-wise list of 76 NRC Districts of 2001-02 and 40 NRC Districts of 2002-03

Sl. No.	Name of State	Sl. No.	Name of the NRC Districts of the year (2001-02)	Sl. No.	Name of the NRC Districts of the year 2002-03
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.	East Godavari	1.	Anantpur
		2.	Hyderabad	2.	Mehboob Nagar
		3.	Karimnagar		
		4.	Vishakhapatnam		
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	Tezu (Lohit)	3	Dibrugarh
3.	Assam	6	Cachar	4	Sonitput (Texpur)
		7.	Guwahati (Kamrup)		
		8.	Nagaon		
4.	Bihar	9.	Jahanabad	5.	Bhagalpur
		10.	Kishanganj	6.	Katihar
		11.	Nalanda	7	Motihari
		12.	Nawada		
		13.	Patna		
		14.	Sitamarhi		
5.	Chhattisgarh	15.	Kanker	8.	Bilaspur
		16.	Sarguja	9.	Rajhangaon
6.	Delhi	17.	Alipur		
		18.	Mehrauli		

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Gujarat	19.	Gandhinagar	10.	Kutch
8.	Himachal Pradesh	20.	Sirmour (Nahan)	11.	Bilaspur
		21.	Una		
9.	Haryana	22.	Narnaul	12.	Gurgaon
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	23.	Leh		
		24.	Udhampur		
11.	Jharkhand	25.	Dumka	13.	Lohardaga
		26.	Gumla	14.	Palamu
		27.	Hazaribagh		
12.	Karnataka	28.	Bihar	15.	Bangalore (Urban)
		29.	Bijapur	16.	Udupi (Mangalore)
		30.	Shimoga		
13.	Kerala	31.	Kasargod	17.	Kozhikode
		32.	Wayanad		
14.	Madhya Pradesh	33.	Bhopal	18.	Balaghat
		34.	Chattarpur	19.	Damoh
		35.	Gwalior	20.	Dewas
		36.	Jabalpur	21.	Dhar
		37.	Jhabua	22.	Sehore
		38.	Seoni		
		39.	Shahdol		
		40.	Tikamgarh		
15.	Maharashtra	41.	Beed	23.	Amravati
		42.	Gadchiroli		
		43.	Jalna		
		44.	Mumbai (Kalyan)		
		45.	Sindhudurg		
16.	Manipur	46.	Bishanpur	24.	Tamenglong
17.	Meghalaya	47.	West Garo Hills		

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Mizoram	48.	Lunglie		
19.	Nagaland	49.	Kohima	25.	Mon
20.	Orissa	50.	Bolangir	26.	Keonjhar
		51.	Kalahandi	27.	Sambalpur
		52.	Khurda (Bhubaneshwar)	28.	Sundergarh
		53.	Koraput		
		54.	Mayurbhanj		
		55.	Nuapada		
		56.	Phulbani		
21.	Punjab	57.	Gurdaspur		
22.	Rajasthan	58.	BBharatpur	29.	Baran
		59.	Jaipur	30.	Kota
		60.	Jhalawar		
		61.	Sikar		
23.	Sikkim	62.	Gangtok	31.	Sikkim (West)
24.	Tamil Nadu	63.	Kancheepuram (Perambulur)	32.	Coimbatore
		64.	Chennai (Rural)	33.	Nilgiri
		65.	Kanyakumari		
		66.	Ramanathapuram		
		67.	Trichurapalli		
25.	Tripura	68.	N. Tripura (Dharamnagar)	34.	Udaipur (S. Tripura)
26.	Uttar Pradesh	69.	Banda	35.	Bareily
		70.	Kanpur	36.	Hamirpur
		71.	Lalitpur	37.	Jalaun
		72.	Lucknow	38.	Jhansi
		73.	Mathura		
		74.	Meerut		
		75.	Pilibhit		
27.	Uttaranchal	76.	Tehri Garwal	39.	Uttarkashi
				40.	Rudraprayag

Alleged Embezzlement/Scam in Post Offices

3437. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Posts has taken up various jobs including acceptance of payment of telephone bills apart from distribution of letters recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is also aware of an alleged scam with regard to the embezzlement of amounts deposited for telephone bills and the amount sent through money orders in the post offices in the various States particularly in Jharkhand;

(d) if so, the number of such cases reported to the Union Government; and

(e) the effective steps taken by the Union Government to check such alleged embezzlement and scam in the post offices and to improve the functioning of the postal network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Posts has taken up acceptance of payment of telephone bills, as also acceptance of other bills like electricity bills in some places.

(c) and (d) No such scam has come to the notice of the Department. However, sometimes, isolated cases are reported. During 2004-05, 241 cases of misappropriation in money orders have been detected in various parts of the country. However, no such case has been reported in Jharkhand Circle during the period.

(e) Instructions for following the prescribed procedure/ rules by the staff have been issued. Besides, supervisory staff and various checking squads formed at different levels have also been instructed to keep watch.

[English]

Review of Utilization of MPLADS Funds

3438. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has undertaken, State-wise, review on utilization of fund under MPLAD Scheme;

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

(c) the main factors responsible for the delay in the utilization of fund;

(d) whether the guidelines have been issued to the district administration in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Minister of State has been reviewing the MPLADS implementation in the States. Year-wise details of such reviews are as follows:

2003-04	—	The then Minister of State for Statistics and Programme Implementation reviewed the progress of the MPLAD Scheme in Assam, Meghalaya and West Bengal.
2004-05	—	Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Statistics and Programme Implementation reviewed the implementation of MPLADS in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry.
2005-06	—	Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Statistics and Programme Implementation reviewed the implementation of MPLADS in Meghalaya, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.

(ii) Review meeting on MPLADS was taken by Secretary of the Ministry with all State Governments and Union Territories Administrations on 11.7.2005.

(iii) State-wise review meetings were also taken by Secretary of the Ministry in March, 2005.

(iv) Secretary and Additional Secretary of the Ministry reviewed the MPLADS implementation in the States of Assam, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kahsmir, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Orissa, Punjab, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(c) The reasons for delay in utilization of MPLADS funds are as follows:

(i) Delay in giving recommendations by some of the Members of Parliament;

(ii) Delay in processing of recommendations received from the Members of Parliament by District Administration;

(iii) Delay in preparation of technical scrutiny and estimates by the concerned implementing agencies;

(iv) Delay in issue of financial and administrative sanction by the District Administration;

(v) Delay in transfer of funds from the nodal district to the implementing district.

(vi) Delay in the execution of sanctioned MPLADS works by the implementing agencies.

(vii) Delay in submitting Monthly Progress Reports by the District Administration to the Govt. of India and State Government.

(d) and (e) During various review meetings with the State and District officials, they have been advised to follow the provisions of the Guidelines including those relating to monitoring of works and implement works recommended by Members of Parliament expeditiously. A software for monitoring MPLADs works has also been launched by Government of India for effective monitoring of the scheme at different levels.

Talks on Tulbul Navigation Project

3439. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks have been held recently with Pakistan regarding the Tulbul navigation project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) As part of the Composite Dialogue, talks were held between India and Pakistan in New Delhi on 28-29 June 2005 on the Tulbul Navigation Project. The two sides exchanged views on the project and reaffirmed their commitment to the Indus Waters Treaty of 1860. It was agreed to continue the discussion at the next round of the Dialogue Process with a view to resolving the issue in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty.

[Translation]

Lower Income People

3440. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of people whose income is less than one dollar;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the corrective measures taken by the Government to increase their income?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) According to the World Development Indicators 2005, the proportion of population living below US$1 a day is 34.7 per cent in India.

(b) According to the official estimates of the Government of India, the proportion of people living below the poverty line was 26.1 per cent in 1999-2000. This proportion has been estimated by the Planning Commission on the basis of large sample surveys on consumption expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation once in approximately five years.

(c) A number of measures have been suggested to raise the income levels of the people. Some of these include raising public investment in different sectors particularly in agriculture, infrastructure, *viz.* power, roads, greater focus on health and education, improving governance, etc.

[English]

Conversion of Coal into Oil

3441. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR:
SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that coal can be converted into oil commercially using Fischer Tropsch process used by SASOI of South Arica as reported in the 'Economic Times' dated July 25, 2005;

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

(c) the likely price of oil so produced;

(d) whether the sufficient quantity and quality of coal is available in the country for this purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the said conversion process also yields by products; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) As appeared in the Economic Times dated 25th July 2005, SASOL is known to be producing synthetic fuel oil and other chemicals from low-grade coal by gasification and through Fischer Tropsch synthesis process.

(c) As regards price of oil produced from the above process, information is not available with Coal India Limited/Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL).

(d) and (e) As reported by Coal India Ltd., type of coal for this purpose is available in India but suitable beneficiation of high ash raw coal may be required for obtaining requisite quality of feed coal for this purpose.

(f) and (g) SASOL is known to be producing various by products such as Ammonia, Ammonium Nitrate, Ammonium sulphate, Cresols, Phenol, Methanol, Ketones, Paraffins etc.

Central Legislation on Admission to Medical Colleges

3442. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received a proposal from the Government of Maharashtra for central legislation on admission to Medical Colleges in different States in the light of the Supreme Court's judgement in TMA Pai case;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action/decision taken on the said proposal;

(d) the reasons for the delay if any; and

(e) the time by when the Legislation is likely to be brought in by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) A proposal has been received from the government of Maharashtra for enacting a central legislation with regard to the various aspects concerning higher professional education in health sciences. The said proposal is in the nature of a suggestion and no details have been given.

Pursuant to the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 31.10.2002 in the T.M.A. Pai Foundation case, the Central Government had issued broad policy guidelines dated 14.5.2003 to the State Governments and the Universities in the matter of admission and charging of fee by the private unaided medical land dental institutions. The Central Government has also decided to frame an appropriate legislation in this regard after eliciting the views of the concerned Departments and the stakeholders including the State Governments.

Difference between Post Card and Meghdoot Card

3443. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

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

(a) the difference between Post Card and Meghdoot Card;

(b) the purpose of printing these two types of cards;

(c) the number of Post Cards and Meghdoot Cards printed and sold during the last three years, Year-wise;

(d) whether Meghdoot Cards are available to public in every Post Office in Rural and Urban areas;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to provide these cards in adequate number to the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) A Post Card is printed with right half of one side reserved for the address of the recipient and for the postage value (currently 50 Paise) which may be embossed, affixed with a postage stamp, or impressed with a franking machine. The left half and back portion may be used for sending a written communication.

A Meghdoot Card is a Post Card where only one side of the Card may be used for sending a written communication. This is because in addition to the half of one side reserved for the address of the recipient and the embossed postage (currently 25 paise) the left half of the address side is used as a media vehicle for carrying advertisements, for marketing of products and services or propagation of messages by the advertisers.

(b) The Post Cards are being printed to provide a cheap mode of written communication for the public and the present sale price is 50 paise.

The Meghdoot Card provides an alternative for the public, to send a shorter message at lower cost of 25 paise. For the Department, the product generates a revenue of Rs. 2 per Meghdoot Post Card, paid for by the advertiser, with a minimum order quantity being one lakh cards.

(c) Number of Post Cards and Meghdoot Cards printed during the last 3 years, year-wise is as follows:

Year	Post Cards (in Lakhs)	Meghdoot Cards (in Lakhs)
2002-03	2898.89	15.00
2003-04	2054.51	70.35
2004-05	2994.07	85.13

The sale figures are not readily available. These will be collected and submitted within next three months.

(d) No, Sir. Meghdoot cards are available to public in post offices in selected rural and urban areas.

(e) the distribution of Meghdoot card to post offices for sale is made as per the specific orders/requirements of the advertiser/sponsor who normally specify target areas on the basis of States and/or Districts.

(f) The Meghdoot Card is designed as an advertisement medium bringing in revenue for India Post, while also providing an economic mode of written communication for the public. The Meghdoot Cards are printed as per specific orders of advertisers for distribution/ sale in specific areas only. On the other hand Post Cards are printed and supplied as per annual forecasts from the field units, based on their consumption patterns and are printed and supplied in adequate quantities to Post Offices throughout the country in both rural and urban areas.

Involving Health Professional in Combating Harmful Effects of use of Tobacco

3444. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to involve health professionals in addressing the problem of harmful effects of the use of tobacco in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has prepared any action plan in this regard;

(c) if so, whether the Government would taken the assistance of World Health Organisation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The global theme for the world No Tobacco Day this year was "Role of Health Professionals and Tobacco Control". The focus of this year's theme is to sensitize health professionals such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, midwives, physiologists, anganwadi workers, health workers and

others who play a key role in addressing the problem of harmful effects of the use of tobacco.

The Government in collaboration with WHO, organized training seminars and workshops for the health professionals all over the country. A national workshop for key members of various health professionals' associations was organized in Delhi on 31.5.2005 to sensitize the health professionals from different medical fields and the role they can play in control of tobacco menace.

Coal Production of MCL

3445. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to increase the production of cola in Mahanadi Coalfield Limited (MCL) during 2005-2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts proposed to be made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Coalfield-wise production target for MCL for 2005-06 has been set at 72 million tonnes as against the production of 66.08 million tonnes during 2004-05. Coalfield-wise action plan for the production growth is as under:

(Figures in million tonnes)

Coalfield	2005-06
Ib Valley	23.10
Talcher	48.90
Total	72.00

(c) The following steps have been taken to increase production in MCL:

1. Procurement of new HEMM like dumpers and shovels.
2. Reduction in mis-match of equipments and minimization of inter-transfer of equipment to optimise the availability of equipment.
3. Reduction in breakdown hours of the equipment.
4. Increase in mines' production capacity and opening of new projects.

Drug Testing Laboratories

3446. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of ISM & H pharmacies in the country do not adopt good manufacturing practices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is lack of adequate number of drug testing laboratories to check and maintain quality control of drugs used in ISM&H;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government has initiated a centrally sponsored programme for strengthening of state drug testing laboratories;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Union Government to improve the quality control of drugs used in ISM & H?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, it has been emphasized on the States to ensure compliance of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) by all the ISM&H pharmacies. Some States have also cancelled licences of ISM & H pharmacies for non compliance with GMP. There is a Centrally sponsored scheme under which financial assistance up to Rs. 5 lakhs is provided to ISM units for becoming GMP Compliant.

(c) and (d) There are two Central Government Laboratories i.e. Pharmacopoeial Laboratory for Indian Medicine, Ghaziabad, and Homoeopathy Pharmacopoeial Laboratory, Ghaziabad. In addition 22 State Drug Testing laboratories of ASU&H Drugs have been established for

testing of Ayurveda, Siddha & Unani & Homoeopathy (ASU&H) drugs. 16 Private Drug Testing Laboratories have also been recognised for testing Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani Drugs.

(e) and (f) Central Government have implemented Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Quality Control of ASU&H drugs under which 21 Drug Testing Laboratories and 41 Pharmacies of ASU&H have been strengthened by giving financial assistance for renovation of building, modernization of machinery and equipment and contractual manpower.

(g) Government have taken following steps to improve the Quality Control of ASU&H drugs in the country:

(i) Four pharmacopoeia Committee of Ayurveda, Siddha & Unani and Homoeopathy have been set up for preparation of respective formularies and Pharmacopoeias. These Committees have brought out official formularies of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani medicines in addition to publication of Ayurvedic & Unani Pharmacopoies.

(ii) Central Sponsored Scheme of Quality Control of ASU&H drugs have been implemented.

(iii) Under section 33 (C) and section 33(D) Central Government has constituted Ayurvedic, Siddha & Unani Drugs Consultative Committee for the purpose of securing uniformity in respect of stand and Quality Control of Ayurvedic, Siddha and Unani Drugs throughout India.

(iv) Ayureda, Siddha & Unani (ASU) medicines of classical nature as well as patent and proprietary are licensed by the State Drug Licensing Authorities. Recently Department of AYUSH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have constituted a Committee of experts to formulate guidelines for State Drug Licensing Authorities for licensing of Patent and Proprietary ASU medicines.

Modern Treatment Research Facilities and Medical Education in Karnataka

3447. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka had submitted a proposal on May 17, 2000 to the Union Government for providing Modern Treatment Research Facilities and improved standard of Medical Education in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said proposal also sought assistance of Rs. 60 crores (124.42 Japanese Yen) from Japanese International Commerce & Industry-operative Agency;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government has taken up this issue with the Japanese Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) Yes, Sir. The proposal seeking financial assistance of Rs. 60.00 crores from Japan International Cooperation Agency for improvement of 'Mother and Child Health Programme' for Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore and attached teaching hospitals was posed to the Government of Japan in May, 2001 for necessary funding. However, Government of Japan has not adopted the project for funding support.

Sales and Profits of Kendriya Bhandars

3448. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total sales and profits earned by the Kendriya Bhandar during the last three years;

(b) whether the profit of Kendriya Bhandar has declined during the current year as compared to the previous years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the profits and the efficiency of the Kendriya Bhandars in the country;

(e) whether introduction of VAT has adversely affected the sales/profits of Kendriya Bhandars; 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) Total sales and profits earned by Kendriya Bhandar during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Sales	Profit (before Tax)
2001-02	261.66	6.21
2002-03	264.27	5.96
2003-04	292.66	5.83

(b) and (c) The profit during the current year will be known only after the accounts are finalized and audited.

(d) As per the provisions of the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002, the affairs of Kendriya Bhandar are managed by its Board of Directors. KB has informed that efforts are being made for introduction of more product lines and diversification of business for improving sales.

(e) and (f) VAT has been introduced with effect from 1.4.2005. No perceptible impact has so far been felt in the sales since its introduction.

Use of Jute for Construction of Roads

3449. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI A.K. MOORTHY:

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

(a) whether the Government plans to use jute for construction of roads as reported in 'The Hindustan Times' dated July 22, 2005;

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

(c) the findings of the tests, if any, conducted in this regard; and

(d) the extent to which use of jute for construction of roads will be better than the Concrete/Cement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) According to the information received Ministry of Rural Development has approved a pilot project for use of jute geo-textile in construction of two roads each in the states of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal in association with the jute manufacturers development council (JMDC), under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. The details of Road works are given below:

Name of the State	Road length (in kms.)	Cost of project (Rs. in lakh)
Assam	8.80	357.91
Chhatisgarh	10.30	318.95
Madhya Pradesh	8.24	228.39
Orissa	9.50	404.58
West Bengal	11.00	490.22
Total	47.84	1790.05

(c) As this is a pilot project, the results of the performance of these roads would be available after the roads are constructed and put to use.

(d) It is too early to indicate the relative performance as the roads using jute geo-textiles are yet to be constructed and evaluated for their performance.

[Translation]

Non-Deposition of GPF and Pension Contribution

3450. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints regarding non-deposition of the GPF and Pension amount collected from the workers employed in various mines of Coal India Limited in the office of CMPF have been received by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for not depositing the GPF and Pension amount of the workers in the office of CMPF and the details of the amount not deposited; and

(d) the action taken by the Government on the said complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (d) Some loss making subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd. had some arrears towards Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation on account of provident fund and pension. However retiring employees were regularly paid their dues. As reported by Coal India Ltd., no current dues except some old disputed amount and interest liability are pending.

[English]

Differences in Health Indices

3451. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is massive inter-state differences in health indices;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the comparative details in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to bring all States at par with each other?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. State-wise analysis shows that there are wide differences between States in respect of health indices on account of factors which include inter-alia health infrastructure, access to health facilities, socio economic status, level of literacy etc. Availability of health manpower also significantly varies across the States. A statement indicating comparative status of health indicators is enclosed.

(d) The Government has launched a National Rural Health Mission to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care especially to the poor and vulnerable sections of the population. It has as its key components provision of a female health activist in each village; a village health plan prepared through a local team headed by the Health and Sanitation Committee of the Panchayat; strengthening of the rural hospital for effective curative care and made measurable and accountable to the community through Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS); and integration of vertical Health and Family Welfare Programmes and Funds for optimal utilization of funds and infrastructure and strengthening delivery of primary health care.

Statement

States	CBR	TFR	CDR	IMR	MMR
1	2	3	4	5	6
India	25	0	8.1	63	407
Kerala	16.9	1.8	6.4	10	198
Maharashtra	20.3	2.3	7.3	45	135
Tamil Nadu	18.5	2.0	7.7	44	79
Orissa	23.2	2.6	9.8	87	367
Bihar	30.9	4.3	7.9	61	452
Rajasthan	30.6	3.9	7.7	78	670
Uttar Pradesh	31.6	4.4	9.7	80	707
Madhya Pradesh	30.4	3.8	9.8	85	498

1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	20.7	2.2	8.1	62	159
Assam	26.6	3.0	9.2	70	409
Gujarat	24.7	2.8	7.7	60	28
Haryana	26.6	3.1	7.1	62	103
Himachal Pradesh	20.7	2.1	7.5	61	NA
Karnataka	22.1	2.4	7.2	55	195
Punjab	20.8	2.3	7.1	51	199
West Bengal	20.5	2.3	6.7	49	266

Source: SRS 2002 except MMR which is SRS 1998.

Spread of Meningitis

3452. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:
SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:
DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME:
SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the report of spread of Meningitis to Delhi and the neighbouring States;

(b) If so, the details thereof including the mode of its transmission and its harmful effects on human beings;

(c) the total number of cases reported so far;

(d) whether the Government has issued any directions in this regard;

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent its spread;

(f) whether vaccination for Meningitis is available in CGHS centres; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Cases of Meningitis were reported from Delhi, Haryana, Chandigarh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal during the period from 25th April, 2005 to 15th July, 2005. A total of 444 clinically suspect cases in Delhi and 66 cases outside Delhi (Haryana-44, Uttar Pradesh-4, Chandigarh-6, Uttranchal-3 and Punjab-9) were reported.

The mode of transmission of the disease is by Air. It is transmitted by direct contact with droplets and discharges from nose and throat of patients and carriers.

(d) and (e) The Central Government has issued guidelines for prevention, control and management of Meningococcomia cases including daily reporting of cases to Directorate General of Health Services. A control room has been set up at National Institute of Communicable Diseases to receive samples from hospitals to monitor and review the situation.

Regular monitoring of disease is still continuing by the concerned State Governments. It was made mandatory to notify the disease. Efforts were made for early diagnosis and prompt treatment; contact tracking of the patients and providing chemoprophylaxis. IEC activities were carried out with the participation of the communities.

(f) and (g) Vaccination for meningitis is not available in CGHS dispensaries as it is not included in the routine National Immunization Programme for children.

Alleged Irregularities in IIPA

3453. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several complaints have been received by the Government regarding alleged irregularities in the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) at its Headquarters;

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

(c) the grant provided to IIPA during the last three years, Branch-wise; and

(d) the details of major research works/seminars/ programmes conducted by IIPA 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) Two complaints have been received by the Government regarding improper functioning of the IIPA.

(b) The complaints relate to irregular payment of retirement benefits to an Ex-Registrar and alleged non compliance of rules/bye laws by the IIPA. The latter has been examined by the IIPA and found to be devoid of merits.

(c) The Department of Personnel & Training provided the following grant to the IIPA, New Delhi during the last three years. No grant was provided by Department of Personnel & Training to any of the branches of IIPA.

Year	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Amount of grant in Lakhs	283.50	252.00	220.50

(d) The details of the major works/seminars/ programmes conducted by the IIPA during the last 3 years are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Details of Major Research work/Seminars/Programme conducted by IIPA during the last three years

IIPA has undertaken 45 major Research Projects/ Consultancy Assignments and conducted 42 Seminars/ Conferences/Workshops/Lectures during the last three years as per details given below:

Research Projects/Consultancy Assignments

2004-05

1. Evaluation of AUWSP in 7 towns of Andhra Pradesh by Prof. P.S.N. Rao.
2. Financing of Urban Local Governments in Uttar Pradesh—A Case Study of Agra by Dr. V.N. Alok.
3. Viability of State Road Transport Undertakings (SRTUs) and other State Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) by Prof. P.K. Chaubey and Prof. Pranab Banerji.
4. A Study of Functioning of SFC's in 5 States of India by Prof. P.S.N. Rao.
5. Impact Assessment and Terminal Evaluation of UNDP/GEF Hilly Hydro Project by Dr. Anil C. Ittyerah.
6. Impact Assessment Studies of the Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development in Mon District of Nagaland by Dr. S.K. Bhattacharya and Pranab Banerji.
7. Impact of the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act on the Working of Urban Local Bodies by Prof. P.S.N. Rao.
8. Survey of Protected Areas in India by Shri Shekhar Singh.
9. Software Development and Facilities Management in D'Node Navi Mumbai by Prof. J.C. Kapur.
10. ICT-enablement of CWC Operations and Processes by Prof. J.C. Kapur.
11. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan-IV by Prof. J.C. Kapur.
12. Chronic Poverty Research Centre, India. Phase II, Year 2 by Prof. Aasha Kapur Mehta (Team Leader for CPRC India).

2003-04

1. Child Labour in Unorganized Sector of Delhi: Problems & Prospects by Prof. S.N. Mishra.
2. National Social Audit of the Save Grain Campaign—Post Harvest Initiatives—A Pilot Study of Northern Region by Dr. Anil C. Ittyerah.

3. Sustainable Natural Resource Management: A Case Study of TVAMS Kesla, M.P. by Dr. Anil C. Ittyerah.

4. Impact Assessment of Rural Development Programmes: A Study of Mandi District (H.P.) by Dr. Dolly Arora.

5. Evaluation Study of the Training Support provided by DoPT to State Training Institutions by Prof. S.S. Singh, Prof. M.H. Malick, Prof. J. Guha Roy.

6. Concurrent Evaluation of SGRY for 2002-03 for the State of Rajasthan by Dr. Anil C. Ittyerah.

7. Urban Local Bodies in India—Quest for Making them Self-reliant by Prof. P.K. Chaubey.

8. The budget: A Gender & Poverty Sensitive Perspective by Prof. Aasha Kapur Mehta.

9. Restructuring Punjab Government Secretariat by Prof. Rajesh Singh, Prof. M.H. Malick, Prof. J. Guha Roy.

10. Consultancy Assignment on Women's Economic Empowerment in the Market Place: India Gum Karaya Project by Prof. Assha Kapur Mehta.

11. Training Needs Assessment and Four Training Programmes for officers of North East States in 2003-04 by Prof. Bharati Sharma.

12. Detailed Courseware for the proposed MPP course and Distance Learning Mode by Dr. P.L. Sajeev Reddy and Prof. R.K. Tiwari.

13. Facilities Management for Dronagiri Exports Node of the Central Warehousing Corporation at Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Navi Mumbai for the year 2003-04 by Prof. J.C. Kapur.

14. "Facilities Management" project of the Central Warehousing Corporation for the year 2003-04 for management of computerized system at Inland Container Depot (ICD), Patparganj, Delhi by Prof. J.C. Kapur.

15. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan-III by Prof. J.C. Kapur.

2002-03

1. Impact Assessment Studies of all the Programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development in Mon District of Nagaland by Dr. S.K. Bhattacharya.

2. Overall Strategy for the Development of Scheduled Castes by Dr. R.K. Barik.

3. Human Development Index: Exercises in Methodology and Reconstruction by Prof. P.K. Chaubey

4. Proper Maintenance and Up-Keep of Public Gardens/Parks in Delhi for improving quality of life by Shri M.C. Gupta and Prof. G.K. Misra.

5. Rural Development Programme in Kangra District (An Impact Assessment Study by Prof. Anil C. Ittyerah.

6. Management of Slums in Delhi by Dr. M.K. Narain.

7. Aspects of Administrative Theory by Prof. A.K. Sharma.

8. Documentation on Gujarat Earthquake 2001 (Phase-II) by Shri Anil Sinha and Prof. V.K. Sharma.

9. A Case Study on the Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions in Disaster Management and Preparedness.

10. Restructuring of Manpower Position—NSCFDC by Dr. R.K. Barik and Ms. P. Bolina.

11. Development and implementation of Computer software for inter and intra-regional transfers of teachers of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan for the session 2002-03 on the basis of revised transfer guidelines by Prof. J.C. Kapur.

12. Extended 'Facilities Management' project for the year 2002-03 for management of computerized system at Inland Container Depot, Patparganj of the Central Warehousing Corporation by Prof. J.C. Kapur.

13. Development and implementation of Application Software for Facilities Management for Dronagiri Exports Node of the Central Warehousing Corporation at Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Navi Mumbai by Prof. J.C. Kapur.

14. Detailed Project Report (DPR), for Business Process Reengineering and IT-enablement of

Employees State Insurance Corporation for management of its countrywide operations, networking, office automation, hospital and dispensaries by Prof. J.C. Kapur.

15. Development and implementation of computerized Payroll System for MCD, Delhi by Prof. J.C. Kapur.

16. A Study of Trained Nurses Association of India (TNAI) by Prof. M.H. Malick.

17. Programme for the Enhancement of Emergency Response by Shri Anil Sinha and Prof. V.K. Sharma.

18. Chronic Poverty Research Centre, India, Phase-II, year 1 by Prof. Aasha Kapur Mehta.

Seminars/Conferences/Presentation/Lectures

2004-05

1. Seminar on Role and Relevance of Rajya Sabha in Indian Polity.

2. Kunal Garg Memorial Endowment Lecture on "Leadership in the Changing World".

3. Lecture by Mr. Michael F. Carter, Country Manager of World Bank on financial management; rural development with particular emphasis on rural drinking water supply, rural electrification, administrative law; poverty alleviation programme, etc.

4. Workshop on Common Minimum Programme.

5. Workshop on Human Development and Access to Information.

6. Workshop on Corporate Governance & Corporate Social Responsibility in Public Enterprises.

7. IIPA 48th Members' Annual Conference.

8. Lecture by Shri S. Ragunathan, Chief Secretary, Government of NCT of Delhi on "Promoting Citizen-friendly Governance—Challenges and Opportunities."

9. Seminar on Role of Colleges in Consumer Protection and Welfare.

10. Seminar on Conservation of Biodiversity in Andaman and Nicobar Islands (A&N).

11. National Convention on Public Governance Dividends—the Road Ahead.

12. Workshop on State—Civil Society Interface for Improved Policy Performance.

13. Seminar on Rural Development: Rajiv Gandhi's Vision.

2003-04

1. Seminar on "Women's Property Rights: A Gender Perspective" on June 3, 2003.

2. Workshop on "Institutional Publications" from 9-11 June 2003.

3. Conference on "Role of Elected Representatives in Municipal Corporation Governance" from July 22-24, 2003.

4. Workshop on "Capacity Building towards Disaster Management" from August 4-6, 2003.

5. Panel Discussion on "Will Sychronised Polls Improve the Quality of Governance in India?" on August 28, 2003.

6. IIPA 47th Members' Annual Conference on October 17, 2003.

7. Seminar on "Chronic Poverty and Development Policy" on 4-5 November, 2003.

8. IIPA Golden Jubilee National Conference on "Public Administration in the 21st Century" on December 12-13, 2003.

9. Seminar on "Role and Relevance of Rajya Sabha in Indian Polity" organised by Rajya Sabha Secretariat in collaboration with IIPA on December 14, 2003.

10. National Seminar on "Municipal Finance" on December 22-23, 2003.

11. Two days Brain Storming Session to Formulate Training Plan for Scientists and Technologists on December 22-23, 2003 at Corbett Ramganga Resort, Uttaranchal.

12. Seminar on "Making India a Knowledge Superpower: Role of Change Agents of Higher Technical Education" on February 13-14, 2004.

13. Workshop on "Disability Management in India: Challenges and Perspectives" jointly with National Institute of the Mentally Handicapped, on March 4-5, 2004.

14. National Seminar on "Sexual Harassment at Work Place" on March 10, 2004 at National Museum, 11 Janpath, New Delhi, in collaboration with national Commission for Women.

15. IIPA Golden Jubilee National Seminar on "Contemporary Issues in Public Administration: Sociological Dimension" on March 10, 2004.

2002-03

1. Presentation on Citizen-friendly Civic Governance: An Electronic Model on May 23, 2002.

2. Conference on Towards a Social Harmony: The Gandhian Way jointly with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti on May 4, 2002.

3. All India Conference of Training Instructions in Disaster management on April 29-30, 2002.

4. National Seminar on Food management jointly with Poorvanchal Gramin Vikas Sansthan on June 28, 2002.

5. Brainstorming Session on Management of Drought on September 13, 2002.

6. Workshop on inter-organisational Coordination in Prevention of Natural Diasters on September 9-11, 2002.

7. Workshop on Issues in Good Governance on October 28, 2002.

8. Programme on Nehru Jayanti on November 14, 2002.

9. Validation Seminar on Panchayati Raj & Local Governance on November 18, 2002.

10. Seminar on Strategies for Operationalisation of Fundamental Rights and Duties of the Citizen jointly with Citizenship Development Society on December 27, 2002.

11. Validation seminar on "Maintenance and Up-keep of Public Gardens in Urban Delhi" on December 20, 2002.

12 & 13. Two Conferences on Role of Elected Representatives in Municipal Governance from January 21-23, 2003 and February 19-21, 2003 respectively.

14. Seminar on Change of Mindset for Productive Work Culture jointly with ICSSR on February 20-21, 2003.

Besides research projects, seminars/conferences/ workshops/lectures on the following other programmes were also conducted:

2004-05

1. Founder's Day and APPPA Convocation

2. Inauguration of Thirtieth APPPA

3. World Consumer Rights Day Celebrated

4. 8 Programmes for Scientist and Technologists, sponsored by Department of Science and Technology.

5. 35 Short Term Training Programmes regarding which break-up is as follows:

Sl. No.	Programme	No. of Programmes	No. of Participants
1.	Management Development Programmes		
	(a) Sponsored by the Department of Personnel & Training	5	77
	(b) Programmes Sponsored by other Organisations	20	615
	(c) Fee-based Programmes offered by IIPA	6	130
2.	Programmes of Centre for Urban Studies	4	75
	Total	35	897

2003-04

1. Founder's Day and APPPA Convocation.
2. Inauguration of Twenty-ninth APPPA.
3. Programme for Scientists and Technologies.
4. 68 Short Term Training Programmes regarding which break-up is as follows:

Sl. No.	Programme	No. of Programmes	No. of Participants
1.	Management Development Programmes		
	(a) Sponsored by the Department of Personnel & Training	11	243
	(b) Programmes Sponsored by other Organisations	33	742
	(c) Fee-based Programmes offered by IIPA	7	90
2.	Programmes of Centre for Urban Studies	8	142
3.	Programmes conducted by National Centre for Disaster Management (NCDM)	9	302
	Total	68	1519

2002-03

1. Inauguration of Twenty-eighth APPPA.
2. Third and Fourth batches of M.B.A. in Public Service Management (in collaboration with the University of Birmingham).
3. 72 short term Training Programmes/Workshops including two international programmes for French Civil Servants regarding which break-up is as follows:

Sl. No.	Programme	No. of Programmes	No. of Participants
1.	Management Development Programmes		
	(a) Sponsored by the Department of Personnel & Training	11	246
	(b) Programmes Sponsored by other Organisations	23	489
	(c) Fee-based Programmes offered by IIPA	8	104
2.	Programmes of Centre for Urban Studies	9	200
3.	Programmes conducted by National Centre for Disaster Management (NCDM)	19	1013
4.	Collaborative Programmes (Sponsored by Colombo Plan Secretariat)	2	28
	Total	72	2080

Investment Plan of ECL

3454. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eastern Coalfields Limited has a long term investment plan of Rs. 3000 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present annual production of ECL; and

(d) the details of targets fixed for production in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) As per BIFR sanction rehabilitation scheme, Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) has proposed to invest an amount of Rs. 2956.83 crore from 2003-2004 to 2012-2013 as per the details given below:

(Figures in Rs. Crore)

Year	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	Total
Investment	140.00	200.00	271.32	320.66	364.14	484.96	357.47	354.06	289.11	175.11	2,956.83
Actual	99.00	118.51	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

(c) During the year 2004-05, ECL produced 27.25 million tonnes of coal.

(d) As per the BIFR sanctioned rehabilitation scheme, the production target for ECL for the period 2005-2006 to 2012-2013 are as under:

(Figures in Million Tonnes)

Year	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Production Target	33.46	35.14	36.17	37.76	39.85	40.80	41.70	41.70

Internet Connection

3455. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Internet Subscribers in rural as well as urban areas of Orissa;

(b) whether the demand for Internet Connection has increased in the State; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to ensure Internet Connection to every subscriber?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of Internet Subscribers in Orissa Telecom Circle was 44037 (as on 31.3.2005) based on reports submitted by Internet Service Providers (ISPs).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), who is the largest ISP in Orissa Telecom Circle, have taken adequate steps to ensure that Internet Access is available at local call rates to subscribers of all rural and urban exchanges in Orissa. In addition, ISP licences have been issued to private companies many of whom are providing Internet Services in Orissa.

Structural/Functional Health Reforms in 10th Plan

3456. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the major focus of the 10th Five Year Plan is to fully operationalise the structural health sector reforms initiated in the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the details of the structural and functional health reforms initiated in the 9th Five Year Plan;

(d) the steps taken and the extent to which these reforms have been effectively implemented in the 10th Five Year Plan; and

(e) the extent to which these reforms are helpful to improve coverage and utilisation of national disease control programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The major new initiatives contained in the 9th Five Year Plan document relate to horizontal integration of vertical programmes, developing a disease surveillance and response mechanism, developing and implementing an integrated non-communicable disease control programme, health impact assessment, implementation of appropriate management systems for emergency, disaster, accidents and trauma care and improving HMIS and Logistics of Supply, Involvement of PRIs in planning and monitoring of health programmes etc.

The Centre has initiated various policy initiatives aimed at improving availability and efficiency in the delivery of health services. The Tenth Five Year Plan seeks to build upon the initiatives mentioned in the 9th Five Year Plan. In fact, under the National Rural Health Mission the core strategy includes amongst others integrating vertical health and family welfare programmes, empowering local governments including Panchayati Raj Institutions to manage, control and be accountable for health services, adopt a sector-wise approach that aims at systemic changes to promote efficiency in health delivery, develop health management information system, put in place an integrated disease surveillance network besides other supplementary strategies like regulation of private sector to improve equity, develop public private partnership, reorienting medical education etc.

Efforts made to improve state-ownership of programmes, participation by the community, private sector and NGOs, effective delivery of services have all helped in improving the coverage and utilization of national disease control programmes.

Opening CGHS Dispensaries in Tamil Nadu

3457. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of CGHS Dispensaries (Allopathic/Homoeopathic/Ayurvedic) in Tamil Nadu, location-wise;

(b) whether the existing number of dispensaries are sufficient to cater to the demand of beneficiaries;

(c) if not, whether there is a long pending demand to open more CGHS dispensaries in Tamil Nadu; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) In Tamil Nadu State, Chennai is the only city where CGHS facilities are available. Adequate number of CGHS dispensaries, etc. is available under CGHS Chennai as per details given below:

Allopathic dispensaries	Fourteen
Polyclinic	Two
Laboratories	Two
Dental Unit	One
Ayurvedic Unit	One
Homoeopathic Unit	One
Siddha Unit	One

The Central Government employees living in non-CGHS areas (which includes non-CGHS areas in Tamil Nadu) automatically get medical facilities as per provisions under the Central Service (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944.

Requests have been received for opening of more CGHS dispensaries in Tamil Nadu but due to constraints of resources and manpower, it will not be possible to extend CGHS facilities to other areas in Tamil Nadu, at present.

Regulation of Maritime Sector

3458. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has since formulated a comprehensive policy for regulation of maritime sector;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to protect the interests of fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Government is in the process of finalizing the Policy for the Maritime Sector (Ports, Merchant Shipping and Inland Water Transport). The Policy, *inter alia,* is aimed at holistic development of India's maritime transport systems through a coordinated plan and strategies for development of port infrastructure, backward integration of hinterland through rail, road and inland water transport connectivity, improvement in shipping and augmentation of ship-building and ship-repair facilities so as to emerge as an internationally competitive nation in this area by 2025. After consultations with the various stakeholders, State Governments and Central Government agencies and on the basis of feedback during inter Ministerial consultations, areas of focus for inclusion in the maritime policy have been identified for further processing for obtaining approval of the Competent Authority. This process will take some time.

(d) The draft Policy for the Maritime Sector recognizes the need to ensure that the functioning of the maritime ports and fisheries harbours do not conflict with each other and seeks to limit and define the role of the major ports in the existing fisheries harbours.

Pilot Market Survey Project

3459. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

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

(a) whether a pilot market survey project was carried out in Agra about two years ago by the postal department;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in the said project, the postal department has collected a fairly comprehensive data base of utilization of FMCG products, telecom services and other consumer goods using postmen as data collectors;

(d) if so, the time by when it is likely to be introduced throughout the country; and

(e) the extent to which the said data has been collected in various parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) A very limited exercise for collection of data related to family details, consumer goods and services was carried out on local basis in Agra.

(d) and (e) Data was also collected earlier in Bangalore and Hyderabad. However, there is no plan at present to undertake the data collection throughout the country.

Profit earned by Shipping Corporation of India

3460. SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

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

(a) the net profit earned by the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) during the last three years and till date, year-wise;

(b) whether the net profit earned by SCI has declined during 2004-05;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether some replacement of ships from Kolkata to Andaman are not done properly and contrary to proper executions from Chennai to Andaman; and

(e) if so, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The profit after tex earned by the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. (SCI) during the last three years is as under:

Year	Profit (Rupees in crores)
2004-2005	1419.90
2003-2004	627.00
2002-2003	274.80

(b) and (d) No, Sir.

(c) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Performance of Private Companies in Telecom Sector

3461. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL: DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

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

(a) whether the private companies are far ahead of the BSNL and MTNL in respect of Telecommunication facilities;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring the public sector agencies in the forefront; and

(d) the success achieved by the Government so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. Total subscriber base of the PSU operators as on 31.7.2005 was 53.24 million as compared to 53.76 million subscriber base of the private telecom operators.

(b) and (c) In the highly competitive telecom sector, both public and private companies strive for capturing higher customer base. The Government PSUs viz. MTNL and BSNL are taking several measures towards becoming more competitive by way of introduction of new services, modernization and upgrading the existing network, offering competitive tariffs and improving customer care etc. Furthermore, the Government has also enhanced powers of the PSUs recently for making them more autonomous.

(d) Since start of cellular mobile service by BSNL in October 2002, its subscriber base reached 11.16 million as on 31.7.2005. In MTNL, the number of cellular mobile subscriber has reached 1.33 million as on 31.7.2005.

Allocation for Roads in Himachal Pradesh

3462. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether three main roads of district Solan/Shimla in Himachal Pradesh, Kingal Dhomi to Chandigarh, widening of Shalaghat to Dharampura and widening of Kumarhatti to Nahan road are being covered under 'Central Road Funds';

(b) if so, the budgetary allocation made for the same; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The proposals under Central Road Funds for these roads of district Solan/Shimla in Himachal Pradesh have not been received in the Ministry.

[English]

Entitlement for Night Duty/Over Time Duty Allowance

3463. SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the entitlement for Night Duty Allowance (NDA) and Over Time Allowance (OTA), is Rs. 2200 p.m. (pre-revised);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Board of Arbitration had given an award for removal of upper pay ceiling of Rs. 2200 p.m. for entitlement of NDA to all Non-Gazetted Employees;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to allow NDA and OTA without any upper pay ceiling; and

(f) if so, the details 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) and (b) Yes Sir, As per the existing instructions entitlement for payment of Night Duty Allowance (NDA) and Over Time Allowance (OTA) is up to the notional pay of Rs. 2200 p.m. in the pre-revised scales of pay under the CCS (Revised Pay) Rules, 1986.

(c) and (d) The Board of Arbitration has ordered removal of ceiling for entitlement of non-gazetted employees for NDA.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Funds for National Highways' Works in Orissa

3464. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated by the Union Government for development/repair of existing National Highways, construction of approved National Highways and widening of National Highways into four-lane in Orissa during 2004-2005 and 2005-2006, project-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether the funds allocated have been released to the State;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in implementing these projects; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government for their expeditious implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) For the National Highways with State PWD, the funds are allocated to the State as a whole and not project-wise. For development/repair of existing National Highways including widening and four laning, during the year 2004-05, the funds were allocated to the tune of Rs. 72.75 crore for development and Rs. 37.24 crore for maintenance. During 2005-06, so far, funds have been allocated as Rs. 66.00 crore for development and Rs. 34.56 crore for maintenance. The development of National Highways with NHAI are undertaken by NHAI itself and during the year 2004-05, Rs. 296.82 crore and during 2005-06 (up to July 2005) Rs. 119.84 crores has been spent.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The reasons for delay in implementing these projects are mainly due to problems associated with land acquisition, shifting of utilities, non availability of quarries and poor performance of contractors.

(d) Critical review meetings are held quarterly to closely monitor and expedite the implementation of projects. In case of NHAI, progress of projects are regularly reviewed at various levels in NHAI and Ministry to expedite the implementation of projects.

[Translation]

Alleged termination of service of workers

3465. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR DUBEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the alleged termination of service of 214 permanent workers working since 1992 by the management of the Bharat Coking Coal Limited;

(b) whether there is any proposal to reinstate these employees;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) As informed by Coal India Limited, Loyabad Power Plant of Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) without legal transfer of its ownership was under the administrative control of BCCL between 1980 to 1992. In April, 1992 when the said power plant reverted to BSEB along with its plant, machinery, workers, etc., BSEB did not take back 214 casual workers. The regularization of casual workers was referred to the Central Government Industrial Tribunal

(CGIT) at Dhanbad who gave the award for identification and regularization of casual workers two months before handing over the plant to BSEB by BCCL. BCCL filed a writ petition before the Hon'ble High Court at Ranchi (CWJC No. 3486/93) challenging the award. These workers continued in employment of BCCL during pendency of the case and after judgment in the year 2002 by the Hon'ble High Court setting aside the award of the Tribunal their employment had been discontinued. The number of persons who have been affected is not 214 but only 177 since the balance 37 workers have either died or left service.

(b) to (d) After a series of discussions, union and management agreed to resolve the dispute and a Memorandum of Settlement under Rule 58 of Industrial Disputes Act has been signed on 8.8.2005 between the union and management on the following terms:

It was agreed to refer the dispute to an Arbitrator, a retired judge of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India to arbitrate the issue as to whether the workmen who have been stopped from continuance on the roll of BCCL in the month of April, 2005 are related with the award passed by CGIT in Ref. No. 27/83 or not and the award should be final and binding on parties working with the BCCL.

During the period of arbitration the status-quo ante will be maintained and for this idle period no back wages will be paid. The workmen concerned will be allowed to resume duty for gainful utilization w.e.f. 9.8.2005.

The working of workers with BCCL is subject to the final outcome of arbitration proceedings and their rights and obligations will be governed by ultimate outcome before learned arbitrator.

Strike by Coal Workers

3466. SHRI BHUBNESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal workers throughout the country went on a seven-day strike from 18th to 24th July 2005 to press their demands; and

(b) if so, the details of their demands and Government's reaction thereto?

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

(b) The Central Trade Unions had served a notice of strike from 18th to 24th July, 2005 while the National Coal Wage Agreement-VII was being negotiated. The notice was however, withdrawn following the signing of wage agreement on 15th July, 2005.

Non-Payment of Salary to School Teachers

3467. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a section to teachers in 34 schools under the Eastern Coal Fields Limited have been deprived of their salary for years;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal to close down these 34 schools in which children of coalmine workers are studying;

(d) if so, the steps taken to ensure the education of the students of these schools; and

(e) if not, the arrangements made for payment of salary of these teachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (e) Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) has no employer-employee relationship with Private Committee Managed Schools functioning in and around ECL. ECL is extending financial assistance to 162 Private Committee Managed Schools which were in existence prior to 1985-86 with 610 teachers functioning in and around ECL areas by way of sanctioning recurring and non-recurring grant. ECL Welfare Board consisting of the representatives of all Central Trade Unions and Management representative in its meeting held on 22.3.1991 decided 1985-86 as the cutoff year for sanctioning the recurring grant to Private Committee Managed Schools which are reported to be functioning in ECL command area. These 34 Private Committee Managed Schools of ECL were not in existence in 1985-86 and therefore were not eligible for sanction of any recurring grants.

[Translation]

Denial of Permission to Pak Information Minister

3468. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan Information Minister had applied for permission to travel on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus-service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said permission was denied by the Government; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) Pakistan Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed had applied for a travel permit for travelling by the Srinagar-Muzaffarbad bus service to Jammu & Kashmir, as per procedures agreed upon by India and Pakistan. Government had processed the application and declined to accord permission taking into account all relevant aspects involved.

Central Assistance to State Plan

3469. SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proportionate cut in the Central Assistance is imposed on States which record lower expenditure as against the approved plan outlay of the last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the basis of such a curtailment;

(c) whether the Central assistance given to States plan does not match with the plan size;

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

(e) whether the limits of the States plan are stipulated according to the expected available resources; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Based on the Guidelines circulated by the Planning Commission, a Proportionate cut in Central Assistance is imposed by the Ministry of Finance for States which record lower expenditure than the Revised Approved Plan Outlay and also on account of shortfalls in the Earmarked Outlays, with a view to ensure that the plan projects are implemented as per the time schedule envisaged.

(c) to (f) Annual Plan Outlays of the States are decided through mutual discussions between the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, and the respective Chief Ministers/Governors keeping in view the availability of resources. These consist of State's Own Resources and Central Assistance. Normal Central Assistance for State Plans is provided in the form of Block Loans and Grants which are allocated amongst states on the basis of methodology, criteria and weights given by Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula, which has been adopted and approved by the National Development Council in December 1991.

[English]

Alleged Sale of Spurious/Fake Drugs

3470. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale of spurious/fake drugs has been increasing in the country particularly in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years alongwith the action taken against the offenders;

(c) whether the Government has taken steps to amend the existing law so as to award exemplary punishment to the manufacturers and sellers of spurious/fake drugs; 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) Manufacture and sale of spurious/counterfeit drugs is primarily a clandestine activity. To this extent, it is difficult to detect the manufacture or movement of spurious drugs.

However, as per feed back available from State Drugs Controllers 38824, 43138 and 40862 drug samples were

tested during the period 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 out of which 96, 129 and 118 samples respectively were found spurious which is 0.33, 0.29 and 0.288% of the samples reported spurious.

Under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 the responsibility for regulating manufacture and sale of drugs including taking legal action against the unscrupulous persons rests with the State Governments. In view of this, as per the feedback available from State Drugs Controllers 563, 651, 538, 449 and 570 prosecutions were launched whereas 163, 245, 171, 105 and 166 cases were decided during the period 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 respectively.

As per information available from the Health & FW Dept. of Govt. of NCT of Delhi, the officers of the Drugs Control Department of Govt. of Delhi carried out routine inspection, special inspection and raids regularly at Bhagirath Palace that is the wholesale market of drug in the capital. Drugs Inspectors of Govt. of India are some time associated in the inspection programme in Bhagirath Palace. The assistance of Delhi Police is taken during the raid whenever necessary. Samples of drugs are taken at random to have a test check on the quality of drugs moving in the market. During the last three years i.e. 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 a total 720 special inspections/raids on complaints were carried out by the Drugs Inspectors of Govt. of NCT, Delhi. The details of samples of drugs taken from the Bhagirath Palace for test/analysis and results thereof are as under:

Year	No. of Samples drawn	No. of tests report received	No. of samples reported as Spurious
2002-2003	748	742	01 (0.13%)
2003-2004	420	351	01 (0.28%)
2004-2005	139	02	Nil

(c) and (d) The Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2005 has been introduced in the Parliament in May, 2005, to amend the said Act to provide stricter penalties to the offenders including a maximum penalty of life imprisonment with a fine of Rs. 100,000. It has been further proposed to make the offence non-bailable, cognisable and to provide for specially designated courts for speedy trial of the cases.

The proposed amendment will make the law deterrent to the offenders involved in the manufacture or sale of spurious drugs. The involvement of enforcing agencies like Police will help in speedy investigation to book the culprits and in controlling anti-social elements in such activities.

Alignment of East-West Corridor

3471. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has got clearance on the detailed project report from the Ministry of Environment and Forests for completion of the balance work in the sections of NH 31 and NH 31C with regard to the finalized alignment of the East-West Corridor within North Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof;

(d) the state at which the project stands at present;

(e) whether the Ministry has started after obtaining the clearance from the M/o Environment and Forests the survey and investigations for the existing alignment of NH 31 and NH 31C;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(h) the current position of the project at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (h) Preparation of DPR for 4-laning of sections of NH-31 (km. 551-634) & NH-31C (km. 105-223) has not been completed, since the notified alignment of East-West Corridor in the State of West Bengal passes through Wild Life Sanctuaries/National Parks at some places. Proposal for carrying out Survey & Investigation (S&I) for the existing alignment of NH-31 & NH-31C had been submitted to Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) for necessary clearance. The proposal of NHAI was discussed during the meeting of Standing Committee of National Board for Wild Life on 6.4.2005 and it was decided to get the survey of the area done through an experts' team. The experts' team has already

visited the project area. The project is held up for want of clearance from the Ministry of Environment & Forests for carrying out survey and investigations.

National Waterway No. 4

3472. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kottapuram-Kollam National Waterway No. 4 is not ready for navigation yet; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make the waterway suitable for navigation?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Kottapuram-Kollam stretch of waterway is not part of National waterway No. 4. It is part of National waterway No. 3, which is not yet fully operational as capital dredging on the entire stretch has not been completed.

(b) Dredging work has been completed between Kochi and Thakazhi jetty (south of Allapuzha) stretch as also in Udyogmandal and Champakara Canals. Capital dredging is in progress in Kochi-Kottapuram stretch. In the remaining stretch of waterway from Thakazhi jetty to Kollam (50 km.), the dredging work has come to a standstill due to some local issues and contractual problems. Action has been initiated to sort out the issues in consultation with the State Government of Kerala and complete the dredging work.

Contempt Power of CAT

3473. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to take away the contempt power of CAT as reported in certain dailies recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith proposal for redressal of grievances of aggrieved Central Government Employees; and

(c) the steps being taken to strengthen the CAT?

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) In the light of Supreme Court judgement that writ jurisdiction of High Courts under Article 226/227 shall continue even after the setting up of the Tribunals and Administrative Tribunals shall be subject to such jurisdiction of High Courts, the Government proposes to amend the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 to delete Section 17 of the said Act relating to the power to punish for contempt of self.

(c) The Administrative Tribunals shall continue to be as strong and effective as at present as they would be competent to move the respect High Courts in the event of alleged contempt.

[Translation]

Quality of Works under MPLADS

3474. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the criterion fixed to ensure quality of construction work done under the Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme;

(b) whether the Government is aware that most of the construction works are of poor quality; and

(c) if so, the number of persons against whom action has been taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) District Authorities are required to get the work executed including work specification and quality as per the procedure laid down by the State Government subject to the provisions of the Guidelines. As per para 5.1 of the Guidelines on MPLADS, for effective implementation of the works taken up under this Scheme, each State Government/UT Administration shall designate one nodal Department for physical monitoring through field inspection and for coordination. The Heads of Districts shall inspect at least 10% of the MPLADs works every year. Further, it should be the responsibility of the senior officers of implementing agencies of these works to regularly visit the work spots and ensure that the works are executed qualitatively as per the prescribed procedures and specifications. The officers at District Sub-Division and Block levels monitor the implementation of these works.

(b) and (c) Whenever any complaint about poor quality of work is received, the same is forwarded to the State Government and the District Authorities concerned for taking remedial measures including necessary action against the persons found responsible for the lapse.

[English]

Condition of Bridges on N.Hs

3475. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the bridges of National Highways in Gujarat which are in poor condition;

(b) the details of the proposed bridge projects which have not been undertaken so far and the reasons therefore; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for reconstruction or repair of the damaged bridges of the National Highways in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) 21 bridges on various National Highways in Gujarat are reported to be in poor condition. Details of these bridges are enclosed as statement. Out of 21 bridges, 5 number of bridges on NH-8E & NH-59 are included in current Annual Plan for reconstruction/rehabilitation and 8 bridges on NH-6 may be taken up alongwith the upgradation of this road identified for four-laning under NHDP-III on BOT (Build Operate Transfer) basis. The concerned executing agency has been advised to carry out the Detailed Project Report immediately. Remaining 8 bridges are proposed to be taken up in phased manner depending upon the structural condition of the bridge, traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds during the subsequent Annual Plans.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of Bridge	N.H. No.	Location
1	2	3	4
1.	Kumbharia Khadi	6	9/6-8
2.	Mindhola River	6	34/2-4
3.	Dokmarda (Minor Bridge)	6	39/2-4
4.	Chick Khadi	6	41/8-42/0
5.	Mindhola River	6	53/6-8
6.	Local Khadi (Minor Bridge)	6	68/4-6
7.	Local Khadi (Minor Bridge)	6	71/4-6
8.	Kachba Khadi (Minor Bridge)	6	84/8-85
9.	Rukmavati Bridge	8A (Extn.)	100/1
10.	Minor Bridge	8E	160/1
11.	Minor Bridge	8E	188/1
12.	Minor Bridge	8E	236/1
13	Minor Bridge	8E	237/2
14.	Minor Bridge	8E (Extn.)	343/2
15.	Minor Bridge	8E (Extn.)	382/1
16.	Minor Bridge	8E (Extn.)	383/1
17.	Medha Creek Bridge	8E (Extn.)	409/1
18.	Minor Bridge	8E (Extn.)	411/2
19.	Novadra Minor Bridge	8E (Extn.)	426/1
20.	Gomti Minor Bridge	8E (Extn.)	469/1
21.	Mohar Bridge	59	41/6 to 41/8

[Translation]

Conversion of State Highways into National Highways

3476. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sent proposals for converting several State Highways into National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of proposal out of them given approval by the Government; and

(d) the time by which the remaining highways are likely to be converted into National Highways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) The Government of Maharashtra has submitted proposal for declaration of 3 State Roads as National Highways. At present, emphasis is being given by the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways for development of roads already declared as National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways.

[English]

Minimum Depth in Pandu-Sadia Sector of NW-II

3477. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether minimum mandated lean season channel depth of 2m or 1.5 m is yet to be ensured in Pandu-Sadia sector of NW-II;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore and the sectoral data thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the minimum mandated depth during lean season in the said sector?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Considering the characteristics of NW-II, the Inland Waterways Authority of India has planned to provide 2 m minimum depth between Dhubri and Dibrugarh (768 km) and 1.5m between Dibrugarh-Balijan (42 km) in 2005-06. In 2004-05 minimum depth of 2 m for about 330 days was provided between Dhubri-Pandu section (255 km) and Pandu-Neamati section (375 km). In Neamati-Dibrugarh section (138 km), 2m depth was maintained for about 300 days and 1 m depth was maintained in Dibrugarh-Sadiya (123 km) section.

(c) For maintaining the depth, bandalling is taken up by IWAI during the low water level period on year to year basis. Besides, dredging is also undertaken. One hydraulic surface dredger and one cutter suction dredger have already been deployed on National Waterway No. 2.

[Translation]

Difference in Coal Price

3478. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR DUBEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the existing E-auction system for the sale of indigenous coal, the customers opting for Railway Rakes are sold coal at the rate of Rs. 1200-1500 per tonne while those opting for road transport are sold coal of the same grade and quality at the rate of Rs. 3000-3600 per tonne;

(b) if so, whether the Coal India Limited proposes to bring uniformity in sale price of coal;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Sale of coal under E-auction for road transport is made colliery-wise, whereas in case of sale of coal under E-auction by rail it is siding/pilot-wise where coal is supplied from various sources. There is no common auction for rail and road. In the existing E-auction system, the price of coal is not determined by the coal companies but only by the successful bidders/purchasers themselves. Therefore, scope of some variations in bid price for the two modes is possible.

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

[English]

Estimate of Expenditure for Bharat Nirman

3479. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the estimate of total expenditure for the "Bharat Nirman";

(b) whether the fund is to be borne entirely by the Union Government or the same is also to be shared by the State and the private sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the total expenditure incurred on each of the six rural infrastructure areas covered under "Bharat Nirman" through the Budgets of the States as well as the Centre;

(e) the allocation of funds under these six rural infrastructure areas in the Budgets of the States and the Centre in the current financial year; and

(f) the planning of the Government to mobilise resources to finance the projects under "Bharat Nirman"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The preliminary estimate of total expenditure for the Bharat Nirman has now been assessed as about Rs. 1,76,000 crore against the earlier assessment of Rs. 1,74,000 crore.

(b), (c) and (f) The fund requirements will be met through an appropriate mix of budgetary support by Centre and States, external aid, market borrowing and beneficiary contribution (in some cases).

(d) and (e) The total estimated fund requirement for each of the six rural infrastructure areas and the allocation of funds for these six components in 2005-06 in the Central budget are as below.

(Rs. crore)

Sl.No.	Component	Total estimated fund requirement	Budget allocation 2005-06 by Centre	Remarks
1.	Irrigation	68,500*	4800	The states have to provide appropriate matching share as per the norms of the various schemes
2.	Road	47,554	4235	
3.	Housing	11,100	2775	
4.	Drinking Water	25,300	4050	
5.	Rural electrification	23,300	1285	
6.	Telephony	451	114	
	Total	1,76,205	17,259	

*Includes likely state plan expenditure on irrigation.

Bharat Nirman as a time bound Plan has been launched only in the current year (2005-06) and therefore at this point of time no estimates can be made of the expenditure incurred by the Centre and the States.

Development of Roads

3480. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

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

(a) the percentage of works of development of roads completed so far in the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether there has been delay, if any, on construction of roads; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the NHAI for their seedy construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The details of the percentage of work of development of road projects completed in the Tenth Five Year Plan period are enclosed as statement.

(b) There have been delays in the completion of some of the development schemes due to Land Acquisition, shifting of utilities, poor performance of contractors etc.

(c) The NHDP Phase-I mainly consists of Golden Quadrilateral (GQ), which was originally scheduled for completion by December, 2004 is likely to be completed only 92% by December, 2005. NHDP Phase-II which mainly comprises North-South & East-West (NS-EW) Corridors is likely to be completed by the year 2008 against the original targeted year 2009, which was advanced to 2007.

The following steps are being taken by NHAI, for speedy construction of roads:

(i) The contracts are regularly monitored at various levels, such as by Independent Engineer, Project Director, NHAI Headquarters and by the Ministry.

(ii) State Governments have appointed senior officers as Nodal officers for resolving problems associated with the implementation of NHDP such as Land Acquisition shifting of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances etc.

(iii) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted to address inter-minister and Central-States issues such as Land Acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of ROBs etc.

(iv) To expedite the construction of ROBs, an officer of the Railways has been posted to NHAI to coordinate with Ministry of Railways. MOU has been signed with M/s IRCON for implementation of some of the ROBs.

(v) Action has been taken against the poorly performing contractors.

Statement

Percentage of Work of Development of Roads completed during Tenth Five Year Plan Period

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	2002-2003 to 2005-2006 (upto June, 2005)		
		Targets as per Action Plan	Achievement	% Achievement
1.	Widening to two lanes (Kms.)	2537	2337	92.1
2.	Strengthening of existing weak pavement (Kms.)	8232	6009.28	73.0
3.	Widening to four lanes (Kms.)	6069	3853.28	63.5
4.	Improvement of law grade section (Kms.)	96	131	136.5
5.	Improvement of riding quality programme (IRQP) (Kms.)	12548	12603	100.4
6.	Rehabilitation/Construction of Bridges (nos.)	598	403	67.4
7.	Construction of Bypasses (nos.)	43	21	48.8

[Translation]

Misuse of Land beneath Over Bridge on N.H.-50

3481. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the land beneath over bridge on N.H.-50 near Nasik city is being misused by the anti-social elements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to transfer the said land to a voluntary organisation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No such incidence has been brought to the notice of the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) As per Government policy on utilization of space beneath ROB's/flyovers on National Highways, the land cannot be transferred to any voluntary organisation.

Four-Laning of National Highways in Maharashtra

3482. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to convert the existing National Highways in Osmanabad district of Maharashtra into four-lane;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) total funds sanctioned for this purpose; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and the same is being carried out in a phased manner. Four laning of National Highways is being carried out in a phased manner on the basis of traffic intensity, inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

Multinational Companies in Development Works of N.Hs

3483. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Multinational Companies involved in the development works of National Highways;

(b) the details of the funds allocated during the last three years, company-wise;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed their works;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the target set by these companies has been achieved; and

(f) if not, the action being taken by the Government against the companies for slow progress?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The details of foreign companies involved in the development work of National Highways under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) No company-wise allocation of funds is made.

(c) to (f) The performance of the contractors/ supervision consultants including those of foreign Multi National Companies are periodically reviewed.

A comprehensive review of the performance of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase I have been carried out and seventeen firms including eight foreign firms have been declared as non-performing firms and debarred from bidding for future contracts.

Five contracts involving foreign companies have already been terminated.

Statement

A. Details of the foreign construction firms involved in development work of National Highways under National Highways Development Project (NHDP)

Sl.No.	Stretch	NH No.	Length (km)	Project Cost (Rs. Crore)	Present Status	Contractor	Nationality
1.	Fatehpur-Khaga (TNHP/II-C)	2	77	372.4	Under Implementation	Centrodorstroy Russia	Russian
2.	Handia-Varanasi (TNHP/III-C)	2	72	285	Under Implementation	Centrodorstroy Russia	Russian
3.	Mohania-Sasaram (TNHP/IV-B)	2	45	230.55	Under Implementation	LG Engg. & Construction Ltd.	Korean
4.	Panagarh-Palsit	2	64.457	350	4 Laned	Gamuda Malaysia-WCT Malaysia	Malaysian
5.	Palsit-Dankuni	2	65	432.4	4 Laned	Consortium of Gomuda (Malaysia) & WCT Engineering (Malaysia)	Malaysian
6.	Vivekananda Bridge and Approach	2	6	641	Under Implementation	SVBTG Consortium of AIDc group (USA), STRADAC (Phillipines)	Phillipines-USA JV
7.	Ahmedabad-Vadodara Exp. Way Phase-I	8	43.4	165	4 Laned	PT Sumber Mitra Jaya	Indonesian
8.	Dhankuni-Kolaghat (WB-I)	6	54.4	393	Under Implementation	RBM-PATI (JV)	Malaysian
9.	Nellore-Tada (AP-7)	5	110.517	621.35	4 Laned	CIDBI Malaysia	Malaysian
10.	Bhogpur to Jalandhar (NS-16/PB)	0.04167	21.77	71.18	4 Laned	M/s Bumi Highways	Malaysian
11.	Thopurghar Section (NS/14)	7	7.4	33.74	4 Laned	P.T. Sumber Mitra Jaya	Indonesian
12.	Orai to Jhansi (UP-4)	25	66	356	Under Implementation	M/s Sunway Construction Ltd.	Malaysian
13.	RJ/MP Border to Kota (RJ-9)	76	43.15	277	Under Implementation	M/s Sunway Construction Ltd.	Malaysian
14.	Chittorgarh Bypass (RJ-6)	76	40	288	Under Implementation	M/s China Gazhouba Water & Power (Group) Co. Ltd.	China
15.	Jetpur to Bhiladi (Package-II)	8B	64.5	399.89	Under Implementation	M/s Longjian Road & Bridge Ltd.	China
16.	Nandigama-Vijayawada	9	35	138.65	4 Laned	CIDB Malaysia	Malaysian
17.	Mahaua-Jaipur	11	108	483	Under Implementation	IJM Corporation Berhad	Malaysian
	Total		923.59	5539.16			

B. Details of the Foreign construction firms having Joint Venture involved in development work of National Highways

Sl.No.	Stretch	NH No.	Length (km)	Project Cost (Rs. Crore)	Present Status	Contractor	Nationality
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Etawah-Rajpura (GTRIP/I-C)	2	72.825	348.444	Under Implementation	M/s PATI-BEL	Malaysia-Indian JV
2.	Sikandara-Bhaunti (TNHP/II-A)	2	62	323.62	Under Implementation	IT Thai & Son Dutt Builders India (JV)	Thai-Indo JV

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Varanasi-Mohania (GTRIP/IV-A)	2	76	467.93	Under Implementation	M/s PCL-Sunway Berhad (JV)	Indian-Malaysia JV
4.	Dehri-on-Sone-Aurangabad (TNHP/IV-D)	2	40	242.61	Under Implementation	Ssangyong Korea-oriental SE India	Korean-Indian JV
5.	Gorha-Barwa Adda (TNHP/V-C)	2	78.75	399.745	Under Implementation	Progressive Const. Ltd. & Sunway Berhad (JV)	Indian-Malaysian JV
6.	Barwa Adda-Barakar	2	43	120	4 Laned	BSC-RBM-PATI (JV)	Indian-Malaysian JV
7.	Raniganj-Panagarh	2	42	137	4 Laned	BSC-RBM-PATI (JV)	Indian-Malaysian JV
8.	Gurgaon-Kotputli	8	126	251	4 Laned	BSC-RBM-PATI (JV)	Indian-Malaysian JV
9.	Gulabpura-Bhilwara Bypass (KU-III)	79	50	164.25	4 Laned	ECSB-JSRC (JV)	Indian-Malaysian JV
10.	Chittorgarh-Mangalwar (KU-V)	76	48	161.2	4 Laned	Madhucon Binapuri (JV)	Malaysian-Indian JV
11.	Ratanpur-Himatnagar (UG-III)	8	54.6	182.29	4 Laned	Mudajaya-IRB	Malaysian-Indian JV
12.	Ahedabad-Vadodara Exp. Way Phase-II	NE1	50	365	4 Laned	LG Engg. and Cost. Co. & Nagarjun Const. Ltd.	Korean-Indian JV
13.	Surat (Chalthan)—Atul	8	79.6	504.6	4 Laned	SKEC-Dodsal	Korean-Indian JV
14.	Atul-Kajali	8	38.6	174.59	4 Laned	LG Constructions-Patel Engineering	Korean-Indian JV
15.	Balasore-Bhadrak (OR-III)	5	62.64	227.25	Under Implementation	Elsamex-TWS-Shankar Narayan Shetty (JV)	Spain-Indian JV
16.	Khurda-Sunakhala (OR-VI)	5	52.058	189.68	Under Implementation	Sumbher Mitra-Jaya-Rohit Kumar-Sri Durga Construction (JV)	Indonesian-Indian JV
17.	Sunakhala-Ganjam (OR-VII)	5	55.713	225	Under Implementation	Progressive-Sticco	Indian-South Arabian
18.	Ankapalli-Tuni	5	58.947	283.2	4 Laned	GMR-Tuni-Ankapalli Express Ltd.	Indian-Malaysian JV
19.	Gowthami-Gundugolanu (AP-18)	5	81.08	323.35	4 Laned	Limak-Soma (JV)	Turkish-Indian JV
20.	Eluru-Vijayawada Package V	5	72	134	4 Laned	Madhucon-Binapuri	Indian-Malaysian JV
21.	Vijayawada-Chilkaluripet Package I	5	25	60	4 Laned	IJM-Gayatri	Malaysian-Indian JV
22.	Vijayawada-Chilkaluripet Packaged II	5	32	80	4 Laned	IJM-Gayatri	Malaysian-Indian JV

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
23.	Vijayawada-Chilkaluripet Package III	5	23.78	68	4 Laned	IJM-Gayatri	Malaysian-Indian JV
24.	Chilkaluripet-Ongole (AP-13)	5	66	319.21	Under Implementation	IJM-Gayatri	Malaysian-Indian-JV
25.	Ongole-Kavali (AP 12)	5	72	321.41	Under Implementation	HO-HUP-Simplex (JV)	Malaysian-Indian JV
26.	Katraj-Sarole (PS-3)	4	28.5	97.9	Under Implementation	Satav Constt. Pvt. Ltd. and Dena Reheaz	Indian-Iranian JV
27.	Belgaum Bypass	4	18	115.9	Under Implementation	Sunway Construction-Berhad & RN Shetty & Co.	Malaysian-Indian JV
28.	Belgaum-Dharwad	4	62	279	Under Implementation	Sunway Construction-Berhad & R N Shetty & Co.	Malaysian-Indian JV
29.	Haveri-Harihar	4	56	241	Under Implementation	UEM-ESSAR (JV)	Malaysian-Indian JV
30.	Harihar-Chitradurga	4	77	318	Under Implementation	UEM-ESSAR (JV)	Malaysian-Indian JV
31.	Chitradurga Bypass	4	18	104	Under Implementation	Dolomite Berhad-AL Sudershan (JV)	Malaysian-Indian JV
32.	Chitradurga-Sira	4	66.7	304	Under Implementation	UEM-ESSAR (JV)	Malaysian-Indian JV
33.	Borkhedi-Jam (NS-29/MH)	7	27.4	110	Under Implementation	M/s JSR-Ketan Construction Limited	Indian-Indonesian
34.	Construction of Karur ROB	7	0.84	12.15	4 Laned	P.T. Sumber Mitra & Jaya and Punj Lloyd	Indonesian-Indian JV
35.	Deesa to Radhanpur (Package-VI)	14	85.4	399.89	Under Implementation	M/s Daelim Industrial Corp. Ltd.-Nagurjan Const. Corp. (JV)	Korean-Indian JV
36.	Radhanpur to Gagodhar (Package-V)	15	106.2	429.4	Under Implementation	M/s Jilin-Sadbhav (JV)	Chinese-Indian JV
37.	Gagodhar to Garamore (Package-IV)	15& 8A	90.3	412.78	Under Implementation	M/s Daelim Industrial Corp. Ltd.-Nagurjan Const. Corp. (JV)	Korean-Indian JV
38.	Garamore to Bamanbore (Package-III)	0.33333	71.4	360.7	Under Implementation	M/s Daelim Industrial Corp. Ltd.-Nagurjan Const. Corp. (JV)	Korean-Indian JV
39.	Bhilada to Porbandar (Package-I)	8B	50.5	256.96	Under Implementation	M/s LIMAK-SOMA (JV)	Turkish-Indian JV
40.	Tambaram-Tindivanam	45	93	375	4 Laned	Tambaram-Tindivanam Express way Pvt. Ltd. (Consortium of GMR Consortium & UE Malaysia)	Indian-Malaysian JV
41.	Delhi-Gurgaon Section (Access Controlled 8/6 Lane)	8	27.7	555	Under Implementation	M/s. Jaiprakash Industries Ltd.-DS Constt. Ltd.	Indian-UK

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
42.	Nandigama-Vijayawada	9	48	0	4 Laned	BSC-RBM-PATI (JV)	Indian-Malaysian JV
43.	Chennai Bypass Phase I	4 & 45	19	75	4 Laned	IJM-SATYAM Construction Ltd.	Malaysian-Indian JV
44.	Cable Stayed bridge on river Yamuna near Naini	27	6	219.78	4 Laned	Hyundai-HCC	Koreen-Indian JV
45.	Haldia Port	41	53	273	Under Implementation	CWHEC-HCIL (JV)	Chinese-Indian
46.	Raipur-Aurang	6	45	190	Under Implementation	M/s Apollo (UK)-JLI (UK)-DSC (Indian)-LOR (UK) Consortium	UK
	Total		2512.53	11201.84			

C. Details of the Foreign Supervision consultancy firms involved in Development work of National Highways

Sl.No.	Stretch	NH No.	Length (km)	Project Cost (Rs. Crore)	Present Status	Supervision Contractor	Nationality
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Khaga-Kokhraj (TNHP/III-A)	2	43	151.7	4 Laned	Meinhardt (Singapore) Pte Ltd.	Singapore
2.	Handi-Varanasi (TNHP/III-C)	2	72	266	Under Implementation	Meinhardt (Singapore) Pte Ltd.	Singapore
3.	Varanasi-Mohania (GTRIP/IV-A)	2	76	467.93	Under Implementation	N.D. Lea Intl.	Canada
4.	Sasaram-Dehri on-sone (GTRIP/IV-C)	2	30	221.87	Under Implementation	Lea Intl.	Canada
5.	Barwa Adda-Barakar	2	43	120	4 Laned	Symonds Travers Morgan Ltd.	UK
6.	Raniganj-Panagarh	2	42	137	4 Laned	Symonds Travers Morgan Ltd.	UK
7.	Panagarh-Palsit	2	64.457	350	4 Laned	Halcrow Ltd.	UK
8.	Palsit-Dankuni	2	65	432.4	4 Laned	Doreh Consultant	Germany
9.	Vivekananda Bridge and Approach	2	6	641	Under Implementation	M/s Sclaich Bergermann and Partner	Germany
10.	Gurgaon-Kotputli	8	126	251	4 Laned	Snowy Mountains Engg. Corporation Ltd.	Australian
11.	Mahapura (near Jaipur)-Kisnangarh (6 Lane)	8	90.38	644	4 Laned	BECOM Freinch Engineering Consultant	French
12.	Kishangarh-Nasirabad (KU-I)	79A	36.23	113.5	4 Laned	DORSCH Consultants	Germany
13.	Nasirabad-Gulabpura (KU-II)	79	55.87	182.09	4 Laned	DORSCH Consultants	Germany
14.	Gulabpura-Bhilwara Bypass (KU-III)	79	50	164.25	4 Laned	SNC Lavalin International	Canada
15.	Bhilwara Bypass-Chittorgarh (KU-IV)	79	66	202.88	4 Laned	SNC Lavalin International	Canada
16.	Chittorgarh-Mangalwar (KU-V)	76	48	161.2	4 Laned	SMEC International Pty. Ltd.	Australia
17.	Mangalwar-Udaipur (KU-VI)	76	58.175	170	4 Laned	SMEC International Pty. Ltd.	Australia
18.	Balasore-Bhadrak (OR-III)	5	62.64	227.25	Under Implementation	Sheladia Associates Inc.	USA

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19.	Bhadrak-Chandikhole (OR-II)	5	75.5	305.3	4 Laned	Sheladia-PBI Int.-MRC	USA
20.	Bridges Section (OR-V)	5	11.587	155	Under Implementation	Louis Berger International Inc.	USA
21.	Bhubaneswar-Khurda (OR-I)	5	26.3	140.85	Under Implementation	Sheladia-PBI Int.-MRC	USA
22.	Khurda-Sunakhala (OR-VI)	5	52.058	189.68	Under Implementation	DHV International BV	Netherland
23.	Sunakhala-Ganjam (OR-VII)	5	55.713	225	Under Implementation	DHV International BV	Netherland
24.	Ankapalli-Tuni	5	58.947	283.2	4 Laned	DORSCH Consultants	Germany
25.	Tuni-Dharmavaram (AP-16)	5	47	231.9	Under Implementation	Zaidun Leeng	Malaysia
26.	Dharmavaram-Rajahmundry (AP-15)	5	53	206	4 Laned	Zaidun Leeng	Malaysia
27.	Eluru-Vijayawada Package V	5	72	134	4 Laned	Kampsax Hyder JV	Denmark-UK
28.	Nellore Bypass	5	17.166	143.2	4 Laned	Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick India Pvt. Ltd.	UK
29.	Nellore-Tada (AP-7)	5	110.517	621.35	4 Laned	Louise Berger Group Inc.	USA
30.	Tada-Chennai (TN-1)	5	41.8	233	Under Implementation	Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick India Pvt. Ltd.	UK
31.	Chitradurga Bypass	4	18	104	Under Implmentation	Louis Berger	USA
32.	Chitradurga-Sira	4	66.7	304	Under Implementation	Louis Berger	USA
33.	Sira-Tumkur	4	41.4	184	4 Laned	Louis Berger	USA
34.	Kunjwani to Vijaypur (NS-15/J&K)	0.04167	17.2	110	Under Implementation	M/s Lea Associates	Canadian
35.	Kanniyakumari-Panagudi (NS/32)	7	30.6	110.3	Under Implementation	M/s Sheladia Associates	USA
36.	Angamali to Aluva (NS-28/KL)	47	16.6	77.38	4 Laned	M/s Sheladia Associates	USA
37.	Silchar-Udarband (AS-1)	54	34	130	Under Implementation	M/s Louis Berger Group, Inc.	USA
38.	Purnea-Gayakota (EW-12/BR)	31	28	205.73	Under Implementation	M/s Scotwilson & Kirkpatrik	UK
39.	Deesa to Radhanpur (Package-VI)	14	85.4	399.89	Under Implementation	M/s Carlbro	Denmark
40.	Radhanpur to Gagodhar (Package-V)	15	106.2	429.4	Under Implementation	M/s Carlbro	Denmark
41.	Gagodhar to Garamore (Package-IV)	15 & 8A	90.3	412.78	Under Implementation	M/s Carlbro	Denmark
42.	Ribda to Gondal section (EW-10/GJ)	8B	17	40.44	4 Laned	M/S HSS Feedback	Malaysian
43.	Nandigama-Vijayawada	9	35	138.65	4 Laned	LBGI	USA
	Total		2242.74	10439.12			

D. Details of the foreign consultancy firms having Joint Ventures involved in development work of National Highways

Sl.No.	Stretch	NH No.	Length (km)	Project Cost (Rs. Crore)	Present Status	Supervision Contractor	Nationality
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Etawah-Rajpur (GTRIP/I-C)	2	72.825	348.444	Under Implementation	CES-BECA (JV)	India-New Zealand

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Sikandara-Bhaunti (TNHP/II-A)	2	62	323.62	Under Implementation	BCEOM-STUP-Aarvee	French-Indian
3.	Kanpur-Fatehpur (GTRIP/II-B)	2	51.5	495.35	Under Implementation	CES-BECA (JV)	India-New Zealand
4.	Fatehpur-Khaga (TNHP/II-C)	2	77	372.4	Under Implementation	BECOM-STUP-Aarvee	French-Indian
5.	Allahabad Bypass Contract-I (Bridge)	2	1.02	91.36	Under Implementation	Seceaturoute, Frishman Prabhu	French-Indian
6.	Rajganj-Brakata (GTRIP/V-B)	2	80	452.71	Under Implementation	M/s Rites-Halcrow (JV)	Indian-UK
7.	Jaipur Bypass Phase II	8	34.7	210	4 Laned	Meritec Ltd.-Mahendra Raj Cons.-Aarvee Associates	New Zealand-India-India
8.	Udaipur-Kesariaji (UG-I)	8	62	245.905	4 Laned	Scott Wilson Kirkpatrik-Span Cons.-Consulting Engineer Group Ltd.	UK-India-India
9.	Kesariaji-Ratanpur (UG-II)	8	48.4	226.05	4 Laned	Scott Wilson Kirkpatrik-Span Cons.-Consulting Engineer Group Ltd.	UK-Indian-UK
10.	Ratanpur-Himatnagar (UG-III)	8	54.6	182.29	4 Laned	STUP Consultants Ltd.-Bangaldesh Cons.	India-Bangladesh
11.	Himatnagar-Chiloda (Near Ahmedabad) (UG-IV)	8	52	175	Under Implementation	STUP Consultants Ltd.-Bangladesh Const.	India-Bangladesh
12.	Ahmedabad-Vadodara Exp. Way Phase-I	8	43.4	165	4 Laned	CES-Halcrow Association	Indian-UK
13.	Ahmedabad-Vadodara Exp. Way Phase-II	NE1	50	365	4 Laned	CES-Halcrow Association	Indian-UK
14.	Surat (Chalthan)-Atul	8	79.6	504.6	4 Laned	CES-BECOM-RITES	Indian-French-Indian
15.	Atul-Kajali	8	38.6	174.59	4 Laned	CES-BECOM-RITES	Indian-French-Indian
16.	Kajali-Manor	8	57.4	192.71	4 Laned	CES-BECOM-RITES	Indian-French-Indian
17.	Dhankuni-Kolaghat (WB-I)	6	54.4	393	Under Implementation	ICT—SNC Lavalin	Indian-Canadian
18.	Kolaghat-Kharagpur (WB-II)	6	60.45	375	4 Laned	ICT Pvt. Ltd.—SNC Lavalin	Indian-Canadian
19.	Bridges Section (WB-III)	6	1.732	81	Under Implementation	ICT Pvt. Ltd.—SNC Lavalin	Indian-Canadian
20.	Kharagpur-Laxmanath (WB-IV)	60	65.86	332	Under Implementation	Louis Berger International-NICE	USA-Indian
21.	Laxmannath-Baleshwar (OR-4)	60	53.41	272	Under Implementation	Louis Berger International-NICE	USA-Indian
22.	Bridges Section (OR/WB-I)	60	0	80	Under Implementation	Louis Berger International-NICE	USA-Indian
23.	Chandikhole-Jagatpur	5	27.8	103.35	4 Laned	SMEC-SPAN	Australian-Indian
24.	Icchapuram-Korlam (AP 4A)	5	33	143.05	Under Implementation	BECA-CES-RITES	Newzealand-Indian
25.	Korlam-Palasa (AP 4A)	5	29	135.11	Under Implementation	BECA-CES-RITES	Newzealand-Indian

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26.	Palasa-Srikakulam (AP-2)	5	74	324	4 Laned	BECA-CES-RITES	Newzeeland-Indian
27.	Champawati-Vishakhapatnam (AP-3)	5	46.2	200	4 Laned	Sheladia-RITES (JV)	USA-Indian
28.	Bridges section (AP-5)	5	0	71	4 Laned	Sheladia-RITES (JV)	USA-Indian
29.	Divancheru (near Rajahmundry)-Gowthami (AP-17)	5	34.95	130.8	4 Laned	SNC-Lavalin Int'l & AARVEE Associates	Canadian-Indian
30.	Bridges Section (AP 19)	5	2.45	136.45	4 Laned	SNC-Lavalin Int'l & AARVEE Associates	Canadian-Indian
31.	Gowthami-Gundugolanu (AP-18)	5	81.08	323.35	4 Laned	SNC-Lavalin Int'l & AARVEE Associates	Canadian-Indian
32.	Bridges Section (AP 20)	5	0	131.33	4 Laned	SNC-Lavalin Int'l & AARVEE Associates	Canadian-Indian
33.	Vijayawada-Chilkaluripet Package I	5	25	60	4 Laned	Louis Berger-Nippon-KOI-CES (JV)	US-Japan-Indian
34.	Vijayawada-Chilkaluripet Package II	5	32	80	4 Laned	Louis Berger-Nippon-KOI-CES (JV)	US-Japan-Indian
35.	Vijayawada-Chilkaluripet Package III	5	23	80	4 Laned	Louis Berger-Nippon-KOI-CES (JV)	US-Japan-Indian
36.	Vijayawada-Chilkaluripet Package IV	5	2.88	58	4 Laned	Louis Berger-Nippon-KOI-CES (JV)	US-Japan-Indian
37.	Chilkaluripet-Ongole (AP-13)	5	66	319.21	Under Implementation	Km International & Secon Surveys Ltd.	Swedan-Indian
38.	Ongole-Kavali (AP 12)	5	72	321.41	Under Implementation	Km International & Secon Surveys Ltd.	Swedan-Indian
39.	Kavali-Nellore (AP-11)	5	43.8	181	4 Laned	Km International & Secon Surveys Ltd.	Swedan-Indian
40.	Maharastra Border-Belgaum	4	77	332	4 Laned	Sir Owen William-Frischmann-Prabhu	UK-India
41.	Belgaum Bypass	4	18	115.9	Under Implementation	Roughton International-CEG	UK-Indian
42.	Belgaum-Dharwad	4	62	279	Under Implementation	Roughton International-CEG	UK-Indian
43.	Hubli-Haveri	4	64.5	260.83	Under Implementation	Roughton International-CEG	UK-Indian
44.	Tumkur-Neelmangala	4	32.5	155	4 Laned	Zaidun Leong-Artefact Projects	Malaysia-India
45.	Krishnagiri-Vaniyambadi (KR-1)	46	49	195	4 Laned	M/s Ritse-CECON-Sir Owen Williams	Indian-UK
46.	Vaniyambadi-Pallikonda (KR-2)	46	51	223	Under Implementation	M/s Ritse-CECON-Sir Owen Williams	Indian-UK
47.	Pallikonda-Ranipet and Walahjapet bypass (KR-3)	45	45	211	Under Implementation	M/s Ritse-CECON-Sir Owen Williams	Indian-UK
48.	Valajapet-Kanchipuram	4	36.2	130	4 Laned	M/s Sauti-Gherzi (JV)	Italian-Indian
49.	Kanchipuram-Poonamalee	4	56.4	211	Under Implementation	M/s Sauti-Gherzi (JV)	Italian-Indian
50.	Km 120 of Madurai-Tirunveli Section to Panagudi (km 203) (NS-43)	7	43	423.54	Under Implementation	M/s BCEOM-Aarvee Associates (JV)	French-Indian
51.	Madurai-Kanniakumari Section (NS-42/TN)	7	42.7	507.49	Under Implementation	M/s BCEOM-Aarvee Associates (JV)	French-Indian
52.	Nagaon to Dharmatul (AS-2)	37	25	264.72	Under Implementation	M/s BECOM-STUP-Aarvee	French-Indian

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
53.	Guwahati to Nalbari (AS-4)	31	28	175.96	Under Implementation	M/s Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick & co. Ltd. (UK)-Scott Wilson (India) (JV)	UK-Indian
54.	Nalbari to Bijni (AS-6)	31	25	225	Under Implementation	M/s BCEO-STUP-Aarvee	French-Indian
55.	Assam/WB Border to Gairkatta (WB-1)	31C	32	221.82	Under Implementation	M/s Stanley Consultant INC.-MDP Consultant-Consulting Eng. Group Ltd.	USA-Indian
56.	Silliguri to Islampur (WB-6)	31	25	165	Under Implementation	M/s BCEOM-STUP-Aarvee consultants	French-Indian
57.	Garamore to Bamanbore (Package-III)	8A	71.4	360.7	Under Implementation	M/s Stanley-CES India Pvt. Ltd.	USA-Indian
58.	Jetpur to Bhiladi (Package-II)	8B	64.5	399.89	Under Implementation	M/s Stanley-CES India Pvt. Ltd.	USA-Indian
59.	Bhiladi to Porbandar (Package-I)	8B	50.5	255.96	Under Implementation	M/s Stanley-CES India Pvt. Ltd.	USA-Indian
60.	Cable Stayed bridge on river Yamuna near Naini	27	6	219.78	4 Laned	COWI-SPAN JV	Denmark-Indian
61.	Ghaziabad-Hapur Bypass	24	33	84	4 Laned	SCETAUROUTE-ICT	French-Indian
62.	New Mangalore Port	13, 17 & 48	37	196.5	Under Implementation	M/s SNC Lavalin International Inc-SAI Const. Eng. Pvt Ltd. (JV)	Canadian-Indian
	Total		2669.537	14457.28			

Development of National Highways

3484. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH:
SHRI JIVABHAI AMBALAL PATEL:
SHRI HEMLAL MURMU:

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

(a) the total length of different National Highways in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the targets in terms of length under the development schemes in respect of some States have not been met so far;

(c) if so, the target fixed in regard to development schemes in the country, State-wise during the year 2004-05 alongwith the percentage of the works completed; and

(d) the reasons for the dismal performance alongwith the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to accelerate the pace of development of National Highway network in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The State-wise length of National Highways is enclosed as statement-I.

(b) and (c) Details of the targets and achievements is enclosed as statement-II.

(d) There have been delays in completion of some of the works due to the law and order problems, in land acquisition, shifting of utilities, delay in environmental and forest clearance, non-availability of the construction materials, tardy performance by the few contractors etc. The Government closely monitors the progress of the construction works of National Highways at various levels through quarterly reviews and also has taken steps like appointing senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems, constituting a Committee of Secretaries to address inter-ministerial and central-state issues and has taken action against defaulting contractors in order to ensure completion of National Highways works as per stipulated time frame.

Statement-I

Length of State-wise National Highways

Sl.No.	Name of State	Total Length (in km)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4472
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	392
3.	Assam	2836
4.	Bihar	3537
5.	Chandigarh	24
6.	Chhattisgarh	2184
7.	Delhi	72
8.	Goa	269
9.	Gujarat	2871
10.	Haryana	1468
11.	Himachal Pradesh	1208
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	823
13.	Jharkhand	1805
14.	Karnataka	3843
15.	Kerala	1440
16.	Madhya Pradesh	5069
17.	Maharashtra	4176
18.	Manipur	959
19.	Meghalaya	810
20.	Mizoram	927
21.	Nagaland	494
22.	Orissa	3704
23.	Pondicherry	53
24.	Punjab	1557
25.	Rajasthan	5585
26.	Sikkim	62
27.	Tamil Nadu	4183
28.	Tripura	400
29.	Uttaranchal	1991
30.	Uttar Pradesh	5599
31.	West Bengal	2325
32.	Andaman and Nicobar	300

Statement II

State-wise Main Works on National Highways during 2004-2005

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Widening to two lane (kms)		Widening to four lane (kms)		Strengthening (kms)		Improvement of Riding Quality (kms)	
		Target	Percentage Achieved	Target	Percentage Achieved	Target	Percentage Achieved	Target	Percentage Achieved
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	70.00	128.57	594	83.50	652	93.40	10	100.0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.00	200.00	0	—	16	87.50	0	—
3.	Assam	8.00	275.00	10	100.00	28	110.71	180	75.0
4.	Bihar	30.00	26.67	64	143.75	76	121.05	232	134.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5.	Chandigarh	0.00	—	2	50.00	0	—	0	—
6.	Chhattisgarh	69.00	63.77	0	—	3	0.00	200	100.5
7.	Delhi	0.00	—	21	0.00	21	0.00	4	—
8.	Goa	0.00	—	18	72.22	18	72.22	40	95.2
9.	Gujarat	19.00	168.42	137	77.37	175.	100.00	21	58.3
10.	Haryana	0.00	—	24	8.33	77	71.43	87	87.0
11.	Himachal Pradesh	6.00	0.00	0	—	0	—	128	75.7
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	18.00	55.56	0	—	0	—	0	—
13.	Jharkhand	17.00	70.59	79	83.54	88	75.00	64	73.6
14.	Karnataka	74.00	54.05	321	70.72	321	70.72	152	190.0
15.	Kerala	13.00	15.38	17	100.00	21	80.95	150	120.0
16.	Madhya Pradesh	23.00	95.65	37	45.95	42	102.38	400	95.9
17.	Maharashtra	47.00	51.06	205	66.83	238	67.65	214	89.5
18.	Manipur	16.00	68.75	2	0.00	0	—	34	113.3
19.	Meghalaya	3.00	266.67	0	—	2	100.00	72	74.2
20.	Mizoram	1.00	0.00	0	—	24	104.17	72	126.3
21.	Nagaland	0.00	—	0	—	2	100.00	55	161.8
22.	Orissa	40.00	200.00	178	48.88	181	48.62	206	144.1
23.	Pondicherry	0.00	—	0	—	10	0.00	0	—
24.	Punjab	0.00	—	36	100.00	47	131.91	149	97.4
25.	Rajasthan	195.00	78.97	247	99.60	361	72.58	0	0.0
26.	Tamil Nadu	50.00	72.00	313	91.69	478	88.28	37	102.8
27.	Tripura	21.00	219.05	0	—	0	—	18	85.7
28.	Uttar Pradesh	27.00	74.07	268	99.65	276	103.26	540	1080.0
29.	Uttaranchal	56.00	76.79	3	100.00	0	—	55	500.0
30.	West Bengal	20.00	55.00	352	72.44	365	83.84	71	80.7

Four Laning of National Highway

3485. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to convert National Highways from Jaipur to Chobhu (NH-11), Jaipur to Chaksu (NH-12) and Kishangarh to Byaver (NH-8) into four-lane as per I.R.C. standards;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to accord approval to these proposals; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The National Highways from Jaipur-Chomu-Reengus (National Highway No. 11), Jaipur-Chaksu-Tonk (National Highway No. 12) and Kishangarh-Bayawar (National Highway No. 8) have been identified for four-laning on BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) basis under the NHDP (National Highway Development Project) Phase III.

[English]

Construction of Bye-Pass Roads

3486. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct Bye-pass Road in Kunigal and Tipture on N.H. 48 & 206 and the said roads will also be widened at different places;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Nelamangala-Hassan Section of National Highway (NH)-48 with a length of 154 km has been identified for four laning of Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase-IIIA. the work for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been awarded. Provision of bypass at Kunigal, which falls on Nelamangala-Hassan section will depend on the outcome of the DPR. For the construction of bypass at Tiptur on NH-206, provision has been made in the current Annual Plan. However, there are litigations about acquisition of land and construction of bypass will depend on the outcome of the litigation.

NH-48 in entire 319 km length is having two lane carriageway. In addition to four laning up to Hassan under NHDP Phase-IIIA mentioned above, stretch from Bantwal cross road to Mangalore with a length of 17.30 km has been taken up for four laning with scheduled completion as January 2008. As regards NH-206, out of the total 370 km length, 191 km is two lane and 179 km is less than two lane. The work of widening to two lane in 42 km is in progress with scheduled completion by March, 2007 and provision for widening to two lane in another 13 km length has been made in the current year Annual Plan. The widening of the balance stretches to 2-lane width will be taken up in a phased manner in subsequent Annual Plans depending on availability of fund and inter-se-priority of works.

Distribution of Free Medicines in General Ward

3487. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the patients admitted in general ward of AIIMS are entitled for free medicines as per the manual of hospitals;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor:

(c) whether General Ward patients are asked to purchase each and every medicine including syringes and cotton gauge from the market;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a large number of poor patients waiting for life saving surgery at AIIMS and Government hospitals are not in a position to get their treatment done in such hospitals;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) the expenditure incurred by AIIMS in procuring medicines for free distribution in General ward during 2004-05, item-wise; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to improve the said situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (h) The patients, including poor patients coming to AIIMS Casualty/Emergency are provided free medical check up and diagnostic tests. The surgical consumables and life saving drugs are also being provided free of cost. The patients admitted to the general wards are issued specified surgical items and life saving drugs, as per prescribed norms, free of cost. However, items like surgical prosthesis and other items are normally required to be procured by the patients themselves. The poor and indigenous patients who cannot afford to buy medicines and surgical items are provided financial assistance through Poor Patients Fund, National Illness Assistance Fund (Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi) Prime Minister's Relief Fund, Health Minister's Discretitionary Grant and Philanthropic organizations.

It is a fact that there is a long waiting list of patients in the surgical/ward in the AIIMS, New Delhi. This is due to the increasingly large number of patient coming to AIIMS from different parts of the country.

The Main Hospital of AIIMS has incurred an expenditure of Rs. 13.36 crores for the purchase of medicines for use of the emergency and indoor patient care, which does not include the routine patient care requirements like surgical goods, medical gases, crystalloids, general store items and other day to day expenditure.

[Translation]

Progress of Proposed N.H. 28-B

3488. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in regard to 121-Km long proposed National Highway (N.H.28-B) from Chhapva to border of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether process of land acquisition for construction of the said National Highway has been completed; and

(c) if so, the time by which the construction work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Existing state road between Chhapva and Bihar/Uttar Pradesh border has been declared as NH-28-B and has been entrusted to the State Government of Bihar for development and maintenance in February, 2005.

(b) Detailed investigation are needed for the improvement works. Hence no land acquisition is involved at this stage.

(c) Does not arise.

Alleged Appointments of Fake Caste Certificates

3489. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court had issued direction in May, 2005 regarding Government to hand over the investigation regarding persons who secured Government jobs on the basis of fake SC/ST caste certificates during the recruitment made from 1995 to 2000 to CBI and set up a special court to look into this scam;

(b) if so, whether the Ministry in compliance with the Delhi High Court direction has taken any steps to get this matter examined by the CBI and set up a special court in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) 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) Yes Sir, in Civil Writ Petition No. 5976/2003 Delhi High Court has directed CBI to inquire/investigate regarding persons who secured government jobs on the basis of fake ST certificates.

(b) to (d) In compliance with the directions of the Delhi High Court, the Ministry has set up a coordinating mechanism under the Chairmanship of Addl Director CBI and Chief Vigilance Officers (CVOs) of all the Ministries/

Departments of Central Government. The CVOs have been asked that they may get all ST certificates, which were used by the government employees to obtain employment under Central Government or its agencies since 1995 verified from the issuing authorities. Government has also asked Government of NCT Delhi to set up two special courts of Magistrates for exclusively trying CBI cases.

[English]

Violation of TRAI Directions by Cellular Operators

3490. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telephone Regulatory Authority of India has directed all the cellular operators not to charge any value-added service from its subscribers;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware that cellular operators especially Airtel continues to charge value-added services more than the normal published tariffs in violation of TRAI directions; and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Telcom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has not directed Cellular Operators not to charge for Value Added Service like Quiz, Ringtones, Tele-voting etc. Tariff for Value Added Services are under forbearance. To protect the interest of those customers who avail value added services without any knowledge of the charges for these services, TRAI, vide "Direction on Premium Rate Service" dated 3rd May, 2005, had directed all the Cellular Mobile Service Providers and Unified Access Providers to publish in all communications/advertisements relating to premium rate services, the pulse rate/tariff for the service. TRAI also has issued a directive dated 3rd May, 2005 that no chargeable Value Added Service, which was earlier being provided free of charge shall be made chargeable without the explicit consent of the customer. In this regard, TRAI had received complaints, one from a subscriber of M/s Bharti Cellular Ltd. (Airtel) in Mumbai and another from a subscriber of M/s BPL Communication Ltd. from Mumbai regarding provision of Value Added Services without the explicit consent of the consumer, in violation of the TRAI Direction. TRAI has sought explanation of the service providers on these complaints.

[Translation]

Condition of N.H.-31

3491. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the condition of N.H.-31, the only road in Bihar connecting seven North-Eastern States with the rest of the country, is highly dilapidated between Barauni and Kishanganj;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the economy of the seven North-Eastern States is being adversely affected as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the funds allocated for construction/ maintenance of the said stretch; and

(e) the name of the agency which is likely to be awarded the construction work of the said stretch and the likely dates of commencement/completion of the said work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The National Highway is being maintained in traffic worthy condition within the available resources. The roads passing through Pasraha Zone and different stretches between Naugachhia-Purnea Section got damaged during last year's floods. Repair works amounting to Rs. 4.00 crores were sanctioned by this Ministry during year 2004-05. Improvement works in an aggregate length of 70 kms has been sanctioned by the Ministry in Barauni-Purena section. Four laning work in 43 Km length of Purnea-Kishanganj Section of NH-31 in Bihar is in progress as part of East-West Corridor under National Highways Development Project Phase-II being implemented by National Highways Authority of India.

(c) No such report has been received in this Ministry.

(d) No National Highway-wise allocation is made.

(e) The construction works are awarded on basis of competitive bidding to lowest bidder. The improvement

works in aggregate length of 70 kms in Barauni-Purnea section of NH-31 are at different stages of progress. In the 43 kms length of Purnea-Kishanganj section of NH-31 (in Bihar) the four-lanning work is targeted to be completed by April 2006.

[English]

Construction of New N.H.

3492. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received a proposal from the State Government of Maharashtra for the construction of New National Highway from Nagpur to Ratnagiri;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to clear the project;

(d) if so, the time by which the same will be cleared by the Government; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (e) This Ministry, generally, declares State roads as National Highways and does not construct new National Highway. The road connecting Ratnangiri and Kolhapur is already declared as a National Highway. The Government of Maharashtra has submitted a proposal for declaration of Kolhapur-Solapur-Latur-Nanded-Yavatmal-Warda-Nagpur State road as National Highway. At present, emphasis is being given by the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways for development of roads already declared as National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways. The State Government of Maharashtra has been informed accordingly.

Making N.H.-24 Traffic Worthy

3493. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 892 dated March 9, 2005 regarding bad condition of national highways and state:

(a) whether the repair work on N.H.-24 from Hapur to Garhmukteshwar is complete and visits were undertaken by the concerned official to ensure that it is in traffic worthy condition;

(b) if so, whether the said stretch has become traffic worthy;

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

(d) if not, the remedial steps taken by the Government;

(e) whether the Government also proposes to widen the NH-58 into four lane; 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) to (d) Hapur to Garhmukteshwar section of NH-24 was damaged at number of locations due to heavy rains and ribbon development along the road. However, the repair is in progress and has been substantially completed. Regular visits are being undertaken by the officers of National Highways Authority of India and Supervision Consultants to ensure speedy repair of the section.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to convert National Highway portion of NH-58 between Meerut and Dehradun into 4-lane on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. The section of NH-58 from Delhi to Meerut is already four lane. The work for 4-laning between Meerut and Muzaffernagar has already been awarded to M/s NCC-Maytas Consortium. Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been completed and BOT bids are under preparation for the remaining portion.

Assured Irrigation under Bharat Nirman

3494. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the objectives of "Bharat Nirman" is to bring additional hectares of land under the assured irrigation;

(b) if so, the physical target set for the financial year, 2005-2006;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP); and

(d) the funds allocated in the budget for the year 2005-06?

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

(b) A physical target of 1.90 million hectare has been set for the financial year 2005-06 comprising new potential as also restored potential.

(c) and (d) A provision of Rs. 4800 crore has been made in the budget of 2005-06 for AIBP and other water resources programmes of the Ministry of Water Resources. No expenditure and AIBP has been incurred so far in the current year.

Widening of National Highways in Rajasthan

3495. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Rajasthan had sought financial assistance from the Centre for widening of some heavy traffic density National Highways passing through the State;

(b) if so, the details of those National Highways;

(c) whether the Jaipur-Kota-Jhalawar stretch of NH No. 12 is such a heavy traffic density NH;

(d) if so, the steps taken to complete the four-laning of that section of NH-12; and

(e) the fund allocated therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) This Ministry has received requests from the State Government for four-laning of some heavy traffic density National Highways such as Kishangarh-Ajmer-Beawar (NH-8), Bharatpur-Jaipur-Reengus-Sikar (NH-11), Jaipur-Tonk-Kota-Jhalawar (NH-12), and Beawar-Pali-Pindwara of (NH-14) passing through the State.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Jaipur-Tonk-Kota-Jhalawar section of NH-12 has already been identified for four-laning on BOT (Build-Operate-Transfer) Basis under NHDP (National Highway Development Project) Phase III. National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has been asked to take action for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR).

Funds Generated by NHAI for Projects

3496. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds generated by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) from market borrowing for financing the National Highway Development Projects in the country the last three years;

(b) whether the projects undertaken by the NHAI are progressing as per schedule;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the main reasons for delay or the slow progress of the projects undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Rs. 5592.94 crore has been borrowed by the NHAI from market (by issuing Capital Gains Tax Exemption Bond) during the last three years for financing the National Highways Development Project (NHDP).

(b) to (d) The NHAI has been entrusted to develop about 18,000 km of National Highways under NHDP Phase I, II and IIIA.

NHDP Phase I mainly consists of Golden Quadrilateral. 92% of Golden Quadrilateral is likely to be completed by December, 2005.

NHDP Phase II mainly consists of North-South and East-West Corridors which are likely to be completed by 2008.

NHDP Phase III A is targeted to be completed by December 2009.

There have been delays in some contracts due to problems associated with acquisition of land, shifting of utilities, environment and forest clearance, clearances from Ministry of Railways for Road Over Bridges and poor performance of contractors etc.

[Translation]

Opening of New Post Offices/ Branch Post Offices

3497. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

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

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) In 2003-04 Uttar Pradesh was given a target for operating of 20 Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices and one Departmental Sub Post Office, which was fully achieved.

In 2004-05 no targets were given under Plan for any Circle. However, where proposals were found to be justified, post offices were opened by relocation of post offices which are located at a lesser distance than the prescribed norm. This is in consonance with the policy directives in the 10th Plan, which, interalia requires the Department to rationalize the existing network and optimise its resource. Accordingly, 01 Departmental Sub Post Office has been opened during the year in Uttar Pradesh through relocation.

The district-wise details of Post Offices opened in Uttar Pradesh during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05 are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

District-wise details of Post Office opened in Uttar Pradesh during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05

Sl.No.	Name of District	Type of Post offices opened	Number of post offices opened
	2003-04		
1.	Allahabad	EDBO	02
2.	Chandauli	EDBO	01
3.	Aligarh	EDBO	01
4.	Etah	EDBO	01
5.	Agra	EDBO	01
6.	Bareilly	EDBO	01
7.	Kheri	EDBO	01
8.	Basti	EDBO	02
9.	Kushinagar	EDBO	01
10.	Gorakhpur	EDBO	01
11.	Ballia	EDBO	02
12.	Shahjahanpur	EDBO	01
13.	Chittrakut	EDBO	01
14.	Fatehgarh	EDBO	01
15.	Kanpur Dehat	EDBO	01
16.	Barabanki	EDBO	01
17.	Sultanpur	EDBO	01
18.	Varanasi	DSO	01
	2004-05		
1.	Ghaziabad	DSO	01

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

Four Laning of N.H.-76

3498. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of converting two-lane NH-76 into four-lane under East-West Corridor of National Highways Authority of India is slow;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore and the present status of progress, till date; and

(c) the details of land acquisition, invitation of tenders and placing work-orders for construction of by-passes, bridges/culverts etc. in Kota, Bundi and Baran districts alongwith the details of expenditure likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Total length of NH-76 under East-West Corridor (excluding the common portion of Udaipur-Chittorgarh with Golden Quadrilateral) is 525 km, which is being converted from two lane. The land for the above stretch on NH-76 has been acquired. The details and present status including that of construction of bypasses, bridges/culverts, etc. in Kota, Bundi and Baran Districts as well as likely expenditure thereto for the contracts on NH-76 are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

East West Corridor

Sl.No.	Contract Stretch (State)	NH No.	Length (km.)	Expenditure likely to be incurred (Rs. crores)	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Shivpuri Bypass & upto Madhya Pradesh/Rajasthan Border Km 609 to km 579 & Shivpuri Bypass (Madhya Pradesh)	76	53	360.34	Agreement signed on 17.6.2005
2.	Rajasthan/Madhya Pradesh Border to Kota KM 575 to km 509 (Rajasthan)	76	70.00	311.35	Agreement signed on 20.07.2005
3.	Rajasthan/Madhya Pradesh Border to Kota Km 509 to km 449.15 (Rajasthan)	76	59.85	378.22	Letter of Acceptance (LOA) issued on 30.06.2005
4.	Rajasthan/Madhya Pradesh Border to Kota Km 449.15 to Km 406.00 (Rajasthan)	76	43.15	297.72	LOA issued on 30.06.2005
5.	Kota Bypass Km 406.00 to km 381.00 (Rajasthan)	76	25.00	228.00	Technical Bids are under evaluation
6.	Chambal Bridge (Rajasthan)	76	1.35	200.00	Bid Documents are under finalization

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Kota to Chittorgarh km 381.00 to km 316.00 (Rajasthan)	76	65.00	446.40	LOA issued on 30.06.2005
8.	Kota to Chittorgarh km 316.00 to km. 253.00 (Rajasthan)	76	63.00	440.60	LOA issued on 30.06.2005
9.	Chittorgarh Bypass km 253.00 to km 215.00 (Rajasthan)	76	40.00	384.25	LOA issued on 31.05.2005
10.	Gogunda to Udaipur km 73 to km 104.74 (Rajasthan)	76	32.00	266.00	LOA issued on 31.05.2005
11.	Bekaria to Gogunda km 29 to km 73 (Rajasthan)	76	44.00	457.00	Agreement signed on 08.08.2005
12.	Pindwara to Bokaria km 0.C0 to km 29.00 (Rajasthan)	76	29.00	220.00	LOA issued on 31.05.2005

Note: The length of stretch of NH-76 in Districts of Kota, Bundi & Baran is as under:

Kota-60 km.

Bundi-40 km.

Baran-141 km.

[English]

Long-Term Maritime Policy

3499. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to have a long-term maritime policy to exploit full potential of the seas surrounding the country and achieve synergy between trade and security;

(b) if so, whether the Government has held any meeting with various ministries in this regard;

(c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be finalised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) The Government is in the process of finalizing the Policy for the maritime Sector (Ports, Merchant Shipping and Inland Water Transport). The Policy seeks to combine vision and strategy for the sector through harmonious and coordinated development of our maritime assets like Ports, Inland Water Transport, Shipping and Ship-repair industries. After consultations with the various stakeholders, State Governments and Central Government agencies and on the basis of feedback during inter Ministerial consultations, areas of focus for inclusion in the maritime policy have been identified for further processing for obtaining approval of the Competent Authority. This process will take some time.

Transportation of Goods between Allahabad and Hoogly

3500. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Union Government to introduce waterways for transportation of goods between Allahabad and Hoogly; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The river Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad has already been declared as a national waterway and basic infrastructural facilities such as navigational channel, terminals, navigational aids etc. are being provided for facilitating inland water transport. Floating terminals have been provided at Haldia, Kolkata, Karagola, Bhagalpur, Patna, Varanasi and Allahabad and permanent terminals at Haldia, Kolkata, Pakur and Farakka. Navigational aids for day navigation are also available. A fixed schedule cargo transportation service is also being operated between Haldia and Patna.

[Translation]

Dilapidated Condition of National Highways

3501. SHRI GANESH SINGH:
MOHD. SHAHID:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI SURAJ SINGH:
SHRI RAM CHANDRA PASWAN:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI HEMLAL MURMU:

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

(a) whether the National Highways throughout the country are in a dilapidated condition;

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

(c) whether funds have been allocated by the Government for maintenance/repair/upgradation/ modernisation of National Highways;

(d) if so, the details during the last two years, State-wise;

(e) whether accidents have become common on National Highways due to their pathetic condition;

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

(g) whether the Government proposes to formulate a comprehensive scheme for the upgradation/modernisation of National Highways;

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

(i) the time by when the said scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The National Highways are being kept in traffic worthy condition within the available resources. However, there have been damages to the National Highways due to overloading, rains and floods etc.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The State-wise allocation for the development and maintenance of the National Highways entrusted to the State PWDs for the year 2003-04 and 2004-05 are enclosed as Statement-I. Funds to NHAI and BRO are not allocated State-wise. However, the details of funds allocated for development and maintenance of National Highways entrusted to the NHAI and BRO during the last two years are given in enclosed Statement-II.

(e) and (f) Bad condition of the roads is not a major cause of the accidents. The percentage of accidents caused on all roads due to defects in road condition is only 1% and 1.07% of total accidents in the year 2000 and 2001 respectively. Such information for National Highways is not compiled separately.

(g) to (i) The Government has taken up National Highway Development Project (NHDP) for improvement of National Highways. About 14,279 km lengths of National Highways are being upgraded to 4/6 lane under Phases I & II of NHDP. The NHDP Phase I and Phase II are

targeted for completion by year 2008. The Committee on Infrastructure headed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister has proposed further development programme under NHDP up to 2012 as below:

(i) 4-laning of 10,000 km of National Highways through BOT basis (Phase-III)

(ii) 2-laning and providing paved shoulders of 20,000 km of National Highways (Phase-IV)

(iii) Development of National Highways and other roads in NE Region (Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in NE region) (SARDP-NE)

(iv) 6-laning of 5,000 km of National Highways (Phase-V)

(v) Development of 1,000 km of Expressways (Phase-VI)

(vi) Construction of Ring Roads, Bypasses, Flyovers etc. to remove the bottlenecks on National Highways (Phase-VII).

Statement-I

State-wise Allocation of fund for development and maintenance & repairs of National Highways during last two years

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UTs	Development of National Highways		Maintenance & Repairs	
		2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5	6
	State PWDs				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	110.51	96.74	37.42	35.13
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.10	6.00	0.31	0.41
3.	Assam	108.00	79.81	23.27	26.59
4.	Bihar	83.07	79.51	29.48	46.28
5.	Chandigarh	1.50	1.00	0.28	0.93
6.	Chhattisgarh	46.00	36.26	15.35	26.99
7.	Delhi	10.00	4.00	0.42	0.75
8.	Goa	24.00	5.00	5.03	2.80
9.	Gujarat	72.00	70.35	22.47	34.86
10.	Haryana	52.50	46.00	11.19	11.80
11.	Himachal Pradesh	32.00	45.00	13.45	17.75
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	4.00	0.22	0.54	0.44
13.	Jharkhand	36.70	35.00	15.46	23.28
14.	Karnataka	150.35	81.51	38.73	34.40

1	2	3	4	5	6
15.	Kerala	99.86	64.69	20.81	13.20
16.	Madhya Pradesh	81.00	94.90	57.50	59.49
17.	Maharashtra	127.80	78.98	49.85	48.48
18.	Manipur	16.01	14.07	6.96	8.79
19.	Meghalaya	40.00	28.43	9.41	14.63
20.	Mizoram	31.00	25.00	5.55	4.87
21.	Nagaland	11.50	16.00	1.98	3.79
22.	Orissa	69.97	74.55	42.51	37.24
23.	Pondicherry	2.20	2.13	0.83	0.84
24.	Punjab	51.00	54.79	20.09	20.26
25.	Rajasthan	48.00	64.72	27.93	53.09
26.	Tamil Nadu	89.04	86.55	41.36	37.99
27.	Uttaranchal	20.10	28.44	3.66	14.60
28.	Uttar Pradesh	104.00	186.43	55.68	53.87
29.	West Bengal	98.00	183.70	23.57	24.95

Statement II

Funds allocated for Development and Maintenance of National Highways entrusted to National Highways Authority of India and Border Roads Organisation

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl.No.	Agency	Development of National Highways		Maintenance & Repairs	
		2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05
1.	National Highways Authority of India	3841.90	3848.00	133.57	91.09
2.	Border Roads Organisation	256.00	210.00	17.00	17.00

[English]

Elevated Flyover on NH-1

3502. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to construct an elevated flyover over NH-1 at Panipat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for its early execution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The stretch from Km 89 to Km 96 on NH-1 has been identified for Six laning at an estimated cost of Rs. 270 crore. This also includes elevated structure of 3.4 km length in the Panipat city. The work has already been awarded and pre construction activities like shifting of utilities and permission of tree cutting etc are being obtained by the concessionaire. It is expected that the work will be completed by December 2008.

[Translation]

Post and Telegraph Offices in Government/ Rented Buildings

3503. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the break-up of the post offices and telegraph offices operating from Government and rented buildings in the State, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, area-wise and category-wise;

(b) the number of new post offices, sub-post offices and telegraph offices likely to be set up in the States, particularly in Uttar Pradesh during the coming year;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to provide postal services in every village in the country especially those in Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the State-wise and area-wise number of residential colonies meant for postal and telegraph employees;

(f) whether they are adequate; and

(g) if not, the remedial measures adopted by the Government for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of post offices operating from Government buildings as well as from rented buildings State-wise and category-wise including Uttar Pradesh are given in Statement-I enclosed.

State-wise and category-wise details of telegraph offices operating from Government buildings as well as from rented buildings including Uttar Pradesh are given in Statement-II enclosed.

(b) Opening/upgrading of post offices are subject to fulfilment of norms availability of resources. It is an ongoing process. Hence the exact number of post offices proposed to be opened in coming year cannot be indicated at this juncture.

There is no proposal to set up new Telegraph Offices in the States including Uttar Pradesh during the coming year.

(c) and (d) Post offices will be progressively opened only in those locations which fulfil the distance, income and population norms. However, postal facilities for daily delivery of dak and sale of stamps and stationery through postmen are available in all villages including Uttar Pradesh. Collection of letters through letter boxes are being provided in villages including Uttar Pradesh. Collection of letters through letter boxes are being provided in villages including Uttar Pradesh with population exceeding 300.

(e) The number of existing residential colonies for postal employees, State-wise and area-wise, are given in Statement-III enclosed.

The State-wise and area-wise details of residential colonies for Telecom employees including Telegraph employees are given in Statement-IV enclosed.

(f) and (g) Out of 34 States/Union Territories, residential colonies for Postal employees are adequate in 12 States/Union Territories. The details of remedial measures tentatively proposed to be taken to augment residential accommodation for Postal employees in remaining 22 States/Union Territories are given in Statement-V enclosed.

Out of 34 States/Union Territories, residential colonies for Telecom employees including Telegraph employees are adequate in 25 States/Union Territories. Whereas for the remaining States/Union territories construction of additional quarters have been planned as per details given in Statement-VI enclosed.

Statement I

Number of Post Offices running in Government as well as rented buildings, State-wise and category-wise

Sl.No.	State	Number of Post Offices				
		In Govt. premises		In rented premises		Total
		Head Post Offices	Sub-Post Offices	Head Post Offices	Sub-Post Offices	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	37	Nil	10	48
2.	Assam	19	139	Nil	455	613
3.	Andaman and Nicobar	1	14	Nil	15	30
4.	Andhra Pradesh	73	213	31	2059	2376
5.	Bihar	29	149	2	791	971
6.	Chhattisgarh	9	31	Nil	274	314
7.	Chandigarh	1	19	Nil	28	48
8.	Delhi	12	103	Nil	269	384
9.	Daman and Diu	Nil	Ni	Nil	9	9
10.	Gujarat*	34	185	4	1114	1337
11.	Goa	2	17	Nil	91	110
12.	Haryana	15	57	1	410	483
13.	Himachal Pradesh	17	51	1	394	463
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	8	25	1	227	261
15.	Jharkhand	13	52	Nil	336	401
16.	Karnataka	63	302	2	1459	1826
17.	Kerala**	39	209	12	1255	1515
18.	Madhya Pradesh	39	149	3	799	990
19.	Maharashtra	56	254	5	1675	1990
20.	Meghalaya	2	32	Nil	31	65
21.	Manipur	1	7	Nil	46	54
22.	Mizoram	1	16	Nil	27	44
23.	Nagaland	1	17	Nil	27	45
24.	Orissa	34	106	1	1065	1206

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
25.	Punjab	21	89	Nil	666	776
26.	Pondicherry	1	4	Nil	22	27
27.	Rajasthan	50	227	1	1150	1428
28.	Sikkim	1	5	Nil	16	22
29.	Tripura	3	48	Nil	43	94
30.	Tamil Nadu	73	189	18	2546	2826
31.	Uttar Pradesh	68	214	6	2125	2413
32.	Uttaranchal	13	36	Nil	306	355
33.	West Bengal	41	200	4	1501	1746
	Total	741	3196	92	21241	25270

*Includes Dadra & Nagar Haveli
**Includes Lakshadweep

Statement II

State-wise/Category-wise details of Telegraph Offices running in Govt. premises and rented buildings in the Country:

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of T.O's in Govt. Premises	No. of T.O.'s in rented Building	No. of T.O.'s likely to be set up in coming year
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andman and Nicobar (UT)	01	Nil	Nil
2.	Andhra Pradesh	41	265	Nil
3.	Assam	08	21	Nil
4.	Bihar	17	23	Nil
5.	Chhattisgarh	09	02	Nil
6.	Gujarat	27	24	Nil
7.	Haryana	12	05	Nil
8.	Himachal Pradesh	06	07	Nil
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	07	05	Nil
10.	Jharkhand	11	12	Nil
11.	Karnataka	15	80	Nil
12.	Kerala including Lakshadweep (UT) & Mahe (UT)	12	27	Nil

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Madhya Pradesh	24	32	Nil
14.	Maharashtra	30	64	Nil
15.	Goa	02	01	Nil
16.	Meghalaya	02	Nil	Nil
17.	Mizoram	01	Nil	Nil
18.	Tripura	02	01	Nil
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	03	Nil	Nil
20.	Manipur	01	01	Nil
21.	Nagaland	02	Nil	Nil
22.	Orissa	20	10	Nil
23.	Punjab	17	07	Nil
24.	Chandigarh (UT)	01	01	Nil
25.	Rajasthan	48	37	Nil
26.	Tamilnadu	41	66	Nil
27.	Pondicherry (UT)	01	Nil	Nil
28.	Uttar Pradesh	61	95	Nil
29.	Uttaranchal	13	12	Nil
30.	West Bengal	25	30	Nil
31.	Sikkim	01	01	Nil
32.	Delhi	05	33	Nil
	Total	466	862	Nil

Statement III

No. of Postal Colonies, State-wise and Area-wise

Sl.No.	State/Area	No. of Postal colonies
1	2	3
1.	**Assam**	
	1. Guwahati	3
	2. Dibrugarh	1
	3. Tinsukia	1
	4. Jorhat	1
	5. Nagaon	1
	6. Dhubri	1
	7. Silchar	1
	8. Diphu	1
	9. Haiflong	1
	10. Tezpur	1
	11. Karimganj	1
	Total	13

1	2	3
2.	**Andhra Pradesh**	
1.	Hyderabad City	9
2.	Adilabad	1
3.	Medak	1
4.	Nalgonda	1
5.	Sangareddy	1
6.	Suryapet	1
7.	Wanaparthy	1
8.	Hanamkonda	1
9.	Visakhapatnam	5
10.	Kakinadda	1
11.	Parvathipuram	1
12.	Rajahmundry	2
13.	Vizianagaram	1
14.	Araku Valley	1
15.	Samalkota	1
16.	Chipurapally	1
17.	Vijayawada	1
18.	Guntur	1
19.	Machilipatnam	1
20.	Khammam	1
21.	Eluru	1
22.	Nellore	1
23.	Tenali	1
24.	Gudur	1
25.	Mangalagiri	1
26.	Kothagudem	1
27.	Palancha	1
28.	Bhadrachalam	1
29.	Venkatapuram	1
30.	Jangareddigudem	1
31.	Kurnool	2
32.	Cuddapah	1
33.	Anantapur	1
34.	Hindupur	1
35.	Nandyal	1
36.	Tirupathi	1
37.	Guntakal	1
	Total	51
3.	**Arunachal Pradesh**	
1.	Itanagar	1
2.	Pasighat	1
3.	Tawang	1
4.	Tezu	1
5.	Along	1
6.	Bomdilla	1
	Total	6
4.	**Andaman & Nicobar**	
1.	Shadipore	1
2.	Dilthamantank	1
3.	Middle Point	1
4.	Car Nicobar	1
5.	Junglighat	1
6.	Ranghat	1
7.	Wimberly Gunj	1
8.	Hutbay	1
	Total	8

1	2	3
5.	**Bihar**	
	1. Patna	5
	2. Bhagalpur	1
	3. Aurangabad	1
	4. Bhojpur	2
	5. Nalanda	1
	6. Rohtas	Nil
	7. Vaishali	1
	8. Munger	1
	9. Nawada	Nil
	10. Gaya	2
	11. Saran	3
	12. Siwan	Nil
	13. W. Champaran	1
	14. E. Champaran	4
	15. Purnea	6
	16. Saharsa	1
	17. Madhubani	1
	18. Darbhanga	1
	19. Samastipur	2
	20. Sitamarhi	2
	21. Muzaffarpur	1
	22. Begusarai	Nil
	Total	36
6.	**Chandigarh**	
	1. Chandigarh	3
	Total	3
7.	**Chhattisgarh**	
	1. Raipur	3
	2. Bhilai	2
	3. Kanker	1
	4. Jagdalpur	1
	5. Korba	1
	6. Bilaspur	1
	7. Durg	1
	8. Raigarh	1
	Total	11
8.	**Delhi**	
	1. R.K. Puram Sector-VI	1
	2. Sarojini Nagar	1
	3. Moti Bagh	1
	4. Sewa Nagar	1
	5. Atul Grove Road	1
	6. Kali Bari	1
	7. Dev Nagar	1
	8. Khurshed Square	1
	9. Pankha Road (Janakpuri)	1
	10. Telecom Colony (Janakpuri)	1
	11. Vivek Vihar (Telecom Colony)	1
	12. Delhi General Post Office compound	1
	13. Gopi Nath Bazar (Delhi Cantt.)	1
	Total	13
9.	**Daman & Diu**	
	Nil	Nil
	Total	Nil
10.	**Gujarat***	
	1. Ahmedabad	4
	2. Mehsana	1

1	2	3
	3. Gandhinagar	1
	4. Himatnagar	1
	5. Modasa	1
	6. Anand	1
	7. V.V. Nagar	1
	8. Ahwa Dang	1
	9. Fort Songadh	1
	10. Waghi	1
	11. Godhra	1
	12. Kapadwanj	1
	13. Jambusar	1
	14. Palej	1
	15. GIDC Kabilpore	1
	16. Khergam	1
	17. Maroli Bazar	1
	18. Kim	1
	19. Kosamba	1
	20. Valsad	1
	21. Udwada.R S	1
	22. Umargam	1
	23. Silvassa	1
	24. Vapi. I E.	1
	25. Nahaponda	1
	26. Atul	1
	27. Sanjan	1
	28. Nanivahiyal	1
	29. Sankheda	1
	30. Vadodara	2
	31. Kunkavav	1
	32. Talaja	1
	33. Botad	1
	34. Jetpur	1
	35. Jamnagar	1
	36. Dwarka	1
	37. Junagadh	1
	38. Veraval	1
	39. Una	1
	40. Mendarda	1
	41. Keshod	1
	42. Gandhidham	1
	43. Kandla	1
	44. Adipur	1
	45. Mandvi	1
	46. Rajkot	1
	47. Wankaner	1
	48. Surenderanagar	1
	Total	52
11. Goa		
	1. Alto Prevorim	1
	2. Dicarpale Margaon	1
	3. Sada	1
	Total	3
12. Haryana		
	1. Ambala	4
	2. Yamunanagar	1
	3. Kalka	1
	4. Faridabad	4
	5. Rewari	1
	6. Narnaul	1

1	2	3
7.	Hissar	3
8.	Sirsa	1
9.	Kurukshetra	1
10.	Kaithal	1
11.	Karnal	2
12.	Panipat	1
13.	Jind	1
14.	Rohtak	2
15.	Jhajjar	1
16.	Sonepat	2
	Total	27
13.	**Himachal Pradesh**	
1.	Shimla	20
2.	Bilaspur	1
3.	Hamirpur	1
4.	Kangra	1
5.	Dehra	1
6.	Rampur	1
7.	Rekong Peo	1
8.	Kaza	1
9.	Kullu	1
10.	Sarkaghat.	1
11.	Chauntra	1
12.	Keylong	1
13.	Bhangrotu	1
14.	Sundernagar	2
15.	Bakloh	1
16.	Dalhousie	1
17.	Dharamsala	2
18.	Palampur	1
19.	Baijnath	1
20.	Shahpur	1
21.	Una	1
22.	Chail	1
23.	Dagshai	1
24.	Subathu	1
25.	Kasauli	1
26.	Parwanoo	1
27.	Nahan	2
28.	Solan	2
29.	Paonta Sahib	1
30.	Sanawar	1
31.	Rohroo	1
32.	Theog	1
	Total	55
14.	**Jammu & Kashmir**	
1.	Srinagar	2
2.	Jammu	4
3.	Udhampur	1
4.	Leh	1
5.	Rajouri	1
	Total	9
15.	**Jharkhand**	
1.	Ranchi	1
2.	Dhanbad	1
3.	B.S. City	1
4.	Hazaribagh	1
5.	Giridih	1

1	2	3
	6. Daltonganj	1
	7. Golmuri	1
	8. Bistupur	1
	9. Tatanagar	1
	Total	9
16.	**Karnataka**	
	1. Bangalore	3
	2. Dodballapur	1
	3. Chikmagalur	1
	4. Birur	1
	5. Chitradurga	1
	6. Hiriyur	1
	7. Davangere	2
	8. Hassan	1
	9. Arsikere	1
	10. Belur-Hassan	1
	11. Saklespura	1
	12. Madikeri	3
	13. Virajpet	1
	14. Kolar	1
	15. Mulbagal	1
	16. Mangalore	2
	17. Mysore	1
	18. Nanjangud	2
	19. Puttur	1
	20. Karkala	1
	21. Shimoga	1
	22. Sagar	1
	23. Bhadravati	1
	24. Tumkur	1
	25. Udupi	1
	26. Kundapura (Tallur)	1
	27. Badami	1
	28. Belgaum	1
	29. Bellary	1
	30. Bidar	1
	31. Humnabad	1
	32. Bijapur	1
	33. Indi	1
	34. Sindgi	1
	35. Athni	1
	36. Chikodi	1
	37. Nippani	1
	38. Dharwad	1
	39. Hubli	1
	40. Gadag	1
	41. Gokak	1
	42. Hukkeri	1
	43. Gulbarga	1
	44. Shahabad	1
	45. Wadi	1
	46. Haveri	1
	47. Ranebennur	1
	48. Karwar	1
	49. Raichur	1
	50. Koppal	1
	51. Gangavati	1
	52. Kushtagi	1

1	2	3
53.	Lingsugur	1
54.	Sirsi	1
55.	Dandeli	1
56.	Haliyal	1
	Total	63
17.	**Kerala****	
1.	Kasargod	2
2.	Kanhangad	1
3.	Kannur	2
4.	Taliparamba	1
5.	Manathavady	1
6.	Temple Gate	1
7.	Vadakara	1
8.	Quilandy	1
9.	Kozhikode	3
10.	Meppadi	1
11.	Vythiri	1
12.	Ottapalam	1
13.	Shornur	1
14.	Agali	1
15.	Palakkad	1
16.	Alappuzha	1
17.	Aluva	1
18.	Kothamangalam	1
19.	Kanjirappally	1
20.	Devikulam	1
21.	Elappara	1
22.	Kumuly	1
23.	Maraiyur	1
24.	Munnar	1
25.	Peermade	1
26.	Santhanpara	1
27.	Thodapuzha	1
28.	Vandangmettu	1
29.	Fairfied	1
30.	Vandiperiyar	1
31.	Pudukkad	1
32.	Kottayam	1
33.	Erattupetta	1
34.	Thrissur	1
35.	Ernakulam	1
36.	Kollam	1
37.	Chavara	1
38.	Ranny	1
39.	Thenmala	1
40.	Trivandrum	4
41.	Balaramapuram	1
	Total	48
18.	**Madhya Pradesh**	
1.	Krishi Upaj Mandi, Jabalpur	1
2.	Jabalpur Factory, Jabalpur	1
3.	Katni	1
4.	Balaghat	1
5.	Seoni	1
6.	Sidhi	1
7.	Singrauly Colliery, Singrauly	1
8.	Waidhan	1
9.	Amarkantak	1

1	2	3
10.	Dhanpuri	1
11.	Rewa	1
12.	Satna	1
13.	Betul	1
14.	Parasia	1
15.	Bhopal	7
16.	Sagar	1
17.	Damoh	1
18.	Hoshangabad	1
19.	Narsinghpur	1
20.	Pachmari	1
21.	Chhatarpur	1
22.	Khajuraho	1
23.	Panna	1
24.	Nowgaon	1
25.	Guna	1
26.	Gwalior	1
27.	Indore	4
28.	Khandwa	1
29.	Mandsaur	1
30.	Morena	1
31.	Shivpuri	1
32.	Dewas	1
33.	Mahow	1
34.	Khargone	1
35.	Burhanpur	1
36.	Ratlam	1
37.	Sehore	1
38.	Ujjain	1
	Total	47

1	2	3
19.	**Maharashtra**	
1.	Mumbai	12
2.	Pune City	5
3.	Ahmed Nagar	1
4.	Shrirampur	1
5.	Pandharpur	1
6.	Baramati	1
7.	Junnar	1
8.	Lonawala	1
9.	Karmala	1
10.	Mahabaleshwar	1
11.	Solapur	1
12.	Pimpri Chinchwad New Township	1
13.	Khadki	1
14.	Ratnagiri	1
15.	Kolhapur	1
16.	Ichalkaranji	1
17.	Phulewadi	1
18.	Aurangabad	1
19.	Jalna	1
20.	Ashti	1
21.	Bhusawal	1
22.	Shirpur	1
23.	Jalgaon	1
24.	Malegaon	1
25.	Nashik	1
26.	Udgir	1
27.	Hingoli	1

1	2	3
28.	Parbhani	1
29.	Akola	1
30.	Akot	1
31.	Washim	1
32.	Amaravati	1
33.	Badnera	1
34.	Buldhana	1
35.	Khamgaon	1
36.	Shegaon	1
37.	Warora	1
38.	Gadhchiroli	1
39.	Nagpur	1
40.	Wardha	1
41.	Arvi	1
42.	Shewagram	1
43.	Wani	1
44.	Nandura	1
45.	Jalgaon Jamod (Buldhana)	1
46.	Dhamangaon	1
47.	Savner	1
48.	Sakoli	1
	Total	63
20.	**Meghalaya**	
1.	Shillong	5
2.	Akhongiri	2
	Total	7
21.	**Manipur**	
1.	Imphal	2
2.	Churachanpur	1
	Total	3
22.	**Tripura**	
1.	Agartala	1
2.	Dharmanagar	1
	Total	2
23.	**Mizoram**	
1.	Champhai	1
	Total	1
24.	**Nagaland**	
1.	Kohima	1
2.	Dimapur	1
	Total	2
25.	**Orissa**	
1.	Bhubaneswar	3
2.	Cuttack	3
3.	Puri	3
4.	Balasore	2
5.	Bhadrak	1
6.	Mayurbhanj	2
7.	Sundargarh	1
8.	Sambalpur	2
9.	Rourkela	1
10.	Bolangir	1
11.	Koonjhar	1
12.	Jharsuguda	1
13.	Berhampur (Gm)	1
14.	Chatrapur	1
15.	Korapet	1

1	2	3
16.	Bhawanipatna	1
17.	Phulbani (o)	1
	Total	26
26.	**Punjab**	
1.	Amritsar	1
2.	Bathinda	1
3.	Ropar	1
4.	Ferozepur	1
5.	Gurdaspur	1
6.	Jalandhar	1
7.	Ludhiana City	1
8.	Jagraon	1
9.	Khanna	1
10.	Patiala	1
	Total	10
27.	**Rajasthan**	
1.	Sawaimadhopur	1
2.	Gangapur	1
3.	Hindaun	1
4.	Alwar	3
5.	Bahror	1
6.	Bhiwadi I.A.	1
7.	Chomu	1
8.	Phalera	1
9.	Dausa	1
10.	Bandikui	1
11.	Jobner	1
12.	Bharatpur	1
13.	Dholpur	1
14.	Jaipur	4
15.	Barmer	1
16.	Chohtan	1
17.	Pachpadra	1
18.	Bikaner	2
19.	Lunkaransar	1
20.	Churu	1
21.	Ratangarh	1
22.	Sadulpur	1
23.	Jhunjhunu	1
24.	Khetri Nagar	1
25.	Pilani	1
26.	Jodhpur	2
27.	Phalodi	1
28.	Jaisalmer	1
29.	Nagaur	1
30.	Didwana	1
31.	Makrana	1
32.	Pali Marwar	1
33.	Marwar Jn.	1
34.	Sumerpur	1
35.	Sikar	1
36.	Srimadhopur	1
37.	Sirohi	1
38.	Jalore	1
39.	Sheoganj	1
40.	Abu Road	1
41.	Mount Abu	1
42.	Sriganganagar	1

1	2	3
43.	Hanumangarh	1
44.	Bhadra	1
45.	Sangaria	1
46.	Srikaranpur	1
47.	Ajmer	3
48.	Beawar	1
49.	Bhilwara	1
50.	Chittorgarh	1
51.	Dungarpur	1
52.	Banswara	1
53.	Kota	2
54.	Jhalawar	1
55.	Tonk	1
56.	Bundi	1
57.	Udaipur	2
58.	Mavli Jn.	1
59.	Nasirabad	1
60.	Gulabpura	1
61.	Kankroli	1
	Total	72
28.	**Sikkim**	
1.	Sikkim	1
	Total	1
29.	**Tamil Nadu*****	
1.	Kodaikanal	1
2.	Karaikudi	1
3.	Kovilpatti	1
4.	Tuticorin	1
5.	Virudhunagar	1
6.	Rameswaram	1
7.	Udankudi Christianagraram	1
8.	Arumuganeri	1
9.	Nagercoil	1
10.	Podanur	1
11.	Gobichettipalayam	1
12.	Udagamandalam	1
13.	Coonor	1
14.	Wellington	1
15.	Aravangadu	1
16.	Kothagiri	1
17.	Makkinaickenpatti	1
18.	Valparai	1
19.	Chinna Tirupathi	1
20.	Mettur Dam	1
21.	Mettupalayam	1
22.	Bhavani Sagar	1
23.	Talavadi	1
24.	Tirupattur	1
25.	Trichy	1
26.	Pudukkottai	1
27.	Perambalur	1
28.	Boiler Project	1
29.	Mannapuram	1
30.	Neyveli	1
31.	Chennai	6
32.	Vellore	2
	Total	38

1	2	3
30.	**Uttar Pradesh**	
1.	Azamgarh	1
2.	Agra	1
3.	Aligarh	2
4.	Allahabad	3
5.	Bahraich	1
6.	Ballia	1
7.	Bulandshahar	1
8.	Bharthana (Etawah)	1
9.	Bijnore	1
10.	Bareilly	3
11.	Barabanki	1
12.	Deoria	1
13.	Etah	1
14.	Etawah	1
15.	Fatehpur	1
16.	Faizabad	1
17.	Gorakhpur	1
18.	Gonda	1
19.	Ghazipur	1
20.	Ghaziabad	2
21.	Hathras	1
22.	Hardoi	1
23.	Hapur	1
24.	Jhansi	2
25.	Jaswant Nagar (Etawah)	1
26.	Jaunpur	1
27.	Kanpur	4
28.	Kheri	1
29.	Lucknow	3
30.	Mau	1
31.	Mathura	1
32.	Mainpur	1
33.	Mirzapur	1
34.	Moradabad	1
35.	Modi Nagar	1
36.	Meerut	3
37.	Noida	2
38.	Orai (Jalaun)	1
39.	Pratapgarh	1
40.	Pilibhit	1
41.	Puranpur (Pilibhit)	1
42.	Rampur	1
43.	Raebareilly	1
44.	Shikohabad	1
45.	Shahjahanpur	1
46.	Sitapur	1
47.	Tundala (Ferozabad)	2
48.	Varanasi	1
49.	Fatehgarh	1
	Total	65
31.	**Uttaranchal**	
1.	Almora	1
2.	Thapalia	1
3.	Ranikhet	1
4.	Gopeshwar	1
5.	Papariyana	1
6.	P&T Colony Dehradun	1

1	2	3
7.	Dehradun Cantt.	1
8.	Virbhadra	1
9.	Dehradun Head Post Office campus	1
10.	Chakrata	1
11.	Kalsi	1
12.	Indrapuram	1
13.	Haridwar	1
14.	Roorkee	1
15.	Divisional Office Compound Nainital	1
16.	Head Office Compound Nainital	1
17.	Telephone Exchange Compound Nainital	1
18.	Rudrapur Compund	1
19.	Ramnagar PO Compund	1
20.	P&T colony Pauri	1
21.	Satpuli	1
22.	Dugadda	1
23.	Kandolia	1
24.	Pithoragarh	1
25.	Champawat	1
26.	Didihat	1
27.	Narendra Nagar	1
28.	Uttarkashi	1
	Total	28
32.	**West Bengal**	
1.	Panihati	1
2.	Cosimbazar	1
3.	Jiagunj	1
4.	Kandi	1
5.	Khagra	1
6.	Lalgola	1
7.	Madhupur	1
8.	Raghunathganj	1
9.	Baruipur	1
10.	Diamond Harbour	1
11.	Bishnupur	1
12.	Budge Budge	1
13.	Kalyani	1
14.	R.R. Tegore Road	1
15.	Krishnanagar	1
16.	Anandapur	1
17.	Bhubandanga	1
18.	Saithia	1
19.	Kolkata	6
20.	Asansol	2
21.	Durgapore	2
22.	Bidhannagar	1
23.	Bahirsarbamangala	1
24.	Burdwan	1
25.	Telinipara	1
26.	Midnapore	1
27.	Kharagpur	1
28.	Mogra	1
29.	Pandua	1
30.	Deshbandhunagar	1

1	2	3
31.	Haldia	1
32.	Darjeeling	1
33.	Malda	1
34.	Dinajpur	1
35.	Coochbehar	1
36.	Jalpaiguri	1
	Total	43

*Includes Dadra & Nagar Haveli
**Includes Lakshadweep
***Includes Pondicherry

Statement IV

State-wise/Area-wise details of residential colonies for Telecom employees including Telegraph employees

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT/ SSA/Area-wise Res. Colonies	No. of residential colonies in SSA-wise
1	2	3
1.	**Andaman & Nicobar**	
	Carnicobar	1
	Mayabunder	1
	Baratang	1
	Shadipur	5
	DAG Colony	1
	Gurudwara Lane	1
	Dilthaman	1
	Total	11
2.	**Andhra Pradesh**	
	Adilabad	4
	Ananthapur	12
	Chhittoor	31
	Cuddpah	9
	East Godawari	17
	Guntur	11
	Hyderabad	77
	Karimnagar	7
	Khammam	5
	Krishana	19
	Koornool	15
	Mahboobnagar	6
	Medak	9
	Nalgonda	11
	Nellore	20
	Prakasham	8
	Srikakulam	8
	Visakhapatnam	4
	Vizianagram	6
	Warangal	4
	West Godavari	27
	Total	312
3.	**Assam**	
	Bongaigaon	3
	Dibrugarh	3
	Jorhat	4
	Kamrup	6
	Nagaon	4
	Silchar	3
	Tezpur	3
	Total	26

1	2	3
4.	**Bihar**	
	PGM PTD	5
	Ara	1
	Bhagalpur	1
	Bettiah	1
	Chapra	1
	Darbhanga	2
	Hajipur	1
	Gaya	1
	Khagaria	1
	Katihar	1
	Kishanganj	1
	Muzaffarpur	2
	Motihari	2
	Munger	1
	Sasaram	1
	Saharasa	1
	Samastipur	1
	Total	24
5.	**Chhattisgarh**	
	Raipur	7
	Durg	9
	Bilaspur	6
	Bastar	2
	Sarguja	1
	Raigarh	1
	Total	26
6.	**Gujarat**	
	Ahmedabad	10
	Amreli	1
	Bharuch	2
	Bhavnagar	2
	Bhuj	2
	Godhra	5
	Himatnagar	1
	Jamnagar	12
	Junagarh	3
	Mehsana	10
	Nadiad	7
	Palanpur	4
	Rajkot	15
	Surat	6
	Surendranagar	2
	Vadodra	8
	Valsad	7
	Total	97
7.	**Haryana**	
	Ambala	6
	Karnal	2
	Rewari	1
	Gurgaon	1
	Rohtak	1
	Jind	1
	Hissar	3
	Sonipat	1
	Faridabad	1
	Total	17
8.	**Himachal Pradesh**	
	Shimla	2

1	2	3
	Dharamsala	3
	Hamirpur	3
	Solan	2
	Mandi	1
	Kullu	2
	Total	13
9.	**Jammu & Kashmir**	
	Jammu	4
	Srinagar	1
	Rajouri	1
	Leh	1
	Udhampur	1
	Total	8
10.	**Jharkhand**	
	Ranchi	5
	Jamshedpur	6
	Dhanbad	15
	Hazaribagh	3
	Daltonganj	1
	Total	30
11.	**Karnataka**	
	Bangalore	5
	Belgaum	1
	Bijapur	2
	Devangere	2
	Hubli	5
	Hassan	3
	Madikeri	2
	Mandya	1
	Tumkur	1
	Karwar	2
	Raichur	2
	Bidar	2
	Gulbarga	1
	Chickmangalur	1
	Bellary	1
	Shimoga	1
	Mysore	2
	Kolar	1
	Mangalore (D.K.)	7
	Total	42
12.	**Kerala including Lakshadweep (U/T) & Mahe (U/T)**	
	Alleppey	2
	Calicut	6
	Cannanore	9
	Ernakulam	11
	Kottayam	4
	Palghat	3
	Pathnamthitta	1
	Quilon	2
	Trichur	1
	Trivendrum	5
	Total	44
13.	**Madhya Pradesh**	
	Shahdol	1
	Satna	1
	Panna	1
	Rewa	2

1	2	3
	Sidhi	1
	Bhopal	8
	Sehore	1
	Indore	4
	Jabalpur	2
	Katni	1
	Gwalior	2
	Datlia	1
	Shaipur	2
	Raigarh	2
	Raisen	1
	Khargaon	1
	Dewas	1
	Mandsaur	1
	Ratlam	2
	Jhabua	1
	Ujjain	2
	Chhindwara	1
	Guna	1
	Shivpuri	1
	Balaghat	1
	Narsinghpur	1
	Seoni	1
	Khandwa	2
	Burhanpur	1
	Metul	1
	Hoshangabad	1
	Itarsi	1
	Morena	1
	Sagar	1
	Daoh	1
	Chhatarpur	1
	Tikamgarh	1
	Total	55
14.	**Maharashtra**	
	Ahmednagar	12
	Akola	10
	Amravati	12
	Aurangabad	17
	Beed	8
	Bhandara	11
	Buldhana	8
	Chandrapur	11
	Dhule	19
	Jalgaon	12
	Jalna	9
	Kalyan	17
	Kolhapur	17
	Latur	8
	Nanded	7
	Nagpur	28
	Nasik	17
	Osmanabad	6
	Parbhani	13
	Pune	24
	Raigad	12
	Ratnagiri	16
	Sangli	9

1	2	3
	Satara	16
	Sindhudurg	6
	Solapur	13
	Wardha	9
	Yeotmal	14
	Total	361
15.	**Goa**	13
16.	**Meghalaya**	6
17.	**Mizoram**	4
18.	**Tripura**	6
19.	**Arunachal Pradesh**	3
20.	**Manipur**	1
21.	**Nagaland**	4
22.	**Orissa**	
	Balasore	6
	Mayurbhanj	1
	Ganjam	7
	Kalanand	2
	Puri	14
	Bolangir	3
	Cattack	10
	Dhenkanal	7
	Koraput	8
	Phulbani	1
	Sundargarh	9
	Sambalpur	8
	Total	76
23.	**Punjab**	
	Amritsar	8
	Bhatinda	13
	Ferozpur	26
	Hoslarpur	6
	Ludhiana	15
	Jullundhar	16
	Pathankot	9
	Patiala	9
	Ropar	3
	Sangrur	15
	Total	120
24.	**Chandigarh**	6
25.	**Rajasthan**	
	Ajmer	12
	Alwar	12
	Banswara	11
	Barmer	12
	Bharatpur	12
	Bhilwara	8
	Bikaner	4
	Bundi	1
	Chittorgarh	10
	Churu	3
	Jaipur	16
	Jhalawar	4
	Jhunjhunu	2
	Jodhpur	8
	Jaisalmer	9
	Kota	8
	Nagaur	8

1	2	3
	Pali	10
	Sawaimadhopur	5
	Sikar	5
	Sirohi	4
	Sriganganagar	19
	Tonk	3
	Udaipur	11
	Total	197
26.	**Tamil Nadu**	
	Chennai	7
	Kumbakonam	4
	Chingalpet	10
	Coimbatore	55
	Cuddalore	7
	Dharampuri	10
	Erode	7
	Karaikudi	8
	Madurai	13
	Nilgiris	9
	Nagarcoil	7
	Salem	25
	Thanjavur	12
	Tirunelveli	14
	Trichy	13
	Tuticorin	6
	Vellore	15
	Virudhunagar	6
	Chennai CTTC	1
	Total	229
27.	**Pondicherry**	8
28.	**Uttar Pradesh**	
	Allahabad	15
	Azamgarh	16
	Bharaich	13
	Ballia	6
	Banda	6
	Barabanki	9
	Basti	8
	Deoria	5
	Etawah	4
	Faizabad	12
	Farukhabad	6
	Fatehpur	4
	Gazipur	5
	Gonda	6
	Gorakhpur	7
	Hamirpur	10
	Hardoi	4
	Jaunpur	7
	Jhansi	16
	Kanpur	34
	Lakhimpur	6
	Lucknow	14
	Manicure	3
	Mau	7
	Mirzapur	15
	Orai	5
	Pratapgarh	3
	Raibarelli	5
	Shajahanpur	5
	Sitapur	2

1	2	3
	Sultanpur	7
	Unnao	6
	Varanasi	17
	Aligarh	5
	Agra	11
	Bareilli	5
	Bijnour	2
	Bulandshahar	6
	Eta	2
	Gaziabad	3
	Meerut	12
	Moradabad	4
	Muzaffarnagar	1
	Noida	2
	Pilibhit	1
	Rampur	1
	Saharanpur	2
	Mathura	8
	Total	353
29.	**Uttaranchal**	
	Dehradun	12
	Nainital	6
	Haridwar	4
	Srinagar (Garhwal)	6
	Total	28
30.	**West Bengal**	
	Asansol	1
	Durgapur	1
	Burdwan	1
	Kharagpur	1
	Malda	1
	Jalpaiguri	1
	Madinapur	1
	Haldia	1
	Jharagram	1
	Tamluk	1
	Krishnagar	1
	Total	12
31.	**Sikkim**	—
32.	**Delhi**	10

Statement V

Details of steps tentatively proposed to be taken to augment the residential Accommodation for Postal employees

Sl.No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Steps tentatively proposed to be taken to augment the residential colonies for Postal employees
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Construction of 8 quarters at one place are planned.
2.	Assam	7 quarters are under construction and construction of 27 quarters at 6 places are planned.
3.	Chhattisgarh	Construction of 4 additional quarters at 2 places are planned.
4.	Delhi	Construction of 5 additional quarters are planned

1	2	3
5.	Himachal Pradesh	3 quarters are under construction and construction of additional 11 quarters at one place are planned.
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	Construction of 14 quarters at 2 places are planned.
7.	Karnataka	Construction of 28 additional quarters at 4 places are planned.
8.	Madhya Pradesh	Construction of 4 additional quarters at one place are planned.
9.	Maharashtra	Construction of 8 additional quarters at one place are planned.
10.	Mizoram	One quarter under construction and construction of 6 additional quarters at one place are planned.
11.	Nagaland	Construction of 12 additional quarters at one places are planned.
12.	Tripura	Construction of 1 additional quarter is planned.
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	Construction of 7 additional quarters at one place are planned.
14.	Meghalaya	Construction of 8 additional quarters at one place are planned.
15.	Orissa	17 quarters are under construction and construction of 5 additional quarters at two places are planned.
16.	Punjab	Construction of 1 additional quarter is planned.
17.	Chandigarh	Construction of 1 additional quarter is planned.
18.	Tamil Nadu	Construction of 13 additional quarters at 3 places are planned.
19.	Uttaranchal	72 quarters are under construction.
20.	West Bengal	Construction of 8 additional quarters at three places are planned.
21.	Sikkim	Construction of 1 quarter is planned.
22.	Uttar Pradesh	Construction of 4 quarters at three places are planned.

Statement VI

Details of steps proposed to be taken to augment the residential Accommodation for Telegraph/Telecom employees

Sl.No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	Steps proposed to be taken to augment the residential Colonies for Telegraph/Telecom employees
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Construction of additional quarters are planned.
2.	Assam	44 Quarters are under construction and few more quarters are planned to be constructed in coming years.

1	2	3
3.	Himachal Pradesh	Out of 13 places, residential accommodation at 7 places is not adequate. The circle has planned to construct more quarters where departmental land is available.
4.	Jharkhand	Residential accommodation at Ranchi Dumka and Daltonganj is not adequate. Residential quarters at Ranchi are under construction and TDM Dumka has proposed purchase of 7 Acres of land and construction of residential quarters. At Daltonganj and Latehar construction of quarters is in pipe line.
5.	Karnataka	26 quarters of different types are under construction, 90 quarters are being planned.
6.	Meghalaya	Construction of additional quarter are being planned by NE-II Telecom Circle
7.	Mizoram	
8.	Tripura	
9.	Punjab (Chandigarh Union Territory)	Two colonies are under construction at Mohali and at Chandigarh.

Mobile Service in Maharashtra

3504. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether mobile phone service has been made available in all the districts and also upto tehsil level in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to make available the mobile facility in rural areas particularly in Naxal affected areas of Vidarbh in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Sir, Mobile Phone Service has been made available in all the District Headquarters and 313 Tehsil Headquarters (THQs) in the Maharashtra Telecom Circle Service Area. As per Licence Agreement of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS)/ Unified Access Services (UAS) Licence, in metros 90% of the service area shall be covered within one year of the effective date. In Telecom Circles, atleast 10% of Districts Headquarters (DHQs) will be covered in first year and 50% of DHQs will be covered within three years of effective date of licence. Coverage of District Headquarters/towns would mean that atleast 90% of area bounded by the Municipal limits should get the required streets as well as in building coverage. The choice of District Headquarters/towns to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/towns lies with the licensee depending on their business decision. There is no requirement of mandatory coverage of rural areas.

(d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) has plan to provide mobile service up to THQs, including those of naxalite affected areas of Vidarbh subject to prevalent law and order situation.

Upgradation/Modernisation of Rajasthan Nuclear Power Plant

3505. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to increase the capacity of Rajasthan Nuclear Power Plant, Rawatbhata;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present capacity and the percentage of power generated from the above mentioned plant; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for the upgradation and the modernisation of the above-mentioned plant?

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

(b) Four nuclear power reactors, with a total capacity of 740 MWe are in operation at Rawatbhatta, Rajasthan. As an extension to the present capacity, construction work on two nuclear power reactors of 220 MWe each has been taken up and is progressing as per schedule. The Units are planned for completion in the year 2007-08.

(c) In the year 2004-05, Rajasthan Atomic Power Station generated 4743 Million Units and contributed to about 18% of electricity generation in Rajasthan.

(d) RAPS Unit 1 (100 MWe) commenced commercial operation in the year 1973. The Unit is presently under shut down for a detailed techno-commercial evaluation of continuation of its operation The operation on Unit No. 2 were commenced in the year 1981 and was due for major Renovation & Modernisation (R&M) works. These have been completed in the year 1998 and the Unit has been in operation since then. Units 3 & 4 commenced operation in the year 2000 and being relatively new, do not need any major R&M works.

[English]

Youth Development Centres

3506. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up Youth Development Centres in the country;

(b) if so, the number of Youth Development Centres in the country, State-wise, Location-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up more such Centres in the country;

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

(e) the details of expenditure likely to be incurred on the same?

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

(b) State-wise and location-wise number of the Youth Development Centres (YDCs) in the country is given in Statement enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per Scheme guidelines, only registered Youth Clubs are considered for their upgradation as Youth Development Centre if they meet the required eligibility criteria. No State-wise targets are given for setting up of Youth Development Centre. The Ministry has requested all State Governments for simplification of registration procedure for Youth Clubs and also to scale down the fee structure for registration.

(e) An allocation of Rs. 17.20 crore has been provided during X Five Year Plan under the Scheme of Assistance to Rural Youth and Sports Clubs, which among others include the component of financial assistance to YDCs. The actual expenditure would be dependant on the response from the registered Youth Clubs.

Statement

State	No. of Youth Development Centres located district-wise	
1	2	
Andhra Pradesh	Anantpur	10
	Krishna	5
	Chittoor	14
	Cuddappah	10
	Guntur	4
	East Godavari	6
	Karimnagar	12
	Khamam	3
	Kurnool	4
	Mehboobnagar	5

1	2	
	Medak	1
	Srikakulam	5
	Visakhapatnam	26
	Vizianagram	6
	Nellore	11
	Warangal	10
	Hyderabad	1
	Nalgonda	1
	West Godavari	5
	Prakasham	1
	Rangareddi	8
Assam	Dibrugarh	6
	Dhubri	36
	Kamrup	16
	Lakhimpur	31
	Nagaon	10
	Cachar	17
	Sonitpur	17
	North Cachar Hills	9
	Karimganj	14
	Barpeta	15
	Kokrajhar	60
	Jorhat	3
	Shivsagar	3
	Nalbari	2
	Goalpara	44
	Darrang	21
	Hailakandi	7
	Golaghat	4

1	2	
	Morigaon	11
	Bongaigaon	16
Bihar	Bhagalpur	1
	Darbhanga	4
	Katihar	1
	Muzaffarpur	1
	Patna	2
	Purnia	2
	Gopalganj	1
	Madhubani	4
	Siwan	5
	Sitamarhi	1
	Nawada	1
	Khagaria	1
	Jahanabad	2
	Kaimur (Bhabua)	1
Chhattisgarh	Durg	13
	Bastar	1
	Bilaspur	7
	Raipur	11
	Sarguja	1
	Rajnandgaon	1
	Kanker	1
	Janjgir-Champa	6
Gujarat	Bharuch	1
	Godhra	3
	Sabarkanta	5
	Junagarh	2
	Mehsana	1

1	2	
	Surendra Nagar	3
	Jamnagar	1
	Bhavanagar	1
	Valsad	2
	Ahmedabad	3
	The Dangs	1
	Rajkot	1
Haryana	Ambala	3
	Bhiwani	5
	Gurgaon	3
	Karnal	5
	Sirsa	4
	Kurukshetra	5
	Rohtak	6
	Faridabad	11
	Sonepat	5
	Jind	5
	Hissar	19
	Mahendragarh	8
	Rewari	6
	Yamunanagar	5
	Kaithal	6
	Panipat	5
Himachal Pradesh	Bilaspur	5
	Chamba	1
	Kangra	2
	Hamirpur	2
	Kullu	4
	Lahul Spiti	2
	Mandi	6
	Sirmaur	8
	Solan	18
	Shimla	7
	Una	9
Jammu & Kashmir	Kathua	4
	Budgam	1
	Doda	1
	Jammu	2
	Leh	1
	Rajauri	3
	Srinagar	2
	Udhampur	4
Jharkhand	Dhanbad	2
	Palamu	1
	Giridih	1
	Sahibganj	2
	Deoghar	2
	Hazaribagh	6
	E. Singhbhum	1
	Bokaro	6
Karnataka	Bijapur	2
	Belgaon	13
	Bidar	4
	Chikmangalur	10
	Gulbarga	21
	Hassan	5
	North Kannada	4
	Kodagu	2
	Kolar	22

1	2	
	South Kannada	14
	Mandya	7
	Mysore	4
	Raichur	1
	Tumkur	13
	Dharwad	3
	Chitradurga	3
	Bellary	4
	Shimoga	21
	Bangalore (Rural)	3
	Bangalore	19
Kerala	Alappuzha	19
	Kannaur	23
	Iddukki	10
	Kozhikode	28
	Malapurram	30
	Palghat	21
	Pathanamthita	15
	Thiruvananthapuram	24
	Trissur	10
	Ernakullam	21
	Kottayam	11
	Kasargod	26
	Wynad	25
	Kollam	17
Madhya Pradesh	Betul	1
	Chhatarpur	1
	Datia	2
	Dewas	1
	Dhar	1
	Gwalior	1
	Hoshangabad	2
	Indore	2
	Jabalpur	5
	Ratlam	1
	Sehore	2
	Shivpuri	1
	Chindwara	7
	Damoh	6
	Bhind	2
	Rewa	2
	Shahdol	6
	Mandala	7
	Ujjain	1
	Morena	2
	Narsinghpur	1
	Balaghat	1
	Bhopal	5
	Sagar	3
	Vidisha	20
	Sidhi	1
	Satna	2
	Seoni	2
Maharashtra	Aurangabad	4
	Raigarh	1
	Bhandara	7
	Kolhapur	15
	Solapur	17

1	2	
	Thane	2
	Jalgaon	2
	Nanded	2
	Yavatmal	4
	Amravati	2
	Gadhchiroli	1
	Jalna	19
	Buldhana	32
	Nagpur	1
	Satara	19
	Ahmadnagar	44
	Nashik	16
	Parbhani	6
	Osmanabad	15
	Dhule	18
	Latur	4
	Pune	4
	Sindhudurg	2
	Chandrapur	2
	Wardha	1
	Beed	7
	Sangli	2
Manipur	Churachandpur	6
	Imphal	20
	Senapati	10
	Tamenlong	8
	Ukhrul	2
	Thoubal	30
	Chandel	4
	Bishanpur	6
Meghalaya	West Garo Hills	2
	East Khasi Hills	6
	East Garo Hills	1
	West Khasi Hills	2
Nagaland	Kohima	3
	Tuensang	1
	Mon	3
	Wokha	1
	Phek	2
Orissa	Baleswar	16
	Balangir	15
	Mayurbhanj	6
	Ganjam	8
	Kalahandi	15
	Dhenkanal	4
	Kendujhar	14
	Koraput	4
	Kandhanal	1
	Puri	8
	Sambalpur	1
	Sundargarh	5
	Cuttack	14
	Nuapada	6
	Khordha	8
Punjab	Bhatinda	1
	Ferozepur	1
	Gurdaspur	1
	Hoshiarpur	1

1	2	
	Jalandhar	2
	Kapurthala	1
	Mansa	1
	Fatehgarh Sahib	1
Rajasthan	Barmer	5
	Bharatpur	3
	Bundi	8
	Chittorgarh	2
	Churu	5
	Jaipur	1
	Jaisalmer	1
	Jodhpur	1
	Sawai Madhopur	2
	Tonk	1
	Udaipur	2
	Alwar	4
	Kota	1
	Dholpur	1
	Nagaur	1
	Jhunjhunu	5
	Sri Ganganagar	1
	Rajsamand	1
	Dausa	1
Sikkim	East Sikkim	4
	West Sikkim	1
	South Sikkim	1
Tamil Nadu	Coimbatore	7
	Cuddalore	4
	Dharmapuri	13
	Madurai	3
	Pudukkottai	1
	Salem	6
	Sivaganga	4
	Tiruchirappalli	2
	Thanjavur	2
	Tirunelveli	27
	Vellore	8
	Virudhunagar	12
	Kanya Kumari	28
	Erode	5
	Dindigul	2
	Thoothukudi	25
	Chennai	1
	Nagapattinam	6
	Tiruvannamalai	3
	Theni	4
	Perambalur	1
Tripura	West Tripura	10
	North Tripura	6
	South Tripura	5
Uttar Pradesh	Azamgarh	5
	Badaun	5
	Bijnor	4
	Deoria	3
	Fatehpur	1
	Ghazipur	9
	Hamirpur	9
	Jhansi	3

1	2	
	Mathura	7
	Meerut	4
	Muzaffar Nagar	4
	Muradabad	1
	Rampur	1
	Saharanpur	8
	Varanasi	4
	Sultanpur	8
	Lalitpur	2
	Etah	12
	Agra	4
	Bulandshahar	2
	Shahjahanpur	1
	Bahraich	1
	Bareilly	5
	Pilibhit	1
	Mainpuri	1
	Lucknow	1
	Barabanki	6
	Ballia	1
	Kanpur Dehat	1
	Etawah	1
	Jalaun	1
	Ghaziabad	19
	Hardoi	7
	Mau	11
	Firozabad	2
	Sonebhadra	1
Uttaranchal	Almora	5
	Chamoli	6
	Dehradun	4
	Nainital	2
	Pithoragarh	3
	Tehri Garhwal	2
	Haridwar	2
West Bengal	North 24 Parganas	45
	Bardhaman	30
	Murshidabad	5
	Darjeeling	5
	South 24 Parganas	24
	Jalpaiguri	8
	West Midnapore	22
	Purulia	15
	Calcutta	2
	Cooch Behar	24
	Bankura	3
	Birbhum	6
	Hoogly	11
	Nadia	17
	Howarah	35
	Malda	4
	East Midnapore	26
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	Port Blair	1
Delhi	Alipur	3
	Mehrauli	2
	Nangloi	1
Goa	North Goa	1
Pondicherry	Karaikal	4
	Pondicherry	17
	Mahe	4

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between Hindustan Latex Limited and the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2630/05]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital, Allahabad, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital, Allahabad, for the year 2003-2004.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2631/05]

(4) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Illness Assistance Fund, for the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, along with Audited Accounts.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2632/05]

(6) A copy of the Drugs and Cosmetics (5th Amendment) Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 431 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2005, under section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2633/05]

(7) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 809 (E) Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th December, 2004 containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. 388 (E) dated the 25th June, 2004 issued under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2634/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:

(i) S.O. 115 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd February, 2005 authorizing Sub-Divisional Officer, Hinganghat to acquire land on National Highway No. 7 in the State of Maharashtra.

(ii) S.O. 524 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th April, 2005 entrusting National Highway No. 8 (Ajmer to Rajasthan/Gujarat Border) in the State of Rajasthan to the National Highways Authority of India.

(iii) S.O. 554 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th April, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet Section) in Kancheepuram District in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(iv) S.O. 556 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 37 in the State of Assam.

(v) S.O. 557 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 600 (E) dated the 19th May, 2005.

(vi) S.O. 558 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 602 (E) dated the 19th May, 2004.

(vii) S.O. 559 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 37 in the State of Assam.

(viii) S.O. 560 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 37 in the State of Assam.

(ix) S.O. 566 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st April, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Madurai-Kanyakumari Section) in Tirunelveli District in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(x) S.O 567 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st April, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Banglaore-Salem-Madurai and Madurai-Kanyakumari Sections) in Madurai District in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xi) S.O. 569 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st April, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Madurai-Kanyakumari Section) in Tirunelveli District in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xii) S.O. 593 (E) and S.O. 594 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) in Vellore District in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xiii) S.O. 658 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 935 (E) dated the 19th August, 2005.

(xiv) S.O. 659 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Lakhnadon-Madhya Pradesh/ Maharashtra Border) in Seoni District in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(xv) S.O. 673 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th May, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1120 (E) dated the 29th September, 2003.

(xvi) S.O. 685 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th May, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 435 (E) dated the 16th May, 2003.

(xvii) S.O. 688 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th May, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 78 (E) dated the 4th February, 1999.

(xviii) S.O. 694 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th May, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four or six-laning) on National Highway No. 25 in Jalaun District in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(xix) S.O. 696 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th May, 2005 authorizing Special Land Acquisition Officer, Bangalore as the Competent Authority to perform the functions of authority under the National Highway Act with effect from the date of publication of the Notification.

(2) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2635/05]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 11 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988:—

(i) S.O. 587 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2005 regarding levy of fee to be recovered from the users of four-laned stretch on National Highway No. 8 Kherwara-Ratanpur section) in the State of Gujarat.

(ii) S.O. 588 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2005 regarding levy of fee to be recovered from the users of four-laned stretch on National Highway No. 5 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(iii) S.O. 589 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2005 regarding levy of fee to be recovered from the users of four-laned stretch on National Highway No. 5 (Rajahmundry to Tuni section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(iv) S.O. 590 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2005 regarding levy of fee to be recovered from the users of four-laned stretch on National Highway No. 5 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2636/05]

12.01 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Statement

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing Final Action Taken replies of the Government of the recommendations/observations contained in Chapter I of the following Action Taken Reports of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:

(1) Forty-third Report (10th Lok Sabha)—Formulation, Implementation and Monitoring of Reservation Policy;

(2) Forty-Sixth Report (10th Lok Sabha)—Atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and pattern of Social Crimes towards them;

(3) Fifth Report (11th Lok Sabha)—Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Indian Bank and Credit facilities provided by the Bank to them;

(4) Eleventh Report (13th Lok Sabha)—Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in All India Radio and Doordarshan; and

(5) Third Report (14th Lok Sabha)—Working of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED).

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2637/05]

12.01½ hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

(i) Need for Legislation for Reservation to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes in Higher Educational Institutions

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up Item No. 5, Calling Attention.

This is a matter which is agitating a large number of hon. Members. According to the system we have, names that came in the ballot have been mentioned, and I will try to accommodate them. But please do not try to hassle me. Shri A. Krishnaswamy.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Human Resource Development to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Need for a suitable legislation providing for reservation Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in all the higher educational institutions recognised/aided by the Government and self-financing institutions of the country in accordance with the Constitutional provisions on reservation."

*THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Sir, the Supreme Court in its judgement dated 12th August, 2005, in the case of P.A. Inamdar and Other Vs. State of Maharashtra and Others, has held *inter alia* that in case of unaided professional educational institutions, minority or non-minority, the State has no authority of reservation of quota of State seats or enforcing reservation policy of the State of available seats, since this constitutes serious encroachment on the right and autonomy of private professional educational institutions. Such appropriation of seats can also not be held to be a regulatory measure in the interest of minority within the meaning of Article 30(1) or a reasonable restriction within the meaning of Article 19(6) of the Constitution Merely because the resources of the State in providing professional education are limited, private educational institutions, which intend to provide better professional education, cannot be forced by the State to make admissions available on the basis of reservation policy to less meritorious candidates. Unaided institutions, as they are not deriving any aid from State funds, can have their own admission if fair, transparent, non-exploitative and based on merit.

The issues addressed in the judgement have been the subject matter of intense discussion and consultation in various forums in the last few years. The Human Resource Development Ministry had organised a two-day meeting of State Ministers of Higher and Technical Education at Bangalore on 10-11 January, 2005. Based on the deliberations in the above consultation, a draft legislation was prepared and was circulated during the last meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) held on 14-15 July, 2005. The draft legislation also addresses the concerns of the hon. Members of Parliament with regard to the provision for Government reservation for SC, ST and OBCs.

Even as we were awaiting the comments from all the State Governments, the above judgement of the hon. Supreme Court has, in a substantial way, affected the proposed scheme in the draft legislation. It is important that we try and understand the implications of the judgement and evolve a national approach to this important issue. This approach must address national, social and constitutional imperatives in a holistic manner. To evolve this national approach, I have convened a meeting of the State Ministers in charge of professional education on 27th August, 2005 in New Delhi. We do hope that we will be able to come to a common understanding on this issue. We will also be benefited by today's discussion and the hon. Members suggestions in this regard.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, the Supreme Court of India in its recent judgement had ruled that the self-financing colleges need not provide quota for Government allotment. This is a direct blow to social justice. India is one of the lowest ranked countries in terms of literacy in comparison to the other countries of the world.

Sir, between the first amendment in 1950 and now, our leaders had made great struggles to bring reservation for the SCs, the STs and the OBCs.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Krishnaswamy, I am sorry. You are not in your seat. Do not take it so lightly. You could have taken my permission.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: I am sorry, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: I can understand your exuberance.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: India is one of the lowest ranking countries in terms of literacy, particularly for socially Backward Classes, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Great leaders of Tamil Nadu, particularly, our beloved leader, EVK Periyar, Perarignar Anna and Karmaveerar Kamaraj made great struggles to give benefits to the Backward Classes, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, with the help of Jawaharlal Nehru. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the first person who amended the Constitution, and vehemently supported reservation. Social justice is a policy which had come into force after many years of consistent struggle by great leaders in the country. This struggle was equivalent to the Independence struggle.

Our leader, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi has been pressing firmly on certain important issues relating to reservation for a long time-namely, the removal of the creamy layer criterion from the purview of reservation, extending the benefit of reservation to the OBCs in the educational institutions controlled/financed/aided by the Government of India, constitution of a separate Parliamentary Committee for OBCs, and empowering the State Governments to decide the percentage of reservation to the SCs/STs and BCs/MBCs based on the size of the population.

*(Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2638/05)

[Shri A. Krishnaswamy]

The hon. Minister, in his reply, stated that unaided institutions, as they are not deriving any aid from State funds, can have their own admission if fair, transparent, non-exploitative and based on merit.

In this context, I would like to quote and call your attention to the Tenth Five Year Plan of the Government of India. It says:

> "The issue of access and equity are central to the university/higher education system. Only about six per cent of the estimated population in the 18-23 age group is currently in the university system. Measures to increase enrolment, including that of the disadvantaged sections, that is, SCs, STs, and OBCs, will thus be given attention during the Plan."

This is what the Tenth Plan says.

While the Government aims at the laudable objective of providing higher education to the disadvantaged sections like the SCs, STs and OBCs, the present ruling by the Supreme Court will only be a stumbling block to the efforts of the Government.

In his reply, the hon. Minister has also stated that he has convened a meeting of the State Ministers in-charge of professional education on the 27th August, 2005 in New Delhi. I welcome it. But at the same time, in the Islamic Academy case, a senior learned Counsel, appearing for the State of Tamil Nadu, submitted that already a statement had been made in the High Court that the State of Tamil Nadu would not be insisting on communal reservation based on State policy in the minority institutions.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister cannot answer on that.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: If such is the situation, when you organise a meeting, there would be dual stand. One is the stand in front of the court and the other stand is in front of the public.

A comprehensive legislation should be brought by our hon. Minister for providing reservation quota in the Government allotment in the self-financing of higher educational institutions, for ensuring that these institutions contribute to the policies of the Government of India and for accelerating the goal set by the Planning Commission of India.

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN (Coimbatore): Sir, the Supreme Court Judgement as virtually wiped out the Government quota and reservation policy. In this context, I emphasise that it is the bounden responsibility of the Union Government to protect the reservation policy on Government quota system. Will the Government of India come forward to bring in a suitable amendment to Law? It is an issue of ensuring social justice. If it is not set right immediately, it will create a serious law and order problem. Therefore, an appropriate amendment in the law is needed immediately for this.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Respected Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Human Resource Development Minister to the anomalous and nebulous but explosive situation created by the judgement of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has upheld the unfettered rights of the private institutions to admit students and also to prescribe the fees as they like. I wish to point out to this august House that the private institutions, unaided institutions have no unfettered rights. But they have a social responsibility towards the society. There is no institution in the country which is beyond the purview of the society. They are part of the society. They will have to discharge their responsibility. The concept of 'unaided' itself has to be clearly understood by everybody. Can a private institution exist on its own without using the societal resources? Can they establish an institution without the land resources for example?

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister has said that he has not accepted. The Judgement is binding on everybody.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: The Judgement is untenable. We will have to come to the rescue of the poor students who are affected by this Judgement in various institutions. This Judgement shows the anomalous situation that was created because the successive Governments—both Central and State Governments—have failed to accept the leadership in hither education. From 1991, we have allowed the private institutions to grow in a mushroom way. We would not provide the necessary funds for the development of higher education. All the Commissions-Dr. Radhakrishnan Commission, Kothari Commission, Acharya Commission and the New Policy on Education propounded by the Rajiv Gandhi—have said that the Government should spend at least six per cent of the Gross Domestic Product on education. But we have not taken that advice. We have withdrawn from our responsibility to provide higher education and we have allowed all kinds of institutions to come into the sphere.

The Supreme Court Judgement says that the private, either aided or unaided, institutions are providing meritorious education in this country. Look at the various realities that are coming from the private sector. They do not have proper faculty. They charge very high fees. They are not accountable to the fees that they collect. There is no qualitative education. There is no standardished education. How can they provide meritorious education and then say that the State Governments have no right over the institutions to provide for reservation? We are not finding fault with any Government. But it is our responsibility to discharge our duty in the field of higher education.

As my learned friend has said, today India has only six per cent of the total student population in the age group of 18-23 in higher education. When you segregate this percentage population, not even 1.5 per cent of the students from SCs, STs and OBCs come. The majority of the higher institutions are in the private sector. If the private sector is not going to offer opportunities of education or access to education, what will happen to the fate of these students? When we make reservation in employment opportunities, we are not providing reservation to OBCs in the educational institutions.

Sir, one of the salient aspects of the judgement is the operating para of the last sentences, where the Supreme Court judgement clearly says:

> "It is for the Central Government or for the State Governments, in the absence of a Central legislation, to come out with a detailed, well thought out legislation on the subject. Such a legislation is long awaited. States must act towards this direction. Judicial wing of the State is called upon to act when the two other wings—Legislature and the Executive do not act. The earlier the Union of India and the State Governments act, the better it would be."

Therefore, the Supreme Court itself has given a mandate to the Parliament and to the Union Government to enact a comprehensive legislation; and to draft this legislation, I would urge upon the hon. Human Resource Development Minister to constitute a high-powered committee, a committee of experts consisting of academicians, legal luminaries, economists and sociologists. Let them form a committee and draft a legislation keeping in view the Constitutional guarantees we have provided to the cause of social justice, and bring about a suitable legislation. The Government should also open more Government colleges in the area of professional education and dispense with our long dependence on the private educational institutions. About the private education, unless they provide a meritorious education they are not going to contribute to the human resource development of this country.

Therefore, we urge that a suitable legislation be brought forward.

MR. SPEAKER: He has already said it.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, I wish to mention as to 'how the legislation should be.' The legislation should not only take into account the Constitutional provision, but should declare that the reservation quota will be decided by the respective State Governments based on the local realities and the availability of the institutions.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (Bhagalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the autonomy of the private institution is as important as the social justice. I would like to submit in connection with the judgement of the Supreme Court that the Mandal Commission had *inter alia*, recommended 27 percent reservation in scientific, technical and professional colleges. Similarly, the First National Commission for Other Backward Classes had also recommended for 17 percent reservation. I would like to submit to the House that the provision of reservation for SC/ST in the institutions like IIT is in force since 1973. When the provision of reservation is there in the institution like IIT, if it is not implemented in the private institutions and the reservation for backward classes and Dalits in those colleges are withdrawn then the future of lakhs of students will go in dark and the poor Dalits and backward class students will be deprived of the benefit of this provision because as on date there are 1265 engineering colleges in the country and

[English]

out of these 1,265 colleges, 974 are self financing colleges, and in a state like Andhra Pradesh alone, 4, 39,000 students are being admitted only in the engineering colleges.

[Shri Sushil Kumar Modi]

[Translation]

Sir, under the Constitution, there is a provision of reservation is services. Though there is provision of reservation in the services and somebody wants to get the job of an engineer, but if he cannot pursue engineering course. then how will he get that job?

[English]

If we are providing reservation in jobs for the SCs and OBCs, it is a natural corollary that we should provide reservation in the educational institutions also so that they can avail the reservation opportunities in jobs also.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say one more thing that there is need to enforce the provision of reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs in the minority institutions as well. If any engineering college is setup in any state, anybody can not establish it *suo motu*.

[English]

He has to take permission from the AICTE. Similarly, if some one wants to open a medical college, he has to take permission from the Medical Council of India.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if somebody setup college after seeking permission then the State Governments has full right to ask that institution to implement the reservation policy. The state can enforce the policy of reservation as it is capable of taking decision regarding the landed property and assets. This decision will affect not only SCs, STs and OBCs but women are also going to be affected by it as in states like Andhra Pradesh, there is 30 percent reservation for women in all categories. If the reservation is withdrawn, the women will also be deprived of this facility. On 23rd August, 2004 all party meeting was held in Karnataka under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister of the State. The responsibilities of all political parties had met the Chief Minister and had demanded that the central legislation should be implemented. However, I am very sorry to say that one year has elapsed since then but the central legislation has not yet been implemented. So I would like to request that all party meeting should be called at the earliest in this regard. If there is need to amend the constitution for providing reservation to Dalits, OBCs and women in private institutions the consensus should be made in this regard. If the private institutions are allowed to function independently, it will deprive poor people of their rights. So, the Government should take decision at the earliest regarding the implementation of the central legislation after calling the meeting of all political parties. So that reservation facility can be provided to Dalits and OBCs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit one more thing that in coming years the reservation should also be provided to those students who come to study from other states. Lakhs of students of the states like Bihar come to Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh for study. So, the reservation should also be provided to the students coming from the other states.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You all are aware of the position. Considering the sensitivity of the matter, I have given priority. It was raised only yesterday and today we are having a discussion. Members know the rules—one clarification is permitted. I am allowing a lot of submissions to be made. Let me regulate it as much as possible.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: (Shahabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please also give me opportunity to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN (Vandavasi): On behalf of Marumalarchi Dravida Munetra Kazagam and our Party Leader Thiru Vaiko, I am expressing my views on the recent verdict of the Supreme Court regarding the reservation policy in all private unaided engineering and medical colleges. Social justice is being denied by this judgement as the poor people, weaker sections of the society, the Scheduled castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes are deprived of their legitimate rights. The judgement gives more power to the minority institutions and other majority colleges being run by the private persons.

I would request the Minister to bring a legislation to give reservation to the weaker sections of the society for

admission in unaided colleges. In Tamil Nadu, it is on terminal point. Our beloved Leaders, Periyar, Anna and other leaders have fought for the cause of social justice to the backward classes, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. I would like to request the Minister to introduce a Bill, to safeguard the interest of the weaker sections of the society, including the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes, to restore the reservation policy in the unaided professional colleges, including medical and engineering colleges. I would like to know whether the Government is interested to enact a legislation to define who is a minority. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to who is a minority. The judgement says that any person who is running a minority institution or a linguistic institution can admit anybody from any State. What does it mean? A linguistic minority institution in Tamil Nadu can admit any person from any State. Also, more powers are given to the private colleges. They can fix their fees, take decision for admission, conduct common entrance examination and so on. Ample powers are given to them. Is the Judiciary encroaching upon the powers of the Parliament or the Government of India? Will they take the decision? Parliament is the supreme authority. I would request the Minister to take immediate decision in this matter of serious concern.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please allow me to conduct the House. I feel the sentiments of the House. I have said that all sections of the House are concerned but there is something called procedure. According to the Rule, five hon. Members have been permitted.

They have made fairly long submissions but there were two hon. Members who had also given notices.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep your hands down.

[English]

It only distracts me. I want to help you but if you do not have the patience to hear me, then how can I conduct the House? There were two hon. Members who had taken the trouble of putting in the Calling Attention notices. They did not come successful in the ballot. I want to call them. if you please cooperate by making only one observation instead of making a long speech, then I can accommodate all the sections of the House so that the Government does know that every section of the House is of a particular view. That will help.

Now Shri Kharventhan to speak. Please be brief and say that you support the proposed legislation.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, the recent judgement of the Supreme Court is anti-public. According to this judgement, "Have the money, go to the college and get the admission." That is the result of the judgement. The reservation given to the poor students in rural areas throughout the country is totally affected. Out of 2000 engineering colleges, 1000 are private colleges. Similarly, out of 205 dental colleges, only 30 are owned by the Government. So, it will adversely affected all the poor students in the rural areas.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to bring an Act paving way for the reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs.

Hence I urge upon the Government to bring an Act paving way for the reservation for Schedule Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much. This is how you should cooperate.

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Sir, I had given notice for the Calling Attention. The hon. Minister has stated his reply that to meet the situation arising out of the Supreme Court verdict, he would hold a meeting of the State Education Ministers. I appreciate the move. However, I would like to get a positive assurance from the Minister that the Government would protect the interest of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs and that they would be given social justice.

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur): Sir, I will not take much of your time. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister for Human Resource Developed to two important things.

[Translation]

Recently the Supreme Court has delivered two judgements. First one is—if students belonging to scheduled castes (SCs) are not provided reservation in higher education, they won't be able to avail the benefits of reservation in employment. The Government propose

[Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal]

to provide reservation to NRIs out of management quota. Well, the Government may do so, but it should be out of management quota and reservation for SCs should not be encroached upon. Rather it should remain intact. NRIs should not be provided reservation out of the quota meant for SCs. Second judgement relates to Andhra Pradesh. The Supreme Court had held that the State Government is not empowered to make any provision or any legislation for SCs. As the provision for reservation did not exist earlier, so there was no IPS or IAS officer from amongst Balmikis. After reservation has been provided, during the past 23-24 years in Punjab and Haryana 2 person to IAS, 4-5 person to IPS and 8-10 person to PCS of this community have been selected. But, unfortunately the said judgement will result in withdrawal of 50 percent reservation provided to them.

I would like to submit that it should have been provided in the recently introduced Bill itself that the States should be empowered to specifically provide for reservation within reservation because States are well aware of social and economic condition of people staying therein. I have raised two points. First—in case of private higher education reservation should be there and second, the State Government should be empowered to make provision for reservation within reservation.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not raise your hands. I have made my own list. So, there is no good raising your hands.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Sir, what is the matter? I never. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have been given a chance to speak, so you may speak. Are you angry?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: What is the matter everybody is giving instructions to me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not giving any instruction. I have permitted you to speak, so please speak.

[English]

Do not get misled by others. But this should not be taken as a precedent in future.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I respect you. I am thankful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak. The judgement of Supreme Court has gone against the principle of social justice and special opportunities provided to youths in the country. Article 15(4) of the Constitution provides special opportunities to the weaker section of society, be it SCs, STs or OBCs. And the judgement of Supreme Court has gone against the spirit of the Constitution. Also, it is against the principle of social and natural justice. In our country 54 percent people belong to OBCs and 24 percent people belong to STs/SCs. Said judgement has shut the door to higher education for children of this 78 percent people. It has provided an iron-filter-gate and it is quite unfortunate. Therefore, my submission is that the Government should bring an appropriate legislation. The hon. Minister has stated that the judgement is a set back in the way of bringing any Bill be force the Government in this regard. The Government should make efforts to undo the set-back right now. A Bill should immediately be brought in the House so that 27 percent reservation provided in higher posts is not adversely affected. If children of SCs, STs and OBCs do not get admission in institutions for higher education such as engineering, medical then how the 27 percents posts reserved for them in accordance with the recommendation of Mandal Commission and further permitted by Supreme Court will be filled up. It will be of no use. Therefore, my submission is that the Government should bring legislation in this regard. A meeting of Education Ministers of States has been convened for 27th. I welcome this step. But, meanwhile the House will be adjourned and there will be no time to bring a Bill. Therefore, the Government should promulgate an Ordinance so as to ensured that the children of these 78 percent people i.e. SCs, STs, and OBCs, are not deprived of reservation provided to them and it remains intact. Since time immemorial their fate is needed to the soil.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If a Constitution Amendment is required it may be considered.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Therefore, an Ordinance should be promulgated after 27th so as to

circumvent the decision of the Supreme Court and also to ensure that said classes are not deprived of reservation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You may sit down.

[English]

Do not divide the House in this manner.

[Translation]

You should give your suggestions in time. Leaders of your party have spoken so well.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please say it in one or two sentences. I want to strengthen the hands of the Government in this matter since the Government wants to bring a law, as it says.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): The Supreme Court delivered two judgements within a week, and both are contrary to each other in letter and spirit. A week ago, the Supreme Court has held that the State Governments should make arrangements for admission in institutes of higher learning and combined admission test should be conducted for this purpose. If State Governments conduct examination for admission in private colleges, can anyone frame rules contrary to national legislation? Therefore, the State Governments will have to comply with the provisions for reservations so far the admission are concerned. Thus, both the judgements are against each other and therefore, the Government of India should review them.

Secondly, I would like to submit that as per the Constitution both the Central and the State Governments can frame rules for upliftment of weaker sections of society and if need arises, even Constitution can be amended for this purpose. The judgements are direct interference in the power of the Legislature. I feel that the recent judgement has added a new chapter in the on-going process of curtailment of powers by the Supreme Court. Therefore, my submission is that the Government should act tough in this regard. The Hon. Minister made a mention of Article 29-30 of our Constitution. In fact, the said Articles protect the religious and cultural rights of citizens and are not applicable in case of specialized education. Regarding specialized education, the hon. Minister of Health has talked in the House about bringing a new law for providing special opportunities for the persons of weaker sections of the States. It should be enacted soon and a meeting of the leaders of all the parties should be convened to bring in the constitutional amendment. I thank you and conclude with this request.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, nothing is being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You should be on your seat if you want to speak. Why do you wander about?

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on such an important issue. I have listened to all the hon. Member's very carefully. It is true that Judiciary is continuously interfering in the Legislative's work. Little wonder that if the Supreme Court comes up with a ruling that the Parliament does not have the right to enact laws and get this power transferred to the Supreme Court. The need of the hour is to amend the verdict through the law. A bill needs to be brought immediately. My colleague Shri Sushil Kumar Modi raised the issue of minority institutions a short while ago. Be it the right wing parties, the left wing, parties, the Congress or the BSP, the entire house is of the same opinion that Muslims are lag far behind in the field of education. There is a law in the Constitution to give support to the people of backward classes. The Government should provide for at least 12-13 percent reservation to minorities in all the educational institutions if not more than the proportion of their population. This new law would be in the interest of the nation. ...*(Interruptions)*

---

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has the right to speak his voice. I am not bound by that.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for allowing me to say a few words about the Supreme Court's verdict regarding the reservation policy in the private institutions. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Silence please. I am going much beyond the rules of procedure because of the importance of the matter. Please cooperate.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: I and my party, the BJD, while associating myself with what has been said in the House, support reservation in the private institutions. The hon. Minister has already assured that he is looking into the matter and having intense discussions with the State Governments, various institutions and academicians.

So, may I ask a very specific question? Could he assure the House that within a particular timeframe, he can bring the legislation so that the problem of a number of interpretations may not arise and create confusion throughout the country? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Silence please.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: I request the hon. Minister to assure that this can be taken up within a timeframe, that is, this particular Bill can be brought before the House.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Nalanda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, firstly I would like to thank you for making the rules a little bit flexible to accommodate other hon. Members and giving me an opportunity to speak. It is a very important issue and the House is unanimous over why it should be done. All the hon. Members have expressed their views in this regard. Agreeing with them, I would only make this submission that some initiative should be taken in this regard here before the hon. Minister convenes a meeting on 27th August. He would take his time in inviting Ministers for professional education because it is not a question of professional education, it is a matter of principle. We can not go against the principles incorporated in the Constitution. It is not only a question of giving reservation to the students in technical education, it is a matter of principle. A meeting of representatives, leaders of various parties of both the Houses should be convened immediately to take up this issue. I believe that there is a consensus in this regard and a bill should be brought in the shape of the constitutional amendment bill or any other bill without waiting for the meeting of Ministers on 27th August. A meeting could be held during this session only, there is no difference of opinion in this regard, a law should be formulated to wipe out confusions of this sort. It is my request to give this a serious thought.

[English]

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): Sir, the recent Supreme Court judgement is a big lethal blow to the development of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and Other Backward Class candidates. I do not understand the rationale behind the judgement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No one has said it.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: With due apologies to the learned Judges, I say that they have reserved 15 per cent for the NRI candidates while depriving the opportunity to lakhs and crores of SC/ST and OBC people. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You say that you support the proposed Bill.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Sir, we are supporting that one. But I do not understand the rationale behind it. In one way, they are depriving the poorer sections of the society. Sir, the statistics show that in Andhra Pradesh, there are 1500 seats in medical courses in the Government colleges whereas there are 15,000 seats in the private institutions. Likewise, lakhs and lakhs are there in the private sector. The Government has got its limitation as compared to the developed countries in starting Government institutions. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please, please. I have got another Calling Attention.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Sir, I will complete it in one minute. Unless the reservation is made in Private Educational Institutions as our hon. Deputy Speaker said, and unless these SC/ST and OBC candidates are educated enough, how are they going to get the opportunity in employment reservation? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, no.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Sir, I request the hon. Minister of Human Resources Development to take note of this. I also congratulate him for immediately taking a decision to convene a meeting of State Education Ministers. I agree with the observations made by hon. Deputy Speaker that despite the reservation the development of SC/ST people in the various States in their socio-economic strata, they have not improved unfortunately all the sub castes among the Scheduled Castes in Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You only say that you support it.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: The sub-reservations in reservation system should also be thought of by the Government.

Thank you very much.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale's name is also associated. Your name is being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I implore you to take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I beseech you to please take your seats. Do not interfere with this.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Salem): Sir, I have given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Maybe, you have given notice but that does not entitle you. You are a senior Member. Instead of five hon. Members, I have allowed 16 hon. Members because of the importance of the matter. I have said that all are from 16 different parties, and I appreciate the kind concern shown by our hon. Deputy Speaker. His contribution has added to the importance of this matter. Therefore, every section of the House has participated. Let us now hear the hon. Minister.

I can tell you that I have got 34 parties here but they are a little bit helping me.

Now, the hon. Minister has to reply. Hon. Members, please cooperate. Another important Calling Attention is there.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my name is also there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Those who wish to speak may send their names, their names would be included in the list.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shailendra Kumar, you know that that does not entitle you. Knowing everything, you are only interrupting him. This will not be treated as a precedent in future.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your party Member has spoken.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Bilhaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have not called someone who has given notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: So what? You do not do this. I have asked you. Even you could have sent your name. I am very sorry if this is the attitude that is taken. In future, I will not allow other Members except whose names are in the list. Accommodation is not appreciated. I thought all of you would appreciate it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. Please note that, in future, this defiance of the Chair will not be tolerated.

...*(Interruptions)**

---

*Not recorded

MR. SPEAKER: This will not be treated as a precedent in future. You have associated with it. Anybody interrupting the hon. Minister will have to go out of this House. There is a limit to everything. Shri Ramdas Bandu Athawale, do you want me to name you? There is a limit to it. A very important issue is being discussed. I have gone out of my way in accommodating Members.

The following hon. Members are permitted to associate with the issue raised in the Calling Attention:

Shri Pralhad Joshi, Shri D. Ravindra Naik, Shri B. Vinod Kumar, Shri Shailendra Kumar, Shri Virendra Kumar, Shri Pradeep Gandhi, Shri Brahmananda Panda, Shri Sugrib Singh, Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Shri Madhu Goud Yaskhi, Shri Shriniwas Patil and Shri Lalmani Prasad.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Sir, listening to the hon. Members across the House on an issue which naturally concerns every section of the people in this country and to the rare unanimity on an issue on which our founding fathers had laid down some salutary principles in the Constitution of India, and as has been mentioned by an hon. Member, the initiative taken by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru for bringing the backward classes within the ambit of those whose interests have to be furthered and protected, it is very obvious that on this issue the country is one. ...*(Interruptions)*

I would like to state very categorically that this Government is committed to the policy of reservation, to the policy of the protection of the social, political structure which the Constitution has recognised. Nonetheless, the fact is that the hon. Supreme Court has delivered a judgement which does, in many ways, impinge upon the social rights. I would like to make it clear that as soon as it is possible, keeping in view all the suggestions made in the House, we will try to address each and every concern in a suitable manner. However, I would like the House to bear in mind that this judgement does not come into force till the next academic session.

This is something which the Supreme Court itself has laid down. So, in fact, we have the time during which we should deliberate and then legislate. The process of deliberation is well-known and I see no difficulty whatsoever in accepting the suggestion of the hon. Member, Shri Nitish Kumar. Ji that before the House adjourns, we should have a meeting of all the Leaders of Political Parties on this important issue and take their suggestions directly. The Chief Ministers are naturally representing their States and, therefore, I have addressed my letter to them requesting them to send somebody on their behalf to this meeting so that we can draw up the legislation.

I would also inform the august House that, in fact, we had drawn up the legislation on the basis of consultation with all the States and this judgement has come at a stage where the implementation of that legislation has been disturbed; but our objective will remain the same. I assure the hon. House that before the next academic session—it is the outer limit—or much before that, we will make that are needed to strengthen the framework of the social order which the Constitution of India recognises and which is the law of the land, and that we are able to do something which fulfils the aspirations of the weaker sections of our society. I would only like the House to bear with this because after all this is a judgement of the Supreme Court and out of anger or pique we cannot react to it in any manner which may sound to be rather improper.

With these words, Sir, I thank the hon. Members for their suggestions and I want to assure them that I, not only share what they feel, but also this Government wants to respect the feelings of the hon. Members on this issue and we will act accordingly.

MR. SPEAKER: I am extremely thankful to all the hon. Members on all sides of the House for their kind cooperation on a very important issue. I have decidedly relaxed the rules. It is not to be treated as a precedent and we have found that by cooperation we can dispose of many contentious issues or even important issues like this in a very structured manner. Thank you very much to all of you. I express my gratitude.

Now, Item No. 6, another Calling Attention by Shri Ananth Kumar.

1254 hrs.

(ii) Need to expedite approval of Kalasa and Banduri Nala projects

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): I call the attention of the Minister of Water Resources to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Need to expedite the approval of Kalasa and Banduri Nala project, tributaries to river Mahadayi, in Karnataka in order to solve the acute drinking water problem in the State."

MR. SPEAKER: Silence please. Those who want to go out, may go out silently please. This is an important matter which is being discussed now.

*THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, the Government of Karnataka in April, 2002 requested Union Government for clearance of their proposal from inter-State angle for diversion of 7.56 TMC of water from Mahadayi basin to Malprabha basin through implementation of Kalasa and Banduri Nala schemes to meet the drinking water needs of Hubli/Dharwad cities.

The Ministry of Water Resources gave 'in-principle' clearance to the proposal to meet the drinking water need of Hubli/Dharwad, from water availability angle, on 30th April, 2002. The Government of Goa in July, 2002 took strong exception to the grant of this clearance by the Ministry and requested for setting up of an Inter-State Water Disputes Tribunal under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 for resolution of the dispute. In view of this, the 'in-principle' clearance granted by the Ministry was placed 'in abeyance' in September, 2002 with a view to resolve the matter by an agreement between the two States, failing which, by an Award of the Tribunal. The Chief Minister of Goa in June, 2003 in his letter addressed to the hon. Prime Minister has expressed the desire of his State to settle the long-standing issue with Karnataka through negotiation. The two States have so far not concluded any agreement on the sharing of Mahadayi Water. Since 2004 till date Members of Parliament from Karnataka, hon. Chief Minister Mr. Dharam Singh and Irrigation Minister Mr. Mallikarjuna Kharge have called and met me on three occasions to resolve the issue including the mover of the Calling Attention Motion.

The Ministry of Water Resources has been making efforts towards a negotiated settlement of Mahadayi water dispute and a meeting in this regard was convened by my predecessor during December, 2002. Also my Ministry had earlier proposed to convene the meetings of Chief Secretaries of the basin States of Mahadayi basin in the first week of January and the second week of February, 2005 which could not be held due to non-availability of Chief Secretary of Government of Goa. The Government of Goa later informed that the stand of Government of Goa with regard to finding out a negotiated settlement or going for a Tribunal may be known once the elected Government in Goa is in place again. After installation of popular Government in Goa, the Secretary, Water Resources has written a letter to the Chief Secretary, Goa on 20.6.2005 for seeking her convenience for holding a joint meeting with basin States of Mahadayi basin. Response from the Government of Goa is awaited. In the meantime, I had also proposed a meeting of Secretary, Water Resources, Government of Goa and Karnataka on 9.8.2005 at New Delhi on the above issue followed by my final intervention for a negotiated settlement, if possible, between the Chief Minister by first week of September, 2005. However, the meeting could not take place on 9.8.2005 due to non-availability of the officials of Government of Goa due to ongoing Assembly Session in Goa.

However, I have spoken to hon. Chief Minister of Goa on phone and he was kind enough to have agreed to have a meeting on the issue with the Government of Karnataka at my behest in mid-September, 2005. The exact date will be fixed in consultation with both the State Governments.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ananth Kumar.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Thank you, Sir. Mahadayi is one of the important rivers which emanates from Karnataka State in Khanapur Taluka and flows in Karnataka as well as Goa and ends up in the Arabian Sea. It flows 29 kilometers in Karnataka and 54 kilometres in Goa. There are many tributaries to this major river.

12.59 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The two tributaries, Kalasa Nala and Banduri Nala, are important. According to Central Water Commission's 'Yield Survey', the total yield of the basin is 190 TMC to 220 TMC. The share of Karnataka, according to 75 per cent of the dependability, is 45 TMC feet of water. The parts of North Karnataka—we have other cities of Karnataka, other than Bangalore, like Hubli, Dharwad, as well as various tehsils like Navalgund, Nargund, Badami and hundreds of villages—are starving due to drinking water crisis.

*Also placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2639/05.

[Shri Ananth Kumar]

13.00 hrs.

This drinking water crisis has been persisting for the last 20 years. The situation is so bad now that millions of people there get drinking water only once in 15 days and it is worse during summer. Therefore, in 1992, the Government of Karnataka and Government of Goa held discussions at the Chief Ministers' level, at ministerial level and also at the technical level. There was a proposal made by the Government of Karnataka for taking up two Nala diversion projects, one is Kalasa Nala diversion and another is Banduri Nala diversion, to divert 7.56 TMC ft. of water out of the yield of 45 TMC ft. of water of Karnataka to Malaprabha river so that the drinking water problem can be mitigated. But despite protracted negotiations, the sorry state of affairs continues even today.

Sir, I would like to briefly bring to the kind attention of this august House and the Government, through you, that meetings were held as early as in 1992, 1993 and 1996 to form a Technical Committee comprising of officers of both the States. Then NEERI of Nagpur was commissioned to have an environment impact assessment. NEERI, Nagpur gave a very clear report that there is no objection for taking up these Kalasa Nala and Banduri Nala diversion projects to divert 7.56 TMC ft. of water to Malaprabha river and later both the State Governments of Karnataka and Goa decided to pursue this report.

Sir, again meetings were held in 1998, 1999, 2000 and in 2002 there was an inter-state meeting held in New Delhi. In that meeting, the Chairman of the Central Water Commission expressed his regrets towards the attitude of the Government of Goa in bringing unnecessary objections because the Government of Goa, day in, day out, raised many objections. First they said that there should be an environment impact study. It was conducted by NEERI and it almost gave a green signal to these projects. Then they said that there should be a yield assessment study. The yield assessment study was conducted by the Central Water Commission and according to the yield assessment study, 45 TMC ft. of water was assured to Karnataka. Later, after the yield assessment study was done, the Government of Goa said that they require one more study to be conducted by the Meteorological Department. The Union Water Resources Ministry said that this study has already been conducted by the Central Water Commission while conducting the yield assessment study and if they want to conduct their own study, let them conduct it.

Sir, the Government of Goa has also been dilly-dallying as to whether they want a negotiated settlement or otherwise; umpteen number of times the Government of Goa said to the Union Water Resources Ministry and the Government of Karnataka that they want a negotiated settlement. During NDA's regime, on 30.4.22, in-principle clearance was given by the Central Water Commission and the Ministry of Water Resources for these Kalasa Nala and Banduri Nala projects.

But later, because of the protests from the Government of Goa, in-principle clearance was kept in abeyance. Later, as already stated by the hon. Minister, many all-party delegations, including the delegations of hon. Members, met the Prime Minister and the Union Minister of Water Resources. They assured us that there would be a time bound negotiated settlement and that they would also look into withdrawing of abeyance order.

I want to bring a serious matter to the knowledge of this House. In the last 14 months, the CWC has called four meetings. The first meeting was called on 16th April 2004; the second was called on 20th August 2004; the third meeting was called on 7th January 2005; and the fourth meeting was called on 15th February 2005. In these four meetings, they expected the representatives of Government of Karnataka and Government of Goa to have a negotiated settlement on this issue.

But, unfortunately, when such meetings have been called, on the direction of the hon. Minister of Water Resources, by none other than the Central Water Commission, all the four times, the Government of Goa had expressed inability to participate in these meetings. That has created a great amount of heart burning.

Sir, I want to bring to the kind attention of this House that for the last few months, all the legislators, all the hon. Members from Karnataka and thousands of farmers have been continuously waging an agitation in the towns of Nawalgond and surrounding areas, including Hubli-Dharwad cities. The only contention is that the matter is pending for the last 20 years and the negotiations are going on from 1992 onwards. In 1992, the Government of Goa stated that they would pursue the NEERI report and continue with the project. Later on, they have also assured the Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Water Resources that they wanted a negotiated settlement.

The total yield is 220 TMC feet. Out of the 220 TMC feet, the total yield of Karnataka State is 45 TMC

feet. We are urging only for the division of 7.56 TMC feet of water and that too only for drinking purposes and not for irrigation purposes. Without this 7.56 TMC feet of water, the entire northern Karnataka area is reeling under severe drinking water crisis.

I urge upon the hon. Minister and the Government of India that they should immediately intervene in this matter. The hon. Minister has been kind enough in holding the meetings with the representatives of northern Karnataka, especially, the hon. Members of that area and the Government of Karnataka. But somehow, it is a story of protraction. I do not know why the Government of Goa is not cooperating.

The hon. Minister is in a very vantage position, the UPA is governing at the Centre and the constituent of UPA is governing in Goa, when the Union Government in principle has already agreed for this diversion and the Government of Goa is also ready for a negotiated settlement.

In other areas, that is, between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, pending the final decision of the Tribunal, water is already flowing to Tamil Nadu for irrigation purposes. But this is a matter of water for drinking purposes. Therefore, I urge upon the Government and the hon. Minister to prevail upon the State Government of Goa and revoke the abeyance order for going ahead with these two major diversion projects.

It should be done in a time-bound manner. The next summer is approaching. He has assured the House through his statement that he has already had a telephonic talk, and in September we may have good news. But, I urge the hon. Minister that it has to be time bound. By the end of the September, if 'in-principle' clearance is allowed and the abeyance order is revoked, Karnataka will be benefited; justice will be done; the drinking water crisis will be mitigated; and the long-pending demands and the ongoing agitation will come to a conclusion.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (Dharwad North): Thank you, Sir. The hon. Minister in his statement has rightly quoted that many a times the meetings of the officials of the Government of Goa and Karnataka have been called. I am not complaining against any Government. Whenever we have met, he was kind enough; he has told that we are persuading with the Government of Karnataka. Most of the points have already been covered by my senior colleague Shri Ananth Kumar. I do not want to repeat them. But this is the question of humanity. In the surrounding area of Hubli-Dharwar—even Karnataka Government has stated in its Memorandum but the Minister has stated only Hubli-Dharwar—almost 100 villages are suffering from acute drinking water shortage. I am not talking about the irrigation projects. Karnataka is a law-abiding State. Many other States are there. I do not want to quote.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Joshi, you are requested to ask only questions and not to make a speech.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Sir, I will take only two or three minutes. I am not repeating the points.

We are law-abiding people. Many other States are commencing works without even giving a formal information to the Central Government, to the Central Water Commission. Catchment are of 375 square kilometres is there in Karnataka while Goa covers the catchment area of 1500 square kilometres. Our share has already been quoted; it is 45 TMC. The question is this. In the National Water Policy also—it may not be approved—which has been referred in one of the case of the Supreme Court, that is in Delhi drinking water case itself where Haryana State was involved, it has been mentioned that drinking water is a topmost priority.

People get water once in 10 or 15 days. Even a pot of water is sold at 25 paise or 50 paise. This is the situation. The hon. Finance Minister is also present here. He quoted about the water problem in Chennai, and said that some major fund is allocated. We are not asking for any fund. We have water. Karnataka Government is ready to invest. The demand is there for 20 or 30 years. We are asking only for 7.56 TMC of water. As per the National Water Policy, kindly allow us and withdraw the abeyance order.

Secondly, in all the five meetings, including the latest one, all the time the Government of Goa is abstaining itself. One time they talked about the share of water; another time they talked about the environmental problem. When environmental problem was talked, NEERI was appointed. NEERI gave the clearance. Then, they talked about oceanology. When the share of water, yield of water was questioned, CWC was appointed. Then, they talked about the IMD.

[Shri Pralhad Joshi]

Where is it going to end? I am not exaggerating it and you can get the information through your own sources. For the last one year, people are getting drinking water once in 15 days. How long will this attitude go on?

Secondly, the dam has been built and the pipelines are laid. As there is no water in the dam, the investment is going waste. I urge upon the Central Government and the Water Resources Ministry to take up this issue very seriously with the Goa Government and convince them or you withdraw the abeyance order. People are agitating. The National Water Policy and CWC yield assessment are entirely in favour of Karnatka. Kindly withdraw the abeyance order, as per the National Water Policy. That is the only request that I am making to the Government.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this matter has been brought to our notice for the last so many years. I do not like to go into those details.

The distinguished hon. Member, Shri Ananth Kumar has stated all those things. This matter had been debated between Karnataka and Goa from various angles before CWC gave the 'in-principle' clearance. When the Planning Commission appointed a Sub-Group to discuss the yield assessment in 1982, the Goa Government stood by it. While the yield assessment made in 1982 was one type of a measure by the Planning Commission, the latest assessment of CWC in 1999 was for more superior to that. They were arguing in the initial stage that they had a doubt as to which was right and which was wrong. Again we addressed this issue. The Goa Government and CWC together evaluated and assessed the whole matter and planned accordingly. Unfortunately, their co-operation, which we sought, in the participation exercise of CWC was not there. Naturally, CWC, on its own, again tried to evaluate the whole assessment issue and provided the raw data to them. They even questioned the raw data and said, "This is not correct. We have to process and clarify." Finally, they banked on the data of the Panjim side. We also provided that very recently and now they conveyed that they are examining it.

The matter, who is right and who is wrong is not important. In a matter of water sharing, be it for drinking purpose or for irrigation, no State accepts that their State is a surplus State, and every State agrees to the remark that their State is a deficit State.

The Parliament provided us the strength to deal this issue under the Inter State Water Tribunal mechanism. I agree that the issue of drinking water, where people are crying for years together, cannot be delayed for so long by going through the process of Tribunal. According to the law of the land, which is accepted by the Parliament, Tribunal is the only mechanism to resolve such issues. But we always feel and believe that through the negotiated arrangement between the States on technical judgement, things can proceed better and we can understand this.

I have studied this issue in depth. I found that the observation of the Planning Commission's Sub-Group in 1982 had undergone sea change because there is a substantial change in the average rain water deposit in the catchment area for the last 15 years. Therefore, according to me, the plea that the Goa Government took in the initial stage regarding the 1982 assessment, questioning the 1999 assessment does not stand on merit, according to me.

The second point is that in those negotiations, I do not like to bring the name of NDA or UPA. Unfortuantely, Shri Ananth Kumar took the name. It is not correct because on water issue I do not like to bring in politics. Even when the NDA Government gave the 'in-principle' clearance, the NDA Chief Minister of Goa vehemently questioned it and opposed it.

So, let us not discuss NDA and UPA. Let us discuss the thirsty people of Hubli, Dharwad and its adjoining villages. They genuinely need drinking water from the reservoir which was built. They need, from two schemes, Kalsa and Bandurinalla, 7.56 TMC of water, and the water, which is substantially large, which is flowing in the larger catchment area in Goa, is going to the sea. Now, from the water which is going to the sea, if a State says, 'give us something to drink', and there to find the logic or illogic of that request is logically, politically and socially very unfortunate after so many years of freedom. But the Union Government is not competent to decide and tell them you do it or you do not do it because water is listed as a State subject. With all our best possible arrangements, we are only a facilitator and a mediator between the States.

I can only tell the hon. Members, through you, Sir, that the hon. Chief Minister of Goa on the earlier occasion did withdraw his first warning on taking up this matter to the Tribunal by his letter to the hon. Prime Minister. At that stage, he wanted a negotiated settlement. The present Chief Minister's office had agreed to participate in our meeting. Well, there was some turmoil in the Goa

Government. At that time, the Chief Secretary had even committed to attend the meeting. On the day of the meeting or before that day, he was shifted to Andaman for the Tsunami relief work. The new office, which took over, said, "Let the Government be settled and then we will join the talk because we cannot officially commit whether we will stick to the Tribunal or go in for the negotiation." I could appreciate that.

Finally, I had a long talk with the Chief Minister and I tried to convey him that the ecological impact have been well studied by the most reputed organisation, NEERI. Since they are convinced that there is an ecological threat, what is wrong in it? Finally, the Chief Minister agreed to me and said: "Please do not take it otherwise. We are not defying the facilitation process of your Ministry. We will address the issue together in mid-September at New Delhi and try to find what solution could be arrived at." I can only add to it that I am not sitting silent. I have taken various efforts on this matter. The Chief Minister of Karnataka, Mr. Dharam Singh, Mr. Mallikarjuna Kharge and the hon. Members, Shri Prahlad Joshi and Shri Ananth Kumar have been, time and again, explaining the issue to me and apprising the matter to me. I am seized of this matter and also the recent protests and agitation. I am doing not a one-to-one meeting with the Chief Minister. What I am doing in that meeting is that I am bringing the oceanography expert, their institution, NIO and I am also bringing NEERI. I am bringing all the possible experts available for the assessment quality report of the CWC in that meeting.

With a full-fledged presentation I am going to draw a definite action plan within September. You will understand and appreciate my difficulty that if the State Governments finally come to a conclusion that, no we cannot agree with all these things; and we stick to the point of going to the Tribunal, it becomes difficult. But so far, as I understand, I will be able to prevail on both the Chief Minister to come to a conclusion at least to rescue the people of Hubli and Dharwad cities from the acute drinking water crisis in this year itself, before 31st of December.

I also tell the hon. Member Mr. Ananth Kumar that he was also a Union Minister. If on the protest of a Chief Minister, the 'in-principle' clearance is kept in abeyance, unless I bring that Chief Minister to the logical conclusion, *suo motu* if I withdraw it, the very purpose of the meeting on that occasion in mid-September will be futile. Therefore, I request the hon. Member not to insist to me today to withdraw the abeyance order. It means they will go to the Tribunal. That will not solve the problem. What I said in reply to a time-bound question-answer was that the meeting would be held in September, and before 31st December, I will convey a definite positive message in this regard. I am confident that the Chief Minister of Goa, who is very sensitive on such issues, will understand the logical conclusion of the technical expert's evaluation. I hope we will find some positive solution in this regard in this year. Thank you.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: We are requesting you to prevail and persuade him.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I shall not only persuade but I will also try to see that a logical conclusion is arrived at.

13.25 hrs.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up matters of urgent public importance. First, I will request to Shri Prabhunath Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the atrocious incident involving the police in my constituency, Maharajganj in Bihar. Yesterday i.e. on 16.8.2005, a 12 year old boy named Nishant Nagrajan was going to school at 6.30 in the morning when he was hit by a jeep. He fell down on the road and a truck which was coming from behind ran over him. The boy died on the spot. Since the school was quite nearby, small kids and teachers of the school sat on dharna at the accident site. Their demand was that they would end their dharna only after the visit of the Collector of Siwan. The dead body should be taken for postmortem only after that. A magistrate reached the spot 3-4 hours after the accident. They told him that the Collector should come, the office and the residence of SDO is only at a distance of three "beeghas". The police station is at a distance of two "beeghas" and the residence of DSP is at a distance of three "beeghas'. Those people continued their dharna. Suddenly the civil SDO of the area came there along

with the police force at 2-2.30 o' clock which started lathi charge at those who were sitting on dharna. Chaos reigned there due to lathicharge. Meanwhile some of the boys threw bricks and stones at the police which in turn opened fire killing three people on the spot and injuring 10-12 persons. We held talks with the officers. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do not make noise.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Firstly, I would give you the names of the people killed in police firing. One of them was 21 year old Rajnesh Manjhi son of Dhurandhar Manjhi. He was doing a job of Rs. fifteen hundred in a private school to feed his family. Another person killed was Shailesh Mehta, son of Mangal Mehta who used to run his family by selling "huchka" on carts. I do not know the name of the third person who was killed. Apart from this a person named Shravan Kumar was hurt in the firing. His father expired recently. He has to perform "Shradh" of his father in a few days. He was witnessing the whole scene of atrocities of the police from his roof top when he received a stray bullet and was injured. He is struggling for his life. When we contacted the Collector, he replied whether we have the right information that the people were demanding his presence? He could not reach the spot because his officers informed him that the situation was normal. In between, they got information that some political people were pelting brickbats on the police, which led to firing by police in self-defence. Who is guilty and who is not, has to be decided by the probe. But it is true that the persons who are killed were innocent.

Through you, I would like to ask the Government to conduct an inquiry into this serious case and compensation of Rs. 5 lakh should be given to the families of each deceased, action should be taken against the guilty police officers and compensation of Rs. one lakh each should be given to the injured people. No Cabinet Minister is present here. Only Finance Minister is present here. Either Finance Minister should respond or Chair should issue, some direction because there is no point of narrating the entire matter like this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request you to issue direction to the Government in this regard. Whether the Government will fire bullets on small kids? President Rule is prevailing in Bihar. The Union Government is running the State. If the Government do not respond in such cases, then what will it do? I would like to submit that the Chair should issue directions to the Government to respond.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Unfortunately, I cannot compel the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI (Bhagalpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I too have given a notice in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Modiji, you may associate with him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: I would like to speak one-two lines. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, do not compel. I would like to say that the Government should at least take cognisance of the matter. You can issue this direction to the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Government is present here. It has taken note of the matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the issues raised by Shri Prabhunath Singh ji. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Would you like to associate with him.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: I would like to speak a few words. Yesterday, some people were sitting on dharna at Shahid Fulena Prasad. It is very unfortunate that three people were killed in police firing. The hon. Governor should have visited the site immediately. I

demand that the hon'ble Governor should immediately visit the site and should pay compensation of Rs. 5 lakh to the families of deceased. The atmosphere of terror is still prevailing over there and at any time any incident can occur over there. Since there is President Rule, I would like to request the Government through you that the Ministry of Home Affairs should interfere without any delay otherwise situation will go out of control.

[English]

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA (Mangalore): The Rs. 25,000 crore project of the ONGC proposed to be set up at Mangalore in Karnataka was given a green signal by the Prime Minister's Office about two weeks back. The hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been persistently opposing this mega project even after the State Government signed the MoU with the ONGC and the Canara Chamber of Commerce for the project.

After the intervention of the hon. Prime Minister, the project was approved by the Central Government. This was wholeheartedly welcomed by everyone in the State of Karnataka. Now, it is learnt that the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has sent back the file disagreeing with the decision of the Prime Minister's Office. it appeared in the newspapers that the hon. Minister does not want the ONGC is invest so much in Karnataka but wants other companies to pitch in and also does not want the power plant. Not having a power plant means the entire project is of no use. In fact, the power plant complements the rest of the project, including the SEC and the petrochemical complex at Mangalore in the State of Karnataka.

The attitude of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is against the interests of the State of Karnataka and is questioning the propriety of the Prime Minister's Office. The attitude of the hon. Minister in this matter is really against the interests of the State of Karnataka. I fail to understand the queries that are put again even after it has been cleared by the PMO. At the time of entering into the MoU, the officials and the Ministry concerned have already looked into everything and raising of queries by the same Ministry does not arise thereafter. So, I urge the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas not to resist the project for no reason, as already the approval has been given by the Prime Minister's Office. I also urge the hon. Prime Minister to dispose of the files for clearing the project; and a proper direction might be given to implement the project at the earliest so that the project comes to Karnataka and the whole of Karnataka would be benefited out of this project.

I feel that the objections are raised by the hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas only to see that this project is not implemented in Karnataka as this project was given by the NDA Government. Apart from that, now it is learnt that he wants to shift over this project from Mangalore to Chennai. This certainly would have an adverse effect on the development of the State of Karnataka. So, I urge the hon. Prime Minister to intervene again and see that the project is brought to Mangalore.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI (Katwa): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on such an important subject. You are aware that Chauri-Choura Tehsil is located in Gorakhpur district. At least 20 thousand people reside in at least 18 villages-Devkahia, Awadhpur, Devipur, Ayodhyachak, Kewalachak, Karmah, Barhi and Kewala Dabur etc. over there. Asian Fertilizer Factory which manufacture single super phosphate and sulphuric acid is located there since 1990. In the manufacturing process, toxic gases like sulpher dioxide etc. are released as smoke from the chimney of the factory which has been adversely affecting the health of humans and cattle. Due to it fatal diseases like nauseas, respiratory problems, T.B. etc. are spreading in the area and many people have become victim of these diseases. Not only humans are being affected by these disease, but 50 buffaloes have died due to it. I myself, had visited the area and met the affected people and farmers.

Sir, you too belong to the farmer family. You may be aware that all wheat crops and food grains have been adversely affected. Situation over there is very bad. I went there and met the victims. Alongwith it, I also visited office of District office. I had written a letter to the Union Minister of Environment and I got a reply also. It was assured in reply that the Government would look into the matter, but till now nothing has been done in this regard. When I met District Officer over there, he too assured that he will look into the matter. The movement against it is going over there and situation over there has

worsened. You are aware when it rains, which has high sulpher content, which falls drop by drop. The situation over there is such only. Through you, I would like to tell the Government that the situation over there has become grim due to Asian Fertilizers. I would like to demand that it should be shifted far away from human habitation and loss caused by it should be compensated. With these words, while thanking you, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore): Sir, only two days ago we have observed the 58th anniversary of our National Independence. But my heart bleeds to mention here that in Madhya Pradesh, the sarpanch of Patehra village, Shrimati Anita Bai Ahirwar, has been denied to hoist the national flag in the marketplace which fell under her panchayat. Her officials prevented her from hoisting the flag. She was told that*... a *Dalit* caste would not be allowed to hoist the flag. It is a disgrace. It is a serious matter.

Again, my heart bleeds to mention in this august House one more issue. The same was the situation last year. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Unparliamentary words will not go in the record.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: A *Dalit* women MLA, Shrimati Sonabai Ahirwar from Pathariya constituency, in the same region, was restrained from hoisting the flag. Some officials were suspended for this serious offence. So, again, this has happened.

So, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to take a very serious view in this matter. I also hope that the entire House will share my concern and will unequivocally condemn this action of some of the officials. The Government of Madhya Pradesh be requested to send the report as to what is the actual fact. How long will this be tolerated in our country? Our *Dalit* people are depressed and deprived. They are downtrodden and, today when we are observing 58 years of national freedom, they are being tortured.

Sir, I want your kind intervention in the matter. Let the hon. Minister of Home Affairs come and make a statement in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the fact that Bihar has received a very low rain fall this year and due to shortage of rain the paddy has been sown in only 20 to 30 per cent of fields. The rest 65% of fields are hit by the drought. The famine like situation is prevailing over there. The situation over there is very grim. Since, paddy is the main crop over there and paddy depends on the rain. The Bihar is facing drought due to lack of proper arrangements for irrigations. Therefore, farmers are disappointed and farmers particularly of Navada, Sitamarhi, Darbhanga, Samastipur, Madhubani, Sevan, Eastern and Western Champaran, Aurangabad, Jahanabad, Nalanda and Patna etc. districts are hit by the drought. As per information of Meteorological Department, till 10 August, 2005, only 390 millimeters of rain has been recorded in the entire area. There is no water in canals over there. Approximately, 40 per cent sowing of paddy has been done in Naubatpur, Bikram, Phulwani and Bihta Division. Every year entire Bihar is sometimes hit by drought and sometimes by flood. This year, the Central and Northern Bihar is hit by the drought. I would like to submit to the Minister of Agriculture that aid should be provided without delay to those farmers of Bihar who are fighting the drought, so that the arrangement for livelihood for those farmers who are dependent on agriculture could be made. Therefore, the Union Government should make arrangements to save farmers from the problems.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The rest of matters of urgent public importance would be taken up in the evening. The proceedings of the House are adjourned till forty minutes past fourteen of the clock.

13.41 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till forty minutes past fourteen of the Clock.

14.42 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at forty-two minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take item No. 7, Matters under Rule 377.

(i) Need to provide special economic package to Himachal Pradesh for its all-round development.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that in the interest of the nation Himachal Pradesh Government has itself imposed a ban on felling of green trees in the forest areas. The Government should appreciate this effort of the State Government but the State has been deprived of the income that it expected to earn. This has caused financial losses to the state which should be compensated by the Government so that development work could be undertaken expeditiously. This is the beginning of Industrial development in Himachal Pradesh. The network of railways and airports could not be expanded over there. There is a constant paucity of funds for development of infrastructure and economic progress of the State due to the limited resources with the State Government. Therefore, through you, I would like to demand the Government to provide special assistance of Rs. 500 crores to Himachal Pradesh Government for the development of roads, tourism, industry, agriculture and horticulture in the State.

[English]

(ii) Need to release commemorative stamp on the birth centenary of Dr. Soundram, a freedom fighter, falling on 18th August, 2005

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Dr. Soundram was born on 18th August, 1904 to the hard working and legendary industrialist T.V. Sundaram Iyengar and his wife Lakshmi Ammaiyar. A bright, beautiful and courageous child from her childhood days, she was noticed for her outgoing nature to help lesser privileged people.

When Gandhiji announced the Quit India Movement, Dr. Soundram and her husband Ramachandran spearheaded the Movement in Thiruvananthapuram.

She was asked to set up a rural institution in a remote place to serve the most deprived of people, to provide them with skills and support to revive village industries and thereby strengthen the rural community and their self-confidence and so, Gandhigram was launched by her on 7th October, 1947 in our Dindigul constituency.

Today, Gandhigram Trust takes care of the health, welfare and educational initiatives while the Lakshmi Seva Sangh and the Gandhigram Khadi Trust manages employment generation programmes through khadi and villages industries. The prestigious Gandhigram Rural Institute was declared as a deemed university in 1976.

She has also served as a Deputy Minister of Education in Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's Cabinet. It was during her tenure that primary education was made free all over India.

She was awarded with Padma Bhushan in 1962. Pandit Nehru visited Gandhigram in 1964.

Dr. Soundram passed away on 21st October, 1984. As this is the centenary year of Dr. Soundram, it would be more fitting if the Government of India releases a postal stamp to honour this blessed daughter of India.

(iii) Need to extend 315A and 316A rail services upto Muri *via* Jhalda in West Bengal and re-route Shaktipuja Express *via* Muri, Jhalda and Bokaro Steel city

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Sir, there is no express and local trains to Kolkata for the people of western part of Purulia district of West Bengal. A number of people go to their State capitals for different purposes. Keeping in view the need of the people of western part of West Bengal, it is necessary to extend 315A and 316A rail service upto Muri *via* Jhalda, and re-route 1447 and 1448 Shaktipuja Express *via* Muri, Jhalda and Bokaro Steel City between Barkakhana and Dhanbad.

I request the Government of India to extend rail services of 315A and 316A up to Muri *via* Jhalda and also re-route 1447 and 1448 Shaktipuja Express *via* Muri, Jhalda and Bokaro Steel city.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Nikhil Kumar—not present.

Dr. Dhani Ram Shandil.

(iv) Need to clear the proposal for setting up of the Chanshal-Shimla-Solan for multi-purpose water supply project in Himachal Pradesh.

[Translation]

DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla): Sir, the present capital of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla was

[Dr. Col. (Retd. Dhani Ram Shandil]

settled by the Britishers. The drinking water scheme implemented at that time was meant to supply water to 30 thousand people. The population of Shimla is increasing gradually and the drinking water is somehow being supplied to the people under the old scheme but now the problem is aggravating.

The State Government has formulated a multi purpose water supply scheme called Chanshal-Shimla-Solan to deal with this problem and financial assistance has been sought from the Centre for this purpose. The estimated cost of this scheme is around Rs. 500 crores. Under this scheme drinking water would be supplied to 50 lakh people and for irrigation of one lakh hectare land and cattle, the scheme that would run for around 100 years, would change the face of the State.

I would request the Union Government to approve this scheme and financial assistance to Himachal Pradesh immediately.

(v) Need to grant environmental clearance to the pending irrigation projects of Andhra Pradesh

[English]

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the following proposals of the Government of Andhra Pradesh are pending with the Central Government:

(i) Proposals to lift 50 TMC of water from Godavari at Gangavaram village and to divert 344.005 hectares of forestland in Karimnagar district and 136.125 hectares in Waranngal division for laying water conductor system was submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forest. The wildlife team has inspected the site in the first week of July, and the proposal for forest clearance needs to be cleared.

(ii) Request for forest clearance for diversion of 3.824 hectares of Veerabhadapuram Reserve Forest area in Kakinada forest division of Rajahmundry Circle for excavation of branch canal of Maddigadda Reservoir.

(iii) Proposals for Peddagadda Reservoir Scheme have been sent for forest clearance for 38.40 hectares of compensatory afforestation on 07-01-2005. Clarifications were also submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forest *vide* letter dated 27-04-2005.

I request the Government of India to take early action in the matter and communicate to the State Government.

(vi) Need to take steps to check use of drugs by the youth in Punjab.

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the youth of today is losing his health of drug addiction. Smuggling of drugs is taking place on a large scale in a planned manner in the border areas of the State to weaken the country. Punjab had faced terrorism for 10 years but even the sufferings faced in that period look fade in context of the new challenge of drug addiction. Preplanned efforts are being made to ruin the health of youth. If the youth of Punjab is weakened then it would become difficult for the youth to serve the Country at the hour of need to satiate their desire of drug abuse, youth are resorting to unlawful activities. The problem could be talked only through collective and concerted effort of the entire society. Therefore, the Union Government is requested to take necessary steps in this regard.

(vii) Need to increase the percentage of reservation provided to Banjara and other Nomadic tribes for their socio-economic and educational upliftment

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir, the Government of Maharashtra has made a provision to provide 3 percent reservation to Banjara community and other nomadic tribes. It has helped improve their lives but has failed to provide them plateform for being beneficiary under Central Government Scheme and various All India services. Therefore, the Union Government can improve the standard of living of Banraja community and other nomadic tribes through special planning for their social, economic, educational and political development and upliftment, which would require seperate reservation for them. For this purpose the Government is required to make a third reservation list of such economically wekaer castes so that their social, economic, educational and political upliftment can be ensured. Therefore, through you, I would like to request Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment to take necessary action in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Pankaj Choudhary—not present.

(viii) Need to release adequate funds for speedy completion of Keonjhargarh-Daitari-Banspani Railway section in Orissa

[English]

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK (Keonjhar): Sir, it is a matter of great concern that there is no direct rail link between Paradip and rich iron ore mines of Banspani-Barjamda-Barbil and Gandhamardan sector in Orissa. The construction of Daitari-Banspani line is going on at a

slow pace. The inordinate delay in the construction is the main bottleneck in the transport of iron ore by rail which has ultimately an adverse effect for export of iron ore through Paradip Port. On the other side, the single line section between Cuttack and Paradip is saturated and cannot take any more additional train until the track is doubled. Therefore, there is a need to expedite the construction of Daitari-Banspani rail link. At present, the iron ore from Keonjhar mines is being transported to Paradip by rail *via* Tatanagar, Kharagpur, Balasore, Jajpur-Keonjhar road and Cuttack in a circuitous route covering three States, namely, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Orissa.

I request the Central Government to sanction adequate funds for the speedy completion of rail line between Keonjhargarh and Daitari and the remaining stretch of Daitari-Banspani line during the financial year 2005-06.

(ix) Need to continue the permission granted to Ayurvedic doctors for using Allopathic system of medication in Maharastra and other parts of the country.

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Ayurveda is a traditional system of medicine. The Ayurvedic doctors are providing inexpensive medical services in the villages by acquiring required knowledge of allopathy and practice. Therefore, all the B.A.M.S. Ayurvedic doctors, who have studied and practiced allopathy have been permitted to serve as allopathy doctors in Maharashtra and other states. The State Government gave them relaxation in the year 1992 and 1999 and the Supreme Court has also approved it and in most of the rural health Centres B.A.M.S. doctors have been appointed as Drugs officers.

As per the information received, there is an apprehension that the Central Government propose to put a ban on the practice of allopathic treatment by Ayurvedic doctors. If the Union Government takes this decision then it would deprive the doctors working in rural and inaccessible areas of their practice. The health services of these areas would breakdown and the monopoly of allopathic treatment would be established as we do not have sufficient number of doctors who can provide medical facilities in these remote and rural areas. Therefore, I would urge the hon'ble Minister of Health that the B.A.M.S. doctors should be allowed to continue their allopathy practice treatment.

(x) Need for construction of a coastal Highway between Haldia and Digha in West Bengal and also establish Tourism and Small Scale Industrial Complex in the region

[English]

SHRI PRASANTA PRADHAN (Contai): Sir, there is a need for establishment of the Tourism Complex as well as Small Scale Industrial Complex towards the Bay of Bengal seaside. There is also a need for construction of a Coastal Highway from Haldia to Digha, in West Bengal. The Highway may be extended up to Paradeep (Orissa) in future. The places as Khejuri, Talpati, Petua Ghat, Juneput, Dadanpatrabarh, Sankarpur, Digha should be developed as tourist spots. Infrastructure for road transport be also developed. At the same time, small scale industries like, salt, *kazu* nut, fish, fruit factories be set up. The sea and fishing harbour be also developed. Thousand of young unemployed persons will be engaged and benefited by way of self-employment scheme. Recently, WEBCON also made a survey in this regard. This shows the feasibility of the project.

I request the Union Government to look into the matter and do the needful.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. K.S. Manoj—Not Present

Shri Harikewal Prasad.

(xi) Need to provide special package to the Government of Uttar Pradesh to meet the imminent threat posed to the villages on the banks of river Ghagra, in Salempur Parliamentary Constituency due to rise in its water level.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salempur): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, the very existence of 40 villages located at Barhaj Bazaar upto Ramjanki Marg Mahlava on the bank of Ghagra River is at stake due to land erosion by river Ghagra in my constituency. There is a distinct possibility of these villages getting submerged if heavy rains take place or the water level of the river increases by any other reason, endangering the lives of thousands of people and destruction of property worth crores of rupees. Several measures are being taken since 2nd February 2005, to save these villages from the destruction, but no positive results have been yielded till date. District Collector of Deoria and Superintending Engineer visited the site on 20 July, 2005 at the request of people, and reviewed the situation and proposed to formulate a new scheme that is required to implement expeditiously in the public interest but it does not seem possible keeping in view the financial condition of the State.

Through this august House, I demand the Union Government to provide special package to Uttar Pradesh immediately for executing the proposed scheme so that these villages could be saved from the river erosion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Dhirendra Agarwal—Not Present.

(xii) Need to provide relief to the farmers whose crops have been affected due to erosion caused by river Gomti in Haliapur and Jagdishpuri in Sultanpur district

SHRI MOHD. TAHIR (Sultanpur): River Gomti passes through Esoli Legislative Assembly of Sultanpur Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh. The river has caused maximum erosion in this area. Erosion has been caused upto a stretch of 10 kms. The erosion has caused maximum damage in the area between Aam Ghat and Haliapur due to which many a villages get submerged in the water every year, Central Government allocates adequate funds to the States for preventing land erosion. But the State Governments are not taking any action in this regard. Land and the crops of farmers are getting ruined.

I urge the Central Government to allocate adequate funds to the States to compensate the farmers at the earliest.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri A.K.S. Vijyan—Not present.

(xiii) Need to open Technical Education Institutes in Phulbani Parliamentary Constituency, Orissa for the benefit of tribal population

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH (Phulbani): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards my Parliamentary Constituency Phulbani which is a tribal dominated area. There are no Technical Education Institutes like engineering college, medical collage or nursing college in my constituency. The people of the area are economically backward and they hail from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes communities. It is very difficult for them to go in for higher education in other places. The children face many difficulties in getting admission for higher studies.

So, I urge upon the Central Government to give a special attention for the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and to open such technical education institutes in Phulbani.

(xiv) Need to take suitable measures for speedy disposal of pending cases in courts.

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): Respected Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Jodhpur Fast Track Court has created legal history by completing the trial in a rape case within 15 days. This is a welcome change from our snail-paced judicial process. I compliment all the concerned agencies for displaying a sense of urgency, viz., the Rajasthan High Court for taking *suo motu* notice and issuing instructions for speedy trial; the police for filing a charge sheet within two days of the incident; the DNA lab for submitting its report in record time; and the Trial Court for hearing the case and passing judgement a day after the last witness deposed before it.

Sir, this case should act as a catalyst to conclude several other cases where rapists despite having been identified, are yet to be punished. Rape is a cold blooded violation of body and soul. It deserves a harsh and expeditious sentence. Swift decision brings hope that if there is a will, there is a way to hand out punishment that need not take the endless years that our courts normally do, to conclude cases.

I strongly support the continuation of the fast track courts, which almost heard its death knell some months back in a tussle of funding. Thousands of rape cases are pending across the country. The crimes like rape need to be dealt with urgency and with harshness that can act as a deterrent. The Government should increase the working hours of the courts, reduce the number of holidays and appoint more judges to clear the pending cases awaiting justice for years.

(xv) Need for inclusion of more areas under the North-East Industrial Policy, 1997 with a view to create employment in the region.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh): Sir, the Government of Assam has submitted a proposal for inclusion of additional complexes to get benefit of various exemptions under the North-East Industrial Policy, 1997. The proposals have not yet been notified for the benefits of various incentives under the North-East Industrial Policy. Further, some more industrial areas from different parts of the State are yet to be covered as notified areas for giving the benefits of the North-East Industrial Policy. The inclusion of the areas has become essential and urgent for industrial growth and to avail other incentives under the North-East Industrial Policy, 1997. The consolidated list of such areas has already been submitted in the Ministry concerned but it is still pending for clearance.

It is also requested to the Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue to make further amendment in the Notification No. 32/99-CE dated 8.7.1999 for inclusion of more areas under the North-East Industrial Policy, 1997.

I urge upon the Government to include more areas under this policy for the benefit of the North-East industry and to generate employment opportunity for the young unemployed of the North-Eastern Region.

15.05 hrs.

PAYMENT OF WAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up Item No. 8, Shri K. Chandrasekhar Rao.

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shahjapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I rise to support Payment of Wages (Amendment), Act, 2004.

The Act seek to regulates the payments of wages to the workers and also offers safeguards to prevent any deduction in their wages against the existing regulations. In fact, the Act addresses mainly two issues. One, several minor amendments have been proposed in the Act which deals with the technical changes in the definitions contained in the sections 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 15, 20, 24 and 26. But major amendment pertains to maximum ceiling of payment of wages to the workers. Prior to Amendment Act, 1982 the ceiling of wages paid to workers was Rs. 1000. In 1982 it was amended and the limit was raised to Rs. 1600. In the present amendment, there is a proposal to raise the ceiling from Rs. 1600 to Rs. 6500.

I am thankful to the present hon. Minister and at the same time even more thankful to the then hon. Minister of Labour for bringing in the amendment Bill in the year 2002 after a gap of 20 years which show the lack of commitment of the past various Governments to address the issue of injustice, atrocities and exploitation of workers. During the said 20 years the prices had increased manifold whereas minimum wages had been increased to just Rs. 1600 from Rs. 1000. Meanwhile there have been demands for effecting a hike in the wages. Commissions were constituted from time to time and they gave the recommendations. But no action was taken in regard to their implementation during these 20 years. After a gap of 20 years it was proposed to hike the wage to Rs. 6500 from Rs. 1600. Hon. Minister is urging to get it passed. Standing Committee of Parliament on Labour also deliberated upon this issue and gave its suggestions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my submission is that it would have been better if suggestions of the said committee had also been incorporated in it. Hon. Minister has partly accepted the suggestions I would like to highlight rest of the suggestions, which were not accepted.

Sir, the said Bill was introduced in the year 2002 and was discussed in Rajya Sabha and Rajya Sabha passed it in 2004. I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister to the fact that even today its provisions are violated and wages are not paid in time. The Act provides that each factory, which employs upto 1000 workers should invariably pay wages to them by 5th of every month and factories employing workers beyond this number should pay wages to them by 10th of each month. But it has been observed that said provision is not complied with.

Sir, the said Act was enacted before the on-set of computer era. Books of accounts, including Acquaintance Rolls were maintained manually which used to take enough time. Now it is the age of computers and payment to the employees in all Government departments is made either on the last day of the month or on the 1st. Whereas, despite the stipulation of 5th and 10th of each month wages are not paid to the workers in several establishments. I used to work in Birla Mill, Nagada. The same condition prevailed there also. If efforts are made

[Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot]

to ensure payment of wages to workers by 5th or 10th of each month it would be good. It will be better, if payment is made between 1-5 of each month. The employers can deposit it in banks on 1st of each month so that workers drawing wages upto 2000, 5000 or 10 thousand will earns interest for 10 days. They will get some help. If wages are paid on 1st it will be better for workers and if wages are paid on 10th it benefits the management. Therefore, my submission is that efforts should be made to ensure payment of wages on 1, 2 or 3rd of each month positively.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had suggested that payments be made on 1, 2 or 3rd. Hon. Minister is not going to bring any legislation to this effect right now. So, I would say that the shortcomings in the present Bill should be rectified at the earliest.

Sir, deduction from wages are made against the provisions of Act. Workers approach Labour Courts in this regard. First they move Labour Court, then Industrial Tribunals and then the High Court. Often it is observed that Court takes years to deliver the judgement and they hardly get justice. Though I would not like to quote figures, yet it happens in many a cases. Large number of cases of irregular and illegal deductions are pending the Courts. As per the provisions of extant Act, the Courts can impose penalty on Management. The amount of penalty has been increased in said Act. And now it has been increased from Rs. 250 to Rs. 750. In some of the Sections amount of penalty has been increased. But a penalty of Rs. 750-1000 is too meagre a sum to make any difference to Management to comply with the provisions. Management even resort to harassment of union leaders. Union activities are even transferred to places against their wishes. Every irregular deductions are affected from their salary. It is to discourage unionism. Harassed workers approach Court but they get no justice from Court.

Gurgaon's example is quite recent one. Workers wanted to form a union, it was their only fault. Workers have constitutional right to form unions but management did not want. Four workers, who enrolled as member of union were sacked. Other workers raised their voice against it then, they too were given show cause notice. Show cause notices were served to those who became the member of the union but no action was taken against the management despite the provisions of the Act. as there is no provision to prosecute them criminally so they are not afraid of anything. Therefore, my submission is that a provisions should be inserted whereby management can be awarded imprisonment of say 3, 6 or 8 months or one, two or three years in addition to the fine. It will provide teeth to the Act and then only they will abide by the law.

Said amendment has been made after a gap of 20 years and the ceiling is proposed to be raised from Rs. 1600 to Rs. 6500. Meanwhile, different trade unions, labour interest groups and experts on this issue have rendered their suggestions to the Standing Committee on Labour which in turn has recommended that the ceiling of Rs. 6500 be increased to Rs. 10,000. I would like to submit that it will be much better if it is increased to Rs. 10 thousand instead of Rs. 6500. I would also like to submit on this occasion that there are many sectors which till now are out of the ambit of the definition contained in section two and three of the Act that describes the type of institutions that are covered under the Act and in which case the said Act is not applicable. The said Act is meant for organized workers, the registered institutions under the Company Act and some other organizations. Though, there are some institutions, sectors like unorganized sector and the workers under the contract system where it is applicable. However, there is separate contract Act. Under this Act there is provision that those who employ 20 workers will be registered. Thereafter, the limit of number of workers was reduced to ten. Despite that, irregularities are deliberately done. Husband is contractor, his wife is contractor and their son is also contractor and they have their separate business set up. As the limit of worker is 20, they keep only 18 workers and thus not even a single contractor comes under that provision. It is on account of this that the minimum wages laws are not applicable in that case and they escape from paying the minimum wage. For the application of the law the employers should have 20 workers or employees. But they do not show 20 workers to be on roll which is essential for the application of the law. Rather, they show only 18 workers to be on their roll. Thus, they escape from the law. In that case neither Contract Act nor Minimum Wages Act are applicable on them. There are crores of such people in the country who do not come under the ambit of the Act and are out of the net. So, I would like to request the Government to conduct extensive study in this regard and bring a bill for the enactment of a comprehensive act. The agricultural labourers, cart pullers and labourers working in godown should also be covered under the law. Beedi workers in the country are also facing many problems. Beedi workers

work in many states. Now rules has been framed for them. Whether they make one thousand beedi or two thousand, a minimum wages will be paid to them. At several places workers are paid as per the hours. Different contractors function according to their own system. Beedi workers do not get even minimum wages. In such situation the proposal of reducing the limit is meaningless. As far my knowledge is concerned, the second Labour Commission has also given a suggestion in this regard. I would like to request the Government to go through the report of the second Labour Commission and by way of adopting those points which are in the interest of the workers, should prepare a comprehensive bill and formulate different Acts in the interest of the labourers. Many of our colleagues argue that if a person is hungry he or she does not care about rules and regulations. In that situation, they resort to struggle. If there is confrontation between the workers and entrepreneurs of the country, it will hamper the development of the country instead of developing it and many problems will arise on account of this. The Standing Committee on Labour has also stressed the point to solve the problems and as far my knowledge is concerned, the Committee, in its report recommended that the participation of workers in the industrial management committee is essential as one invests capital and the other put in labour. While workers have experience about labour entrepreneurs who invest capital know about the institution. So one aspect should be taken care of by the owner and the other by the workers. If there is participation of workers in the Managing Committee, it will contribute to the speedy industrial development of the country and the rules and regulations will also be complied with. However, Management Committees are constituted for managing the companies or sometimes the managements set up their board and the President, Vice President, Secretary, Managers etc, are elected by the Board. But there is no representative of workers in that Board. It is on account of this that some problems crop up at the time of taking decision and so there is conflict and whatever strategy is prepared, remains incomplete. It hampers the industrial development of the country. There are many problems regarding the workers of the country. There is need to conduct study in this regard. In these twenty years a maximum limit of six thousand and five hundred was fixed in place of sixteen hundred and fifty. There should not be such delay. There is a provision in this regard that a survey will be conducted in every five years and once the report of the survey is published in gazette, the adequate provision will be made in the act on the basis of the report. However, no survey is conducted for twenty to twenty five year. Even if it is conducted its report gathers dusts in files and nothing is known about the whereabouts of those files. If the amendments are brought in the interest of the workers at the interval of twenty odd years, then it will not be good. There should be a fixed interval. If the report of the survey is not submitted within a prescribed time period, there should not be delay in fixing the limit. It should be decided that if the report of the survey is not submitted within prescribed period, there will be ten or fifteen or twenty percent conditional increase and when the report is submitted that increase will be adjusted depending on the quantum of increase. It will be better if such a system is evolved.

I would like to say one more thing. Some trade Unions of our country are of the opinion that there should be only nationalization, some argue for privatisation and some advocate for some other type of system. I am of the opinion that there should be liberalisation of the industry and there should be nationalization of labour. The workers should feel that it is their own industry and there is need to run it in an organized way in the interest of the country. If there is no such feelings, there will be no industrial development in the country and the speed with which industrial units are heading fast towards sickness can not be checked and the mill owner will close down his industry. He will avail of the facilities provided by the Government and will relocate his industry. Such type of tendencies will rise.

So I would like to request the Government to conduct a detailed study in this regard and on the basis of that should bring a bill for the enactment of a comprehensive Act. It should also protect the labourers of the country against injustice, oppression and exploitation and should emancipate them from all such things.

15.26 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Reduction in fee for issuance of duplicate passports

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Before I call upon the next hon. Member to speak, I would request Shri E., Ahamed to make a statement.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to make a *suo motu* statement.

In view of the recent floods in Maharashtra, the Government of India has decided to issue duplicate passports to those people whose passports have been damaged. Normally, in such cases, we issue a duplicate passport by charging Rs. 2,500/- and additional *tatkal* charges, if required. However, taking into consideration representations by Members of Parliament from Maharashtra as well as the request by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, as a special gesture, it has been decided to issue duplicate passport on a reduced payment of Rs. 500/- only. This facility will be available in respect of all such applications received till 30th September, 2005 in Regional Passport Offices in Mumbai and Thane in Maharashtra. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please include Punjab also.

15.28 hrs.

PAYMENT OF WAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004... *Contd.*

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkanta): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 2004. I would, like to congratulate the hon'ble Minister for increasing the limit from Rs. 1600 to Rs. 6,500. Although the Standing Committee had suggested that the limit must always be raised in accordance with the price index and the definition of workers has been given under the Employment Insurance Act and other Acts. I believe that this ceiling was decided while keeping in view the said definition.

15.29 hrs.

[SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

I would like to draw your attention towards many things. I support this Bill so that the deductions which are not there in the law are not made now and the workers are paid their wages timely. This law dates back to year 1936. I would like to take back the hon. Members into history as to how this law was required to be brought. When Mumbai and Ahmedabad Textiles Mills faced recession, the owners instead of making cash payment.

[English]

they began to pay them in finished cloth.

[Translation]

and asked them to recover their salary by selling the cloth.

[English]

and which was very cumbersome on the part of the labourers.

[Translation]

Since the labour did not have resources of their own and had no know how to sell the cloth and recover the cost of their labour.

The second reason for this was that there was no such credit facility available for the labourers in those times so they used to take loan on interest from outside. Those who lended money to them charged exorbitant rate of which left a very meagre amount with the labourers. This caused hue and cry and their salaries were taken away forcefully from them. Sometimes such situation has also developed that when the labourers failed to repay the loans, the money lenders in connivance with the mill staff, deployed for distribution of salary, deducted the money from the salary itself. This was the reason for bringing this law. This law stipulates a lot, that if the salary is less than Rs. one thousand then they must pay the salary weekly and if it is more than that the salary must be paid monthly and it should be paid only in cash. Action under law can be taken against those who do not make cash payment and all these provisions have been made in this law.

I would also like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards this that I have run the Union for a number of years and I am still running it. ...*(Interruptions)* After running the union for years I have realized that its implementation is in the hands of the State. This kind of situation arose because the implementation was in the

hands of State. Specially the laws meant for the welfare of the labourers became irrelevant once the process of privatization and globalization started in the country 1990; Now there is labour machinery and Labour Department. Since no increase took place in the labour machinery and its budgetary allocation also remained stagnant. It also clearly reflects the lack of requisite vigour for the implementation. Such kind of situation developed that if the Ministry of Labour had 25 or 50 inspectors for the entire State then

[English]

he is an Inspector under the Minimum Wages Act. He is also an Inspector under Payment of Wages Act. He is also under the Abolition of Bonded Labour Act.

[Translation]

He is also the Inspector of the Child Labour Act. As a result, very few cases were filed under the Payment of Wages Act. I am not aware if anybody has been punished under this law or not, but the inspection certainly take place under this law.

I would like to say one more thing that the law applies to all the factories and other establishments. However, the words Appropriate Government were introduced through an amendment replacing the Central Government and the State Government and paradoxically, large scale violations can be noticed in the payment of minimum wages to the casual workers working in these establishments.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister.

[English]

Take, for example, the forest labourers in the country. Madam, there are 7.6 million forest labourers in this country. Most of them are tribals. Unfortunately, they are not covered under the definition of "workers" so far. Take even the Forest Department. They employ lakhs of labourers for carrying out plantation activities. They carry out plantation activities regularly. It is a commercial activity and yet the labourers are not covered under the Act. They do not find the employee-employer relationship.

Secondly, let me give you an example. You know about the tendu leaf collectors. If you take the other minor forest produce collectors, they are not covered by the Labour Legislation. It is not applicable to the Forest Development, Corporation, which is calling itself an institution, an establishment.

[Translation]

Such laws do not apply to such bodies. I would beg to differ with the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs when he mentioned that the total number of beedi labourers would be more than that of forest labourers.

[English]

Even in the case of construction labourers, I would like to say that there are 4 crore construction labourers in this country; there are 23 crore agricultural labourers in this country. There are lakhs of labourers about whom I was just talking. They work as forest labourers but they are not covered under the Act. The Forest Department can make payment at any time as they like.

[Translation]

The issue is not confined to where their salary would be paid by tenth or fifteenth of the month. The worst thing is that ever since the inception of the Social forestry programme is throughout the country with the aid of World Bank or other international institutions, an excuse is always made that we cannot pay the salary within time since we are short of grant and this is a blatant violation. I am not talking about this Department only.

[English]

There is an increasing tendency among the Government Departments to employ a daily wage worker.

[Translation]

The date of their salary is never fixed. The Government Servants are paid their salaries on 29th or 30th but there is no such fixed date for their salary, nor they are given any slip of payment or deduction. If we have to file a case against any Government establishment or a Government official then

[English]

There are a number of States in which I have to ask the permission from the Legal Department of the state to file a case against the Department.

[Shri Madhusudan Mistry]

[Translation]

This kind of situation can be seen throughout the country. Infact their exploitation must have been checked. They should have been paid their salaries timely and also some other benefits, which they did not get.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards one more thing that all the Central Government Schemes, specially for the workers who fall under the workers category, includes Swarn Jayanti Yojana, Swarozgar Yojana. But it is mostly seen that none of the State Governments, infact I would like to say that no State Government is left out. Madam, it so happened that.

[English]

Under the Minimum Wages Act, I think Section 26 (1) or (2), the State. Government can give exemption to the labourers working under a certain scheduled employment.

[Translation]

Once such exemption is given and minimum wages to any labourers working in that scheduled employment is not given. Case can not be filed in any court under this law because the law is suspended, it is not applicable. This sort of situation is covered under Payment of Wages Act and Minimum Wages Act is not applicable to it, for want of scheduled employment. Consequently it does not cover as to how much wages are to be given, how much deduction is to be made is also not decided under it.

[English]

A result, several State Governments in the country are blatantly violating the Minimum Wages Act despite the fact that we are one of the signatories and we have ratified the ILO Convention. I think it is No. 131 or so. We have also, in fact, enacted the law but because we have this exemption clause under the Minimum Wages Act, the regular work is being converted into a work and it is given exemption.

[Translation]

Due to which this law is not being used or rather I would say that the Government is misusing it thoroughly. I would request the hon. Minister to do something in this direction.

Sir, a mention of ideology has been made here. I would like to say something in this regard too. The hon. Member who spoke before me mentioned the Gurgaon incident. I have thought about it many times as to why did it happen. We who run the Union and labourers organizations should ponder over the issue. Mahatma Gandhi initiated a large scale strike in Ahmedabad in the year 1918-1919 which continued for 21 days. At that time he said that our demand should be legitimate. We should not make a demand which can not be fulfilled and which might deepen the conflict between the labourers and the management. If there is any major problem between us and the management then we should approach the third party for guidance. We can approach the labour court or industrial court. But what happened? It is seen almost everywhere that trade unions want to have their demand fulfilled immediately. They are willing to adopt any means to have their demand fulfilled. This fuels intra-union rivalry. I would also submit before the Labour Minister that for a long time in our country

[English]

there is a controversy going on whether the recognition should be on the basis of the membership or whether it should be on the basis of vote or ballot.

[Translation]

There has been a country wide debate on whether the recognition of the unions should be on the basis of the membership of ballot. There has been a difference of opinion in this regard due to which the idea of a single union in one industry did not gather momentum; maybe it is not in accordance with the democratic norms or the other union

[English]

also has a right, but about its recognition as a recognized union in the industry. I clearly feel that this should be on the basis of the Membership.

[Translation]

Because after vote the number of unions would go on increasing. This situation exists in every industry. We would also have to do some introspection as to

[English]

what kind of trade union movement we want and what sort of a responsibility that we have. I am just telling a

glaring example. Ahmedabad was the Manchester of India at one time. There were rightly composite textile mills. There were nearly over two lakh workers.

[Translation]

All the mills have been closed down. The workers of the unions set them on fire and at present there are just bare buildings without industry. Unions and labourers could be discussed when industries exist. We shall have to maintain a balance between both. In this regard I would also like to say that

[English]

We are a trustee of this, wee are not an owner.

[Translation]

I would also like to say that we shall ourselves have to fix our own responsibility. About what happened in Gurgaon I believe that

[English]

there was some lapse on our part also as a union. That is the feeling that I have

[Translation]

Therefore I request the Minister of Labour that for its implementation the Government should

[English]

impress upon the State Government to make the implementation of this payments and wages as rigorous and there should also be a vigour on the part of the Labourer Department to enforce all other laws. I would also request the Finance Minister. Though we are passing through the whole phase of privatisation and globalisation, I feel that it does not mean that labour should not get its share. I think it is time that we should strengthen the Labour Department. We should give them more and more funds. It is because that is the best way. Those people who do not want to implement the law, say that I will pass the law but I will not give you money. So, the law becomes redundant, law is not implemented and as a result, you have a number of legislations that we may be passing in this Parliament. They will simply remain as a showpiece that we have passed this in the Parliament. We have the law but on the ground, these laws are not implemented partly, because of the main reason that the Labour Department is not given money. The kind of money that it should get from the various Governments, it is not getting.

[Translation]

The labourers working in the factories face maximum losses irrespective of the fact whether they belong to the organized sector or the unorganized sector.

I congratulate the hon. Minister for fixing the limit at Rs. 6500. This limit should be raised in accordance with the rise in the index.

[English]

Those industries which are not coming under the ambit of this law should be brought in, and I wish that it will again give due justice to the labour which was due since long.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore): Madam Chairperson, the Payment of Wages Act, 1935, as passed by Rajya Sabha, is being discussed here and two hon. Members have already discussed on this Bill.

Madam, I want to submit that this Bill is long overdue. Let us go back to the history of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, as my hon. friend, Shri Madhusudan Mistry has narrated, and see as to why this Act came into light. The persistent, continuous and united struggle of the working class against the British Imperialism forced the management and that forced the Government to bring in this legislation. Before that, there was a Trade Union Act, 1926 which ensured the workers to form their own trade unions under the provision of the Act. In 1920, under the Chairmanship of Late Lala Lajpat Rai, the All India Trade Union Congress was formed. They are the working class people for freedom of the country as well as to fight for their cause. We are proud of the glorious traditions of the working class movement of our country and this Act came into being—I repeat—by persistent, continuous and united struggle of the working class of the country.

Nowadays, the working class is fighting a very grim battle throughout the world. They are faced with a very serious challenge. In the name of globalisation, liberalisation and privatisation, attacks on the working people are mounting day by day. A theory has come—

[Shri Santasri Chatterjee]

there are some apologies for this theory by the capitalist state—that workers should not organise any trade union. Secondly, there will be no permanent work force in the country or in the world; there will be 'hire and fire'. Thirdly, all the social benefits enjoyed by the workers through different legislations and through struggle, will be taken away. In this background, when we discuss the Payment of Wages Act, we should consider the reality.

During this Session, the House was rocked on the issue of Gurgaon. I had the privilege to visit that place. I have seen through my own eyes, the audacity of the multinational company and the manner in which it treated its workers. Unfortunately, the Government run by the State is the main Party of the UPA—the Congress Party—and the role of the Government is very much deplorable.

Our leader Shri Basu Deb Acharia wrote to the hon. Minister about this and I know that Shri Gurudas Dasgupta also wrote to the hon. Prime Minister. On the question of formation of trade union, when the workers met the Labour Commissioner, they were told: 'nothing doing'. Why? It is because the Chief Minister of the State has said: 'we are interested in the setting up of the industry, not the trade union.' If this is the attitude, how do we expect that you would give a fair deal to the working class of the country?

Madam, I know that this Act has its own limitations. It does not cover the entire work force of the country. So far as I remember—the hon. Labour Minister can enlighten us—out of 37 crores of working people in the country, more or less two crores are in the organised sector and this Act covers this section. In this House, we have discussed the issue of a separate legislation for the unorganised workers. That is a separate issue. I hope the Labour Minister will consider it and bring forward a comprehensive legislation for them.

The Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill should take into consideration three main points. First, why is this ceiling of Rs. 6,500 fixed? I have with me a copy of the Report of the Standing Committee on Labour submitted to this House on 21st November, 2002. The Committee asked the officials of the Ministry of Labour as to how they have arrived at this figure of Rs. 6,500. Some suggestions were there to raise it up to Rs. 10,000, but the Group of Ministers did not agree. They argued that since coverage of ESI, PF and there, this amount has been fixed. The amendment says that after every five years the Government of India will consider revision of this. My humble submission to the hon. Labour Minister is that the period of five years is too much. Can we not consider reducing the time because the prices are mounting and the real wages are on the decrease? Taking this into consideration, the Labour Minister may give a consideration.

Secondly, about the punishment clause, I would like to quote the report of the Standing Committee on Labour. It says:

> "The Committee note that the penal provisions of the Act have become almost insignificant due to passage of time as these were last revised in the year 1982. The Committee also note that the Government have now proposed to enhance the penal provisions five times so as to make these more realistic and practicable in consonance with the price variation during this period. The Committee desire that the penalties and fines should be made more stringent in order to have deterrent effect on those who violate the laws."

I have mentioned earlier that in the name of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation, the attack on the working class is mounting day by day. I would like to remind those who laud the values of globalisation about the views expressed by Prof. Amartya Sen that 'globalisation is not new, nor is westernisation'. The moot question is equality, the question is about the growing difference between rich nations and poor nations. Here, unequal treatment is given to the working people. If the management deliberately violates the law of the land, what about the penal provisions which are there in the Act? It is very difficult for any worker or this trade union to fight his case for a pretty long time. Some stringent actions are called for. I am in the trade union movement for near about four decades. From my personal experience I have seen how unscrupulous these managements are, how they cheat the working class.

The Abolition and Regulation of Contract Labour Act 1970 practically has also become insignificant. The contractors cheat the workers, and deprive them of their legitimate wages. It is good that provision has been made and the principal employer has been made responsible for payment of wages to the contractual labourers. That is all right, but the question that comes to my mind and I once again draw the attention of the hon. Minister that by merely passing an Act, by merely enacting a law, we would not be able to give proper justice to the workers of our country who are attacked in all possible ways.

In India, it has become the order of the day to violate the existing labour laws and Government machinery is so weak, be in the Centre, be in the State, that it cannot catch hold of the unscrupulous employers. This is also the experience in our State. The jute barons in our State are depriving the workers in all possible ways, depriving them with their gratuity, with their provident fund, making irregular payments, so on and so forth. Many of the employers in the organised sector in many States, it is our common experience that violation of the labour laws is the order of the day. So, when we pass this Bill, let the UPA Government assure the working class of the country that we are with you, we are here to safeguard your interest.

The UPA Government, in its National Common Minimum Programme, has committed to uphold the interests of the working class of the country. So, I feel, the Bill, at least, will assure us that it will protect the interest of the workers and implement it in letter and spirit.

Finally, many questions are raised about the trade union movement of our country. Since, I am a trade unionist, I feel, I should interact or exchange my views with other friends, who may not agree with my views regarding recognition of trade unions. In my State, West Bengal, there is an Act that in the context of multiplicity of trade unions, workers have the right to choose their own union as they desire. There is some provision for joint bargaining agent, for single bargaining agent and that Act, experience in our State says, has not divided the workers. On the other hand, the workers have been able to assert their own rights. We demand that throughout the country, there should be an Act, where compulsory recognition of trade union to be done by a secret ballot of the workers.

With regard to other issues or problems of the working class, to fight the onslaught of the employers, the trade unions are there. I represent the Centre of Trade Union, the most organised trade union in our country. We have given a clarion call to the entire country, to the working people, 'be unite, be a responsible trade union movement, organise responsible trade union movement'. We are not against production and productivity, but not at the cost of the workers. So, we are fighting for a common cause.

16.00 hrs.

On 29th September, we—all the central trade unions in our country—are going to give a warning to our Government which we are supporting. For the cause of the working class, peasantry, women, students, youth for every section of the society we have given a call for a general strike on 29th September to uphold the rights of the working people and other sections of the society. So, for trade union movement, it has got some ultimate goal and we are fighting for it. Lastly, I support this bill as moved by the hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Madam, I propose that this Bill be passed today. Probably, I think, if another $1^1/_2$ hours are allowed for this Bill, it may be passed. Let us extend the time for the Bill by $1^1/_2$ hours.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees, we can extend the time.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Okay, the time for this Bill has been extended by $1^1/_2$ hours.

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Madam Chairperson, as the House is aware, I had also raised this matter on 8th December 2004 on the floor of Lok Sabha, and subsequently the hon. Labour Minister assured that the ceiling limit on bonus and minimum wages would be raised and the legislation would be brought forward before the House. I am thankful to the hon. Minister for bringing forward this Bill to enhance the ceiling limit from Rs. 1600 to Rs. 6500. I would urge upon the hon. Labour Minister to raise the limit with retrospective effect. In fact, all workers should be given bonus without any ceiling on the wages, because bonus is a 'deferred wage' as ruled by the hon. Supreme Court.

I would also request the hon. Minister to enhance the wage ceiling for reckoning entitlement of bonus from Rs. 3500 to Rs. 7500 per month and for calculation of bonus from Rs. 2500 to Rs. 3500 per month, as recommended by the Second National Commission on Labour. It is all the more necessary since the Bonus Act was enacted in the year 1965 and after that many changes have taken place based on the cost of living index.

[Shri C. Kuppusami]

Moreover, a worker who is getting more than Rs. 1600 under the existing provisions of Payment of Wages Act is deemed to have been a managerial staff and he is denied all trade union rights and protection available under the Industrial Disputes Act, and he cannot become a member of the trade union. Based on the present wage structure and increase in wages, these provisions should also be amended to make them entitled to get the benefits.

I would urge upon the hon. Labour Minister to keep the interests of labour at the core of his heart and request him to take adequate measures to protect the interest of labour, especially in the era of globalisation and privatisation. We are against diluting the provisions of labour laws like Industrial Disputes Act, Factories Act, Contract Labour Act by the multinational companies. The multinational companies should also be strictly brought under the purview of the provisions of Indian labour laws and to this extent, the hon. Minister should take suitable steps to see that there is no discrimination. When they are operating in the Indian soil, then they have to abide by the Indian laws.

In the 1970s, when there was a proposal to reduce the bonus percentage to 4 per cent, it was our leader who was the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Kalaignar M. Karunanidhi who sent his State Labour Minister to Delhi to impress upon the Centre not to reduce the bonus percentage, and the bonus amount was decided at 8.33 per cent from 1980.

After the enactment of the Payment of Bonus Act, the wage structure and the cost of living index have changed. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to raise the bonus ceiling. The criteria in respect of entitlement and eligibility should be fixed in such a way that all the workers become eligible to get bonus.

On behalf of my Party, DMK, I support this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Madam Chairperson, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the bill that has been brought by the hon. Minister of Labour, Shri Chandrashekhar Rao proposing amendment in the Payment of Wages Act, 1936. UPA Government came with this resolution that it would protect the interest of the workers. This act was implemented in 1936 for the first time and the last amendment was carried out in 1982. At that time it was noticed that many provisions of the act have become obsolete over the years. Several matters were pending in the court: 17409 cases pertaining to minimum wages were filed during three years out of which 9739 cases were disposed. 9214 cases of claims were filed under section 20 of Minimum Wages Act from the year 1999 to the year 2002, out of which verdict was given in 7650 cases. Rs. 592.86 lakh were paid as compensation and a fine of Rs. 37.34 lakh was slapped in the cases that were disposed during the three years. The whole country has expressed concern over the minimum wages. Taking into account other countries and states, one can witness that in Arunachal Pradesh minimum wages were increased from Rs. 39.87 to Rs. 42.11. In Maharashtra it was raised to Rs. 116.55 from Rs. 45.92 percent labourers come from the unorganized sector in the country even today. Through you, I would request the hon. Minister that minimum wages should be fixed at the national level. He has got the payment of Wages Act, 2002 passed in Rajya Sabha in which he has increased the ceiling from Rs. 1600 to Rs. 6500. I want to congratulate him for this. It also has the provision of penalty for those who do not pay wages and it also seeks to end the system of contract labour. I demand that the hon. Minister should make arrangements for payment of wages to the labourers on the 1st date or the first week or the month just as government employees are sure to get their salaries on the first date or the first week of the month. He has talked about constituting a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Commissioner at the block level to ensure payment of minimum wages to the labourers and free rehabilitation of child and bonded labourers but it can be seen that 90 percent of the labourers are being paid two thirds or at some places even half of the minimum wages in the capital even today. If he conducts a survey in this regard, he would get the virtual figures. In our country women and child labourers are living most miserable lives. Even today 80 percent of working women are suffering from anaemia. There is no scheme for their healthcare. Through you, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister to pay special attention towards their health. Children engaged in rag-picking are living in the most pathetic condition. These days, these children are becoming drug-addicts. While travelling in trains, I have seen that the children engaged in rag-picking often smoke beedis or smack. The task force constituted by the Government should pay special attention towards the health of these children. The children, who should have been in school or colleges, are becoming rag-pickers and

drug-addicts. It will affect the future of the country and will adversely affect the development of the country.

Madam, Delhi Government is talking about constituting different Wage Boards for different industries. It is true in view of prevailing problems and circumstances, today wages should be linked with product and productivity. The hon'ble Minister, Shri Sis Ram Ola ji is present here. When he took the charge of Ministry of Labour, he promised to constitute Regional Minimum Wages Consultation Committees to reduce the difference between Minimum Wages. It was said that the deference in wages occur due to social, economic, agriculture, weather conditions cost of essential items, production and other local conditions.

I have presented a few suggestions before the hon'ble Minister. I would like to say that hon'ble Minister should pay special attention towards this. In the end while supporting this Bill, I conclude my speech.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Madam Chairman, I rise to support the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 2004, which has been introduced in this House after being passed in Rajya Sabha.

Madam, the Government has not included the suggestions given by the Standing Committee for Labour and Welfare. At the time of British Rule, the workers of organized sector who had contributed a lot in the freedom struggle had brought this Bill. After 22 years, an amendment is being made in this Bill. Before this, last amendment in this Bill was made in 1982. I would like to say that this bill should be amended only after seeing consumer price index. The consumer price index was 100 points in 1982 and 441 points in the year 2000. It has gone further high after introduction of this Bill. An increase of Rs. 10000 was required, but you have made it only Rs. 6500. Standing Committee has also recommended and all Central Trade Unions too have recommended that there is no need of amendment in this Bill, but a provision should be made to increase minimum wages in proportion to rise in consumer price index. This Government is new. There would be no need of amendment if gazette notification is done, but you have imposed the ceiling of five years. But five years have elapsed, since the introduction of this Bill. This Bill was presented in Rajya Sabha in the year 2002. Rajya Sabha passed it in year 2004, and now we will pass it in Lok Sabha. They took five years and now this House too will take five years. At any time, the ceiling of five years can be withdrawn through gazette notification. There should be no ceiling of five years. It should be withdrawn. Gazette notification can be issued on the basis of consumer price index, there is no need for amendment in the bill. I request the hon'ble Minister to do so. The Cabinet has also given approval in this regard. This can be done by the gazette notification, the ceiling of five years and new increase should be withdrawn. These amendments have not been introduced as per the recommendations of the Government and the Cabinet. It would be good, if celling of five years is withdrawn.

I would like to submit to him to pay attention in this regard. I would like to say something about an amendment made in regard to fixing of responsibility of Labour Contractor. According to Contract Work Regulation Abolition Act 1997, Principal Employer should be responsible for payment to contract labourers. In recent amendment in payment Act, Principal Employer has been totally freed from this responsibility.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): I want to inform the hon. Member that the principal employer has now been made responsible. He is very much there in the Act. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Principal Employer has not been spared. He has been made responsible for making payment to labourers under this Act. If contractor leaves in the mid, then it is the responsibility of Principal Employer. It is in this Act.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: It is in the amendment, that the Principal Employer should owe the responsibility. The amendment made by the Government is perfect.

Secondly amendments made in section 3, 7, 8, 15 are right. I would like to give some suggestions in regard to the intentions of the Government. The workers do not feel at ease even after serving for so many years. There are many legislations in the country, but they have not been enforced properly. Many things are not clear in Payment and Wages Act. It is my personal experience. Mismanagement is prevailing in Public Sector Undertakings. In many Public Sector Undertakings, payments are not made for two-four years. The same is

[Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy]

true with State Governments also. Private Sector is also facing the same situation. The law is prevailing in the country but even Union Government does not make payments at time. Union Government should act as model employer in the country, but it is not so.

Madam, in many public undertakings, workers are not getting salary for last 2-3 years. Therefore, many public undertakings, which are model employers, are not giving minimum wages to the employees. The Government should also look into it and make provision so that payment of Minimum Wages to the workers should be made. Any anti-labour activity should not be conducted in Public Undertakings. Similarly, State Governments also control many Public Undertakings. The rules related to wages are also not being followed over there. I understand, there may be some complaints and problems in these Public Undertakings, but if workers do not get salary for a year, how would they work. Therefore hon'ble Minister should look into all the arrangements and bring an amendment accordingly so that the labourers can get their wages timely.

Madam, I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister that the penalty that has been fixed is not sufficient. Sometimes if the labourers are not paid their wages due to some reasonable grounds then it can be understood, but it is not appropriate to hold wages of the labourers for one two or three years. The Ministers, Members, MLAs, Government servants and higher officials all are paid their salaries on time but the labourer is the legislation for paying their wages on time. Although, there is a provision for penalty but that is not sufficient at all. Therefore there should be proper arrangements for paying the wages to labourers on time.

Madam, the labourers should be benefited with the provision made for them in the law, but it is seen that the labourers are not benefited by those laws. The system made for them is not followed. Now is the age of privatisation. A lot of factories are being set up in Private sector.

[English]

How is private sector making profits? It is making profits mostly from wages.

[Translation]

The private companies would not raise the wages, because they will have an eye on profit. We are not in favour of liberalization. If we pay higher wages to the labour then how are we going to make profits and compete globally. All these things are taking place now. They will have to see all these things. If we do not take care of the Labour Laws, then how will we make progress.

Madam, we are thinking of organized sector. It is 10 percent, but there are 90 percent labourers engaged in the unorganised sector. We must be concerned about those 90 percent labourers of unorganised sector. You are aware that various types of labourers are engaged in unorganised sector in our country. Maximum number of labourers are engaged in agriculture and are working as contract labour too. He had stated in Rajya Sabha that he wanted to introduce a consolidated law regarding the labourers. He has not brought the same till now. They have also not been able to make sufficient laws for the safety of labourers engaged in unorganised sector. By when are they going to bring the Comprehensive Bill they mentioned regarding the labourers of unorganised sector? I would like them to introduce a Comprehensive Bill for the welfare of the labourers working in unorganised sector so that their problems can be sorted out.

Madam, in the Preamble of our Constitution the amendments upon socialism has been brought by the present Government only, it was stated that everybody in the society would be treated with respect and shall be provided work. But what are the present circumstances, will they hire and fire in the name of liberalization now? Will they recruit people and then retrench them? This should not happen. The human values must be taken into consideration. There party had promised to bring socialism in the country and also brought an amendment accordingly that everybody in the country would be treated with respect and the Government will cater to the needs of the people and arrange for the same, but it did not happen so. No they have moved towards globalisation. We have forgotten socialism and its entire system. They are not thinking towards this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mahato, you should not read newspaper in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: The labourers would be oppressed in the time of globalisation. The policy of hire and fire would be adopted. How are you

going to check that? Now the private sector needs to be encouraged, it will not be possible to get everything from the Government industries, the private sector must enter, but at present it would not be appropriate to bring a Bill for encouraging globalisation as well as foreign direct investment, as their Ministry is thinking of doing so. It is the Government's job to provide protection to the workers and labourers of the country who have developed the industries till now. Therefore, such Bill should not be brought which will ruin the future of the labourers. Today it is most important to create such an environment in the country that bring activeness in the country, if the man power is not healthy, the country will become lethargic and we will not be able to save our soul.

Therefore, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that the Government should bring such a Bill in the country so that the labour power which is feeling uncomfortable today has no future and no sources for their welfare must not feel so. What even laws are there are not being implemented properly, I hope he will definitely look into the matter.

I would again like to thank and support hon'ble Minister for bringing this much required Amendment.

16.26 hrs.

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE—*contd.*

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: There is one Supplementary Business. Shri S.S. Palanimanickam has to lay the paper on the Table.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): Madam Chairperson, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. 32/2005-CE (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th August, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt cement (Chapter 25) and steel items (Chapter 72 or 73) used in construction of residential houses (temporary as well as permanent) in Tsunami affected areas, by agencies approved by the concerned State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Union Territories of Pondicherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands, under sub-section (2) of section 348 of the Central Excise Act, 1944.

[Placed in Library, *see* No. LT 2637/05]

16.28 hrs.

PAYMENT OF WAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004—*contd.*

[English]

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN (Coimbatore): Madam, Chairperson I would like to mention some important points in respect of Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill.

Every employee must be covered under the Payment of Wages Act wherever there is an employee-employer relationship. The ceiling under the Payment of Wages Act remains un-amended for the past 22 years. Thus, the Act was infructuous. Whenever the necessity arises, the Government raise the ceiling of wage while amending the Act. Now, the wage ceiling under the ESI Act is Rs. 7,500/-. The Government made many amendments from time to time to see that wage ceiling is always higher than the prevailing wage level and all employees are covered.

16.29 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

Even now, as per this amendment, it is lesser than that of the ESI Act by Rs. 1,000/-. An amount of Rs. 6,500/- was the ceiling in the prevailing wage level among industrial workers. Some of them even crossed this level. But with the rise in the Consumer Price Index, the wage level will also get increased in a short period and almost all workers will cross this level of Rs. 6,500/- and will be out of the purview of this Act.

So, there should not be any wage limit under Section II of this Act. It should cover every employee irrespective of the wage drawn by him. Otherwise, it should be fixed higher than the wage limit as per the ESI Act.

Sir, another important point is non-payment of wages should be made a criminal offence under this Act.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill introduced by the Government. Many of the Members before me have stated that this Bill is being brought so that the labourers and workers can be paid their wages on time and there should be no deductions from that. But unfortunately I have to say that the seriousness of the Government which talks about the welfare of the labourers is reflected from the fact, that this Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha in December 2004 and now it is the eighth month of 2005. It has taken the Bill eight months to reach here after being passed by the Rajya Sabha. The seriousness of the Government towards the welfare of the labourers can very well be ascertained from this. I would like to give one more example that in the recent past a number of labourers of Honda Company, Gurgaon were fired from their jobs and they were protesting for the fulfillment of their legitimate demands. At that time, the way these striking workers were rounded and later on beaten up brutally by the police, was shown on all the television channels. We are ashamed of what happened there. Should the labourers be beaten up so mercilessly? I would also like to tell my leftist friends who have been shedding crocodile tears in the name of labourers that they have been supporting the Government since one year and it took eight months for the Bill to reach here from Rajya Sabha. Earlier the original Bill was brought in 1936. It was amended in the year 1982. It took twenty years since 1982. Who were in power at that time? They can imagine, there have been the Governments of hon'ble Shri Rajiv Gandhi ji, Late Shri Narsingh Rao ji and Shri Inder Kumar Gujral ji. Those Governments were supported by the Leftist Party. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to thank the NDA Government who made the proposal for bringing Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill in the year 2002, for resolving the problems of labourers. But it was presented in 2004. The credit of this must go to the Government of NDA because they got it passed from Rajya Sabha but it took eight months for the Bill to reach here in Lok Sabha from Rajya Sabha. This reflects the Government's policy in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that there are 40 crore labourers in the country and out of those 37 crore labourers are engaged in unorganized sector. Prior to independence, very little industrialization had taken place in our country therefore, there were less employment opportunities and this caused the labourers to face many difficulties. But after independence all the attention of the Governments which came into power went towards welfare and protection of labourers...

[Translation]

Alongwith this industrialization was at fast pace and the employment opportunities also increased and several legislations were framed in the interest of labourers as a result thereof. Though several legislations have been framed in this regard but only when its timely compliance, in the interest of labourers and its actual benefits will accrue to them only then they will be able to work for the nation with full dedication. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Whether their Government also took any action in this regard? ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: The NDA Government only brought it in the year 2002 and it was passed by Rajya Sabha in the year 2004. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interruptions please. Hon. Member, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, please address the Chair.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: But they were exposed in Gurgaon. As it is said "Saachai chip nahin sakti kabhi jhoote usulon se, khushboo aa nahin sakti kabhi kagaz ke phulon se." The truth always prevails, Through you, I would like to submit that we should take stringent measures to implement the labour laws. We are heading towards globalization. We should make efforts to make these labour laws more flexible. If we wish to compete with the global market and attract foreign investment, generate new opportunities of employment then we will also have to think about measures for welfare of labour, their development, education, housing, medical treatment, better wages, to reduce lockouts, check retrenchment etc.

Bhartiya Majdoor Sangh has constantly maintained its slogan that—"We will continue to work in the interest of the nation; in lieu of it we will charge proper remuneration" (Rashtra hit mein karenge kam, kam ke

badle lenge pure dam). The labourer should also have a feeling of patriotism that if they get full wages they will work in the total interest of the country. But some of our colleague raise such slogans "Chahe jo majboori ho, hamari mangen puri hon". (Whatever be the compulsions, our demands should be fulfilled). As a result, the condition of industries in West Bengal and Kerala has become very pitiable. No one wishes to set up an industry there since almost daily new flags, new demands are raised. If one demand is fulfilled, then other demands are raised. As a result, entire industrialization was stymied. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government will also have to think of welfare of labourers, increasing industrial production, proper functioning of our factories and take full care of the interest of labourers but simultaneously, the labourers will work equally holding the interest of the country supreme.

I would like to draw attention towards two three issues. In this Act, the Wage Ceiling has been increased from Rs. 1600 to Rs. 6500 and approximately eight months have passed. Inflation is rapidly increasing and UPA Government has failed to exercise any control over it. So, I would like to submit that the minimum wage ceiling of Rs. 10,000 should be made. I support the amendment of "Appropriate Government" in place of Central Government and State Government. In addition to it certain suggestions have been made under the Act. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude because the Minister will have to reply at 5 o' clock.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I am concluding. They are very few. Stringent action should be taken against the owners or the people who blatantly hit and violate the interest of labourers, so that the latter can be rest assured and work dutifully.

There is no need to bring amendments in it repeatedly. If their wages etc, are to be increased then the Government can itself issue orders on the basis of consumer price index and can increase their wages and ceiling through an executive order since a healthy work force is essential for the nation. That is why under no circumstances should their be exploitation of labourers and their interest should not suffer owing to the race amongst the trade unions rather a legislation was being brought, providing for the kind of trade union alongwith the rules under which it can function and the Government will also have to ponder over the decision by the Supreme Court in regard to strike that if atrocities are actually being committed on labourers and there is going to be a lockout and the future of labourers is lurking in dark then they should have a right to strike so that they can take up cudgels for their demands for getting justice "Zor Zulm ki takkar mein insaf hamara nara hai".

With these words, I would request the Government to bring a comprehensive bill. The number of unorganized labour is extremely high. A legislation should be brought immediately to address their concerns. A legislation was also framed for building labourers but it is to begin complied with it letter and spirit.

"Shwano ko milta doodh-bhat, bhoke balak akulate hain, ma ki chhati se chipak sisak-sisak kar reh jate ahin.' Today, the labourers living in jhuggi-jhopris have a miserable plight. The attention of the Government should also be drawn towards the welfare of those labourers.

With these words, I would thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, the Payment of Wages Act, 1936 is a beneficial legislation to regulate the payment of wages to certain classes of persons. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kharventhan, you are not in your seat. You have to obtain the Chair's permission to speak from a different seat.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Sir, I may be permitted to speak from this seat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: For the time being, you proceed. Do not repeat it hereafter because there is a strict rule that a Member should speak from his seat only.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Sir, the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 16 May, 2002. After it was referred to the Standing Committee on Labour, the Committee submitted its report on 21st November, 2002. Even though this amendment was introduced during NDA Government, the Group of Ministers then opposed this amendment and this Bill was

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

put in cold storage. On 2nd December, 2004, this Bill was introduced in Rajya Sabha and was passed. First of all, I want to thank the Labour Minister for this. The UPA Government has taken the bold step to bring this amendment forward for the welfare of the labour of the country.

The Payment of Wages Act was introduced in the year 1936 and it came into force on 28th March, 1937. At that time the ceiling was only Rs. 200 which was revised upwards in 1947 to Rs. 400; in 1976 to Rs. 1,000; and in 1982 to Rs. 1,600. The proposed amendment to Section 1 sub-section (6) says:

> "This Act applies to wages payable to an employed person in respect of a wage period if such wages for that wage period do not exceed six thousand five hundred rupees per month or such other higher sum which, on the basis of figures of the Consumer Expenditure Survey published by the National Sample Survey Organisation, the Central Government may, after every five years, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify."

Why I read out this provision is to emphasise the fact that it is only during a Congress Government that the welfare of labourers was taken into consideration, whether in 1957, 1976, 1982 on now in 2004-2005. Our friends on the other side said that this Bill was brought during the NDA regime. However, following the objections from various quarters, they had put it in the cold storage. They were not able to pass this Bill.

This Bill basically has two major amendments. The first one is to enhance the ceiling from the existing level of Rs. 1,600 per months to Rs. 6,500 per month and the second one is to enhance the existing penalty to five times. I would like to make a particular mention of certain provisions like Section 15, sub-sections (3), (4) (a), 4 (b); Section 29, sub-section (1), sub-section (2). These are all amendments proposed in this Act for the penalty. Powers are given to the inspectors appointed under the Factories Act, inspectors appointed by the State Government and other authorities. It is a very important amendment and I would like to thank the Minister for this.

The amendment in Section 2 says:

> "appropriate Government means, in relation to railways, air transport services, mines and oilfields, the Central Government and, the relation to all other cases, the State Government."

This is another step. We are all aware that most of the contractors and sub-contractors are not giving any benefit to the employees. That hurdle is removed through this amendment to Section 3, sub-section (1) which says:

> "(d) in the case of contractor, a person designated by such contractor who is directly under his charge; and
>
> (e) in any other case, a person designated by the employer as a person responsible for complying with the provisions of the Act,"

We have a federal set up. In some of the areas labourers are not protect. For example, in Tamil Nadu. In Tamil Nadu, when the Congress regime was in power, for the welfare of the rural labourers, the Government started seven cooperative spinning mills. The NABARD had given huge funds for the welfare of seven mills. Seven thousand persons were working in those seven mills. Suddenly, all the seven mills were closed and the persons working came to the streets. Two sugar cooperative mills were closed by the present Tamil Nadu Government. Thousands of labourers are wandering in the streets. The Union Government should take over and sell the property. States are under the domain of the Central Government. Hence, I urge upon the Government and the hon. Minister to sell the seven cooperative mills and the 50% of sale proceeds should be given to the labourers.

When the DMK Government was in power, Dr. Kalaignar Karunmanithy got the Central aid for the welfare of the workers of the seven mills. Now, those cooperative mills were closed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The contract labourers also come within the purview of this amendment.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Yes, Sir.

Another important matter is this. For example, when the DMK Government came into power in 1996, it had given jobs to 10,000 *salai paniyalargal* between the age group of 25 and 30. Since they were appointed by the DMK government, all the 10,000 persons were removed by the present Tamil Nadu Government. They have been agitating everyday. Even the High Court directed the State

Government to give employment to them but the State Government refused to do so and approached the Supreme Court. That is the situation prevailing in Tamil Nadu. Nearly 69 persons committed suicide. Union of India has to direct the Tamil Nadu Government to restore the jobs. That is the situation of not only the labourers working in the factories but also other labourers in Tamil Nadu. The Central Government should take steps to protect the interests of those persons and see that they are not removed all of a sudden for political reasons.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time is over. Please conclude.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Sir, it is pertaining to the Act. For the past 20 years, Extra Department Employees (EDE) in the Postal Department throughout the country were previously receiving Rs. 150 only. This was the situation even when the NDA Government was in power. All were agitated. At present, persons working in Postal Department EDE are getting Rs. 1,500. But the person working as a regular Postman is getting Rs. 6,500 or Rs. 7,000. The EDE employees working in villages must be included and must be given the same salary.

With regard to the unorganised workers, for example, persons in tailoring sector, are getting Rs. 30 or Rs. 40 only per day. Five crore people are working as tailors. Their condition is very poor. Our Government has to extend help not only to the persons working in the industry but also to the persons working in the unorganised sector like tailors. Thirty crores people are working in the unorganised sector in this country. The Government must bring a comprehensive Act for helping those persons. This is a very important matter.

Nearly Rs. 2,000 crore is due as wages to be paid as salaries to the labourers working in PSUs. We want the Government to implement this Act. Government organisations are not paying salaries to the labourers properly. Salary dues have to be cleared immediately. This bill is a bold step to amend the Act. Anyhow, I would like to state that changing the ceiling and the bringing in penal provisions are not sufficient. We have to bring further amendments to help the employees throughout this country. It should also be ensured that they must get a salary of Rs. 10,000. Those are drawing salary of Rs. 6500 now are not getting the benefit under this Act at present. Hence, I would request the hon. Minister that it must be raised to Rs. 10,000. In 1982, it was Rs. 1,600. We are now in 2005. What would the poor people do with Rs. 6,500? It must be raised to Rs. 10,000. This is my submission.

With these words, I support the Bill.

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Sir, I welcome this Bill amending the Payment of Wages Act. While doing that, I would request the hon. Minister to look at this issue in a little broader way. There are several labour laws like the Payment of Wages Act, Minimum Wages Act, Provident Fund Act etc. Most of them were passed before we became independent. Probably, the working class of India actually fought for the Independence. The first ever strike by the workers of India was when Lala Lajpat Rai was assaulted, when Shri Tilak was assaulted. This was the first political strike. So, the working class of India was also expecting that independent India would give them a fair deal. Rather than that, what we are really bringing in is a piecemeal amendment to the laws by just increasing and enhancing the ceiling. We are not actually substantially changing anything that is mentioned during the British time. My first request would be to look at all these issues in a very comprehensive way. Why does the Labour Minister not bring about a comprehensive labour law incorporating all these legislations rather than bringing these piecemeal changes? He should look at it afresh and give it a modern look and actually ensure that we address the concerns of modern working class. That is what my first request to the hon. Minister is.

Secondly, as many of my other friends have pointed out, the last amendment was made in 1982 when the Payment of Wages Act was applicable to those workmen who were drawing Rs. 1600. Now, the minimum wage is almost the same. What actually we are trying to do now is to say that those who are covered by the Minimum Wages Act, actually would now be covered by the enhanced ceiling. This Bill was first introduced in Rajya Sabha three years back. At that time, the ceiling was Rs. 6,500. It was introduced in Rajya Sabha on 16th of May, 2002. Now, almost more than three years have passed and we are now introducing a Bill where the ceiling has gone to Rs. 6,500. This Bill was introduced primarily because we realised that those employees who were covered by the present legislation, they would not be able to get the benefit of the Payment of Wages Act. Therefore, I would request the Minister to look at it. Do you mean to say that there was no inflation in the last three years? Do you mean to say that since the Bill was last introduced in Rajya Sabha, the wage level has not gone up? You are introducing this legislation on the same logic. You are now introducing this in Parliament. Rs. 1600 is too law a figure. On the same ground,

[Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu]

Rs. 6,500 would be raised upwards and it would become Rs. 7,500 or Rs. 8,000. Therefore, I would also request the hon. Minister to look into it.

The third point which my friend Shri Shailendra Kumar has raised is about penalties. There are penalties which have also been raised for the violation of the provisions of the Act. The hon. Minister has been very generous to the workers because he has increased the ceiling. But the moot point is, in how many cases, actual convictions have taken place. How many people really had to pay this fine? The figure was very revealing, as was pointed out by Shri Shailendra Kumar. So, the point is that it is not just enough to increase the amount of ceiling of fine for bringing out a better compliance. Does that mean that nobody is going to violate it? The better thing would be to make sure that all the employees who are supposed to get covered by this law should have a compulsory bank account and the employer must be forced to pay the amount within a specified time. There should be a standing instruction to the bank about it and the amount should be transferred to the bank account immediately. In that case, you can avoid the violation because it will never happen automatically. This Act was made in 1936. At that time, there was no information technology in vogue. Today, when we claim that India is a leader in information technology, how are we using that knowledge or that technology for the benefit of the common worker? That is the question. Therefore, my request would be that rather than ensuring and increasing the ceiling of penalty, there has to be a better compliance. Our experience has proved that it is not going to result into that.

Therefore, my request to the hon. Minister would be that he should look into that in a great deal.

Now, I come to my fourth point. The hon. Minister comes from Telangana and he knows that why he is fighting for a separate State. It is because, that is one of the most backward part of that State. Therefore, he feels that there should be separate statehood which can probably remove the backwardness. But as a consequence of their backwardness, many of these people from that part of the State are now migrating to other places in search of jobs as construction workers. There are many agricultural workers, many bidi workers, and many such there workers who do not enjoy any protection whatsoever.

So, this would be an eyewash to say that bringing about this amendment is now going to improve the lot of the working class. In fact, it would be just the other way round. If they are really serious to do that, my request would be that they now use this new knowledge that I just mentioned. How can you have any person who is employed without a bank account? In fact, this should be incumbent upon the employer to have bank accounts opened for them. Now, even in the rural areas, there are banks and banking operations. Similarly, he should make sure to do all these things. A large number of wrong doings that happen, can be avoided only when we bring about this transparent system of accounting. By this, we will be able to ensure that the worker will get his salary directly in bank account and the employers will be forced to pay that.

Sir, hopefully, very soon, we would be discussing—that is what we hear from the newspaper reports—the new Employment Guarantee Bill, which is going to be introduced before this august House.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): You are speaking like a CPI (M) man.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Prabhu, you need not answer him. You complete your speech. Otherwise, I would call the next speaker.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore): Sir, we are complimenting him. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): CPI(M) is prototype. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Sir, we are going to have the Employment Guarantee Bill, which is going to be debated in this very House, hopefully in the next week. When we are going to bring this Bill, one of the major objections against operationalisation of a well meaning scheme like this is that the wages are always inflated. People claim that the wages are being paid, and there are many instances contrary to this including my home State of Maharashtra.

So, my request to the hon. Labour Minister, whose essential job is to protect the interests of the labourers is, not to bring about that legislation. It is because, by bringing it, we would only get to a satisfaction of saying that our legislation is probably better than many other parts of the world. But does that mean that the conditions

of the labours are better than what are there in the rest of the world? If he really wants to bring that about, my request would be to look at operational issues rather than legal issues. Legal issues only provide us a legal framework to operate but operational issues are very important because by solving the operational issues, we would improve the lot of the people.

Therefore, Sir, while welcoming this Bill, I would request the hon. Minister that all these issues should be looked into. Otherwise we would be patting our back and we would be happy that we are going to do something good for the workers, but their lot will not improve actually. In fact, that would get worsened.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Bilhaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak on the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill 2004. 58 years have passed since India became independent. I have been seeing it for a fairly long period that several times there have been discussions in the House for alleviating poverty, ameliorating the condition of poor and labourers. But even after so many years of independence if we evaluate whether we have actually taken any effective measures for poverty alleviation, then there is need to ponder over it seriously. We find that all the big mills like NTC or BIC wherein thousands or labourers used to work, today they are all closed. There is no discussion in the House to revive those mills and to provide work to those lakhs of unemployed labourers.

17.00 hrs.

Sir, we will have to contemplate upon the extent to which we have been successful in providing for basic needs of every citizen inscribed in the preamble of the constitution—Food, shelter clothing, education, medical treatment and job to all. Today, in the 59 year of independence there is a need to contemplate upon these issues. If we have prepared any concrete programme for ameliorating the condition of poor in all these years then definitely there would have been no need for a serious discussion in the House.

We find that the multinational companies which are coming to India or even the owners of Indian companies are recruiting staff through contractors instead of recruiting the staff directly. The contractor gets signatures on Rs. 6500 per month which is minimum wage and gives Rs. 1000, Rs. 1200 or Rs. 1500 only to labour. If he gets Rs. 6500 then it would definitely be in his favour. Today, the labourer is compelled to sign on that register to earn his livelihood. However, good a law may be, it would prove useless without the honest intent of those implementing. The same is happening in regard to minimum wages. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that the Minimum Wages announced by him are nowhere being implemented; he may get a survey conducted across the country. Only 10 percent labourers would be getting minimum wages rest 90 percent of them get Rs. 1000, Rs. 1200 Rs. 1500 by working under a contractor whereas their signatures are taken on Rs. 6500 in register. We will have to take firm decision in this regard.

Hon. Minister, I would like to add just one more thing that be it the national companies or the international companies, their owners run them for profit. They set up their companies in organized sector, earn huge profit in 8-10 years and then hatch a conspiracy to get it closed by provoking the trade unions with the country for shifting their business to some other field, we would have to give it a serious thought.

After working for 10 years in a particular capacity in a company the work of work potential do not remain that much useful for any other company than his parent company. This is also one of the reasons that workers are exploited. Be it multinational companies or national companies, they should be made to sign an agreement in favour of the workers before they set up industries and in case the company closes down, the owners of the company should be made to pay the workers what they would have earned till the age of 60 by selling the land other assets of the company.

Sir, through you I would like to say that I represent Bilhaur of Kanpur. Kanpur was once called Manchester of Asia, giving employment to lakhs of workers, now it has lost its reputation so much that it does not seem to acquire any place of significance on the map of Uttar Pradesh, leave alone Asia. At present the workers of jute mills are on the brink of starvation and they are compelled to go on strike for their insurance money and bonus. I believe the Government of India and Hon. Minister of Labour would give it a serious thought.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may address the Chair. Your allotted time is over. Even the time allotted for the business is also over.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Sir, through you I just want to express the concern shared by the entire House that the poor are getting poorer and the workers are getting even more helpless and poor while the Government of India has yet to recover Rs. 90 thousand crores from the industrial houses of the country. Sir, if the hon. Minister would ensure the recovery of this amount from industrial houses and make opportunities of jobs available by renovating and starting the old mills again then it would definitely prove to be a very effective step.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted to you is already over.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Sir, I would like to make one more submission regarding the amendment that has been brought that instead of giving it a time period of 5 years, the hon. Minister should incorporate in it a provision of automatic increase in the minimum wages in accordance with the price hike. I believe that the hon. Minister is definitely concerned about the workers and labourers and is willing to do something for them. Therefore, through you I would like to say that if a Minister like Hon. Rao Saheb would not take into consideration the interest of the labourers and not do something for their betterment then nobody would do so because I doubt the intention of those who have enjoyed power for 58-59 years.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you will continue now, it will not form part of the record.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: They are definitely not going to do anything in the interest of the workers. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I welcome the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 2004 although it is a belated move. The wages of the workers were revised last in 1982. After 23 years. The wages of the workers are being revised today. It is now being enhanced to Rs. 6,500/- Why I am saying it is a belated move, because this Bill was listed in the last Budget Session but suddenly we found that it was withdrawn. We demanded that this Bill, concerning the interest of the workers, should again be brought before the House. Legislation are enacted but we rarely find a legislation brought before the House to protect the interest of the workers. There are a number of legislation. There is no dearth of legislation. We have the Payment of Minimum Wages Act, Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition), Act, 1970, Maternity Act, Provident Fund, Payment of Bonus Act and so on. There is no dearth of legislation but the problem, Sir, is these legislation are not implemented sincerely. There are no teeth in the present legislation, which is being brought before the House to enhance the wages of the workers.

The Ministry of Labour is helpless. I can cite one example of a public sector undertaking called MMTC. It has many Divisions and one of them is MICA Division. You will be surprised to know that the workers of MICA Division are getting Rs. 300 per month. That is the basic salary and the Minister knows it. He took the initiative and he held a meeting six months' back but there is no result. The former Minister of Labour also took the initiative but there is no result. It is a public sector undertaking where the workers of MICA Division are getting only Rs. 300 per month and their wages have not been revised for the last 15 to 20 years. We have an Act but the Ministry of Labour is helpless.

The National Project Construction Corporation is a public sector undertaking. Its workers are working in different areas like Tripura, North-East, etc. but they are not getting their wages for the last 17 to 18 months. I am receiving telegrams everyday. There is a starvation death but the Ministry of Labour is helpless. Where is the need for such legislation if they are not implemented properly and if the action is not taken against the violators? The labour laws are being violated blatantly.

Recently, we have seen an incident in Gurgaon involving the workers of Honda Motor Cycle Corporation Company. What was the issue? The issue was of minimum wages. The minimum wages are not being paid by the multinational company. Their industry is in our country and they have to follow the law of the land. They have to follow the labour laws of our country.

During the NDA regime, we frequently used to hear that there should be flexibility in labour laws which means the owners should be allowed to violate labour laws. In this connection, a proposal was mooted by the Finance Minister and not by the Minister of Labour to amend the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and to repeal the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act of 1970. This was to take away whatever rights are being enjoyed by the workers in our country. In the past, we used to hear about hire and fire policy. I must thank the UPA Government for incorporating in the National Common Minimum Programme that there will not be any hire and fire policy. It should not only be in the National Common Minimum Programme but the Government must also see that if anywhere such a thing is being done, action must be taken against them.

One important recommendation of the Standing Committee has not been accepted by the Government. What was the recommendation, I quote:

> "The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Central Government should be empowered to enhance the wage ceiling periodically on the basis of Consumer Price Index by issue of notification in the Gazette of India instead of bringing an Act for amendment in Parliament time and again."

I am told that this was approved by the Cabinet. Then where is the need for bringing the Bill? As per the price index, why were the wages of workers not being increased in the Gazette notification as it is being done in the case of minimum wages?

Sir, the penalty which has been provided in the Bill is also not sufficient. We have seen and experienced that no action is taken against the violator of the law. If the provident fund is not paid, then nothing is being done. There is a demand that there should not be any ceiling regarding payment of bonus. Why should there be a ceiling? But the Government has not agreed to that proposal.

Bringing legislation alone is not sufficient. Alongwith bringing the legislation, what is necessary is that the legislation should be implemented in letter and spirit. Whenever there is a violation of any provision in the Act, the Government should act against the violators of the law. Where can the workers get justice?

We have got the Workmen Compensation Act. While working, if the workers get injured or die, then compensation has to be paid. There are a number of cases where compensation is not paid as per the law. If the owner of the company or the employer violates law, then no action is taken. Some stringent law should be brought before the House to take action against the violator of the law. So, only bringing legislation is not sufficient. What is needed here today is the implementation of the legislation and observance of legislation in letter and spirit. That is not being done.

As regards the fundamental rights of the workers, the workers have been right to form associations. I had been to Chandigarh to attend a rally of more than 5000 workers of Hero Cycles. They wanted to form an association and had applied for registration of the union. I had even raised the issue on the floor of the House. The workers have the fundamental right to form an association and that association or union has to be registered. The application was submitted two years back to the State Government of Punjab as well as the State Government of Haryana. But the union was not being registered. The fundamental right of the workers to form an association is being violated. Will the Central Government or the Ministry of Labour remain a silent spectator to this? What is the situation in the labour court? How many vacancies are there? Where will the workers get justice? Justice delayed is justice denied. This is happening in the case of workers.

I welcome this Bill but it is not sufficient. The bill was introduced in 2002 and today it is being brought before the House.

In 2002 the Government decided to enhance the minimum wage to Rs. 6,500/-.That was done after the lapse of 23 years. In 2002 it was decided to enhance it to Rs. 6500/-. During these three years, there has been some increase in the price index. But that has not been reflected in the enhancement of wages. The Bill was introduced in 2002. So, naturally, after three years the enhancement of the wages should be more than what has been proposed in the legislation.

Some stringent provisions should be there in the penalty clause. More teeth should be given to the Bill so that violators of the laws are properly punished.

17.21 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR

Cancellation of Sitting of the Lok Sabha and Re-Fixing of Private Members' Business

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have an announcement to make.

The Business Advisory Committee at its sitting held today has, *inter alia*, recommended that the sitting fixed for Friday, the 26th August, 2005 may be cancelled and the Private Members' Business, *i.e.* Bills fixed for that day be taken up on Thursday, the 25th August, 2005 at 4.30 p.m.

It was also agreed that in order to enable the House to take up the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill, Private Members' Business, i.e. Resolutions fixed for tomorrow, the 18th August, 2005 be transacted on 25th August, 2005 at 2 p.m.

I hope, the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

17.22 hrs.

PAYMENT OF WAGES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004—*Contd.*

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not one of those Members who speak quite often. I seldom speak in Lok Sabha. Through you, I want to submit to the hon. Minister that we are compelled to support the Bill brought by him. Though after much delay but at least he has brought it. From 2002, it took two years for the Bill to reach this chamber from that one.

Sir, the number of labourers in the organized sector is 40 crore and in the unorganized sector, it is 37 crore. Some of the Members who spoke before me have rendered grand speeches. I am also a worker of Indian Trade Union and I have rendered services to all the people in Jaipur including rickshawpullers, tongawallah, autorickshaw drivers, hawkers, bullockcart owners, taxi drivers, washermen, cobblers, people selling flowers or those who sell their merchandise on roadsides and those who dwell in clusters though it is very difficult to represent all these people. It is my humble submission to the hon. Minister that it is good thing that he has brought this Bill but it does not cover artisans, farmers, beedi workers and forest workers. It would indeed be laudable if he would widen the scope of the Bill to cover all these workers. He has mentioned that they do not get wages and bonus on time.

Sir, there is a Jaipur Metal industry which produced meters. The factory is laying closed for 6-7 years. Meanwhile several of its workers have died and several are working at petrol pumps. Whenever I visit that place, they ask me what I have done for them. They remind me that I gave them an assurance during elections that I would see to it that the Jaipur Metal Industry is restarted. They said that I have forgotten all about them after becoming M.P. I want to tell that workers of Jaipur Metal Industry are very disillusioned. Several years have passed since the factory closed down. The factory was set up on a vast piece of land. That land could have been sold to make things going. If that is not possible, there is a railways factory nearby, if that land is sold to the Railways then it would be possible to make payment to the workers and start the factory again which would be a very good thing. It would be a worthwhile effort even if only arrears of 5-10 years of those poor workers could be arranged by selling that land. New announcements are made every day. If Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh launches an agitation, it is told that the factory would be started soon. An IAS officer has been entrusted this responsibility. He is drawing his salary but not doing anything. The Union Government is saying that the mill would be started but the state government does not have any funds. I request the hon. Minister to be merciful. When he has taken up the cause of the poor, then the Government of India should provide funds for that factory. If Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh's demand is fulfilled, our job would be done and the workers would be saved.

Sir, a ball-bearing company which is the biggest company in Jaipur is on the verge of closure. Retrenchment is being carried out there. Most of the workers were engaged by these two companies only i.e.

metal industry and ball bearing company. He brought a Bill that workers would get full wages and bonus and in case somebody fails to do so there is a provision for penalty but it would not be much effective. When I would go back to Jaipur people would ask what I have achieved for them. They would say that they are dying, what would happen to them. That is why it is my submission that particular attention should be paid towards these two companies.

Sir, the Government would not suffer immediately for its role in Gurgaon but the curse of the labourers who were beaten up and who have been killed is definitely at their door. No Government is permanent. Power keeps changing hands. If we would deliver the goods, we may come back in power and if we do not fulfil our responsibility, we would be ousted. Earlier we used to sit in the ruling side but these days we are in the opposition. If we produce results we would definitely be successful in Rajasthan. ...*(Interruptions)* I can not listen what the hon. Member is saying. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Member is from Mathura. Several mills are lying closed in his state, Uttar Pradesh. Mills have been locked up in Kanpur and Lucknow and the labourers are in sad plight. Nobody is willing to listen to their grievances in Uttar Pradesh. It is my demand that the hon. Member should make the provision of punishment in the Bill more stringent. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interruptions please. Already we have exhausted the time. Nobody should intervene.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: The slogan of Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh has been—'Rashtrahit mei karenge kaam, kaam ke lenge poore daam'—and it is very true also. The labourers who support them say that 'Chahe jo majboori ho, hamari Maange poori ho." Even if the factory owner may die but their demands must be met. We would like to demand that the Labour Unions must be recognized and not paying their wages on time must be treated as an offence. I demand that the labourers must be paid fixed wages and there should not be any deductions from their wages. Along with this the retrenchment process must also be stopped. The dispute that took place in Gurgaon also happened because of this. Therefore, retrenchment must be stopped.

Sir, an ESI hospital is being run in Jaipur for the small labourers. The Government of India has converted that hospital into a model hospital. Whatever money was received after this conversion was not spent upon the Hospital. The nurses and other staff of that hospital are not getting their salaries and bonus. While inaugurating the ESI hospital, which was opened for the welfare of labourers hon'ble Minister had said that if the workers paid Rs. 4, they would be given the facility of insurance for that. Today they are upset with this. Today the entire money of hospital is being spent improperly. Hon'ble Minister must pay special attention towards this.

In the end I would like to request hon'ble Minister that if the Government brings a Bill combining all these issues then we would support them. At present we have no option but to support the Bill presented by hon'ble Minister because if we walk out then they will say that we opposed the Bill being brought for the welfare of the labourers. Therefore, we are supporting them now hoping that they will bring another detailed Bill including all our suggestions and we will support them whole heartedly here as well as outside.

Mr. Chairman Sir, with these words I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on this Bill.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Sir, I rise to support the Amendment Bill introduced in the House. At the same time I would also like to say that some changes are required to be made in this Bill. If you see you will find that from the year 1947 onwards till date numerous labourers have laid their lives for the freedom of this country. A large number of labourers have been ruined and destroyed. The Labourers had hoped that when the country gets freedom they will get their due rights and nobody will be able to deprive them of their rights and their would be people to listen to their woes—but what happened? If we compare the times between the year 1936 and 2005, we will find that a lot of water has flown under the bridge and if we talk about price rise.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Already, so many Members have spoken on this Bill from your side. It is half an hour more that we have taken.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, what can I do for this? I would like to speak and you will have to listen to me. You have always been a champion of the cause of labourers so now when we talk about labourers you must listen to me carefully and request hon'ble Minister to do the same. In a span 21 years between 1936 to 1957, only Rs. 400 were increased for them, 19 years later Rs. One thousand and six years later only Rs. six hundred were increased. Today after 23 years a total of Rs. 6500 has been increased. I would like to submit that even after so many years the labourers are not capable of making a permanent shelter for themselves. Their slums can be found everywhere. They do not have clothes to wear. The labourers do not have money to educate their children. Alongwith that the ration they receive is one of the poorest quality. A labourer who works for the whole day eats the worst food. The agitation which started in the year 1945, continued till the year 1954. The Telangana agitation is still continuing. They launched an agitation against the Britishers and their struggle continued after that also. I would like to say that it would not be fair if justice is not given to them. This is a great opportunity to do justice with them. Today the entire world has expectations from the hon'ble Minister that somebody representing the labourers is present here. I would like to say that my PDC receives only Rs. four hundred per month. What kind of salary is this? Today a daily wager who serves water is given Rs. five hundred only and that too he is not paid for as long as two years sometimes. Then there is forest labour and nobody knows under which Act they are covered. There is also agricultural labour and daily wagers, their condition must be seen. I would like to say that they must bring a comprehensive Bill and make amendment so that all the labourers can be benefited from that, otherwise it is of no use. It is true that they have made progress but still a lot is to be done. I would request him to kindly bring a comprehensive plan.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister can give the reply now.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, my name is there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Due to shortage of time, there is no time for others to speak. The hon. Minister has to reply now.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: It is not fair, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry. It is not my fault. The Business Advisory Committee has decided.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: This is my right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, besides you, were the persons who had taken that decision. They have given me this right. What can I do?

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it has been a custom that a person can not be stopped from speaking upon a Bill if no Member from his party has spoken on that Bill. If you want you can verify that. Although we are ready to agree with you but looking at the majority of our party none of the hon'ble Members from our party have been given an opportunity to take part in the discussions held over this Bill. Since it is a Bill and it can not be passed in the House without the participation or consent of our party, therefore, I would like to request that you must give an opportunity to the Member of our party to speak upon this issue.

[English]

There is no participation of the RJD Party. We have 24 Members. On the basis of the numerical strength, how can you stop my Member? The hon. Member can speak. We have the right, Sir. Our Party has the right to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Yadav, it is not my fault. There is a chit before me that the Minister wants to speak.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: How can you stop the Member? There is no precedent in the Parliament. You cannot stop the Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ram Kripal Yadav, You can speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I would conclude within two three minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, I allow you to speak. I allow you to speak even though you are not on your seat. I allow you to speak. You need not go to your seat. I allow you to speak from there. All concessions are given but it must be finished within two-three minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my gratitude towards hon'ble Minister for bringing this Bill. According to the commitment of UPA Government and of hon'ble Prime Minister, hon'ble Minister is trying to ensure that the labourers are paid their wages timely and they are not exploited but I believe that a broad outlook has not been adopted in this Bill. It would have been betters if some provisions were made in this Bill for labourers of sectors other than those working in industries as no such provision has been made for them in this Bill. Agricultural and child labourers come under such other sectors. It would have been really good if a comprehensive Bill was brought for the labourers of both organized and unorganized sector. I would humbly request hon'ble Minister to state in his reply as to when are they going to bring a Bill for the welfare of the labourers of unorganized sector, who have remained outside the ambit of this Bill?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is the age of multinational Companies. By bringing this Bill the Government have shown its commitment for the welfare of labourers. This Bill would go a long way in putting a check on the manner in which the multinational companies are exploiting the labourers and make them work for 12 to 14 hours, and pay them meagrely and fire them at their will, I have no words to praise this. We have opened our doors to the multinational companies. They are trying to take advantage of the poor economic condition of our labourers. He is trying to curb this through this Bill therefore, I would like to express my gratitude towards him for this. Through this Bill he is trying to ensure that the labourers are paid their wages on time. I would request him to make such a provision through this Bill so that it is reviewed from time to time. A lot of laws are laid but unless they are properly implemented they are all useless. I would request him to review this after three-four months. It would be much better if the law provides a check on whether or not the workers are getting fair wages or they are exploited. The condition of workers is pitiable. The condition of workers is such that despite working hard for the whole day, they are not in position to provide two square meals to their family, not to speak of providing education, health facilities and cloths to wear. They are paid meagre amount. There is acute unemployment poverty amongst them and till these things prevail the exploitation of labourers will continue. Therefore, I would urge the Government to ponder over it seriously.

Manpower is our major asset. Multinational companies are coming to our country only because of availability of cheaper labour force. We have no objection to their entry but we won't let them exploit our labourers. I feel that hon. Prime Minister, hon. Minister and the UPA Government is committed to look after interest of the labourers. Therefore, my submission is that the law should provide a check against their exploitation. He is aware of the condition of labourers, especially the agricultural labourers as he belongs to the same background. Hon. Members are aware that unemployment is the root-cause of terrorism in the country today. We know that there is acute poverty in the country, workers do not get salary commensurate to their hard work and they are being exploited. So, I urge the Government to put a check on it by incorporating appropriate provision in the said law. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Therefore, I welcome the present Bill, with a belief that the Government will incorporate such provision in the said Act, otherwise there is no use of making laws. If, intention of the Government, with which it has initiated, is not fulfilled, it would be a futile effort. We have several labour laws, but if we fail to protect their interest, take care of them, put a check on their exploitation, all this will be of no use. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Conveying my thanks to you, the hon. Minister and the House, I would like to conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Shri Joachim Baxla.

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduar): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 2004. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. You cannot speak without my permission.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are not allowed to speak. Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can continue Mr. Baxla.

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Thank you Chairman Sir. The hon. Minister has brought in an Amendment to the Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 2004. Sir, I rise to support the Bill which has been brought forward by the hon. Minister. This is a welcome step, and I consider it a positive step. Sir, the ceiling has been raised from Rs. 1600 to Rs. 6500 and the time frame has been fixed as five years. In this connection, I would like to request to the hon. Minister that there should be a linkage with the Consumer Price Index.

So, this should be reviewed from time to time. This is my suggestion. I hope the hon. Minister will review this.

Then, there are blatant violations of rules in many places. I would request the Government that those who intentionally violate the rules must be punished. In the case of contractors, the principal employer must be punished. Otherwise, if they are left scot-free, then ultimately the workers will suffer.

17.46 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, just now the hon. Member was mentioning that in Modi Nagar, the workers in Modi Tyre Company are starving because they are not getting proper wages. So, I demand, through you, that justice should be done to them. We have been observing that there is an intention on the part of the management not to pay minimum wages to the workers. As far as possible, they try to dilly-dally in making payment of wages to the workers and try to deprive them of their wages. So, I would request the hon. Minister, through you, that this should be looked into so that the honest workers are not deprived of their wages. They should get reasonable wages and their wages should be paid in time. Otherwise, in case they are not paid in time, then their families will suffer.

Sir, we have seen what is happening to workers in the tea gardens. The owners of the tea gardens delay the payment of wages even up to two to three years. At the time of signing the agreement, they bring in some terms and conditions which say that the wages agreement can be reached only on the condition that they should accept wages linked with productivity. The agreement is signed only when the workers accept to that condition. Now the workers are suffering there.

Sir, whatever step the hon. Labour Minister has been trying to take, it is a positive step. So, I welcome this step. But at the same time, I would request, through you, that the Minister should come forward with a comprehensive Bill so that all sections of workers can be taken care of.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO): I would like to thank Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot, Shri Madhusudan Mistry, Shri Santashri Chatterjee, Shri. C. Kuppusami, Shri Shailender Kumar, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy, Shri K. Subbarayan, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, Choudhary Lal Singh, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav and Shri Joachim Baxla for having taken part in discussion on Payment of Wages (Amendment) Bill. First of all, on behalf of labourers of India. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL (Hapur): Sir, the hon. Minister did not mention my name. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: I was going to make a special mention of your name. Out of said discussion, one point has emerged that all the hon. Members have welcomed the Bill. Therefore, on my behalf and also on behalf of the workers, I would like to thank all the hon. Members.

I, too, agree with not all the points raised during discussion, but some of the points. All the Members have

---

*Not recorded.

emphasized that the ceiling should be raised even beyond Rs. 6500. In this regard the Government solely intend to protect the interests of low paid employees. High paid employees are strong enough to take care of themselves. Therefore, said provision has been made. If Members desire to hike it further, the Government will have no objection. But the Government intend to protect lower level employees as they are unable to protect themselves. So, the Government intend to provide them maximum protection.

Today morning, while talking to my officers, I had expressed apprehensions about it. The Government are in the process of announcing price Index in a few days. I have just received a report from concerned organization. I have to announce the price index before my meeting with trade union leaders. In view of demand of majority of the hon. Members in the House, I would assure all the hon. Members that the ceiling of Rs. 6500 will surely be increased. But, the extent of increase will be decided by the Government. And it will be done at the earliest.

All hon. Members have stressed upon unorganized sector. The Government are seriously concerned about it. The UPA Government, undoubtedly, made it clear in its Common Minimum Programme that it would bring a Bill on unorganized sector. And a commission has been bring a Bill on unorganized sector. And a commission has been constituted in this regard. Commission is about to complete its task. Recently, I held a meeting in my Ministry. My senior officers have attended meetings of the commission also. The issue is also being taken up by National Advisory Commission. I think, the Government will try to bring a comprehensive Bill on unorganized sector soon. I would like to assure the House and all the hon. Members that the Government would endeavour to bring a Bill in this regard at the earliest.

Majority of the Members desired that workers also, on the lines of Government employees working in the Ministries, should be disbursed their wages on 1st or 2nd of each month. It is a part of Act, but we face problems in its implementation, Secondly, I would tell that the Central Government have delegated certain powers to the State Governments. The State Governments have their own powers and responsibilities and they should function constitutionally. If we receive any information relating to violation of labour-laws, about non-payment of minimum wages etc. in any State, then to deal with such a situation there is not one, but at least 50-55 Acts relating to labour issues. The extant Act, now stated to be amended is one out of those.

If any hon. Member intimates the Government with regard to such matters, the Government immediately takes up the matter with the concerned State Government. I myself write letters to the Chief Minister of the States and their Labour Ministers. In case of any serious issue, a team of our Senior Officers visits the concerned State. The House took up the issue of West Bengal. He knows that I myself visited west Bengal. I had tried to sort out that issue. Hon. Chatterjee sahib knows it. And our efforts are still continuing. ...*(Interruptions)* The Government had made efforts for development. In some cases, result comes quick, whereas in some cases, it gets delayed. But, our efforts would continue.

The Government will make all out efforts for its implementation in letter and spirit. In view of concerns expressed by all the hon. Members, I assure the House that I will again write to Chief Ministers, Labour Ministers and Chief Secretaries of all the States.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all the hon'ble Members have supported this Bill. Now I would like to say about the suggestions that have been given by some of the Members. Just now, Bhargava Saheb has spoken about Jaipur metal industry. I would like to give him assurance in this regard. Hon'ble Sish Ram Ola ji is also sitting here. He also knows about this problem. The efforts will certainly be made by us in this regard and we will also talk to the State Government. I will also send a team of officers there. They will go there and study the situation. Union Government will certainly take all possible steps in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Such things were not done by the NDA Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb. Your Minister is speaking.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Shri Kuppusami was submitting in his speech that

[English]

as an elderly person, as a veteran trade-union leader-

[Shri K. Chandra Shekhar Rao]

[Translation]

I work for the workers in a serious way. He said one more thing that.

[English]

do not dilute the labour laws. Kuppusamiji, I once again reiterate the commitment of the UPA Government. It is a labour-friendly Government; it is not at all working against the labour, and it will continue with that philosophy. It is going to be a labour-friendly Government. We will work for the welfare and upliftment of the labour. We strongly believe that healthy workforce is the wealth of the nation. That is the commitment of this Government. The Government is not going beyond the Common Minimum Programme. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Bilhaur): The hon'ble Minister should also say something about Kanpur. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Shri Rajaram Pal ji has raised the issue of industries in Kanpur. He submitted that many of the mills have closed down in the city. I am well aware that once Kanpur was a very big industrial city. He has informed us whatever is happening in Kanpur. I invite him to come to me and give me all the details in this regard. We will certainly do whatever is possible by us. Whatever steps are required to be taken in this regard will be taken by us in association with the hon'ble Member.

Just now hon'ble Goel Saheb was submitting about Modi Nagar. I also invite him humbly to come to me and give details in this regard. Whatever steps are required will be taken by us. I assure him that all possible efforts will be made. I am happy that all hon'ble Members have supported the Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): What about the comprehensive bill which was proposed to be moved? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): It is mentioned in section five of the Payment of Wages Act that where there are less than one thousand workers, the salary of the workers will be paid on 7th of the month and where the number of workers is more than one thousand, the salary would be given to them on tenth of the month. I respect your sentiment in this regard. The hon'ble Minister has just now submitted that he would write to the State Governments and would make efforts. However in this Act. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Gehlot ji, the permission is required to be taken from the Chair and not the Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

18.00 hrs.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Yes Sir, I will seek permission from you. If an hon'ble Member is speaking and a submission is made by some other member and if the former yields, it is deemed to be a permission from the Chair. That is why I directly addressed him. I retrieve my mistake and make submission through you. There is mention of the dates of payments as 7th and 10th of the month in the Act. It will create difficulty. So I would like to request the hon'ble minister that when he writes the letter and hold discussion with the state government in this regard, assure the House that he will raise this issue and request them to amend the Act to make a provision of the date of payment as first and second of the month. If he talks to the State Government the issue will be resolved early. So, I would like to have hon'ble ministers comment on it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, it is six o' clock. After this Bill, I have a list of more than 25 hon. Members to speak on the Discussion under Rule 193, and thereafter we shall take up 'Special Mentions'. I think, we should take up 'Special Mentions' after this Bill is passed. If the House agrees, we may take up the Discussion under rule 193 later on, on some other day.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister may continue his reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore): As the hon. Member suggests, there is a stipulation in the Payment of Wages Act that wages be paid within seventh or tenth or as the case may be. But that does not bar the management to make the payment either or first or second, and I think, there is no bar on that. The hon. Minister may enlighten us.

[Translation]

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some of the Members have submitted there is only penalty in it. There should be some provision of punishment as well. Under the section 9(f) of the Act—

[English]

> "Proposed slab may be replaced by the slab of Rs. 3, 750 to Rs. 22,500 along with the imprisonment upto six months".

[Translation]

Wherever punishment is essential there is provision of punishment in the act. This provision has also been made in the Act and the Members have supported it. However I am aggrieved to note that some petty politics has been brought in it. Prof. Saheb is a respected Member of this House. He remarked that it took eight months to bring it to Lok Sabha from Rajya Sabha. I admit that there is some delay in it; however during the NDA regime nothing was done between 2002 to 2004 and it was sent to a cold storage. Second thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): What happened to the report of the Standing Committee? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: We have also accepted the Standing Committee's Report. I have made it very clear. Another thing is that, he went on saying.

[Translation]

"Our leftist colleague who shed crocodile tears and they are supporting us." Sir, who is sheding crocodile tears. ...*(Interruptions)* Today through this House the entire country has come to know about it and I would like to remind hon'ble Prof. Saheb of NDA Government and ask as to which was the first Government to constitute the Ministry of Disinvestment and which Government appointed a particular Minister of Disinvestment? He should not forget as to which Government saved the BALCO? ...*(Interruptions)*. There were three state governments including the government of Andhra Pradesh. At that time, I was MLA there. They were permitted to amend the labour law as they wished. The Central Government had conferred full right upon the state governments to invite FDI in the country. This is the thing that I would like to submit to hon'ble Prof. Saheb. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not criticizing him. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*"

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Sir, I am not yielding. Let me complete.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*"

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whosoever speaks without my permission, their remarks will not be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kharabela Swain, please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Sir, the matter is only this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Azami ji, you please sit down.

---

*Not recorded.

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Sir, it is certain that whatever I have said about BALCO and providing permission to three states and the disinvestment is a fact and it is not the creation of my imagination, however ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*"

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Sir, I am concluding.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, you should also come to the Bill and not disinvestments.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Sir, when I introduced the Bill I sought your permission and all the Members expressed their opinion on it. I did not start petty politics. However, when this issue was raised by the opposition, I had no option but to reply, otherwise only one sided version will go on record. Our leftist colleagues, time and again remind us about their policies and remind and alert the Government. There is nothing to hide in this regard. I have full belief in it that there is no mystery in it. So, leaving the matter to the conscience of hon'ble Prof. Saheb I would like to submit that the said Bill is labour friendly and request the House to pass this Bill unanimously as was passed by the Rajya Sabha without dissent. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I am not allowing.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 11 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 11 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1

Short title and Commencement

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 3,—

for "2004"

substitute "2005" (2)

(Shri K. Chandra Shekhar Rao)

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-fifth"

substitute "Fifty-sixth" (1)

(Shri K. Chandra Shekhar Rao)

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.

SHRI K. CHANDRA SHEKHAR RAO: Sir, 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.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up special mentions. First of all, I will call Shri Shailendra Kumar.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to raise the issue of handicapped People through special mention. I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment that recently two organizations namely National Federation of the Blind and All India Federation of the Blind staged demonstration in Delhi had organized a march on Sansad Marg to get their demands fulfilled. Their main demand was that amendment should be made in the law relating to handicapped. The law, which the Government has enacted for the handicapped, is not safeguarding their interest. Though reservation policy for the handicapped has been implemented at all places but they are not being given those facilities in true sense. All Members, whether they belong to treasury bench or opposition, have always demanded that reservation should be ensured for the handicapped on the lines of the reservation provided to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBC's and this benefit should also be extended to the private sector also. If the Government gives them this right then their long pending demand could be fulfilled. These people are helpless; deserve mercy, co-operation and more sympathetic attitude from us. If the Government is able to provide these facilities to them, it would go to the credit of the government and would also be a service to the humanity.

18.14 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHAN *in the Chair*]

With these words, I request the hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment to take these things seriously so that handicapped people, who are our friends, could get all facilities of reservation.

[English]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Sir, I express my congratulations to the Government because they have decided that there would not be any disinvestments in 13 profit-making public sector units. But I think there are many other public sector undertakings which need to be revived and which could also be revived. I do not know whether the Government would take any steps to revive all these units.

In our country, there are many fertiliser factories which have been closed down during the NDA regime. I request the Government to revive all these closed fertiliser factories.

I urge upon the Government to formulate a national policy on public sector. In the National Common Minimum Programme, the UPA Government has promised more investment in industrial development. Without industrialisation, I think, our educated unemployed persons would not get employment. So, more and more investment is required in the industrial sector. The private sector by itself cannot do much in this respect. Public investment is felt highly necessary for industrial development. That is why, the Government should strengthen the public sector. The public sector is the symbol of self-reliance and it is also the symbol of taking the challenge against globalisation. I want the Government to formulate a national policy on public sector because without public investment Industrial development cannot take place in our country.

In our country, there is huge unemployment; particularly, educated unemployed persons are not getting employment. It could be made possible for them to get employed if industrial development takes place but public investment is required for industrial development. That is why, the Government should formulate a policy on public sector.

Sometimes, the Government is saying that there would be disinvestments and some public sector units would be sold through strategic partnerships; some other times, they are saying that the public sector would not be privatised and their shares would not be disinvested. This is confusing. That is why, I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister and the Government of India, through you,

that the Government should formulate a national policy on public investment for all the units in public sector so that our country could really have self-reliance and we could have economic sovereignty.

Economic sovereignty is the solution for national sovereignty and political sovereignty. That is why, I urge upon the Government to formulate a policy on public investment in the industrial sector.

With these words, I conclude my speech. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I request all hon. Members to be brief. Otherwise, we would not be able to complete the list. There are 38 or 40 hon. Members who have given notice. I would call all of them one by one.

[Translation]

SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE (Bhandara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a large area in Vidhraba region of Maharashtra is covered by forest which comes under Department of Forest. Mainly Bhandara, Gondia, Gadchroli, Chandrapur and Nagpur regions of Vidarbha have large tracts of their area under the forest cover. As per the international standard and National Survey, forest cover. As per the international standard and National Survey, forest area should not be less than 33% of the total land area whereas in these districts forest area is more than 38%. Not only this, as per the Annexure 5 of Indian Constitution there is a provision to relax forest conservation law or act for backward districts.

High quality minerals are available in abundance in Vidharba, Maharashtra. Among these, Manganese and granite are in great demand in international markets. Similar is the case of raw material for making glass, gold etc. Despite this, due to constraint imposed by the Forest Conservation Act, the total irrigated land area is only 11 percent. If the said districts of Vidharba are exempted from Forest Conservation Act, the irrigation facility would be available in 59% of area under cultivation. As a result, the farmers of Vidharba region would be able to overcome their economic hardships and mining of high quality minerals will become operational which will provide employment to people and youth of Vidharba region. Not only this 89 Hydro-Power Projects are pending due to the restrictions in the Forest Act.

I would like to inform the Government that in these districts forest area is more than 33% which is more than the required international standard and above-mentioned districts have been declared as backward as per Appendix 5 of Indian Constitution and have been included in "Rashtriya Samvikas Yojana" I request that these districts should not be covered by the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards an important issue. 54% people of this country belong to other backward class. Today education is the key to power and in the era of Information and Technology, backward classes, Dalit Classes or minorities do not have access to higher education. These communities would not get any opportunity of employment. That is why I am raising this issue only today. That is a separate question which has arisen due to the decision of the Supreme Court. The provision of 27% reservation, made under Mandal Commission has not been implemented in any higher educational institutions whether it is IIT, IMT or AIIMS. It has been made so complicated by issuing a circular of Department of Personnel that till date this provision of 27% reservation could not be ensured in higher educational Institutions like IIT, Technical Institutions, IMIT or AIIMS. That is why I am raising this question and requesting that backward classes may also be given permission to open educational institutions. Today we had discussion over this question from another point of view but I would say that reservation should be ensured in private sector also for people belonging to OBC. I am raising this with reference to recommendations of Mandal Commission. there is no provision of creamy layer under the Constitution. A Bill is likely to be introduced and from standing committee also, a report has been received in this regard. I would like to say that as per the article 15 (4) and 16 (4) of the constitution the people who are backward from education and social point of view come under backward class. In Indian constitution there is a provision of giving special opportunities to them. This Bill has been brought against the spirit of constitution. My submission is that certainly a legislation should be brought in this regard in this session itself as creamy layer is not the basis for reservation. As per the provision of constitution social and economic backwardness is the basis of constitution. Further if children of these classes do not study how can they avail 27% reservation meant for them. Therefore, there is a need to review such verdict which is against the basic spirit of the Constitution. Supreme Court is setting up a new precedent by interfering in our parliamentary affairs. It has become a

fashion. The Supreme Court is crossing its limit and as a result of which new situation is being created which is a matter of concern at national level. Under the constitution the jurisdiction of judiciary, executives and legislative have been ensured. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, there is a Bill with regard to this matter and the Standing Committee is considering it. It is being repeated. What you are saying is the same as the Bill. Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: We will consider the related bill further. How the Government would provide 27% reservation to them in jobs? Under Mandal Commission there is a provision of 27% reservation in all educational institutions. My submission is that on the basis of population, 54% reservation should be ensured.

[English]

SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (Mukundapuram): Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of the House about the matter concerning the widening of the National Highway-47 in the Angamaly-Mannuthy and Mannuthy-Valayar sectors in Kerala. I would request that action in the matter should be expedited and construction initiated at once.

In the Moothakunnam-Edappilly sector of National Highway-17 land was acquired 25 years ago to widen the road. In this sector also, construction activity should be taken up at the earliest. While acquiring land, the land owners, tenants and shopkeepers should be given adequate compensation. On National Highway-47 the bridge over Chalakudy river is in a very dangerous and dilapidated condition. Its repair work should be taken up urgently and at the same time a new bridge constructed in its place.

*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Noyyal river Dam in Orathapalayam of Karur District has become a reservoir of industrial effluents from the dyeing units of Tiruppur banian manufacturing units and knitting companies.

For the past 10 years, about 25 thousand acres of agricultural land in places like Orathapalayam, Chinnamuthur, Puvalarasu, thengammal Koil in the region have become incultivable and have become unfit for cultivating sugarcane and gingelly the traditional crops there. The people over there find it difficult to get pure drinking water and have to fetch the same wandering several kms in far flung areas. It is reported that when the shutters of the dam were opened in 1994, a vast devastation in the form of pollution to both soil and the ground water with chemical compounds to a stretch of about 100 kms. A survey team came with these findings. 68 revenue villages and 250 remote hamlets have been seriously affected and the cultivable lands have become polluted barren land.

For the second time recently due to overflow of water the shutters were unfettered and this has led to serious protests from the people of this locality as the water resources and the cultivable lands are dangerously hampered. So far the sludge in the river bed has not been dredged out and removed for cleaning up pollutants. Hence, I urge upon the Government to remove the sludge containing toxic chemical compounds lying on the Noyyal river bed particularly near the sluices of the Orathapalayam dam. Since, Noyyal river is one of the tributaries of river Kaveri, the Union Environment Ministry may take up this operation Noyyal sludge cleaning up programme under Cauvery river cleansing scheme allocating sufficient funds. This will help save the cultivable lands and the agricultural community in that area.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Bilhaur): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise an important issue. The Government, which boasts of working for the welfare of poor people, have, in the name of widening roads in the entire country, making cities pollution free, is removing encroachments leaving the poor people to their fate. The Government of Uttar Pradesh in league with the officials of Kanpur Development Authority have razed to the ground the slums in all the cities of Uttar Pradesh particularly in Kanpur and now it has been allotting flats to big land mafias. The Uttar Pradesh Government ruined such slums by running bulldozers over them without making alternative arrangements and even without giving any notice, whereas these slums neither came under encroachment nor under environmental improvement in parks and which were inhabited by people even before independence and declared as slums and where roads, and even Sulabh complexes had been constructed and electricity had been provided by the

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

MLAs, MPs and municipal corporation. Not only have the Government left them to their fate. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to only mention about it and not to give a speech.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: A conspiracy is being hatched to deprive those thousands of families from their voting rights whose names were in the voter's list and who were residing in those slums even before independence. These slums were located in Naveen Nagar Kakadev, 'M' Block Kakadev, Ambedkar Nagar, Kachchi Basti etc. which were inhabited by people for hundreds of years and most of whom were Dalits, Labourers and farmers. The Government has undertaken a large scale destruction of these slum clusters.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, we cannot sit here indefinitely. You please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Through you, Sir, I would like to request the hon'ble Prime Minister to personally intervene in keeping with the Common Minimum Programme, which was a Programme for the betterment of the poor people, and make such arrangements so as to ensure that no such slums should be bulldozed without making alternative arrangements. India is a welfare state, but instead of providing food and employment to the poor people the Government have left them to their fate and made them shelter less. Therefore, through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Prime Minister to intervene and protect these settlement and make alternative arrangements for those whose lives have been ruined.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY (Dhanbad): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, 1102 labourers employed in Jamadova-Sijua colliery under District Dhanbad of Jharkhand State have been retrenched by the management of M/s Tata Iron and Steel Company Ltd. Without serving them any notice which is against the rules of the Ministry of Labour. The families of these labourers were compelled to face starvation though the labourers have not committed any such mistake due to which they could be removed.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to reinstate all the 1002 labourers who have been retrenched by M/s Tata Iron and Steel company Limited without any delay so that their families could be saved from starvation.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, you had raised this matter on 16th August. You are again doing it now.

[Translation]

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI (Rajnandgaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Communication towards the problem of Simcards being provided by B.S.N.L., Department of Telecommunications of entire Chhattisgarh and in Kawardha district situated in my parliamentary constituency Rajnandgaon. There many people have submitted their applications. The Government aims at implementing this scheme in all headquarters and in Tehsil headquarters of Chhattisgarh. This scheme has covered district headquarters to some extent whereas in Tehsil headquarters the demand of BSNL simcards, has increased rapidly. Applications of thousands of people are pending. Through you, I demand that the waiting list should be disposed of and BSNL simcards should be provided to all consumers of Chhattisgarh who have been demanding BSNL simcard for years and whose names are there in the waiting list.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, earlier Madhya Pradesh was a state. But in the year 2002 a new state Chhattisgarh was carved out of Madhya Pradesh. After the creation of Chhattisgarh as a state, Bilaspur became a city and Raipur became other capital of Chhattisgarh. As a result, the vehicular traffic between Raipur and Bilaspur has increased. Today, there is a need to increase the transport facility from Bilaspur to Raipur. A trains runs there between Chirmiri and Manengarh via Bilaspur but there is no train for Raipur due to which passengers have to face a lot of difficulty. Atleast one lakh people wait at Bilaspur station upto eight hours for going to Raipur.

Through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that a train should be introduced from Bilaspur to Raipur and that train should be extended upto Manenngarh Chirmiri, Bilaspur and Durg so that people could go to Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh and could take advantage of administrative and other works in the capital.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, we have faced great tragedies, and we have witnessed tsunami and a lot of other natural calamities of the recent days. It is an unfortunate fact that much of the funds, which have been released by the Centre, have not been properly used or I may even say that they are being misutilised by some of the States.

I know about my State where there are a lot of complaints with regard to the use of the tsunami funds. The Government of Kerala has built no houses even though houses were to be made. Now, those funds that were meant for the fishermen and other folks were also not properly released, and there have been a lot of complaints with regard to this issue as well.

I would also like to mention about the Natural Calamity Fund. I would like to give the example of flood relief. We find that flood relief funds are being released in the areas where there have been no floods, and at the places where floods have really occurred, the poor people who really deserve are not getting the relief funds.

Sir, it may be a Minister's wish or it may be a bureaucrat's wish that they simply give the funds as if they are from their own kitty. They simply give them for political purposes, and for purposes of their own liking. I feel that this has to be properly monitored. I would humbly request that the House should take this matter very seriously because this is not a stray complaint with regard to one particular State. I am sure that this complaint must have come from very many States.

There should be a serious study, and there should be a serious monitoring system for this. Though I am not for interference into the matters of the State, yet I really feel that unless the matters of this nature are properly monitored and properly dealt with very seriously, the deserving poor people are going to be at a loss.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government that serious action should be taken, especially, in matters that I have specifically brought before this honourable House.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, U.P.): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Defence Minister towards the hilly states particularly Himachal Pradesh. We all know that today environmental imbalance is taking place at a rapid pace in the entire world. There is only 25% forest cover in the entire world whereas there should have been 40% forest cover. Therefore, it is essential to conserve trees so that environmental balance could be maintained. There are large number of ex-servicemen in Himachal Pradesh. Approximately 93000 ex-servicemen are living in Himachal Pradesh. Therefore I request the hon'ble Minister of Defence to constitute one Regional Environmental Force of Ex-servicemen through which employment could be provided to them and trees could also be protected. Alongwith this, my suggestion is that Medicinal Herbs experts should also be included in this so that large quantity of forest medicinal plants which are being damaged could also be protected. My request to the present Government is that it should make announcement in this session itself that it would constitute an Environmental regional Force.

SHRI GAURISHANKAR CHATURBHUJ BISEN (Balaghat): Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, the railway line linking Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra was dismantled two years ago. The work of gauge conversion is being undertaken there. The work of construction of 42 km stretch of railway line between Gondia and Balaghat has been completed and the completion certificate has also been given by the Department. Balaghat received maximum rainfall. Except one bridge there is no other route to link these two states. During the last two months the railway track remained submerged in rain water for alteast ten days which affected the railway traffic. Despite the fact that the work of this railway route has been completed it is not being started. Though I do not have right to mention the name however, no Minister, has time for this and so the dates are being extended time and again. I would like to submit on behalf of the Member of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh that the construction of railway line work has been completed and the completion certificate has been issued. So the rail line between Gondia and Balaghat should be started at the earliest so that connectivity may increase up to Jabalpur, people may avail traffic facilities and the crores of rupees that have been spent on this project may be timely utilized.

Along with that, I would also like to submit that the Mahanadi Express running between Bilaspur and Bhopal, four times a week, has been withdrawn. The said train should be reintroduced.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Ministry of Petroleum of the Government of India had taken decision to install CNG gas pipe line to provide clean and low cost fuel to some of the districts and cities. My parliamentary constituency Bareilly district was also included in the list of the places of Uttar Pradesh that were selected for the said project as HBJ pipe line passes through that area. The work had started two years back and half of the work has been completed. However, the project work has stalled for one and a half year. Everything is available in Bareilly to ensure the industrial development of Uttar Pradesh and to ensure the supply of low cost CNG; however, it is not being done in the absence of completion of the said pipe line. Through you, I would like to request the Ministry of Petroleum to pay attention to it and to complete the said pipe line at the earliest so that the CNG may be supplied to the residents of Bareilly districts.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman Sir, I hope that my work will certainly be completed.

Sir, I would like to request the Central Government that the Rajasthan University should be accorded the status of a Central University. The matter regarding upgradation of the Rajasthan University to a Central University is under consideration of the Central Government for a long time. The University has competent and renowned teachers, sanctioned posts for teaching all the subjects in the University, laboratory facility and also sufficient land and building infrastructure. Maharaja Man Singh of Jaipur had donated the land for the said University. The hon'ble Chief Minister, the Vice-Chancellor of Rajasthan University and the Education Secretary to the Government of Rajasthan, through their letters, are also requesting the Central Minister to take decision in this regard. The Central Government has accorded central university status to several universities of Uttar Pradesh. The Rajasthan University Jaipur is the oldest and the famous university of Rajasthan.

I urge upon the Central Government and the Ministry of Human Resource Development to accord central university status to the Rajasthan University, Jaipur.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Textile, the Government of India. There are three mills of NTC in Rajasthan. Two mills are located in my area Beawar. Maha Lakshmi mill is in Beawar and Vijay Cotton mill is in Vijay Nagar. Third mill is in Udaipur. The Government had promised to renovate these NTC mills by way of modernization of machines and providing jobs to workers. However, the workers of these mills are gradually being pressurised to opt for VRS. Neither job work is being provided nor is any kind of facility being provided to these mills, however, Management Class is availing all type of facilities. The job work is not being provided to these mills which is affecting the production and it is on account of this that the very existence of these mills are in jeopardy. So, through you, I would like to request the Minister of Textile that he should pay attention to it, as Beawar is an industrial city. Besides marble industry, it is a public sector undertaking of NTC in Rajasthan. Thousand of workers are employed in it. Two mills in Beawar have already been closed and if such situation persists, the said mill will also go the same way. There are no means of employment there. So, I would like to request that all three NTC mills should be revived or job work should be provided to them after modernizing them. Restriction on new recruitment should be lifted and new recruitments should be made.

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Sir, Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Saindwar (Bijnor) was set up in my parliamentary constituency by the Government of India. I was present in the school on the occasion of the Independence Day celebration on 15 August, 2005. 504 boys, girls students of Bijnor districts and the rural areas adjacent to it are studying in the said school. I am very sorry to submit that out of 24 hours, there is only two to three hour power supply to the school. In the absence of regular power supply the study of the students is being hampered. More, than 15 years have elapsed since the establishment of the school however, there is no waiting room for the guardians of students nor there is community hall in the premises of the school for cultural programmes. Besides, this there is no hostel facility within the premises of the school for 504 students. The hostel facility is available only for 396 students.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): The privatization process is going on very fast in the country and with the privatization of public sector undertakings, the reservation policy is losing its relevance. The large scale investment is being made in the private sector. UPA Government had proposed to introduce social reservation in the private sector as well. However, it seems that the said proposal has been put in the cold storage.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Supreme Court, through its judgement, have asked to do away with the reservation in private medical and engineering colleges. The reservation to the women is proposed to be given within the existing quota. From all these things, it appears that women reservation will also be put in the cold storage. Those who always advocated the social justice appear to be instrumental in gradual abolition of reservation.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment that he should implement the reservation policy in private sector at the earliest for providing justice to weaker section of society and reservation should also be provided to the denotified nomadic tribes who are till now neglected. Through you, Sir, this is my only submission.

[English]

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): Sir, the small scale producers and traders of honey in Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu and certain hilly regions of Kerala are languishing in lurch for their daily bread.

The statistics reveal the pathos of the story. In Kanyakumari district alone, nearly 25 lakh kilograms is being produced every year. The only cooperative society in the district for purchase of honey can procure only three lakh kilograms. Even that is stagnating as there are no takers for honey. The absence of storage facilities and marketability are haunting nearly one lakh of people who are engaged in production and related activities, directly and indirectly, and the situation is driving them to the verge of poverty. So, it is high time that the Government should contemplate seriously in the matter of fixing the minimum support price for honey; importantly, propagating the utility value of honey as a health promoter; and exploring the possibility for wider marketability of honey, which can be used as an ingredient in indigenous medicines, promoting honey-mixed and processed soft drinks, selling honey and honey-mixed products through the public distribution shops and adding honey as a menu in Government feasts and functions and serving it in flights.

The Directorate of Khadi and Village Industries may suitably be introduced to propagate the utility value of honey and create wider marketability, thus saving the people from starvation and it should procure all the honey stagnated in Kanyakumari and in Kerala.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR (Haridwar): Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to extend my thanks to you. Through you, I would like to bring a serious matter regarding the railways to the notice of the hon'ble Minister of Railways. We all know that the incidents of rubbery, dacoity, murder and molestation of women and young girls in the trains are on the rise. The latest examples is the explosion in general bogie of Shramjivi Express. The daily passengers (Monthly seasonal ticket holders) and unauthorized passengers forcibly travel in second class sleeper coaches and manhandle, and molest passengers. No action is taken against them either by the Ministry of Railways or the railway administration.

As per the guidelines mentioned on page C-7 and C-8 time table of the North, North Central and North Eastern Railways for the year 2004-05, the presence of Train Ticket Examiner (TTE) in second class coaches is mandatory so that passengers may travel comfortably and their luggage may remain safe. However, unfortunately only there-four TTE serve many coaches in the entire train.

So, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Railways that in view of the above mentioned incidents, TTE should be posted in each of the second class sleeper coaches for the safety of the passengers as per the guidelines contained in the time table and Railway protection force personnel should also be deployed in each coach.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to raise certain problems pertaining to Rural Development Ministry.

The Rural Development Agency plays an important role at the district level in the implementation of several schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development and the schemes for rural development are implemented through it only in the country. The Ministry launches many schemes for the upliftment and empowerment of people living below poverty line, tribals, dalits and women, and then there are works pertaining to Gamin Swarozgar Yojana, Swarn Jayanti Rozgar Yojana, Indira Awas Yojana, Rain Harvesting and Pradhanmantri Sadak Yojana. Several posts are lying vacant in DRDA which need to be filled for the implementation of all these schemes. There are no technical officers to monitor and review the schemes and due to absence of engineers and experts the money which the Central Government sends for the schemes is not used properly at the state level and we do not succeed in our efforts of developing the rural areas through the said schemes, we fail to achieve our targets. Through you, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards this very important subject that rural development agency gets the development works done through government agencies or NGOs and the blueprint and estimate of development

works is prepared by the NGOs. Through you I would like to submit that the estimate and design should be prepared by an engineer or an expert. These posts remain vacant. It leads to misappropriation of funds that are released for these schemes. I am the Chairman of vigilance and monitoring committee of two districts. I have dealt with many such cases and complaints that is why through you I would like to say that the money sanctioned should be used properly for development works. We would definitely achieve our target if we use the funds properly.

Through you, I would like to say that the state government and at the district level, DRDA should be asked to appoint engineers and experts for the implementation of the said schemes.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are two notices received at 9.30 a.m. I am giving them a chance. Dr. Ramachandra Dome to speak. Please be brief.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): Sir, I would be very brief. My matter is related to my district and my constituency. This is regarding the precarious condition of telecom services in my district. Hundreds of registered consumers are waiting in the rural areas for getting the telephone connections. They have been waiting for several years. The Department is unable to provide telephone connections to the remote areas because there is a lack of cable facility and lack of exchange facility. There is no programme to lay the cables and the supply of WLL system is also very poor. People have been suffering to get the modern telephone connections.

Another thing is about the mobile telephone connection. A large part in my district is out of the network. Even today, the progress of work about the distribution of SIM cards is very poor. The blocks like Ranjagar, Khairasol, Murarai-I and Murarai-II are even today not getting the mobile service facility. That is why, even the telephone connections, which we are recommending from our Member of Parliament quota, are not being provided due to lack of technical feasibility.

19.00 hrs.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to look into the matter so that the people get redressal. Telephone connection is the minimum basic facility required. People should be provided with telephone connections as also the telecom services of a good quality. This is very much necessary. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Sir, through you I want to apprise the Government of the law and order situation in Uttar Pradesh. Samajwadi Party is framing poor persons, farmers, teachers, industrialists in connivance with the district administration in Jhansi district of my constituency. They have been booked under section 307 and have been sent to Jail. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a state matter. It is for the UP Government about transferring these cases to the CBI.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: An entirely false case was filed under section 394 under offence number of 150/2005 in Eiruch Police Station. No officer is ready to listen to them. He moved Allahabad High Court but now he is being framed as he has been served summons under Section 307. Similar is the case of Government versus Shri Babu Lal Tiwari who is a professor in a degree college. He has been booked under section 307 of Arms Act and put in jail. People who are not supporting Samajwadi Party in my district are being framed in such serious cases and nobody is listening to them. Police and district administration are together in sending them to jails. It is my demand from the Centre Government that CBI enquiry should be conducted into the matters that I have raised so that the officers of that district would have this apprehension that CBI can look into the cases that have been framed up and it would evoke fear of law in them.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House now stands adjourned till 11.00 am tomorrow.

19.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till eleven of the clock on Thursday, August 18, 2005/ Sravana 27, 1927 (Saka)

ANNEXURE I

Member-wise Index to Starred Questions

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1.	Shri "Baba", K.C. Singh	329,
2.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao Vithoba	339,
3.	Shri Budholia, Rajnarayan	335,
4.	Dr. Chinta Mohan	330,
5.	Shri Gadakh, Tukaram Gangadhar	332,
6.	Shri Goyal, Surendra Prakash	328,
7.	Shri Jogi, Ajit	321,
8.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	323,
9.	Shri Mahato, Sunil Kumar	325,
10.	Shri Nayak, Ananta	335,
11.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	333,
12.	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	334,
13.	Smt. Pateriya, Neeta	326,
14.	Shri Ponnuswamy, E.	340,
15.	Shri Prabhu, Suresh Prabhakar	327,
16.	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	322,
17.	Shri Ramakrishna, Badiga	332,
18.	Shri Rawat, Kamla Prasad	324,
19.	Shri Reddy, N. Janardhana	326,
20.	Shri Renge Patil, Tukaram Ganpatrao	322,
21.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	338,
22.	Shri Shivanna, M.	324,
23.	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	328,
24.	Shri Singh, Ganesh	337,
25.	Shri Singh, Rewati Raman	336,
26.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	334,
27.	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan"	331,
28.	Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	330,
29.	Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash	339,
30.	Shri Yadav, Giridhari	325

Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Sl. No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shri Aaron Rashid, J.M.	3428, 3480,
2.	Shri Acharia, Basudeb	3319,
3.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao Vithoba	3396, 3413, 3446, 3456
4.	Dr. Agarwal, Dhirendra	3363, 3461,
5.	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	3295, 3366, 3423, 3450, 3504,
6.	Shri Ajay Kumar, S.	3302, 3339, 3407, 3441, 3454,
7.	Shri Ananth Kumar	3345,
8.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	3357, 3474,
9.	Shri Baitha, Kailash	3361, 3488,
10.	Shri Barad, Jashubhai Dhanabhai	3289, 3475,
11.	Shri Barman, Hiten	3471,
12.	Shri Baxla, Joachim	3343,
13.	Shri Bhadana, Avtar Singh	3360, 3428, 3480,
14.	Shri Bhakta, Manoranjan	3359, 3415,
15.	Shri Bishnoi, Jaswant Singh	3326,
16.	Shri Bishnoi, Kuldeep	3301, 3371, 3420, 3502,
17.	Shri Bose, Subrata	3300, 3406,
18.	Shri Chakrabortty, Swadesh	3433, 3452, 3479, 3494,
19.	Shri Chakraborty, Ajoy	3393,
20.	Shri Chandel, Suresh	3308, 3378,
21.	Shri Chaure, Bapu Hari	3290, 3308, 3365, 3436,
22.	Shri Chavan, Harishchandra	3288, 3376,

1	2	3
23.	Shri Chavda, Harisinh	3440,
24.	Dr. Chinta Mohan	3387,
25.	Shri Chouhan, Shivraj Singh	3327,
26.	Smt. Deo, Sangeeta Kumari Singh	3484,
27.	Dr. Dhanaraju, K.	3356,
28.	Dr. Dome, Ram Chandra	3328, 3452,
29.	Shri Dubey, Chandra Sekhar	3465, 3478,
30.	Shri Gadakh, Tukaram Gangadhar	3285,
31.	Shri Gadhavi, P.S.	3360,
32.	Shri Gaikwad, Eknath Mahadeo	3417,
33.	Shri Gamang, Giridhar	3464,
34.	Shri Gandhi, Pradeep	3470,
35.	Shri Gehlot, Thawarchand	3292,
36.	Shri Gohain, Rajen	3327,
37.	Shri Goyal, Surendra Prakash	3377, 3428,
38.	Shri Gudhe, Anant	3348,
39.	Shri Hassan, Munawar	3397,
40.	Dr. Jagannath, M.	3330, 3395, 3490,
41.	Shri Jain, Pusp	3322,
42.	Shri Jha, Raghunath	3284, 3389, 3414, 3493,
43.	Shri Jogi, Ajit	3383, 3426, 3468,
44.	Shri Joshi, Pralhad	3341,
45.	Shri Kalmadi, Suresh	3442,
46.	Shri Karunakaran, P.	3329, 3393,
47.	Shri Khaire, Chandrakant	3337, 3343, 3501,
48.	Shri Khan, Sunil	3293, 3392, 3460,
49.	Shri Khandelwal, Vijay Kumar	3318, 3381,
50.	Shri Khanduri, Maj. Gen. (Retd.)	3294 3398,
51.	Shri Khanna, Avinash Rai	3310,
52.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	3372, 3422, 3448, 3457,
53.	Shri Koshal, Raghuveer Singh	3287, 3370, 3419, 3498, 3505,
54.	Dr. Koya, P.P.	3309,
55.	Shri Kriplani, Srichand	3335, 3469, 3485,
56.	Shri Kumar, Manoj	3298, 3336, 3344,
57.	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	3320,
58.	Shri Kumar, Sajjan	3321, 3389, 3429,
59.	Shri Kunnur, Manjunath	3441,
60.	Shri Kurup, Suresh	3467, 3479, 3494,
61.	Shri Kushawaha, Narendra Kumar	3501,
62.	Shri Mahajan, Y.G.	3315,
63.	Shri Mahato, Sunil Kumar	3363, 3424, 3425,
64.	Smt. Maheshwari, Kiran	3315, 3376,
65.	Shri Majhi, Parsuram	3340, 3402, 3438,
66.	Shri Mallikarjuniah, S.	3311, 3486,
67.	Shri Mandal, Sanat Kumar	3304,
68.	Smt. Mane, Nivedita	3340, 3417,
69.	Ms. Mcleod, Ingrid	3339, 3400,
70.	Shri Meghwal, Kailash	3386,
71.	Shri Mehta, Alok Kumar	3355,

1	2	3
72.	Shri Mehta, Bhubneshwar Prasad	3466,
73.	Dr. Mishra, Rajesh	3286, 3360, 3480,
74.	Shri Modi, Sushil Kumar	3307, 3408, 3491,
75.	Shri Moghe, Krishna Murari	3318, 3346, 3381, 3393, 3484,
76.	Shri Mohd. Tahir	3501,
77.	Shri Mohite, Subodh	3283, 3368, 3492,
78.	Shri Moorthy, A.K.	3449,
79.	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	3342, 3401, 3437, 3484, 3501,
80.	Shri Murmu, Rupchand	3360,
81.	Shri Naik, Shripad Yesso	3358,
82.	Shri Naik, Venkatesh A.	3384,
83.	Smt. Narhire, Kalpana Ramesh	3335, 3482,
84.	Shri Nayak, Ananta	3402, 3438,
85.	Shri Oram, Jual	3305, 3375, 3445, 3455, 3460,
86.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	3364, 3418,
87.	Shri Panda, Prabodh	3344,
88.	Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	3299
89.	Shri Paswan, Ram Chandra	3376, 3501,
90.	Shri Patel, Jivabhai Ambalal	3484,
91.	Shri Patel Kishanbhai V.	3391, 3416, 3431,
92.	Shri Pathak, Brajesh	3354, 3410, 3489, 3501, 3503,
93.	Shri Patil, Balasaheb Vikhe	3353, 3409, 3442,
94.	Shri Patil, Shriniwas Dadasaheb	3353, 3362,
95.	Shri Pingle, Devidas	3333, 3481,
96.	Shri Ponnuswamy, E.	3403, 3440, 3452, 3439,
97.	Shri Prabhu, Suresh Prabhakar	3353, 3385, 3386,
98.	Shri Pradhan, Dharmendra	3314, 3394, 3432,
99.	Shri Prasad, Anirudh Alias Sadhu Yadav	3340,
100.	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	3382, 3440, 3497,
101.	Smt. Purandeswari, D.	3334,
102.	Shri Rajbhar, Chandra Dev Prasad	3463.
103.	Shri Rajendran, P.	3311, 3472,
104.	Shri Ramakrishna, Badiga	3390, 3430, 3449, 3458,
105.	Shri Rama Kashiram	3424
106.	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	3347, 3459,
107.	Shri Rathod, Haribhau	3347,
108.	Shri Ravichandran, Sippiparai	3349,
109	Shri Rawale, Mohan	3353,
110.	Shri Rawat, Kamla Prasad	3483,
111.	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	3297, 3404, 3425, 3496,
112.	Shri Reddy, Megunta Sreenivasulu	3338,
113.	Shri Reddy, Suravaram Sudhakar	3466,
114.	Shri Renge Patil, Tukaram Ganpatrao	3461, 3476
115.	Shri Riyan, Baju Ban	3473,
116.	Shri Sai Prathap, A.	3312,
117.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	3373, 3421, 3447, 3459,
118.	Dr. Sarma, Arun Kumar	3323, 3477,
119.	Satheedevi, (Shrimati) P.	3433,

1	2	3
120.	Shri Scindia, Jyotiraditya M.	3313,
121.	Shri Seth Lakshman	3452,
122.	Shri Shaheen, Abdul Rashid	3296, 3367, 3443, 3453,
123.	Mohd. Shahid	3501,
124.	Dr. Shandil, Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram	3462,
125.	Shri Sharma, Madan Lal	3348, 3405,
126.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	3352, 3396, 3413, 3434, 3501
127.	Shri Shivanna, M.	3384, 3427,
128.	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	3501,
129.	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	3291, 3344,
130.	Shri Singh, Ramsevak	3383,
131.	Shri Singh, Chandrabhan	3351, 3484,
132.	Shri Singh, Dushyant	3331, 3412, 3495,
133.	Shri Singh, Ganesh	3396, 3413, 3434, 3501,
134.	Shri Singh, Kirti Vardhan	3340
135.	Shri Singh, Kunwar Manvendra	3489,
136.	Shri Singh, Mohan	3468,
137.	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	3316,
138.	Shri Singh, Rakesh	3393,
139.	Shri Singh, Rewati Raman	3313, 3379, 3433, 3500,
140.	Shri Singh, Sugrib	3391, 3431,
141.	Shri Singh, Suraj	3376, 3501,
142.	Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan"	3380, 3387, 3425,
143.	Shri Subbarayan, K.	3325,
144.	Shri Sugavanam, E.G.	3303, 3374, 3431,
145.	Smt. Sujatha, C.S.	3350,
146.	Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	3425,
147.	Shri Thomas, P.C.	3306, 3388,
148.	Shri Thummar, V.K.	3425, 3484,
149.	Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	3360, 3487,
150.	Shri Varma, Ratilal Kalidas	3288, 3347,
151.	Shri Veerendrakumar, M.P.	3389,
152.	Shri Verma, Bhanu Pratap Singh	3422,
153.	Shri Verma, Ravi Prakash	3399, 3435, 3451, 3506,
154.	Shri Waghmare, Suresh Ganapatrao	3285, 3369,
155.	Shri Yadav, Giridhari	3382,
156.	Shri Yadav, Paras Nath	3324,
157.	Shri Yadav, Ram Kripal	3317, 3443, 3489,
158.	Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	3332, 3411, 3444, 3499,

ANNEXURE II

Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions

Prime Minister		
Atomic Energy	:	334, 335
Coal		325, 331
Communications and Information Technology	:	322, 333
External Affairs	:	336
Health and Family Welfare	:	323, 324, 327, 329, 330, 332, 337
Overseas Indian Affairs		
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	:	
Planning	:	338, 340
Shipping, Road Transport and Highways	:	321, 326
Space		
Statistics and Programme Implementation		
Youth Affairs and Sports	:	328, 339

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Prime Minister		
Atomic Energy	:	3287, 3326, 3391, 3505
Coal		3293, 3298, 3308, 3318, 3336, 3337, 3340, 3348, 3354, 3361, 3368, 3381, 3392, 3394, 3401, 3402, 3432, 3441, 3445, 3450, 3454, 3465, 3466, 3467, 3478
Communications and Information Technology		3283, 3285, 3300, 3306, 3310, 3313, 3331, 3332, 3344, 3358, 3359, 3369, 3372, 3375, 3378, 3379, 3384, 3388, 3390, 3397, 3404, 3409, 3412, 3414, 3415, 3416, 3420, 3422, 3428, 3437, 3443, 3455, 3459, 3461, 3490, 3497, 3503, 3504
External Affairs		3299, 3303, 3315, 3320, 3324, 3334, 3347, 3364, 3386, 3407, 3430, 3439, 3468
Health and Family Welfare		3288, 3289, 3290, 3291, 3295, 3296, 3302, 3304, 3307, 3314, 3316, 3327, 3328, 3330, 3338, 3339, 3341, 3342, 3349, 3351, 3355, 3356, 3365, 3366, 3373, 3374, 3376, 3383, 3389, 3395, 3396, 3398, 3400, 3405, 3408, 3410, 3411, 3421, 3423, 3426, 3427, 3429, 3431, 3433, 3442, 3444, 3446, 3447, 3451, 3452, 3456, 3457, 3457, 3470, 3487

Overseas Indian Affairs	:	
Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	:	3286, 3294, 3357, 3362, 3367, 3370, 3385, 3448, 3453, 3463, 3473, 3489
Planning	:	3311, 3312, 3317, 3319, 3382, 3387, 3419, 3424, 3425, 3434, 3440, 3469, 3479, 3494
Shipping, Road Transport and Highways		3284, 3297, 3305, 3309, 3321, 3322, 3323, 3325, 3329, 3333, 3335, 3353, 3360, 3371, 3377, 3393, 3403, 3413, 3447, 3449, 3458, 3460, 3462, 3464, 3471, 3472, 3475, 3476, 3477, 3480, 3481, 3482, 3483, 3484, 3485, 3486, 3488, 3491, 3492, 3493, 1495, 3496, 3498, 3499, 3500, 3501, 3502
Space		
Statistics and Programme Implementation	:	3380, 3438, 3474
Youth Affairs and Sports	:	3292, 3301, 3343, 3345, 3346, 3350, 3352, 3363, 3399, 3406, 3418, 3435, 3436, 3506.

INTERNET

The original version of Lok Sabha proceedings is available on Parliament of India Website at the following address :

http://www.parliamentofindia.nic.in

LIVE TELECAST OF PROCEEDINGS OF LOK SABHA

Lok Sabha proceedings are being telecast live on the dedicated channel of Doordarshan, *viz.* DD-Lok Sabha. Live telecast begins at 11 A.M. on everyday the Lok Sabha sits, till the adjournment of the House.

LOK SABHA DEBATES ON SALE

Printed copies of Lok Sabha Debates of English and Hindi Versions and other Parliamentary Publications are available for sale at the Sales Counter, Parliament House, New Delhi-110 001.

P.L.S. 40/XII.17/2005
506

© 2005 By Lok Sabha Secretariat

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Eleventh Edition) and printed by M/s. Dhanraj Associates Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi.