Fourteenth Series, Vol. X, No. 31

Wednesday, May 4, 2005
Vaisakha 14, 1927 (Saka)

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## (English Version)

**Fourth Session**
**(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)**

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## LOK SABHA

*Wednesday, May 4, 2005/Vaisakha 14, 1927 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I am still hoping that the friends in the Opposition will join us. I make a request once again.

Q. No. 541—Shri Subhash Sureshchandra Deshmukh—Not present.

Shri Paras Nath Yadav—not prevent.

Q. No. 542.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI (Tenali): Q. No. 542.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, (a) to (c) a statement is laid on the Table.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know whether your portfolio has been transferred. It is not your question, Shri Sibal.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: I am sorry, Sir.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): Sir, he is capable of answering that.

MR. SPEAKER: Then give a scientific reply, if you want to really help him. Q. No. 542 not Q. No. 543.

*[English]*

**National Rural Health Mission**

*542. + SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:
SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has launched the National Rural Health Mission;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features of the Mission;

(c) the estimated number of people likely to be benefited;

(d) whether any target has been fixed for providing minimum health care facilities in rural areas;

(e) if so, the strategy drawn therefor;

(f) whether under the Mission, AYUSH, dispensaries will be opened under the Primary Health Centres; and

(g) if so, the funds allocated for successful completion of the Mission?

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

***Statement***

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has been launched on 12.4.05 by Hon'ble Prime Minister for the entire country with special focus on 18 States having weak demographic indicators and poor health infrastructure. These States are Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. The Mission aims to undertake architectural correction of the Health System to enable it to effectively handle increased allocations as promised under the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP). It seeks to address inter-State and intra-district disparity, especially among the 18 high focus States, including unmet needs for public health infrastructure. It aims at effective integration of health concerns with determinants of health, like Sanitation & Hygiene, Nutrition and Safe Drinking Water, through a decentralized District Plan for Health. Above all, it seeks to improve access of rural people, especially poor women and children, to equitable, affordable, accountable and effective primary healthcare.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Indian Public Health Standards (IIPS) have been formulated for upgrading at least 2000 + Community Health Centres (CHCs) to ensure availability of minimal quality referral hospital care under the Mission. The Mission also aims at provision of 2.5 lakh trained, female Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) at the village level.

Almost 15% CHCs are proposed to be upgraded, and 40% ASHAs selected in 1st year of the Mission. The draft Guidelines for ASHA & IPHS have been drawn up and communicated to States.

(f) Mainstreaming of AYUSH manpower at PHC/CHC level is one of the strategies under the Mission. Provision has also been made for supply of generic drugs, (both AYUSH & Allopathic) for common ailments in the village, Sub-Centre/PHC/CHC level.

(g) A total of Rs. 6731.16 crore have been allocated under the Budget Outlay for the year 2005-06 for NRHM.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Sir, national Rural Health Mission launched through the country lays emphasis on 18 States. But Andhra Pradesh is not one of the States that is included among the 18 States. Health in rural Andhra Pradesh also requires a total revamping and revitalisation. The Government must have considered a criteria for laying emphasis on some States. What is the criteria taken into consideration; and in what way implementation of the Mission would be different from the other States; and when does the Government propose to include Andhra Pradesh also?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, the National Rural Health Mission was inaugurated by the hon. Prime Minister on the 12th of April this year. This Mission covers the entire country. But we are focussing on 18 States based on the health parameters, like the highest infant mortality, highest maternal mortality, crude birth rate, death rate, population, etc. We are taking into account all these factors. We are focussing on 18 States, and this covers the entire country including Andhra Pradesh.

In fact, our concern is for the 73 per cent of Indian population living in rural areas, and today they have just about 25 per cent of access to health care facilities. So, to narrow this gap, we have to provide these facilities to the rural people. That is why, we have started this National Rural Health Mission.

This National Rural Health Mission is the biggest programme that we have in the health sector and in public health sector.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Sir, the National Rural Health Mission, a comprehensive budget head, is created by integrating vertical health programmes of the Department of Health and Family Welfare, such as RCH-II, Malaria, Leprosy eradication, Kala Azar, TB and Blindness control. But the Mission excludes Cancer and AIDS control programmes. What are the reasons for excluding these programmes and at what stage the Government propose to include them also?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, the National Rural Health Mission is an integration of a lot of programmes in the health sector. It is not only an integration of programmes in the health sector but it is also an integration of sanitation, hygiene, drinking water, nutrition, etc. So, it comprises of four to five other Ministries also. We are not only having health but it also includes a comprehensive package. In the health sector, we are integrating all the programmes, like Cancer, HIV and all that. We are going to have a district health plan whereby all the programmes including Malaria, Kala Azar, etc. are going to be integrated into it in due course of time.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Health of selecting weaker States for the implementation of this scheme. It would be in the interest of poor States and the poor people that is why it is a welcome step. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that out of the funds allocated under this programme, how much has been allocated for my State Bihar which is a very backward State and by when this programme is going to be started so that the poor people of Bihar are benefited. Whether the Government propose to make the benefits of the schemes available to the people by bringing down the mortality rate of creating awareness among people to their health and setting up hospitals there.

*[English]*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: The hon. Prime Minister has already inaugurated this Programme. About three weeks ago, I was in Bhopal to again have a consultation for this Programme. On 30th day of this month I am going to Rajasthan. In due course of time, I am going to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. To all the States I am going personally to coordinate with the Chief Ministers and all other Ministers. In Bhopal, out of 48 Collectors, 40 Collectors attended the Meeting. We had

one-day Orientation Seminar. We told them what work they are supposed to do. Funding is not a problem. This year, the total budget for this Programme is approximately Rs. 6,700 crore.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants some priority for Bihar.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has not replied to my question yet. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Bihar would be given priority. *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: This fund is going to be distributed amongst all the States. We are focussing on 18 States. Funding is not a problem. Accountability, absorption capacity and monitoring or regulating mechanism are important. So, in this one year, the foundation for this National Rural Health Mission is going to be laid down. We are going to do a lot of planning for that.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us all hope it succeeds. You should all cooperate.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Even thought he State of Kerala has achieved a little progress in the health sector, yet, unfortunately, even today especially the tribal area and some remote villages are not yet covered. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether this Mission is covering the State of Kerala, especially the tribal area of the most remote area of this State.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister has said it covers all the States. Do you want priority for the tribal area?

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: I would like to know whether it is covering especially the tribal area as a special Mission.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: National Rural Health Mission, as the name suggests, is going to be a totally rural project. The tribal areas of Kerala are going to be covered under the National Rural Health Mission.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister the time by which Government propose to have two and a half lakh trained accredited women social health activists at village level in the country and the number of such women social health activists to be provided to Uttar Pradesh alongwith the funds allocated for Uttar Pradesh for the year 2005-06 in the budget under Rural Health Mission.

*[English]*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, the main focus of this National Rural Health Mission is ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist). She is going to be the daughter-in-law of the village. She has to live in that village. Each village is going to have one ASHA. We are going to train ASHA for a period of three to four weeks. Training is spread over a period of one year. She is going to be trained so as to identify children to be immunized. She is going to maintain a diary where she is going to maintain the dates for the children who are supposed to be immunized.

MR. SPEAKER: It is already answered.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: She is going to take up all the pregnant women for ante-natal check up for delivery and post-natal check up. We will even supply condoms to supply to the womenfolk for population stabilisation. She is going to be trained to even build household latrines for hygiene and sanitation. Like the State of Uttar Pradesh, we are also going to speed up general pooling. In the whole year, they are going to lay the foundation stone for monitoring, absorption capacity and accountability.

The district health plan as well as the village health plan is going to be formulated. This is totally a community plan. The community as such at the village level is going to tell us what their requirements are in the health, sanitation and drinking water sectors. We are going to plan according to that. This is a flexible plan. According to the State's requirements, we are flexible.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bir Singh Mahato, please do not put a question for which the reply is already there in the answer. You ask something new.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Sir, Village Health Guides were engaged in 1980 for providing primary health care at the doorsteps of the people through their voluntary works. This sponsored scheme was very popular. This scheme has been discontinued since April 2002. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government would like to revive the Community Health Guide Scheme.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: This ASHA need not be a new worker. She could already be an existing worker. We have roughly about 15 lakh trained workers around the country in the health sector. These health workers could be taken as ASHAs, but our requirement is that each village should have an ASHA as she is going to be a trained worker. By the end of this year, 40 per cent of the ASHAs is going to be put in place.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, the Common Minimum Programme has promised an increase in the budgetary allocation for the central health care from 0.9 per cent to 2.3 per cent. Striving in this direction, it has made an increase by about 25 per cent and it is, if I am right, around Rs. 6,000 crore. This is to be spent on the already existing schemes and the recently grounded National Rural Health Mission. So, this leaves very little allocation for the National Rural Health Mission. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether whatever we are left with is sufficient enough for this Mission because we need to strengthen our already existing infrastructure also. If this is not sufficient, then what does the Government intend to do? Or, how would it find alternative resources for this laudable measure? Thank you, Sir.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, the UPA Government is going according to the actual Common Minimum Programme, CMP. It promises augmenting of public health spending from the current 0.9 per cent of the total GDP to about a minimum of two per cent in the next four years. Accordingly, in this year's health budget, as I said earlier, we have an unprecedented approximately 30 per cent increase. This year, we are pooling in all our resources for the Rural Health Mission so that this reaches directly to the rural areas and to the rural masses. As I said initially, funding is not a problem. Absorption and accountability are the problems. We are going to lay the base for that and then we are going to put in a lot more resources from next year.

PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to put a supplementary question on this Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you put your question.

PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN: Sir, with great concern, our beloved Prime Minister has launched the National Rural Health Mission. This Mission has a provision for training 2.5 lakh of women activists in the field of health care. My pointed, specific and pertinent question is this. While imparting training to these women activists, is there any proposal to give training in meditation also? Meditation is required more and more. But we are utterly forgetful to another aspect of human life, that is, meditation. Human body, as said in the Bhagavad Gita, is a nine-gated city. This nine-gated city needs protection from physical as well as spiritual sides. But we give more importance to medication utterly oblivious of the fact that we need also meditation. Like meditation, yoga training, faith cure, Quran therapy, there are so many methods also. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the training given to the women activists will include meditation also as one of the methods of treatment to cure diseases. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very good question.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Currently, the people of India need medication primarily, and then meditation. ASHA is going to give medication. She is going to be supplied with essential medicines like for fever, vomiting and diarrohea. She is going to have that. As and when there is problem, she is going to supply this.

MR. SPEAKER: Also, we are not oblivious of meditation.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, I want to put a supplementary on Q. No. 542.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 543, Shri M. Sreenivasulu Reddy—not present.

Q. No. 544, Shri B. Vinod Kumar.

**Combating Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases**

*544. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various new initiatives and programmes undertaken by the Government to control communicable and non-communicable diseases in the country during the last three years;

(b) the details of the total public investment therefor for control of the same during the said period;

(c) whether the Government has increased the budgetary outlay for these initiatives and programmes during the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

***Statement***

The Government is implementing various national programmes for control of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Some of the important communicable diseases with national programmes include Vector Borne Diseases, Leprosy, Tuberculosis and AIDS while the major non-communicable disease control programmes implemented include Programmes for Blindness, Cancer Control and Mental Health. During the 10th Plan, a number of new initiatives have been undertaken in these programmes for facilitating more effective delivery, enhanced coverage and better integration. Depending on the endemicity and disease burden, a focused strategy and approach has been evolved for control of these diseases.

An important initiative has been convergence of the existing programmes of Malaria, Kala-azar and Filariasis into a national vector borne disease control programme. Along with these three diseases, Dengue and JE have also been merged to effectively prevent and efficiently control the vector borne diseases.

The programme has received funding to the extent of US$147 million from the World Bank for Malaria control in 100 districts of 8 States and from GFATM to the extent of US$ 69 million for 94 districts in 10 States. The programme has reduced chemical based vector control to biological methods of prevention. It has also enhanced provision for bednets and introduction of rapid diagnostic kits for detection of cases.

For elimination of lymphatic filariasis, mass drug administration (MDA) with annual single dose of DEC was upscaled to cover 201 districts.

The revised National T.B. Control Programme using directly observed treatment short courses, strategy has been registering significant success both in terms of coverage and effectiveness of treatment. From a coverage of 20 million in 1998, DOTS has now been extended to 1 billion population in more than 564 districts/reporting units. The entire country is proposed to be covered during the current year under the Revised strategy.

Under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme, decentralization and institutional development has been taken up by 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 planning, implementation, monitoring and taking of timely corrective action. Another feature introduced is the integration of leprosy services with the general healthcare system for better outreach and utilization of services by the community.

The focus of the HIV/AIDS programme has been on spreading awareness, surveillance of HIV and provision of care and treatment. During the first three years of the 10th Plan, there has been a significant increase in the provisioning for HIV related services. 307-ante-natal clinics have been set up till now offering ante-natal counselling, testing and prophylactic treatment to prevent mother to child transmission. Voluntary counselling and testing sites, clinics for sexually transmitted infections and targeted interventions all significantly expanded in coverage and outreach over the last three years.

Parliamentary and State Legislative Forums have been set up in 9 States to provide strong leadership at different levels of governance. In April, 2004, anti retro viral treatment was started for HIV/AIDS free of cost for all eligible AIDS patients and 25 hospitals have been sanctioned to provide this treatment. Implementation of services for management of HIV-T.B. co-infections in 6 high prevalence States have been started with support from Global Fund. Phase-I human clinical trials of recombinant Adeno-Associated Virus Vaccine has been started at National AIDS Research Institute, Pune, in February 2005. Programme for prevention of mother to child transmission expanded to 307 centres.

A National Mental Health Programme was launched in the 10th Plan to expand coverage, strengthen government mental health institutes and psychiatric wings of medical colleges and undertake IEC activities, research and training.

As 50% of cancer is related to tobacco, a comprehensive legislation for discouraging the use of tobacco was notified in 2003. The 4 major provisions include banning smoking in public places, advertisement of all forms of tobacco products, sale of tobacco products to minors and within 100 meters of educational institutions.

The National Programme for Control of Blindness has shifted focus from pure cataract surgery to increased focus

on other kinds of blindness like childhood blindness, corneal blindness and emerging causes like diabetes, retinopathy and glaucoma.

To integrate disease surveillance activities and provide essential data to detect early warning signals of impeding outbreaks and epidemics for timely and effective response apart from monitoring, the Integrated Disease Surveillance Project has been launched in November, 2004. This project will also undertake surveys to identify prevalence of risk factors of common non-communicable diseases. The diseases to be covered under IDSP have been broadly classified for monitoring and will be taken up as the case may be for regular surveillance, sentinel surveillance and regular periodic surveys. The project would be implemented in the entire country on a phased basis during the period 2004-07.

A statement of Budgetary outlay of various communicable and non-communicable disease control programmes is as Annexure.

***Annexure***

*Scheme-wise Approved Outlay during the last four years*

(Rs. in crores)

| Schemes/Programmes | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme | 235.00 | 245.00 | 296.00 | 348.45 |
| National Leprosy Eradication Programme | 75.00 | 74.00 | 55.00 | 41.75 |
| Revised National TB Control Programme | 115.00 | 115.00 | 140.00 | 186.00 |
| National AIDS Control Programme | 225.00 | 225.00 | 476.00 | 533.50 |
| National Programme for control of Blindness | 86.00 | 86.00 | 88.00 | 89.00 |
| Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme | — | — | 30.00 | 88.00 |
| National Cancer Control Programme | 61.00 | 55.00 | 60.00 | 70.00 |

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: I have gone through the Statement placed before the House. My original question was this. What are the initiatives taken with regard to the communicable and non-communicable diseases? Nothing has been said about diabetes which is a non-communicable disease. The World Health Organization has declared India as a "Diabetic capital of the World".

MR. SPEAKER: They have declared India!

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Today, there are about 3.5 crores of patients in the country, and every fifth patient who is going to the physician is a diabetic patient. In view of the gravity of the problem, what steps the Government have taken or propose to take to control diabetes? I would also like to know whether Government propose to launch a National progrmame for control of diabetes.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I appreciate the hon. Member's concern, and he is right. Today, India is on the path to become diabetic capital of the world. It is because of the lifestyle, sedentary lifestyle, and due to the modernisation. But the question he asked was this. What are the steps that Government have taken? We have given list of steps taken.

Now what are the steps that Government is going to take? Sir, due to the increase and spurt of diabetics, and cardio-vascular cases in the country, the Government are going to have a National programme on diabetes, cardio-vascular, and stroke by this year, and in principles approval of hon. Prime Minister and the Planning Commission have already been given to the programme. Through this programme, we are going to go on a massive awareness programme, screening for both the diabetics and the cardio-vascular, and also stroke. Today the incidence of diabetics in urban areas is about 11 to 12 per cent, which is very alarming. In rural areas, it is 3 to 5 per cent. It is again alarming for us. We have to take action, and we are doing all that is necessary for creating awareness basically.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: My second supplementary is with regard to communicable disease, that is, TB. I have gone through the Performance Budget 2005-06 of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Under the Revised National TB Control Programme, at the end of the third quarter of 2004, the annualized case detection rate of TB cases was 144 per lakh population. The target fixed by the Ministry is 135 per lakh population, and the new sputum-positive case detection rate was also 56 per lakh as against the target of 53 per lakh. Since the targets set by the Government under the programme had been surpassed, whether the targets have been fixed realistically, and what is the basis and criterion for fixation of these targets? Further owing to high incidence of TB cases in the country, particularly amongst women and since TB is curable, whether Government propose to set higher targets under the programme during the current financial year for detection rate and new sputum detection rate of TB cases.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: The Revised National T.B. Control Programme (RNTCP) is one of the successful performing programmes. Under this Programme, we have initiated a new methodology called DOTS 'Directly Observed Treatment Short Course', which incidentally was found in India by the Bangalore and Chennai Institutes and adopted by the WHO and propagated world wide. Under this DOTS programme, today more than a billion people have been covered and we have been able to drastically reduce the incidence and the deaths occurring due to TB. The targets have been scientifically fixed through the ICMR, which is the premier-most research institution in the country. They have proposed and we are going according to the schedule.

Sir, I would like to inform him through you that we are saving lives every year. In fact, we have saved about seven lakh lives approximately. Under the DOTS regime, till date, about four million people have been put up under this. Even though we have about 1.8 million new cases every year, out of them, about eight lakh cases are positive. But the DOTS Programme covers nearly about 90 to 95 per cent of the country and we are definitely going all out to tackle this huge problem.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Sir, it has been mentioned by the hon. Minister that the number of TB patients is increasing and the number of deaths is also increasing in our country. It has increased from 15,000 something to about 31,000. One of the major problems that I have seen is that the people, particularly who have suffered from TB is from the lower economic strata. One of the major problems that they are facing is that whenever they are under the treatment, they require rest. But, basically, all these people are daily-wage earners. So, if they take rest, they cannot have food. But food is also very much required for them under this particular treatment. However, under your scheme, there is no provision of providing the food to the people who have suffered from the Tuberculosis. One of the major problems is that these patients are discontinuing with the treatment. The resistance is really going very high if they discontinue the treatment.

So, my specific question is that under your scheme whether you are going to consider providing them food or some other kind of relief; otherwise all the money that we have been putting on them, particularly in this Tuberculosis Control Programme, is going in vain. So, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is going to consider it or not.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, as I mentioned earlier, this programme is a better performing programme-Revised National TB Control Programme. After the DOTS have been adopted under this programme, there has been a dramatic reduction of the diseases and we have saved a lot of lives. Our target by 2015 is to reduce the incidence by half and we will definitely achieve the targets. Some States in the country provide nutrition called 'TB diet' to the patients. The Central Government supplies only the drugs free of cost. We are giving the drugs free of cost to these patients who are affected by tuberculosis. Some States provide the TB diet. But, we have to see the viability and if it is viable, we could consider it. Otherwise since the number is large, at this point of time, we have to see the viability point on that.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: In fact, the percentage of death is increasing. It was 3.18 in 2001 and it has gone up to 3.47 in 2003. Even though your programme is continuing, still the percentage of death is also increasing. So, simply we cannot claim that there is a huge success under this TB Control Programme.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I deny the hon. Member's point that the percentage of death is increasing due to tuberculosis. It is not increasing. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: You have stated it in your own reply. In your own reply you have stated it in response to Q. No. 549. Is it true or not? It is given in today's reply. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We shall see this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We shall see. This is a matter which probably requires consideration.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: But, I would like to categorically say one thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If it is true, then you correct the answer.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Sir, he has not answered it.

MR. SPEAKER: He said at the moment he has no information.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Sir, in today's list of questions, it is there in Q. No. 549.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: These cases are only registered cases. There are whole estimated cases and we have taken account all these cases.

SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: The percentage remains the same.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: This is a different question of estimated cases. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot go on like that. If you have anything to pursue further, you can do it later. You cannot go on like this.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is a land of villages. A national programme has been formulated for controlling communicable and non-communicable diseases in the country. 80 percent of the population of the country lives in villages while centres for controlling TB are set up in cities which are at a distance of 100 kilometers from the villages. Doctors are not available in the PHCs that have been set up in villages and they do not even have machines for the diagnosis of TB, leprosy and diabetes which is the most fatal disease of recent times. The people of villages are succumbing to these diseases due to failure of detection of the disease. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: General questions should not be asked. We are not properly utilising this time.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he would make arrangements for setting up diagnostic centres at Tehsil and block headquarters and ensure the availability of doctors and machines for the detection of diseases there so that the people of poor and weaker sections of the villages can get such serious diseases diagnosed and avail the facility of getting treatment of the same easily and whether there is any scheme under this national programme for making additional funds available for this purpose.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I do not understand. Can you respond to that?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, we cannot treat these patients without diagnosis. We have a mechanism of diagnosis. We have kits, microscope and all that in the labs which are there in the district level and sub-district level.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Sir, I would like to know one thing from the hon. Minister through you. The allocations for some schemes have declined. For leprosy it is declining. For some, though the Blindness is increasing, the grant is declining. The number of cases of diabetes are also increasing sharply. The Government is considering all these allocations only for allopathy. How

can the Government integrate the approach of the health treatment through Indian systems of medicine, yoga, naturopathy, homeopathy etc.?

Sir, the integration is most required. There is no integration at all. The Indian system of medicine is totally neglected. How can the programme be increased? This is my specific question.

MR. SPEAKER: Is homeopathy included? The other part is answered.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Sir, what about the Indian system of medicine?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, even though myself being a modern medicine doctor, I am one of the biggest propagators of the Indian system of medicine, our own system that was founded by our forefathers. We are propagating Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, homeopathy etc.

MR. SPEAKER: Including Yoga.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Yes, including Yoga and naturopathy. This Indian system of medicine has been included in the National Rural Health Mission whereby Indian system doctor is going to be appointed at the PHC level in the State level, and we are giving the Indian system of medicines also at the PHC level in the States.

MR. SPEAKER: There shall be brevity on both sides.

*[Translation]*

SHRI AJIT JOGI: Sir, the main health related problem is that the doctors do not want to go to rural areas particularly to backward and tribal areas. According to a survey almost 90 per cent of the posts of the doctors are lying vacant is Bastar Division, because doctors are not ready to go there.

Under such circumstances there is no point in setting up medical institutes there. Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he proposes to give any special incentives for such areas so that trained health officers and doctors might serve there and ensure the availability of health facilities in these areas or alternatively if MBBS doctors, who have studied medicine for five years and are not inclined to go to such places, whether he propose to send such RMP or LMP doctors in those areas who get degree after studying for three years, or some such training will be imparted by which these trained medicos could be sent there. There are no doctors in seventy-percent area of our country. Whether doctors would be sent to those areas.

*[English]*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, previously there was the concept of barefoot doctors in the sixties and seventies and ultimately, they went on to practice the modern medicine and became so-called quacks today. We have the problem of quackery which is going on in the medical field. We are trying to tackle it. Doctors are present only up to PHC level in today's scenario and subcentres are manned by auxiliary nurse midwives, ANMs.

In National Rural Health Mission, which we have proposed, we are trying to work out the ways and means of how the doctors could be focussed in block level hospitals, community health centres, CHCs, and go in turns to PHCs and then, again putting up an Indian medical system doctor also into a PHC. We are also trying to change the policies. We are deliberating on how and whether. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He says that in rural areas, there are no doctors.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I am coming to that. We are deliberating on whether it could be made mandatory for the students to practise in rural areas for one year or two years, after finishing the MBBS and before he gets the graduation certificate or before he applies for a post-graduate course, he has to work mandatorily for one year or two years in rural areas. We are deliberating all this and after discussing this with various forums, we will try to bring out a policy to make these doctors go to the rural areas.

MR. SPEAKER: Sooner the better.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, I would like to ask a specific question. I raised it a few days back. Now I want the answer. Sir, you know that the Question is on combating communicable disease. A serious communicable disease is now spreading in Delhi. There is an epidemic of serious type of meningitis. Already eight people have died and more than hundred are in various hospitals. It is a serious situation and there is a panic.

I want to know what specific arrangement the Government has made to check, stop and eradicate this communicable disease.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very topical question.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, currently in Delhi, there is a gram negative bacteria *Meningococcous* which is going around. Till today, in fact till yesterday, about 42 persons were affected and about eight deaths occurred due to this. Health Department has done a massive surveillance in this area and then issued notice to authorities in coordination with the State Government. We have requested them and told the steps to be taken to prevent this and then to cure this disease. There is no need to panic. Things are under control and we are looking at it very closely. We are watching it very closely. This needs just an exposure prophyladis or ciplofloxacin and other common antibiotics. This could be easily treated when identified. There is no cause for any panic at this point of time. We are very closely monitoring that in coordination with the State Government.

MR. SPEAKER: People will be assured.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Sir, according to the written submission of our hon. Minister, the Union of India propose to open 25 hospitals for treating AIDS patients. Throughout the country 92,000 persons are affected by AIDS, out of which 42,000 patients are in Tamil Nadu and particularly, my Dindigul district is having more patients affected by AIDS. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to open one such hospital in Dindigul.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, for HIV, about 25 hospitals round the country are giving free anti-retroviral therapy. By the end of this year, we are going to increase it to 100 hospitals. Not only to hospitals, we want to give it to better performing NGOs also. Currently, in Tamil Nadu, three hospitals—one hospital in Tambaram, Madras Medical College and Madurai Medical College—are supplying free ARTs.

The hon. Member has stated that approximately 44,000 people—out of the 100,000 people—affected in India are from the State of Tamil Nadu. It is not that this disease is increasing only in Tamil Nadu. Actually, the reporting of this disease is high in Tamil Nadu, and the awareness is also high in Tamil Nadu. Therefore, more and more people are coming forward to report it. We are taking appropriate steps in it. Suppose we feel that there is high incidence in Dindigul, *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt the hon. Minister.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Suppose we feel that there is high incidence in Dindigul, then we may try to open one more unit there.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Tushar Chaudhary.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am very sorry to say that it cannot go on like this. Ten or twelve supplementaries cannot be allowed on one Question alone.

*[Translation]*

DR. TUSHAR A. CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, malaria-dengue-filaria etc. diseases are quite common. Similarly laptospiarosis is a very common disease in South Gujarat. The people who work in fields with bare foot are commonly affected by this disease and it is so severe that the patient dies in two days and the patient requires ventilator as first aid.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: How can all the details on specific issues be answered here?

*[Translation]*

DR. TUSHAR A. CHAUDHARY: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to formulate any special programme for checking this disease in South Gujarat.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: The question asked by the hon. Member is about some special disease in some specific areas. I think, you better call the hon. Member personally and discuss this issue with him.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, it is a localised disease. It is a sporadic disease, which occurs from the urine of the infected rats, etc., and the basic awareness of the State Governments is required to tackle this issue. We do not have a specific National Programme for this.

MR. SPEAKER: Last supplementary on this Question by Shrimati Nivedita Mane.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not raise your hands. No more supplementaries would be allowed on this Question.

*...(Interruptions)*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, let it be the second last supplementary on this Question, so that I can ask the last one.

MR. SPEAKER: No, it would not be allowed on this Question. Perhaps, a chance can be given to you in the next Question.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Health towards the fact that several requests for availing one fourth amount for treatment which is given to heart patients from PM funds are withdrawn as it is not disbursed on time hence people are unable to avail the facility. Whether he would make any arrangements for early disposal of such proposals. People who have applied for this aid are facing many problems and it has caused problems in my area. What steps the Government propose to take in this regard.

*[English]*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, we are also getting a number of requests regarding the hon. Prime Minister Fund for the heart patients. I will discuss this issue with my hon. Prime Minister.

**Sale of Banned Drugs**

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that many medicines which are banned in developed countries are widely being sold in the country;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to check the supply of such medicines;

(c) the details of the recommendations of Hathi Commission report in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to implement the said recommendations?

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

***Statement***

There is no system of global banning of drugs. Certain drugs and formulations withdrawn in one or some countries may continue to be marketed in other countries. The decision to ban a drug by the regularity authorities, is normally based on a risk assessment process, which is influenced by a number of factors such as disease pattern in a country, indications and dosages of the drug permitted, varying reactions of certain ethics groups in a given population, availability of safer substitutes and overall safety profile of the drug. It is well known fact that administration of any drug is not absolutely free from side effects or adverse reactions in a statistically insignificant minority of the population.

There is an adequate mechanism in India to review the status of the drug formulations as and when any serious adverse event is reported in the International journals, WHO Newsletters or when a drug formulation is reported to have been withdrawn in some countries. The use of the drug so reported is assessed in consultation with the experts based on available technical information, benefit-risk ratio, local needs etc. The matter is further considered by the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), a statutory body under the Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940.

Seventy six categories of drug formulations have so far been prohibited in the country by the Central Government, which were considered irrational or harmful in the context of present knowledge. In the recent past, drugs like Astemizole, Terfinadine and Rofecoxib have been prohibited after due assessment of their benefit-risk ratio by the experts, while drugs like Analgin, Hydroxyquinoline, Furazolidone, Phenylpropanolamine, Nimesulide etc. have been permitted to be continued to be marketed after due examination of their safety and use in the country.

A National Pharma-co-vigilance Programme has been launched in 2004 to capture data on adverse reactions to drug use in the country.

The Committee on Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Industry under the Chairmanship of Shri Jaisukhlal Hathi was constituted on 8th February, 1974, by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers to examine various facts of the

Drug Industry in India with a view to promoting growth of the Drug Industry and was not related to sale of banned drugs.

However, a high level committee was constituted by the Government of India in the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare in the year 2001, under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services to undertake detailed examination of the issue of alleged marketing of internationally banned drugs in India. The Committee in its report submitted in May, 2002, expressed the view that there is adequate mechanism in the country to examine and prohibit sale of drugs, which have been prohibited in some countries. The apprehension that internationally banned drugs continued to be marketed in the country is not based on facts.

MR. SPEAKER: I would allow only two supplementaries on this particular Question. No other hon. Minister is getting an opportunity. Perhaps, I will now have to pick and choose.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has stated that as there is no system of global banning of drugs, certain drugs and formulations that are withdrawn in some of the countries continue to be marketed in other countries.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has already explained about issue earlier.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: So, when a drug is banned in a developed country, it takes some years to have the knowledge of this fact in countries like India. There is no particular method of informing about the banning of these medicines to other countries.

The main recommendations of the Hathi Committee were regarding the nationalisation of the Multi-national Drug Companies; the establishment of the National Drug Authority; priority production of 116 essential drugs; abolition of brand names; the introduction of the generic names; and the strengthening of the Quality Control Measures.

Sir, in India, drug manufacturing is considered as profit-making industry, but it is functioning under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether his Ministry is taking any steps to bring the life-saving drugs under the purview of the Health Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER: That is for the Prime Minister to decide. The Hon. Minister will ask the Prime Minister suitably. Now, you may ask your second supplementary.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Sir, the public sector drug manufacturing companies, like Hindustan Antibiotics Company, Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Company and Kerala State Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Company, are manufacturing very few drugs in the country. Due to lack of adequate facilities for research and studies that are to be provided by the Health Ministry, the manufacturing of essential drugs in the public sector companies is not taking place. So, I would like to know from the Minister whether active measures will be initiated for strengthening the public sector manufacturing companies by providing adequate laboratory facilities and by giving more funds for that purpose.

MR. SPEAKER: It is about research, etc.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: My Ministry is concerned about safety and quality of the drugs, and propagating the industry is an issue dealt by my colleague, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers. For us, safety is primary requirement. The pointed question of the hon. Member is whether more resources could be provided for research and development. We are already giving priority/purchase preference to the public sector companies when we make purchases for our Ministry. Through that process, we are propagating these public sector companies.

MR. SPEAKER: Research is important. I think, you should talk to your counterpart in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Sir, ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you have already put two questions. I will now pick and choose the names and not follow the serial numbers. Shri Chandra Sekhar Sahu, have you got any supplementary to ask?

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU: I would like to ask my supplementary on Q. No. 555 and not on Q. No. 545.

MR. SPEAKER: Numbers have been mixed up. Shri Shailendra Kumar.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to whether he has formulated any scheme to prevent the sale of banned and spurious drugs and made arrangements for making the list of life saving drugs public. Sir, at present several firms are manufacturing one medicine whose potency varies and thus it is effective in one disease and fails to control another. Whether he would make such medicines public.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is on sale of banned drugs, but anything under the Sun is being asked. What is this?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, about 76 formulations and combinations were already banned by the Government of India, and the latest drug banned a couple of months ago was Rofecoxib. Currently, the National Pharma-co-vigilance Committee and the Drug Technical Advisory Board are looking at a drug called 'Valdecoxib'. It was banned in America and other parts of the world. We are trying to look at whether we could ban it in India.

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: I am sure, the Ministry is keeping track of some of the harmful drugs which have harmful consequences and which are not yet approved by the FDA. However, I am sure, there is a gestation period before clinical trials prove that they are not harmful. It is during this time that the drugs are entering the market. I would like to know specifically what steps are being taken to curb the usage of these drugs before the clinical trials happen. What are the stringent measures being taken to punish the offenders?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: No drug could be used without going through any of the clinical trials. Until they go through all the parts of clinical trials, we cannot give a licence to them. We have very strict means of licensing in respect of manufacturing of these products. In addition, Sir, a post-manufacturing survey is now being done. We have the National Pharma-co-vigilance Committee which was formed last year. We are taking the help of all the medical colleges in this measure to monitor all the areas, and even the pharmacists have been put into this monitoring mechanism.

We are going to set up about 40 Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring Units across the country. So, if a drug which is already marketed is given licence, if there are any adverse reactions that are caused by this drug, they will be reported and e will take steps against these drugs.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the apprehension that internationally banned drugs continue to be marketed in the country is not based on facts. This is not a fact. My question is as to why drug controlling authorities have not banned Depo Provera, a hazardous contraceptive which is widely used in our country? Our womenfolk have been using it for years together either out of ignorance or on prescription. It is a highly toxic and an osteoporotic drug. Why has it not been banned? The second part of my question is as to how many cases have been filed under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 so far?

MR. SPEAKER: You will answer the first one, about the particular drug.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: If a drug is banned globally, somewhere it does not mean that it is automatically banned everywhere else. We go into the intricacies of it. Some drugs could be well taken in the Indian population and some drugs could have adverse affects.

MR. SPEAKER: I quite agree with that.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Regarding the number of cases in which action was taken, I will inform the hon. Member personally.

*[Translation]*

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Sir, two weeks ago. The established daily newspapers of India published a news item about drugs which are banned all over the world and are much in use in India. A group of established doctors of the country also raised the demand of imposing a ban on medicines like Nimesuidide, Analgin and Phiroxene stating that they are harmful. But their demand was not accepted as ICMR stated that Nimesuilide is not harmful. There is a doubt in the minds of the people as these medicines are banned in one place and the established doctors of India are also saying

that these medicines are harmful then why has ICMR or his Ministry permitted the sale of Nimesuilide. It finds a mention in the reply too. There is a doubt in our mind also that people with liver problems cannot take these medicines. Whether the hon. Minister would clarify that the medicines whose sale he has permitted are harmless.

*[English]*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: There was a lot of controversy regarding Nimesulide in the last three-four years. A Public Interest Litigation was also filed in the Delhi High Court regarding this.

MR. SPEAKER: This has already been answered.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: There are some global issues involved. In Europe, in Spain, in Turkey, they have taken up the issue whether they should ban Nimesulide or not. A lot of deliberations have been gone into. A lot of Expert Committees from all over the world, including Europe as well as India, went into this issue. Our experts in the country from DTAB, from ICMR, from AIIMS, and the European experts said that it is a safe drug to be used in a certain quantum of dosage. Accordingly we are using it. About 50 countries in the world, including some developed countries in Europe, are still using Nimesulide.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramadas Athawale. It seems some dress restrictions have to be imposed.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, several factories manufacturing spurious medicines are being run in the country. I request the hon. Minister to formulate a plan to stop the manufacturing of spurious and substandard drugs.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: He has already answered it.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: My second question is that only you and hon. Prime Minister might cure the NDA which has caught the disease of not coming to the House, no duplicate medicine would help in their case. I request you to give them some medicine.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: No, that is not allowed. I do not mind getting some free medicine.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Q. No. 546 | Shri Chandramani Tripathi | — Not present. |
| | Shri Shripad Yesso Naik | — Not present. |
| Q. No. 547 | Shri Subodh Mohite | — Not present. |
| | Shri Dushyant Singh | — Not present. |
| Q. No. 548 | Shri Arjun Sethi | — Not present. |
| | Shri Asaduddin Owaisi | — Not present. |

*[Translation]*

**DOTs treatment for the Eradication of TB**

*549. + SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN:
SHRI HEMLAL MURMU:

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

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government or any national/foreign agencies to assess the exact number of TB patients in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the number of cases of deaths caused by TB in urban and rural areas separately, State-wise;

(c) whether according to the report of Massive Effort Campaign Organisation, 30 percent of the population of tuberculosis patients in the world reside in India;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government contemplates to bring entire country under the Directly Observed Treatment Shortcourse (DOTS) to cure tuberculosis;

(f) if so, the measures taken by the Government in this regard; and

(g) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government for the eradication of TB?

*[English]*

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

***Statement***

(a) and (b) A national sample survey was conducted in 2000-03 by the Government of India through the National TB Institute, Bangalore and TB Research Centre, Chennai, to estimate the incidence of TB in the country. For this purpose, the country was stratified into four zones and the study was conducted in 26 districts. The survey provided a measure of the incidence of TB in the four zones and the country as a whole. The estimated new smear positive TB incidence in north, south, west and eastern zones of the country was 95, 50, 80 and 65 per lakh population respectively. The average incidence of new smear positive TB in the country was 75 per lakh population. Based on this finding, it is estimated that annually 1.8 million of new TB cases occur in the country of which about 0.8 million are smear positive infectious cases. The survey also revealed that incidence of TB is more in urban areas in comparison to rural areas.

Data relating to deaths are not maintained under the National TB Control Programme. However, it is estimated that about 4 lakh persons die of TB every year in the country. However, under the Revised National TB Control Programme, (RNTCP), data relating to deaths due to TB among patients registered for treatment are maintained. State-wise details of death during last three years are given in enclosed annexure. Separate figures for urban and rural areas are not maintained.

(c) and (d) India accounts for nearly 30% of global TB burden. About 1.8 million new TB cases are occurring every year in the country. The incidence of TB in India is estimated at 168 cases per lakh population which is lower than the rate of incidence in many high burden countries. But due to large size of Indian population, the actual number of TB patients in the country is larger.

(e) to (g) The Government propose to bring entire country under the Directly Observed Treatment Shortcourse (DOTS) to cure tuberculosis. At present, one billion population in 564 districts/reporting units has been covered under the DOTS.

To control TB, National TB Control Programme (NTCP) was launched in the country since 1962. This could not achieve the desired results. Therefore, Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP), widely known as DOTS, which is a WHO recommended strategy, with the objective of achieving cure rate of 85% of new sputums positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases, is being implemented in the country since 1997 in a phased manner as a centrally sponsored scheme. Diagnosis by sputum microscopy instead by X-Ray helps in detecting and curing infectious cases on priority. Facilities for diagnosis by sputum microscopy has been decentralized and strengthened. Drugs are provided under observation and patients are monitored so that they complete their treatment. Drugs are provided free of cost in patient-wise boxes.

***Annexure***

*State-wise details of the deaths reported during the last three years*

| State | Year | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 950 | 1465 | 4344 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | — | 16 | 57 |
| Assam | 58 | 52 | 376 |
| Bihar | 164 | 158 | 194 |
| Chandigarh | — | 24 | 43 |
| Chhattisgarh | — | 144 | 366 |
| Delhi | 335 | 437 | 493 |
| Gujarat | 1606 | 1788 | 2058 |
| Haryana | 196 | 188 | 348 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 256 | 361 | 433 |
| Jharkhand | 85 | 81 | 177 |
| Karnataka | 920 | 1096 | 2429 |
| Kerala | 877 | 861 | 894 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 166 | 258 | 1158 |
| Maharashtra | 2093 | 3449 | 4971 |
| Manipur | 50 | 156 | 148 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Meghalaya | — | — | 33 |
| Mizoram | — | — | 66 |
| Nagaland | — | 4 | 54 |
| Orissa | 557 | 812 | 1116 |
| Punjab | 26 | 48 | 511 |
| Rajasthan | 2052 | 2151 | 2275 |
| Sikkim | — | 28 | 26 |
| Tamil Nadu | 1997 | 3035 | 3335 |
| Uttaranchal | — | 1 | 54 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 670 | 663 | 2500 |
| West Bengal | 1973 | 2533 | 2996 |
| Total | 15031 | 19809 | 31455* |

As treatment outcome (death, success rate etc.) becomes available only after one year from initiation of the treatment, the information in regard to TB deaths is available only upto 2003.

*The coverage of population under RNTCP has increased from year to year. This resulted in increased number of TB cases detected and put on treatment under the DOTS strategy. Hence, seemingly, more number of TB deaths reported under RNTCP in the successive years although the proportion of deaths over the years is more of less the same as is evident from the table given below:

| Year | Population under RNTCP | No. of TB Cases detected and put on treatment | TB deaths | %age |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2001 | 450 million | 471658 | 15031 | 3.18 |
| 2002 | 530 million | 622873 | 19809 | 3.18 |
| 2003 | 775 million | 906472 | 31455 | 3.47 |

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Hemlal Murmu—not present.

Shri Lonappan Nambadan.

SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN: Sir, is there any procurement agency acting on behalf of the Government to procure the drugs for the treatment of TB? If so, the details of those agencies, along with the total money spent on such procurement?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I will inform the hon. Member on these questions.

MR. SPEAKER: We have sufficient information on this question. Let us come to the next question.

SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN: Is the Government contemplating to provide pension to the poor TB patients as in Kerala? If so, what are the details?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Providing pension to TB patients does not come under my purview.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH: Thank you, Sir. I would like to inform the hon. Minister that Tuberculosis is one of the most prevalent diseases in Kashmir Valley that causes a lot of financial and social loss. Srinagar has a long established Chest Diseases Hospital that is in a very sorry state of affairs today. I would like to ask the hon. Minister in the on-going campaign to eradicate Tuberculosis, would the Government consider a fresh injection of capital into this Chest Diseases Hospital in Srinagar so that we can combat this terrible disease?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: We will do it. I am giving a commitment that we would try to do it.

MR. SPEAKER: This sort of cooperation is needed.

Mr. Lal Singh. He has supplementary to every question.

*[Translation]*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: I had thought only a smile would do. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister that ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has given a very good reply about Kashmir.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Doda is a very cold and far-flung area. I have toured that place and I am speaking the truth ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Every time you tell this.

*[Translation]*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: There are many TB patients there. The surveys conducted by the Government are confined to cities and places linked with roads. There is no arrangement of treatment for TB in far-flung rural areas where one has to walk 30-40 kilometers on foot. What does the hon. Minister propose to do for the treatment of TB in the areas where the official of his department have not reached?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking about the rural areas.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Under the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP), DOTS providers could be a village postman, could be a village grocery shopkeeper, could be a village headman, could be an *Anganvadi,* and could be an ANM. All these people keep the medicine. TB patient has to go to them to get the medicine. Every week, these people return empty-blister packet of tablets and get a new or fresh pack of tablets. This is accountable. This Directly Observed Treatment Shortcourse (DOTS) is very successful and we cover all the villages in the country. About 92 to 95 per cent of the country is covered under this programme.

*[Translation]*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: There are no anganwadi workers there and nobody wants to go to these far-flung areas. *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

This is not the correct information. Otherwise, I will resign from my seat. This is not good. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying to help you.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have run this department. Hon. Minister is implementing this programme only in cities. *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I am also trying to help the hon. Member. We are very concerned about Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu and Kashmir comes under the National Rural Health Mission. This is one of the priority areas. We are going to concentrate on this area. We will take up this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, it is a far-flung area. Please find out as to whether medicine is available. Hon. Member, I am helping you.

*[Translation]*

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether World Health Organisation provides financial assistance every year for the treatment and eradication of TB. If so, the details of the financial assistance and how does the Government distribute it among States?

*[English]*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: The WHO does not give financial assistance. It gives technical assistance. The TB Control Programme is mainly sponsored by the World Bank and other agencies like, DFID and other global partners. WHO gives most of the technical support.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI: It is estimated that over 80 lakh Bidi workers are there in the country and more so in the Telangana region and particularly in my district over 2.5 lakh women especially between the age group of 12-69 years are working as bidi workers. They are working in a smaller place and inhaling the tobacco the whole day. They are detected as TB patients. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has particularly any programme to address these TB patients and particularly those working in the Telangana region as bidi workers. I got done one survey by a New York based doctor Dr. Basuvati Bhattacharya, a Community Health Specialist and one of the pieces of advice given by the Doctor was to provide some kind of a mask to these bidi workers. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has considered or he will consider any such advice given by the doctor and whether he can provide the mask to minimise the risk of TB.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I will take notice of the issue raised by the hon. Member, But, as such, the treatment is the same for TB patients, if at all it is

TB. The hon. Member is talking about the tobacco usage. TB is caused by the bacteria and not by the use of tobacco leaves. We will take into consideration the suggestion of the hon. Member.

Regarding mask, we are not in a position to supply mask under this programme.

MR. SPEAKER: The employer can be forced to provide it.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I come from Bihar and Saharsa is my constituency. When we visit villages we find that out of five hundred or thousand persons, 10-20 are patients of TB. The Government has been implementing numerous schemes for the treatment of TB patients but unfortunately the fact is that the poor are not getting medicines even today. At some places medicines are not being provided at all and at other places the hospitals in the villages are providing medicines but only for one or two months while the complete course takes 6 or nine months. The patients get medicine for one or two months and then they have to come back for medicines. I have discussed with the doctors in this regard and they said that medicines are not available with them. As a result there is a gap of 5 or 10 days before the course of medicines could be resumed and consequently the course has to be repeated. *...(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, the doctors said that medicines are not available and as it is infectious disease so the number of TB patients is increasing day by day. Whether the Government has any scheme to ensure that medicines are provided regularly to the patients and full course of medicines are made available to them.

*[English]*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: It is pertaining to Bihar. As I said earlier, DOTS providers go to the villages. By July this year, 100 per cent of the country is going to be covered under DOTS regime. In Bihar, till date, 12 districts are implementing this DOTS and RNTCP; and 26 have been preparing *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is of timely availability.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Yes, Sir. The DOTS is a very very successful programme and due to that patients need not go to the referral hospital each month. Tablet comes to him. He needs to go to the village head or the postman or the ANM to get this.

MR. SPEAKER: I doubt that that is shared by the Member.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. K.S. Manoj—Not present.

Shri P.K. Vasudevan Nair–Not present.

Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao—Not present.

**Overcharging by Booth Operators**

*552. + SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding overcharging by the STD/ISD/PCO booth operators in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the Government rate for one local call;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any raid to check overcharging by these booth operators;

(d) if so, the details of the operators found involved therein and the action taken against them;

(e) whether the Government proposes to instruct the booth operators to display local call charges on their booths;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

***Statement***

(a) Yes, Sir. Some complaints have been received.

(b) Details pertaining to complaints received by BSNL/MTNL are given in enclosed Annexure-I and the local call rate from the PCOs applicable in BSNL/MTNL are given in the enclosed Annexure-II.

(c) Yes, Sir. Periodical surprise checks are carried out by the field staff as well as by the vigilance. Checks/ raids are also conducted on receipt of specific complaints. In case of violation, appropriation action is taken against the PCO holder.

(d) During the year 2004-2005, 7151 surprise checks have been conducted on STD/ISD booth operators by the vigilance team and 563 operators were found involved in overcharging against whom appropriate action was taken.

(e) and (f) Booth operators are instructed to display local call charges on their booths.

(g) Does not arise in view of (e) & (f) above.

***Annexure-I***

*Details of Action Taken against PCOs during 2004-2005*

| Circle | No. of complaints | Disconnected PCOs | Warned PCOs | Miscellaneous actions (e.g. issue of notice, penalty imposed* etc.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Delhi | 9 | 25833025, 25250773, 23414445 | 25919675, 25112057, 25194488, 25193790, 25116694, 26110649 | |
| J&K | 28 | 232582 (Katra), 244462 (Batote), 244174 (Botate), 244766 (Batote), 244094 (Nalla), 244046 (Batote), 244461 (Batote), 244758 (Botate), 244007, (Batote) 220158, 255254 (Reasi), 244463 (Batote), 225016 (Salal), 255703 (Reasi), 233327 (Katra), 232951 (Katra), 256302 (Pouni), 255255 (Joytipuram), 244063 (Batote) | | *244987 (Udhampur), *282258 (Udhampur), *282261 (Udhampur), *232958 (Katra), *245143 (Reasi), *245191, *244988 (Udhampur), *232535 (Katra), *244972 (Udhampur) |
| Maharashtra | 31 | 2209162, 2211428 Kalyan, 2210291, 2210486 Thane, 275370-Boisar, 2315034, 2313046-Lions Club, | | 244819, 2461367, 236475, 240840, 240456-Jalgoan, 2559302 & 2559303, 2779895 & 2779568, 2779676 & 2779677-Nagpur, 233442-Saoner, 223505-Manmad, 2315260, 2312415-Ponda, 220167-Ramnaka, 226167-Alinaka, 224015-Ahmednagar, 224891-Osmanabad, 250608-Omerga, 276220, 276194, 276501-Tal Washi, 267544, 267600, 267652, 267619-D. Tal Kallam |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chhattisgarh | 7 | | | 259256, 259357, 259327, 259204, 259104, 259257-Bilha, 229033-Bilaspur |
| Gujarat | 1 | | | 2551789-Surat |
| Karnataka | 1 | | | 229118-Kolar |
| UP(E) | 22 | | 232422, 232375, 232321, 232785, 232338-Fatehpur, 2720901, 2720918, 2720915, 2209080, 2209085, 2209279-Gorakhpur, 264690, 264727, 264506, 2510108, 2510055, 223089, 223083, 2276486, 2276642, 2228607, 2228926-Mau | |
| Haryana | 3 | | 263312-Karnal, 2822885-Kalpi, 2521475-Ambalia City | |
| Andhra Pradesh | 3 | 27549211, Jubliee Hills | | 23209009-Nampally, 27569962-Nallakunta |
| Punjab | 3 | 2291108, 270074-Jalandhar, 2233522-Pathankot | | |
| UP(W) | 9 | 2611031-Saharanpur | | 2610687, 2704240, 2867093, 2867381, 2750301, 2325543, 2844636, 2704477, 2704488, 2704489-Ghaziabad, 2713324-Mathura |
| Orissa | 8 | | 2465573, 2465583, 2544911, 2592940, 2593935, 2592820, 2592930, 2592947-Bhubneshwar | |
| Kolkatta | 27 | | 28391719, 28691655, 28430182, 28610213, 28360334, 28660329, 28310224-Kolkatta, 28480001, 28480027-Hugali, 28310224, 28603601-Kolkatta | 28321191, 28750316, 28730485, 28321104-Kolkatta, 26443539-Howrah, 28780233, 28482014-Hugali, 28478215-Howrah, 28500054, 28610485, 26330532, 28310379, 28380812, 28300715, 28300730, 28600014, 28300647, 28380579, 28320206-Kolkatta, 28490702, 26428433-Howrah, 28461521-Kanchrapara, 28282675, 28282644 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Chennai | 18 | | 26495059, 2238005, 26533753, 26534371, 28472977, 284712167-Chennai, 26520556-Ayyappkkam, 25323685, 26433751, 24482492, 24482420, 23630009, 25519809-Chennai, 26811290-Avadi, 26257132-Padi | 23745033, 23744783, 23740849, 26171105, 26211290, 28555062, 28555084, 28190657, 28191259, 26711856-Chennai, 26520556-Ayyapkkam |
| Tamil Nadu | 4 | 271190, 271975-Tisyanvilai | 257500-Pennagaram, 222390-Acharapakkam | |
| Madhya Pradesh | 31 | 256302-Guna, 252317-Hoshangabad, 223815, 224342, 224367, 283584, 283583, 240310-Seoni, 272384-Shivpuri | 250734, 253439, 252831-Panna, 235103, 231278-Ratlam, 2654231, 2552441, 2561322, 2563334-Ujjain, 2710283, 2710295, 2710289, 2710777, 2510390, 2710105, 2710081, 2710050, 2710100, 2710285-Bhopal | 222319, 221191-Seoni, 2557583-Ujjain, |

***Annexure II***

*PCO-Local Call Charges*

*BSNL (except Delhi & Mumbai)*

| Type of PCO | Call Charges for one local call (Rs.) |
|---|---|
| Local PCO (other than handicapped) | 1.20 |
| Local PCO handicapped | 1.00 |
| Local CCB PCO | 1.00 |
| STD/ISD PCO | 1.20+service tax |

*MTNL*

*Delhi*

| Type of Local PCO | Call charges for one local call (in Rs. for every 120 sec.) |
|---|---|
| Private PCO with normal telephone set | 2.00 |
| Private Coin Collection Box PCO with normal telephone set | 2.00 |
| Handicapped PCO with normal telephone set | 2.00 |

*Mumbai*

| Type of Local PCO | Call charges for one local call (in Rs. for every 120 sec.) |
|---|---|
| Private PCO with normal telephone set | 1.20 |
| Private Coin Collection Box PCO with normal telephone set | 1.00 |
| Handicapped PCO with normal telephone set | 1.20 |

**12.00 hrs.**

*[Translation]*

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Complaints of booth operators indulging in overcharging at STD booths have been looked into but situation is very much the same in South Gujarat. I believe that overcharges is quite rampant at STD booths in South Gujarat. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the steps the Government propose to take in this regard.

*[English]*

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, we have already stated that the operators do conduct raids. They have conducted 7151 raids last year. They do take action on them. I would also like to mention to the hon. Member that it is not the BSNL alone, which offers these PCOs, but even the private operators also provide PCOs.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[Translation]*

**Promotion of Rural/Agro Based Industries**

*541. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH:
SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV:

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

(a) the steps taken by the Government for promotion of rural/agro based industries;

(b) the details of the rural industries in Agriculture Sector;

(c) the amount allocated by the Government for the export of products by these industries; and

(d) the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The Government through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), for promotion of agro-based rural industries and generation of employment thereby. REGP is a credit-linked subsidy programme under which the credit is provided by the banks and subsidy by the Government, for setting up village industries, including rural agro-based industries. In addition, the KVIC implements other support schemes for promotion of village (including rural/agro-based) industries, *viz.,* Rural Industries Service Centres (RISCs), Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP), Science and Technology Schemes, etc.

Besides, the Government has been implementing the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), in both rural and urban areas for providing self-employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth. This too is a credit-linked subsidy scheme under which an estimated 50 per cent of the units come in the rural areas. The scheme is implemented through the District Industries Centres of the States and Union Territories, with the loans being provided by banks.

The coir industry included in the rural agro-based industries, is also supported by the Government through the statutory body of the Coir Board. The Coir Board implements several schemes and programmes for development of (coir) production infrastructure, supply of equipment and machinery of subsidised rates, Mahila Coir Yojana, training and extension, domestic sale and export promotion of coir and coir products, etc.

(b) The agro-based rural industries mainly include units of mini rice mill, cattle feed, cane gur & khandsari, bakery products, ghani oil, sweets and milk products, atta, masala, cashew processing, fruit & vegetable processing, coir and coir products, etc.

(c) During the first three years of the 10th Plan period (2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05), an amount of Rs. 4.75 crore has been spent by the Coir Board for "export market promotion" for export of coir and coir products. Further in the annual Plan 2005-06, a sum of Rs. 2 crore is available to the Coir Board for this purpose. To encourage the exporting institutions and individual entrepreneurs registered with the KVIC and boost the export of village industry products. KVIC has been implementing "Export Incentive Scheme". A sum of Rs. 86.39 lakh has been spent during the first three years of the 10th Plan period (2002-03 to 2004-05) and an amount of Rs. 50 lakh has been allocated in the annual plan 2005-06 for this purpose.

(d) Allocation of Central Government funds for export of agro-based village industry products is done taking into account their export potential and demands of the foreign market. Hence the allocation of these funds is not State-wise.

*[English]*

**Desalination of Sea-water**

*543. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has carried out any technology demonstration for desalination of sea water and fresh water into fresh potable water to overcome drinking water problems;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the ongoing schemes for desalination of sea water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, an autonomous body of the Department, has developed two laboratory scale desalination plants each having a capacity of 500 and 5000 liter per day, based on Low Temperature Thermal Desalination System (LTTD). The LTTD is a process by which fresh water is produced by flashing warm surface sea water under low vacuum conditions and condensing the vapour using cold deep seawater. Currently, efforts are underway to establish a 1 lakh litre per day capacity plant at Kavaratti, Lakshadweep. It is expected to be completed shortly.

NIOT has also demonstrated LTTD technology for generating fresh water from sea water on a barge mounted desalination plant, 40 km off Tuticorin which has successfully produced 10 lakh litres in a 10 day period and the water quality is found to be excellent. Besides, NIOT is also in the process of designing a 50-lakh litres per day barge desalination plant.

*[Translation]*

**Losses of BSNL/MTNL**

*546. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:

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

(a) whether a confrontation is going on between the BSNL and the MTNL on the issue of the recovery of Access Deficit Charge (ADC);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to compensate the losses being incurred by the BSNL/MTNL each year following the reduction in ADC rates by the TRAI; and

(d) the losses incurred so far by the BSNL and MTNL following the reduction in ADC rates?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) BSNL has raised a demand of Rs. 1840.44 crores against MTNL which includes Interconnection Usage Charges (IUC). MTNL has not agreed to this demand of BSNL. A committee has been constituted by the administrative Ministry of the two public sector undertakings to address the issue.

(c) and (d) On 6th January, 2005, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued a Regulation

revising Access Deficit Charge (ADC) regime effective from 1.2.2005. This was part of annual review as announced by TRAI in its last Interconnection Usage Charge (IUC) Regulation effective from 1.2.2004. The new regime envisages reduction in ADC contribution for national long distance calls to 30 Paise from earlier slabs of 30 P, 50 P and 80 P and for international long distance calls it envisages reduction in ADC to Rs. 2.50 per minute for outgoing calls and Rs. 3.25 for incoming calls as earlier ADC of Rs. 4.25 per minute applicable for both incoming and outgoing calls. Further, on Roaming Facility, ADC has been made applicable.

According to TRAI, the amount of ADC to be provided to BSNL is estimated to be Rs. 4954 crores for BSNL, which is comparable with the previous ADC estimations of Rs. 4792 crores. However, BSNL has stated that it would amount to reduction in amount by Rs. 1254 crores. MTNL had filed a petition in TDSAT against the "Regulation" of TRAI prescribing ADC. Matter is still pending. MTNL has assessed a loss of Rs. 276 crores.

At this stage, the exact impact on ADC cannot be estimated due to multiplicity of factors contributing to traffic growth pattern.

*[English]*

**Land Acquisition for Road Construction**

*547. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:
SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

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

(a) whether land acquisition process is a major hurdle in the acceleration of road construction in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to enact suitable legislation to ease the process of land acquisition in consultation with State Governments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Land acquisition is one of the main causes of delay in execution of the road construction projects. The major problem in the land acquisition during the implementation of Golden Quadrilateral Project was faced in Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Gujarat. The delay are mainly due to delay in nomination of Competent Authority in accordance with the provisions of the National Highways Act, 1956 by the State Governments, not devoting sufficient time by the Competent Authority, frequent transfers of the Competent Authority, delay in valuation of structures and assets, not updation of revenue records causing delay in joint verification, delay in issuance of notification for land acquisition etc.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The National Highways Act, 1956 already exists for acquiring land for the development of National Highways.

**Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan**

*548. SHRI ARJUN SETHI:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meeting of Planning Commission was held recently to discuss the mid-term appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the growth rate in the country has been estimated to be less than the target set during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

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

(e) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to gear up the growth rate in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) A meeting of the full Planning Commission was held under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister on 5th April, 2005 to discuss the mid-term appraisal of Tenth Five Year Plan. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Minister Members, Minister of State for Planning and full time Members of the Planning Commission.

(c) and (d) The targeted growth rate of GDP (at market prices) for the Tenth Five Year Plan is 8.1 per cent. As against this, according to the estimates released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) the growth rate of GDP at market prices (at 1993-94 prices) was 4.1 per cent for 2002-03, 8.6 per cent in 2003-04 and is likely to be 6.9 per cent in 2004-05, giving an overall growth rate of 6.5 per cent in the first three years of the Tenth Plan. The main reason for the shortfall in the first three years has been the low growth rate during the year 2002-03 on account of growth rate of (-) 8.0 per cent in the agriculture sector, due to poor monsoon in that year.

(e) The steps being taken by the Government to achieve the targeted growth rate during the remaining period of the Tenth Five Year Plan are being spelt out in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan, which is currently being finalised.

**Incidence of Cancer**

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the reasons behind high incidence of cancer in any particular region in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware that the incidence of cancer in Thanneermukkam village in Alappuzha district in Kerala is alarmingly high as reported in April 10, 2005 issue of 'The Week' magazine;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the concrete measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to combat the disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) According to the Cancer Atlas brought out by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) based on data collected under the National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP), the incidence of different cancers is not uniform throughout the country. As reported in the "Cancer incidence of 5 countries" published by WHO, cancer incidence in India as a whole is much lower in comparison to the incidence across the world. As per the Cancer Atlas of ICMR, the highest incidence rates have been reported for the cancer of gall bladder among the women in Delhi and the cancer of tongue and mouth among the men in Bhopal. According to the Atlas, Thyroid cancer has been detected in the costal areas of Kerala, Karnataka and Goa. Breast cancer among women is one of the leading cancers in urban areas.

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has conducted special studies in the north east for understanding the role of environmental smoke and cancers of the nasopharynx. The use of soot dried meat was shown to be carcinogenic. More recently, the Council has initiated major studies on understanding the association between use of tobacco and cancers. It has also initiated studies on use of pesticides and cancers. The Council is likely to undertake studies on cancers and diet. In addition, the Council has undertaken studies to understand the role of H. pylori in gastric pathology through undertaking genetic studies. The Council has also mapped the HPV prevalence in various centres in the country in order to study further the etiology of cervical cancer and make available vaccines for its prevention.

From the data available under Cancer Atlas report, Alappuzha district (where Thanneermukkam village is located) like other districts of Kerala has a high proportion of cancer of the Thyroid (Relative Proportion: 9.3% in females and 3.7% in males). The same district also has a high relative proportion of tumors of the Lymphoid and Haemopoetic system particularly Myeloid Leukemia in both males and females and Lymphoid Leukemia and Non Hodgkin's Lymphoma in males. According to the Regional Cancer Centre, Trivandrum, the Department of Community Medicine of Medical College, Alleppy, has examined the media reports regarding a high incidence of cancer in Thanneermukkam village in Alappuzha district in Kerala and found no obvious evidence to substantiate the claim. A systematic population based study will be required to ascertain the risk factors.

Health being a State Subject, it is for various State Governments to ensure that adequate facilities for early detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer are made available. Under the schemes of National Cancer Control Programme, special emphasis is now being laid on early detection of Cancer through screening, promoting health education, creating awareness etc. under District Cancer Control Programme. Further the Central Government is also supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial assistance for setting up of Radiotherapy Units in Government Medical Colleges/ Hospitals for providing treatment facilities.

**WHO Report on Mother and Child Health Care**

*551. SHRI P.K. VASUDEVAN NAIR:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) in its World Health Report 2005 has highlighted poor mother and child health care in India;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the mother and child health care in the country;

(d) whether the World Health Report 2005 puts India in the list of 51 slow progressing countries as far as infant and child mortality and maternal mortality is concerned;

(e) if so, whether the Government has studied the said report;

(f) if so, the Government's reaction thereto; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to bring India in the list of fast progressing nation in child and maternal care?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (g) The World Health Organization have released the World Health Report 2005 in which, among other things, they have highlighted the status of the health of mothers and children in 192 countries of the world. According to this report, India is among the 51 countries which have shown a slow decline in reducing mortality among children under 5 years of age. The report further states that these 51 countries will need to accelerate their efforts over the next ten years for achieving the millennium development goals on infant and maternal mortality rates by the year 2015.

The National Population Policy-2000 and the National Health Policy-2002 the Govt. of India have laid down specific goals for bringing down the infant mortality rate to less than 30 and the maternal mortality rate to less than 100 by the year 2010. These goals are in conformity with the Millennium Development Goals.

For achieving these goals, a Reproductive and Child Health Programme is under implementation in all States and UTs of the countries since 1997. A number of interventions are being implemented for improving the maternal and child health and bringing down mortality rates as part of this programme.

The interventions for improving maternal health are essential obstetric care, emergency obstetric care, referral transport for pregnant women with complication of pregnancy through Panchayat, provision of drugs and equipments at First Referral Units (FRUs), provision of contractual staff like additional Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANMs), staff nurses and hiring of anesthetists. In the second phase of the RCH Programme, provision has been made to accelerate the decline of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity by introducing new interventions like operationalisation of First Referral Units (FRUs), providing 24-hour delivery and new born care services at Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) promoting institutional delivery and training of ANM and LHV to become skill birth attendants.

For reducing child and infant mortality, the interventions include immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases, control of deaths due to diarrhoeal diseases, control of deaths due to Acute Respiratory Infections, eradication of polio, prophylaxis against blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency and essential new born care. As part of the second phase of RCH Programme, the Integrated Management for Newborn and Childhood Illnesses will be implemented in the districts in a phased manner.

Government of India have recently launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in order to improve the availability of and access of quality health care including services for immunization and Safe Motherhood. The mission seeks to provide effective health care to rural population throughout the country with special focus on 18 States, which have weak public health indicators and/or weak infrastructure. These States are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh. The Mission will operate over a period of seven years from 2005 to 2012. Under the NRHM, the services provided under the RCH Programme will be strengthened through:

- Implementation of Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) under which cash incentives are provided to pregnant women belonging to families Below Poverty Line (BPL) if they deliver at a health centre/hospital.

- Appointment of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for every village with a population up to 1000. ASHA will facilitate in accessing health care services to the community and will have specific responsibility of mobilizing pregnant women for antenatal care, institutional delivery and post-natal checks and immunization to children.

- Operationalising 2000 Community Health centres as First Referral Units (FRU) for providing Emergency Obstetric and Child Health services.

- Making 50% Primary Health Centres functional for providing 24-hours delivery services, over the next five years.

- Ensuring quality of services by implementing Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) for Primary Healthcare Facilities.

**Increased Focus on Khadi and Village Industries**

*553. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take initiative to sharpen its focus on the Khadi and Village industries sector to increase rural employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated therefor and the employment opportunities likely to be generated therefrom; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government for promotion of export of Khadi products?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) To increase rural employment opportunities in khadi and village industries (KVI) sector, the Government has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), a credit-linked subsidy programme, through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC). Under this programme, an entrepreneur can establish a village industry by availing of margin money assistance from the KVIC and loans from public sector scheduled commercial banks, selected regional rural banks, co-operative banks, etc., for projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh.

Other schemes being implemented through the KVIC for promotion of khadi and village industries and increasing employment in rural areas include Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate Scheme (ISEC) for providing bank loans to KVI units at subsidised rates of interest, rebate on sale of khadi products, assistance to KVI units in marketing their products, setting up of Confederation for Promotion of Khadi and Village Industries (CPKVI) for strengthening the marketing networks of the KVI products, Rural Industries Service Centres (RISCs) for setting up of common facility centres (CFCs), Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme for improved designs and packaging, etc.

Besides, the Government has been implementing the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY), in both rural and urban areas for providing self-employment opportunities to educated unemployed youth. This too is a credit-linked subsidy scheme under which an estimated 50 per cent of the units come in the rural areas. The scheme is implemented through the District Industries Centres of the States and Union Territories, with the loans being provided by banks.

(c) During 10th Plan period, a Plan outlay of Rs. 1177.60 crore has been indicated for the REGP for generating 25 lakh additional employment opportunities. During the first three years of the 10th Plan (2002-03 to 2004-05), a sum of Rs. 800.62 crore has already been utilized for this and 8.32 lakh employment generated up to 2003-04. The final figures of employment generated during 2004-05 are not yet available. A sum of Rs. 412 crore has been proposed in the budget estimates, 2005-06 for generating 5.5 lakh employment opportunities. Under PMRY, 10th Plan outlay of Rs. 750 crore has been indicated for generating 16.5 lakh additional employment opportunities. During the first three years of the 10th Plan (2002-03 to 2004-05), a sum of Rs. 554.10 crore has already been utilized and 6.93 lakh employment generated up to 2003-04. The final figures of employment generated during 2004-05 are not yet available. A sum of Rs. 218.50 crore has been proposed in the budget estimates 2005-06 for generating 3.75 lakh employment opportunities.

(d) For promotion of export of khadi and village industry products, the KVIC provides cash incentives to the registered exporting institutions and individual entrepreneurs at the rate of 5 per cent of the "free on board" (FOB) value of exported items. In addition, KVIC provides financial assistance to its registered units/

institutions for participation in international exhibitions, study tours and publicity.

*[Translation]*

**Polio Eradication Programme**

*554. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to make the Polio Eradication Programme a success;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of children administered polio drops during the year 2004-05 till date, State-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that number of polio-patients has decreased in the country;

(e) if so, the number of polio cases during the last three years till date, State-wise;

(f) the number of polio projects in the country at present;

(g) the names of the States which have achieved the target of Polio Eradication Programme;

(h) whether it is a fact that drop Phial touches the mouth while administering polio drops to the children;

(i) if so, whether the Government is likely to advise a way to ensure that the drop Phial is used only once; and

(j) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The Government is committed to eradicate polio from the country and make the polio eradication programme a success. Under the programme, national polio rounds in the whole country and sub-national polio rounds in high-risk States/areas are conducted. Mop-up rounds are also conducted in and around the district(s) from which polio cases are reported. The national, sub-national and mop-up rounds conducted/planned in 2004 and 2005 are given below:

| Year | National Rounds | Sub-national rounds | Mop-up rounds |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2004 | 5 | 2<br>States covered<br>Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Uttaranchal, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Assam, West Bengal, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Orissa & Maharashtra | 2 |
| 2005 | 2<br>(April & May) | 6<br>(January, February, June, August, September & November)<br>States covered in Jan. & Feb. rounds<br>Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Delhi, Haryana, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Maharashtra | As needed |

The Government has also taken the following steps to improve the quality of the implementation of immunization rounds in other to ensure that no children are missed:

- Improved involvement of the government officials at all levels of administration upto village level in order to ensure multi-sectoral involvement in the efficient implementation of the immunization rounds.
- Improved micro-planning and training of vaccinators and supervisors.
- Improved social mobilization to improve acceptance of vaccine by all communities.
- Focused implementation in high risk districts/ areas.
- Regular monitoring and supervision of the implementation of the programme at all levels in the Government of India and in State Governments.
- Monovalent oral polio vaccine (mOPV1) has been introduced in the entire State of Bihar and selected high risk districts of Western Uttar Pradesh, Mumbai, Thane and Raigarh areas of Maharashtra during the April 5 Pulse Polio round. This initiative will continue in these areas in the forth-coming May 05 Pulse Polio Immunization round.
- Additional teams are being positioned to cover transiting and Street children.

(c) The details regarding the number of children administered polio drops during 2004-2005 State-wise is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(d) and (e) The number of polio cases has declined in the country. The number of polio cases detected in the country in the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(f) There is only one National Polio Eradication Programme which is implemented by all the State Governments and Union Territories in the country.

(g) 24 States have not reported any polio cases since 2004 and during 2005 till date. The cases reported in 2005 are only from the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Delhi and Uttaranchal.

(h) to (j) Vaccinators are trained to ensure that the vaccine vial or the dropper does not touch the mouth of children while administering the polio drops to them. Each OPV vial is provided with a separate dropper.

***Statement I***

*State-wise No. of children administered polio drops during 2004-2005*

| Sl.No. | State | Jan.04 | Feb-04 | April-04 | May-04 | July-04 | Aug-04 | Oct-04 | Nov.-04 | Jan-05 | Feb.-05 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 1. | A&N Islands | 39,782 | 39,674 | 39,107 | | | | 38,907 | 38,943 | | |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 10,864,734 | 10,936,541 | 10,825,922 | 10,837,503 | | | 10,361,455 | 10,002,666 | | |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 159,785 | 173,780 | 175,168 | | | | 174,295 | 176,009 | | |
| 4. | Assam | 4,458,507 | 4,545,485 | 4,523,371 | 4,507,753 | | | 4,437,964 | 4,542,206 | | |
| 5. | Bihar | 19,788,575 | 19,908,760 | 19,785,711 | 19,746,803, | 19,482,146 | 19,554,503 | 19,612,429 | 19,466,243 | 19,737,000 | 20,235,993 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 122,599 | 127,111 | 122,052 | | | | 121,697 | 121,651 | | |
| 7. | Chhattisgarh | 3,342,406 | 3,355,020 | 3,357,830 | | | | 3,392,013 | 3,429,726 | | |
| 8. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 36,972 | 37,851 | 37,504 | | | | 36,566 | 36,300 | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9. | Daman & Diu | 20,272 | 20,743 | 20,970 | | | | 19,652 | 20,683 | | |
| 10. | Delhi | 2,666,338 | 2,702,352 | 2,674,887 | 2,505,812 | | | 2,505,919 | 2,680,841 | 2,727,318 | 2,733,025 |
| 11. | Goa | 133,875 | 136,265 | 133,108 | | | | 130,739 | 132,129 | | |
| 12. | Gujarat | 7,637,360 | 7,732,804 | 7,715,947 | 7,670,712 | | | 7,715,770 | 7,704,620 | 1,181,223 | 1,191,277 |
| 13. | Haryana | 3,820,890 | 3,873,686 | 3,845,521 | 3,846,147 | | | 3,770,569 | 3,792,093 | 994,389 | 1,005,218 |
| 14. | Himachal Pradesh | 716,780 | 728,645 | 731,878 | | | | 722,436 | 731,855 | | |
| 15. | Jammu & Kashmir | 1,732,502 | 1,761,485 | 1,761,579 | | | | 1,779,946 | 1,800,979 | | |
| 16. | Jharkhand | 5,155,298 | 5,141,904 | 5,120,124 | 5,122,366 | | | 5,180,605 | 5,146,164 | 1,894,066 | 1,810,654 |
| 17. | Karnataka | 7,033,452 | 7,125,796 | 7,231,924 | 7,378,743 | | | 7,139,480 | 7,209,576 | | |
| 18. | Kerala | 2,946,522 | 2,938,490 | 2,902,103 | | | | 2,910,772 | 2,927,555 | | |
| 19. | Lakshadweep | 6,486 | 6,598 | 6,539 | | | | 8,279 | 6,393 | | |
| 20. | Madhya Pradesh | 10,727,989 | 10,850,099 | 10,926,965 | 10,963,469 | | | 10,776,579 | 11,017,759 | | |
| 21. | Maharashtra | 11,381,414 | 11,583,069 | 11,493,097 | | | | 11,222,497 | 11,571,145 | 5,097,578 | 5,055,432 |
| 22. | Manipur | 344,626 | 345,351 | 343,487 | | | | 343,729 | 345,830 | | |
| 23. | Meghalaya | 421,763 | 414,196 | 420,890 | | | | 425,570 | 425,860 | | |
| 24. | Mizoram | 108,968 | 113,588 | 114,921 | | | | 109,165 | 109,543 | | |
| 25. | Nagaland | 260,060 | 258,111 | 260,003 | | | | 258,929 | 261,162 | | |
| 26. | Orissa | 4,638,563 | 4,637,722 | 4,640,170 | | | | 4,569,528 | 4,585,924 | | |
| 27. | Pondicherry | 100,881 | 101,928 | 102,361 | | | | 98,789 | 100,590 | | |
| 28. | Punjab | 3,628,881 | 3,695,549 | 3,652,258 | | | | 3,637,927 | 3,670,330 | | |
| 29. | Rajasthan | 11,344,462 | 11,390,429 | 11,159,751 | 11,296,565 | | | 11,118,831 | 11,329,304 | 1,073,014 | 1,059,929 |
| 30. | Sikkim | 67,520 | 68,785 | 69,001 | | | | 69,541 | 70,108 | | |
| 31. | Tamil Nadu | 7,160,590 | 7,224,413 | 7,296,289 | | | | 7,130,819 | 7,259,270 | | |
| 32. | Tripura | 416,365 | 417,824 | 416,790 | | | | 413,187 | 417,611 | | |
| 33. | Uttar Pradesh | 35,233,371 | 35,753,620 | 35,928,751 | 36,162,133 | 35,701,318 | | 35,221,076 | 36,444,377 | 37,360,426 | 36,527,794 |
| 34. | Uttaranchal | 1,395,859 | 1,416,409 | 1,424,793 | | | | 1,863,605 | 1,449,827 | 939,841 | 949,290 |
| 35. | West Bengal | 9,236,504 | 9,196,681 | 9,159,707 | 9,091,290 | 9,082,845 | | 9,134,111 | 9,275,076 | 7,166,727 | 7,166,657 |
| | Total | 167,150,691 | 168,762,772 | 168,420,477 | 129,129,296 | 64,246,369 | 19,554,503 | 166,361,476 | 168,300,348 | 78,053,582 | 79,737,299 |

***Statement-II***

*Number of Polio Cases Reported-(2002 to 2005)*

(As of 28th April, 2005)

| Sl.No. | Name of the State/UT | Wild Poliovirus | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 0 | 21 | 1 | 0 |
| 2. | A&N Islands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4. | Assam | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 5. | Bihar | 121 | 18 | 41 | 7 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7. | Chhattisgarh | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 8. | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9. | Daman & Diu | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 10. | Delhi | 24 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 11. | Goa | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12. | Gujarat | 24 | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| 13. | Haryana | 37 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
| 14. | Himachal Pradesh | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 15. | Jammu & Kashmir | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 16. | Jharkhand | 12 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| 17. | Karnataka | 0 | 36 | 1 | 0 |
| 18. | Kerala | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 19. | Lakshadweep | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 20. | Madhya Pradesh | 21 | 11 | 0 | 0 |
| 21. | Maharashtra | 6 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| 22. | Manipur | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 23. | Meghalaya | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 24. | Mizoram | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 25. | Nagaland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 26. | Orissa | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| 27. | Pondicherry | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 28. | Punjab | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 29. | Rajasthan | 41 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| 30. | Sikkim | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 31. | Tamil Nadu | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| 32. | Tripura | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 33. | Uttaranchal | 14 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 34. | Uttar Pradesh | 1242 | 88 | 82 | 4 |
| 35. | West Bengal | 49 | 28 | 2 | 0 |
| | Total | 1600 | 225 | 136 | 14 |

**Scheme for Backward Areas**

*555. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme being run by the Government for development of backward areas;

(b) the details of the backward areas developed during the last three years;

(c) whether the said scheme of the Government has failed completely;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana was launched in the Tenth Plan, for the development of backward areas, with three components, namely, (i) Special Plan for Bihar with an annual allocation of Rs. 1000 crore; (ii) Special Plan for the eight districts of the undivided Kalahandi, Bolangir, Koraput (KBK) districts of Orissa with an annual allocation of Rs. 250 crore; and (iii) Backward Districts Initiative covering 147 districts—115 backward districts and 32 extremist affected districts for which Special Central Assistance of Rs. 15 crore per annum is to be provided for three years.

(b) List of 147 districts under the Backward Districts Initiative is enclosed as Statement. The District Plans were approved in phases and funds started flowing from September, 2003. Bulk of the plans were approved in 2004-05.

(c) It is too early to evaluate the success of the scheme.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) In view of reply to part (c) above, no remedial steps are necessary at this stage. However, from the financial year 2005-06, Backward Regions Grant Fund has been established. The Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY), envisaged to end in 2006-07, is to be wound up with a suitable transition arrangement to protect every district now covered under RSVY.

***Statement***

*Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana: Backward Districts Initiative*
*List of Backward Districts*

| Sl.No. | Name of the State | Name of the District |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 1. Adilabad |
| | | 2. Warangal |
| | | 3. Chittor |
| | | 4. Mahbubnagar |
| | | 5. Vizianagaram |
| 2. | Bihar | 1. Vaishali |
| | | 2. Samastipur |
| | | 3. Sheohar |
| | | 4. Jamui |
| | | 5. Nawadah |
| | | 6. Araria |
| | | 7. Darbhanga |
| | | 8. Purnea |
| | | 9. Madhubani |
| | | 10. Supaul |
| | | 11. Muzaffarpur |
| | | 12. Katihar |
| | | 13. Lakhisarai |
| 3. | Chhattisgarh | 1. Bastar |
| | | 2. Dantewada |
| | | 3. Kankar |
| | | 4. Bilaspur |
| 4. | Gujarat | 1. Dangs |
| | | 2. Dohad |
| | | 3. Panchmahals |
| 5. | Haryana | 1. Sirsa |
| 6. | Jharkhand | 1. Lohardagga |
| | | 2. Gumla |
| | | 3. Simdega |
| | | 4. Saraikela |
| | | 5. Singhbhum West |
| | | 6. Goddha |
| 7. | Karnataka | 1. Gulbarga |
| | | 2. Bidar |
| | | 3. Chitradurga |
| | | 4. Davangere |
| 8. | Kerala | 1. Palakkad |
| | | 2. Wynad |
| 9. | Madhya Pradesh | 1. Mandla |
| | | 2. Barwani |
| | | 3. West Nimar |
| | | 4. Seoni |
| | | 5. Shahdol |
| | | 6. Umaria |
| | | 7. Balaghat |
| | | 8. Satna |
| | | 9. Siddhi |
| 10. | Maharashtra | 1. Gadchiroli |
| | | 2. Bhandara |
| | | 3. Gondia |
| | | 4. Chandrapur |
| | | 5. Hingoli |
| | | 6. Nanded |
| | | 7. Dhule |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| | | 8. Nandurbar |
| | | 9. Ahmednagar |
| 11. | Orissa | 1. Keonjhar |
| | | 2. Sundargarh |
| 12. | Punjab | 1. Hoshiarpur |
| 13. | Rajasthan | 1. Banswara |
| | | 2. Dungarpur |
| | | 3. Jhalawar |
| 14. | Tamil Nadu | 1. Tiruvannamalai |
| | | 2. Dindigul |
| | | 3. Cuddalore |
| | | 4. Naggapattinam |
| | | 5. Sivgangai |
| 15. | Uttar Pradesh | 1. Sonbhadra |
| | | 2. Raebareli |
| | | 3. Unnao |
| | | 4. Sitapur |
| | | 5. Hardoi |
| | | 6. Banda |
| | | 7. Chitrakoot |
| | | 8. Fatehpur |
| | | 9. Barabanki |
| | | 10. Mirzapur |
| | | 11. Gorakhpur |
| | | 12. Kushinagar |
| | | 13. Lalitpur |
| | | 14. Jaunpur |
| | | 15. Hamirpur |
| | | 16. Jalaun |
| | | 17. Mahoba |
| | | 18. Kaushambi |
| | | 19. Azamgarh |
| | | 20. Pratapgarh |
| 16. | West Bengal | 1. Purulia |
| | | 2. 24 South Parganas |
| | | 3. Jalpaiguri |
| | | 4. Midnapur West |
| | | 5. South Dinajpur |
| | | 6. Bankura |
| | | 7. North Dinajpur |
| | | 8. Birbhum |
| 17. | Assam | 1. Kokrajhar |
| | | 2. North Lakhimpur |
| | | 3. Karbi Anglong |
| | | 4. Dhemaji |
| | | 5. North Cachar Hills |
| 18. | Arunachal Pradesh | 1. Upper Subansiri |
| 19. | Himachal Pradesh | 1. Chamba |
| | | 2. Sirmaur |
| 20. | Jammu & Kashmir | 1. Doda |
| | | 2. Kupwara |
| | | 3. Poonch |
| 21. | Manipur | 1. Tamenlong |
| 22. | Meghalaya | 1. West Garo Hills |
| 23. | Mizoram | 1. Lawngtlai |
| 24. | Nagaland | 1. Mon |
| 25. | Sikkim | 1. Sikkim |
| 26. | Tripura | 1. Dhalai |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 27. | Uttaranchal | 1. Champavat |
| | | 2. Tehri Garhwal |
| | | 3. Chamoli |
| | Total | 115 |

*Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana: Backward Districts Initiative-List of 32 Extremist Affected Districts*

| Sl.No. | Name of the State | Name of the District |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 1. Karimnagar |
| | | 2. Khammam |
| | | 3. Medak |
| | | 4. Nalgonda |
| | | 5. Nizamabad |
| 2. | Bihar | 1. Arunagabad |
| | | 2. Gaya |
| | | 3. Jehanabad |
| | | 4. Rohtas |
| | | 5. Nalanda |
| | | 6. Patna |
| | | 7. Bhojpur |
| | | 8. Kaimur |
| 3. | Jharkhand | 1. Hazaribagh |
| | | 2. Palamu |
| | | 3. Chatra |
| | | 4. Garhwa |
| | | 5. Ranchi |
| | | 6. Latehar |
| | | 7. Giridih |
| | | 8. Koderma |
| | | 9. Bokaro |
| | | 10. Dhanbad |
| 4. | Madhya Pradesh | 1. Dindori |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 1. Kawardha |
| | | 2. Rajnandgaon |
| | | 3. Sarguja |
| | | 4. Jashpur |
| 6. | Orissa | 1. Ganjam |
| | | 2. Gajapati |
| | | 3. Mayurbhanj |
| 7. | Uttar Pradesh | 1. Chandauli |
| | Total | 32 |
| | Grand Total | 147 |

**Awarding National Highway Projects to Private Sector**

*556. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

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

(a) whether the Government plans to award more National Highway Projects to private sector under phase III of National Highway Development Project;

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

(c) whether the Government has also drawn plan for Phase IV to VII;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action proposed for completion of projects on schedule;

(f) the total length of the roads constructed under the said projects so far in the country, State-wise; and

(g) the budget allocated and spent under the NHDP?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Upgradation of 4000 km of National Highways has

been approved on Build Operate & Transfer basis under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase IIIA, which is scheduled for completion by December 2009.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) It is too early to give the details for Phase IV to VII.

(f) The State-wise details of completed (4 laned) length of National Highways under NHDP Phase I & II are given in the enclosed statement.

(g) The expenditure on the NHDP is met from cess/ market borrowings, external assistance and private sector participation. Till 31.3.2005, an amount of Rs. 26,187 crores has been spent.

***Statement***

*State-wise details of completed (4 laned) of National Highways under NHDP Phase I & II*

| Sl.No. | State | Golden Quadrila-teral | North-South Corridor | East-West Corridor | Port Connecti-vity | Other Projects | Total length |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 942.73 | 39.00 | | | 83.00 | 1064.73 |
| 2. | Assam | | | 19.00 | | | 19.00 |
| 3. | Bihar | 104.50 | | | | | 104.50 |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | | | | | 18.00 | 18.00 |
| 5. | Delhi | 25.00 | | | | | 25.00 |
| 6. | Goa | | | | 13.00 | | 13.00 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 455.59 | | 96.00 | 56.00 | | 607.59 |
| 8. | Haryana | 152.00 | 131.00 | | | | 283.00 |
| 9. | Jharkhand | 109.30 | | | | | 109.30 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 422.62 | 7.00 | | | | 429.62 |
| 11. | Kerala | | 33.60 | | | | 33.60 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | | 24.00 | | | | 24.00 |
| 13. | Maharashtra | 456.53 | 35.00 | | | 17.40 | 508.93 |
| 14. | Orissa | 234.79 | | | | | 234.79 |
| 15. | Punjab | | 197.00 | | | | 197.00 |
| 16. | Rajasthan | 721.48 | 20.00 | | | | 741.48 |
| 17. | Tamil Nadu | 322.04 | 34.00 | | | 112.00 | 468.04 |
| 18. | Uttar Pradesh | 380.00 | 23.00 | 25.00 | | 57.00 | 485.00 |
| 19. | West Bengal | 369.70 | | 23.00 | | | 392.70 |
| | Total | 4696.28 | 543.60 | 163.00 | 69.00 | 287.40 | 5759.28 |

*[English]*

**UN Target on Maternal Mortality Rate**

*557. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the United Nations has fixed any target for reducing maternal mortality rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Union Government and the time frame, if any, to achieve this target;

(d) the schemes under consideration and implementation by the Government to bring down the death rate of women and new born; and

(e) the schemes under implementation during the Tenth Plan for the undernourished women and children belonging to the poorer section of the society?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) India is signatory to the United Nations Millennium Declaration which was adopted by the Member States of the United Nations in September, 2000. The Millennium Declaration outlines 8 specific goals to be achieved by the year 2015 by the member countries. Among these goals, reduction of material mortality to 100 by the year 2015 is one of the MDG to which India is committed.

The National Population Policy—2000 and the National Health Policy—2002, the Govt. of India have laid down specific goals for bringing down the infant mortality rate to less than 30 and the maternal mortality rate to less than 100 by the year 2010. These goals are in conformity with the millennium development goals.

For achieving these goals, a Reproductive and Child Health Programme is under implementation in all States and UTs of the countries since 1997. A number of interventions are being implemented for improving the maternal and child health and bringing down mortality rates as part of this programme.

The interventions for improving maternal health are essential obstetric care, emergency obstetric care, referral transport for pregnant women with complication of pregnancy through Panchayat, provision of drugs and equipments at First Referral Units (FRUs), provision of contractual staff like additional Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANMs), staff nurses and hiring of anesthetists. In the second phase of the RCH Programme, provision has been made to accelerate the decline of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity by introducing new interventions like operationalisation of First Referral Units (FRUs), providing 24-hour delivery and new born care services at Community Health Centres (CHCs) and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) promoting institutional delivery and training of ANM and LHV to become skill birth attendants.

For reducing child and infant mortality, the interventions include immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases, control of deaths due to diarrhoeal diseases, control of deaths due to Acute Respiratory Infections, eradication of polio, prophylaxis against blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency and essential new born care. As part of the second phase of RCH Programme, the integrated management for newborn and childhood illnesses will be implemented in the districts in a phase manner.

Government of India have recently launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in order to improve the availability of and access to quality health care including services for Immunization and Safe Motherhood. The mission seeks to provide effective health care to rural population throughout the country with special focus on 18 States, which have weak public health indicators and/or weak infrastructure. These States are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh. The Mission will operate over a period of seven years from 2005 to 2012. Under the NRHM, the services provided under the RCH Programme will be strengthened through:

- Implementation of Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) under which cash incentives are provided to pregnant women belonging to families Below Poverty Line (BPL) if they deliver at a health centre/hospital.
- Appointment of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for every village with a population up to 1000. ASHA will facilitate in accessing health care services to the community and will have

specific responsibility of mobilizing pregnant women for antenatal care, institutional delivery and post-natal checks and immunization to children.

- Operationalising 2000 Community Health Centres as First Referral Units (FRU) for providing Emergency Obstetric and Child Health Services.
- Making 50% Primary Health Centres functional for providing 24-hours delivery services, over the next five years.
- Ensuring quality of services by implementing Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) for Primary Healthcare Facilities.

Government of India adopted National Nutritional Policy in the year 1993 to combat wide spread nutritional problems especially among vulnerable segments of the population such as women of reproductive age, pre school children, pregnant and lactating women and adolescent girls. In order to improve the diet and Nutritional status of different group of population, several direct programmes such as ICDS, special nutrition programme, mid day meal, etc. Other direct programme such as Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojna (PMRY), Targeted Public Distribution System (PDS), Rural Employment Generation Programme etc. are being implemented through the country. In addition to these massive dose of Vit. A distribution, IFA tablets supplementation, and salt iodization programme are being implemented to improve the micronutrient status of the community.

**Guidelines for Sterilisation Programmes**

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

(a) whether Supreme Court has observed in a recent order that there is no uniformity in procedures and norms for ensuring the regulation of the guidelines framed by the Centre for sterilization programmes;

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

(c) whether the court has directed all States and Union Territories to permit only doctors with five years gynaecological experience to conduct sterilization programmes;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether the Union Government has prescribed any standard format and binding norms for payment of compensation in the event of death of a sterilized patient or incapacitation of a patient due to post-operative complications; and

(f) if so, the details thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) The Supreme Court has observed in their order dated 1st March, 2005 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 209/2003 filed by Ramakant Rai & another, that there is no uniformity with regard to the procedures or the norms followed by different States while following the guidelines laid down by the Union of India on sterilization programme.

(b) Some States such as Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh are paying higher compensation than the other States in the event of death of a person sterilized or incapacitated due to postoperative complications. Some States such as Uttar Pradesh has modified the prescribed consent form to be signed by the client before the sterilization procedure starts. The Court has directed that the above modifications may be followed till they are revised by Government of India.

(c) and (d) The Court has directed that until Union of India lays down uniform qualifications for doctors entitled to carry out sterilization procedure, doctors with five years of gynaecological experience should be permitted to carry out sterilization procedure. The Union of India had already laid down the qualifications for doctors who can perform sterilization procedures and hence no fresh guidelines need to be laid down for this purpose. However, as instructed by the Supreme Court, all the States have been requested to empanel the doctors who can perform sterilization as per the Guidelines.

(e) and (f) The Union Government has already laid down the following norms for payment of ex-gratia compensation:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | death resulting from sterilization procedure | Rs. 50,000 |
| 2. | for incapacitation resulting from sterilization | Rs. 30,000 |
| 3. | for treatment of postoperative complications resulting from sterilization procedure | Actual cost of treatment not exceeding Rs. 20,000 |

States are free to pay any amount beyond the above prescribed limits from their own resources.

*[Translation]*

**Forecasting of Cyclone**

*559. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has devised any mechanism for forecasting cyclone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time period for advance forecasting of cyclone under the present set up; and

(d) the measures taken to make the forecast accurate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The India Meteorological Department (IMD) follows a four stage warning system for issuing warnings for tropical cyclones. A 'Pre-cyclone Watch' is issued whenever depression forms over the Bay of Bengal or Arabian Sea. This is followed by a "Cyclone Alert" issued 2-3 days in advance of commencement of bad weather along the coast. In the third stage, cyclone warnings are issued 1-2 days in advance, which specifies the expected place and time of landfall of the tropical cyclone. The final stage is known as "Post-landfall Outlook", which is issued 12 hours in advance of landfall and contains location specific forecast of landfall along with other warning details.

(d) Yes, Sir. Accuracy of cyclone forecast issued by IMD is generally on par with the accuracy of such forecasts issued by the tropical cyclone forecast services of other developed countries like USA, Japan and Australia etc. However, with the development of new observing systems such as buoys, Doppler Radars and new generation satellites, these forecasts are likely to improve further.

Four Doppler Weather Radars (DWRs) have started functioning along the east coast at Kolkata, Machilipatnam, Chennai and Sriharikota. The existing cyclone warning radar at Visakhapatnam will be replaced by DWR by the middle of this year. DWR has capability of providing accurate wind structure of tropical cyclone.

A dedicated geostationary meteorological satellite (now named Kalpana-I) was launched in September, 2002 and is providing high resolution cloud imageries in the visible, infra-red (IR) and water vapour channels. Similarly the INSAT-3A which was launched in April 2003, provides satellite imageries of 1 Km resolution. INSAT-3D is likely to be launched in 2006, which will have improved capabilities.

*[English]*

**Development of Ports**

*560. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India Trade and Investment Forum 2005 organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has urged the Government to take steps to improve the condition of ports;

(b) if so, the main points discussed and the decision taken;

(c) whether the Government has urged the CII to take the lead in analyzing the problems of the shipping industry and undertake objective lobbying for the development of ports;

(d) if so, the total requirement for road connectivity over the next few years and the budgetary allocation made for this purpose; and

(e) the extent to which private sector has come forward to develop the ports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The India Trade and Investment Forum 2005 was organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Commonwealth Business Council on 9-11 March 2005 in Delhi. During the Session on 'Transportation and Logistics' which also covered the Port Sector and included amongst its panelists, senior officials from the Government, the following main points were presented by the industry for consideration of the Government:

- While various incentives have been provided to the private sector, there are issues that need addressing—the main issue about the viability of the projects that the Government puts out for bidding.
- There are other issues of toll collection from Government agencies, land acquisition, project approval, etc. which the Government should sort out before they put up the projects for tendering.
- Industry appreciated the policy for infrastructure development is in place—but the bottleneck lies in the implementation of the policy.

Representative industry organizations including that of shipping industry articulate their problems before the Government with a view to exploring and arriving at solutions which are consistent with the interests of trade and the common objective of overall economic development of the country, as part of an interactive process between the Government and various sections of industry.

(d) The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has been mandated to provide connectivity to all major ports in the country in National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase-I. The Government has approved a proposal for connecting 10 major ports in the country covering a total length of 393 kms. at a total cost of Rs. 1824 crores, as part of NHDP Phase-I. The major ports of Mumbai, Jawaharlal Nehru Port, Mormugao, New Mangalore, Cochin, Tuticorin, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Paradip, Kolkata including Haldia Dock Complex are included. However, subsequently the Mumbai Port Trust in association with the State Government has initiated the process for providing improved road connectivity to the Mumbai Port at an estimated cost of Rs. 170 crores out of which the share of the Port Trust is Rs. 50 crores. In Kolkata, it has not been possible to undertake the project because in the original alignment, land was passing through defence areas which was not made available. In so far as Kandla Port is concerned, the road connectivity project has been completed in 2002.

(e) The private sector has shown keen interest in participating in projects for development of ports in the country. So far 19 projects involving private sector investment to the tune of Rs. 6445 crores in major ports have been approved by the Government. Out of these, 13 projects have already been operationalised. Responsibility for development of ports other than major ports vests in the respective State Governments.

*[English]*

**ORBIS Hospital**

5782. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that eye operation took place on an aircraft under the sponsorship of Flying Eye hospital named ORBIS recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the aims and objective of the ORBIS;

(d) the agency that sponsors the ORBIS;

(e) whether the ORBIS hospital has already travelled to 80 countries so far;

(f) whether any doctor from India is also associated with the ORBIS; 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.

In the month of February 2005, over 80 surgeries were conducted within the aircraft of ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital, at the host hospital premises and as part of the off-plane outreach programmes at Sri Sankardeva Nethralaya, Guwahati and J.P.M. Rotary Eye Hospital, Cuttack.

In the month of March, 2005, over 95 surgeries were conducted within the aircraft of ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital, at the host hospitals premises and as part of the off-

plane outreach programmes at Drashti Nethralaya, Dahod and Sadguru Nethra Chikitsalaya, Chitrakoot.

(c) ORBIS is working towards its mission of preventing avoidable blindness by making available world-class skills and technology to nations where the need is perceived, through interventions that focus on building capacity of eye care institutes by way of on ground programmes, telemedicine, technical volunteer support and networking.

(d) The ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital programmes are supported by several corporations, foundations & trusts and individuals from across the world. Primary among the corporate sponsors and organizations which have come together with ORBIS to form an "Alliance for Sight", these being—FedEx Express, Alcon Laboratories, Ronald McDonald House Charities, Honeywell, United Airlines and Standard Chartered Bank.

(e) Yes, Sir. Since 1982, the ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital has flown to over 80 countries.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir, ORBIS gets Voluntary service from Dr. P. Vijayalakshmi from Arvind Eye Hospital, Madurai; Dr. Anil Mandal and Dr. Virender Sangwan from L.V. Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad and Dr. Pradeep Sharma of R.P. Centre of Ophthalmic Sciences, AIIMS, Delhi and Dr. Kuldeep Srivastava from Sadguru Nethra Chikitsalaya, Chitrakoot.

**Poor Condition of Lady Hardinge Medical College**

5783. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the condition of Lady Harding Medical College (LHMC) is very poor and not satisfactory;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount of funds allotted by the Union Government to renovate and modernize the said medical College; and

(d) the time by when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi was set up in the year 1916 with a humble beginning of just 15 students and over the years has matured as a pioneer institute for medial education. However, some of its buildings have become old. Keeping in view the needs of changing times, a Comprehensive Redevelopment Plan has been prepared for the overall facelift and improvement of the Lady Hardinge Medical College and Associated Hospitals. First phase of this Plan, which inter alia aims at establishing Advanced Paediatric Centre, Advanced Gynae. and Obst. Centre, Radiotherapy Department etc. in this complex, is proposed to be taken up in the 10th Fvie Year Plan Period. Plan allocation of Rs. 200.00 crores for LHMC and Smt. S.K. Hospital, New Delhi and Rs. 140.00 crores for Kalawati Saran Children's Hospital, has been provided for X Five Year Plan period for their respective ongoing activities, new proposals etc. An EFC Memo, containing the proposals for the first phase of Comprehensive Redevelopment Plan of these institutions has been prepared and circulated to appraising agencies for comments.

**Financial Assistance for Health Projects**

5784. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recently received any proposal for the financial assistance to various health projects/schemes and modernisation of hospitals in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the proposal is likely to be cleared; and

(d) the funds released to the State Government for this purpose during the last three years till date?

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]*

**FTA with various Countries**

5785. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to sign a Free Trade Agreement with various countries particularly China and Singapore;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time-frame fixed for the agreements to be signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Report of the India-China Joint Study Group on Comprehensive Trade & Economic Cooperation has recommended an India-China Regional Trading Arrangement comprising of trade in goods and services, investments, identified understandings for trade and investment promotion and facilitation, and measures for promotion of economic cooperation in identified sectors. In the Joint Statement signed on April 11, 2005, by the Prime Minister and the Chinese premier during the latter's visit to India, it was agreed to appoint a Joint Task Force to study in detail the feasibility of, and the benefits that may derive from the India-China Regional Trading Arrangement and give recommendations regarding its content.

The Government proposes to sign a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with Singapore including a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) which would, *inter-alia*, include Trade in Goods, Services and Investment. A Joint Study Group (JSG), set up to study the benefits of India-Singapore CECA, in its report submitted to two Prime Ministers on 8th April 2003, recommended the conclusion of CECA negotiations and signing the relevant agreements within 12-18 months of the submission of the JSG report. As the negotiations could not be concluded in the above time frame, it has not been possible to sign agreement.

The details of negotiations for signing of Free Trade Agreements with various countries which are pending at various stages are given below:

(i) Two rounds of talks on a Bilateral Free Trade Agreement have been held with Bangladesh in October 2003 and March 2004. Bangladesh has conveyed that they would be interested in a bilateral FTA provided it goes beyond South Asia Free Trade Area (SAFTA) and the issue of Non Tariff Barriers is addressed. India has requested for dates for the next round of talks; Bangladesh is yet to respond.

(ii) India and the Member States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait) have entered into a framework agreement on economic cooperation on 25th August, 2004. Article 2 of this states "The Contracting parties shall consider ways and means for expanding and liberalizing their trade relations including initiating discussions on the feasibility of a Free Trade Area between them, taking into account their international obligations and principles of the WTO".

(iii) India and Chile have signed a Framework Agreement to promote Economic Cooperation on 20.1.2005 at New Delhi. It envisages concluding a limited scope Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) by 2005, and to set-up a Joint Study Group (JSG) that shall study among others moving towards a Free Trade Agreement (FTA)/ Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) if such an arrangement is found to be feasible.

(iv) As far as Southern African countries are concerned, talks on Preferential Trade Agreements/Free Trade Agreements (PTA/FTA) are taking place with Southern African Customs' Union (SACU) of which South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho etc. are Members. India also intends to negotiate a PTA with Mauritius.

**Separate Organisation to Facilitate Haj Travel**

5786. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD:
SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish a separate organisation to provide permanent solution for the transportation and other arrangement of the Haj Pilgrims;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any study on the model of "Tabung Haji" organisation of Malaysia;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the better management of Haj pilgrimage to make it more comfortable and affordable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) Various proposals including Malaysian model of 'Tabung Haji' have been suggested. These will have to be examined in detail. The Government and the Haj Committee of India continuously strive for the better management of Haj pilgrimage to make it more comfortable and affordable. For this purpose, after every Haj, a composite high-level delegation comprising officers from the Ministries of External Affairs and Civil Aviation, Air India, Chairman and members of Haj Committee of India visit Saudi Arabia to review the arrangements made for the pilgrims in the previous Haj. The shortcomings identified in the arrangements in the previous Haj, if any, are examined, in consultation with the Saudi authorities/ agencies to bring about further improvements in the next Haj.

The Ministry has also started registration of Private Tour Operators (PTOs) from Haj 2003 onwards to regulate their activities with a view to ensuring the welfare of pilgrims going for Haj through them and also as per the terms of agreement signed with Government of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

**STD Facility in Taluka Headquarters**

5787. SHRI ILYAS AZMI:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) the number of Taluka or Tehsil Headquarters having telephone exchanges with STD facility in Uttar Pradesh as on date;

(b) the number of Talukas in the State where this facility is not available as yet;

(c) the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the STD facility is likely to be made available in these Taluka Headquarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Total number of Tehsil Headquarters in Uttar Pradesh is 291 and all the 291 Tehsil Headquarters are having telephone exchanges with STD facility as on date.

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

**Completion of Eight Lane Delhi-Sonepat Highway**

5788. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target date for completion of eight lane Delhi-Sonepat Highway project on National Highway No. 1;

(b) the reasons for slow pace of work; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by the Government to resume the widening work from Transport Nagar to Sindhu Border on National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) There are two different reaches on this portion. One is from Km. 8.2 to Km. 16.2 and second is from Km. 16.5 to Km. 29.3 on NH-1. Target date for completion of first reach i.e. Km. 8.2 to Km. 16.2 is December 2006. As regards stretch from Km. 16.5 to Km. 29.3, the contract was terminated due to breach of contract by the contractor. The tender for the balance work for this reach is being called shortly and the work is likely to be re-awarded in August 2005 which is expected to be completed by December 2006.

(b) Slow progress is on account of delay in shifting of utilities in reach from Km. 8.2 to 16.2 and termination of contract in reach from Km. 16.5 to Km. 29.3.

(c) Re-tendering of work on Mukarba Chowk—Singhu border section is under process.

**Indians Killed in Bomb Blasts in Lebanon**

5789. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a few Indians have died in the bomb blasts which took place in Lebanon recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government is holding talks with the Government of Lebanon regarding bringing the remains of those people to India;

(d) if so, the time by when the remains of these Indians will be brought to India;

(e) whether the Union Government proposes to request for compensation to be paid to the next of kin of those deceased Indians form the Lebanese Government; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the details of number of Indians who died?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Three Indian nationals, viz. S/Shri Narender Singh S/o Shangara Singh, Surjit Singh S/o Tarsem Singh and Sukhwinder Singh S/o Mela Singh were killed in a bomb blast in Jounieh on the outskirts of Beirut on 23.3.2005.

(c) and (d) After performing the last rites in Beirut on 9.4.2005, the remains of the three Indians have been sent to India on 20.4.2005 in coordination with the families of the deceased.

(e) and (f) Mission has taken up the issue of compensation with the Lebanese authorities. However, it is understood that there is no provision for such compensation by the local Government. All the three Indians killed belonged to the State of Punjab.

**Express Highway in Rajasthan**

5790. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of construction work under progress in Rajasthan under East-West Express Highway;

(b) the details of works like six lane roads, four lane roads, by-pass, bridges, rail over bridges and other facilities, going on under the said construction works;

(c) the amount proposed to be spent by the Government on the said roads in Rajasthan;

(d) the item-wise details thereof; and

(e) the time-frame of completion of said express highway in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (e) The four-laning work on Chittorgarh-Udaipur section of East-West Corridor of length 106 km (which is common to Golden Quadrilateral) in Rajasthan stands completed. The balance length of 526 km of the East West Corridor in Rajasthan are to be developed as 4-lane at an estimated cost of Rs. 3820 crores. The proposed works include 4-laning of Highways, construction of Major Bypasses such as Chittorgarh bypass, Kota Bypass and Major Bridges such as bridge on Chambal River etc. The projects are likely to be awarded during the current financial year and the work is targeted to be completed substantially by December, 2007.

*[English]*

**Construction of CGHS Dispensary**

5791. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1192 dated 8.12.2004 regarding construction of CGHS Dispensaries and state:

(a) the reasons for delay in the construction work of CGHS dispensary at Shalimar Bagh despite Administrative Approval and expenditure sanctioned to the CPWD; and

(b) the time by when the construction work of the said Dispensary is likely to be initiated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The construction work of CGHS dispensary at Shalimar Bagh is pending for want of No objection certificate (NOC) from the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to the architectural building plans. The matter is being actively pursued with MCD who have desired certain additional documentation. The construction work will be initiated within six months after the building plans approved by the MCD are given to the CPWD.

**Cadaver Bone Bank at AIIMS**

5792. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi has established the country's first Cavader Bone Bank;

(b) if so, the details of the usefulness of the Cadaver Bone Bank;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to provide such facilities at the other AIIMS level hospitals in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes Sir. All India Institute of Medical Sciences has established country's first Cadaver Bone Bank.

(b) The Cadaver Bone Bank at AIIMS is able to provide a long segment of bone which can be used to bridge the identical large gap in the patients' bone. This situation often arises is cases where the total hip replacement has failed or a long segment of patients' own bone has to be sacrificed due to cancer or any disease. This kind of bone cannot be donated by any living person nor it can be synthesized artifically. Therefore, this kind of facility cannot be substituted by any other method.

(c) and (d) Formalin preserved bone bank is functional in the Orthopaedics Department, PGIMER, Chandigarh for the last 15 years on small scale basis.

**Population Control Programmes**

5793. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the economic development of the country is not in proportion to the growth of population in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to effectively implement the Population Control Programme and make them more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) It is admitted that increasing population does impact economic development of the country and is a challenge before the country.

(b) Government has taken various steps to effectively implement the population stabilization programmes. These include adoption of National Population Policy (NPP) 2000, constitution of the National Commission on Population, establishment of the Janasankha Sthirata Kosh and constitution of an Empowered Action Group (EAG) for focused attention on demographically weaker States.

The Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme launched by Government in 1997 for provision of reproductive, maternal, child health and contraceptive services to the people has reached in its 2nd Phase with more comprehensive and integrated approach.

The Government has recently launched the National Rural Health Mission to provide comprehensive integrated primary healthcare services throughout the country with special emphasis on 18 States *i.e.* Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Meghalaya, Tripura, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal, U.P., Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

*[Translation]*

**Maternity and Child Health Care Scheme**

5794. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes and programme being implemented under 'Maternity and Child Health Care Scheme' under the Welfare Schemes of the Government;

(b) the State-wise details of the financial contribution of State Governments in this regard;

(c) the names of the agencies implementing the programmes under 'Maternity and Child Health Scheme' and the criteria fixed for giving them financial assistance;

(d) the names of programmes implemented under this scheme particularly in Rajasthan during the last three years and the amount of financial assistance provided in the form of loan, grant or any other form of assistance, State-wise; and

(e) the year-wise, scheme-wise and agency-wise details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Govt. is implementing the Reproductive and Child Health Programme in all States/ Union Territories since 1997 with the objective of improving the health status of mothers and children and bringing down infant, child and maternal mortality and morbidity. Under this programme, various interventions/ schemes are being implemented. For the mothers, these are essential obstetric care; Emergency Obstetric Care;

provision for referral transport for pregnant women with complication of pregnancy through Panchayats; provision of drugs and equipment at first referral units; provision of contractual staff like Additional Health Workers, Staff Nurses, Laboratory Technicians and hiring of Anesthetists from private sector for provision of emergency obstetric care. Funds are also being provided for schemes like 24 hours delivery services at selected Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres, training of dais and organizing Reproductive and Child Health camps in remote and under utilised Primary Health Centres. Pregnant women below poverty line are also being provided with cash assistance for improving their nutrition.

For reducing child and infant mortality, the interventions include immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases, control of deaths due to diarrhoeal diseases, control of deaths due to Acute Respiratory Infections, eradication of polio, prophylaxis against blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency and essential new born care. As part of the Second phase of RCH Programme, the Integrated Management for Newborn and Childhood Illnesses will be implemented in the districts in a phased manner.

(b) Grants under the RCH Programme are 100% funded by the Central Govt. and there is no contribution from the State Govt.

(c) The State-wise list of implementing agencies for RCH Programme is enclosed as Statement-I. The grants are released to these agencies on the basis of their requirement, past utilization of funds and eligibility prescribed for various activities under the RCH Programme.

(d) and (e) Maternal and Child Health schemes are an integral component of the RCH Programme. The detail of year-wise and scheme-wise release of grants under RCH Programme is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

***Statement I***

*State-wise list of implementing agencies for RCH Programme*

| Sl.No. | State | Agency |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | A&N Islands | Health & Family Welfare Society, A&N Islands, Port Blair |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | State Health & Family Welfare Society, Hyderabad |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | State Health & Family Welfare Society for Voluntary Actions, Itanagar |
| 4. | Assam | State Health & Family Welfare Society for Voluntary Sector, Dispur |
| 5. | Bihar | Health & Family Welfare Society for Voluntary Sector, Patna |
| 6. | D&N Haveli | State Health & Family Welfare Society for Voluntary Sector of UT of Dadar Nagar Haveli, Silvassa. |
| 7. | Daman & Diu | State Health & Family Welfare Society for Voluntary Sector, Daman. |
| 8. | Delhi | Standing Committee on Voluntary Action (SCOVA), Delhi. |
| 9. | Goa | State Health & Family Welfare Society for Voluntary Sector, Panji. |
| 10. | Gujarat | Standing Committee on Voluntary Action (SCOVA), Gandhinagar |
| 11. | Haryana | State RCH Project Society (State Committee on Voluntary Actions), Chandigarh. |
| 12. | Himachal Pradesh | H.P. Reproductive and Child Health Society, Shimla |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 13. | Jammu & Kashmir | Standing Committee on Voluntary Action (SCOVA), Srinagar. |
| 14. | Kerala | Society for Improvement of Reproductive and Child Health, Thiruvananthapuram. |
| 15. | Karnataka | State Family Welfare Bureau, Directorate of Health & FW Services, Bangalore. |
| 16. | Lakshadweep | Standing Committee on Voluntary Action (SCOVA), Lakshadweep |
| 17. | Madhya Pradesh | Reproductive and Child Health Society, Bhopal. |
| 18. | Maharashtra | State Society for Reproductive and Child Health Programme, Pune. |
| 19. | Manipur | Manipur State Health & Family Welfare Society for Voluntary Sector, Imphal. |
| 20. | Meghalaya | Standing Committee on Voluntary Action (SCOVA), Dte. of Health Services, Shillong. |
| 21. | Mizoram | State Health & Family Welfare Society for Voluntary Sector, Aizwal. |
| 22. | Nagaland | State Health & Family Welfare Society for Voluntary Sector, Kohima. |
| 23. | Orissa | Orissa State Health & Family Welfare Society for Voluntary Sector, Bhubneswar. |
| 24. | Pondicherry | Pondicherry State Health & Family Welfare Society for Voluntary Sector, Pondicherry. |
| 25. | Punjab | State RCH Project Society, Punjab, Chandigarh. |
| 26. | Rajasthan | State Health & Family Welfare Society for Voluntary Sector, Jaipur. |
| 27. | Sikkim | State Health & Family Welfare Society for Voluntary Sector, Gangtok, Sikkim. |
| 28. | Tamil Nadu | Directorate of Reproductive and Child Health Project, Chennai. |
| 29. | Tripura | State Health & Family Welfare Society, Agartala. |
| 30. | Uttar Pradesh | Empowered Committee for RCH, Lucknow. |
| 31. | West Bengal | State Health & Family Welfare Society for Voluntary Sector, Calcutta. |
| 32. | Chandigarh | RCH Project Society SCOVA, UT of Chandigarh. |
| 33. | Uttaranchal | Empowered Committee for National Programmes of Medical Health and Family Welfare, Uttaranchal, Dehradun. |
| 34. | Chhattisgarh | Reproductive and Child Health Society of Chhattisgarh, Raipur. |
| 35. | Jharkhand | Jharkhand State Health & Family Welfare Society, Ranchi. |

***Statement II***

*RCH Programme—Status of Funds Released (Cash)*

| Sl.No. | Name of the State/UT | 2002-03 Release | 2003-04 Release | 2004-05 Release |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 1590.69 | 3343.71 | 2708.91 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 269.20 | 145.26 | 262.04 |
| 3. | Assam | 745.28 | 1462.95 | 2089.12 |
| 4. | Bihar | 3834.74 | 3731.31 | 2242.99 |
| 5. | Jharkhand | 723.73 | 1003.11 | 1011.69 |
| 6. | Goa | 15.47 | 16.67 | 10.91 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 1399.12 | 1742.49 | 8347.59 |
| 8. | Haryana | 1007.50 | 2177.80 | 1758.24 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 411.41 | 665.90 | 440.16 |
| 10. | Jammu & Kashmir | 426.53 | 206.20 | 168.92 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 2873.22 | 827.02 | 770.01 |
| 12. | Kerala | 711.76 | 891.95 | 522.04 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 1582.10 | 2517.87 | 3653.48 |
| 14. | Chhattisgarh | 1190.93 | 1305.46 | 1007.88 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 1528.13 | 3472.98 | 2665.77 |
| 16. | Manipur | 402.44 | 434.24 | 159.49 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 70.80 | 78.79 | 0.20 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 728.08 | 335.18 | 465.75 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 173.62 | 253.43 | 762.05 |
| 20. | Orissa | 690.55 | 954.70 | 1076.13 |
| 21. | Punjab | 275.45 | 376.52 | 415.48 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 1610.99 | 4119.19 | 2283.60 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 91.10 | 15.10 | 306.81 |
| 24. | Tamilnadu | 1688.91 | 1220.86 | 1150.77 |
| 25. | Tripura | 154.22 | 78.61 | 4.79 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh | 9039.12 | 12525.56 | 8778.12 |
| 27. | Uttaranchal | 424.61 | 703.83 | 217.46 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 1640.14 | 3278.19 | 2299.88 |
| 29. | A&N Islands | 13.53 | 26.43 | 17.75 |
| 30. | Chandigarh | 17.86 | 19.11 | 14.31 |
| 31. | D&N Haveli | 6.18 | 9.66 | 3.70 |
| 32. | Daman & Diu | 25.41 | 7.31 | 12.33 |
| 33. | Delhi | 354.06 | 770.61 | 790.72 |
| 34. | Lakshadweep | 14.16 | 10.24 | 5.76 |
| 35. | Pondicherry | 25.85 | 25.78 | 77.33 |
| | Total | 35756.89 | 48754.01 | 46502.18 |

Figures provisional.

*RCH Programme—Status of Funds Released*

ALL INDIA

| Sl.No. | Activities | Releases | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | RCH Drugs | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 2. | Absorbent Cotton | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 3. | Minor Civil Work | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 4. | Major Civil Work | 5253.72 | 2317.38 | 1926.98 |
| 5. | ANMs | 3761.80 | 2108.03 | 1995.71 |
| 6. | PHNs | 1302.30 | 641.98 | 426.83 |
| 7. | Lab. Technician | 316.15 | 208.63 | 90.97 |
| 8. | SCOVA Staff | 56.64 | 76.95 | 109.83 |
| 9. | S.M. Consultants | 195.35 | 22.50 | 16.37 |
| 10. | Anaestetits | 5.00 | 0.50 | 8.34 |
| 11. | Tpt. Charges Drugs | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12. | 24 hrs Delivery | 134.26 | 89.59 | 68.55 |
| 13. | Referral Transport | 230.20 | 0.00 | 1.94 |
| 14. | C.C. Maint./Inj. Safety | 259.15 | 139.16 | 142.35 |
| 15. | Computer & Fur. | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 16. | Pethdine Injection | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 17. | RTI/STI Consumables | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 18. | Immunisation Cards | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 19. | E.C. Registers | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 20. | EC Sector Reforms | 3018.90 | 9070.77 | 23354.78 |
| 21. | Imm. Strn. Project | 106.03 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 22. | Financial Envelops | 436.00 | 578.83 | 449.65 |
| 23. | Vanaspati Van | 470.33 | 580.00 | 130.40 |
| 24. | Outreach Services | 15.84 | 10.56 | 0.00 |
| 25. | Dia training | 426.79 | 20.05 | 5.86 |
| 26. | RCH Camps | 291.63 | 263.68 | 357.25 |
| 27. | PPI | 15377.35 | 29946.61 | 16606.82 |
| 28. | MCH Registers | 29.35 | 9.20 | 15.00 |
| 29. | CAN/TFA | 66.41 | 0.00 | 21.48 |
| 30. | Other Opert. Charge | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 31. | Moped Adv. to ANMs | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 32. | Contingency | 35.20 | 13.87 | 0.00 |
| 33. | ZSS | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 34. | Training | 1529.20 | 1120.43 | 450.00 |
| 35. | Rev. Meet/Mob. support & Comp. Asstt. | 152.20 | 30.30 | 28.05 |
| 36. | Sub-project | 2287.08 | 1505.00 | 295.00 |
| | Total | 35756.89 | 48754.01 | 46502.18 |

Figures provisional.

*[English]*

**Road Accidents on NHs in A.P.**

5795. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Road accidents on National Highways in Andhra Pradesh are increasing every year;

(b) if so, the details of persons killed/injured during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government has identified most accident prone areas on National Highways;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to prevent accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) As reported by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the number of road accidents, persons killed and persons injured on National Highways in the State during the year 2000, 2001 and 2002 are as under:

| Year | Road Accident | Persons Killed | Persons Injured |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2000 | 7203 | 2539 | 8590 |
| 2001 | 9096 | 3036 | 10758 |
| 2002 | 8185 | 2195 | 6650 |

(c) and (d) On some of the National Highways particularly passing through hilly terrain, there are a few stretches having sharp curves and steep gradients, narrow bridges and culverts which are obstructions to free flow of traffic and are accident-prone locations.

(e) Enforcement of provisions of Motor Vehicles Act and rules made thereunder to ensure safety of road 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 create awareness.

(6) Tightening of fitness norms for transport vehicles.

(7) Widening and improvements of National Highways etc.

*[Translation]*

**Progress in Ocean Development**

5796. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the progress made in the field of Ocean Development during the last five years;

(b) whether the Government is satisfied with the achievements of the Department;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the action taken for further advancement in this field?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) During the last five years, the Department launched four new programmes specifically for assessment of non-living resources in the Indian Exclusive Economic zone (EEZ). These are Gas Hydrates, Comprehensive Swath Bathymetric Survey of entire Indian EEZ, Geophysical Study of the Laxmi Basin and Acquisition of a new vessel. The activities under these programmes are well underway. Besides, Department has also established various infrastructure facilities in the 3 autonomous bodies namely National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), National Centre for Antarctic & Ocean Research (NCAOR), required to address technology development, information services and ocean research, respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) An Ice-core laboratory has been setup at National Centre for Antarctic & Ocean Research (NCAOR). An 8-member Indian delegation led by the Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science and Technology and Ocean Development, visited Antarctica to assess and to lay down the future strategies for Polar Science programmes. A demonstration plant for extraction of metals form the polymetalic nodules was commissioned under the poly-metallic nodule programme. A remotely operable vehicle was developed and tested to a depth of 200 m. Ocean information services such as Experimental Ocean State Forecast and Integrated Potential Fishing Zone Advisories were launched. A regional alliance among the Indian Ocean Rim countries was established to address the Global Ocean Observing System for the Indian Ocean (IO-GOOS). The Ocean observational network has been significantly strengthened by deployment of 20 Moored Buoys and 61 Agro Profiling Floats and 3 current meter arrays. Scientific and technical data have been acquired for delineation of the outer limits of the Indian continental shelf. An Indo-Russian Science & Technology Centre for Gas Hydrate Studies has been set up in the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) Campus at Chennai. An acoustic test facility has been created at NIOT. Technology has been developed for indigenous production of Moored data buoys and Acoustic Tide gauges. Besides, NIOT has carried out coastal engineering projects i.e. construction of Haldia Dyke, surveys for Kalpasagar and Sethusamudaram projects. Two-laboratory scale desalination plants, each having a capacity of 500 and 5000 liter per day, were developed based on low Temperature Thermal Desalination System (LTTD). A 1-lakh litre per day capacity desalination plant at Kavaratti, Lakshadweep is in advanced stage of commissioning. Assessment of Marine Living resources in the Exclusive Economic zone (EEZ) of India has been strengthened considerably. Under the Drugs from the Sea programme, 2 out of 7 identified active compounds are in the advanced stage of drug development. Lobster and Crab fattening technology has been developed. Department has prepared a programme for establishment of a tsunami warning system in coordination with other scientific departments such as Department of Science and Technology (DST), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Department of Space (DOS).

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Dearth of Trained Technical Hands**

5797. SHRI A.F.G. OSMANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is dearth of trained and skilled technical hands required for implementation of Schedule M of small scale pharma unit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has spent crores of rupees in capacity building project for training 586 participants without remarkable results; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to overcame the shortage of trained and skilled persons in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare do not have any specific information regarding dearth of trained and skilled technical hands required for implementation of schedule 'M' in small scale Pharma units. However, keeping in view the need of upgradation of technical knowledge among the production and Analytical Chemists, Ministry of Health is providing training to the technical people from pharmaceutical industry under the World Bank assisted Capacity Building Project and the training is imparted at National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Mohali, Punjab.

Total expenditure made on the aforesaid training programme so far is Rs. 23,86,052 which involves the training of personnel from industry covering 503 technical persons from production as well as Analytical Departments of various Pharma industries. All the participants are evaluated daily during training so as to confirm their learning process. The training is an ongoing process and it is planned that a similar number would be trained annually, over the next three years.

**Conference on Female Foeticide**

5798. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any national level conference regarding eradication of female foeticide had been organized by

the Indian Medical Association, UNICEF and National Commission for Women recently;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed therein alongwith the final outcome thereof;

(c) the effective steps taken, so far, by the Government to implement the decisions taken in the said national conference; 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) No national conference on female foeticide has been organized by Indian Medical Association in collaboration with UNICEF and National Commission for Women in the last two years. However, UNICEF in partnership with the Centre for Women's Development Studies (CWDS) has provided part support for two national media sensitization on female foeticide and Adverse sex-ratios.

*[Translation]*

**Telephone Adalats in Bihar**

5799. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the dates on which Telephone Adalats were organised in each district of Bihar during the last two years;

(b) the number of cases received by the Adalats during the said period, district-wise;

(c) the number of cases disposed off, district-wise; and

(d) the details of the relief provided to telephone subscribers alongwith the rules for organising Telephone Adalats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) The details are given in enclosed statement-I and II.

***Statement I***

*Details of the Telephone Adalats held in Bihar during the last two years*

| Name of SSA | 01.04.2003 to 31.3.2004 | | | | 01.04.2004 to 31.3.2005 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Date of holding of Adalat | No. of cases received | No. of cases disposed | Details of relief given (Rs.) | Date of holding of Adalat | No. of cases received | No. of cases disposed | Details of relief given (Rs.) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| Ara | 10.6.2003 | 28 | 28 | 10959 | 27.4.04 | 40 | 40 | 193210 |
| | 17.1.2003 | 51 | 51 | 70000 | 30.11.04 | 37 | 33 | 50186 |
| Bhagalpur | 9.5.2003 | 13 | 13 | 56 | 24.7.04 | 00 | 00 | 00 |
| | 30.7.2003 | 08 | 08 | 00 | 22.9.04 | 35 | 23 | 00 |
| | 20.11.2003 | 26 | 23 | 7927 | | | | |
| | 9.7.2003 | 19 | 19 | 4502 | 8.7.04 | 36 | 36 | 1857 |
| | 9.10.2003 | 37 | 37 | 6000 | 21.9.04 | 36 | 36 | 13000 |
| Begusarai | 9.3.2004 | 64 | 64 | 10000 | 1.2.05 | 24 | 24 | 12000 |
| | 26.6.2003 | 48 | 48 | 16122 | 2.7.04 | 21 | 21 | 6985 |
| | 2.7.2003 | 30 | 30 | 22294 | 6.7.04 | 36 | 36 | 22906 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bettiah | 4.7.2003 | 25 | 25 | 20400 | 8.7.04 | 17 | 17 | 11663 |
| | 4.11.2003 | 98 | 98 | 94220 | 18.1.05 | 20 | 20 | 7509 |
| | 6.11.2003 | 32 | 32 | 234410 | 24.1.05 | 40 | 40 | 126946 |
| | 24.11.2003 | 35 | 35 | 31351 | 25.1.05 | 03 | 03 | 648 |
| Chapra | 20.7.2003 | 136 | 136 | 59134 | 15.8.04 | 18 | 18 | 1163 |
| | | | | | 6.11.04 | 38 | 38 | 13480 |
| Darbhanga | 15.9.2003 | 46 | 46 | 63053 | 26.6.04 | 102 | 102 | 319080 |
| | 8.10.2003 | 56 | 56 | 133372 | 7.7.04 | 89 | 89 | 234300 |
| | 8.11.2003 | 39 | 39 | 115200 | 23.2.05 | 26 | 26 | 56040 |
| | 16.12.2003 | 128 | 128 | 398220 | 3.3.05 | 82 | 82 | 130908 |
| | 28.1.2004 | 143 | 143 | 397680 | | | | |
| Gaya | 28.6.2003 | 27 | 25 | 40204 | 14.9.04 | 10 | 10 | Nil |
| Hajipur | 20.5.2003 | 32 | 32 | 5653 | 27.5.04 | 04 | Nil | Nil |
| | 25.7.2003 | 19 | 19 | 18713 | 26.8.04 | 04 | 01 | 2365 |
| | 16.9.2003 | 17 | 17 | 6984 | 25.10.04 | 20 | 02 | 960 |
| | 9.12.2003 | 21 | 21 | 1048 | 29.12.04 | 10 | 06 | 9450 |
| | 18.3.2004 | 15 | 7 | Nil | 18.2.05 | 19 | 13 | 18755 |
| | | | | | 22.3.05 | 09 | 04 | 7542 |
| Katihar | 24.4.2003 | 34 | 34 | 49392 | 17.5.04 | 20 | 20 | 36098 |
| | 10.7.2003 | 23 | 23 | 7420 | 8.7.04 | 32 | 32 | 29194 |
| | 18.9.2003 | 53 | 53 | 80874 | | | | |
| | 27.11.2003 | 55 | 55 | 301838 | | | | |
| | 28.1.2004 | 63 | 63 | 291296 | | | | |
| Kishanganj | 13.2.2004 | 18 | 18 | 35788 | | | | |
| Khagaria | 29.9.2003 | 38 | 38 | 55986 | 13.10.04 | 29 | 29 | 211960 |
| | | | | | 24.1.05 | 62 | 62 | 247719 |
| Motihari | 11.5.2003 | 80 | 80 | 50054 | 11.5.04 | 35 | 35 | 25560 |
| | 30.12.2003 | 112 | 112 | 134256 | 21.7.04 | 57 | 57 | 63869 |
| | 31.12.2003 | 118 | 118 | 190171 | 15.9.04 | 23 | 22 | 1140 |
| | 8.1.2004 | 125 | 125 | 32746 | 6.11.04 | 36 | 36 | 21780 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 20.1.2004 | 78 | 78 | 67856 | | | | |
| | 11.3.2004 | 49 | 49 | 34595 | | | | |
| Munger | 12.5.2003 | 33 | 33 | 1705 | 12.5.04 | 20 | 20 | 9400 |
| | 30.7.2003 | 21 | 21 | 42000 | 21.8.04 | 08 | 08 | 4500 |
| | 29.8.2003 | 15 | 15 | 12690 | | | | |
| | 20.11.2003 | 30 | 30 | 9320 | | | | |
| | 20.1.2004 | 35 | 35 | 3000 | | | | |
| Muzaffarpur | 3.6.2003 | 32 | 32 | 9840 | 9.7.04 | 43 | 43 | 13000 |
| | 30.7.2003 | 68 | 68 | 18840 | 13.9.04 | 50 | 50 | 19000 |
| | 18.10.2003 | 122 | 122 | 18330 | 9.11.04 | 19 | 19 | 18700 |
| | 19.12.2003 | 54 | 54 | 18660 | 23.11.04 | 22 | 22 | 22300 |
| | | | | | 25.1.05 | 68 | 68 | 40500 |
| | | | | | 28.1.05 | 52 | 52 | 11750 |
| Patna | 27.12.2003 | 206 | 190 | 39431 | 21.7.04 | 28 | 26 | 27962 |
| | 27.3.2004 | 57 | 52 | 23144 | 3.9.04 | 57 | 50 | 43400 |
| | | | | | 5.10.04 | 195 | 195 | 103486 |
| | | | | | 17.12.04 | 46 | 40 | 28721 |
| | | | | | 29.3.05 | 24 | 24 | 194353 |
| | | | | | 30.3.05 | 34 | 34 | 45000 |
| Samastipur | 23.8.2003 | 414 | 405 | 39781 | 30.7.04 | 125 | 105 | 11000 |
| Sasaram | 19.6.2003 | 22 | 17 | 3523 | 27.5.04 | 08 | 08 | 3841 |
| | 11.9.2003 | 21 | 10 | 13721 | 12.8.04 | 13 | 13 | 16383 |
| | 24.11.2003 | 20 | 10 | 00 | 15.10.04 | 22 | 22 | 7484 |
| | 8.1.2004 | 37 | 33 | 20636 | 21.2.05 | 30 | 30 | 250 |
| | 12.1.2004 | 09 | 06 | 00 | 28.3.05 | 28 | 28 | 650 |
| | 11.3.2004 | 11 | 11 | 00 | | | | |
| Saharsa | 28.5.2003 | 24 | 24 | 5700 | 21.5.04 | 30 | 30 | 47450 |
| | 31.5.2003 | 66 | 66 | 44760 | 22.5.04 | 29 | 29 | 24689 |
| | 5.6.2003 | 38 | 38 | 26640 | | | | |
| | 6.11.2003 | 61 | 61 | 15425 | | | | |
| | 7.11.2003 | 46 | 46 | 11575 | | | | |

***Statement-II***

*No. 12-1/2001-(PG)*
*Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited*
*(A Government of India Enterprise)*
*10th floor, Chandralok Building,*
*Janpath, New Delhi-110 001*

To

Dated: 22.6.2001

All Heads of Telecom Circles and Districts

Sub : Holding of Telephone Adalats

References: 18-1/87-PG&I dated 11.6.87
18/1/87-PG&I dated 8.2.88
18-1/87-PG&I dated 17.9.89
18-1/87-PG&I dated 22.5.92
18/1/87-PG&I dated Oct. 96
2-2/2000 PEG (PG) dated 16.12.2001
2-2/2000-PG dated 9-2-2001
12-1/2001-PG dated 20.3.2001

In order to bring Department and aggrieved Customer face to face and settle the customer's problems on an appointed date, it was decided to form Telephone Adalats in Telecom Circles and Districts as an internal arrangement of the departments.

**Scope**

The scope of Telephone Adalat as per the earlier orders was to cover all problems relating to telephone services such as excess billing complaints, service complaints, non provision/delayed provision of telephone connections etc. Now the scope of Telephone Adalats shall cover all Telecom Services provided and billed by the respective Telecom Circles/ Districts. Adalat headed by CGMs can also consider the cases of appeals against the decisions of the Adalat chaired by SSA head and the cases which are not individual and/or having a repercussion in whole of the Circle. The appeal shall be based on the facts presented before the SSA Adalat. Adalat headed by SSA heads can also consider cases of excess billing which have been rejected by them as Administrative heads. Cases more than three months old only be considered by Adalats.

**Jurisdiction and Venue**

The jurisdiction of Telephone Adalats conducted by CGM shall be his Telecom Circle/District. The jurisdiction of the Telephone Adalat conducted by SSA head shall be his SSA.

**Committee**

Following will be the Constitution of the Committee.

(i) Adalat headed by CGM

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (a) CGM of Telecom Circle/Districts | — | Chairman |
| (b) Financial Advisor of Circle/District | — | Member |
| (c) Engineering Officer next to CGM in Circle Officer | — | Member |
| (d) SR.DDG/DDGs nominated | — | One |

(ii) List of nominee from BSNL headquarters is mentioned in Annexure-I.

**Frequency Date and Time**

CGMs are to hold Adalats once in three months and SSA heads are to hold Adalats once in two months. The Adalats should be conducted at regular interval. The date and time can be decided by the Chairman of the Adalats. In case of Metro Districts CGM can hold Adalat once in three months and Area GMs may hold the Adalat once in two months. In case of SSAs where more than one CGM is holding independent charge, then all such independent GMs will hold independent Adalats for their area once in two months.

**Publicity**

The information of holding Adalats by CGM and SSA head may be given wide publicity through local News Paper and Electronic Media. Concerned MP and MLAs may be intimated in advance. A gap of atleast 30 days should be provided between the date of publication and date of Adalat. Last date to receipt of applications may be 15 days before the date of Adalat.

**Decision Making**

The decision of the Adalat should be in speaking order. The Adalat conducted by CGM shall evaluate the quality of Adalat conducted by his subordinates.

**Record Keeping**

The consolidated information about number of cases settled, amount of rebate given and other relevant information pertaining to whole Circle may be maintained in the Circle Office. This information may be kept in the Circle web site so that customers or BSNL headquarter can have access and the credibility of Telecom Circle/District is improved: After each Circle level Adalat, the representative from BSNL HQ attending the Adalat shall give a brief (once paragraph) report through his Sr. DDG/DDG to Sr. DDG (PG) who shall maintain a record in his unit.

Sd/-
Sr. DDG (PG)
22.6.2001

*[English]*

**Enhancement of Allocation of Funds to Orissa for Road Sector**

5800. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG:

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

(a) whether the Government has enhanced the allocation of funds for the Road Development Sector in Orissa for the year 2005-06;

(b) if so, the allocation made by the Government for the purpose;

(c) the details of various projects proposed to be undertaken for development of roads in Orissa during the current financial year; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to avoid delay and completion of approved projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The Central Govt. is responsible for the development of National Highways and the development of other roads comes within the purview of the concerned State Govt. The allocation of funds for the year 2005-06 for development of National Highways in Orissa can be done only after approval of the Budget for the year 2005-06.

(c) Subject to approval of the Budget for the year 2005-06 in respect of National Highways, there is a programme for widening to 2 lanes in about 75 km, strengthening/raising in 15 km, improvement of riding quality in 41 km and reconstruction/widening of 8 Nos. of minor bridges etc., which will be undertaken depending upon traffic needs, inter-se priority and availability of funds.

(d) To avoid delay in completion of approved projects, the progress is monitored closely in quarterly critical work-wise review meetings. Further, the works are inspected by Ministry's officers and necessary action taken as required.

**Coal Gasification**

5801. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) has tied up with ONGC for coal gasification;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the investment proposed to be made by the CIL;

(c) whether the Government has studied total extractable reserves of coal gas in abandoned mines under the CIL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, subsidiary-wise and mine-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The Board of Directors of Coal India Limited (CIL) has, in principle, approved signing of an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) for pilot underground coal gasification project.

(b) Investment details have to be worked out after signing of MOU with ONGC. However, it is a joint venture with equal (50:50) participation.

(c) and (d) As reported by Coal India Limited extractable reserves of coal gas in abandoned mines of CIL has not been assessed as yet.

*[Translation]*

**Widening/Repair of N.Hs. in Orissa**

5802. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of National Highways in Orissa on which widening, extention and repairing works have been started since February, 2002 till date;

(b) the time by when such works on remaining National Highways passing through Orissa are likely to be started;

(c) the details of the estimated expenditure thereon; and

(d) the details of the actual expenditure incurred so far thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process. There are 15 National Highways (NH No. 5, 5A, 6, 23, 42, 43, 60, 75 (Extn.), 200, 201, 203, 203A, 215, 217 & 224) in the State of Orissa with a total length of 3603 km. Out of which the work of widening to 4-lanes has been undertaken in 444 km. length on NH 5 & NH 60 under National Highway Development Project (NHDP). Since Feb. 2002, work of widening to 4-lanes has been undertaken in 77.40 km length on NH 5A under Port connectivity by NHAI. Further, works on 1804 km length of National Highways have been sanctioned under various development schemes during this period for National Highways entrusted to State PWD. Out of this, works in about 1265 km length have been completed and in the balance portion, works are either in progress or at tendering stage. Works on the balance length of National Highways in Orissa would be taken up in subsequent annual plans.

(c) and (d) The estimated expenditure/allocation during period 2001-02 to 2004-05 on National Highways was Rs. 1537.43 crore for development works and Rs. 167.65 crore for maintenance works. The actual expenditure during this period on National Highways was Rs. 1523.95 crore for development works and Rs. 161.63 crore for maintenance works.

**Post and Telegraph Facilities in Gram Panchayats**

5803. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

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

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats in Andhra Pradesh and Bihar having post and telegraph facilities, district-wise;

(b) the number of Panchayat Sanchar Seva and Telegraph Offices set up in these States during the last two years; and

(c) the time-bound programme chalked out by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The District-wise number of Gram Panchayats in Andhra Pradesh having post offices and telegraph facilities is given in enclosed statement-I.

The District-wise number of Gram Panchayats in Bihar having post offices is given in enclosed Statement-II.

The information regarding the District-wise number of Gram Panchayats in Bihar having telegraph facilities is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) The information regarding the number of Panchayat Sanchar Seva and Telegraph Offices set up in these States during the last two years and the time bound programme chalked out by the Government in this regard is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

***Statement I***

*District-wise number of Gram Panchayats with Post Offices having Telegraph facilities in Andhra Pradesh*

| Sl. No. | Name of District | No. of GP villages with PO & having Telegraph facilities |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Anantpur | 875 |
| 2. | Adilabad | 452 |
| 3. | Chittoor | 1137 |
| 4. | Cuddapah | 641 |
| 5. | E. Godavari | 962 |
| 6. | Guntur | 979 |
| 7. | Hyderabad | Nil |
| 8. | Karimnagar | 999 |
| 9. | Khammam | 492 |
| 10. | Krishna | 525 |
| 11. | Kurnool | 659 |
| 12. | M'Bub Nagar | 1100 |
| 13. | Medak | 548 |
| 14. | Nalgonda | 685 |
| 15. | Nellore | 639 |
| 16. | Nizamabad | 433 |
| 17. | Prakasam | 776 |
| 18. | Rangareddy | 451 |
| 19. | Srikukulam | 722 |
| 20. | V'Nagram | 674 |
| 21. | V'Patnam | 569 |
| 22. | W. Godavari | 646 |
| 23. | Warangal | 698 |
| | Total | 15662 |

***Statement II***

*District-wise number of GP villages with Post Offices in Bihar*

| Sl. No. | Name of District | No. of GP villages with PO |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Araria | 200 |
| 2. | Arbal | 77 |
| 3. | Aurangabad | 185 |
| 4. | Banka | 131 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 5. | Begusarai | 207 |
| 6. | Bettiah (W. Champ.) | 221 |
| 7. | Bhagalpur | 194 |
| 8. | Bhojpur (Arrah) | 208 |
| 9. | Buxar | 119 |
| 10. | Darbhanga | 266 |
| 11. | E. Champ. (Motihari) | 365 |
| 12. | Gaya | 197 |
| 13. | Gopalganj | 160 |
| 14. | Jahanabad | 98 |
| 15. | Jamui | 104 |
| 16. | Kaimur (Bhabhua) | 95 |
| 17. | Katihar | 195 |
| 18. | Khagaria | 109 |
| 19. | Kishanganj | 111 |
| 20. | Lakhisarai | 106 |
| 21. | Madhepura | 190 |
| 22. | Madhubani | 280 |
| 23. | Munger | 101 |
| 24. | Muzaffarpur | 291 |
| 25. | Nalanda (Bih. Sharif) | 222 |
| 26. | Nawada | 100 |
| 27. | Patna | 199 |
| 28. | Purnea | 231 |
| 29. | Rohtas (Sasaram) | 261 |
| 30. | Saharsa | 193 |
| 31. | Samastipur | 253 |
| 32. | Saran (Chapra) | 257 |
| 33. | Sheikhpura | 98 |
| 34. | Sheohar | 106 |
| 35. | Sitamarhi | 180 |
| 36. | Siwan | 231 |
| 37. | Supaul | 124 |
| 38. | Vaishali (Hajipur) | 187 |
| | | 6852 |

*[English]*

**Health Services for North-Eastern States**

5804. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to provide proper health services in North-Eastern States; 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) Yes, Sir. The Govt. has launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) on 12th April 2005, as a national effort at ensuring effective comprehensive healthcare throughout the country to improve healthcare delivery to fulfil the mandate of National Common Minimum Programme. Eight North Eastern States namely Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland, Manipur, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, are among the 18 States selected for focused attention under the NRHM.

The goals of the Mission are to improve the availability of and access to quality healthcare by people, especially those residing in rural areas including the poor, women and children. The Mission adopts a synergetic approach by relating health to determinants of good health *i.e.* nutrition, sanitation, hygiene and safe drinking water.

The Plan of action includes increasing public expenditure on health from the current level of 0.9% to 2-3% of GDP, reducing regional imbalance in health infrastructure, optimization of health manpower, decentralization and district management of health programmes, community participation and ownership of

assets, induction of management and financial personnel into district health system, integration of organizational structures and pooling of resources, and operationalizing 2000 + CHCs as per Indian Public Health Standards.

**Per Capita Amount spent on Medicines**

5805. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita amount spent on medicines in rural areas of the country with the World Bank and WHO assistance;

(b) whether there is any new proposal to increase the said limit;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred on medicines in rural areas during each of the last three years and till-date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The National Disease Programmes cover both rural and urban areas. In respect of some of these programme like Leprosy and TB, assistance for medicines is obtained from international organizations like WHO and World Bank, GFATM, DFID, USAID etc. Accounts are maintained of amounts spent on medicines at State/district level. However, no separate break-up of money spent in rural areas is being maintained. Nevertheless the benefits of these programmes are uniformly available to all persons across the country.

**Amendment in the Food Adulteration Act**

5806. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act specifically states that it does not cover water and medicines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the rules framed for water by PFA are legal and binding;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has any proposal to amend the PFA Act in order to include and regulate water; and

(f) if so, by when the Act is likely to be amended by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The definition of food under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 is as follows:

"Food" means any article used as food or drink for human consumption other than drugs and water and includes:

(i) any article which ordinarily enters into, or is used in the composition or preparation of, human food,

(ii) any flavouring matter or condiments, and

(iii) any other article which the Central Government may having regard to its use, nature, substance or quality, declare by notification in the official Gazette, as food for the purposes of this Act.

(c) and (d) 'Packaged drinking water' has been declared as 'food' under Section 2(v)(c) of PFA Act, 1954 vide notification GSR 202 (E) dated 21.3.2001. Thereafter, standards for packaged drinking water were prescribed under PFA Rules, 1955 vide notification GSR 760(E) dated 29.9.2000 which came into force on 29.9.2001. These standards are legal and binding.

(e) and (f) There is a proposal to amend the definition of food to include water in the definition of food under PFA Act, 1954. The matter is under consideration of GOM constituted for consideration of the Food Safety and Standards Bill.

**Right to Strike**

5807. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a memorandum signed by 4 crore people was submitted by All India State Government Employees Federation against the Supreme Court judgement on the right to strike by the Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether the Government proposes to take necessary action to restore that right either by satisfying the relevant ILO conventions or through enactment; and

(e) if so, by when the same is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (c) The Government has received a copy of the memorandum submitted by the All India State Government Employees Federation against the Supreme Court judgement on the right to strike by the Government employees. The Federation has demanded, *inter alia*, that the Government employees should be granted right to strike either by ratifying the relevant ILO conventions or through enactment. The judgement of the Supreme Court has been challenged in the Writ Petition (Civil) No. 465 of 2003 (Potluri Nageswara Rao & Ors Vs. Union of India and Ors.) which is pending before the Supreme Court.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration.

(e) Does not arise.

**Construction of new BSNL Buildings in Rajasthan**

5808. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the locations of new buildings of BSNL constructed in Udaipur division of Rajasthan and the dates on which these buildings were constructed;

(b) whether the communication services have been started through these buildings after the installation of telephone exchanges and mobile phone equipments in these buildings;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which telecommunication services are likely to be started from these buildings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Six number of new buildings of BSNL have been constructed during the last three years in Udaipur Division of Rajasthan as per details given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Communication Services at Dewair and Transport Nagar, Udaipur have been started. At Wana and Gogunda mobile services have been started as per details given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The reasons for delay are non-availability of underground cable and exchange equipment components.

(d) Likely time by which the services will be started is given in the enclosed statement.

*Statement*

*Buildings constructed in Udaipur Division, Rajasthan during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 & 2003-04*

| Sl. No. | Year of Construction | Location of Building | Date of construction of Building | Communication Started | | Likely time by which the services to start | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Telephone Exchange | Mobile Services | Telephone Exchange | Mobile Services |
| 1. | 2002 | Wana | 21.10.2002 | No | Yes | Aug., 2005 | — |
| 2. | 2003 | Jhadol | 31.1.2003 | No | No | Sept., 2005 | June, 2005 |
| 3. | 2003 | Gogunda | 10.7.2003 | No | Yes | Sept., 2005 | — |
| 4. | 2003 | Dewair | 5.7.2003 | Yes | Yes | — | — |
| 5. | 2003 | Transport Nagar, Udaipur | 31.3.2003 | Yes | Yes | — | — |
| 6. | 2004 | Salumber | 28.1.2004 | No | No | Sept., 2005 | June, 2005 |

*[Translation]*

**Cases under Investigation by CBI**

5809. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of cases being investigated by the CBI till date;

(b) since when these cases are under investigation by the CBI and the reasons for delay in concluding these investigations; and

(c) the effective steps being taken by the Government to conclude the investigations at the earliest and file the same before courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) As on 31.3.2005, 1441 cases are under investigation by the CBI. These cases cannot be categorized State-wise because many cases registered by CBI have inter-state/international ramifications.

(b) Out of these 1441 cases, only 161 cases are under investigation for more than two years. Various reasons for delay in concluding the investigation are as under:

(i) Complicated nature of cases taken up by CBI for investigation which requires scrutiny of voluminous documents and examination of large number of witnesses.

(ii) In some cases, investigations has to be done in foreign countries for which Letters Rogatory has to be executed, which is a time consuming process.

(iii) Many cases remain pending even after conclusion of investigation for want of sanction for prosecution from the competent authority.

(iv) Investigations stayed by Courts.

(c) Efforts are being made on all stages and levels to expedite the investigations by utilizing existing resources of the CBI. Further various Ministries/Departments and the State Governments are being requested to expedite the sanctions for prosecution pending with them.

*[English]*

**Foreign Collaboration for setting up R and D centre for Broadband Wireless Product**

5810. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI B. MAHTAB:

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

(a) whether the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) has signed an agreement for any foreign collaboration for setting up a global research and development centre for broadband wireless product;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the terms and conditions of the agreement;

(c) the benefits likely to be derived therefrom;

(d) the impact on tariff and day-to-day telecom services thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. C-DOT has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with M/s Alcatel of France for setting up a global research and development centre for broadband wireless product.

(b) As per the MoU, a global research centre on wireless technologies is to be set up. The first project in this Centre will be related to WIMAX standard based wireless technologies. Definitive agreements and possible modalities between the two organizations are being worked out.

(c) The benefits derived from the collaboration would be to make cost effective wireless technologies required for India. It will also enable Indian telecom R&D centre

C-DOT becoming a global player in one of the most cutting edge technologies, taking the advantage of experience and skills of the international telecom organization.

(d) WIMAX technologies are globally being recognized, as appropriate solutions for broadband applications both in rural and urban areas, providing information, entertainment, e-governance facilities and high speed internet. This would help in faster roll out of services in a cost-effective manner benefiting both the operators as well as consumers.

(e) Government has announced broadband policy which includes liberalized use of spectrum for wireless technologies for their mass deployment.

**Upgradation of Mumbai**

5811. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has drawn plans not only to develop Mumbai into Shanghai of India but also to showcase India as a modern and fast developing economy and as an attractive destination of FDI with infrastructure comparable to China;

(b) if so, the broad features and the details of the plan indicating phase-wise details and the targets contemplated thereunder; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The Government has constituted a Committee on Infrastructure under the chairmanship of Prime Minister with the objectives of initiating policies that ensure time bound creation of world class infrastructure facilities, developing structures that maximize the role of public-private partnerships in the field of infrastructure and monitoring progress of key infrastructure projects.

**Reservation for SCs/STs/OBCs in Government Departments**

5812. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any study regarding the present status of SC, ST and OBC percentage in several Government Departments upto 31st of December, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether their representation is adequate according to the principle framed in this regard;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the details of the steps taken to monitor their representation in services as per quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) As per information received from 58 Ministries/ Departments, the representation of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes (excluding sweepers) as on 1st January, 2004 in the Central Government Services is 17.09%, 6.49% and 4.55% respectively.

(c) Representation of Scheduled Castes in Group C and D posts is adequate with reference to the percentage of reservation prescribed for them. Representation of Scheduled Castes in Group A and B posts and representation of Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in all Groups of posts is, however, below the reservation prescribed for them.

(d) Some posts reserved for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes remain unfilled because of Non-availability of suitable candidates, etc. Reservation for Other Backward Classes started only in 1993. Therefore, it will take time to reach the percentage prescribed for them.

(e) Instructions have been issued to all Ministries/ Departments to ensure filling up of reserved vacancies as per prescribed quota. Liaison Officers have been appointed in all Ministries/Departments and offices under the control of Heads of Departments who are responsible for ensuring due compliance by the subordinate appointing authorities with the orders and instructions pertaining to

the reservation of vacancies in favour of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes and other benefits admissible to them.

**Proper Utilisation of Space/Land Below Overbridges**

5813. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that overbridges are constructed on many national highways and the space/land below the overbridges remains unutilised;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to hand over the unutilized space/land to the concerned Municipalities for proper utilisation of the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) The Ministry has issued guidelines for utilisation of space beneath Road Over Bridges/Flyovers on National Highways in December, 1993. According to these guidelines Public Works Department of State Governments who act as agencies for National Highways works would have the first preference for utilisation of this space. In case the Public Works Department has no plan to utilise this space, other Government agencies may be permitted to utilise this space for warehousing purpose, with first priority given to Central Government Department undertaking. There is no proposal to hand over the unutilised space to the concerned Municipalities, however, they can also be permitted to utilise the space in conformity with the guidelines.

**Setting up of GoM**

5814. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a Group of Ministers to suggest a comprehensive legislation bringing the judiciary, legislature and executive under the Lok Pal's ambit and broaden the Lok Pal's horizon as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated January 8, 2005;

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

(c) whether the Government is reviewing the procedure to sack judges;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any judge has been removed from his post through impeachment till date; and

(f) if not, the justification for making this provision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) The Government has set up a Group of Ministers to consider amendments to the draft Lokpal Bill, 2004. The Group of Ministers is deliberating on various provisions of the Lokpal Bill, 2004 to make recommendations thereon.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) For impeachment of the Judges, the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968 is in place which is meant to regulate the procedure for the investigation and proof of the misbehaviour or incapacity of a Judge of the Supreme Court or of a High Court and for the presentation of an address by Parliament to the President and for matters connected therewith.

**Financial Package to Israel**

5815. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide a big financial package to Israel during this fiscal year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to India as a result of this move?

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

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Question does not arise.

**Labour Outflows from India**

5816. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether migration of youth to other countries is increasing day by day;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of workers given emigration clearance for contractual employment abroad during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) the distribution of Annual Labour outflows from India for different destinations during the same period; and

(e) the State-wise figure of workers granted emigration clearance/ECNR endorsement during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The number of Indians migrating to other countries for employment has been steadily increasing over the years. However, age-wise break-up of the data is not maintained.

(b) There are several reasons which include shortage of manpower in several foreign countries, better salaries and working and living conditions abroad.

(c) The number of workers who were granted emigration clearance for employment abroad during the last three years is as under:

| Year | No. of emigration clearances (in lakhs) |
|---|---|
| 2002 | 3.68 |
| 2003 | 4.66 |
| 2004 | 4.75 |

(d) Statement-I indicating the emigration clearances by destination during the last three years is enclosed.

(e) Statement-II indicating the State-wise figures of workers granted emigration clearance during the last three years is enclosed.

***Statement I***

*Annual Labour Outflows from India by Destination*

*2002-2004*

| Sl.No. | Country | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | U.A.E. | 95034 | 143804 | 175262 |
| 2. | Saudi Arabia | 99453 | 121431 | 123522 |
| 3. | Kuwait | 4859 | 54434 | 52064 |
| 4. | Oman | 41209 | 36816 | 33275 |
| 5. | Malaysia | 10512 | 26898 | 31464 |
| 6. | Bahrain | 20807 | 24778 | 22980 |
| 7. | Qatar | 12596 | 14251 | 16325 |
| 8. | Mauritius | — | — | 3544 |
| 9. | Maldives | — | — | 3233 |
| 10. | Jordan | — | — | 2576 |
| | Others | 83193 | 44044 | 10715 |
| | Total | 367663 | 466456 | 474960 |

***Statement II***

*State-wise figures of workers granted Emigration Clearances*

*2002-2004*

| Sl.No. | State | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Tamil Nadu | 79,165 | 89,464 | 1,08,964 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 38,417 | 65,971 | 72,580 |
| 3. | Kerala | 81,950 | 92,044 | 63,512 |
| 4. | Rajasthan | 23,254 | 37,693 | 35,108 |
| 5. | Maharashtra | 25,477 | 29,350 | 28,670 |
| 6. | Uttar Pradesh | 19,288 | 24,854 | 27,428 |
| 7. | Punjab | 19,638 | 24,963 | 25,302 |
| 8. | Gujarat | 11,925 | 17,102 | 22,218 |
| 9. | Bihar | 19,222 | 17,104 | 21,812 |
| 10. | Karnataka | 14,061 | 22,641 | 19,237 |
| 11. | West Bengal | 8,338 | 8,906 | 8,986 |
| 12. | Madhya Pradesh | 7,411 | 10,651 | 8,888 |
| 13. | Goa | 3,545 | 3,494 | 7,053 |
| 14. | Orissa | 1,742 | 5,370 | 6,999 |
| 15. | Delhi | 4,018 | 6,513 | 6,052 |
| 16. | Assam | 2,666 | 2,298 | 2,695 |
| 17. | Chandigarh | 2,813 | 2,374 | 2,405 |
| 18. | Jammu & Kashmir | 1,323 | 42 | 1,944 |
| 19. | Himachal Pradesh | 1,724 | 1,690 | 1,506 |
| 20. | Haryana | 424 | 1,246 | 1,267 |
| 21. | Jharkhand | 0 | 1,779 | 919 |
| 22. | Chhattisgarh | 0 | 588 | 580 |
| 23. | Pondicherry | 21 | 24 | 560 |
| 24. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0 | 61 | 73 |
| 25. | Uttaranchal | 106 | 122 | 58 |
| 26. | Nagaland | 1 | 54 | 46 |
| 27. | Mizoram | 0 | 81 | 38 |
| 28. | Andaman & Nicobar | 2 | 9 | 29 |
| 29. | Manipur | 2 | 50 | 29 |
| 30. | Tripura | 1,114 | 4 | 2 |
| 31. | Sikkim | 16 | 3 | 0 |
| 32. | Meghalaya | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| | Total | 3,67,663 | 4,66,456 | 4,74,960 |

**Visit of Officials Abroad**

5817. SHRI T.K. HAMZA:
SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether issue/revalidation of Official/Diplomatic Passport and Visa Note to Secretaries to Government of India from scientific departments has been done after the same obtained political clearance and clearance of Screening Committee of Secretaries or the Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the details including countries visited, countries transited and purpose and duration of visit for the last three years, year-wise and category-wise;

(c) the nature of these visits; and

(d) the details of issue/revalidation of Official/ Diplomatic Passport and Visa Note to above Secretaries without approval of Screening Committee of Secretaries or Prime Minister for the last three years?

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

Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**IT Economic Zone**

5818. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up an I.T. Economic Zone at Thiruvananthapuram techno-park;

(b) if so, whether the Government has given necessary sanction in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Upgradation of Medical Colleges/Institutions**

5819. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had received grant-in-aid for medical care/health from Government of Japan for upgradation of existing Medical Colleges and Medical Institutions in the country during the period from 1998 to 2004;

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

(c) whether the Government of Orissa has sent a proposal for upgradation of medical facilities and equipment for the Burla Medical College and Berhampur Medical College in Sambalpur and Gajapati district of Orissa for the year 2005-2006;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the present status of the proposal?

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

(b) A Statement indicating the details is enclosed.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

***Statement***

| Sl.No. | Name of the Project | State/Sector | Amount Committed by Govt. of Japan | Date of Signing of Exchange Notes | Date of Completion of the Project |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Improvement of medical equipment for Sir J.J. Hospital and Cama & Albless Hospital, Mumbai | Maharashtra | JY 759 Million | 28.8.2003 | 30.4.2005 |
| 2. | Construction of Diarrhoeal Disease Research and Control Centre at NICED, Kolkatta | Central Sector (being implemented in West Bengal) | JY 2134 Million | 25.6.2004 | 31.3.2006 |

*[Translation]*

**Condition of National Highways**

5820. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
DR. MD. SHAHABUDDIN:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
MOHD. SHAHID:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA:
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI TAPIR GAO:
SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA":

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

(a) the percentage of National Highways in the country which are in badly damaged state;

(b) the percentage of the roads out of the above which are single lane roads and the names of the States in which these roads are in a particularly bad shape;

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment and taken any steps in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the total length of National Highways in Kilometres in the country and the percentage this length bears to the total length of roads in the country;

(f) the percentage of works of construction of roads completed so far under the allocations made for the road project in the Tenth Plan;

(g) the details in this regard; and

(h) the number of National Highways on which the works has not been completed during the year 2004-2005 within the stipulated time frame?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The National Highways including single-lane National Highways are being kept in traffic worthy conditions within the available resources.

(c) and (d) The assessment of damages to the National Highways is a continuous process. Based on the regular assessment of damages to National Highways, the repairs/remedial measures, both immediate and long-term, are taken up within the available resources and inter-se priority.

(e) The total road network of India is about 3.3 millions km., of which National Highways length at present is 65,569 km. The National Highways constitutes about 2% of the total road network of the country.

(f) and (g) The approved 10th Five Year (2002-07) Plan outlay for the Central Sector Roads is Rs. 59,490 Crore. The priority project during the Tenth Plan (2002-07) is completion of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-I and II comprising of 4-6-laning of about 14279 km. of National Highways. Out of this about 5760 km length has been 4-laned so far till 31st March, 2005, which is 40.50% of the total length.

Apart from NHDP Phase-I & II, for other National Highway sections against the targets envisaged during the Tenth Plan (2002-07), 110.5% of improvement of riding quality, 94.3% of strengthening of existing weak pavement, 46.5% of widening of single lane to two-lanes have been completed till 31st March, 2005.

(h) For National Highway sections falling under National Highways Development Projects (NHDP) Phase-I & II, 2349 km of 4-laning have been completed against a targeted length of 2896 km during 2004-05. For National Highway sections other than NHDP Phase-I & II, 583 numbers of works on various National Highways have been completed against a target of 648 numbers of works during the year 2004-05.

*[English]*

**New Drug Delivery System for Diabetes**

5821. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team of researchers in Delhi University has come up with new drug delivery system that would allow diabetes to take insulin without the needle;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the clinical trial of the new system has been carried out; and

(d) if so, the present status thereof?

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

*[Translation]*

**Late Delivery of Mails**

5822. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) the reasons for late delivery of Mails by postmen in various parts of the country;

(b) whether the Government has held any officer/ employee guilty therefor;

(c) if so, the number of persons found guilty in this regard by the Government during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The incidents of delay in delivery of mail are due to cancellation/late running of trains and state transport buses carrying mails, missending of mails, incomplete and illegible address of the addressee, non-use of PIN code, occasional heavy seasonal work load around New Year, Diwali festival etc., non-availability of addressee, change in the residence of the addressee without intimation to the concerned Postmaster etc.

(b) Yes, Sir. In a few cases, negligence on the part of the concerned staff is noticed for delay in delivery of mail.

(c) Three hundred ninety three employees were found defaulters during three preceding years.

(d) Departmental action under relevant rules was initiated against these erring officials to the extent found responsible for negligence of duty causing delay in delivery of mail. Punishments like reduction in pay, withholding of increments and promotion, recovery of compensation paid to the client etc. were imposed on them. Besides, a few other officials were transferred to other stations as a matter of ample precaution and as a preventive measure.

*[English]*

**Amount released to Bihar under CRF**

5823. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA:

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

(a) the details of projects including the names of the roads and their length in Bihar for which amount under the Central Road Fund (CRF) had been released during the last three years; and

(b) the details of roads (with length) sanctioned or under consideration of the CRF in Bihar during 2004-2005 and 2005-06 and the fund allocated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Details of the projects approved under Central Road Fund (CRF) in Bihar during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement. An amount of Rs. 51.60 crores has been released under CRF for Bihar during the last three years.

(b) As the sanction limit exhausted, no projects were sanctioned or are under consideration under Central Road Fund (CRF) in Bihar during 2004-05 and 2005-06. A sum of Rs. 14.71 crores and Rs. 12.90 crores has been released during 2004-05 and 2005-06 respectively.

***Statement***

*Details of 17 works approved under CRF for Bihar during the last three years*

| Sl. No. | Name of work | Sanctioned Cost (Rs. in Crores) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Widening & strengthening of Bhabhua-Chainpur-Chand-Dharauli road from 0 to 32.4 (length 32.4 km) | 8.30 |
| 2. | Construction of 3 x 24.75 span RCC HL bridge across river Riga at Julekhaghat in 1st km of Kadwa-Kurumhat road via Bharry-Ashianai Chowki in Katihar district (length 76 m) | 3.62 |
| 3. | Strengthening & reconstruction of Jogbani-Bathnaha road from 1 km to 7th km (length 6.5 km) | 3.00 |
| 4. | Strengthening of existing road crust in km 1 to 18.9 of Parwara-Lalbandi road (length 18.9 km) | 3.67 |
| 5. | Strengthening of Madhepur-Bheja road from 0 to 9 (length 9 km) | 2.70 |
| 6. | Widening & strengthening road Karanpur to Rajampur from km 0 to 11 (length 11 km) | 3.92 |
| 7. | Construction of approach road both side of 16 km HL bridge with protection in Katihar-Pranpur road (NH-81) in Katihar district (520 m) | 1.45 |
| 8. | Approach road of HL bridge at Muksudpur across river old Bagmati in 16th km of Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi (NH-77) road in the district of Muzaffarpur (length 1.429 km) | 3.64 |
| 9. | Residual work of construction of HL bridge Kataunjha over river Bagmati in 30th km of Muzaffarpur-Sitamarhi Section of NH-77 | 11.42 |
| 10. | Remaining work of H1 bridge with approach road at Dubhaghat across river Bagmati river in 20th km of Sitamarhi-Sheohar road (NH-104) in Sitamarhi district (2 km length) | 14.47 |
| 11. | Construction of remaining works of Hi bridge lava (2x47.319 = 10x8.468 m) across river Mahananda at Lava with approach road in Katihar-Pranpur-Lava-Dilli-Diwanganj road (NH-81) in Katihar district (length 579.318 km) | 10.67 |
| 12. | Construction of remaining work of HL bridge in 18 km at Mainanagar with approach road with protection in Katihar-Pranpur-Lava-Dilli Diwanganj road (NH-81) in Katihar district (length 76.07 km) | 5.05 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 13. | Construction of approaches on both sides of bridges in km 14 & 15 of NH-81 (length 1.03 km) | 3.97 |
| 14. | Strengthening of existing road crust in km 1 to 7 of Mahthaur-Chakka-Dhamsain-Alinagar-Jamalpur road in Darbhanga district (length 07 km) | 2.50 |
| 15. | Widening & strengthening of Ara-Bihiya-Chaurasta road via Salempur-Parja-Karja in Bhojpur district (length 16 km) | 3.25 |
| 16. | Improvement of road from Morhoura to Sonho via Amnour in Saran district | 4.65 |
| 17. | Construction of bridge at Baisaghat in Kishanganj | 9.80 |
| | Total | Rs. 96.08 |

**Subsidy for Medicinal Plant**

5824. SHRI C.H. VIJAYASHANKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued orders for discontinuation of subsidy for Safedmusli Medicinal Plant;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the status of subsidy applications pending with the Government; and

(d) the time by when the applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No orders have been issued for discontinuation of subsidy for Safed Musli. However, lesser priority is being accorded for cultivation of Safed Musli to avoid glut in the market.

(c) and (d) The applications received are examined for put up before the Project Screening Committee. The projects recommended by the Committee are considered by the Standing Finance Committee of Medicinal Plants Board. Admissible financial assistance is provided depending upon suitability of proposals and availability of funds. No specific time frame is prescribed for clearing the applications.

**Border Area Development Programme**

5825. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to provide Special Central Assistance to Himachal Pradesh under the Special Area Programme namely the Border Area Development Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Special Central Assistance is being provided to the Government of Himachal Pradesh every year since 1998-99 under Border Area Development Programme (BADP). An amount of Rs. 6209.96 lakh has been released to the Government of Himachal Pradesh from 1998-99 to 2004-05.

(c) Does not arise.

**Ship Building Yard at Cochin**

5826. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to construct a Ship Building Yard of International Standard at Cochin;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action is required on the part of State Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any need and scope for such yards; and

(f) if so, the target and estimates thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Government is exploring the possibility of setting up two international size Shipyards in the country subject to favourable technical analysis and feasibility study. Location has not been decided.

(c) No action is needed as of now.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) There is a need for the Yards. Scope etc. will flow out of the technical analysis and feasibility study.

**Fires in Coalfields**

5827. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has been spending crores of rupees every year to fight the recurring underground fires in the Raniganj and Jharia coalfields;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any estimate of destruction of coal have been assessed due to underground fires in Raniganj and Jharia Coalfields;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Central Team has visited the sites of the said underground coalfields to assess the situation; and

(f) if so, the outcome 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) Efforts are being made to contain the fires in Jharia and Raniganj coalfields. The details are given as under:

**Jharia Coalfields**

Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) is presently dealing the fires in Jharia coalfields mostly inherited at the time of nationalisation and subsidence from the funds sanctioned by this Ministry. Twelve schemes for control of fire and subsidence were sanctioned since 1997 of which six have already been completed. The total expenditure incurred till date in above schemes is Rs. 16.33 crores. Additional new schemes approved by BCCL Board for an outlay of Rs. 84.57 crores in 2004-05 have also been taken up.

**Raniganj Coalfields**

In Raniganj coalfield, Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), the fire is in a very limited area and it is under control. Time to time blanketing in fire area is needed which is being done.

(c) and (d) As per study conducted by Central Mine Planning & Design Institute earlier, reserves of coal lost due to fire are estimated at around 37 million tones in Jharia coalfield. No such study was made for Raniganj coalfield as the fire is in limited area.

(e) and (f) A high level committee was constituted under chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Coal in 1996 to look after the fire, subsidence and rehabilitation problems in Jharia and Raniganj Coalfields. This committee had visited fire sites during 1996-97 and gave its recommendations in January, 1998, which are under implementation.

**Visit of EAM to US**

5828. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian delegation headed by the Minister of External Affairs visited the United States recently;

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

(c) the details of issues discussed during the visit;

(d) the outcome thereof;

(e) whether any MoUs were signed during the said visit; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the benefits likely to be gained by India from these agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) An Indian delegation headed by External Affairs Minister visited US on April 13-14, 2005. He was accompanied by Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Foreign Secretary, and officials of the Ministry of External Affairs, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space. During the visit, he called on US President George W. Bush, and met with his US counterpart US Secretary of State Dr. Condoleezza Rice, US National Security Advisor Mr. Stephen Hadley, and the Chairman of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee Mr. Richard Lugar.

(c) The talks were wide-ranging covering all issues of mutual interest with a view to building a long term partnership between India and the US across the board.

(d) The two sides agreed on a strategic Dialogue chaired by External Affairs Minister of India and US Secretary of State that will provide political direction to our ties. An Energy Dialogue was set up that would include nuclear energy, hydrocarbons and cleaner technologies as agenda and would be co-chaired by Deputy Chairman Planning Commission and the US Energy Secretary. The sides also created a Joint Working Group on Space Cooperation with the goal of promoting satellite fabrication and launch of Indian vehicles. Need for an early completion of NSSP was stressed. US expressed understanding for India's aspirations in regard to global institutions, welcomed more active association by India with G-8 and decided to send Special Adviser to US Secretary of State for UN reforms to India for discussions.

(e) No MoU was signed during the visit.

(f) The question does not arise.

**Infant Girl Mortality Rate**

5829. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that the girl child in India has 50 per cent more chance of dying before attaining the age of five years according to a report of World Health Organisation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) According to the World Health Report 2005 which has been released by World Health Organization in April, 2005, the under 5 mortality rate for boys is 85 per 1000 live births and 90 per 1000 live births for girls. According to the World Bank Report (2004)—"India Attaining the Millennium Development Goals", a girl in India is 40% more likely to die between her 1st and 5th birthdays than a boy. The report states that low social status of women in India is an important cause of gender disparity in child mortality. Other reasons for higher female child mortality are marked preference for boy children in some communities leading to discrimination against girls such as neglect in feeding, education and health care.

(c) Under the Reproductive & Child Health Programme (RCH) being implemented in all States of the country, various interventions for reduction of infant and child mortality rate are being implemented. These include immunization against fixed vaccine communicable diseases, control of death during diarrhoea, control of deaths due to acute respiratory infections; prophylaxis against vitamin A deficiency and iron deficiency anemia. Essential newborn care and promotion of exclusive breastfeeding and appropriate complementary feeding practices.

Specific initiatives which have been undertaken for women empowerment are the contractual appointment of Family Welfare staff to increase provisions of healthcare services, increase in compensation for loss of wages for acceptors of sterilization/IUD insertion, increasing the basket of choices to include a long acting Copper T (IUD 380 A) and the emergency contraceptive pill and increased participation of men in planned parenthood. The pre-natal diagnostic techniques (Regulation & Prevention of Misuse) Act 1994 has been implemented with a view to improve the declining sex ratio and for containing the menace of female foeticide. The Integrated Population and Development project is under implementation in 6 States *i.e.* Rajasthan, Orissa, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala with the objectives of increasing the sensitivity of health care workers of all categories on gender and to enhance their capacity for providing gender friendly health care.

*[Translation]*

**KVIC Schemes**

5830. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various schemes introduced and being implemented by the KVIC in rural areas, State-wise;

(b) the number of industries benefited under loan scheme, State-wise particularly in Madhya Pradesh during the last two years;

(c) the number of cases pending with the Government for providing loan to industrial units in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) the measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), a credit-linked-subsidy programme to create more employment opportunities by setting up of village industries in rural areas as well as small towns with population up to 20,000 in all the States/Union Territories of the country. Some of other schemes being implemented through the KVIC for promotion of khadi and village industries (KVI) and increasing employment in the country include Interest Subsidy Eligibility Certificate Scheme (ISEC) for providing bank loans to KVI units at subsidised rates of interest, rebate on sale of khadi products, assistance to KVI units in marketing their products, Rural Industries Service Centres (RISCs) for setting up of common facility centres (CFCs), Product Development, Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) Scheme for improved designs and packaging, etc.

(b) The KVIC does not provide financial assistance in the form of loan. It provides margin money assistance for setting up village industry units under the REGP. The State-wise details of units set up under the REGP and the margin money assistance provided during 2002-03 and 2003-04, including those in Madhya Pradesh, are given in the enclosed statements I and II, respectively.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

***Statement I***

*State-wise details of village industry units set up under the REGP during 2002-03 and 2003-04*

| Sl.No. | State/Union Territory | Number of units set up | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2002-03 | 2003-04 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Chandigarh | 1 | 8 |
| 2. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 5 | 2 |
| 3. | Delhi | 9 | 7 |
| 4. | Haryana | 677 | 923 |
| 5. | Himachal Pradesh | 423 | 414 |
| 6. | Jammu and Kashmir | 105 | 775 |
| 7. | Punjab | 1358 | 882 |
| 8. | Rajasthan | 3036 | 2496 |
| 9. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 196 | 58 |
| 10. | Bihar | 229 | 88 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 298 | 323 |
| 12. | Orissa | 668 | 1031 |
| 13. | West Bengal | 2459 | 3348 |
| 14. | Arunachal Pradesh | 30 | 32 |
| 15. | Assam | 559 | 1223 |
| 16. | Manipur | 79 | 36 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 153 | 210 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 143 | 33 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 64 | 61 |
| 20. | Tripura | 141 | 244 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 16 | 113 |
| 22. | Andhra Pradesh | 1818 | 1097 |
| 23. | Karnataka | 1411 | 1422 |
| 24. | Kerala | 789 | 2046 |
| 25. | Lakshadweep | 0 | 9 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 26. | Pondicherry | 3 | 47 |
| 27. | Tamil Nadu | 764 | 1568 |
| 28. | Goa | 244 | 126 |
| 29. | Gujarat | 126 | 290 |
| 30. | Maharashtra | 2249 | 857 |
| 31. | Chhattisgarh | 216 | 697 |
| 32. | Madhya Pradesh | 703 | 1041 |
| 33. | Uttaranchal | 375 | 1106 |
| 34. | Uttar Pradesh | 1677 | 2134 |
| | Total | 21024 | 24747 |

***Statement II***

*State-wise details of margin money assistance provided under the REGP during 2002-03 and 2003-04*

(Rs. lakh)

| Sl.No. | State/Union Territory | Margin money assistance provided | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2002-03 | 2003-04 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Chandigarh | 0.40 | 10.24 |
| 2. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 9.49 | 4.13 |
| 3. | Delhi | 16.16 | 12.31 |
| 4. | Haryana | 884.91 | 1938.96 |
| 5. | Himachal Pradesh | 643.78 | 757.11 |
| 6. | Jammu and Kashmir | 179.00 | 363.45 |
| 7. | Punjab | 1744.62 | 819.03 |
| 8. | Rajasthan | 2189.08 | 2890.28 |
| 9. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 78.24 | 28.44 |
| 10. | Bihar | 108.13 | 186.03 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 421.01 | 198.08 |
| 12. | Orissa | 156.78 | 784.11 |
| 13. | West Bengal | 1202.17 | 1593.51 |
| 14. | Arunachal Pradesh | 45.36 | 52.77 |
| 15. | Assam | 375.68 | 806.83 |
| 16. | Manipur | 110.53 | 41.19 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 135.94 | 121.79 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 224.40 | 61.10 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 50.15 | 117.20 |
| 20. | Tripura | 106.23 | 224.02 |
| 21. | Sikkim | 6.70 | 127.67 |
| 22. | Andhra Pradesh | 1775.01 | 1675.40 |
| 23. | Karnataka | 1560.05 | 1692.17 |
| 24. | Kerala | 1196.03 | 2753.15 |
| 25. | Lakshadweep | 0 | 7.42 |
| 26. | Pondicherry | 0.29 | 11.38 |
| 27. | Tamil Nadu | 604.08 | 1362.17 |
| 28. | Goa | 198.06 | 82.98 |
| 29. | Gujarat | 102.23 | 130.34 |
| 30. | Maharashtra | 1541.92 | 873.25 |
| 31. | Chhattisgarh | 427.33 | 1098.00 |
| 32. | Madhya Pradesh | 605.97 | 1355.07 |
| 33. | Uttaranchal | 378.01 | 979.70 |
| 34. | Uttar Pradesh | 2293.52 | 3415.18 |
| | Total | 19371.26 | 26574.46 |

*[English]*

**Facilities for Patients in General Ward of AIIMS**

5831. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether patients admitted in General Ward of AIIMS are charged for medicines as per the vocabulary prepared by the Hospital;

(b) if so, whether the patients admitted in the General Ward in AIIMS are provided with common and emergency medicines/surgical items including cotton gauge, syringes etc.;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to bring general awareness among the general ward patients in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken to check the harassment of poor patients admitted in general ward of AIIMS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) 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. In addition, the poor and indigenous patients who cannot afford to buy medicines and surgical items are also provided financial assistance through Poor Patients Fund, National Illness Assistance Fund (AROGYA Nidhi), Prime Ministers Relief Fund, Health Minister's Discretionary Grant and Voluntary Organization.

(d) and (e) All the patients admitted in the hospital are given a leaflet both in English and Hindi indicating Dos & Don't indicating the supply of drugs for their requirement when admitted.

(f) All the wards of the hospital are manned by the resident administrator and nursing supervisor. The medical social service officer also interact with the patients and assess their need in terms of medicines, surgical and their basic requirement.

**Abolition of Posts**

5832. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has banned the creation of new posts in the Central Government Department;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the date of its coming into effect;

(d) the details of Posts abolished in each Central Government Departments such as Railways, Posts, Audit & Accounts, Defence, Income Tax, Health, CPWD, Information & Broadcasting etc.;

(e) whether there is any move by the Government to stop abolition of posts in these departments and lift the ban on recruitment;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (c) Restrictions have been imposed from time to time on creation of new/additional posts. A general ban on creation of posts both Plan and Non-Plan without exception to any category or classification of posts and also covering the autonomous organizations has been imposed since 24.9.2000 with a view to achieve fiscal prudence and austerity in Government expenditure. However, in exceptional cases, proposals from different Ministries/Departments are considered based on their merit/functional justification including statutory requirements, if any, existing strength and matching savings etc.

(d) Details of posts abolished in each Ministry/ Department are not maintained centrally.

(e) to (g) No Sir. There is no proposal under consideration in the Government.

*[Translation]*

**Development Works by Coal Companies**

5833. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the development works like electricity, roads and water management have came to a standstill in Jharkhand due to non-payment of dues of the Central Coalfield Limited, and the Bharat Coking Coal Limited of the Coal India Limited;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make these payments; and

(c) the amount spent on these works during each of the last three years, work-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per CIL, its subsidiaries have paid almost Rs. 730 crores (Provisional) to the Government of Jharkhand by way of royalty during 2004-05.

(c) As informed by Coal India Limited, BCCL and CCL undertake Community Development activities which are basically infrastructure building such as provision of drinking water by installation of hand pumps, digging/ renovation of ponds/wells, construction/extension/repair or roads and miscellaneous works etc. Coal companies also organize health camps for nearby communities occasionally. Company wise breakup of amount spent on various community development activities is given below:

| Company | 2001-02 Expenditure | 2002-03 Expenditure | 2003-04 Expenditure |
|---|---|---|---|
| BCCL | 21.65 | 43.41 | 31.11 |
| CCL | 50.34 | 61.51 | 39.43 |

*[English]*

**Shortage of SIM Cards in Karnataka**

5834. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a severe shortage of SIM cards to meet the demands of BSNL mobile phones in Karnataka;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to address the problem;

(d) the target fixed in this regard for the year 2004-05, State-wise, particularly in Karnataka; and

(e) extent to which the target has been achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Although adequate quantity of SIMs are available, due to capacity constraints, further release of cellular connections has been temporarily controlled. However, 709362 mobile connections are working in the State of Karnataka.

(c) Augmentation of the cellular network by an additional capacity of 9.6 lakh lines is in progress and likely to be available progressively from June 2005 onwards.

(d) and (e) The State-wise details of targets assigned and achieved in 2004-05 are given in the enclosed statement.

***Statement***

***State-wise Target/Achievement for 2004-05***

| Sl.No. | State | Target 2004-05 | Achievement 2004-05 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar | 6900 | 3245 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 459700 | 246790 |
| 3. | Assam | 168600 | 125805 |
| 4. | Bihar | 278300 | 84660 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 67400 | 22817 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 563000 | 184836 |
| 7. | Himachal Pradesh | 89200 | 30175 |
| 8. | Haryana | 247000 | 94256 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 49100 | 110640 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 112000 | 63134 |
| 11. | Kerala | 428000 | 428188 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 346400 | 379166 |
| 13. | Maharashtra including Goa | 719500 | 242255 |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 202200 | 120322 |
| 15. | North East-I (Tripura, Meghalaya, Mizoram) | 46650 | 37996 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 16. | North East-II (Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur) | 46650 | 37143 |
| 17. | Orissa | 225200 | 129541 |
| 18. | Punjab | 429000 | 91258 |
| 19. | Rajasthan | 412700 | 150105 |
| 20. | Tamil Nadu | 639300 | 735249 |
| 21. | Uttaranchal | 109900 | 46393 |
| 22. | Uttar Pradesh | 767600 | 491888 |
| 23. | West Bengal including Sikkim | 585700 | 337378 |
| | Total | 7000000 | 4193240 |

*[Translation]*

**PHCs and CHCs functioning in the Country**

5835. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

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

(a) the total number of Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres functioning in the country as on date, State-wise/Union Territory-wise;

(b) the details of expenditure incurred on health by the Government during the last two years, till date, State-wise/Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether the Government has made any inspection 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) The total number of Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres functioning in the country as on September, 2004 has been given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) Expenditure on Health is met-out of State sector health outlay earmarked by Planning Commission. Outlay and expenditure under State Plan Health Sector, State-wise, during last three years is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) and (d) A Facility Survey has been conducted in the country, in two phases (1998-99 and 2003-04), which assessed the availability of infrastructure i.e. water facility, electricity, vehicle, operation theatre, labour room etc. and health manpower position in the Primary Health Care Institutions in the country.

The Rural Health Care Infrastructure status in the country has been reviewed in the four regional workshops held at Chandigarh, Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkatta in November, December 2004.

The Health Centres are also monitored for their functioning by periodic visits by State Government Officers, Regional Directors of Government of India and also by Officers of Central Government.

***Statement I***

*Number of PHCs & CHCs Functioning*

**(As on Sept. 04)**

| Sl.No. | State/UT | PHCs | CHCs |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 1490 | 161 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 78 | 31 |
| 3. | Assam | 610 | 100 |
| 4. | Bihar | 1648 | 101 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 516 | 116 |
| 6. | Goa | 19 | 5 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 1070 | 271 |
| 8. | Haryana | 408 | 72 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 438 | 66 |
| 10. | Jammu & Kashmir | 334 | 70 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 561 | 47 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 1679 | 253 |
| 13. | Kerala | 933 | 115 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 1194 | 227 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 1780 | 382 |
| 16. | Manipur | 72 | 16 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 95 | 23 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 57 | 12 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 87 | 21 |
| 20. | Orissa | 1282 | 231 |
| 21. | Punjab | 484 | 117 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 1675 | 298 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 24 | 4 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 1380 | 35 |
| 25. | Tripura | 73 | 9 |
| 26. | Uttaranchal | 229 | 36 |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 3640 | 294 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 1173 | 95 |
| 29. | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 20 | 4 |
| 30. | Chandigarh | 0 | 1 |
| 31. | Dadra & Nagar Haveli | 6 | 1 |
| 32. | Daman & Diu | 3 | 1 |
| 33. | Delhi | 8 | 0 |
| 34. | Lakshadweep | 4 | 3 |
| 35. | Pondicherry | 39 | 4 |
| | All India | 23109 | 3222 |

Note: Figures are provisional.

***Statement II***

*Health—State Plan Outlays & Expenditure*

(Rs. Lakhs)

| State/UT | X Plan | 2002-03 | | | 2003-04 | | 2004-05 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Outlay | Outlay | R.E. | Exp. | Outlay | R.E. | Outlay |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 133024.00 | 24309.00 | 25302.00 | 22008.16 | 40995.00 | 38615.05 | 40995.44 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 23129.00 | 2181.00 | 2460.00 | 2181.01 | 2201.00 | 2201.05 | 2781.35 |
| Assam | 57069.00 | 8648.00 | 8648.00 | 8194.35 | 7682.00 | 7882.00 | 6529.00 |
| Bihar | 107920.00 | 13703.00 | 13181.00 | 10731.11 | 13699.00 | 10993.59 | 14182.02 |
| Chhattisgarh | 43418.00 | 6935.00 | 6935.00 | 5550.00 | 8083.00 | 8083.00 | 15076.00 |
| Goa | 13135.00 | 1895.00 | 1895.00 | 1888.48 | 3175.00 | 2624.70 | 3521.33 |
| Gujarat | 116616.00 | 21387.00 | 21387.00 | 15192.32 | 25221.00 | 22221.00 | 25294.00 |
| Haryana | 96062.00 | 6280.00 | 6907.00 | 2233.22 | 7800.00 | 5900.00 | 7124.00 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 78772.00 | 13414.00 | 13112.00 | 12905.15 | 19517.00 | 20196.22 | 18295.79 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jammu and Kashmir | 79666.00 | 13000.00 | 13000.00 | 12861.04 | 14864.00 | 15695.66 | 16330.87 |
| Jharkhand | 65000.00 | 11575.00 | 11575.00 | 6498.00 | 9700.00 | 7500.00 | 14040.00 |
| Karnataka | 153052.00 | 19247.00 | 19948.00 | 17715.31 | 13974.00 | 16884.66 | 18011.51 |
| Kerala | 40840.00 | 7135.00 | 7000.00 | 7916.65 | 9748.00 | 8485.00 | 10130.00 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 71533.00 | 14016.00 | 14370.00 | 14520.93 | 18105.00 | 13088.15 | 20298.09 |
| Maharashtra | 110666.00 | 40740.00 | 40740.00 | 21632.92 | 76435.00 | 62065.41 | 20298.09 |
| Manipur | 8173.00 | 1415.00 | 1415.00 | 304.23 | 2280.00 | 2280.00 | 1915.91 |
| Meghalaya | 18000.00 | 3020.00 | 3323.00 | 3219.79 | 3550.00 | 3800.00 | 4042.00 |
| Mizoram | 12370.00 | 2860.00 | 4062.00 | 2725.99 | 2975.00 | 4105.40 | 3000.00 |
| Nagaland | 7965.00 | 1548.00 | 1549.00 | 1562.14 | 2383.00 | 2383.00 | 2207.15 |
| Orissa | 52139.00 | 12777.00 | 8347.00 | 7243.09 | 21694.00 | 13449.42 | 11739.19 |
| Punjab | 53081.00 | 9298.00 | 9298.00 | 6483.49 | 10450.00 | 12192.29 | 7508.93 |
| Rajasthan | 56892.00 | 12778.00 | 5831.00 | 4034.19 | 8236.00 | 7458.98 | 10811.56 |
| Sikkim | 8000.00 | 1600.00 | 1611.00 | 1408.04 | 1606.00 | 1626.00 | 2210.00 |
| Tamil Nadu | 70000.00 | 10440.00 | 16911.00 | 14285.27 | 16314.00 | 16164.44 | 19400.66 |
| Tripura | 25072.00 | 1480.00 | 1480.00 | 1407.34 | 2013.00 | 3198.44 | 2535.36 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 240543.00 | 27826.00 | 18893.00 | 25950.00 | 33927.00 | 22600.00 | 33927.00 |
| Uttaranchal | 38767.00 | 4286.00 | 4336.00 | 5768.50 | 7359.00 | 7358.51 | 8759.31 |
| West Bengal | 103618.00 | 27898.00 | 26604.00 | 14137.89 | 21193.00 | 26715.96 | 23739.80 |
| A&N Islands | 11400.00 | 2050.00 | 2050.00 | 2119.64 | 2150.00 | 2160.00 | 2390.00 |
| Chandigarh | 22426.00 | 3803.65 | 3803.65 | 3944.93 | 3111.00 | 3111.00 | 3477.00 |
| Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 1225.00 | 238.00 | 238.00 | 269.57 | 266.00 | 266.00 | 343.00 |
| Daman & Diu | 1750.00 | 194.15 | 194.15 | 217.68 | 228.00 | 227.00 | 290.00 |
| Delhi | 238150.00 | 38970.00 | 35635.00 | 33043.43 | 42692.00 | 42179.55 | 53775.00 |
| Lakshadweep | 901.30 | 275.20 | 275.20 | 232.33 | 227.00 | 235.00 | 225.00 |
| Pondicherry | 16360.00 | 3272.09 | 3019.39 | 3000.21 | 3205.00 | 3264.48 | 4160.00 |
| Total | 2176734.30 | 370494.09 | 355335.39 | 293426.40 | 457058.00 | 417210.96 | 429364.36 |

**Risk Associated with Oral Contraceptive**

5836. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of oral contraceptive increases the possibility of brain stroke;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps as a measure of warning to deal with this situation; 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) The World Health Organization (WHO) has conducted a large multi national case control study to evaluate the effects of oral contraceptives on venous thromboembolism, stroke and myocardial infarction in 21 centres in 17 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. One of the objectives of the study was to determine if there was an association between currently available hormonal contraceptives and cardio vascular disease. The study had concluded "there is little risk of stroke for health young women who were using oral contraceptives". On the other hand in women in the age group of over 35 years, there was a small, though distinct increase in cardiovascular risk. Women who are above the age of 35 years, overweight, with smoking habits and those with history of high blood pressure during pregnancy are at a slightly higher risk of formation of blood clots in the veins (compared to those women who do not have these problems). The WHO in their study report has stated that they believe that oral contraceptive pills are safe in vast majority of women. However, it has recommended that women with high blood pressure should avoid use of hormone containing contraceptive pills.

(c) and (d) The Oral Contraceptive Pills supplied by Govt. of India under the National Family Welfare Programme is a low dose pill (30 ug), which is less likely to be associated with increased risk of stroke. The guidelines of Govt. of India on oral contraceptive pills specify that a detailed history and clinical examination of women should be done to exclude risk factors before Oral Contraceptive Pill use. It should be avoided in women above 35 years with smoking habits and those with other high risk factors such as cardio-vascular disease, thromboembolic disorders, liver tumours, breast cancer, undiagnosed abnormal bleeding etc.

*[English]*

**Road Safety Guidelines**

5837. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether steps are being taken by the Government to implement the road safety guidelines issued by the Supreme Court for safety and security of the school going children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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) Hon'ble Supreme Court in course of hearing of Writ Petition (Civil) No. 13029 of 1985 (M.C. Mehta vs. Union of India & Others), I.A. Nos. 7, 8, 9 & 10 had directed the police and other authorities of NCR and NCT of Delhi entrusted with administration and enforcement of Motor Vehicles Act and generally in control of traffic, *inter-alia*, to ensure that transport vehicles are not permitted to overtake any other four-wheeled motorized vehicles. Enforcement and compliance of these directions is the responsibility of the State authorities of NCR and NCT of Delhi.

**Discontinuation of Virtual Private Network**

5838. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of ISPs (Inter Service Providers) have discontinued their Virtual Private Network (VPN) services;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the Inter Service Providers and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to resolve the issue and safeguard the interests of subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (c) It has been clarified by the Government that provision of Virtual Private Network (VPN) service by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) is not permitted under their existing ISP license. ISPs have been directed to discontinue VPN services unless permitted by the Competent Authority, after amendment in their respective licenses subject to certain terms and conditions.

(b) The information regarding ISPs having discontinued VPN service is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]*

**Filling up of Backlog Vacancies**

5839. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to issue order to fill up the backlog of vacancies reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Public Sector Undertakings/Institutions, Banks and Financial Institutions under special recruitment drive;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to fill up the backlog of reserved vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) A special recruitment drive has been launched to fill up the backlog of vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes—both in Direct Recruitment Quota and Promotion Quota. This special recruitment drive covers all the Ministries/Departments of Government of India including their attached and subordinate offices as well as autonomous bodies and Public Sector Undertakings.

(c) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Lack of Equipment and Materials in Government Hospitals**

5840. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the dire need of transfusion equipments and other materials in Government hospitals, particularly in Safdarjung Hospital as reported in the *Times of India* dated April 4, 2005;

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

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

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) the steps taken to procure requisite equipments in Government Hospitals;

(f) whether a number of deaths occurred in Government hospitals during the last two years because of shortage of ventilators and other equipments;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) the total number of requirements of ventilators and their availability at present;

(i) the total allocation of funds for equipment in Government hospitals during the last three years, the amount spent and the reasons for non-utilisation of funds;

(j) the reasons for the lapse of fund and the action taken for proper utilisation of funds with a view to ensure procurement of hospital equipments and other materials; and

(k) the action taken against persons responsible for under-utilisation of funds in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) In Safdarjung Hospital most of the transfusion equipments and other material are available and used for needy patients attending this hospital.

(e) Procurement of equipments as per the requirement of various user Departments of Safdarjung Hospital is a continuous process.

(f) and (g) No deaths have taken place in the hospital due to shortage of ventilators and other equipments.

(h) There are 37 Ventilators available in this hospital and procurement of five Paediatric ventilators are in the process.

(i) to (k) The allocation of funds in the budget and utilization thereof, under the sub-head of Machinery and Equipment during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

| Year | Budget Estimates | Expenditure |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 11.29 | 5.00 |
| 2003-04 | 15.68 | 8.02 |
| 2004-05 | 22.00 | 8.50 |

The purchase of costly equipments including imported equipments for the Central Government Hospitals particularly Safdarjung Hospital is done after following all codal formalities as laid down in the rules. The Procurement of equipments is a continuous process and the delay may be attributed to several factors due to non-completion of codal formalities etc. If the equipments earmarked for purchase in a year is not procured in that year, the same is procured in the next year.

**Greater Autonomy to NHAI**

5841. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to grant greater autonomy to the National Highways Authority of India;

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

(c) whether the views of State Governments have been sought in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) As per the direction of the Committee on Infrastructure, it has been decided to build up the institutional capacity of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to enable delegation of more autonomy & powers to the Authority.

(c) and (d) There is no need to seek the views of State Governments in this regard.

*[Translation]*

**Scheme for Improvement in Coal Sector**

5842. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate a scheme for making improvement/reorganization in the coal sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount likely to be spent by the Government on the said scheme;

(d) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard;

(e) whether the Government proposes to invite private sector for commercial mining under 14 Point Programme; 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) Yes, Sir. An Expert Committee has been constituted to draw up a road map for coal sector.

(c) and (d) The Expert Committee has not submitted its recommendations as yet.

(e) and (f) In order to increase coal production in the country and to attract private investment in coal mining sector, the Central Government proposed to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973. Accordingly, the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill 2000 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in April, 2000 with the following objectives; inter alia:

(i) to allow Indian companies i.e. companies registered in India to mine coal and lignite without the existing restriction of captive consumption; and

(ii) to engage in exploration of coal and lignite resources in the country.

The Bill has been recommended by the Standing Committee on Energy for adoption.

**Administrative Reforms Commission**

5843. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the first administrative reforms Commission was constituted;

(b) whether the objectives of the first Commission were achieved;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the second Commission for administrative reforms is different from the first Commission;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the decisions taken by the Government on the recommendations made in the report of first administrative reforms Commission;

(g) whether it is a fact that Government has also finalised to fill up the backlog of jobs reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; and

(h) if so, the details in this regard alongwith the guidelines if any given for filling up the backlog reserved quota of SCs/STs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (c) The first Administrative Reforms Commission (ARC) was constituted on 5 January, 1966 to examine the public administration of the country and make recommendations for reform and reorganization wherever necessary. The Commission submitted 20 reports on various subjects before winding up in mid-1970.

(d) and (e) The Government has decided to set up the second ARC to prepare a blueprint for revamping the public administration system in view of the fact that important developments have taken place since the first ARC necessitating a fresh look at the administrative systems to make them responsive, accountable, efficient and citizen-friendly.

(f) The first ARC made 537 major recommendations and a report indicating the implementation position was placed in the Lok Sabha on 17 November, 1977.

(g) and (h) A special recruitment drive has been launched to fill up backlog vacancies reserved for SCs and STs in direct recruitment as well as in promotion.

**Mobile Services in Uttar Pradesh**

5844. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the private cellular companies providing mobile services in Uttar Pradesh, district-wise;

(b) the number of SIM Cards provided/issues in these districts; and

(c) the norms for providing/issuing SIM Cards by these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The country is divided into 19 Telecom Circle Service Areas and 4 Metro City Service Areas (Total 23 Service Areas) for providing Cellular Mobile Telephone Service as well as Unified Access Services. Out of these Telecom Circle Service Areas, UP (East) Telecom Service Area covers a part of Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) State and U.P. (West) Telecom Circle Service Area covers remaining part of Uttar Pradesh (U.P.) State and also includes Uttaranchal State. The names of the private companies providing mobile service in U.P. (East) Telecom Circle Service Area are M/s Bharti Cellular Ltd., M/s Aircell Digilink India Ltd., M/s Escorts Telecommunications Ltd., M/s Reliance Infocom Ltd. and M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd. and in U.P. (West) Telecom Circle Service Area are M/s Bharti Cellular Ltd., M/s Hutchison Essar South Ltd., M/s Idea Mobile Communication Ltd., M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. and M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.

(b) As on 31.3.2005, the number of Cellular Mobile Subscribers (SIM cards) provided by these private

companies in U.P. (East) Telecom Circle Service Area and U.P. (West) Telecom Circle Service Area are 10, 21, 176 and 11, 69, 336 respectively. District-wise details of SIM cards provided/issued are not maintained.

(c) SIM cards are to be issued by the company after verification of bonafides of the customers like photo identity, proof of address and receipt of prescribed charges.

**NGOs Role in the Care of Girl-Child**

5845. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
MOHD. SHAHID:
SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:

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

(a) incentives provided by the Government to the NGOs to enable them to play an important role in the care of girl-child during the Tenth Five Year Plan, till date;

(b) the funds allocated to the NGOs in this regard during the last three years;

(c) the total amount of funds spent by the Government on the care of girl-child during the year 2004-05;

(d) the efforts made to improve the network among all States, district administrations and Panchayati Raj Institutions in this regard; and

(e) the measures taken for improving relations and enhancing co-operation between public and private sectors to provide welfare services to the poor and under privileged sections under the rural Community Health Programme during the year 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) NGO scheme under the Department of Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare does not have any provision of incentive, specially, for girl child for the NGOs working with this division. Provision for violence against women has been kept under service delivery area for intervention under Service NGO scheme. The Service NGO is expected to pay a complementary role and sensitize/strengthen the existing health care delivery system for addressing reproductive health consequences of gender based violence.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, the question does not arise.

(e) Under the Mother NGO (MNGO)/Service NGO (SNGO Scheme), the cooperation between public and NGO sector are strengthened in the States through series of GO/NGO partnership workshops.

**WLL Medium for Inaccessible Areas**

5846. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to adopt WLL medium to provide telecommunication services in the highly inaccessible areas of the country;

(b) if so, the number of States and Districts where this WLL service has been extended;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government for the participation of private companies in this sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

(c) 14,183 Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (DSPTs) are being planned for remote and far-flung areas to provide communication facilities.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. License is technology neutral. Operators choose technology on techno-economic considerations.

*[English]*

**Restoring Democracy in Nepal**

5847. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer

to the reply given to Starred Question No. 21 on March 2, 2005 and state:

(a) whether the King of Nepal has since indicated his willingness to call off emergency and restore constitutional monarchy and a democratic Government in Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) The King of Nepal has conveyed that he remains committed to constitutional monarchy and multi-party democracy. He has also conveyed that the measures in place since 1 February 2005 are temporary in nature. The emergency in Nepal has since been lifted.

(c) It has been the consistent position of Government of India that a national consensus between constitutional forces, namely political parties and constitutional monarchy is necessary to effectively address the challenges confronting Nepal, including the Maoist insurgency. On its part, India will continue to support all efforts for the restoration of political stability and economic prosperity in Nepal.

**Upgradation of National Highways in Karnataka**

5848. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has requested the Union Government for the upgradation of National Highway Nos. 48 and 4 into four lane from Nelamangala by-pass to Mangalore and Krishna Raja Puram to Mulbagal upto Kolar Border respectively; and

(b) if so, the response of 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) Four laning of the stretches from Nelamangala to Hassan on National Highway-48 and from Krishna Raja Puram to Mulbagal on National Highway-4 in Karnataka have been identified for inclusion in the NHDP (Phase-III) to be taken up on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. Bids for carrying out feasibility study and preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the above stretches have been invited by the National Highways Authority of India.

**Reproductive Health in Orissa**

5849. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare has conducted a comparative study on psycho-social and cultural Determinants of Male's involvement in Reproductive Health in Orissa;

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

(c) whether the said study has been completed; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Institute of Health & Family Welfare (NIHFW), New Delhi an autonomous body, has conducted a study entitled "A Comparative Study of Psychosocial and Cultural Determinants of Male's Involvement in Reproductive Health in Orissa."

(b) to (d) The study commenced in March 2000 and was completed in July 2002. The study included samples of urban, rural, urban slum and tribal population of the State of Orissa. The respondents (1200 in number) were currently married males whose wives were in the reproductive age (15-45) group. The study revealed that:

- Awareness about various methods of contraception range from 2% in case of non scalpel vasectomy to 30% in case of female sterilization.
- Focus Group Discussion revealed that men in all groups believed tubectomy to be easier and had fewer changes of complications & failure and needed shorter period of post-operative rest.
- 90% men perceived that son preference was strong in women however, the tribal men felt that this was not so with their women.

- 43% men in tribal areas and 87% men in urban areas reported occurrence of unplanned pregnancy. In almost all the cases the cause of unplanned pregnancy was non-adoption of contraceptive methods.

- Over 90% of the tribal men did not know about the usual minor gynaecological problems of women and hence there was low participation of males in promoting women's reproductive as well as general health.

- There was a lack of inter-spousal communication on their reproductive goals and acceptance of contraception, among tribal.

These findings could be taken as a baseline on the awareness, attitude, knowledge, beliefs, behaviour and involvement in reproductive health practices of male in Orissa. Community based intervention programmes particularly reproductive health and population education, counselling, IEC activities, clinical, social and legal programmes may draw insight from the study while planning strategies for such interventions.

**Foreign Blacklisted Firms**

5850. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the largest number of firms blacklisted by the Protectorate of Emigrants in India is from Malaysia;

(b) if so, the details regarding the names of such firms blacklisted by the Government, country-wise;

(c) the details of complaints received by the Government against such firms from labourers employed there; and

(d) the action taken on these complaints and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement showing the country-wise names of the firms, which have been placed in Prior Approval Category/black listed, is enclosed.

(c) Generally, the complaints of the workers relate to the breach of contract, non-payment or less payment of salary, substitution of contract, poor working and living conditions and some times non-availability of sponsor on arrival etc.

(d) On receipt of such complaints, the matter is taken up with the concerned registered Recruiting Agents who has sent them to sort out the problem within a reasonable time frame. If the Recruiting Agent fails to resolve the problem, his Registration Certificate is suspended/cancelled and the Bank Guarantee may be forfeited. In serious complaints, the foreign companies are blacklisted and all Protectors of Emigrants are instructed not to give any emigration clearance for recruitment of workers by such foreign companies.

***Statement***

*Foreign Black Listed Firms*

AZERBAIJAN

1. Caspianpetroleum Project Baku Azerbaijan

BAHRAIN

2. M/s BINIL Mechanical & Civil Contracting, Bahrain

BRUNEI

3. M/s RBJ Industries Brunei

4. Raja Isteri Penigivan Anak Sahiba Hospital, Brunei

JORDAN

5. Jerusalem Factory for Can Boxes Co Amman Jordan

6. Lama Garment Factory, Irbid, Jordan

7. M/s Al Shtiea Bureau of Const Services Aman Jordan

8. M/s United Garment Co. Pvt. Ltd. Jordan

9. The 4 Catering Company Jordan

10. United Garment Co. Pvt. Ltd. Jordan

KENYA

11. M/s Industrial Plant Ltd. Nairobi Kenya, Kenya

12. Mack Construction Company P.O. Box 2755 Nakuru, Kenya

13. Optica Kenya Ltd. Nairobi Kenya

14. Richfield Eng. Ltd. Nairboi Kenya

KUWAIT

15. Al Blasem Genl Trading & Const. Co. Kuwait

16. Al Welaya Travel Tourism, Kuwait

17. Al-Tan Gener Trad & Cont. and Mantechservices Group Safat, Kuwait

18. Asahi Genl Trading & Contracco, Kuwait

19. Fawaz Refrigerator and Air Conditioning Co, Kuwait

20. Fineeco International Trdg. & Contr. Co Kuwait

21. Gersen General Trade & Cont. Co., Kuwait

22. Ghazwan Trading & Contracting Co. Kuwait

23. Gulf International Contracting Co. Kuwait

24. Pearal Catering Serv. Kuwait

25. RIC Coolex Refrigeration Industries Co. Shwwak Kuwait, PO Box No. 2261 Safat Kuwait

LIBYA

26. Al-Shehab Co-Misuarta, Libya

27. Organisation of Nahar Al Hayah for Const. and Investment Tripoli Libya

MALAYSIA

28. Action Renouned Team Sdn. Bhd No. 198, Level 3, Jalan Tun Sambanthan, Brickfields, 50470 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

29. Akesori SDN, BHD No. 35, Lengkong Rishah, 1, Kawasan Perindustrian Sillbin, 30100 IPOH, PERAK Malaysia

30. Andalas Medical Centre 77, Perisaran Tengku Ampuan Rihimah 41200 Klang Selangor Malaysia

31. Arterial Resources Sdn. BHD Lot 2353-12, Jalan Kempas Lams, Off Jalan Skudai, 81300 Johor Malaysia

32. Austral Enterprises Berhad 24-31, Jalan Setiawangsa 8, Taman Setiawangsa, 54200 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

33. Ayub Restoran No. 33, Jalan Sugu, Taman Daya Johor Malaysia

34. B.W. Lucky Enterprises Lot 173, Jalan Kampung Air Kuning, 34000 Taiping, Perak Perak Malaysia

35. Baneng Industries SDN, BHD Batu 21/2, Jalan Tranjung Laboh, 83000 Batu Pahat, Johor Malaysia

36. Bio Axis SDN. BHD No. 6A Lorong Ara Kiri 3, Lucky Garden Bangsar, 59000 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

37. Boon Koon Vehicles Industries SDN. BHD 1177 Jalan Dato Keramat, 14300 Nibong Tebal, Sebarang Peral Selatan, Palau Pinang Malaysia

38. Chinwell Fastners Co. SDN. Bhd. No. 1583 MK 11, Lorong Perusahaan Utama 1, Bukit Tengah Industrial Park, 14000 Bukit Mertajam, Penang Malaysia

39. Cosmo Engineering SDN, BHD 30, JLN, Traming 4, TMN, Taming Jaya JLN Belakong, Seri Kambangan, Selangor Malaysia

40. Databudi Engineering SDN BHD RON Ying/Mr. Masood Hossain/Ganesan 41-A, Jalan SS. 19/6, 47500 Subang Jaya Malaysia

41. Digital Cosntruction SDN BHD No. 14-A, JLN. SG. 3/2, Taman SRI Gombak Batu Caves, Selangor Malaysia

42. Digital Continental No. 32, Jalan SS 10/6C, 47500 Subang Jaya Selangor, Malaysia

43. Digital Power Projects SDN. BHD No. 44-A, JLN. 1/19 Petaling Jaya, 46000 Selangor, Malaysia

44. Durga Charitable Trust Berdaffer K. Trengganu, Trengganu, Sri Arumugha Vinayagar Temple, No. 9 SG., Tuah Batu Caves, Selangor Malaysia

45. Eminent Capital SDN. BHD Level 32, Menara Shahzan Insas, 30, Jalan Sultan Ismail, 50520 Kuala Lumpur Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

46. Euro Prestasi SDN. BHD 48-2, 2nd Floor, Jalan 1/27F Section C-7 Pusat Bandar, Wangsa Maju, 53300 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

47. Eurosa Furniture (M) SDN. BHD Lot 334, Off Jalan Hospital Sungal Buloh 47000 Sungal Buloh Selangor Selangor Malaysia

48. Excel Mould Manufacturing SDN. BHD No. 84, Subang Light Industrial Park, Bicok E, Lot 546 off Jalan SS 13/AK 4750 Petaling Jaya Selangor Malaysia

49. F.W. Furniture SDN, BHD 8, Jalan 1/4, KWS. Perindustrian Pengkalan 2, FASA 1, 31550 Pusing Perak Malaysia

50. Fudex Rubber Products (M) SDN, BHD JA 9158, Jasin Industrial Park, 77000 Jasin Melaka Melaka Malaysia

51. G.K.K. Import Export SDN. BHD. No. 21, Jalan Dato Hamzah, 41000 Klang Selangor Malaysia

52. Gallant Electronic Co. (M) SDN, BHD Lot 1899 Batu 13, JT Balakong 43300 Seri Kembangan, Selangor Selangor Malaysia

53. Garden City Hotel SDN, BHD No. 213 & 214, Jalan Bunus off Jalan Masjid India, 50100. Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

54. Gopal Constructions IM) SDN. Bhd 2634, Jln. Simpang Kukut, Port Dickson, N. Sembilan Malaysia

55. Graceful Transformers SDn. Bhd no. 202, Batu KG, Tok MUDA, Jalan Kapar, 42200 Kalang Selangor Malaysia

56. Grado Opne SDN, BHD No. 45E, 5th floor, Bangunan Bangsa Ria Jalan Maarof, Klang, Selangor Malaysia

57. Greatpac SDN. BHD Jasa Express, Lot 222/2223 Jalan Hospital, Sungal Buloh Industrial Area, 47000 Selangor Malaysia

58. Hanora SDH. BHD 265 A JLN. Mahkota, Tmn. Maluri, Cheras 55100 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

59. Hotline Wooden Furniture SDN, BHD Lot No. 9, Jalan 7 Kawasan Perusahaan Cheras Jaya, Batu 9, Jalan Balakong Cheras, 43200 Selangor Malaysia

60. Hylex Apparels Jalan Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

61. Hyper Speed (M) SDN, BHD No. 1, Jal 16/13C, Section 16 Shah Alam & No. 27-A, Jalan Tun Sambanthan, 4, Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

62. Hytex Apparels SDN, BHD Lot 25, Jalan E1/5, Kawasan Perindustrian Taman Ehsan, Peti Surat No. 6, Kepong 52100 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

63. Ideal Skills (M) SDN, BHD 61-A, Jalan SG. 3/1, Pusat Bandar Srl GOMBAK, 68000 Gombak, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

64. Instant Glory SDN, BHD Megan Phileo Avenue, Suite B-17-7, No. 12, Jalan YAP KWAN Seng, Malaysia Malaysia

65. Intisari Bakery Lot 1328, Jalan 11, KG. Baru Ampang Tambahan Ampang Malaysia

66. Ivory Pearl SDN, BHD Lot 5, Perisiaran Perindustrian Kanthan 5, Estel Perindustriak Kanthan 31200 Chemor Perak Malaysia

67. J.M.I. Enterprises 15-3-08, Sri Johor Flat, 21/2 Miles Chera 56000 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

68. Joolen Enterprises Sdn. BHD No. 3B, Lorong Bukit Kuda, Off jalan Batu Tiga Lama 41300 Selangor Malaysia

69. Jova Industries SDN, BHD Lot 10, Lorong Perusahaan 4A, Kulin Industry Estate, Kulim Kedah Malaysia

70. Jut Seces, Lot 2353-12, Jalan Kempas Lama, Off Jalan Skudai, 813000 Johor Malaysia

71. K. Argo Farm Products Enterprises No. 30, Taman Saujana, Batu Gujah Perak Malaysia

72. L.Y.K. Cleaning Services SDN, BHD 101B Main Street Ampang, Ampang, 68000 Selangor Malaysia

73. Lal Quilla Retaurant Sdn. BHD No. 9, & A, Perisiaran Ara Kiri, Taman Lucky Bangsar, 59100 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

74. Lee Seng Pottery SDN, BHD Lot 81, Plot 115728, JLN Ceramic Chepr, 11/11 Chemor, Perak Malaysia

75. Lian Seng Welding Shop MCLD Piasau Road, P.O. Box 669, 98007 Miri Sarawak Malaysia

76. M.G.W. Caterer No. 316, Jln. 24/39, Tmn. Petaling Kepong Baru, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

77. Maclean Services SDN, BHD 384, Jalan 5/59 Taman Petaling 46000 Petaling Jaya Selangor Malaysia

78. Malindo Multi-Resources Sdn. BHD 7A, Jalan Tandok, Off Jalan Maarof, Bangsar 59000 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

79. Man Chin Lee Potery Works Lot 65360 Batu 5, Gopeng, To Batu Gajah, Perak Malaysia

80. Manjamas Times SDN, BHD 4, 2nd Floor Jln. 1/128, Happy Garden 58200 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

81. Maxlin Garments SDN, BHD Lot 4979, Batu 21/2, Jalan Tanjung Lahobh 83000 Batu Pahat, Johore Malaysia

82. Mega Jumbo Port Services SDN, BHD 5211- 3rd Floor, Perisiaran Raja Muda Musa, 42000 Port Plang Selangor Malaysia

83. Metal Way Furniture Industries (M) SDN AL-283, Jalan Kampung Baru, Sungai Buloh Selangor Malaysia

84. Modern Planning Lot 2354-6, Jalan Kempas Lama, 81300 Skudal, Bahru Johor Malaysia

85. Mohana Restoran No. 119, Jalan Tuanku Kelana Klang Malaysia

86. Mr. Moorthy A/1, Muthu, 1C No. 630724-10-5064, PNK Advance Enterprises, No. 26-A Jalan 17/23, Section 17, Shah Alam Selangor Malaysia

87. NGAL Cheong Metal Industries Sdn. BHD Lot 41730 batu 14, jalan Puchong 47100 Puchong Selangor Malaysia

88. Omega Semicondcutors SDN, BHD 8760, Lot 8, Batu Berendam FTZ, Phase III, 75350 Melaka Melaka Malaysia

89. Oz-X-Net SDN, BHD 15-3A, Uoa, II Jalan Pinang 50450 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

90. Perai Coatings (M) SDN. BHD 4, Jln. Padi Mahanur 13, Bandar Baru Uda, Johor Baru Malaysia

91. Pine-Jati Corporation Sdn. BHD Wisma Yoon Cheng, No. 726 A-5-1A Batu 41/2 Jln. Ipoh Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

92. Promtcon Enterprise Sdn. BHD AL 77 Sungai Buloh New Village, 47000 Sungai Buloh, Selangor Malaysia

93. Q.A. Precision Tools (M) SDN, BHD 440, Jalan Talang Taman Parai, 13600 Pral, Palau Pinang Malaysia

94. R.V. Saloon No. 5, Jalan Sarawak 17, Klang Selangor Malaysia

95. Muniandi, 182, Laluan Sugel Pari, 7 Teluk Kurian, 30100 IPOH, Malaysia

96. Razimco Sdn. BHD No. 96, Jalan Pinang Gading 3, Taman Pinang Gading 70400 Seremban N. Sem, Nilan Malaysia

97. Restaurant House of India 61, Ground Floor, Jalan Teluk Sisek, 25000 Kuantan Pahang Malaysia

98. Restoran Akbar Shah 26 & 28A, Persiaran Ara Kiri, Lucky Garden, 59100 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

99. Restoran Ehsan No. 74, Jalan Yang Kalson, 30250 IPHON Perak Malaysia

100. Restoran Jaya Hari Vilas No. 88, Jalan Dato Dagang, Kuala Pilah 72000 Negeri Sembilan, Malaysia

101. Restoran Kampung Baiduri No. 11, Jalan Pulau Kempas 28/3, Taman Alalm Megah, 40000 Shah Alam Selangor Malaysia

102. Retoran Nasi Kandar No. 50, Leboh Ampang, 50100 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

103. Restoran Wangsa Ukay No. 2, Wangsa 2, Bukit Antaranbangsa 78000 Jalan Ulu Klang, Selangor Malaysia

104. Rhoden (M) Sdn. BHD Lot. 1, Jalan 2, North Klang Stralts, TA Wanese Industrial Park, 42000 Prot Klang Selangor Malaysia

105. S&L Design Planner 50A, Jln. Tun Mohd Faud 1, Tmn. Tun Dr. Ismail 60000 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

106. S.J. Medical Products (M) SDN, BHD Lot 723, Batu 51/2, Jalan Kapar 42100 Klang, Selangor Malaysia

107. Saluran Persona Sdn. BHD 36-B, 2nd Floor, Jln. SS 15/8, Subang Jaya Selangor Malaysia

108. Sampoorna Curry House 262, Jalan Tun Sabanthan 50470 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

109. San Hin Loong Engineering Works SDN, BHD PLO 100, Bt. Perindusterian Jalan, Genunang, 85000 Segamat Johor Malaysia

110. Sasa-ar Enterprise SDN, BHD No. 46, Jalan PBS 14/3, Taman Perindustrian Bukit Serdang, 23300 Seri Kembangan Selangor Malaysia

111. Sim Tee Chung SDN, BHD Lot 2439, Dynasty Centre, Miri Bintulu Road, Miri, Sarawak Malaysia Malaysia

112. Simmah Livestocks SDN, BHD AG5730, Alor Gajah Industrial Estate 78000 Alor Gajah, Melaka Malaysia

113. Sion hen Sdn. BHD Lot 93, Parit Buntar, Industrial Estate, Parit Buntar, Perak Malaysia

114. Sivaperumal Contractor Power Line, No. 9, Taman Civil, 35500 Bidor, IPOH, Malayusia, Sub Contractor for Sim Tree Cung SDNN. BHD Malaysia

115. Smart Glove SDN, BHD Lot 6487, Batu 53/4, Sementa Jalan Kapar, 42100 Klang Selangor Malaysia

116. Solid Audio SDN, BHD 1650, MK, 13, Juru Estate, Bukti Mertajam, 14000 Pulau Pinang Malaysia

117. Soon Lee Enterprises 17-A, Tmn. Tengku Malik, Jln. Scudal Johor Malaysia

118. South Island Garments Sdn. BHD 2468, Solok Perusahaan Dua, Kawasan Perusahaan Peral, 13600 Pral, Penang Malaysia

119. Sree Jayam Curry House No. 7, Jalan Helang 13, Bandar Ochong Jaya, 47000 Puchong, Selangor Malaysia

120. Sri Purvaneshwaran Restoran No. 40, Jalan Kemuja, Off Jalan Bangsar, 59000 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

121. Sri Tama Enterprise No. 20-A, Jalan Campaka, 81750 Johor Malaysia

122. Step furniture Manufacturer Sdn. HD Lot No. 102-103, Jalan Perusahaan Lama Taman Perindustrian Mahkota Behrang 63700 Selangor Malaysia

123. Stevic Precision Moulding Co. Lot 39, Jln. Tam Ming 4, Ram Ming Jaya Industrial Estate, 43300 Seri Kembangan Selangor Malaysia

124. Sukwon Idche Engineering Sdn. BHD 1080-I, Tingkat 2, Jl. Sultan Sulaiman, 20000 Kuala Terengganu, Malaysia

125. Swarga Enterprises Sdn. BHD No. 1506, 1st Floor, Jalan Rasah, 70300 Seremhan, N. Sembilan Malaysia

126. Tateama Auto Machine Co., (M) Sdn. BHD Lot 2, Jalan Pelabur, 23/1, Seksyen 23, 40300 Shah Alam Selangor Malaysia

127. Tetracon Engineering Sdn. BHD Lot 106 & 110, Rawang Integrated Industrial Park, 48000 Rawang Selangor Malaysia

128. Thiru Sandalwood Sdn. BHD Lot 6537, Batu 6, Off Jalan Kapar, P.O. Box. 125, Klang Selangor Malaysia

129. Tiaratan Industries Sdn. BHD No. 20, Jalan Nagiri-1, Vaidor Light Industrial Estate, 14200 Sungai Bakap Penang Malaysia

130. Times Offset (M) Sdn. BHD Bangunan Times Publishing, Lot 46, Selangor HI Tech Industrial Park, Batu Caves, Selgangor Malaysia

131. Tokyo Alumi Mfg. (M) Sdn. BHD OT 28, Jalan Lada Hitam, Section 16/12, 40000 Shah Alam Selangor Malaysia

132. Tommilinson Collection Sdn. BHD. B1, Wisma Tomilinson, One Ampang Business Avenue, Jln Ampang Utama, 1/2, 68000 Ampang Jaya, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

133. Tong Heng Ferming & Trading Co. No. 707, Padang Temusu, 08000 Sungai Petani, Kedah Malayesia

134. Tong Yong Metal Sdn. BHD Lot 5781 & 5782, Taman Selamat, Alma, 14000 Bukit Mertajam Penang Malaysia

135. Transfame Sdn. BHD., 1, TMM Tun Dr. Ismail, Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

136. Triple J, (Mr. Gurunathan @ Nathan @ Zainal @ Ja Yguru), (a) 4-B JLN Watan4, TMM Sri Watan, KL (B) Tripple J Customer Services Promp T Bldg. JLN Sultan KL Malaysia

137. Tuck Sing Engrg. & Cons. Lot 9-102, Kawasan Perindustrian Semambu 24500 Kuanthan, Pahang Malaysia

138. Twin Furniture Manufacturer SDN BHD Lot 9-102 Kawasan Perindustrian Semambu Kauntan Pahang Malaysia

139. United Industries SDN BHD. Bangunan united Industries, 5-1/2, MI Les, Jalan Meru, 41050 Kalang, Selangor Selangor Malaysia

140. United Sanoh Industries Sdn. BHD. 5/12 Miles, Jalan Meru, 41050 Klang Selangor Malaysia

141. UNR Tooling System Sdn. BHD Lot No. ALP 12, 5th Mile, Jalan INJAP 34/4, Jalan Bukit Kemuning, Klang Selangor Malaysia

142. Woodlander Wood Products Sdn. BHD Lot 266, Batuu 221/2, Sungai Lalang, 43500 Semenyih, Selangor Malaysia

143. WRP Asia Pacific BHD, Lot 1, JLN 3, Kawasan Perusahaan, Bandar Baru Salak Tinggi, 43900 Sepang Malaysia

144. Ye Chiu Metal Smelting Berhad Lot 5781 & 5782, Taman Selamat, Alma, 14000 BUKIT Mertajam Penang Malaysia

MAURITIUS

145. SWET & SUN Ltd. Mauritius

OMAN

146. Daruish-AST LIC, Oman

147. M/s Darwish AST LIC Muscat Oman

148. M/s Muscat Indian Co. Ltd. Oman

149. Muscat Industries Co. Ltd. Oman

QATAR

150. AKC Contracting and Supply Qatar

151. Al Obaitay Contracting Co. Qatar

152. Al-Saif Constr & Bui Qatar

153. Al-Sarh Trading Cont. Co. Qatar

154. Amlon Ltd. Qatar

155. Asian Trading & Contracting Co. Qatar

156. Candle Trading & Conting Co. Qatar

157. City Trading & Conting Co., Qatar

158. First Touch Trading, Qatar

159. International Eng. & Genl. Const. Doha Doha Qatar

160. Liberation Garments Fac. Doha Qatar

161. Prestige Apparels Industry WLL Doha Qatar

162. Qatar Building Engg. Com Doha Qatar

163. Western Apparel Infa Doha Qatar

SAUDI ARABIA

164. Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman Saudi Arabia

165. Abdul Aziz Al Taheeni Conr. Est. Saudi Arabia

166. Abdul Hal Group (ACME) Saudi Arabia

167. Abdul Rehman Ibrahim Al Quader Saudi Arabia

168. Abdula Hakim Abdul Al Hassan, Riyadh Saudi Arabia

169. Abdullah Al Hamri Jubail Jubail Saudi Arabia

170. Abdullah Bin Jataralla Contracting Comp. Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

171. Ahmed Al-Zahrani Estt. Jeddah Saudi Arabia

172. Al Ekhwah Est for TDG Jeddah Saudi Arabia

173. Al Faisal Clinic Riyadh Saudi Arabia

174. Al Hassas Jubail Saudi Arabia

175. Al Hesab Congt Est Riyadh Saudi Arabia

176. Al Kharep Operation Cop. Riyadh Saudi Arabia

177. Al Mubaraz Jubail Jubail Saudi Arabia

178. Al Mumai Group Jeddah Saudi Arabia

179. Al Omran Est Royadh Saudi Arabia

180. Al Rehman Trade Est, Dammam Saudi Arabia

181. Al Remal Tdg. Est Dammam Saudi Arabia

182. Al Traifi Est Jubail Saudi Arabia

183. Al Yezeed Construction Est. Riyadh Saudi Arabia

184. Al-Comet Trading and Contg. Est. Jubail-31961 Saudi Arabia

185. Al-Fahya Est for Gen. Trg. & Cont. Saudi Arabia

186. Al-Gozar Group Est. Riyadh Saudi Arabia

187. Al-Hasam Company Saudi Arabia

188. Al-Jareer Est for Trdg. Riyadh Saudi Arabia

189. Al-Sagri Trdg & Cont. Est Saudi Arabia

190. Al-Thamer Est for Trading & Comp PO Box 6304, Jeddah Saudi Arabia

191. Al-Turki Est. Saudi Arabia

192. Alawi Tunsi & Bros. PO Box No. 17489 Jeddah-21484 Tel 6715104/6718987 I-11011/4949/97-PGE-I Saudi Arabia

193. Amira Medical Dispensary Riyadh Saudi Arabia

194. Arabian Gulf Co For Maint & Contr. Saudi Arabia

195. ARIFF Construction Est. Riyadh Saudi Arabia

196. Ayed Naser Al-Qhatari Sons Co. Al-Khobar Saudi Arabia

197. Dallah Group Co. Jeddah Saudi Arabia

198. Dashen Contg. Est. Saudi Arabia

199. Faeih Bin Motaib Hasan Al Supathi Riyadh Saudi Arabia

200. Hamas Cont. Est Saudi Arabia

201. Khalled Meera Est Jeddah Saudi Arabia

202. M.Am Al Kharafi Est. Riyadh Saudi Arabia

203. M/s Saad Ahmed Al Zaharanipst Alkhobar Alkhobar Saudi Arabia

204. M/s Thriya Hamdad Nasper Est Alkhopar Saudi Arabia

205. Marwan Al Fazal Trdg Est Riyadh Saudi Arabia

206. Mohd. H. Babteen Est. Jeddah Saudi Arabia

207. Mohsin Mohammed Al Qahtani Riyadh Saudi Arabia

208. Naif al Saddon Est. Dammam Dammam Saudi Arabia

209. Najid & Hijas Dispensary Dammam Saudi Arabia

210. Rabya Landscapping Co. Jubail Saudi Arabia

211. Refuse Equipment Manuf Riyadh Saudi Arabia

212. Rubeian Factory Riyadh Saudi Arabia

213. Saad Ahmad Al-Zaharani Est Alkhobar Saudi Arabia

214. Saad Ahmed Mohd. Al Moobil Riyadh Saudi Arabia

215. SAP General P. Riyadh Saudi Arabia

216. Saudi Hills P.O. Box 30671, Al-Jubai 31951 KSA Saudi Arabia

217. Saudi Operating & Maintenance Co. Riyadh Saudi Arabia

218. Seder Group Trading & Cont. P.O. Box 8896, Riyadh Saudi Arabia

219. Shayea Al Ali Shauea Contracting Est. Riyadh Saudi Arabia

220. Sulaiman Al-Redai Trdg. Est. Riyadh Saudi Arabia

221. Sultan Al-Shehail Trdg. Est. Riyadh Saudi Arabia

222. Tashelet Commercial Est Riyadh Saudi Arabia

223. Tashelet Commercial Est. Riyadh Saudi Arabia

224. Tawaik Est. Riyadh Saudi Arabia

225. Thasri General Office Nasir Al Matrap Recruiting Office, Saudi Arabia

226. Thiya Hamdad Nasper Est Alkhopar Saudi Arabia

227. Tolodo Company & Trading Contracting Riyadh Saudi Arabia

228. Zahran Group of Co., Riyadh Saudi Arabia

UGANDA

229. Kapakwata Sawmills Ltd., Kampala Uganda

230. M/s White Power Ho Trishul Centre Kampala Uganda

UKRAINE

231. Al-Majd General Maintak Co. Ukraine

232. Al-Najaf Marine Shipping LLC Ukraine

233. Besco International (LLC) Ukraine

234. Cleanco Trading Importing & Services Ukraine

235. Dubai Transport, Ukraine

236. Euro Emirates Electrical and Mechanical Dubai Ukraine

237. Masood Oil Industries Supplies & Service Abu-Dhabi Ukraine

238. Millenium Ship Trading co. PO Box No. 20333 Dubai Ukraine

239. New Cleaning Est Ukraine

240. Stallion Marine Engg. LLC P.O. Box 20985 Sharjah Ukraine

UAE

241. Al Dahisa Building Const. United Arab Emirates

242. Al Ghafly Genl. Cont. Co. Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates

243. Al Majad Genl. Maintenance Co. Dubai United Arab Emirates

244. Al Najat Marine Shipping LLC Sharjah United Arab Emirates

245. Besco International LLC Dubai United Arab Emirates

246. Cleanco Trading Importing & Services Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates

247. Dubai Transport Dubai United Arab Emirates

248. Euro Emirates Electrical & Mech. Dubai United Arab Emirates

249. Masood Oil Industries Supplies & Services Abudhabi United Arab Emirates

250. Millenium Ship Trading Co. Dubai United Arab Emirates

251. New Cleaning Est. UAE United Arab Emirates

252. Prime Project International General Trade LLC Deira, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

253. Seacor Environment Services Middle East P.O. Box No. 3600 Fujairah United Arab Emirates

254. Stallion Marine Engg. LLC PO Box. 20985 Shaejahn United Arab Emirates

YAMEN

255. M/s National Co. Ltd., Sannayamam Sana Yamen

256. National Co. Ltd. Sanna Yamen

**New Anti-Rabies Vaccine**

5851. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study to explore the feasibility to substitute the present anti-rabies nerve Tissue Vaccine with some new economical version;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Government proposes to launch the new vaccine and phase out the NTVs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The interim report of a multicentric feasibility study, being undertaken by Indian Council of Medical Research on the use of intradermal administration of Tissue Culture Anti Rabies Vaccine (TCARV) indicates that this vaccine can be considered for intradermal administration as post exposure treatment following animal bites. The use of TCARV given in small doses through intradermal route once introduced considerably reduces the cost of treatment.

(c) The phase out of production of NTVs and shift to use of TCARV has come into effect from 1st January 2005.

**Free Trading of Coal**

5852. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI T.K. HAMZA:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to allow free trading in coal by removing it from the essential commodities list;

(b) if so, whether marketing and trading policy would be liberalized;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal for coal sector reforms; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) A proposal to remove coal from Essential Commodities list is under consideration of the Government. Colliery Control Order, 2000 places no restriction on trading of coal by private parties.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill 2000 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in April, 2000, which seeks, *inter alia*, to allow Indian companies *i.e.* companies registered in India, to mine coal and lignite without the existing restriction of captive consumption; and to engage in exploration of coal and lignite resources in the country. The Government has also constituted an Expert Committee to draw a road map for coal sector.

**Assistance for Medical Treatment**

5853. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is providing help and assistance to the patients who go abroad for medical treatment;

(b) if so, the criteria fixed for giving assistance to the patients;

(c) the total number of patients benefited by this assistance from the Union Government during the last three years; and

(d) the names of diseases for which assistance has been given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Standing Committee constituted under Rule 11 of Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944 under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services with Director General of Indian Council of Medical Research and Director General of Armed Forces Medical Services as Members, on receipt of an application for medical treatment outside India from the beneficiaries of Central Services (Medical Attendance) CS(MA) Rules, 1944 and the beneficiaries of Central Government Health Scheme, after due consideration, regarding the fact that the ailment or treatment can be treated only outside India, issues a certificate to the concerned Department/Ministry of the applicant Central Government servant conveying its approval of the said application and the concerned Department, on the strength of that certificate incur necessary expenditure. Under the said Rules, the Central Government may authorise reimbursement of expenditure on medical treatment obtained outside India, if it is satisfied that prior approval could not be obtained by the Central Government servant due to circumstances beyond control provided that the Government servant fulfils all other conditions relating to medical treatment outside India under this rule.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The names of diseases/procedures for which the permission, at present, is granted for treatment outside India are as given hereunder:

1. Complexed/high risk Cardio Vascular Surgery cases for treatment;
2. Bone Marrow Transplant;
3. Complex Medical and Oncological Disorders, such as Leukaemia and Neo-plastic conditions;
4. Complex high risk cases in Micro Vascular and Neuro Surgery for treatment at Centres with extensive experience;
5. Treatment of extremely complex ailments other than those mentioned above which in the opinion of Standing Committee can only be treated abroad and fall in the high risk category.

**Improvement in Ship Yards**

5854. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of shipyards in the country and the number of them in public sector;

(b) the number of shipyards undertaking the ship repairing works;

(c) the total turn over of ship repairing in the last three years;

(d) whether the Government is planning to improve the shipyards; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) There are 24 shipyards in the country presently undertaking shipbuilding and/or ship repair activities, out of which 4 are under the administrative control of Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, 3 are under the administrative control of Ministry of Defence, 2 are under the control of the State Government and 15 are Private Sector Shipyards.

(c) The total turn over of ship repairing during the last three years, i.e. 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 (provisional) for Central Public Sector Shipyards is approximately Rs. 284.02 crores, Rs. 323.06 crores, Rs. 323.30 crores (provisional) respectively. The compiled data on ship repair with respect to Private Sector Shipyards is unavailable.

(d) and (e) To encourage the shipyards, Government has introduced the Shipbuilding Subsidy Scheme. The scheme was extended by Government to all shipyards including private sector shipyards on 25th October, 2002. Prior to that, the scheme was applicable only to the Central Public Sector shipyards. The Government also provides Plan support for revival and replacement of equipments and machinery in some of the Public Sector Shipyards.

**Outstanding Dues**

5855. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Government Department and Public Sector undertaking owe any payment to the major ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some private companies also owe a huge amount of money to the major ports;

(d) if so, the details thereof as on date; and

(e) the steps taken to recover the arrears?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The requisite information is given below:

| Name of the Port | Amount due from Govt. Deptts. and Public Sector Undertakings (Rs. in lakhs) | Amount due from private companies (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---|---|---|
| New Mangalore Port | 301.00 | 114.00 |
| Chennai Port | 1277.51 | 379.10 |
| Kandla Port | 2553.86 | 10.24 |
| Visakhapatnam Port | 6166.59 | 1175.36 |
| Mormugao Port | 988.71 | 420.64 |
| Tuticorin Port | 2937.00 | 229.00 |
| Cochin Port | 29.00 | 300.00 |
| Mumbai Port | 27582.00 | 60427.00 |
| Kolkata Port | 74170.00 | 8941.00 |
| Paradip Port | 420.37 | 1219.05 |
| Jawaharlal Nehru Port | 11726.00 | 13801.00 |

(e) Major Ports constantly make efforts to recover the outstanding dues from Government Departments and private parties. Legal proceedings are initiated to recover the dues, wherever necessary.

*[Translation]*

**Hard shoulders on Roads**

5856. MOHD. SHAHID: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified such National Highways on which more than 1000 commercial vehicles fly every day;

(b) if so, whether there is any plan to provide the facility of Hard shoulders on these roads;

(c) the target of the total length in kms. of the above roads likely to be covered;

(d) whether this work has commenced; and

(e) if so, the details of the length (in kms.) of the roads likely to be covered with the facility of Hard Shoulders every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) There is a proposal to identify about 20,000 km. of National Highway sections for developing two lane road with paved shoulders in a phased manner over 7 years. On most of these stretches, traffic volume is likely to be more than 1000 CVD.

(d) and (e) The scheme including year wise phasing is yet to be approved by the Government.

**Investment in Coal Sector**

5857. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite adequate coal reserves in the country, the gap between demand and supply of coal has been increasing over the years in the absence of proper mining activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several Indian organizations have decided to invest in the coal mining industry abroad especially in Australia, Canada and Indonesia;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reasons for Indian organizations preferring foreign country for investment; and

(f) the details regarding the status of foreign investment in the coal sector in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per mid term appraisal by Planning Commission, the projected gap of 55 million tonnes will decrease to a level of 42.50 million tonnes during the terminal year of 10th Plan (2006-07).

(c) to (e) Coal India Limited (CIL) has submitted non-binding bid for acquiring 25% of equity of Tahmoor Coal Pvt. Ltd., Australia, a subsidiary of Austral Coal Pvt. Ltd., Australia. CIL and Steel Authority of India Limited were short-listed based on submission of non-binding bids. However, it was subsequently not considered prudent by CIL to proceed further as competition between two Public Sector Undertakings was not considered desirable. Since the coking coal reserves are limited in India, to bridge the gap between demand and supply of coking coal, CIL preferred investment abroad. Information regarding other organizations is being collected.

(f) Private Indian companies setting up or operating power projects as well as coal or lignite mines for captive consumption are allowed foreign equity upto 100% provided that the coal or lignite produced by them is meant entirely for captive consumption. No foreign investment in coal sector has been made till date.

**Telecom Works Undertaking in U.P.**

5858. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI ILYAS AZMI:

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

(a) the details of development, promotion and upgradation work carried out in urban and rural areas of Uttar Pradesh in the field of telecommunications during the last three years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that aforesaid work is progressing at snail's pace;

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

(d) the measures taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the success achieved as a result of these measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the works related to development, promotion and upgradation of telecom facilities in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) Sir, work is not progressing at snail's pace. BSNL has taken number of initiatives to improve telecom services in Uttar Pradesh. Some of the such initiatives are outlined below:

(i) All exchanges have been connected on reliable media.

(ii) Replacement of Paper Core Cable with Jelly Filled Cable in phased manner.

(iii) Replacement of life expired telephone instruments in phased manner.

(iv) Conversion of SBMs into RSUs.

(v) Conversion of CDOT 256 P Exchange into ANRAX.

(vi) Creation of poleless network to reduce dropwire.

(vii) Opening of more number of RSUs to reduce the UG cable length.

(viii) Introduction of Wireless in Local Loop and Digital Line concentrators.

(e) With the expansion of BSNL network and implementation of above measures in Uttar Pradesh, the tele-density (Number of telephones per 100 population due to BSNL phones has increased from 1.69 as on 1.4.2002 to 2.39 as on 1.4.2005 in Uttar Pradesh and fault rate has reduced from 11.3 in Uttar Pradesh (East) and 11.5 in Uttar Pradesh (West) as on 31.3.2002 to 7.4 in Uttar Pradesh (East) and 8.1 in Uttar Pradesh (West) as on 28.2.2005.

***Statement***

*Development and Upgradation of Telecom facilities in Uttar Pradesh Over the last three years (1.4.2002 to 31.3.2005)*

| Sl. No. | Parameter | Uttar Pradesh (West) | Uttar Pradesh (East) | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Switch Capacity addition | | | |
| | (a) Fixed line | 258724 | 206548 | 465272 |
| | (b) WLL | 64000 | 173250 | 237250 |
| | (c) CMTS | 393366 | 646950 | 1040316 |
| | (d) Total | 716090 | 1026748 | 1742838 |
| 2. | Addition in Working connections | | | |
| | (a) Fixed line | 86527 | 27287 | 113814 |
| | (b) WLL | 43955 | 96309 | 140264 |
| | (c) CMTS | 407384 | 724991 | 1132375 |
| | (d) Total | 537866 | 848587 | 1386453 |
| 3. | Optical Fibre Cable (in RKMs) | 2704 | 7293 | 9997 |
| 4. | Tax line addition (in KJilo Ckts.) | 117 | 267 | 384 |
| 5. | Conversion of SBMs into RSUs | 149 | 473 | 622 |
| 6. | Conversion of 256 P RAX to ANRAX | 352 | 959 | 1311 |

*[English]*

**Indian Nuclear Projects under IAEA Safeguards**

5859. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Indian N-projects under IAEA safeguards;

(b) whether the US Government has offered civilian nuclear technology to India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether India has also promised to put all nuclear power projects with international cooperation under IAEA safeguards; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) The Indian nuclear projects under IAEA safeguards are:

(i) Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TPAS 1 & 2), Maharashtra along with Enriched Fuel Fabrication Plant at Nuclear Fuel Complex, Hyderabad, which fabricates fuel for TAPS 1 & 2 using imported raw material.

(ii) Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS) 1 & 2, Kota, Rajasthan.

(iii) Away from Reactor (AFR) Facility for storing safeguarded fuel at TAPS and RAPS.

(iv) Kudankulam Atomic Power Project, Tamil Nadu.

(b) and (c) During the visit of External Affairs Minister to Washington D.C. on 13-14 April 2005, the India-US Energy Dialogue has been announced which would be led by the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia, and the US Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman. The main components of this dialogue would include civil nuclear energy, hydrocarbons and cleaner technologies.

(d) and (e) In a speech on 28/3/05 External Affairs Minister stated "we have repeatedly said that every cooperation project in nuclear power would be open to international safeguards".

**Coal Mafia**

5860. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken steps to crack down on coal mafia active in various coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether fake coal linkage companies have been identified recently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Whenever reports of any irregularities are received, the Government and the coal companies take necessary corrective measures. By introduction and revision of Purchase Manual, Civil Engineering Manual and Contract Management Manual, systems are being put in place to eliminate the possibility of any malpractice. Internal vigilance is stepped up to identify unscrupulous linked consumers by checking of their documents etc. Sale through e-auction has been introduced to eliminate/reduce the diversion of coal into black market. Assistance of State Governments is obtained to curb chances of pilferage of coal and illegal mining.

(c) and (d) A verification drive was initiated in December, 2004 for verification of documents to be submitted by industrial units of the non-core sector, for the purpose of ascertaining their credentials and proper utilization of coal by such units. The exercise is still under progress. Based on this drive, supplies to 721 units have been kept in abeyance. Company-wise details are as under:

| Name of subsidiary company | No. of units found to be worthy of drawing coal as on 1.11.04 (non-core sector) | No. of units presently drawing coal as on 1.4.05 (non-core sector) |
|---|---|---|
| ECL | 941 | 748 |
| BCCL | 816 | 461 |
| CCL | 209 | 171 |
| WCL | 367 | 352 |
| SECL | 300 | 187 |
| MCL | 29 | 27 |
| NCL | 55 | 55 |
| NEC | 5 | 0 |
| CIL | 2722 | 2001 |

**Research Projects in AIIMS**

5861. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that 339 research projects had been taken up by All India Institute of Medical Sciences during the year 1991 to 2000 but the last report on 153 projects have not been submitted till now;

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

(c) whether the AIIMS has failed to achieve the aims and objectives of the research works; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) According to AIIMS, out of the 343 research projects taken by AIIMS during the year 1991-2000, the final reports have been received in respect of all, except those faculty members (i.e. 28) who have either left or resigned or retired from the service of the institute.

(c) and (d) It is not correct to state that All India Institute of Medical Sciences has failed to achieve its aims and objectives of the research work. The faculty members of the institute have been generating research funds from various funding agencies for extra mural research. The funding agencies give research grant only on a competitive basis, based on the project. On the basis of research studies and publications, AIIMS has been classified as one of the eight high impact institution identified by the Deptt. of Scientific and Industrial Research.

*[Translation]*

**Garuwa Bridge on N.H.-80**

5862. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Garuwa Bridge on 27 k.m. stretch between Bhagalpur-Kahalgaon at N.H.-80 had been destroyed 5 years back;

(b) if so, the amount estimated to repair this bridge and the amount incurred thereon so far; and

(c) the reasons for delay in construction of the bridge and by when the construction work is likely to be completed?

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

(b) An amount of Rs. 336 Lakhs was sanctioned for the re-construction of Gerua bridge in Km. 155 (old Km. 27) on Bhagalpur-Kahalgaon Section of NH-80 in March, 2002. An expenditure amounting to Rs. 197.50 lakhs has been incurred on the aforesaid job so far.

(c) The aforesaid job has been delayed due to problem in sinking of well for foundation work necessitating change in alignment of the bridge site. The work is targeted to be completed by December, 2005.

*[English]*

**Torture of Indians Abroad**

5863. SHRI T.K. HAMZA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any specific procedure or officials appointed to look into the torture and other cases filed against the Indian citizens working abroad especially in Gulf countries and the United States of America;

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

(c) whether beheading of an Indian in Saudi Arabia and torture of an Indian woman in Dubai recently have come to the notice of the Government;

(d) if so, whether these matters have been taken up with the concerned Governments and any probe conducted to unearth the truth;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Officials have been specifically appointed who, *inter alia,* look into the criminal cases including torture filed against the Indian citizens. These officials interact with local authorities to look into individual cases, and invariably assist the victims in obtaining justice, in cooperation with the host Government. In cases where investigations through the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Interior reveal abuse, Mission/Post request the local Government to institute legal proceedings under their laws.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. The capital punishment of beheading was awarded to Indian nationals on charges of drug trafficking/murder, after investigations under the

laws of Saudi Arabia. The Mission had submitted Mercy Petitions to the highest authorities in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as soon as intimation regarding award of capital punishment was received, and the matter constantly pursued with the local authorities. Except for three out of 49 cases during 1998-2005 were sentenced for murder, all the other (46) executions had been on drug-related charges.

It has been reported by our Consulate General in Dubai that in March 2005, Mrs. Soman Prabhakumari, who entered UAE on a babysitter's visa under the sponsorship of a UAE national residing in Sharjah, was subjected to physical abuse, torture by some gang, and then abandoned there. She was given all assistance for repatriation to India. The Consulate General also contacted the Dubai Police and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for investigation and necessary action against the offenders.

(f) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**BSNL Mobile Service**

5864. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN:
SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

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

(a) the number of BSNL Mobile connections in Uttar Pradesh as on date;

(b) whether BSNL service has been introduced in all districts, Tehsils and Block Headquarters of Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the details of the schemes formulated for the expansion of mobile service in these States;

(d) whether the BSNL connections are available on demand in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu; and

(e) if not, the time by which BSNL Mobile connections are likely to be made available on demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As on 31.03.2005, 11.32 Lakh subscribers have been provided Mobile connections in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Having covered all the district headquarters, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is in the process of extending the coverage upto Tehsil Headquarter level based on business and commercial viability in these States.

(d) Post-paid mobile connections are available on demand in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and release of pre-paid connections is temporarily controlled due to capacity constraints.

(e) BSNL is presently augmenting the present network by an additional capacity of 14.2 lakh lines in Uttar Pradesh by 13.8 lakh lines in Tamil Nadu. It is expected that pre-paid mobile connections are likely to be available on demand from July 2005 onwards progressively.

*[English]*

**All India Accounts Services**

5865. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2327 on 15.12.2004 and state:

(a) whether the mandatory qualification for All India Accounts Services other than Indian Cost Accounts Service is simply a graduation in any subject;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of candidates without Accounts/ Finance/Commerce background selected in the All India Accounts Service during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to maintain more or less similar percentage of Senior Administrative Grade (SAG) post in the various Accounts 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 PACHAURI): (a) to (c) The qualification for all services including Accounts related Group A Central Services, such as Indian Cost Accounts Service, Indian Defence Accounts Service, Indian Civil Accounts Service, Indian Railway Accounts Service, Indian P&T Accounts & Finance Service and Indian Audit & Accounts Service, recruitment of which is

made through Civil Services Exam, is Graduation in any subject. After recruitment, selected candidates are given appropriate training in their respective areas of work.

(d) Senior Administrative Grade posts are sanctioned mainly on the basis of functional considerations and therefore, the number of posts sanctioned for different Account Services can differ.

**Indo-Malaysia Bilateral Economic Pact**

5866. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Malaysia have set up a joint study group with a political mandate and detailed terms of reference to fashion a bilateral economic pact;

(b) if so, whether this agreement was reached during the visit of Malaysian Prime Minister to India in the month of December, 2004;

(c) if so, whether the Malaysian Government was asked to submit its recommendations soon so that these form a part of discussion to be held between the two countries; and

(d) if so, the current status of the said matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes, Sir. India and Malaysia have set-up a Joint Study Group (JSG) to study the feasibility of concluding a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between the two countries. The Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Joint Study Group was adopted at the First JSG Meeting held on 2-3 March 2005 in New Delhi.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Joint Study Group, comprising senior officials from India and Malaysia, is mandated to complete its assignment and jointly submit its recommendations to the two Governments for consideration. Both sides have also agreed to simultaneously develop a draft Framework Agreement, subject to feasibility of CECA being established.

(d) During the First Meeting of the India-Malaysia Joint study Group on 2-3 March 2005 in New Delhi, both sides agreed that the Joint Study Report should be comprehensive and cover trade in goods, investments, services and identify areas of economic cooperation. A work programme for the JSG has also been drawn-up with a time-frame for the completion of the Report. The draft chapters of Joint Study Report are expected to be exchanged in May 2005, prior to the Second Meeting of the JSG scheduled for June 2005 in Kuala Lumpur.

**Funds for Development of National Highways and Expressways**

5867. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has earmarked adequate funds for the development of National Highways and Expressways in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds utilized during the last three years; and

(c) the Government's plans during the next five years for development of roads, bridges, National Highways and Expressways in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The allocation and expenditure during last three years *i.e.* from 2002-03 to 2004-05 for the development of National Highways and Expressways in the State of Gujarat is given as under:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Allocation | — | Rs. 1565.24 crores |
| Expenditure | — | Rs. 1545.08 crores |

(c) Development of National Highways is a continuous process and efforts are being made to keep them in traffic worthy condition depending upon the condition of the road, traffic volume, inter-se priority and availability of funds. During next five years four-laning of National Highways as part of Golden Quadrilateral covering a length of 485 km & East-West corridor covering a length of 634 km will be completed under National Highway Development Project (NHDP). Further, 421 km length of National Highways have been identified for four-laning under NHDP-Phase III of Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis.

**Profit of Coal Companies**

5868. SHRIMATI SUSMITA BAURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal companies are earning profit;

(b) if so, the details thereof, company-wise during the current year;

(c) whether there is a huge deposition of coal in Bankura District of West Bengal;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to open a new colliery in this area;

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

(f) whether the pension of die-in-harness cases are still pending before the coal companies; 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 NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, the following subsidiaries of Coal India Limited earned profits during 2004-05 (before tax and dividend) as shown below:

(Rs. In Crores)

| Companies | 2004-05 (Provisional profit & loss) |
|---|---|
| CCL | 900.42 |
| NCL | 2020.39 |
| WCL | 1071.86 |
| SECL | 1573.80 |
| NCL | 1581.23 |
| CMPDIL | 0.53 |

(c) Approximately 1.25 billion tonnes of coal deposits are available in Bankura district of West Bengal.

(d) and (e) No proposal at present to open new colliery in Bankura district is under consideration in CIL/ ECL.

(f) The pension claims of members died in harness are processed by the Coal Companies immediately on receipt of the claims complete in all respect and sent to CMPF office for settlement of the claim.

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

**Conversion into Universal Access Service Licences**

5869. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TRAI has brought out some changes whereby Basic Operators Licences were converted into Universal Access Service Licences (USAL) on payment of fee;

(b) if so, the names of access providers who have got their Universal Access Service Licences converted and their charges after conversion;

(c) the number of fixed phone, both wireline and wireless, added in the country with the names of access providers after conversion to Universal Access Service Licences; and

(d) the reasons for investing by the BSNL only in mobile phones and not promoting fixed phones like wireless phones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Based upon the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, the Government announced Guidelines for Migration to Unified Access (Basic and Cellular) Services Licence on 11th November, 2003. As per this policy, Basic Service Operators were allowed to migrate to Unified Access Service Licence regime on payment of specified fee. The details of migration fees paid by basic Service Operators are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Since migration in November 2003, the details of wireline and wireless connections added by these operators are as follows:

| Access Provider | Wireline | Wireless | | Total Addition |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Fixed Wireless Terminal | Handheld | |
| M/s Tata | 33016 | 1730654 | 587886 | 2351556 |
| M/s Reliance | 77841 | 990625 | 4117002 | 5185468 |
| M/s HFCL Infotel | 54932 | 33948 | 27920 | 116800 |
| M/s Shyam Telelink | 65240 | 10471 | -3384 | 72327 |
| M/s Bharti (M.P.) | 26726 | -2965 | 0 | 23761 |

(d) BSNL is investing in the promotion of fixed wireless services in urban and rural areas as a substitute to the wireline services at cheaper rates vis-a-vis the mobile phones. BSNL has already provided around 5 lakh connections in urban areas and 11.3 lakh connections in rural areas on WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) as on 31.03.2005.

***Statement***

*Details of migration fee paid by Basic Service Operators*

| | Licensee | Additional Fee for Migration (Rs. in crores) | Penal Interest on Delayed Entry Fee (Rs. in crores) | Total Charges (Rs. in crores) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. | 1096.01 | 525.24 | 1621.25 |
| 2. | M/s Reliance Telecom Ltd. | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3. | Ms/ Tata Teleservices Ltd. | 544.54 | 0 | 544.54 |
| 4. | M/s Tata Telservices Maharashtra Ltd. | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 5. | M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd. | 2.96 | 0 | 2.96 |
| 6. | M/s Bharti Infotel Ltd. | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 7. | M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd. | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | Total | 1643.51 | 525.24 | 2168.75 |

**Permission for Shipment of a New Drug**

5870. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether specific permission for every shipment of a new drug has to be taken from the Drug Controller of India even though the same company has exported the same drug in the past;

(b) whether the Chemexcil has drawn the attention of the Government towards it and suggested that one time permission for specified period be given; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) As per present norms unapproved drugs which otherwise cannot be

manufactured and marketed in the country are allowed to be manufactured for export on the basis of No Objection Certificate (NOC) issued by the office of Drugs Controller General (India). Such NOCs are issued on the basis of export order. Chemexcil has suggested for a general one-time permission for the manufacture of unapproved drugs for export. However, since, the approval granted by the State Licensing Authority for the manufacture of the said unapproved drugs is valid for the specific export order, the manufacturer is required to obtain NOC related to each specific export order.

*[Translation]*

**Total Length of NHs in 2005-06**

5871. SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved the scheme pertaining to the construction of total length of National Highways during 2005-06;

(b) if so, whether the National Highways of all the States have been identified;

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

(d) whether there is any scheme for the construction of over bridges in important cities on BOT basis; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The State wise approval of the schemes for the development of National Highways during 2005-06 can be done only after the approval of the budget proposal.

(d) and (e) As per the decisions of the Committee on Infrastructure there are proposals of providing overbridges in important cities on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis to facilitate congestion-free travel. The proposal is at conceptual stage.

*[English]*

**CVC Act**

5872. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering doing away with the 'single directive' (SD) clause in the CVC Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) The Single Directive which has been inserted in the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003 has been challenged in the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the matter is subjudice.

**Increase in Berth hire Charges**

5873. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kandla Port Trust has approached Tariff Authority for Major Ports to increase *inter alia* berth hire charges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) its impact on the financial position of Kandla Port?

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

(b) The Kandla Port Trust had proposed an upward revision of 2½% in the berth hire charges. Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP) constituted under the Major Port Trust Act, 1963 as an autonomous statutory body for fixing and revising port tariffs and Scale of Rates in Major Ports considered the proposal of Kandla Port in its meeting held on 25th April, 2005, after following the due process of consultation. The proposal for upward revision in the berth hire was not agreed to.

(c) The additional income on account of proposed increase in berth hire charge would have been about Rs. 37.5 lakhs per annum.

**Thermal Power Plants in Orissa**

5874. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. in joint venture with the Neyveli Lignite Corporation has any proposal to set up Thermal Power Plants in the country especially in Orissa;

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

(c) the time by which these plants are proposed to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC) has proposed to set up a 2000 MW Coal based Thermal Power Plant in Hirma Village, Jharsuguda District, Orissa. There is a proposal under consideration to form a Joint Venture Company between Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC) & Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), a subsidiary of Coal India Limited for implementation of both the mine and power projects. The proposal is yet to be finalized.

(b) The mine with a capacity of 15 million tonne per annum will be in Jharsuguda and Sambalpur districts of Orissa. The power station of 2000 MW will be set up in Jharsuguda district of Orissa.

(c) Commissioning of the power project will take 48 months from the date of Government of India sanction.

*[Translation]*

**Water Transport Facility in Lucknow**

5875. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to undertake dredging, desilting and also construct ferry-station to provide water transportation facility in Lucknow city;

(b) if so, the time by which the said works are likely to be completed and the expenditure estimated to be incurred thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

*[English]*

**Authorised Local Chemists**

5876. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 3518 dated 22.12.2004 and state:

(a) the names and locations of the authorised local chemists for indenting medicines of CGHS dispensaries/ beneficiaries in the Kalkaji area, R.K. Puram area, Vasant Vihar, Netaji Nagar, Munirka/JNU CGHS dispensaries etc.;

(b) the number of CGHS beneficiaries in each of the above CGHS dispensaries;

(c) the names and locations of authorised local chemists for making available medicines prescribed by the specialists as per the reply given in part (a) of the reply to USQ No. 3518; and

(d) the allopathic dispensaries temporarily tagged with/ allotted to the existing authorised local chemists of the above CGHS dispensaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

*[Translation]*

**Works Undertaken by OIA Ministry**

5877. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIANS AFFAIRS be pleased to state the details of various works undertaken by the Ministry since its inception?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): Since its inception in May 2004, the Ministry of Overseas Indians Affairs has taken up the following major initiatives:

(i) Finalisation of the allocation of work to the Ministry to reflect its status as the one-stop shop for interaction with overseas Indians;

(ii) Face-to-face contacts with the overseas Indian communities in twenty five countries to

understand their problems at first hand and promote their participation in the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2005;

(iii) Holding a one-day Seminar of leading Diaspora scholars (December 2004) on the theme of Diaspora and its Governance to prepare an agenda for the Diaspora;

(iv) Organizing the third Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (7-9 January 2005) to engage the Indian Diaspora;

(v) Getting the land allotted for the Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra;

(vi) Preparing information booklet/advisory for women marrying Overseas Indians;

(vii) Initiating a scheme to provide Scholarships for Overseas Indian students to enable them study in Indian institutions;

(viii) Initiating Pilot project on "Tracing the Roots" in identified districts in UP and Bihar;

(ix) Innovative schemes through State Governments to upgrade the skills of workers;

(x) Expediting the process of grant of Overseas (dual) Citizenship as per PM's announcement at PBD 2005;

(xi) Tabulating facilities/benefits for Overseas Indians currently available to bring them on par with resident Indians;

(xii) Facilitating adoption of children by Overseas Indians through CARA.

*[English]*

**Promoting Coir Industries**

5878. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the scope of promoting coir industries in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken to promote coir industries in the country particularly in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Steps taken to promote the coir industry in the traditional coir-producing States, viz., Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and also non-traditional States and Union Territories like Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Goa, Maharashtra, Assam, Tripura, Pondicherry, Lakshadweep, West Bengal and Jharkhand include (i) extension of financial assistance for setting up new coir units and renovation of the existing units, (ii) conducting entrepreneur development programmes and quality improvement programmes for entrepreneurs, (iii) organising exposure tour of entrepreneurs to traditional coir producing areas to acquaint them with the latest developments, (iv) technical assistance in setting up coir units, (v) field demonstration on applications of latest technology, etc.

Some of the steps taken for development of coir industry in Orissa are:

(i) Establishment of a Regional Office at Bhubaneswar in 2004.

(ii) Setting up a testing laboratory for testing quality of coir fibre, pith, etc. during 2004.

(iii) Training programmes for artisans.

(iv) Distribution of motorized ratts/motorized traditional ratts to 321 artisans at 75% subsidised rate, at an expenditure of Rs. 31.48 lakh during 1.4.1994 to 31.3.2004.

**Repatriation of Alleged Illegal Indian Workers**

5879. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some alleged illegal workers in Malaysia have been repatriated to Indian recently during the amnesty period;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons repatriated so far; and

(c) the steps taken to rehabilitate these persons?

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

(b) As per statistics released by Immigration Department, Government of Malaysia, more than 17,000 Indian nationals have returned to India during the Amnesty period from 29.10.2004 to 28.2.2005.

(c) Does not arise.

**Schemes Launched by KVIC**

5880. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes launched by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission for providing self-employment to the handicapped, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minorities, backward and poor people living below the poverty line in the country particularly Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of families benefited under the schemes during the last three years in the country, State-wise/District-wise/year-wise;

(c) whether the KVIC has chalked out any new comprehensive scheme for the poor people living below poverty line in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) On behalf of the Central Government, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) implements the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP). This is a credit-linked subsidy Programme for employment generation, with assistance for setting up village industries, and is implemented throughout the country, including Uttar Pradesh, in rural areas and towns with population up to 20,000. Under this Programme, entrepreneurs can establish village industries, by availing of margin money assistance (subsidy) from the KVIC and loans from public sector scheduled commercial banks, selected regional rural banks, cooperative baks, etc., for employment projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh. The subsidy under the Programme is provided to the physically challenged, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, minorities, backward classes and other weaker sections for setting up projects, at the rate of 30 per cent of the project cost up to Rs. 10 lakh, as against 25 per cent applicable to the general category entrepreneurs. Further, under this Programme, the borrowers belonging to the above-mentioned categories are required to invest their own contribution of only 5 per cent of the project cost as against 10 per cent required for the general category entrepreneurs. For projects with costs of more than Rs. 10 lakh and up to Rs. 25 lakh, the rate of subsidy is, however, 10 per cent of the balance cost uniformly for all categories of entrepreneurs.

(b) State-wise details of the additional employment generated under the REGP during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 are given in the statement enclosed. District-wise details of REGP beneficiaries are not maintained centrally.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

***Statement***

*State-wise additional employment generated under the REGP during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04*

| Sl.No. | State/Union Territories | Employment (Number of persons) | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | 376 | 1392 | 504 |
| 2. | Bihar | 552 | 1965 | 3818 |
| 3. | Jharkhand | 1308 | 9398 | 3968 |
| 4. | Orissa | 5711 | 2816 | 13431 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5. | Sikkim | 0 | 120 | 2140 |
| 6. | West Bengal | 16159 | 22531 | 27350 |
| 7. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 14 | 192 | 61 |
| 8. | Daman and Diu | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 9. | Goa | 5511 | 3556 | 1715 |
| 10. | Gujarat | 795 | 1717 | 2296 |
| 11. | Maharashtra | 31613 | 27990 | 15498 |
| 12. | Chandigarh | 805 | 7 | 162 |
| 13. | Delhi | 299 | 293 | 231 |
| 14. | Haryana | 16786 | 15964 | 33201 |
| 15. | Himachal Pradesh | 14845 | 11644 | 13485 |
| 16. | Jammu and Kashmir | 8052 | 3129 | 6845 |
| 17. | Punjab | 27115 | 31461 | 13800 |
| 18. | Rajasthan | 46724 | 43040 | 51337 |
| 19. | Andhra Pradesh | 23308 | 34500 | 31996 |
| 20. | Karnataka | 20459 | 29648 | 29958 |
| 21. | Kerala | 28325 | 21394 | 50291 |
| 22. | Lakshadweep | 46 | 0 | 127 |
| 23. | Pondicherry | 80 | 5 | 219 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 11011 | 11017 | 24028 |
| 25. | Chhattisgarh | 4445 | 7254 | 19815 |
| 26. | Madhya Pradesh | 21492 | 10947 | 23683 |
| 27. | Uttaranchal | 5333 | 6881 | 16825 |
| 28. | Uttar Pradesh | 43002 | 42652 | 57847 |
| 29. | Arunachal Pradesh | 157 | 806 | 864 |
| 30. | Assam | 2878 | 7003 | 15548 |
| 31. | Manipur | 54 | 2196 | 682 |
| 32. | Meghalaya | 1908 | 2515 | 2171 |
| 33. | Mizoram | 214 | 3970 | 1174 |
| 34. | Nagaland | 2931 | 981 | 2332 |
| 35. | Tripura | 702 | 2021 | 4316 |
| | Total | 343010 | 361005 | 471458 |

**Relaxation in age limit for OBC Candidates**

5881. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of years of relaxation in age given to OBC candidates for appearing in various competitive examinations conducted for Union Government jobs;

(b) whether the Government has received any requests for further relaxing the age limit for OBC candidates;

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

(d) whether the present age relaxation is sufficient to meet the requirements of OBC candidates in view of their social conditions;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) In case of direct recruitment to services under the Government of India, relaxation of three years in upper age limit is provided to OBC candidates.

(b) and (c) Representations have been received from some OBC associations requesting to increase the relaxation in upper age limit to 5 years for OBC candidates in case of direct recruitment.

(d) to (f) Adequacy or otherwise of age relaxation is not determined solely on grounds of social conditions.

**Decline in Jobs in Government and Organised Sector**

5882. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the job opportunities in Government and organised sector have declined substantially in the country during the last few years;

(b) if so, the number of jobs generated in the Government and organised sectors annually during the last three years; and

(c) the reasons for the decline in job opportunities in Government/organised sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) Employment in the organized sector (Public and private sector taken together) during 2001, 2002 and 2003 was around 277.9 lakh, 272.1 lakh and 270.0 lakh respectively.

(c) Right sizing of the Government Sector and restructuring of the Public Sector to remain competitive in the global market are among the major reasons for this decline.

**CBI Raids**

5883. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI had raided 30 Senior officers as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated April 7, 2005;

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

(c) the total amount of unaccounted money recovered and other immovable properties detected;

(d) the action taken against the officers who were raided in February 2005; and

(e) the steps contemplated to be taken by the Government to deter Government Officers from indulging in corruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (c) On 6.4.2005 CBI registered 51 cases against 104 persons including 66 public servants. Searches were conducted at 173 places all over the country. During the searches cash of Rs. 1,04,22,790 and other movable and immovable properties worth Rs. 21,63,44,250 were detected/recovered.

(d) All the cases registered during special drive held in February 2005 are still under investigation, the details of which can not be made public, so as not to affect the investigations adversely.

(e) Several steps have been taken to check corruption in Government offices, such as formulation, monitoring and effective implementation of anti-corruption policy consisting of a three-pronged strategy of preventive vigilance, surveillance and detection, and deterrent punitive action. The special drive conducted by the CBI on 6.4.2005 was part of this strategy.

*[Translation]*

**Goods Exported by Cottage Industries**

5884. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of the goods produced by the cottage industries during the last one year, State-wise;

(b) the steps being taken for export of such goods;

(c) the total quantum of goods exported so far; and

(d) the position of each State in terms of exports made during the year 2004, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The cottage industry sector consists essentially of handicrafts, khadi, polyvastra and village industries. Data on quantum of production of handicrafts items are not maintained centrally. State-wise details of production of khadi, polyvastra and village industry products during 2003-04 are given in the enclosed Statement-I, II and III respectively.

(b) The steps taken to promote export of cottage industry products include financial assistance for participation in international fairs and exhibitions abroad, organising buyers-sellers meets, assistance for overseas publicity, organising seminars/workshops on export procedures, organising the Indian Handicrafts and Gifts Fair at New Delhi, Setting up of Indian Exposition Mart in Greater Noida (Uttar Pradesh), establishment of new Handicrafts Special Economic Zones (SEZs), earmarking of specific funds under Market Access Initiative, etc.

(c) The amount of export of handicrafts, including hand knotted carpets, during the last three years are as under:

| Year | Amount (Rs. crore) |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 10933.67 |
| 2003-04 | 12765.18 |
| 2004-05 | 15256.00 |

Further, during 2003-04, village industry products like papad, palm leaf products, fibre items and handmade paper worth Rs. 52 crore were exported.

(d) State-wise export data on handicrafts are not maintained centrally.

***Statement I***

*State-wise production of Khadi in 2003-2004*

(Rs. lakh)

| Sl.No. | States/Union Territories | Cotton Khadi | Woolen Khadi | Silk Khadi | Muslin Khadi | Total Khadi |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 1. | Chandigarh | 0.34 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.34 |
| 2. | Delhi | 145.02 | 6.63 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 151.65 |
| 3. | Haryana | 1330.49 | 1263.07 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2593.56 |
| 4. | Himachal Pradesh | 59.69 | 223.01 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 282.70 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5. | Jammu and Kashmir | 9.53 | 844.85 | 0.18 | 0.00 | 854.56 |
| 6. | Punjab | 862.99 | 194.07 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1057.06 |
| 7. | Rajasthan | 1303.83 | 1377.21 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 2681.04 |
| 8. | Andaman and Nicobar | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 9. | Bihar | 450.06 | 125.58 | 181.45 | 79.82 | 836.91 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 39.86 | 14.28 | 233.97 | 0.00 | 278.11 |
| 11. | Orissa | 64.06 | 0.00 | 256.09 | 34.38 | 354.53 |
| 12. | West Bengal | 106.73 | 0.00 | 4043.45 | 729.00 | 4879.18 |
| 13. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0.40 | 0.00 | 3.50 | 0.00 | 3.90 |
| 14. | Assam | 37.76 | 0.00 | 357.62 | 0.00 | 395.38 |
| 15. | Manipur | 17.54 | 0.00 | 28.76 | 0.00 | 46.30 |
| 16. | Meghalaya | 1.24 | 2.75 | 0.46 | 0.00 | 4.45 |
| 17. | Mizoram | 0.27 | 0.00 | 56.01 | 0.00 | 56.28 |
| 18. | Nagaland | 0.00 | 0.00 | 40.59 | 0.00 | 40.59 |
| 19. | Tripura | 3.90 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 3.90 |
| 20. | Sikkim | 4.34 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 4.34 |
| 21. | Andhra Pradesh | 1084.37 | 44.58 | 364.93 | 78.60 | 1572.48 |
| 22. | Karnataka | 1759.19 | 830.40 | 747.38 | 0.00 | 3336.97 |
| 23. | Kerala | 703.38 | 0.00 | 64.54 | 313.93 | 1081.85 |
| 24. | Lakshadweep | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 25. | Pondicherry | 6.51 | 0.00 | 15.81 | 0.00 | 22.32 |
| 26. | Tamil Nadu | 1363.89 | 0.00 | 4118.91 | 0.00 | 5482.80 |
| 27. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 28. | Daman and Diu | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 29. | Goa | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 30. | Gujarat | 1746.90 | 169.03 | 741.30 | 0.00 | 2657.23 |
| 31. | Maharashtra | 255.39 | 0.00 | 3.79 | 0.00 | 259.18 |
| 32. | Chhattisgarh | 59.79 | 20.50 | 620.68 | 0.00 | 700.97 |
| 33. | Madhya Pradesh | 167.77 | 138.40 | 86.83 | 0.00 | 393.00 |
| 34. | Uttaranchal | 600.63 | 437.63 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 1038.26 |
| 35. | Uttar Pradesh | 12496.47 | 1676.60 | 107.56 | 0.00 | 14280.63 |
| | Total | 24682.34 | 7368.59 | 120363.81 | 1235.73 | 45350.47 |

***Statement II***

*State-wise production of Polyvastra in 2003-04*

(Rs. lakh)

| Sl.No. | States/Union Territories | Production Value |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Chandigarh | 3.50 |
| 2. | Delhi | 6.00 |
| 3. | Haryana | 11.64 |
| 4. | Himachal Pradesh | 6.02 |
| 5. | Jammu and Kashmir | 0.06 |
| 6. | Punjab | 3.50 |
| 7. | Rajasthan | 296.72 |
| 8. | Andaman and Nicobar | 0.00 |
| 9. | Bihar | 70.08 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 7.08 |
| 11. | Orissa | 40.60 |
| 12. | West Bengal | 56.48 |
| 13. | Aruanchal Pradesh | 0.00 |
| 14. | Assam | 10.35 |
| 15. | Manipur | 1.03 |
| 16. | Meghalaya | 1.02 |
| 17. | Mizoram | 0.00 |
| 18. | Nagaland | 0.00 |
| 19. | Tripura | 0.00 |
| 20. | Sikkim | 0.00 |
| 21. | Andhra Pradesh | 92.93 |
| 22. | Karnataka | 242.21 |
| 23. | Kerala | 105.78 |
| 24. | Lakshadweep | 0.00 |
| 25. | Pondicherry | 0.00 |
| 26. | Tamil Nadu | 939.46 |
| 27. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 0.00 |
| 28. | Daman and Diu | 0.00 |
| 29. | Goa | 0.00 |
| 30. | Gujarat | 773.50 |
| 31. | Maharashtra | 19.70 |
| 32. | Chhattisgarh | 84.42 |
| 33. | Madhya Pradesh | 101.86 |
| 34. | Uttaranchal | 6.10 |
| 35. | Uttar Pradesh | 1092.64 |
| | Total | 3972.68 |

***Statement III***

*State-wise production of Village Industries Products in 2003-2004*

(Rs. lakh)

| Sl.No. | States/ Union Territories | Mineral based Industry | Forest based Industry | Agro & Food Processing Industry | Polymer & Chemical based Industry | Handmade Paper & Fibre Industry | Rural Engineering & Biotechnology Industry | Service Industry | Total Village Industries |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 1. | Chandigarh | 245.71 | 119.53 | 462.51 | 275.93 | 78.93 | 306.90 | 145.08 | 1624.59 |
| 2. | Delhi | 816.61 | 423.19 | 1527.21 | 892.52 | 268.79 | 1026.52 | 461.07 | 5415.90 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | Haryana | 3963.74 | 2585.62 | 6067.70 | 3658.20 | 1185.74 | 5295.06 | 830.78 | 23586.84 |
| 4. | Himachal Pradesh | 4051.77 | 2529.96 | 7236.99 | 4179.74 | 1180.14 | 5485.40 | 1554.21 | 26218.21 |
| 5. | Jammu and Kashmir | 3052.33 | 1785.48 | 5426.01 | 3239.81 | 1043.07 | 3973.63 | 1311.28 | 19831.06 |
| 6. | Punjab | 6937.82 | 5166.61 | 10725.33 | 7332.51 | 1773.04 | 8784.91 | 2122.84 | 42843.06 |
| 7. | Rajasthan | 14908.55 | 7858.31 | 23569.85 | 13672.32 | 4396.13 | 12819.31 | 5273.27 | 87897.74 |
| 8. | Andaman and Nicobar | 89.03 | 73.61 | 126.22 | 89.45 | 21.89 | 129.96 | 79.60 | 609.76 |
| 9. | Bihar | 3251.89 | 1437.55 | 5097.47 | 2974.86 | 882.11 | 3524.29 | 1513.10 | 18681.27 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 1581.21 | 343.36 | 223.90 | 64.25 | 46.27 | 308.79 | 444.74 | 3012.52 |
| 11. | Orissa | 2484.57 | 1427.81 | 4063.30 | 2369.39 | 781.21 | 3142.02 | 917.40 | 15185.70 |
| 12. | West Bengal | 4753.38 | 4353.68 | 7576.52 | 5174.20 | 1411.91 | 6302.84 | 1234.27 | 30806.80 |
| 13. | Arunachal Pradesh | 51.39 | 72.47 | 60.38 | 82.08 | 57.46 | 147.82 | 49.17 | 520.77 |
| 14. | Assam | 1366.08 | 950.34 | 2136.70 | 1035.11 | 329.10 | 1658.72 | 497.12 | 7973.17 |
| 15. | Manipur | 928.01 | 477.80 | 1674.89 | 988.56 | 430.80 | 1171.46 | 479.34 | 6150.86 |
| 16. | Meghalaya | 673.85 | 505.74 | 939.89 | 545.76 | 129.99 | 729.59 | 180.30 | 3705.12 |
| 17. | Mizoram | 531.83 | 372.90 | 835.82 | 611.84 | 170.87 | 683.04 | 673.44 | 3879.74 |
| 18. | Nagaland | 839.02 | 441.81 | 1282.90 | 755.25 | 245.32 | 990.21 | 367.38 | 4921.89 |
| 19. | Tripura | 688.49 | 216.88 | 823.44 | 406.33 | 223.66 | 659.04 | 123.37 | 3141.21 |
| 20. | Sikkim | 92.96 | 101.31 | 190.28 | 80.96 | 1301.5 | 142.61 | 24.65 | 762.92 |
| 21. | Andhra Pradesh | 7948.54 | 5225.84 | 10949.28 | 6702.93 | 1889.97 | 8155.66 | 2041.80 | 42914.02 |
| 22. | Karnataka | 13144.07 | 5665.20 | 23591.70 | 12963.45 | 3849.21 | 14886.57 | 5079.42 | 79179.62 |
| 23. | Kerala | 8500.84 | 4601.17 | 12947.18 | 7105.29 | 2444.65 | 9604.25 | 2477.21 | 47680.59 |
| 24. | Lakshadweep | 17.02 | 9.44 | 28.29 | 16.01 | 3.68 | 23.64 | 6.77 | 104.85 |
| 25. | Pondicherry | 67.02 | 36.55 | 181.02 | 59.78 | 29.89 | 89.24 | 85.34 | 547.84 |
| 26. | Tamil Nadu | 11201.28 | 5778.33 | 19792.31 | 11386.03 | 3614.27 | 14288.46 | 5305.76 | 71366.44 |
| 27. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 14.79 | 3.73 | 36.32 | 8.13 | 0.15 | 9.35 | 19.79 | 92.26 |
| 28. | Daman and Diu | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| 29. | Goa | 468.29 | 323.63 | 778.72 | 499.04 | 146.06 | 600.87 | 186.69 | 3003.30 |
| 30. | Gujarat | 6785.31 | 3406.25 | 12560.00 | 7355.23 | 2247.24 | 8516.63 | 3939.41 | 44809.07 |
| 31. | Maharashtra | 20499.09 | 11380.83 | 36544.26 | 21924.66 | 6482.50 | 25831.32 | 12075.61 | 132938.27 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 32. | Chhattisgarh | 2588.89 | 873.77 | 2216.11 | 1266.73 | 292.58 | 1720.56 | 272.61 | 9231.25 |
| 33. | Madhya Pradesh | 8464.92 | 4672.61 | 14266.84 | 8387.78 | 2667.02 | 11108.57 | 3738.16 | 53305.90 |
| 34. | Uttaranchal | 1487.19 | 1075.29 | 2050.31 | 1115.68 | 595.97 | 1901.26 | 303.60 | 8259.30 |
| 35. | Uttar Pradesh | 19066.68 | 11198.81 | 34406.93 | 19245.66 | 5682.20 | 24198.04 | 8556.45 | 122354.77 |
| | Total | 151562.17 | 85495.40 | 250386.58 | 146465.47 | 44730.97 | 183615.54 | 60571.03 | 922827.16 |

*[English]*

**Cooperation with Commonwealth Countries**

5885. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for closer cooperation among the Commonwealth countries especially in trade, information technology, energy and health care;

(b) if so, whether the Government has held talks with any of these countries in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of the talks held; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) No, Sir. GOI is not aware of any specific proposal for closer cooperation among the Commonwealth countries in the field of trade, information technology, energy and health.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Participation of Postmen in Public Relations Schemes**

5886. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for active participation of the postmen in certain specific schemes of public relations in the rural areas; 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) No, Sir. There is no specific scheme formulated for the participation of the postmen or Grameen Dak Sewak Delivery Agents (GDSDAs) in specific schemes of public relations in rural areas.

However, given the access and credibility that they enjoy with the public in rural areas, training is being imparted to both postmen and GDSDAs to give them a better appreciation of the services that the department officers, and to thereby provide better customer satisfaction.

*[English]*

**Uranium Mining**

5887. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Uranium Corporation of India Limited is set to start mining in the West Khasi Hills soon; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Uranium Corporation of India Limited proposes to start mining and milling project at West Khasi Hills Meghalaya, after all approvals and statutory clearances are obtained.

(b) Various pre-project activities have been initiated. The Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Plan report has been prepared. Site clearance from the Ministry of Environment & Forests has been obtained. The NOC from State Pollution Control

Board is awaited. Application has been submitted to the Government of Meghalaya for grant of mining lease.

**Truck Terminals**

5888. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under the consideration of the Government to build truck terminals along National Highways for providing truck/lorry drivers rest rooms, dormitories, fuel filling stations, restaurants or other facilities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Ministry has a policy for facilitating development of wayside amenities also called rest areas along National Highways which include parking space for vehicles, snack bar/restaurant, toilets, dormitory for short duration rest, first aid, telephone booth, petrol pump/minor repair shop (optional) kiosks for sale of miscellaneous/sundry items and landscaping, truck/bus lay-bye as per the requirements. In addition truck/bus lay-bye are being provided at appropriate places for parking of trucks/buses. The wayside amenities are provided at selected locations along the National Highways.

**Quantification of Unpaid Work**

5889. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:
SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated an exercise to quantify the unpaid work in the economy and prepare an alternative estimate of labour force in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) in the Ministry conducted a pilot Time Use Survey during 1998-1999 in six states, namely, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya. As per the Report of the Time Use Survey, the percentage distribution of time spent on unpaid economic activities is given in the enclosed Statement. There is no proposal to prepare an alternative estimate of labour force in the country.

***Statement***

*Time spent on paid and unpaid activities*

*State-wise distribution of time spent (in hours) in SNA activities by mode of payment and sex*

| States | Male | | | Female | | | Total | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Paid | Unpaid | % time on unpaid activities | Paid | Unpaid | % time on unpaid activities | Paid | Unpaid | % time on unpaid activities |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Haryana | 33.09 (1152) | 18.12 (1347) | 35.38 | 4.13 (215) | 25.34 (1494) | 85.99 | 20.06 (1367) | 21.37 (2841) | 51.58 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 29.41 (5247) | 23.34 (6311) | 44.25 | 14.31 (3072) | 15.75 (4391) | 52.40 | 22.99 (8319) | 20.12 (10702) | 46.67 |
| Gujarat | 44.37 (3959) | 14.17 (3897) | 24.21 | 17.18 | 13.87 | 44.67 | 33.26 | 14.05 | 29.70 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Orissa | 31.25 (2103) | 22.42 (2589) | 41.77 | 8.00 (583) | 18.18 (3235) | 69.44 | 20.55 (2686) | 20.47 (5824) | 49.90 |
| Tamil Nadu | 41.42 (5633) | 13.36 (4863) | 24.39 | 21.48 (3034) | 10.32 (4280) | 32.45 | 32.74 (8667) | 12.04 (9143) | 26.89 |
| Meghalaya | 17.34 (374) | 35.39 (740) | 67.12 | 7.83 (196) | 25.34 (692) | 76.39 | 12.65 (570) | 30.44 (1432) | 70.64 |
| Combined states | 36.54 (18468) | 18.12 (19747) | 33.15 | 14.87 (8847) | 15.18 (16633) | 50.52 | 27.16 (27315) | 16.85 (36380) | 38.29 |

Note: Figure in parenthesis gives sample number of persons participating in the activity.

SNA Activities: Primary Production Activities, Secondary Activities, Trade and Business Activities

**Low Quality Copper T**

5890. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the health hazards caused due to usage of low quality Copper T supplied through the Primary Health Centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to prevent/withhold supply of such Copper Ts;

(c) whether the CBI has seized such Copper Ts manufactured by M/s Famy Care India, Mumbai; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government against the firm?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No such complaint has been received in the Ministry. However, it may be mentioned that specification of Coppert-T 380 A are based on International Standards and as prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standards. Quality control is observed both at manufacturing level and at field level through testing laboratories approved by the Drug Controller General (India). Moreover, whenever any complaint is received, the consignment is withdrawn and the complete batch is replaced by standard quality material by the producer concerned.

(c) A Team of officials from CBI, ACB Chennai branch has conducted a surprise check along with Drugs Inspector Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), South Zone Chennai on some complaint and drawn samples of 13 batches with instruction to Government Medical Store Depot (GMSD), Chennai not to dispose off the stock. CDSCO (SZ), Chennai has now furnished the test report of these 13 batches. Out of 13 batches, 8 batches have been declared as not of standard quality for the reasons mainly (i) failed in sterility test and (ii) pouches contain foreign particles. 5 batches have been declared as of standard quality.

(d) 1. GMSD Chennai, CDSCO (SZ), Chennai and CBI, ACB Chennai have been requested to give their comments/recommendations on the issues of disposal of failed batches and release order for approved 5 batches and,

2. To protect Govt. interest, recoveries on this account are being made from M/s Famy Care India, Mumbai,

3. A team is collecting field samples to send them for re-testing to other Government approved laboratories where they were not tested earlier.

*[Translation]*

**Streamlining of Mobile Services**

5891. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL has identified places to instal new equipments and mobile towers to streamline the mobile-services in the country, particularly in Bihar and Jharkhand; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. BSNL has identified additional areas for providing cellular coverage to additional cities/towns upto Tehsil headquarter (Sub-divisional headquarter), National Highways and other important towns in the various States of the country depending upon business and commercial viability. Accordingly, 524 new sites in Bihar and 290 sites in Jharkhand have been planned and identified for expansion of cellular coverage during 2005-06. The capacity augmentation presently in progress for the year 2005-06 in given in the enclosed statement.

***Statement***

*Details of State-wise Capacity under installation for Cellular Services*

| Sl.No. | State | Capacity under Installation |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar | 20000 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 963000 |
| 3. | Assam | 250000 |
| 4. | Bihar | 455000 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 150000* |
| 6. | Gujarat | 1050000* |
| 7. | Haryana | 528000 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 221000 |
| 9. | Jammu and Kashmir | 280000 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 250000 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 802354 |
| 12. | Kerala | 950000 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 450000* |
| 14. | Maharashtra including Goa | 1350000* |
| 15. | North East-I (Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura) | 100000 |
| 16. | North East-II (Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh) | 100000 |
| 17. | Orissa | 500000 |
| 18. | Punjab | 900000 |
| 19. | Rajasthan | 850000 |
| 20. | Tamil Nadu | 1284800 |
| 21. | Uttar Pradesh | 1220000 |
| 22. | Uttaranchal | 201500 |
| 23. | West Bengal including Sikkim | 1325000 |
| | All India | 14200654 |

*Equipment being ordered.

**Violation of Terms and Conditions by Private Telecom Operators**

5892. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

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

(a) whether the private sector telecom companies are openly violating the terms and conditions of licence despite being served repeated warning notices by the TRAI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the MTNL and BSNL are incurring heavy losses as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any action has been taken for compensation of the losses suffered by the Government companies due to private companies;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reaction of the private sector companies thereto?

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

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, some cases have come to the notice of Licensor and TRAI regarding violation of the terms and conditions of the Licence Agreement. The show cause notices were issued for the same and the Licensees were asked to discontinue the violation, if any, with immediate effect.

(c) to (f) The Government companies *i.e.* MTNL and BSNL have suffered losses in cases where ADC payments were avoided by some Licensees. In one such case regarding illegal routing of international calls by M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd., BSNL raised bills amounting to Rs. 263.4 crores out of which M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. has paid Rs. 182.7 crores and the case is subjudice. BSNL has also issued notice to M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd., for payment of access Deficit Charge for its so-called walky services. MTNL raised bills amounting to Rs. 341.28 crores out of which M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. has paid Rs. 236.00 crores and the case is subjudice.

(g) Private companies have stated that they are adhering to all the terms and conditions of the licence agreement. In case of illegal international calls by M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd., Government after consideration of the case imposed a penalty of Rs. 150 crores. M/s Reliance filed a petition in TDSAT, which finally dismissed the same and M/s. Reliance Infocomm Ltd. paid the penalty.

*[English]*

**Condition of Lighthouse and Pier at Alappuzha**

5893. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the dilapidated condition of the Pier and the Lighthouse at Alappuzha;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for the renovation of the same;

(c) whether the Pier has been transferred to the Ministry of Tourism for some maritime tourism projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Kerala, which has jurisdiction over the Pier at Alappuzha port (Alleppey) is aware of its condition. They have informed that the port is proposed to be developed as a Marina with allied facilities but the Pier may not be an integral part of the Marina. The Lighthouse at Alappuzha is under the administrative control of this Ministry and is maintained well as per international standard.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Examination of 1977 Protocols to Geneva Convention**

5894. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to examine the 1977 Protocols to the Geneva Convention of 1949;

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

(c) whether the NHRC has requested the Government to complete its examination of the 1977 Protocols at the earliest;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by when the Government is likely to complete the examination in this regard and submit its comments to the NHRC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (e) This Ministry is examining the substantive aspects of the two 1977 Additional Protocols to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 in consultation with the concerned Ministries and Agencies. The NHRC has also been in touch with the Government in this regard.

**Setting up of Advanced Medical Science Research & Treatment Centre**

5895. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal for setting up of an Advanced Medical Science Research and Treatment Centre in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by when such a centre is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There is no proposal for setting up an Advanced Medical Sciences Research and Treatment Centre in West Bengal. However, there is a proposal to upgrade Kolkata Medical College to the level of AIIMS like Institution under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY). The PMSSY scheme has been cleared by the Expenditure Finance Committee and will now be placed before the competent authority for approval.

**Investment in Coal Sector**

5896. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has planned to implement its projects by investing several crores of rupees and sought approval of the Government for the same;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the revised production targets for its various projects for year 2005-06 have been worked out;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to allow private companies to sell coal produced in captive mines; 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 NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) As per present assessment (March 05) the total investment proposed by Coal India Limited (CIL) against 102 projects being taken up during X Plan period is Rs. 20210.76 crores with ultimate Project Report (PR) capacity of 252.12 million tonne (Mte) of coal during 2006-07.

Out of these 102 projects, 28 projects need to be approved at Government level. Out of these 28, 4 projects have already been approved by Government and 14 projects are in different stages of appraisal/approval of Government level. PR of Balance 10 projects are being prepared for submission to Government for approval.

61 projects of X Plan including 4 projects approved by Government have already been approved with an ultimate capacity of 82.62 Mte and capital investment of Rs. 3303.33 crores.

(c) and (d) Projects identified to be taken up during X Plan period will contribute 66.63 Mte in 2005-06. Details are enclosed as Statement.

(e) and (f) Government has decided to permit sale of coal produced by the private companies during the development phase of captive mines to the local Coal India subsidiary company only at a price to be determined by a committee constituted in the Ministry under the Chairmanship of the Additional Secretary (Coal).

***Statement***

*X Plan Projects—Production Programme 2005-06 (As per Annual Plan 2005-06)*

| Sl.No. | Projects | Type | PR Capacity (Mty) | East Capital (Rs. Crs) | Production (Mte) 2005-06 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| | **Eastern Coalfields Limited** | | | | |
| 1. | Khottadih Aug. UG | UG | 0.42 | 60.57 | 0.20 |
| 2. | Sonepur Bazari B OC | OC | 1.00 | 7.12 | 0.60 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | Nakrakonda B OC | OC | 1.00 | 1.78 | 0.60 |
| 4. | Shankarpur UG | UG | 0.12 | 8.13 | 0.12 |
| 5. | Bansra (R) UG | UG | 0.135 | 13.47 | 0.10 |
| | Total ECL | | 2.68 | 91.07 | 1.62 |
| | **Bharat Coking Coal Limited** | | | | |
| 1. | Dahibari/Basantimata OC | OC | 1.30 | 81.25 | 0.75 |
| 2. | Satabdih OC | OC | 0.80 | 16.83 | 0.80 |
| 3. | Damoda BJ Section | OC | 0.60 | 7.78 | 0.40 |
| 4. | Chaptoria | OC | 0.55 | 7.12 | 0.40 |
| 5. | Golukdih (NC) OC | OC | 1.20 | 12.27 | 0.71 |
| | Total BCCL | | 4.45 | 125.25 | 3.06 |
| | **Central Coalfields Limited** | | | | |
| 1. | Ashok Expn OC | OC | 5.00 | 348.80 | 5.20 |
| 2. | Topa RO OC | OC | 1.20 | 65.25 | 0.60 |
| | Total CCL | | 6.20 | 414.05 | 5.80 |
| | **Western Coalfields Limited** | | | | |
| 1. | Dhurwasa OC | OC | 0.55 | 62.74 | 0.80 |
| 2. | Gauri Deep OC | OC | 0.40 | 86.22 | 0.15 |
| 3. | Kolgaon DC | OC | 0.40 | 74.97 | 0.34 |
| 4. | Makardhokra-I OC | OC | 1.00 | 71.00 | 0.10 |
| 5. | Urdhan OC | OC | 0.50 | 43.50 | 0.30 |
| 6. | Makardhokra-II OC (UG to OC) | OC | 0.50 | 44.62 | 1.20 |
| 7. | Junakunda OC | OC | 0.60 | 23.76 | 0.60 |
| 8. | Ghonsa OC | OC | 0.30 | 6.99 | 0.15 |
| 9. | Gondegaon Ext. OC | OC | 0.75 | 27.54 | 0.40 |
| | Total WCL | | 5.00 | 441.34 | 4.04 |
| | **South Eastern Coalfields Limited** | | | | |
| 1. | Dipka Expn. OC (Incr) | OC | 10.00 | 828.17 | 6.95 |
| 2. | Gevra Expn. OC (Incr) | OC | 13.00 | 1323.11 | 11.82 |
| 3. | Kusmunda Expn. OC | OC | 4.00 | 337.09 | 2.10 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | Amadand DC | OC | 1.15 | 83.39 | 0.85 |
| 5. | Baroud Expn. OC | OC | 1.00 | 28.02 | 1.00 |
| 6. | Amera OC | OC | 1.00 | 41.69 | 0.50 |
| 7. | Saraipaly OC | OC | 1.40 | 22.82 | 0.60 |
| 8. | Chhal OC | OC | 1.00 | 19.99 | 0.55 |
| | Total SECL | | 32.55 | 2684.28 | 24.37 |
| | **Mahanadi Coalfields Limited** | | | | |
| 1. | Basundhara West DC | OC | 2.40 | 176.55 | 1.90 |
| 2. | Bhubaneswari OC | OC | 10.00 | 607.68 | 0.50 |
| 3. | Kaniha OC | OC | 3.50 | 171.89 | 0.50 |
| 4. | Lakhanpur Expn. OC | OC | 5.00 | 98.74 | 4.70 |
| 5. | Lingaraj Expn. OC | OC | 5.00 | 98.89 | 5.00 |
| 6. | Bharatpur Expn.-II OC | OC | 6.00 | 95.87 | 5.50 |
| 7. | Hingula II Expn. OC | OC | 2.00 | 89.78 | 4.00 |
| 8. | Jagannath Extn. OC | OC | 4.00 | 4.71 | 4.00 |
| 9. | Belpahar Expn. OC | OC | 1.50 | 35.47 | 1.50 |
| | Total MCL | | 39.40 | 1379.58 | 27.60 |
| | NEC | | | | 0.14 |
| | Total CIL | | 90.28 | 5135.57 | 66.63 |

**Road Projects in Tamil Nadu**

5897. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the projects completed so far under the Golden Quadrilateral Project in the country, State-wise particularly in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the Government has reviewed the progress of the said projects;

(c) if so, the reasons for slow progress; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to complete the projects within the stipulated period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Out of the 5846 kms aggregate length of various National Highways taken up under the Golden Quadrilateral Project in the country, 4696 kms have been completed so far. State-wise status is given in enclosed statement. In the State of Tamil Nadu, an aggregate length of 341 kms of various National Highways is under the Golden Quadrilateral Project, out of which 322 kms have been completed.

(b) Yes, Sir. The progress of the project is reviewed periodically at various levels.

(c) The progress of works has been affected in some States due to the problems associated with delay in land

acquisition and shifting of utilities, poor performance of some contractors, delay in forest/environment clearances etc.

(d) The following steps have been taken for speedy completion of the project.

(i) To expedite the acquisition of land and shifting of utilities etc., nodal officers at the level of Commissioner/Secretary/Principal Secretary of State Governments have been nominated. The regular follow up meetings are held with the State Government officials and with the nodal officers.

(ii) Non-performing contractors have been debarred for future projects.

(iii) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted to resolve the inter-ministerial issues and problems with the State Governments.

***Statement***

| Sl.No. | State/Union Territory | Total (Length in Km) | 4 Laned (Length in Km) | Under Implementation (Length in Km) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 1016.00 | 943.00 | 73.00 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 0.00 | — | — |
| 3. | Assam | 0.00 | — | — |
| 4. | Bihar | 206.00 | 104.50 | 101.50 |
| 5. | Chandigarh | 0.00 | — | — |
| 6. | Chhattisgarh | 0.00 | — | — |
| 7. | Delhi | 25.00 | 25.00 | 0.00 |
| 8. | Goa | 0.00 | — | — |
| 9. | Gujarat | 485.00 | 455.00 | 30.00 |
| 10. | Haryana | 152.00 | 152.00 | 0.00 |
| 11. | Himachal Pradesh | 0.00 | — | — |
| 12. | Jammu and Kashmir | 0.00 | — | — |
| 13. | Jharkhand | 192.00 | 109.00 | 83.00 |
| 14. | Karnataka | 623.00 | 422.50 | 200.50 |
| 15. | Kerala | 0.00 | — | — |
| 16. | Madhya Pradesh | 0.00 | — | — |
| 17. | Maharashtra | 489.00 | 456.50 | 32.50 |
| 18. | Manipur | 0.00 | — | — |
| 19. | Meghalaya | 0.00 | — | — |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 20. | Mizoram | 0.00 | — | — |
| 21. | Nagaland | 0.00 | — | — |
| 22. | Orissa | 443.00 | 235.00 | 208.00 |
| 23. | Pondicherry | 0.00 | — | — |
| 24. | Punjab | 0.00 | — | — |
| 25. | Rajasthan | 722.00 | 721.50 | 0.50 |
| 26. | Sikkim | 0.00 | — | — |
| 27. | Tamil Nadu | 341.00 | 322.00 | 19.00 |
| 28. | Tripura | 0.00 | — | — |
| 29. | Uttar Pradesh | 754.00 | 380.00 | 374.00 |
| 30. | Uttaranchal | 0.00 | — | — |
| 31. | West Bengal | 398.00 | 370.00 | 28.00 |
| | Total | 5846.00 | 4696.00 | 1150.00 |

**Private/Foreign Players in Coal Trading**

5898. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
MOHD. SHAHID:
SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme to allow private/foreign players in coal trading for revival of coal sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any mid-term appraisal of the coal sector is being carried out;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to give autonomy to coal companies in order to make them competitive; 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 NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) To increase coal production in the country and to attract private investment in coal mining sector, the Central Government proposed to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973. Accordingly, the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in April, 2000 with the following objectives:

(i) To allow Indian companies *i.e.* companies registered in India to mine coal and lignite without the existing restriction of captive consumption; and

(ii) To engage in exploration of coal and lignite resources in the country;

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has undertaken a mid-term appraisal of the coal sector for the X Plan and the Mid Term Appraisal Document containing recommendations for the coal sector is under consideration in the Planning Commission.

(e) and (f) Coal India Limited and its subsidiary companies already have autonomy in operational matters. Pricing of coal has been completely deregulated by the

Central Government with effect from 01.01.2004. Besides this, the Government have taken a decision that all powers exercised by Coal India Limited (CIL) relating to procurement of all items, except procurement of explosives be delegated to its coal producing subsidiaries. The Government have also directed CIL to delegate powers relating to marketing in the non-core sector in case of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, Western Coalfields Limited and South Eastern Coalfields Limited to the respective subsidiary companies.

*[Translation]*

**Cases of Female Foeticide**

5899. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:
MOHD. SHAHID:
SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that maximum number of cases of female foeticide committed are from the four metropolitan cities of the country as reported in the Hindi daily 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated April 6, 2005;

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

(c) whether the Government has collected figures in this regard from the metropolitan cities;

(d) if so, the present sex ratio in the country alongwith sex ratio in each metropolitan cities;

(e) whether the number of girls is less in proportion to number of boys in the metropolitan cities;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the female foeticide is being committed openly inspite of the ban on it;

(h) if so, the cases of female foeticide during last three years, State-wise; and

(i) the remedial action taken/proposed tc be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Low levels of female sex ratio has been a matter of concern for all in the country. As per 2001 census, the sex ratio in the country is 933. The sex ratio in Urban Agglomeration of four Metropolitan cities of Greater Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi and Chennai is 822, 869, 822 and 955 respectively. The sex ratio of the Urban Agglomerate/Cities having population 10,00,000 and above is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(f) Some of the reasons put forward for low levels of female sex ratio are son preference, dowry, neglect of the girl child resulting in higher mortality at younger age, female infanticide, female foeticide, male bias in enumeration of population etc.

(g) to (i) No data on female foeticide is available as these are not done openly.

In order to check female foeticide, Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 was brought into operation from 1st January, 1966. The Pre-conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Provision of Sex Selection) Act, 1994 has since been amended to make to more comprehensive. The amended Act and Rule came into force with effect from 14.2.2003. The Act prohibits determination and disclosure of the sex of the foetus. Under the Act, use of Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques and genetic counseling is permissible for detection of certain genetic abnormalities. The violation of the Act is punishable with imprisonment up to 5 years and fine up to Rs. 1.00 lakh apart from cancellation of registration and license.

As per the reports received from the States and UTs, 26199 bodies having ultrasound, image scanners etc. have been registered under the Act. As on 31.3.2005, there are 303 ongoing cases in the Courts/Police for various violations of the law. 33 ultrasound machine are also, sealed/seized on violation of the law as per enclosed Statement-II.

It is, nevertheless, recognised that mere legislation is not enough to deal with this problem that has roots in

social behaviour and prejudices. Various activities have been undertaken to create awareness against the practice of pre-natal determination of sex and female foeticide through Radio, Television, and print media units. Workshops and seminars have been organized through Voluntary Organization at State/Regional/District/Block levels to create awareness against this social evil. Cooperation has also been sought from religious leaders, as well as medical fraternity to curb this practice. A 'Save the Girl Child' Campaign with a view to lessen son preference by highlighting achievements of young girls have been launched. A National Monitoring and Inspection Committee including representative from National Commission for Women, Department of Women and Child Development and NGOs has been constituted to take stock of the ground realities by field visits to the problems states.

***Statement I***

*Sex Ratio of the Country and UAs/Cities having Population 10,00,000 and above—2001 Census*

| Sl.No. | Name of UA/City | Status | Sex Ratio |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| | **India** | **Urban** | **900** |
| 1. | Greater Mumbai | UA | 822 |
| 2. | Kolkata | UA | 869 |
| 3. | Delhi | UA | 822 |
| 4. | Chennai | UA | 955 |
| 5. | Hyderabad | UA | 931 |
| 6. | Bangalore | UA | 908 |
| 7. | Ahmedabad | UA | 884 |
| 8. | Pune | UA | 899 |
| 9. | Surat | UA | 760 |
| 10. | Kanpur | UA | 853 |
| 11. | Jaipur | MC | 876 |
| 12. | Lucknow | UA | 888 |
| 13. | Nagpur | UA | 932 |
| 14. | Patna | UA | 840 |
| 15. | Indore | UA | 904 |
| 16. | Vadodara | UA | 906 |
| 17. | Coimbatore | UA | 952 |
| 18. | Bhopal | UA | 898 |
| 19. | Ludhiana | MC | 763 |
| 20. | Kochi | UA | 1,023 |
| 21. | Visakhapatnam | UA | 956 |
| 22. | Agra | UA | 847 |
| 23. | Thane | MC | 870 |
| 24. | Varanasi | UA | 872 |
| 25. | Madurai | UA | 977 |
| 26. | Kalyan-Dombivli | MC | 884 |
| 27. | Meerut | UA | 869 |
| 28. | Nashik | UA | 870 |
| 29. | Jamshedpur | UA | 899 |
| 30. | Jabalpur | UA | 893 |
| 31. | Asansol | UA | 890 |
| 32. | Dhanbad | UA | 839 |
| 33. | Faridabad | MC | 817 |
| 34. | Allahabad | UA | 809 |
| 35. | Vijayawada | UA | 971 |
| 36. | Pimpri Chnchwad | MC | 851 |
| 37. | Haora | MC | 842 |
| 38. | Amritsar | UA | 863 |
| 39. | Rajkot | UA | 907 |

UA = Urban Agglomeration
MC = Municipal Corporation

***Statement II***

*Number of bodies registered, number of court cases and number of Machines seized/sealed under PC & PNDT Act 1994*

31.3.2005

| Sl.No. | State/UT | No. of bodies* registered | No. of Court/ Police Cases | No. of Machines seized/sealed |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 2141 | 8 | — |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 14 | — | — |
| 3. | Assam | 258 | — | — |
| 4. | Bihar | 457 | 6 | 1 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 318 | — | — |
| 6. | Goa | 100 | — | — |
| 7. | Gujarat | 2269 | 14 | — |
| 8. | Haryana | 893 | 22 | 8 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 179 | — | 1 |
| 10. | Jammu and Kashmir | 4 | — | — |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 116 | — | — |
| 12. | Karnataka | 1842 | 20 | — |
| 13. | Kerala | 960 | 0 | — |
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 988 | 6 | — |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 4784 | 21 | — |
| 16. | Manipur | 25 | — | — |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 22 | — | — |
| 18. | Mizoram | 12 | — | — |
| 19. | Nagaland | 5 | — | — |
| 20. | Orissa | 279 | 1 | 1 |
| 21. | Punjab | 1212 | 51 | 10 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 960 | 3 | 2 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 11 | — | — |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 2680 | 47 | — |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 25. | Tripura | 42 | — | — |
| 26. | Uttaranchal | 276 | 1 | — |
| 27. | Uttar Pradesh | 2538 | 18 | — |
| 28. | West Bengal | 873 | 10 | 10 |
| 29. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 6 | — | — |
| 30. | Chandigarh | 66 | — | — |
| 31. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 7 | — | — |
| 32. | Daman and Diu | 12 | — | — |
| 33. | Delhi | 1805 | 75 | — |
| 34. | Lakshadweep | 9 | — | — |
| 35. | Pondicherry | 36 | — | — |
| | Total | 26199 | 303 | 33 |

*Includes:

GCC—Genetic Counseling Centres

GL—Genetic Laboratories

GC—Genetic Clinics

USC/IC—Ultrasound Clinics/Imaging Centres

JAGCC/GL/GC—Jointly as Genetic Counseling Centres/Gen. Labs./Gen. Clinics

MC(V)—Mobile Clinics (Vehicles)

OB/IVFC/IC—Other bodies/IVF Centres/Infertility Centres.

**Transportation of Coal**

5900. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cooperative societies intend to transport coal from coal mine pertaining to the Coal India Ltd., the Central Coal Fields Ltd., the Bharat Cooking Coal Ltd. and the Eastern Coalfields Ltd. in Jharkhand to railway sidings;

(b) if so, the number of cooperative societies engaged for transporting coal by the above coal companies; and

(c) the time by which this job is likely to be given to the remaining cooperative societies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As informed by Coal India Limited, one cooperative society in Bharat Coking Coal Limited and three cooperative societies in Central Coalfields Limited, are engaged in transportation of coal to railway siding in the state of Jharkhand. Further, four more cooperative societies have applied for transportation of coal.

*[English]*

**Ship Building Hubs**

5901. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up two ship building hubs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the plans prepared by the Hindustan Shipyard, Visakhapatnam and the Cochin Shipyard in this regard;

(d) the steps taken by the Port Trust of India to expand current facilities and to set up green field building facilities at Visakhapatnam and Kochi; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to develop facilities of international level at Ports?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Government is exploring the possibility of setting up two international size Shipyards in the country subject to favourable technical analysis and feasibility study.

(c) Cochin Shipyard Ltd. and Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., Visakhapatnam have not prepared any plans in this regard.

(d) Visakhapatnam Port Trust has initiated proposals regarding deepening and widening of inner harbour entrance channel and inner harbour turning circle, which would be beneficial for Hindustan Shipyard Limited in long run. Cochin Port Trust has included the proposal of a Ship Repair Complex in its integrated development plan. The Ship Repair Complex is focused to meet the demands of increasing dry docking on Indian shores.

(e) Steps have been taken by Government to develop/modernize Major Ports but no proposal has been firmed up to develop international size shipyard facilities at any particular Major Port.

**Upgradation to New Internet Protocol Version**

5902. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has set the target for service providers in the country to upgrade to the new internet protocol version 6 (IPv6);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to create 20 million high speed connections within 5 years under its 10 point agenda;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government also propose to create National Internet Address registry to ensure full control of security and its own domain; and

(f) if so, the detailed strategy chalked out by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Ten Point Agenda of the Ministry of Communications & Information Technology provides migration to IPv6 protocol.

(c) and (d) Government has announced Broadband Policy 2004. The policy envisages 9 million and 20 million Broadband subscribers by 2007 & 2010 respectively through various technologies.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Food Adulteration Programme**

5903. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any programme is being run by his ministry with the purpose of "Preventing Food Adulteration";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether adequate funds have been provided for the programme; and

(d) if so, the details of the funds spent on this programme during the 10th Five Year Plan, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (P.F.A.) Act, 1954 was enacted with the purpose of Preventing Food Adulteration. The subject Prevention of Food Adulteration is in the concurrent list of the Constitution. The P.F.A. Act, 1954 is administered by Ministry of Health & F.W. and is implemented by the State Governments through their Food (Health) Authorities.

(c) and (d) The fund allocation during 10th Plan and expenditure year-wise upto 2004-2005 under Prevention of Food Adulteration Programme under Central Health Scheme, is as under:-

| Component | Allocation (Rs. in lakhs) | Expenditure (Rs. in lakhs) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | Total |
| Genl. | 18000.00 | 205.19 | 292.67 | 321.00 | 818.86 |
| E.A.C. | | 0 | 343.60 | 3334.70 | 3678.30 |

*[English]*

**Introduction of 3G Third Generation Technology**

5904. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce '3G' Third Generation Technology for Mobiles in the country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to be derived therefrom by the subscribers?

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

(b) and (c) The key salient features and likely benefits to be derived from 3G mobile services by the customers are given in the enclosed Statement.

***Statement***

*Key Salient Features/Benefits of 3G Third Generation Technology*

Communications Anywhere, Anytime

— Provide users a "small, lightweight, and convenient pocket Communication" that offers services "anywhere, anytime".

Expanded Range of Services

— Provide service that supports not only traditional mobile voice communications, but a variety of voice and data services providing a wide range of applications like multimedia capabilities, Internet access, imaging and video conferencing.

— Supports, flexible, variable rate access with data rates approaching 2 Mb/s.

A Unified, Seamless infrastructure

— Unification of the many diverse systems existing today (including paging, cordless, cellular, mobile satellite etc.) into a seamless radio infrastructure capable of offering a wide range of services.

Integration of Mobile and Fixed Networks

— Integration of mobile and fixed networks to make possible the provision of fixed network service over the mobile network.

Bridge the Telecommunication Gap

— Provide cost effective and flexible access to the global telecommunication network in developing countries & underdeveloped parts of developed countries.

Broadband Transport

— Utilize broadband transport technologies such as ATM, as opposed to the narrow band technologies used in present 2G systems.

Self-Adaptive, Reprogrammable Terminals

— Provision to send software updates to the terminal (e.g. to correct errors or add new features) as compared to reprogramming at shop or factory.

Virtual Home Environment

— The users receive exactly the same service wherever and whenever they make call.

*[Translation]*

**Encroaching into Indian Territorial Waters**

5905. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether encroaching into Indian Territorial waters in the Arabian Sea has come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken up this issue at various international fora; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes, Sir. The India-Pakistan maritime boundary, which extends from the mouth of the Sir Creek seawards into the Arabian Sea, has not been delimited as yet. However, pursuant to Pakistan's Territorial Waters and Maritime Zones Act 1976, the Government of Pakistan issued a notification dated 29 August 1996, specifying the coordinates for drawing of straight baselines, the Eastern part of which encroaches upon Indian territorial waters.

(b) and (c) India registered its protest with Pakistan and the United Nations, unequivocally rejecting as unacceptable the coordinate point (k) 23° 33'.90" N 68 07.80 E of Pakistan's baselines, as it "...encroaches upon the territorial waters of India which are within its sovereign jurisdiction".

*[English]*

**Panel to Look into the Functioning of AIIMS**

5906. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up any panel to look into the functioning of AIIMS;

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

(c) the time by when the panel will start its functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There is a proposal to conduct an independent study on the functioning of AIIMS *vis-a-vis* the objective for which it was set up and advise for its efficient functioning through one of the Indian Institute of Management.

**Pre-Natal & Post-Natal Deaths**

5907. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there has been increase in the incidents of pre-natal and post-natal deaths of infants and mother in the country;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported from various States during the last three years, till date;

(c) whether any effort is being taken by the Government to promote the health of mother and child;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the overseas assistance received for the mother and child health care in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Registrar General of India does not provide data on the incidence of pre-natal and post-natal deaths of infants. However, under the Sample Registration System of the Registrar General of India (RGI), data is provided for perinatal mortality and infant mortality rates.

Perinatal mortality is defined as the death in the perinatal period *i.e.* from 22 completed weeks of gestation to 7 completed days after birth for every 1000 births during a year. The Perinatal Mortality Rate of India as estimated under the Sample Registration Scheme of RGI has declined from 42 per 1000 births in 1998 to 35 in 2002.

Infant Mortality Rate is the number of deaths of children 0-11 months of age per 1000 live births in a given year. The Infant Mortality Rate of India as estimated under the Sample Registration Scheme of RGI has declined from 72 in 1998 to 63 in 2002.

The maternal mortality rate is defined as the number of deaths of women while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy per 100,000 live births in a given year. The Maternal Mortality Rate of India was estimated

under the Sample Registration Scheme of RGI as 407 in 1998. Estimates for this rate are not available from RGI after 1998.

(c) and (d) The Reproductive and Child Health Programme is under implementation in all States and UTs of the countries since 1997. A number of interventions are being implemented for improving the maternal and child health and bringing down mortality rates as part of this programme.

The interventions for improving maternal health are essential obstetric care, emergency obstetric care, referral transport for pregnant women with complication of pregnancy through Panchayat, provision of drugs and equipments at First Referral Units (FRUs), provision of contractual staff like additional Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANMs), staff nurses and hiring of anesthetists. In the second phase of the RCh Programme, provision has been made to accelerate the decline of Maternal Mortality and Morbidity by introducing new interventions like operationalisation of First Referral Units (FRUs), providing 24-hour delivery and new born care services at Community Health Centers (CHCs) and Primary Health Centers (PHCs) and training of ANM and LHV to become skilled birth attendants.

For reducing child and infant mortality, the interntvetions include immunization against six vaccine preventable diseases, control of deaths due to diarrhoel diseases, control of deaths due to Acute Respiratory Infections, eradication of polio, prophylacxis against blindness due to Vitamin-A deficiency and essential new born care. As part of the second phase of RCH Programme, the Integrated Management for Newborn and Childhood Illnesses will be implemented in the districts in a phased manner.

(e) External Assistance received for Reproductive and Child Health programme and immunization strengthening project is placed as enclosed Statement.

***Statement***

*Details of External Assistance for Reproductive and Child Health Programme and Immunization Strengthening Project*

External Assistance for Pulse Polio Immunization out of RCH Programme (Rs. in crores)

| Agency | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| World Bank | 0.00 | 22.89 | 180.32 | 123.13 | 258.47 | 151.05 | 132.52 | 296.36 | 1164.74 |
| EC | 0.00 | 74.46 | 86.57 | 0.00 | 110.81 | 156.31 | 103.49 | 380.27 | 911.91 |
| DFID | 74.90 | 78.00 | 136.59 | 143.96 | 136.76 | 148.75 | 185.00 | 168.00 | 1071.96 |
| KFW | 0.00 | 97.00 | 61.64 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 50.00 | 42.00 | — | 250.64 |
| UNICEF | 73.00 | 70.00 | 30.00 | 39.00 | 57.29 | 124.74 | 151.91 | 96.13 | 642.07 |
| Total | 147.09 | 342.35 | 495.12 | 306.09 | 563.33 | 630.85 | 614.92 | 940.76 | 4041.32 |

External Assistance for Pulse Polio Immunization (out of Immunization Strengthening Project)

| Agency | 1997-98 | 1998-99 | 1999-2000 | 2000-01 | 2001-02 | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| World Bank | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 119.88 | 112.77 | 169.91 | 379.76 | 443.95 | 1226.27 |
| Total Assistance (A)+(B) | 147.90 | 342.35 | 495.12 | 425.97 | 676.10 | 800.76 | 994.68 | 1384.71 | 5267.59 |

**Software Technology Parks**

5908. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Software Technology Parks (STP) Scheme was launched primarily to boost software/ hardware export and the export of professional services using data communication links;

(b) if so, whether it has come to the notice of the Government that this scheme has failed in many States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether lack of proper monitoring by the Department has provided opportunity to the defaulter units to misuse provisions of the Exim Policy; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to tighten control and exercise stricter vigilance over STPs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) was established in June, 1991 as an autonomous society under administrative control of Department of Information Technology, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology to promote development of IT software and software Services. STPI provides statutory services to the registered units under STP/EHTP Scheme, data communication services and promote Small and Medium Entrepreneurs by creating a conducive environment.

(b) and (c) Software exports by the STP units has grown from Rs. 116 Crores in 1993-94 to Rs. 68,371 Crores (tentative) in 2004-05. The State-wise Exports made by STP member units is detailed in the enclosed Statement. A total 44 number of STPI Centres including High Speed Data Communication facility have been established across the country.

(d) and (e) STP/EHTP units are being monitored as per the Exim Policy provisions. In case of units defaulting, necessary action is taken as per the Policy Guidelines with intimation to the concerned authorities like DGFT, Customs etc. So far some STP units have been found only to default in not meeting their export obligation. No case of any other misuse of concessions of EXIM Policy is reported.

***Statement***

*State-wise Exports under STPI*

(In Rs. Crores)

| Name of the State | Exports in FY 2000-2001 | Exports in FY 2001-2002 | Exports in FY 2002-2003 | Exports in FY 2003-2004 | Exports in FY 2004-05* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| Karnataka | 7475 | 9904 | 12350 | 18100 | 23000 |
| Tamilnadu | 2954 | 5014 | 6305 | 7621 | 10790 |
| Maharashtra | 2570 | 4603 | 5508 | 8518 | 11542 |
| Andhra Pradesh | 2017 | 2805 | 3668 | 5025 | 7222 |
| Haryana | 1450 | 2140 | 2734 | 4292 | 5953 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 1660 | 2000 | 2541 | 2750 | 3825 |
| Delhi | 1100 | 1750 | 2065 | 2398 | 2453 |
| West Bengal | 250 | 604 | 1200 | 1600 | 2000 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Orissa | 200 | 213 | 260 | 319 | 400 |
| Kerala | 141 | 159 | 165 | 212 | 270 |
| Madhya Pradesh | 50 | 88 | 107 | 102 | 140 |
| Gujarat | 102 | 122 | 105 | 141 | 187 |
| Punjab | 50 | 70 | 101 | 220 | 350 |
| Rajasthan | 30 | 45 | 47 | 130 | 200 |
| Chhattisgarh | Nil | Nil | Nil | 1 | 1 |
| Pondicherry | 2 | 6 | 15 | 22 | 30 |
| Himachal Pradesh | Nil | Nil | 3 | 5 | 0.60 |
| Uttaranchal | Nil | Nil | 0.5 | 1.0 | 6.2 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | Nil | Nil | 0.4 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Total | 20051 | 29523 | 37176 | 51458 | 68371 |

*Tentative Exports.

**Waiting List in West Bengal**

5909. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in the various cities of West Bengal, district-wise/city-wise as on date;

(b) the number of telephone connections allotted in these cities during the last three years, district-wise/city-wise;

(c) the number of telephone connections proposed to be allotted during the year 2005-06; and

(d) the time by which the above waiting list is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) District-wise details of the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in West Bengal, as on 31.03.2005, are furnished in the enclosed Statement.

(b) District-wise details of the number of telephone connections allotted in West Bengal during last three years are furnished in Annexure.

(c) The number of telephone connections proposed to be provided in West Bengal during the year 2005-06 are furnished below:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Wired Line | — | 2,41,350 |
| WLL | — | 3,15,000 |
| CMTS | — | 12,73,500 |
| Total | — | 18,29,850 |

(d) The waiting list is likely to be cleared by 31.12.2005.

***Statement***

*District-wise details of the number of persons on the waiting list for Telephone Connections in West Bengal (As on 31.03.2005) and DELs provided during last three years*

| Sl.No. | Name of Districts | Waiting List | Telephones (DELs) provided during | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 |
| 1. | Burdwan | 15831 | 36092 | 25300 | 27294 |
| 2. | Murshidabad | 7463 | 10656 | 7431 | 12310 |
| 3. | Bankura | 7622 | 10465 | 7609 | 7394 |
| 4. | Howrah | 9103 | 4540 | 2983 | 3651 |
| 5. | Hoogly | 14791 | 14369 | 9436 | 10326 |
| 6. | 24 Paraganas (N) | 10529 | 10207 | 6704 | 7543 |
| 7. | 24 Paraganas (S) | 8814 | 8694 | 5711 | 6425 |
| 8. | Coochbehar | 5487 | 5008 | 4225 | 6167 |
| 9. | Jalpaiguri | 1674 | 11077 | 9004 | 10964 |
| 10. | Midnapur | 20470 | 25858 | 24969 | 35184 |
| 11. | Nadia | 6554 | 17104 | 11383 | 11112 |
| 12. | Malda | 2157 | 8429 | 5475 | 6739 |
| 13. | Purulia | 2718 | 4747 | 3720 | 4381 |
| 14. | Dinajpur (N) | 482 | 5032 | 3590 | 3647 |
| 15. | Dinajpur (S) | 224 | 5468 | 3667 | 2649 |
| 16. | Darjeeling | 4570 | 20122 | 16478 | 18702 |
| 17. | Birbhum | 6812 | 9773 | 7441 | 10264 |
| 18. | Kolkatta | 4609 | 127641 | 165801 | 389718 |
| | Total | 129910 | 335282 | 320927 | 574479 |

**Decline in Quality of Scientific Research Works**

5910. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is decline in quality of Scientific Research Works of different disciplines;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for decline in quality of Scientific Research Works; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) Views have been expressed at various fora indicating that there has been increasing contribution by Indian Scientists as well as some views on declining standards. Taking note

of these concerns, the Government in order to improve the quality of research has taken significant measures by introducing a set of new initiatives. These include programmes like Fund for improvement of infrastructure for S&T in Universities and Higher Educational Institutions, 'Ramanna Fellowship': aimed to support outstanding performers, 'Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowship': targeted at post-graduate talented students, "CSIR Diamond Jubilee Technology Awards": for Innovators for developing technology of the highest benchmarks of competitiveness and excellence and for inventions of school students, "Women Scientists Scheme": instituted to provide opportunities to women scientists, Swarnajayanti Fellowship": for outstanding young scientists, Postdoctoral fellowship in Biotechnology, Bioscience Awards for career development etc. All these initiatives are aimed at providing encouragement to young scientists.

**Revamp of Postal Services**

5911. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

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

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The policy initiatives under the 10th Plan require the department to rationalise the postal network and explore more cost effective means of providing postal facilities and increasing access to them in order to reduce the dependence on budgetary support for this purpose. Accordingly efforts are underway to rationalise the network throughout the country, including Karnataka. The main focus of the rationalisation exercise is on post offices that do not fulfil the distance norms.

(c) Measures taken to market these products is given in the enclosed Statement. There is no scheme for home loans through post offices in Karnataka at present.

***Statement***

*Details of measures taken to market the Financial Products*

INSURANCE:

**(1) Life Insurance:**

(i) by conducting melas.

(ii) through the services of Development Officers and agents who are exclusively allocated this task.

(iii) by marketing the Rural Postal Life Insurance through Gramin Dak Sewaks/agents in rural areas.

(iv) through use of media and publicity to promote the products.

(v) through customer meets.

**(2) Non-Life Insurance:**

(i) identifying different products for different market segments.

(ii) through publicity provided by Oriental Insurance Company for whom the Department serves as corporate agent.

(iii) by using employees to sell the products even outside the office hours for a share of the commission.

MUTUAL FUNDS:

(i) through undertaking sales using AMFI qualified employees.

(ii) providing suitable incentives.

(iii) Through Postal Finance Marts which will help to retail these products with specialised and focussed care.

(iv) by making a customer segmentation to sell the right kind of mutual funds to the relevant age groups.

(v) by advertising with corporate logo in the designated post offices.

**Relief Material to Indonesia**

5912. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any aid including medical and other relief material was sent or offered by the Union Government to Indonesia which witnessed yet another earthquake on March 28, 2005; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. After the earthquake measuring 8.7 on the Richter scale struck Central Sumatra on 28 March, 2005 the Government of India responded promptly by announcing an aid package worth US$ 2 million. As a follow up of this, two Indian Air Force IL-76 aircrafts airlifted relief supplies including food and medicine to Medan (North Sumatra) on 21st April, 2005. The relief materials were handed over during a ceremony to the Deputy Governor of the Province on 22nd April.

Details of the Relief Supplies delivered, as per the items, is placed below:

| Sl.No. | Items | Quantity |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Amul Spray | 16 MT |
| 2. | Biscuits | 11.5 MT |
| 3. | Sugar | 02 MT |
| 4. | Edible Oil | 02 MT |
| 5. | Lux Soap | 02 MT |
| 6. | Coffee | 04 MT |
| 7. | Medicine | 6.5 MT |
| | Total (Approx) | 44 MT |

**Panchakarma Treatment**

5913. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is a tremendous demand for "Panchakarma" treatment of Ayuveda System in the country and abroad;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to bestow special consideration for development & propagation of this system of treatment;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government will consider upgradation of the Institute of Panchakarma as a National Institute; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Government is aware of the popularity of Panchakarma treatment in the country and abroad. A number of steps have been taken for development and propagation of Panchakarma therapy which include publication of monographs on the outcome of Panchakarma research on neuromuscular disorders, creation of awareness through live demonstration of Pachakarma therapy in health melas/exhibitions, designing of improved Panchakarma equipment, re-orientation training on Panchakarma therapy, etc. The Government is also giving financial support for creation of Panchakarma Therapy Centres in the Allopathic hospitals.

(d) and (e) The Government is not aware of any Government Institute of Panchakarma and the question of its upgradation as a National Institute does not arise.

**Health Care Services in Rural Areas**

5914. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

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

(a) whether the focus of the Tenth Five Year Plan has been to provide well planned and organised primary, secondary and tertiary health care services in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether no efforts have been made to provide well planned and organised primary, secondary and tertiary health care services in rural areas;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government had provided any central assistance to States during the last three years;

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

(f) if not, the reasons for not providing primary, secondary and tertiary health care to the people particularly in the rural areas; and

(g) the steps taken by the Union Government in coordination with the State Government to provide primary health care facilities in the rural and backward areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the 10th Plan document *inter-alia* focuses on:

(i) providing essential primary health care, emergency life saving services, services under the National Disease Control Programmes and the National Family Welfare Programme totally free of cost to all individuals and essential health care service to people below poverty line based on their need and not on their ability to pay for the services through primary, secondary and tertiary health care institutions, manned by qualified and adequate medical and paramedical personnel; and

(ii) improvement in the quality of care at all levels and settings by evolving and implementing a whole range of comprehensive norms for service delivery, prescribing minimum requirements of qualified staff, conditions for carrying out specialized interventions and a set of established procedures for quality assurance at primary, secondary and tertiary levels.

(c) to (g) No Sir, efforts are being made to provide well planned and organized healthcare facilities in the rural areas. The National Rural Health Mission launched in April, 2005 is a focused effort in this direction which has as its main goal improving the availability of and access to quality healthcare by people especially for those residing in the rural areas, the poor women and children. Assistance from the Centre will flow under the Mission from the current year *i.e.* 2005-06.

**Quality of Health Care in Government Hospitals**

5915. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the Government has made an indepth study on the whole gamut of the management of the Government hospitals in Delhi as the quality of health care and patient services have considerably deteriorated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to employ an professional agency to manage the hospitals more effectively and professionally; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Improvement and upgradation based on the assessment of the management of the Central Government Hospitals is a continuous process and all out efforts are made to provide effective health care facilities in these hospitals. There is no proposal to employ any professional agency to manage these hospitals.

**Electronic Bidding System**

5916. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India proposes to start electronic bidding system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new system will help to check the alleged corruption prevailing in the coal sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the new system is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has approved sale of 10 million tonnes of coal through electronic auction on Internet by Coal India Limited for the year 2005-06 on trial basis. In this E-auction non-core consumers and non-linked consumers, as also traders can participate and bid for

the quantity as per requirement from the preferred sources.

(c) and (d) E-auction scheme is a transparent system of allocating coal. E-auction rates reflect the market rates and therefore reduce the scope of black marketing and corruption in allocation of coal.

(e) The trial e-auction sale of coal has already started in some of the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited and from May, 2005 it is expected that all coal subsidiaries will have the trial e-auctions after completing the necessary formalities.

*[Translation]*

**Compensation to Indians Dying in Harness Abroad**

5917. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many non-resident Indians died in harness abroad;

(b) if so, whether compensation in these cases is paid by the Union Government or by the Government of the concerned country;

(c) if so, the total number of persons of Indian origin who died in harness abroad, during the last two years, country-wise and the number of cases wherein compensation has been paid;

(d) whether an Indian had been gunned down by Iraqi terrorists in Kuwait on 20.6.2004 and another died there on 11.2.2003;

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

(f) whether compensation has been paid to the dependents of the deceased; and

(g) if not, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) The number of cases of Indians who die abroad *in harness,* and compensation paid to them is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) No instance of gunning down of Indian national by Iraqi terrorist in Kuwait has come to the notice of our Embassy in Kuwait. However, it did receive a report about the death of one Shri Mandeep Singh, an Indian national working for a Kuwait based company, in Iraq on 20.6.2004. Death of an Indian national on 11.2.2003 due to Iraqi terrorist attack has not come to the notice of our Mission in Kuwait.

(f) and (g) Our Embassy in Kuwait has taken necessary steps to claim death compensation from the employer. The case is in the final stage and will be finalized shortly.

*Statement*

| Sl.No. | Name of Mission/Country | Year | No. of deaths/ accidents | No. of cases eligible for compensation | No. of cases settled for compensation | Amount of compensation remitted to legal heirs through district authorities | Number of cases under access |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Kuwait | 2003 | — | 71 | 10 | — | 21 |
| | | 2004 | — | 92 | 02 | Rs. 7,88,06,828 | 21 |
| 2. | Abudhabi | 2003 | 59 | 34 | — | Rs. 51,25,820 | There are cases of Indians dying in harness; the Federal Law of UAE provides for payment of |
| | | 2004 | 45 | 34 | — | Rs. 2,19,22,543 | |
| | | 2005 (till April) | 16 | 01 | — | Rs. 18,00,000 | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | compensation to legal heirs of Indians dying in harness or to the victims who sustain injuries while at work Death compensation is usually paid by the offender in accordance with judgements issued by Shariah courts in UAE. |
| | Dubai | 2003<br>2004<br>2005 (Till April) | 127<br>146<br>29 | 66<br>76<br>Nil | Rs. 37,98,445<br>Rs. 82,11,082<br>Nil | | |
| 3. | Dhaka | | 02 | | | | |
| 4. | Cyprus | 2004 | 02 | They were illegal workers and are not entitled to any benefits and compensation under local laws; however due to intervention by our High Commission, employer arranged to send human remains back to India at his expense in addition to paying US$ 2500 for cremation charges in India. The matter is under investigation to fix responsibility for the accident. Once the criminal responsibility for the accident is fixed, a case in the court of law will be required to be filed for adequate compensation. | | | |
| 5. | (a) Ankara (Turkey)<br>(b) Istanbul | 2003/2004<br>2003/2004 | 01<br>08 | Employer is in direct contact with the family of the deceased.<br>6 persons died while in service; two died as illegal immigrants. Payment of compensation to the next of kin has not been reported to the Consulate. | | | |
| 6. | Milan | 1.1.2003 to 27.4.2005 | 93 | Three cases of death were reported during the course of employment; Mission was contacted by relatives of the deceased for compensation claim in one case. The matter was taken up with the local employer who confirmed that all compensation would be forwarded to the relatives of the deceased in India. In the other two cases, Mission was not contacted by the relatives of the deceased and hence presumed that compensation would have been settled. | | | |
| 7. | Dakar (Senegal) | 2003<br>2004<br>2005<br>(till date) | Nil<br>3 in The Gambia in a fire accident<br>Nil<br>No compensation has been paid, as they were not government employees; and no claim was made through the Mission by the relatives of the victims in the fire accident. | | | | |
| 8. | (a) Nigeria | 2003 | 12 | | | | |
| | | 2004 | 11 | | | | |
| | (b) Benin | 2003 | 02 | | | | |
| | | 2004 | Nil | | | | |
| | (c) Cameroon | 2003 | Nil | No compensation paid in these cases | | | |
| | | 2004 | Nil | | | | |
| | (d) Chad | 2003 | Nil | | | | |
| | | 2004 | Nil | | | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9. | Muscat | 2003<br>2004 | 337<br>347 | 76<br>93 | 29<br>13 | | |
| 10. | Munich | 2002<br>2004 | 01<br>04 | In none of the five cases the persons died in harness. Therefore question of any compensation does not arise. | | | |
| 11. | Male | 2003<br>2004<br>2005<br>(till date) | 05<br>06 (one died during Tsunami in Dec. 2004)<br>03<br>(No compensation paid in these cases) | | | | |
| 12. | Maputo | 2003/2004 | 02 | One of them was not working but was fighting a case for recovery of some dues; the other died recently in a hospital after a brief illness. While no compensation was paid in the first case, in the second case the employers are in the process of making appropriate payment to the next of kin. | | | |
| 13. | Harare | | Nil | | | | |
| 14. | Phnom Penh | | Nil | | | | |
| 15. | Buenos Aires | | | No compensation was paid to any Indian died in harness during the last two years. | | | |
| 16. | Copenhagen | | Nil | | | | |
| 17. | Santiago | | Nil | | | | |
| 18. | New York | | Nil | | | | |
| | Houston | | Nil | | | | |
| | Chicago | | Nil | | | | |
| 19. | Brussels | | Nil | | | | |
| 20. | Belgrade | | Nil | | | | |
| 21. | Kingston | | Nil | | | | |
| 22. | Lima | | Nil | | | | |
| 23. | Bogota (Columbia and Ecuador) | | Nil | | | | |
| 24. | Panama | | Nil | | | | |
| 25. | Ottawa | | Nil | | | | |
| | Toronto | | Nil | | | | |
| 26. | Sofia | | Nil | | | | |
| 27. | Kabul | | Nil | | | | |
| 28. | Paramaribo (Barbados, St Lucia, St Vincent & Granadines) | | Nil | | | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 29. | Unlan Bastar | | Nil | | | | |
| 30. | Mandalay | | Nil | | | | |
| 31. | Caracas (Curacao, Aruba, St Maarten) | | Nil | | | | |
| 32. | Pyongyang | | Nil | | | | |
| 33. | Wellington (Samoa, Kiribati & Nauru) | | Nil | | | | |
| 34. | London | | Nil | | | | |
| 35. | Oslo | | Nil | | | | |
| 36. | Moscow | | Nil | | | | |
| 37. | Brasilia | | Nil | | | | |
| 38. | Zagreb | | Nil | | | | |
| 39. | St Petersburg | | Nil | | | | |
| 40. | Nairobi | | Nil | | | | |
| 41. | Baku | | Nil | | | | |
| 42. | Yangon | | Nil | | | | |
| 43. | Lusaka (Malawi) | | Nil | | | | |
| 44. | Rome | 2003/2004 | 02 | Compensation granted in both cases by Indian employers | | | |
| 45. | Warsaw | 2004 | 01 | | | | |
| 46. | Hamburg | | | Private citizens died of natural causes; as they were not on any Govt. assignment, question of compensation does not arise. | | | |
| 47. | Helsinki | | Nil | | | | |
| 48. | Hong Kong | | Nil | | | | |
| 49. | Suva (Fiji Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Cook Islands) | | Nil | | | | |
| 50. | Beirut | 2003<br>2004<br>2005 (till date) | 23<br>26<br>08 | Deaths due to normal causes/accidents<br>There is no provision by the local government to provide compensation in such cases. Those Indians who were covered by insurance got compensation. | | | |
| 51. | Tunis | | Nil | | | | |
| 52. | Zanzibar | | Nil | | | | |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 53. | Seychelles | 2004<br>March 2005 | 01<br>01 | One Indian national died in a fire accident in 2004 and the other died of drawning in sea in March 2005; Neither the Govt. of India nor the Govt. of Seychelles paid any compensation to the next of kin of the deceased as both were employed in private sector. However the employers assured the Mission that they paid compensation to the dependents of the deceased and there has been no complaint of non-payment of compensation by dependents of the deceased. | | | |
| 54. | Cairo | | Nil | | | | |
| 55. | Kampala | 14.3.2005 | 01 | One Shri Sameer Iqbal working M/s Damani Enterprises, Kampala died in a road accident on 14.3.2005. Mission has taken up the matter of compensation, on receiving a request in this regard from the mother of the decreased, with M/s Damani Enterprises. | | | |
| 56. | Jalalabad | | Nil | | | | |
| 57. | Ashgabat | 2003<br>2004 | Nil<br>01 | Cause of deaths was due to illness and the compensation is payable by the employer. | | | |
| 58. | Doha | 2003<br>2004 | 106<br>133 | Our Mission does not have a record of Indian nationals dying in harness but has separate tally of those who died in accident (2003–14; 2004–27). Compensation is payable in case where the deceased had insurance or where the judicial authority decides there is a proven negligence on the part of the sponsor resulting in the death of the worker, or where the authorities have been able to fix responsibility on any person other than the deceased national for death. Payment of compensation is a long drawn process and no exact number of cases where compensation has been paid is available as in many cases the compensation is paid by the company directly to the next of kin of the deceased, and in many others, the next of kin authorities his/her local contact or relations to collect compensation without involving/intimating the Embassy. | | | |
| 59. | Tel Aviv | | | There are many Jews of Indian origin holding Israeli passports employed in Govt./ private sector and Indian businessmen doing business in Israel. The Mission does not have any such information regarding people of Indian origin died/killed in harness, and no compensation cases have come to the notice of the Mission. | | | |
| 60. | Birgunj | | Nil | | | | |
| 61. | Yerevan | | Nil | | | | |
| 62. | Dar es Salaam | | Nil | | | | |
| 63. | Tehran | 2003/2004<br>2004/2005 | 05<br>05 | very few Indians died in harness in Iran. Compensation varies from case to case. In case of employees in private service, it is paid either under insurance cover or by the employer. Where someone dies in any accident involving Government, the compensation is paid by the host Government. Compensation has been paid in four cases and in other cases, it is under settlement. | | | |
| 64. | Riyadh & Jeddah (Saudi Arabia) | 2003<br>2004 | 1121<br>1190 | | 71<br>57 | Saudi Law (Shariat) permits death compensation in cases of unnatural death such as road/traffic/ industrial/fire accidents, murder, etc. to be paid by the person held responsible. The Government of Saudi Arabia does not pay the compensation. No compensation is payable in cases of suicide and natural death. | |
| 65. | Ethiopia<br><br>Djibouti | 2003<br>2004<br>2003<br>2004 | 02<br>05<br>01<br>Nil | Mission has not received any complaint about non payment of compensation in any of these cases. | | | |
| 66. | Budapest | | Nil | | | | |

**Employment on Compassionate Ground**

5918. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending for employment on compassionate ground and disbursing of compensation to the dependents of the deceased labourer of different coal companies during each of the last three years, year-wise and company-wise;

(b) the reasons for delay in appointment on compassionate ground and disbursing of compensation;

(c) the time by which these cases are likely to be disposed of, company-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for early disposal of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) 3841 cases are pending as on 31st March 2005 for granting employment on compassionate ground in Coal India Limited and its Subsidiary Companies, Company-wise details are given below:

| | |
|---|---|
| Eastern Coalfields Limited | 2069 |
| Bharat Coking Coal Limited | 0381 |
| Central Coalfields Limited | 0829 |
| Western Coalfields Limited | 0174 |
| South Eastern Coalfields Limited | 0126 |
| Northern Coalfields Limited | 0013 |
| Mahanadi Coalfields Limited | 0042 |
| North Eastern Coalfields | 0200 |
| Central Mine Planning & Design Institution Limited | 0007 |

Monetary compensation as per MCWA provisions such as Life Cover Scheme, Compensation as per Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 is computed and paid to the employee/dependents as the case may be in case of disablement or death arising out of and during the course of employment.

Statement showing the employment given on compassionate ground to the dependents of the deceased employees for the last three years by Coal India Limited and its Subsidiary Companies is given below:

| Year | No. of employment |
|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 2420 |
| 2003-04 | 2708 |
| 2004-05 | 2262 |

However, providing employment on compassionate ground and payment of compensation to dependents of deceased employees is an ongoing & continuous process.

(b) Main reasons for delay are given below:

(i) Receipt of incomplete application.

(ii) Variation in the name, age, relation, etc.

(iii) Claim by more than one dependent.

(iv) Non-appearance of the dependent before the Committee on fixed date.

(v) Belated claims.

(vi) Cases sub-judice in various courts.

(vii) Claim from female dependents who are being persuaded to accept monetary compensation.

(c) and (d) All efforts are being made to dispose of the pending cases at the earliest. The claimants are being requested to submit the desired information wherever required to facilitate early settlement.

*[English]*

**Indo-Japan Ties in Telecom Sector**

5919. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan has expressed its keenness to provide overseas development assistance for setting up the brodband network in India;

(b) if so, the details of the agreements reached between India and Japan in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, a Joint Statement was signed by India and Japan in Tokyo, Japan in Tokyo, Japan on January 18, 2005. It was only a intent of expression to work together for the proliferation of broadband in both the countries. There was no financial commitment from either side.

**Performance of Container Terminals**

5920. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present container capacity of the major ports in the country;

(b) the progress made by the Government in regard to increasing their capacity during the current plan period;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase the container capacity of ports in the country during the next plan period;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the efforts being made to increase their capacity during this plan so far;

(e) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of the container terminals built on BoT basis;

(f) if so, whether the Government has decided to encourage private organisations in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Container handling facilities have been installed in seven major ports, namely, Kolkata including Haldia Dock Complex, Visakhapatnam, Chennai, Tuticorin, Cochin, Mumbai and Jawaharlal Nehru Port. The aggregate capacity for handling containers in these major ports as on 31.3.2004 is 4.13 million Twenty Feet Equivalent Units (TEUs) per annum.

(b) to (d) Creation of additional capacities including capacities for handling container traffic in major ports is an on-going process. During the first two years of the Tenth Plan period, there has been an increase of 1.05 million TEUs per annum in the aggregate container handling capacity in the major ports.

Government has also approved projects for development of a third container terminal at Jawaharlal Nehru Port and the International Container Transhipment Terminal at Cochin Port on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. On completion, these two projects will yield additional container handling capacity of 4.3 million TEUs per annum.

Ennore, Mormugao, Mumbai and Kandla Ports have undertaken the bidding process for development of container terminal/berths/facilities on BOT basis. Government has further given 'in-principle' approval for development of second container terminals at Chennai and Tuticorin Ports.

Extension of the existing container berth at Jawaharlal Nehru Port which will yield additional capacity of 6 lakh TEUs per annum has been planned.

(e) Four container terminals, one each at Visakhapatnam Port, Chennai Port, Tuticorin Port and Jawaharlal Nehru Port are under operation by private operators. The performance of the major ports including container terminals operated by private parties is reviewed from time to time.

(f) and (g) Since the early 1990s, the Government has been encouraging private sector participation in development of major ports with a view to improving productivity efficiency and promoting competition. Government has issued comprehensive guidelines for private sector participation in major ports. These guidelines indicate the areas of private sector participation and also lay down the process of selection of private operators including the qualification criteria, bidding procedures, evaluation and selection criteria. The Government has also prescribed model documents with a view to making the guidelines transparent and investor friendly based on which the major ports may carve out project specific documents.

*[Translation]*

**Mobile Connections in Bihar**

5921. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to provide five-and-a-half lakh BSNL mobile connections in Bihar by December, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the district-wise/location-wise number of BTS installed/proposed to be installed in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has placed purchase order for the supply and installation of the equipment required for expansion of cellular network capacity of 5.5 lakh lines in Bihar to cover additional cities up to sub-divisional Headquarters and other important cities during the year 2005-06.

(c) The district-wise/location-wise number of BTS installed/proposed in Bihar for expansion of cellular services is given in the enclosed Statement.

***Statement***

*District-wise number of BTS installed and proposed to be installed*

| Sl.No. | District | Number of BTS installed | Number of BTS Proposed to be installed in Phase-IV |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Bhojpur | 09 | 18 |
| 2. | Buxar | 05 | 12 |
| 3. | Begusarai | 07 | 14 |
| 4. | West Champaran | 06 | 13 |
| 5. | Bhagalpur | 10 | 23 |
| 6. | Banka | 03 | 08 |
| 7. | Saran (Chapra) | 16 | 14 |
| 8. | Gopalganj | 05 | 08 |
| 9. | Siwan | 07 | 11 |
| 10. | Darbhanga | 05 | 18 |
| 11. | Madhubani | 06 | 15 |
| 12. | Gaya | 11 | 25 |
| 13. | Arwal | 02 | 02 |
| 14. | Aurangabad | 07 | 09 |
| 15. | Nawadah | 03 | 10 |
| 16. | Jehanabad | 02 | 03 |
| 17. | Vaishali (Hajipur) | 08 | 12 |
| 18. | Katihar | 09 | 15 |
| 19. | Araria | 01 | 04 |
| 20. | Purnea | 07 | 14 |
| 21. | Khagaria | 03 | 12 |
| 22. | Kishanganj | 01 | 06 |
| 23. | East Champaran | 12 | 18 |
| 24. | Munger | 03 | 11 |
| 25. | Lakhisarai | 03 | 08 |
| 26. | Jamui | 02 | 08 |
| 27. | Sekhpura | 01 | 02 |
| 28. | Muzaffarpur | 10 | 28 |
| 29. | Sitamarhi | 06 | 08 |
| 30. | Sheohar | 01 | 01 |
| 31. | Patna | 60 | 70 |
| 32. | Nalanda | 13 | 13 |
| 33. | Saharsa | 05 | 04 |
| 34. | Madhepura | 05 | 06 |
| 35. | Supaul | 04 | 06 |
| 36. | Samastipur | 06 | 20 |
| 37. | Sasaram | 11 | 19 |
| 38. | Bhabhua | 04 | 08 |
| | Total | 279 | 496 |

*[English]*

**Nuclear Power Project at Kudankulam**

5922. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of the second reactor of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project which will generate 1,000 MWe and is to be commissioned in September, 2007;

(b) whether Russia has agreed to speed up the supply of equipment and working documentation for the project;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) The second reactor (Unit 2 of 1000 MWe) of Kudankulam Atomic Project is scheduled for completion by December 2008 and the work is proceeding as per schedule.

(b) and (c) The manufacturing of equipment in Russia is according to the approved completion dates of the project. Specific advancements of deliveries of equipment, on a case to case basis, are requested depending upon their urgency at site for advancing the project completion.

**Misleading Advertisements by Private Companies**

5923. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that some of the private Telecom operators have violated regulations by their misleading advertisements, which create the impression that their fixed wireless phones are similar to mobile services;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government against these operators; and

(c) the details of the disputed cases pending against these operators in the Telephone Dispute Settlement Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) and the stand taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) On receipt of the complaints, Show Cause Notices were issued to the concerned operator with instructions to immediately withdraw such advertisements. Further, a clarification was issued by the Government on 23rd March, 2005. Vide this clarification, it was stated that the terminal used for Fixed Wireless Terminal should be strictly confined to the premises where the connection is registered. It was further reiterated that separate levels should be used for wireless and fixed wireless services. Wherever such restriction cannot be carried out or adhere to the connection will be invariably treated as WLL (M). It is the responsibility of the licensee to ensure the compliance.

(c) So far these operators have not filed any case against the Goverr..nent in TDSAT. The petition filed against the directions of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India was dismissed as withdrawn.

**Indo-Australian Ties**

5924. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Australia are considering to redouble efforts for stepping up Indo-Australian ties;

(b) if so, whether Indo-Australian trade is growing and both countries need to step up efforts to fully tap that potential; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by both the Governments in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) The bilateral trade between India and Australia during the calendar year 2004 touched a record of Australian Dollar 6.54 billion. The value of total trade saw a steep increase of 52% over the previous year. Government is engaging Australia on a long-term basis to tap the potential for trade between the two countries and has institutionalized regular exchange of visits and dialogue between the two countries in the form of the India-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission. The next meeting of the Joint Ministerial Commission is expected to take place in Australia in May, 2005. Steps are also being taken to introduce India as an investment and trade destination in Australia.

**Cess on Coal**

5925. SHRI JUAL ORAM:
SHRI ANANT NAYAK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the cess collected on coal as per the recommendations of the 11th Finance Commission;

(b) the additional amount provided to Orissa, Jharkhand, Bihar, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh for the implementation of the recommendations of the 11th Finance Commission; and

(c) the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) The 11th Finance Commission has not made any specific recommendation regarding levy of cess on coal.

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

**Maintenance of Machines in Government Hospitals**

5926. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the poor maintenance of machines set up in various Government Hospitals in different parts of the country;

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

(c) the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Health being a State subject, it is for the respective Governments to ensure proper maintenance of machines available in the Hospitals under their control. Maintenance of medical machines installed in various Central Government Hospitals is satisfactory. Most of the equipments are put under Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC). In case the machines become non-functional due to wear and tear, immediate steps are taken to get the machines repaired in the minimum possible time.

*[Translation]*

**Construction/Widening of National Highways**

5927. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved a plan for construction/widening and beautification of national highways;

(b) the total kilometres of roads on which work is likely to be completed during the current year;

(c) whether a proposal for conversion of some of the roads of the States into express-way has been approved;

(d) if so, the Names and State-wise details of the highways proposed to be converted;

(e) whether Ring Roads and Roads over bridges are likely to be constructed in the main cities of the country on BoT basis; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The Government of India takes up various development works of National Highways including widening and beautification as per approved Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) and Annual Plans and this is a continuous process. The Government has recently approved 4/6-laning of 4000 km of National Highways through Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis under Phase-I of NHDP-III.

(b) There is a programme for widening of the existing National Highways for an aggregate length of 2591 km during 2005-06 subject to the approval of the Budget of 2005-06.

(c) There is no proposal for conversion of State roads as Expressways.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) As per the decisions of the Committee on Infrastructure there are proposals of providing Ring Roads

in major cities, bypasses, grade separators and service roads on National Highways on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis to facilitate congestion-free travel. The proposal is at conceptual stage.

*[English]*

**Drug Procurement Agencies**

5928. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up drug procurement agencies in different districts alongwith a defined minimum package of services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the districts selected for setting up of drug procurement agencies, State-wise; and

(d) the time by which the drug procurement agencies are likely to be set in all the districts in the country?

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

(b) to (d) In view of (a) the question does not arise.

**Incidence of Obesity**

5929. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that obesity is growing as an epidemic in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government is aware that the rate of obesity increase in India is much higher than in the developed countries;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to take any preventive measures in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) According to ICMR, the 2nd report of National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau showed that the prevalence of obesity was 2.3% and 3.4% in males and females respectively during 1975-79 which increased to 3.8% and 6% respectively in 1996-97. ICMR has further informed that WHO's Standing Committee on Nutrition shows that obesity in adult male which was 0.2% in 1974-79 had increased to 0.32% in 1998 which was concluded to be showing a static trend. This is in comparison to the report showing a rising trend in developed countries e.g. USA, UK, Singapore etc. The main reasons attributed to the rising prevalence of overweight and obesity include reduced level of physical activity/increase in sedentary life style as also increased consumption of calorie dense and nutrient deficient food items. Sine creating awareness through information, education and communication is the main strategy to tackle this issue, this component has been incorporated in the National Programme for Control of Diabetes and Cardiovascular Diseases (CVD) for which this Ministry has sought in principle approval from the Planning Commission.

**Impact of Adulteration**

5930. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that adulteration is rampant in food particles which leads to kideny damage, sterility, brain damage to cancer;

(b) if so, the measures initiated by the Government to check adulteration;

(c) the agencies and testing laboratories set up in the country for the purpose; and

(d) details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per the latest information available from various Food (Health) Authorities who are enforcing the PFA Act, 1954 in their respective States/UTs the average percentage of adulteration (on the basis of food samples lifted & tested) during the years 1998 to 2002 is 10.3. The standards of various food articles have been laid down under the PFA Act,

1954 and Rules framed there under. The tolerance limit for pesticides, chemicals, toxic substances and other contaminants have also been laid down under the said rules. Food articles sold in the market are required to conform to the standards laid down under the provisions of the said rules. The implementation of PFA Act and Rules is entrusted with the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/UTs. The enforcement staff of the States/UTs draws random samples of various food articles under the provisions of the said Act and Rules. Action is taken against the offenders where samples of food articles do not conform to the prescribed standards.

(c) and (d) The PFA Act, 1954 and Rules framed thereunder are implemented in the States/UTs through their Food (Health) Authorities who are responsible for superintendence and enforcement of the Act/Rules in their respective States/UTs.

There are 72 laboratories in different States/UTs functioning under the control of a Public Analyst for analysis of food articles under PFA Act/Rules.

In addition there are 4 Central Food Laboratories which analyse the Food samples received from different trial courts as per their assigned jurisdiction.

**SIM Cards to Applicants**

5931. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of SIM Cards and Mobile Connections provided by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and other Private Mobile Companies in the country particularly in Jharkhand and Bihar, exchange-wise and district-wise as on March 31, 2005;

(b) the total number of applications and the amount received by the BSNL to release SIM Cards in the country particularly in Bihar and Jharkhand;

(c) whether any timeframe has been fixed by the Government to release SIM Cards to the applicants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide regular mobile service in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The total number of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service connections (on GSM technology using SIM Cards and CDMA technology) provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and other private mobile companies in the country as on March 31, 2005 is 94,47,357 and 4,11,97,301 respectively. The number of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service connections provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and other private mobile companies in Bihar Telecom Circle Service Area (which includes the States of Bihar and Jharkhand) as on March 31, 2005 is 4,05,447 and 7,86,730 respectively. The district-wise status of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service connections provided by BSNL in Bihar and Jharkhand States is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The total number of applicants registered for Cellular Mobile Telephone connections on GSM technology using SIM Cards by BSNL in the States of Bihar & Jharkhand are 1,54,982 and 2,24,514 respectively and total amount of registration charges received by BSNL is Rs. 20.57 crores.

(c) to (e) BSNL proposes to expand its mobile network by a capacity of 5.5 lakhs and 2.5 lakhs lines in Bihar and Jharkhand respectively in the current financial year to make available Cellular Mobile Telephone connections on demand.

***Statement***

*District-wise Mobile Connections in Bihar and Jharkhand*

| Sl.No. | Name of District | No. of Mobile connections |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| BIHAR | | |
| 1. | Ara | 4974 |
| 2. | Buxar | 3416 |
| 3. | Begusarai | 3322 |
| 4. | Bettiah | 5676 |
| 5. | Bhagalpur | 10111 |
| 6. | Banka | 2086 |
| 7. | Chapra | 9320 |
| 8. | Siwan | 3555 |
| 9. | Gopalganj | 5724 |
| 10. | Darbhanga | 10055 |
| 11. | Madhubani | 7071 |
| 12. | Gaya | 12369 |
| 13. | Aurangabad | 2844 |
| 14. | Nawadah | 2881 |
| 15. | Arwal | 608 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 16. | Jehanabad | 2777 |
| 17. | Vaishali | 6241 |
| 18. | Katihar | 7724 |
| 19. | Purnea | 4459 |
| 20. | Araria | 2556 |
| 21. | Khagaria | 1820 |
| 22. | Kishanganj | 3700 |
| 23. | Motihari | 10208 |
| 24. | Munger | 3943 |
| 25. | Lakhisarai | 2835 |
| 26. | Jamui | 2304 |
| 27. | Sheikhpura | 1443 |
| 28. | Muzzaffarpur | 14374 |
| 29. | Sitamarhi | 3467 |
| 30. | Sheohar | 815 |
| 31. | Patna | 57721 |
| 32. | Nalanda | 2586 |
| 33. | Saharsa | 5641 |
| 34. | Supaul | 2159 |
| 35. | Madhepura | 2183 |
| 36. | Samastipur | 3609 |
| 37. | Rohtas | 9916 |
| 38. | Kaimur | 3342 |
| | Total | 239835 |
| JHARKHAND | | |
| 1. | Hazaribagh | 13848 |
| 2. | Giridih | 4913 |
| 3. | Chatra | 2215 |
| 4. | Koderma | 2905 |
| 5. | Dhanbad | 20858 |
| 6. | Bokaro | 11030 |
| 7. | Ranchi | 37466 |
| 8. | Simdega | 1014 |
| 9. | Lohardaga | 1031 |
| 10. | Gumla | 1612 |
| 11. | Dumka | 5116 |
| 12. | Deogarh | 7003 |
| 13. | Sahebganj | 2961 |
| 14. | Jamatra | 1293 |
| 15. | Pakur | 2400 |
| 16. | Godda | 3189 |
| 17. | Palamu | 5774 |
| 18. | Garhwa | 2852 |
| 19. | Latehar | 975 |
| 20. | East Singhbhum | 30382 |
| 21. | Saraikela | 912 |
| 22. | West Singhbhum | 5863 |
| | Total | 165612 |

**Anaemia among Children and Pregnant Women**

5932. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that anaemia is highly prevalent in children and pregnant women in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Indian Council of Medical Research and National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau have made any studies in this regard;

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

(e) the corrective steps taken by the Government to check high prevalence of anaemia in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) According to National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-II, 51.8% of ever married women (15-49 years) were found to have anaemia, 35% had mild anaemia, 14.8% moderate anaemia and 1.9% severe anaemia. Among the anaemic women, 54% were in rural areas. The overall prevalence of anaemia among pregnant women was found to be 49.7%. However prevalence of moderate anaemia (25.4%) and severe anaemia (2.5%) was higher among pregnant compared to non-pregnant women.

The survey also provided data on anaemia among children six months to 3 years. As per the information available from the survey, 5.9% of male children and 4.8% of female children under the age of 3 years suffer from severe anaemia. 3.2%, 6.3% and 5.6% of children in the age groups 6 to 11 months, 12 to 13 months and 24 to 35 months respectively suffer from severe anaemia. A total of 5.4% of children under the age of 3 years suffer from severe anaemia.

The major causes of nutritional anaemia are inadequate nutrition with deficient intake of iron and folic acid in diet, inadequate absorption of iron, frequent pregnancies, high prevalence of infections and infestations and faulty feeding practices. Besides this, the requirement of iron & folic acid are more during pregnancy among women and among growing children and have to be provided for.

Indian Council of Medical Research has conducted a multi centric study in 16 districts of 13 states. The prevalence of anaemia among pregnant women was 84.9%. The National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau of ICMR have also carried out survey to assess the prevalence of common micro nutrient deficiencies including haemoglobin levels among the pre-school children, adolescent girls and non-pregnant and non-lactating women in rural communities of 8 States during 2002-03. The prevalence of anaemia among pre-school children has been found to be 67%, 41% had moderate anaemia (haemoglobin 7-10 gms) and only 2% had severe anaemia (haemoglobin less than 7 gms.). State-wise details of the above studies are enclosed as statement-I and II.

Iron deficiency is a problem of inadequate nutrition. A National Nutritional Policy was formulated in 1993 and the national plan of action on nutrition is being implemented through a number of departments of Government of India including, among other, the Integrated Child Development Services Programme of Department of Women and Child Development and the Reproductive and Child Health Programme of the Department of Family Welfare for improving the nutritional status of pregnant women and children.

Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme implemented throughout the country, pregnant women and children (1-5 years) are provided with Iron and Folic Acid tablets for prophylaxis and treatment of anaemia.

Apart from health related factors illiteracy, poverty, general economic and social development has a direct bearing on the incidence of anaemia among people, particularly among women. To tackle these problems, various departments of the Government are implementing programmes such as Nutrition education of the community in rural, urban and tribal areas is undertaken by the Nutrition Board of the Department of Women and Child Development with a view to create awareness about the consequences of anaemia, the locally available foods rich in iron and folic acid and how to prevent and control anaemia.

The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme of the Department of WCD provides supplementary food to the pregnant women/nursing mothers and children upto 6 years of age. Nutrition and health education of all women with special emphasis on pregnant and lactating women and children is also undertaken by the anganwadi worker.

Various food for work programme, poverty alleviation programmes, targeted public distribution system contribute to improving food security for the rural population.

Research trails on double fortified salt have also been undertaken by the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad to address the problem of nutritional anemia in the country. Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, Integrated Rural Development Programme, Indira Awas Yojana and Adult Literacy Programme are being implemented by different agencies/departments of Government of India.

***Statement I***

| Name of District | No. of Pregnant women | Non-anaemic (Hb>11 g%) | Survey (Hb<11 g%) | Degree of Anaemia | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | Mild (>10-10.9 g% | Moderate (7-10 g%) | Severe (<7 g%) |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| **North** | | | | | | |
| Mandi | 507 | 198 (39.0) | 309 (61.0) | 157 (31.0) | 142 (28.0) | 10 (2.0) |
| Dehradun | 340 | 120 (35.3) | 220 (64.7) | 43 (12.6) | 158 (46.5) | 19 (5.6) |
| Lakhimpur Kheri | 593 | 122 (20.6) | 471 (79.4) | 88 (14.8) | 325 (54.8) | 58 (9.8) |
| Badaun | 488 | 93 (19.1) | 395 (80.9) | 96 (19.7) | 283 (58.0) | 16 (3.3) |
| Baramullah | 504 | 44 (8.7) | 460 (91.3) | 46 (9.1) | 342 (67.9) | 72 (14.3) |
| Bikaner | 510 | 26 (5.1) | 484 (94.9) | 34 (6.7) | 255 (50.0) | 195 (38.2) |
| Mainpuri | 253 | 10 (4.0) | 243 (96.0) | 18 (7.1) | 182 (71.9) | 43 (17.0) |
| Srinagar | 498 | 16 (3.2) | 482 (96.8) | 26 (5.2) | 370 (74.3) | 86 (17.3) |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **East** | | | | | | |
| Kohima | 69 | 22 (31.9) | 47 (68.1) | 10 (14.5) | 37 (53.6) | Nil |
| Bishnupur | 508 | 117 (23.0) | 391 (77.0) | 76 (15.0) | 313 (61.6) | 2 (0.4) |
| Gaya | 446 | 71 (15.9) | 375 (84.1) | 21 (4.7) | 267 (59.9) | 87 (19.5) |
| Patna | 512 | 50 (9.8) | 462 (90.2) | 28 (5.5) | 298 (58.2) | 136 (26.6) |
| Dibrugarh | 525 | 45 (8.6) | 480 (91.4) | 52 (9.9) | 371 (70.7) | 57 (10.8) |
| Nagaon | 475 | 29 (6.1) | 446 (93.9) | 29 (6.1) | 393 (82.7) | 24 (5.1) |
| South Mehboob Nagar | 189 | 15 (7.9) | 174 (92.1) | 14 (7.4) | 136 (72.0) | 24 (12.7) |
| West Raigarh | 506 | 65 (12.8) | 441 (87.2) | 79 (15.6) | 287 (56.7) | 75 (14.8) |
| All Districts | 6923 | 1043 (15.1) | 5880 (84.9) | 817 (11.8) | 4159 (60.1) | 904 (13.1) |

*WBO criteria followed for classification of anaemic women. Figures in bracket indicate per cent

Source = Micronutrients Deficiency Diseases

ICMR 2001

***Statement II***

*Prevalence (%) of anaemia among 1-<5 years children*

| States | n | Normal (>11 g/dl) | Anaemia | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | Mild (7-10 g/dl) | Moderate (<7 g/dl) | Severe (10-11 g/dl) | Total (CI) |
| Kerala | 369 | 66.3 | 20.1 | 13.3 | 0.3 | 33.7 (28.8, 38.4) |
| Tamil Nadu | 407 | 37.3 | 22.4 | 36.1 | 4.2 | 62.7 (58.0, 67.3) |
| Karnataka | 425 | 33.6 | 20.7 | 43.3 | 2.4 | 66.4 (61.9, 70.9) |
| Andhra Pradesh | 448 | 29.2 | 24.8 | 42.2 | 3.8 | 70.8 (66.6, 75.0) |
| Maharashtra | 404 | 40.9 | 20.5 | 35.6 | 3.0 | 59.0 (54.3, 63.9) |
| Madhya Pradesh | 394 | 35.3 | 24.1 | 38.1 | 2.5 | 64.7 (60.0, 69.4) |
| Orissa | 407 | 7.6 | 22.1 | 69.8 | 0.5 | 92.4 (89.8 95.0) |
| West Bengal | 437 | 18.8 | 34.1 | 47.1 | 0.0 | 81.2 (77.5, 84.9) |
| Polled | 3291 | 33.1 | 23.7 | 41.1 | 2.1 | 66.9 (63.5, 68.5) |

**Grading of Private Hospitals**

5933. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that health insurers are seeking grading of private hospitals and regulate their charges;

(b) if so, whether the Government has set up any committee to look into the matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the findings of the committee and the agency responsible for implementation of the same; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure charging of legitimate treatment amount by the private hospitals and better facilities by them to the patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has set up a Task Force in January 2004, with a view to promoting India as a Health Destination for persons across the globe, so as to gainfully utilize the health are expertise & infrastructure available in the country. The Terms of Reference of the Task Force are as follows:

- To assess the opportunities for promoting India as a Health Destination and to recommend specific types of health facilities which can be made available for this purpose,
- To recommend action to be taken by the Central Government, State Government, Industry, Educational Institutions etc. for gainfully utilizing these opportunities,
- To specifically recommend about (i) super-speciality medical care, (ii) out-sourcing of medical services to India IT based Institutes, and (iii) traditional medicine expertise available in the country.

However, no formal proposal is under consideration from the health insurers seeking grading of private hospitals and regulates their charges.

**CGHS Beneficiaries**

5934. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE:

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

(a) a total number of CGHS beneficiaries in the country, number of CGHS dispensaries, State-wise and the type of beneficiaries;

(b) the rate of subscription being charged from those beneficiaries;

(c) whether the Government is aware that there has been large scale complaints regarding basic services, long waiting periods, inadequate supply of medicines, shortage of staff and poor sanitary conditions in many of the CGHS dispensaries in the country;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to improve the same;

(e) the details of the medical facilities provided in CGHS dispensaries;

(f) the names of the approved Private Hospitals/ Diagnostics Centres as on March 15, 2005 with their addresses and telephone numbers; and

(g) the specific facilities/services which are not subscribed from CGHS budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The city-wise number of CGHS beneficiaries along with CGHS dispensaries in the country is enclosed as statement.

The following persons are eligible for CGHS facilities:

(1) Central Govt. employees residing in CGHS covered cities.

(2) Judges of Supreme Court of India and judges of High Court of Delhi including employees residing in CGHS areas.

(3) Retired Judges of Supreme Court of India and retired Judges of all High Courts of India.

(4) Freedom Fighters.

(5) Members and Ex-Members of Parliament.

(6) Central Government pensioners.

(7) Employees of a few semi-Government/ autonomous bodies (up dispensary level only).

(8) Accredited Journalists.

(9) Ex-Governors and Ex-Vice Presidents of India.

(b) The rates of monthly CGHS contribution based on is as under:-

| Basic Pay plus Dearness | Monthly CGHS Pay OR Basic Pension contribution plus Dearness Pension. |
|---|---|
| 1. Upto Rs. 3,000 | Rs. 15 |
| 2. Rs. 3001 to 6,000 | Rs. 40 |
| 3. Rs. 6,001 to 10,000 | Rs. 70 |
| 4. Rs. 10,001 to 15,000 | Rs. 100 |
| 5. Rs. 15,001 and above | Rs. 150 |

(c) and (d) As the CGHS provides services to over 45 lakh beneficiaries, complaints are occasionally received in CGHS Dte. Regarding delay in reimbursement of medical claims, medicine supply, delayed supply of medicines from local chemists, etc. These complaints are regularly monitored at dispensary-level, zonal level, city-level and Headquarters level. There is an in built mechanism to improve the functioning of CGHS dispensaries by way of inspection, supervision and guidance by the Senior officers of CGHS. Necessary instructions are also issued from time to time to improve the punctuality/behaviour of staff and for adequate supply of medicines.

(e) The following facilities are provided to the CGHS beneficiaries through the CGHS dispensaries, CGHS polyclinics and CGHS recognised private hospitals/ diagnostic centers:-

1. Out patient care facilities in all systems (Allopathic, Ayurvedic, Homeo, Unani, Siddha, etc.)
2. Emergency services under Allopathic system.
3. Free supply of drugs prescribed by the Government doctor.
4. Lab. and Radiological investigations.
5. Domiciliary visits to seriously ill patients. All the medical Officers are under an obligation to visit the patients who are unable to attend the dispensary. The visits are to be entered in a register kept at the dispensary.
6. Specialists' consultation both at the dispensary and hospital level.
7. Family Welfare Services.
8. Treatment in specialized hospitals under Government and in CGHS recognised private recognised hospitals.

(f) The list of private hospitals/diagnostic centers recognised under CGHS in various cities along with their addressees/telephone numbers is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(g) Since rules are framed only for the facilities/ services that are available under the CGHS, whether facilities/services that are not stated under the rules are generally not admissible to the CGHS beneficiaries.

***Statement***

*Existing Dispensaries System-wise (As on 31.03.2004)*

| Sl.No. | Name of City | Date of Starting | Allo. | Syur. | Homeo. | Unani | Siddha | Yoga | Total | Poly Clinics | CGHS Labs | Dental Units | No. of Cards | No. of Beneficiaries |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 1. | Ahmedabad | Apr. 1979 | 5 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 7 | — | 1 | 1 | 6672 | 23524 |
| 2. | Allahabad | Mar. 1969 | 7 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 9 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 17794 | 83665 |
| 3. | Bangalore | Feb. 1976 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 14 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 61409 | 236440 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4. | Bhopal | Feb. 2002 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 2627 | 9709 |
| 5. | Bhubaneshwar | Aug. 1988 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | 2147 | 10076 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | Feb. 2002 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 7762 | 34364 |
| 7. | Chennai | Mar. 1975 | 14 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | — | 17 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 48156 | 169523 |
| 8. | Dehradun | Feb. 2004 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | — |
| 9. | Delhi | Jul. 1954 | 87 | 13 | 13 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 124 | 4 | 31 | 3 | 472264 | 2052384 |
| 10. | Guwahati | Apr. 1995 | 3 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 5 | — | — | — | 9243 | 39375 |
| 11. | Hyderabad | Feb. 1976 | 14 | 2 | 2 | 2 | — | — | 20 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 90262 | 396826 |
| 12. | Jabalpur | Oct. 1991 | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | — | 1 | — | 19534 | 89287 |
| 13. | Jaipur | Jul. 1978 | 5 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 7 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 24504 | 112356 |
| 14. | Kanpur | Jul. 1972 | 9 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | 12 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 27439 | 141619 |
| 15. | Kolkata | Aug. 1972 | 17 | 1 | 2 | 1 | — | — | 21 | 1 | 4 | — | 58152 | 185936 |
| 16. | Lucknow | Mar. 1979 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 9 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 20982 | 112348 |
| 17. | Meerut | Jul. 1971 | 6 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 8 | — | 1 | 1 | 13626 | 67046 |
| 18. | Mumbai | Nov. 1963 | 28 | 2 | 4 | — | — | — | 34 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 91379 | 349166 |
| 19. | Nagpur | Oct. 1973 | 10 | 2 | 1 | — | — | — | 13 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 21274 | 82031 |
| 20. | Patna | Nov. 1976 | 5 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 7 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 13679 | 75058 |
| 21. | Pune | Jul. 1978 | 7 | 1 | 2 | — | — | — | 10 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 46631 | 249502 |
| 22. | Ranchi | Oct. 1992 | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — | — | — | 2789 | 11170 |
| 23. | Shillong | Feb. 2002 | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1771 | 6872 |
| 24. | Trivandrum | Apr. 1995 | 3 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 5 | — | — | — | 6155 | 20517 |
| | | Total | 247 | 33 | 36 | 10 | 3 | 4 | 333 | 19 | 65 | 17 | 1066251 | 4558794 |

**Inclusion of Mumbai-Nagpur-Raipur-Kolkata Highway under GQ Scheme**

5935. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mumbai-Nagpur-Raipur-Kolkata Highway has not been covered under the Golden Quadrilateral and North-South and East-West Corridors scheme;

(b) if so, whether as a result of this States such as Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Orissa have been deprived of the benefit of the Golden Quadrilateral schemes of the Government;

(c) if so, whether the Government has received requests for inclusion of Mumbai-Nagpur-Raipur-Kolkata highway with the prestigious scheme; 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) A portion of NH-6 from Kharagpur to Kolkata forms part of Chennai-Kolkata Section of Golden Quadrilateral Project.

(b) Chhattisgarh State does not have any stretch of the Golden Quadrilateral Project. Delhi-Mumbai and Chennai-Kolkata Sections of the Golden Quadrilateral pass through the State of Maharashtra and Orissa respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Leveling of Land**

5936. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether large pits and ditches have occurred due to coal mining by CCI and BCCL of Coal India Limited in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to make the land useful for cultivation and afforestation by filling these pits and diches;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the land made useful for cultivation and afforestation by leveling it by the above mentioned coal companies during the last three years, region-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) During the process of open cast mining, all voids created during excavation of coal are not filled up by backfilling, and some portion of excavated land remains unfilled in coal mines at the time of closure of mines. In Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) & Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) exhausted open cast mines have some voids. These voids are generally converted into large water storage tanks, which cater to the domestic and industrial use of nearby mines and colonies/villages.

(b) and (c) Reclaimed land after filling the voids is used for afforestation, which is generally entrusted to forest department. However, possibilities of having fruit yielding trees or cash crops are under consideration to make these sustainable and cost effective.

(d) The total area of reclaimed land during the last three years which has been made useful by afforestation are 692.2 Ha & 278 at CCL and BCCL respectively.

*[English]*

**New Projects under NHAI**

5937. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the new projects undertaken by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) for 2004-2005 and 2005-2006, State-wise;

(b) the details of the amount envisaged for the projects;

(c) the details of the newly declared National Highways, State-wise;

(d) whether there is any scheme for the development of inter-state roads which are still State Highways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Details of contract awarded during period 2004-05 are enclosed as Statement-I. The details of the contracts proposed to be awarded during the year 2005-06 are enclosed as statement-II.

(c) The details are given in the Statement-II.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The road/bridge projects of Inter-State Connectivity (ISC) are being funded with 100% Central assistance through Central Road Fund. Broadly following categories of Road/Bridge projects are eligible for consideration.

(i) Inter-State roads/bridges necessary for ensuring through communication.

(i) State Road/Bridges connecting National Highways.

***Statement I***

*Contracts Awarded during Year 2004-2005*

STATE: ASSAM

| Sl.No. | Stretch | NH No. | Length (km) | Scheduled date of Completion | Cost (Rs. Crore) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| **On North South & East West Corridor** | | | | | |
| 1. | Nalbari to Bijni km 1065.00 to km 1040.3 | 31 | 25 | Dec-07 | 182.48 |
| 2. | Silchar-Udarband Km 309.00 to km 275.00 | 54 | 34 | Sep-07 | 115.86 |
| 3. | Sonapur to Guwahati km 183 to km 163.895 | 37 | 19 | Dec-07 | 166.72 |
| | | STATE: CHATTISGARH | | | |
| **On NNHDP Phase-III** | | | | | |
| 4. | Raipur-Aurang km 239-km 282 | 6 | 45 | Mar-05 | 190.00 |
| | | STATE: GUJARAT | | | |
| **On North South & East West Corridor** | | | | | |
| 5. | Jetpur to Bhiladi km 117 to km 52.50 | 8B | 65.4 | Dec-07 | 299.83 |
| 6. | Bhiladi to Porbandar km 52.50 to km 2.00 | 8B | 50.5 | Dec-07 | 193.23 |
| 7. | Garamore to Bammanbore km 254.00 to km 182.60 | 8A | 71.4 | Dec-07 | 289.92 |
| 8. | Gagodhar to Garamore km 245.0 to km 281.3 and km 308.00 to km 254.00 | 15 & 8A | 90.3 | Dec-07 | 339.02 |
| 9. | Radhanpur to Gagodhar km 138.80 to km 245.00 | 15 | 106.2 | Dec-07 | 288.54 |
| 10. | Deesa to Radhanpur km 372.60 to km 458.0 | 14 | 85.4 | Dec-07 | 326.03 |
| 11. | Rajkot Bypass & Gondal Jetpur km 185.00 to km 175.00 | 8B | 36 | Dec-07 | 388.09 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | STATE: MAHARASHTRA | | | |
| **On NHDP Phase-III** | | | | | |
| 12. | Pimpalgaon-Dhule | 3 | 118 | Dec-09 | 556.00 |
| **On Port Connectivity** | | | | | |
| 13. | Jawaharlal Nehru Port Phase-II SH-54+Amramarg+Panvel Creek Bridge | SH 54 | 14.35 | May-07 | 127.21 |
| | | STATE: RAJASTHAN | | | |
| **On NHDP Phase-III** | | | | | |
| 14. | Bharatpur-Mahaua | 11 | 57 | Dec-09 | 250.00 |
| 15. | Mahaua-Jaipur | 11 | 108 | Dec-09 | 483.00 |
| | | STATE: UTTAR PRADESH | | | |
| **On NHDP Phase-III** | | | | | |
| 16. | Meerut-Muzaffarnagar km 52.250-131.00 | 58 | 79 | Dec-09 | 359.00 |
| **On NHDP Phase-I** | | | | | |
| 17. | Allahabad Bypass Contract-II km 158-km 198 Contract IIIB of Khaga-Varanasi Uttar Pradesh | 2 | 38.987 | Dec-06 | 446.99 |
| 18. | Allahabad Bypass Contract-III km 198-km 242.708 Contract IIIB of Khaga-Varanasi | 2 | 44.708 | Dec-06 | 505.27 |
| **On Other Projects** | | | | | |
| 19. | Garhmukteshwar-Muradabad km 93-km 149.25 | 24 | 56.25 | Sep-07 | 221.42 |
| 20. | Hapur-Garhmukteshwar km 58-km 93 | 24 | 35 | Sep-07 | 195.51 |

***Statement II***

*Contracts to be Awarded in 2005-2006 in East West Cooridor*

| Sl.No. | Stretch | NH No. | Length (km) | Total Project Cost (Rs. crs.) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| **State : Assam** | | | | |
| 1. | Udarband to Harangajo Km 275.00 to Km 244.00 | 54 | 31 | 155 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | Harangajo to Maibang Km 244.00 to Km 178.00 | 54 | 26 | 212 |
| 3. | Harangajo to Maibang Km 178.00 to Km 154.00 | 54 | 24 | 196 |
| 4. | Harangajo to Maibang Km 154.00 to Km 140.00 | 54 | 14 | 224 |
| 5. | Maibang to Lumding Km 140.00 to Km 115.00 | 54 | 25 | 150 |
| 6. | Maibang to Lumding Km 115.00 to Km 90.00 | 54 | 25 | 150 |
| 7. | Maibang to Lumding Km 90.00 to Km 65.00 | 54 | 25 | 150 |
| 8. | Maibang to Lumding Km 65.00 to Km 40.00 | 54 | 25 | 150 |
| 9. | Lumding to Daboka Km 40.00 to Km 22.00 | 54 | 18.5 | 170 |
| 10. | Lumding to Daboka Km 22.00 to Km 0.00 | 54 | 22.5 | 225 |
| 11. | Daboka to Nagaon Km 35.9 to Km 5.5 | 36 | 30.5 | 225 |
| 12. | Nagaon bypass Km 5.5 (NH-36) to km 262.7 (NH-37) and from km 262.70 to km 255 | 37 | 23 | 250 |
| 13. | Nagaon to Dharmatul km 255 to km 230 | 37 | 25 | 226 |
| 14. | Dharmtul to Sonapur Km 230.00 to Km 205 | 37 | 24 | 200 |
| 15. | Dharmtul to Sonapur Km 205.00 to Km 183 | 37 | 22 | 160 |
| 16. | Brahmputra Bridge Km 1126.00 to Km 1121.00 | 31 | 5 | 150 |
| 17. | Guwahati to Nalbari Km 1121.00 to Km 1093.00 | 31 | 28 | 210 |
| 18. | Guwahati to Nalbari Km 1093.00 to Km 1065.00 | 31 | 28 | 215 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19. | Nalbari to Bijni<br>Km 1040.00 to Km 1013.00 | 31 | 27 | 245 |
| 20. | Nalbari to Bijni<br>Km 1013.00 to Km 983.00 | 31 | 30 | 220 |
| 21. | Nalbari to Bijni<br>Km 983.00 to Km 961.00 | 31 | 22 | 155 |
| 22. | Bijni to Assam/WB Border<br>Km 93.00 to Km 60.00 | 31C | 33 | 277 |
| 23. | Bijni to Assam/WB Border<br>Km 60.00 to Km 30.00 | 31C | 30 | 225 |
| 24. | Bijni to Assam/WB Border<br>Km 30.00 to Km 0.00 | 31C | 30 | 230 |
| **State : Bihar** | | | | |
| 25. | Purnea-Forbesganj<br>Km 309.00 to Km 268.00 | 57 | 41 | 225 |
| 26. | Purnea-Forbesganj<br>Km 268.00 to Km 230.00 | 57 | 38 | 210 |
| 27. | Forbesganj-Simrahi<br>Km 230 to Km 190 | 57 | 40 | 200 |
| 28. | Simrahi to Ring bund<br>(missing link)<br>Km 190 to Km 165 | 57 | 25 | 200 |
| 29. | Kosi Bridge<br>Km 165 to Km 155 | 57 | 10 | 200 |
| 30. | Ring bunds to Jhanjharpur<br>Km 155 to Km 110 | 57 | 45 | 250 |
| 31. | Jhanjharpur to Darbanga<br>Km 110 to Km 70 | 57 | 40 | 200 |
| 32. | Darbhanga to Muzzaffarpur<br>Km 70 to Km 30 | 57 | 40 | 200 |
| 33. | Darbhanga to Muzzaffarpur<br>Km 30 to Km 0 | 57 | 30 | 200 |
| 34. | Muzzaffarpur to Mehsi<br>Km 520 to Km 480 | 28 | 40 | 275 |
| 35. | Mehsi to Kotwa<br>Km 480 to Km 440 | 28 | 40 | 239 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 36. | Kotwa to Dewapur Km 440 to Km 402 | 28 | 38 | 240 |
| 37. | Deewapur to UP/Bihar Border Km 402 to Km 360.915 | 28 | 41.085 | 300 |
| **State : Gujarat/Rajasthan** | | | | |
| 38. | Pindwara to Palanpur (Rajasthan-42 Km & Gujarat-34 Km) Km 264 to Km 340 (Rajasthan 42 Km & Gujarat-34 Km) | 14 | 76 | 475 |
| **State : Madhya Pradesh** | | | | |
| 39. | Jhansi-Shivpuri (UP-11 Km & MP-30 Km) Km 91 to Km 50 (UP-11 Km & MP-30 Km) | 25 | 41 | 175 |
| 40. | Jhansi-Shivpuri (UP-11 Km & MP-30 Km) Km 50 to Km 15 (UP-11 Km & MP-30 Km) | 25 | 35 | 218 |
| 41. | Shivpuri Bypass & upto MP/RJ Border Km 15 to Km 0 & Km 609 to Km 579 | 25 & 76 | 45 | 351 |
| **State : Rajasthan** | | | | |
| 42. | RJ/MP Border to Kota Km 579 to Km 509 | 76 | 70 | 273 |
| 43. | RJ/MP Border to Kota Km 509 to Km 449.15 | 76 | 59.85 | 336 |
| 44. | RJ/MP Border to Kota Km 449.15 to Km 406 | 76 | 43.15 | 277 |
| 45. | Kota Bypass Km 406 to Km 381 | 76 | 25 | 400 |
| 46. | Kota to Chittorgarh Km 381 to Km 316 | 76 | 65 | 553 |
| 47. | Kota to Chittorgarh Km 316 to Km 253 | 76 | 63 | 430 |
| 48. | Chittorgarh Bypass Km 253 to Km 213 | 76 | 40 | 288 |
| 49. | Udaipur to Pindwara Km 113.82 to Km 74 | 76 | 39.82 | 246.72 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 50. | Udaipur to Pindwara<br>Km 74 to Km 30 | 76 | 44 | 382.79 |
| 51. | Udaipur to Pindwara<br>Km 30 to Km 0 (NH 76) & Km 246.8 to Km 264 (NH 14) | 76 & 14 | 47.2 | 236.11 |
| **State : Uttar Pradesh** | | | | |
| 52. | UP/Bihar Border to Kaisa<br>Km 360.915 to Km 319.8 | 28 | 41.115 | 227 |
| 53. | Kaisa to Gorakhpur<br>Km 319.8 to Km 279.8 | 28 | 40 | 242 |
| 54. | Gorakhpur Bypass<br>Km 279.80 to Km 312.2 | 28 | 32.4 | 394 |
| 55. | Gorakhpur-Ayodhya<br>Km 251.70 to Km 208.00 | 28 | 43.7 | 239 |
| 56. | Gorakhpur-Ayodhya<br>Km 208.00 to Km 164.00 | 28 | 44 | 227 |
| 57. | Gorakhpur-Ayodhya<br>Km 164.00 to Km 135.00 | 28 | 29 | 205 |
| 58. | Ayodhya-Lucknow<br>Km 135.00 to Km 93.075 | 28 | 41.925 | 212 |
| 59. | Ayodhya-Lucknow<br>Km 93.085 to Km 45 | 28 | 48.075 | 217 |
| 60. | Ayodhya-Lucknow<br>Km 45.00 to Km 8.250 | 28 | 36.75 | 193 |
| 61. | Ganga Bridge to Rama Devi Crossing<br>Km 75.00 to Km 80.5 | 2 | 5.5 | 158 |
| 62. | Bara to Orai<br>km 449 to 422 on NH-2 &<br>Km 255 to Km 220 on NH-25 | 2 & 25 | 62 | 468 |
| 63. | Orai to Jhansi<br>Km 170.0 to Km 104.0 | 25 | 66 | 356 |
| 64. | Orai to Jhansi<br>Km 220.0 to Km 170.0 | 25 | 50 | 287 |
| 65. | Jhansi Bypass<br>Km 104.0 to Km 91.0 | 25 | 13 | 157 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **State : West Bengal** | | | | |
| 66. | Assam/WB Border to Gairkatta Km 255.00 to Km 223.00 | 31C | 32 | 225 |
| 67. | Assam/WB Border to Gairkatta Km 223.00 to Km 195.00 | 31C | 28 | 210 |
| 68. | Assam/WB Border to Gairkatta Km 195.00 to Km 171.00 | 31C | 24 | 185 |
| 69. | Assam/WB Border to Gairkatta Km 171.00 to Km 145.00 | 31C | 26 | 200 |
| 70. | Gairkatta to Siliguri Km 145.00 to Km 115.00 | 31C | 30 | 160 |
| 71. | Gairkatta to Siliguri Km 115.00 to Km 105.00 & Km 634.00 to Km 623 | 31 & 31C | 21 | 155 |
| 72. | Gairkatta to Siliguri Km 623.00 to Km 603.00 | 31 | 20 | 145 |
| 73. | Gairkatta to Siliguri Km 603.00 to Km 580.00 | 31 & 31C | 23 | 150 |
| 74. | Siliguri to Islampur Km 580.00 to Km 551.00 | 31 | 29 | 200 |
| 75. | Siliguri to Islampur Km 551.00 to Km 526.00 | 31 | 25 | 165 |
| 76. | Siliguri to Islampur Km 526.00 to Km 500 | 31 | 26 | 270 |
| | *Contracts to be Awarded in 2005-2006 in North South Corridor* | | | |
| **State : Andhra Pradesh** | | | | |
| 1. | MH/AP border to Armur Km 175 to Km 309 | 7 | 134 | 690 |
| 2. | Armur to Kalkallu village Km 309 to Km 447 | 7 | 138 | 701 |
| 3. | Farukhanagar to Kottakata Km 34.800 to Km 133 | 7 | 98 | 464 |
| 4. | Kottakata to Kurnool Km 133 to Km 211 | 7 | 78 | 403 |
| 5. | Kurnool to Anantpur Km 211 to Km 336 | 7 | 125 | 565.17 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6. | Anantpur-AP/Karnataka border Km 336 to Km 463.6 | 7 | 127.4 | 599.98 |
| | **State : Haryana** | | | |
| 7. | Panipat Elevated Highway Km 96.00 to 86.00 | 1 | 10 | 269.79 |
| 8. | Panipat to Panchi Gujran (Six laning work) Km 86.00 to Km 66.00 | 1 | 20 | 109 |
| | **State : Himachal Pradesh** | | | |
| 9. | Pathankot to Bhogpur Km 110 to Km 26 | 1A | 11 | 661.37 |
| | **State : Jammu Kashmir** | | | |
| 10. | Srinagar-Khanbal-Banihal (Plain) Km 286 to Km 256 | 1A | 30 | 370 |
| 11. | Srinagar-Khanbal-Banihal Km 256 to Km 188 | 1A | 80 | DPR under Progress |
| 12. | Banihal-Batote-Udhampur Km 188 to Km 66 | 1A | 122 | -do- |
| 13. | Udhampur-Jammu (0-66) Including Nagrota & Udhamur Bypass Km 66 to Km 0.0 (9.2) | 1A | 86 | -do- |
| 14. | Jammu to Kunjwani Km 97-112 (including 20.4 Km Jammu Bypass) Km 112 to Km 97 | 1A | 15 | 132 |
| 15. | Vijaypur to Pathankot Km 80 to Km [3.6]/[117.1] and 117.1 to 110 | 1A | 80 | 554.71 |
| | **State : Karnataka** | | | |
| 16. | AP/Karnataka border-Avathi village Km 463.6 to Km 524 | 7 | 60 | 319 |
| | **State : Kerala** | | | |
| 17. | Kerala Border to Trishur Km 182.000 to Km 270.000 | 47 | 88 | 590 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 18. | Trishur to Angamali Km 270.000 to Km 316.70 | 47 | 46 | 175 |
| | **State : Madhya Pradesh** | | | |
| 19. | Gwalior Bypass (Approx. length 24 Km) & Gwalior-Jhansi Km 0 to Km 103 | 75 | 101 | 999 |
| 20. | Lalitpur-Sagar Km 92 to Km 198 | 26 | 66 | 403 |
| 21. | Sagar-Rajmarg Choraha Km 198 to Km 296 | 26 | 98 | 458 |
| 22. | Rajmarg Km 296 to Km 400 (Junction with Km 544 of NH7) | 26 | 104 | 424 |
| 23. | Lakhnadon to MP/MH Border Km 544 to Km 652 | 7 | 108 | 512 |
| | **State : Maharashtra** | | | |
| 24. | MP/MH Border to Manasar Km 652 to Km 689 | 7 | 37 | 116 |
| 25. | Manasar to Nagpur I/C Kamptee Kanoon bypass Km 689 to Km 723 | 7 | 34 | 140 |
| 26. | Nagpur Bypass | 7 | 30 | 150 |
| 27. | Nagpur to Hyderabad section Km 64 to Km 94 | 7 | 30 | 145 |
| 28. | Nagpur to Hyderabad section Km 94 to Km 123 | 7 | 29 | 145 |
| 29. | Nagpur to Hyderabad section Km 123 to Km 153 | 7 | 30 | 144 |
| 30. | Nagpur to Hyderabad section/ MH/AP Km 153 to Km 175 | 7 | 22 | 117.4 |
| | **State : Punjab** | | | |
| 31. | Pathankot to Bhogpur Km 110 to Km 26 | 1A | 73 | 661.37 |
| | **State : Rajasthan** | | | |
| 32. | Dholpur-MP/Raj border including Chambal Bridge Km 51 to Km 61 | 3 | 10 | 180 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **State : Tamil Nadu** | | | |
| 33. | Krishnagiri to Thopurghat Km 93.000 to 156 | 7 | 63 | 250 |
| 34. | Salem to Karur Km 207.600 to Km 301.000 | 7 | 83 | 294 |
| 35. | Karur to Madurai Km 305.8 to Km 426 | 7 | 139.8 | 435 |
| 36. | Madurai to Km 120 of Madurai-Triunveli Section including Madurai Bypass Km 0.000 to Km 120.000 | 7 | 120 | 639 |
| 37. | Km 120 of Madurai-Tirunveli Section to Panagudi (Km 203) Km 120 to Km 203 | 7 | 83 | 418 |
| 38. | Salem to Km 100 & Salem-Coimbatore Section Km 0.000 to Km 100 | 47 | 100 | 844 |
| 39. | Km 100 & Salem-Coimbatore section to Kerala border Km 100 to Km 182 | 47 | 82 | 340 |
| | **State : Uttar Pradesh** | | | |
| 40. | Agra Bypass km 199.8 of NH-2 to Km 8.0 of Nh-3 Km 199.8 of NH 2 to Km 8 of NH-3 | 2 & 3 | 29 | |
| 41. | Gwalior Bypass (Approx. length 24 Km) & Gwalior-Jhansi Km 0 to Km 103 | 75 | 18 | 999 |
| 42. | Jhansi to Lalitpur Km 0 to Km 92 | 26 | 92 | 303 |
| 43. | Lalitpur-Sagar Km 92 to Km 198 | 26 | 40 | 403 |

*Contracts to be Awarded during 2005-06 on Alignment of Golden Quadrilateral*

| Sl.No. | Project | Length (Km) | Estimated Cost (Rs. cr.) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Chittorgarh bypass Rajasthan | 29.5 | 170 |
| 2. | 6 laning of Vadodra-Surat Section of NH-8 (Km 108 to 263) Gujarat | 155 | 960 |

*Contracts to be awarded in the year 2005-06 under NHDP Phase-III A*

| Sl.No. | State | NH | Section | Length (in Km) | Total Project cost exlcuding LA, R&R (in crores) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1. | Madhya Pradesh | 3 | Guna By pass (new 2-Lane facility) | 14 | 46 |
| 2. | Madhya Pradesh | 3 | Indore-Khalghat | 80 | 472 |
| 3. | Chhattisgarh | 6 | Raipur-Aurang | 45 | 190 |
| 4. | Chhattisgarh | 6 | Maharashtra/Chhattisgarh Border-Durg | 90 | Cost being updated |
| 5. | Maharashtra | 3 | Pimpalgaon-Dhule | 118 | 556 |
| 6. | Maharashtra | 3 | Vadape-Gonde | 100 | 579 |
| 7. | Maharashtra | 6 | Nagpur-Kondhali | 40 | 168 |
| 8. | Maharashtra | 6 | Kondhali-Talegaon | 50 | 212 |
| 9. | Maharashtra | 6 | Nagpur-Wainganga Bridge | 60 | Cost being updated |
| 10. | Maharashtra | 6 | Wainganga Bridge-Maharashtra/Chhattisgarh Border | 76 | Cost being updated |
| 11. | Rajasthan | 11 | Bharatpur-Mahua | 57 | 250 |
| 12. | Rajasthan | 11 | Mahua-Jaipur | 108 | 483 |
| 13. | UP/Rajasthan | 11 | Agra-Bharatpur | 48 | 195 |
| 14. | Uttar Pradesh | 58 | Meerut-Muzaffarnagar | 79 | 359 |
| 15. | Uttar Pradesh | 24 | Lucknow-Sitapur | 75 | 322 |
| 16. | Punjab | 1 | Jalandhar-Amritsar | 49 | 263 |
| 17. | Haryana & Punjab | 21 & 22 | Ambala-Zirakpur | 36 | 298 |
| 18. | Punjab | 21 | Chandigarh-Kiratpur | 73 | Cost being updated |
| 19. | Jharkhand | 33 | Hazaribagh-Ranchi | 75 | 318 |
| 20. | Kerala | 47 | Trivendrum-Kanniakumari | 113 | DPR stage |
| 21. | Pondicherry/Tamil Nadu | 66 | Pondicherry/Tindivanam | 40 | DPR stage |
| 22. | Tamil Nadu | 45 | Dindigul-Trichy | 80 | DPR to be awarded |
| 23. | Tamil Nadu | 67 | Nagapatnam-Tanjavur-Trichy | 130 | DPR to be awarded |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 67 | Trichy-Karur including Trichy-Bypass | 88 | DPR to be awarded |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 25. | Tamil Nadu | 68 | Salem-Ulundrupet | 134 | DPR to be awarded |
| 26. | Tamil Nadu | 45B | Madurai-Tuticorin | 144 | DPR to be awarded |
| 27. | Tamil Nadu | 66 | Krishna Giri-Tindivanam | 170 | DPR to be awarded |
| 28. | AP/Tamil Nadu | 205 | Tirupati-Tiruthani-Chennai | 138 | DPR to be awarded |

***Statement III***

*Newly Declared National Highways in February, 2004*

| Sl.No. | State | National Highway No. | Stretch | Approx. Length (km) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | NH 214A | Digamarru-Ongole | 255 |
| | | NH 221 | Kondapelli-Konta | 155 |
| | | NH 222 | Maharashtra border-Nirmal | 60 |
| 2. | Bihar | NH 57A | Forbesganj-Jogbani | 15 |
| | | NH 28B | Chhapwa-Uttar Pradesh Border | 121 |
| | | NH 110 | Arwal-Biharsharif | 89 |
| 3. | Chhattisgarh | NH 111 | Bilaspur-Ambikapur | 200 |
| | | NH 221 | From Andhra Pradesh Border-Jagadalpur | 174 |
| 4. | Gujarat | NH 8A Extension | Narayan Sarovar-Mandvi | 145 |
| | | NH 8E Extension | Dwarka-Somnath | 225 |
| | | NH 113 | From Rajasthan Border-Dahod | 40 |
| 5. | Haryana | NH 73A | Yamuna Nagar-Himachal Pradesh Border | 42 |
| | | NH 71B | Rewari-Rajasthan border | 69 |
| 6. | Himachal Pradesh | NH 73A | Haryana Border-Paontasahib | 20 |
| 7. | Jharkhand | NH 75 Extension | Ranchi-Orissa Border | 202 |
| 8. | Karnataka | NH 218 Extension | Bijapur-Homnabad | 223 |
| | | NH 67 Extension | Tamil Nadu border-Gundlupet | 50 |
| 9. | Madhya Pradesh | NH 86A | Rahatgarh-Raisen | 131 |
| | | NH 12A Extension | Jabalpur-Uttar Pradesh border | 330 |
| | | NH 26A | Sagar-Bina | 75 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10. | Maharashtra | NH 222 | Kalyan-Andhra Pradesh border | 550 |
| 11. | Manipur | NH 155 | From Nagaland Border-Jessami | 5 |
| 12. | Meghalaya | NH 44 Extension | Shillong-Nongstoin | 93 |
| 13. | Nagaland | NH 155 | Mokokchung-Manipur Border | 125 |
| 14. | Orissa | NH 224 | Khurda-Balangir | 298 |
| | | NH 203A | Puri-Satpada | 49 |
| | | NH 203 Extension | Puri-Konark | 38 |
| | | NH 75 Extension | From Jharkhand border-Parsora | 18 |
| 15. | Rajasthan | NH 113 | Nimahera-Gujarat border | 200 |
| | | NH 112 | Bar-Barmer | 343 |
| | | NH 114 | Jodhpur-Pokaran | 180 |
| | | NH 116 | Tonk-Swaimadhopur | 80 |
| | | NH 11B | Lalsot-Dhaulpur | 180 |
| | | NH 71B | From Haryana border near Dharuhera (Haryana)-Taoru (Haryana) | 5 |
| 16. | Tamil Nadu | NH 45C | Thanjavur-Ulunderpettai | 159 |
| | | NH 47 B | Nagercoil-Kavalkinaru | 45 |
| | | NH 67 Extension | Coimbatore-Karnataka border | 148 |
| | | Nh 45 Extension | Dindigul-Teni | 73 |
| 17. | Uttaranchal | NH 123 | Vikasnagar-Barkot Bend | 95 |
| | | NH 119 | From Uttar Pradesh border-Srinagar | 135 |
| | | NH 121 | Kashipur-Bubakhal | 252 |
| | | NH 87 Extension | Nainital-Kama Prayag | 233 |
| | | NH 125 | Sitarganj-Pithoragarh | 201 |
| 18. | Uttar Pradesh | NH 119 | Meerut-Uttaranchal border | 125 |
| | | NH 91A | Etawah-Kannauj | 126 |
| | | NH 76 Extension | Allahabad-Mirzapur | 120 |
| | | NH 28 C | Barabanki-Nepalganj | 140 |
| | | NH 29 Extension | Gorakhpur-Sonauli | 110 |
| | | NH 28 B | From Bihar border-Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh | 29 |
| | | NH 12A Extension | From Madhya Pradesh Border-Jhansi | 7 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19. | West Bengal | NH 60 Extension | Raniganj-Moregram | 141 |
| | | NH 60A | Bankura-Purulia | 100 |
| | | NH 117 | Kona Expressway-Bakkhali | 133 |
| 20. | Andaman & Nicobar Islands | NH 223 | The Andaman Trunk Road | 300 |
| | | | Grand Total | 7457 |

**BSNL Expansion Plan**

5938. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

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

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has prepared a massive expansion plan involving a sum of Rs. 80,000 crores to triple its subscriber base over the next three years as reported in the 'Hindu' dated April 9, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the investment proposed to be made in rural India out of the said investment plan to clear the backlog, State-wise; and

(d) the time by which the telephone connections will be made available on demand in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) BSNL, has prepared a plan for adding 77 million lines over the next three years to its present subscriber base of 46.9 million as on 31.03.2005. The year-wise addition in subscriber base has been planned as below:

(in million lines)

| Year | Fixed/WLL | Mobile | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2005-06 | 4.20 | 20.80 | 25.00 |
| 2006-07 | 4.15 | 23.35 | 27.50 |
| 2007-08 (Till December, 2007) | 4.50 | 20.00 | 24.50 |
| Total | 12.85 | 64.15 | 77.00 |

(c) The total investment over the next three years is likely to be Rs. 8400 Crores in rural areas. The Circle-wise details for likely investment in rural areas is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) It is expected that with the provision of telephone connections according to these plans, the telephones are likely to be available on demand w.e.f. March 2006 in rural areas.

***Statement***

*Circle-wise details for likely investment in rural areas over the next three years*

| Sl.No. | Circles/Metro Districts | Likely Investment (In Rs. Crores) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andaman & Nicobar | 6 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 447 |
| 3. | Assam | 95 |
| 4. | Bihar | 596 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 23 |
| 6. | Gujarat | 221 |
| 7. | Haryana | 458 |
| 8. | Himachal Pradesh | 294 |
| 9. | Jammu & Kashmir | 104 |
| 10. | Jharkhand | 48 |
| 11. | Karnataka | 547 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 12. | Kerala | 1034 |
| 13. | Madhya Pradesh | 349 |
| 14. | Maharashtra | 797 |
| 15. | North East-I | 26 |
| 16. | North East-II | 33 |
| 17. | Orisa | 136 |
| 18. | Punjab | 415 |
| 19. | Rajasthan | 661 |
| 20. | Tamil Nadu | 340 |
| 21. | Uttaranchal | 32 |
| 22. | Uttar Pradesh (East) | 448 |
| 23. | Uttar Pradesh (West) | 91 |
| 24. | West Bengal | 729 |
| 25. | Kolkata | 437 |
| 26. | Chennai | 33 |
| | BSNL | 8400 |

North East-I includes Meghalaya, Mizoram & Tripura

North East-II includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur & Nagaland.

**Punishment of Erring Medical Teachers**

5939. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Medical Council of India (MCI) has recommended punishment of erring medical teachers across the country as reported in the 'Hindu' dated 31, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any recommendations in this regard; 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) During inspection reports of various medical colleges seeking permission/renewal under section 10A of IMC, Act, 1956, it was found that a large number of doctors were being shown as medical teacher in more than one medical colleges at the same time. This matter was taken up by the General Body of MCI in its meeting held on 12.10.2004 and it has been decided that the names of the teachers found involved in this matter be erased temporarily upto 31.7.2007. Further, such persons shall not be eligible to be counted as teachers at the inspections to be carried out by MCI for the academic years 2005-06 and 2006-07. It has also been decided that the names of all such teachers be published on the website and a circular be sent to all the Directors of Medical Education of all the States, all the Universities and all the Medical Colleges/Institutions, Necessary action in this regard has been taken by MCI.

**Mega Project of AIIMS**

5940. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to expand the departments of AIIMS under a mega project;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) All India Institute of Medical Sciences is in the process of preparing a Redevelopment Plan, which would lead to expansion of patient care facilities and infrastructure thereof. The process of development of AIIMS is an on-going activity and is dependent upon multiple factors including availability of resources. The vacant land at Masjid Moth has been identified for further developmental activities. The Ministry of Urban Development has recently been requested to change its land use status from 'residential' to 'institutional'.

**Inter-State Money Transfer Scheme**

5941. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal under the consideration to start inter-state money transfer scheme within the country;

(b) if so, the pattern of the scheme;

(c) the date by when the scheme is likely to be started; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The Government already has an inter state money order service which is operating throughout the country.

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

**Export of I.T. Products**

5942. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

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

(a) the names of the States leading in production of the I.T. products in the country; and

(b) the details of export of I.T. products alongwith their value, State-wise, during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The leading States in production of the I.T. products in the country are:-

1. Karnataka
2. Maharashtra
3. Uttar Pradesh
4. Tamil Nadu
5. Andhra Pradesh

(b) State-wise exports of electronic and software/ service during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

***Statement***

*State-wise Export of Electronics & Computer Software/Services during the year 2001-2002 to 2003-2004*

(Rs. in Crore)

| Region | States/Union Territories | 2001-2002 | 2002-2003 | 2003-2004 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| East | West Bengal | 777.99 | 1394.20 | 1705.00 |
| | Orissa | 250.00 | 301.42 | 325.00 |
| | Bihar | 0.75 | 0.00 | 1.00 |
| | Chhattisgarh | — | — | 0.78 |
| North | Haryana | 821.08 | 3564.49 | 5143.00 |
| | Uttar Pradesh | 4814.05 | 3400.62 | 4226.00 |
| | Delhi | 5130.54 | 4150.00 | 5469.00 |
| | Punjab | 73.52 | 74.65 | 190.75 |
| | Rajasthan | 113.43 | 84.66 | 225.00 |
| | Madhya Pradesh | 89.81 | 108.56 | 106.23 |
| | Chandigarh | 0.20 | 31.44 | 50.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Himachal Pradesh | 5.05 | 8.37 | 11.00 |
| | Uttaranchal | 0.10 | 1.34 | 1.00 |
| | Jammu & Kashmir | — | 0.40 | 1.00 |
| South | Karnataka | 11945.33 | 16880.27 | 21398.00 |
| | Tamil Nadu | 6038.64 | 8495.65 | 8255.00 |
| | Andhra Pradesh | 2959.40 | 4515.34 | 5695.00 |
| | Kerala | 363.98 | 283.16 | 480.00 |
| | Pondicherry | 0.45 | 15.01 | 25.00 |
| West | Maharashtra | 8613.00 | 8500.00 | 12107.00 |
| | Gujarat | 302.69 | 289.08 | 280.00 |
| | Goa | — | 1.34 | 6.02 |
| | Total | 42300.00 | 52100.00 | 65700.78 |

**Progress made under PMRY**

5943. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
PROF. M. RAMADASS:
SHRIMATI RUPATAI DILIPRAO NILANGAKAR PATIL:

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

(a) the details of the progress made under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana in the last three years;

(b) whether the Union Government had fixed any targets for the various States under the PMRY during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) if so, the number of youth given assistance under PMRY, State-wise and District-wise;

(d) whether the targets have been achieved;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the remedial measures taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The details of progress made under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during the last three years, *i.e.*, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 are as under:

Number of self-employment units (lakh)

| Year | Target | Sanctioned loans | Disbursed loans |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2001-02 | 2.20 | 2.37 | 1.89 |
| 2002-03 | 2.20 | 2.28 | 1.90 |
| 2003-04 | 2.20 | 2.60 | 2.16 |

(b) to (f) Yes, Sir. The State-wise and year-wise details of targets allocated to states and number of educated unemployed youth given assistance (self employment units disbursed loans) under the PMRY during the last three years, *i.e.*, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 are given in the enclosed Statement.

Under the PMRY, targets have thus been achieved in terms of self-employment cases/units which were sanctioned loans by banks. The slight shortfall in the number of sanctioned cases in which loans were not disbursed by banks was due generally to the applicants not fulfilling the disbursement requirements specified by the banks; delay/difficulty in the applicants obtaining

necessary approval/clearance for undertaking the activity from the State/UT Government agencies concerned; delay in allotment of shed, power connection, water supply, etc., by the State/UT agencies; family members of the applicants being found defaulters of bank loans, etc.

***Statement***

*State-wise targets and educated unemployed youth given assistance (self-employment units disbursed loans) under PMRY*

(as reported by the Reserve Bank of India)

| Sl.No. | State/UT | 2001-02 | | 2002-03 (number of self-employment units) | | 2003-04 | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Target | Disbursement | Target | Disbursement | Target | Disbursement |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 1. | Haryana | 4400 | 6600 | 4600 | 7008 | 4050 | 7276 |
| 2. | Himachal Pradesh | 2600 | 2431 | 2700 | 2209 | 3200 | 2862 |
| 3. | Jammu & Kashmir | 1300 | 894 | 1400 | 605 | 1150 | 656 |
| 4. | Punjab | 4200 | 8147 | 4000 | 7771 | 4100 | 7553 |
| 5. | Rajasthan | 8200 | 12476 | 8300 | 12267 | 8100 | 12687 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 300 | 128 | 300 | 47 | 300 | 68 |
| 7. | Delhi | 4600 | 632 | 4600 | 632 | 4400 | 902 |
| 8. | Assam | 6600 | 3605 | 6900 | 4149 | 6600 | 5679 |
| 9. | Manipur | 1100 | 252 | 1300 | 549 | 1200 | 520 |
| 10. | Meghalaya | 350 | 546 | 300 | 256 | 350 | 395 |
| 11. | Nagaland | 250 | 37 | 250 | 107 | 300 | 53 |
| 12. | Tripura | 800 | 981 | 700 | 1085 | 800 | 2026 |
| 13. | Arunachal Pradesh | 150 | 507 | 150 | 294 | 200 | 668 |
| 14. | Mizoram | 250 | 52 | 250 | 155 | 200 | 775 |
| 15. | Sikkim | 50 | 38 | 50 | 26 | 100 | 30 |
| 16. | Bihar | 18000 | 8851 | 18100 | 7939 | 14400 | 9842 |
| 17. | Jharkhand | 3000 | 3882 | 2900 | 4354 | 5350 | 4788 |
| 18. | Orissa | 7050 | 5791 | 6850 | 6725 | 6600 | 8765 |
| 19. | West Bengal | 22000 | 2403 | 21100 | 2528 | 20000 | 2854 |
| 20. | Andaman and Nicobar | 100 | 143 | 75 | 142 | 100 | 182 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21. | Madhya Pradesh | 14100 | 17314 | 14300 | 16710 | 11750 | 19444 |
| 22. | Chhattisgarh | 2500 | 2549 | 2250 | 3006 | 4600 | 3344 |
| 23. | Uttar Pradesh | 25100 | 37802 | 25450 | 38016 | 22950 | 40387 |
| 24. | Uttaranchal | 1000 | 3626 | 925 | 4683 | 1800 | 5417 |
| 25. | Gujarat | 8150 | 8104 | 7950 | 7184 | 8650 | 6704 |
| 26. | Maharashtra | 22300 | 18904 | 22150 | 17631 | 22800 | 17279 |
| 27. | Daman and Diu | 50 | 8 | 50 | 2 | 50 | 4 |
| 28. | Goa | 500 | 164 | 500 | 274 | 400 | 116 |
| 29. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 50 | 10 | 50 | 10 | 50 | 0 |
| 30. | Andhra Pradesh | 16600 | 10799 | 17900 | 13632 | 18400 | 17556 |
| 31. | Karnataka | 10700 | 11428 | 10500 | 10026 | 10800 | 11837 |
| 32. | Kerala | 14700 | 9510 | 15250 | 9853 | 16250 | 13460 |
| 33. | Tamil Nadu | 18550 | 10051 | 17400 | 9595 | 19350 | 11085 |
| 34. | Lakshadweep | 50 | 25 | 50 | 10 | 50 | 17 |
| 35. | Pondicherry | 450 | 216 | 450 | 213 | 600 | 352 |
| | Total | 220100 | 188906 | 220000 | 189693 | 220000 | 215583 |

Note: The concerned State Governments allocate district-wise targets as per the state-wise targets allocated to them by the Ministry of Agro & Rural Industries. State Governments monitor district-wise achievement of target allocated by them to the districts.

**Revamping Public Administration System**

5944. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a group of ministers to finalise the terms and reference of the body which will prepare a blueprint for revamping the public administration system across the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has worked out the vacancies reserved for SCs/STs/OBCs lying vacant as on date;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any mechanism to monitor the progress made in filling up of such vacancies;

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

(g) the time by when the report of the said body is expected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Government has finalized the terms of reference for the second Administrative Reforms Commission, which will prepare a blueprint for revamping the public administration system.

(c) to (f) The vacancies reserved for SCs/STs/OBCs are determined along with unreserved vacancies from time to time by the Cadre Controlling Authorities and information in this regard is not maintained centrally. Government has recently also launched a special drive

to fill backlog vacancies reserved for SCs and STs. As per information received from 69 Ministries/Departments, 26419 backlog reserved vacancies of Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes have already been identified in Direct Recruitment Quota and as per information received from 63 Ministries/Department, 33027 backlog reserved vacancies of SCs & STs have already been identified in Promotion Quota in the services under the Government of India. Each Ministry/Department nominates a Liaison Officer who is responsible for ensuring that the instructions on reservation are strictly complied with. An Officer in Charge has also been nominated by each Ministry/ Department to monitor and coordinate the progress of Special Recruitment Drive.

(g) The Second Administrative Reforms Commission will be required to submit its Report within one year from the date of its constitution.

*[Translation]*

**Trauma Centres along NHs**

5945. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ):

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

(a) whether the Union Government proposed to open Trauma Centres along National Highways and provide cranes and ambulances under the National Highway Patrolling Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent any scheme to the Union Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the National Highways selected under this scheme;

(f) whether medical assistance being provided on National Highways is sufficient;

(g) if not, whether the Government also propose to provide Trauma Attendance Mobile Vehicle on National Highways to deal with accident cases; and

(h) if so, the time by when this facility is likely to be made available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Under the National Highways Accident Relief Service, this Ministry provides cranes and ambulances to the State Government/Non-Governmental organizations for clearing accident site and evacuating accident victims to the nearest medical aid centre.

In addition to provision of Cranes and Ambulances by this Ministry, the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare also provides assistance to the States/UTs under the scheme of 'Assistance for Capacity Building' for upgradation of emergency services/trauma care facilities in Hospitals including those located near the National Highways for the purpose of treatment of accident victims.

(c) to (h) Provision of assistance in case of road accident is basically the responsibility of the State Government. This Ministry has no scheme to assist setting up of trauma care centres/facilities. Under the National Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme, 22 ambulances and 17 cranes have been provided to Police/Transport authorities/NGOs in Uttar Pradesh since 2000-01.

*[English]*

**Registration for Travel on Srinagar Muzaffarabad Bus Service**

5946. SHRI K.J.SP. REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started registering the names of the passengers who want to use the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service;

(b) if so, the number of registrants so far;

(c) whether the Government is not insisting on any visa or passport for this bus service; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) The Regional Passport Office, Srinagar, has been issuing application forms for those who want to travel on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad Bus. 250 application forms were given out on March 4, 2005. Out of these, 29 people received due clearance from Pakistan to travel on the first bus. 19 out of these 29 actually travelled on the first

bus on April 7, 2005. Thereafter, 500 application forms were given out on 21 March, 2005, bringing the total number of application forms distributed so far to 750. 26 passengers undertook the journey on the second trip of the bus on April 21, 2005.

(c) and (d) Travel on the bus is by an entry permit system, once identities are verified. The application form, which requires details, including photographs, as are normally required for a passport and a visa, is subjected to due verification on our side to establish the bonafides of the traveller. These verified forms are passsed on to Muzaffarabad. The returned forms then indicate who is allowed travel to the other side. Similar procedure is followed for travel to the Indian side. Thus the procedure followed involved all checks and pre-verification as in the case of grant of visas.

**National Council on AIDS**

5947. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up a National Council of AIDS under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the details of its main functions; and

(c) the plans of the Council to check the spread of AIDS in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) A National Council on AIDS is proposed to be setup under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister to mainstream HIV/AIDS issues in all Ministries and Departments by considering it as a development challenge and not merely a public health problem. It will help to expand multisectoral response to HIV/AIDS in the country with special reference to youth and the workforce. The progress under the National AIDS Control Programme will be reviewed by the Council from time to time.

**Production by Telecom Companies**

5948. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telecom company Nokia has been allowed to start its manufacturing base in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the production is likely to be started;

(c) the details of employment opportunities likely to be generated;

(d) whether there is any proposal to allow other multinationals to open their manufacturing base in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) Manufacture of telecom equipment do not require any specific approval from the Government. Further, 100% Foreign Direct Investment in this sector is allowed under automatic route.

So far as Nokia is concerned, they have announced to invest US$ 100 to 150 million to it's own production facility near Chennai within next coming 3-4 years. As per indications given by the company the production is expected to start in the first half of year 2006 and would provide job opportunity for approximately 2000 persons.

**Telephone Connections in Arunachal Pradesh**

5949. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of telephone connections provided in the rural areas of Arunachal Pradesh during the last three years, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government has set an target to provide telephone connections in Arunachal Pradesh;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) District-wise details of telephone connections provided in the rural areas of Arunachal Pradesh during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned to provide 5,000 Direct Exchange Lines (DELs) and 58 Village Public Telephones (VPTs) during the year 2005-06 in Arunachal Pradesh.

(d) The details of development programme to be carried out by BSNL in Arunachal Pradesh are as under:-

(i) Two telephone exchanges are planned for 2005-06 along with upgradation and expansion of the existing exchanges by conversion to remote Switching Units (RSUs) and Access Node Rural Automatic Exchange (ANRAX). It is planned to cover rest of the villages by VPTs on Satellite/ Wireless in Local Loop (WLL)/Land line (LL).

(ii) At present, 8 WLL BTSs (Base Transmitting Stations) are commissioned and 35 WLL BTSs are under plan in 2005-06. 27 Global Switching Module (GSM) Mobile BTSs are commissioned and 28 additional GSM Mobile BTS are planned for 2005-06.

(iii) In order to improve telephone services in Arunachal Pradesh, 26 numbers of 2Mb IDR (Intermediate Data Rate), 8 Mb IDR and 761 Kms. of Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) are planned for 2005-06.

***Statement***

*District-wise details of Telephone Connections provided in the Rural Areas of Arunachal Pradesh during the last three years*

| Sl.No. | Name of District | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Anjoao (Hayuliang) | 25 | 2 | 30 |
| 2. | Changlang | 133 | 400 | 238 |
| 3. | East Kameng (Seppa) | 309 | 189 | 150 |
| 4. | East Siang | 170 | 160 | 20 |
| 5. | Kurug Kumey (Koloriang) | 50 | 97 | 41 |
| 6. | Lohit | 300 | 93 | 26 |
| 7. | Lower Dibang (Roing) | 180 | 58 | 35 |
| 8. | Lower Subansiri (Ziro) | 198 | 144 | 137 |
| 9. | Papumpare | 258 | 119 | 50 |
| 10. | Tawang | 400 | 73 | 183 |
| 11. | Tirap (Khonsa) | 198 | 40 | 26 |
| 12. | Upper Dibang (Anini) | 48 | 132 | 15 |
| 13. | Uppe Siang | 141 | 356 | 156 |
| 14. | Upper Subansiri (Daporijo) | 207 | 227 | 95 |
| 15. | West Bengal (Bomdila) | 568 | 333 | 95 |
| 16. | West Siang | 64 | 31 | 20 |

*[Translation]*

**Statistics Collection Scheme**

5950. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIVANKAR:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

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

(a) whether the Statistics Collection Scheme has been launched for counting small scale industrial units;

(b) if so, the details of assessment made of the small scale units in 2004-05;

(c) whether an assessment of production and generation of employment in all registered/un-registered units has been made; and

(d) if so, the total number of small scale units closed in 2004-05 alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The total number of small scale industrial (SSI) units (both registered and un-registered) functioning in the country at the end of March, 2005 is provisionally estimated to be 118.59 lakh.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The information on closed units is not maintained centrally. However, as per the results of the Third All India Census of SSI units conducted with reference to year 2001-02, out of 22,62,401 SSI units registered upto 31.03.2001 in the entire country 8,87,427 units were found closed.

The main reasons of closure were inadequacy/ shortage of working capital, fall in demand, changes in technology, shortage of raw materials, marketing problems, increase in competition, management inadequacies, etc.

*[English]*

**National AIDS Control Programme**

5951. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the targets, aims and objectives of National AIDS Control Programme Phase-I and Phase-II launched by the National AIDS Control Organisation since 1992 & 1999 respectively;

(b) whether these phased programmes have delivered the desired results;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the National AIDS Control Organisation is going to launch the third phase;

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith its recommendations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The aim of National AIDS Control Programme-I was to initiate a major effort in prevention of HIV transmission and objective was to slow the spread of HIV in India so as to reduce morbidity, mortality and impact of HIV/AIDS.

The National AIDS Control Programme Phase II objective was to reduce the rate of growth of HIV infection in India and to strengthen the capacity to respond to HIV/AIDS keeping HIV prevalence <3% in high prevalence States and <1% in other States.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Achievements of National AIDS Control Programme I are:

- Involve all States/UTs in implementing HIV/AIDS prevention activities.
- Generating of awareness on prevention of HIV/ AIDS.
- Blood safety measures.
- Promotion of voluntary blood donation.
- STD services.
- Tracing of Health staff on HIV/AIDS management.
- Introduction of Surveillance system.

Achievements of NACP-II are:

- Scaling up of services for voluntary counseling and testing, prevention of parent to child transmission, management of Opportunistic Infections.
- Targetted Interventions for high risk groups.
- Enlanched Blood safety.
- Community care and support services.
- Community awareness.
- Free ART services started from 25 centers so far and additional 11 centers sanctioned for free ART.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) The process of design for NACP III has started. The design team will work on the modalities for preparation of project implementation plan for next five years and the task will be completed by December 2005. NACP II will be completed by March 2006 in continuation to this, NACP III will be launched after 31st March 2006.

**Anti-Diabetic Properties in Camel Milk**

5952. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ICMR has ordered a research on the anti-diabetic properties in the camel milk;

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

(c) the time by when the research is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According to ICMR, the Division of Non-Communicable Diseases at ICMR has proposed to initiate two studies on the anti-diabetic properties of camel milk. These studies are entitled "Hypoglycemic/Insulin like activity in camel milk:quantification of the effect in animal models of diabetes/Insulin resistance" and "Effect of Camel Milk on Glucose Metabolism in Adults with Normal Glucose Tolerance and Type 2 Diabetes in Raica Community: a cross over study". The studies have not yet been started and are planned to begin in 2005 and likely to be completed in 2 years time after commencement of the study.

**Policy Formulated for Medicinal Plants**

5953. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the policy formulated for medicinal plants by the Medicinal Plants Board;

(b) the names of the States/UTs in which Medicinal Plants Boards have been set up so far;

(c) whether the Medicinal Plants Board has sanctioned various projects during each of the last three years;

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

(e) the details of the export promotion Zones established by the Board in various parts of the country; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to bring awareness among the people of the areas where such plants are cultivated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Medicinal Plants Board has formulated and implemented Promotional, Commercial and Contractual Farming Schemes under which financial assistance is provided for various activities such as in-situ/ex-situ conservation, cost effective cultivation, research and development, value addition, processing, creation of awareness etc. for medicinal plants.

(b) 32 State Medicinal Plants Boards have been set up in following States/UTs:

Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh, Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Pondicherry, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(c) and (d) The Medicinal Plants Board has sanctioned projects under Promotional and Contractual Farming Schemes during the last 3 years as under:

| Year | Promotional Scheme | Commercial/ Contractual Farming Scheme |
|---|---|---|
| 2002-03 | 101 | 79 |
| 2003-04 | 66 | 687 |
| 2004-05 | 183 | 1258 |

(e) Nil.

(f) Schemes/programmes of Medicinal Plants Board are publicised through State Medicinal Plants Boards, Website and media. Proposal have also been sanctioned under scheme of Board for creation of awareness.

**Thalassaemia Patients**

5954. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

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

(a) whether the number of Thalassaemia patients is growing day by day;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years till date, State-wise;

(c) whether neither the requisite blood units nor are the medicines available in sufficient quantity; and

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

(e) the measures being 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) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has informed that with the increase in awareness and screening programmes being undertaken in different States, more cases of Thalassaemia are being detected. It is estimated by ICMR that presently there are 250 lakh carriers of this disease in the country and approximately 10000 children with Thalassaemia Major are born every year.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) According to ICMR, the mainstay of treatment of Thalassaemia is blood transfusion. Sufficient blood is available in blood banks of various hospitals for this purpose. Thalassaemics struggle because of complications resulting from the iron overload caused by repeated blood transfusion and not due non-availability of flood.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

**Road Projects In TN**

5955. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Expressways, State Highways and National Highways in Tamil Nadu, district-wise;

(b) the present status and the number of road projects taken up during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has received any specific demand for road projects in Dindigul and Erode districts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways in the country. State Highways are within the purview of the respective State Governments. A list showing 24 number of National Highways, district-wise, in the State of Tamil Nadu is given in enclosed Statement-I. There is no Expressway in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(b) During the last three years, 286 projects were under implementation on the National Highways in Tamil Nadu. Out of these, 183 have been completed.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has received a list of 10 proposals as given in enclosed Statement-I for development of National Highways in Dindigul and Erode districts of Tamil Nadu for inclusion in the Annual Plan 2005-06.

***Statement I***

| Sl.No. | Name of District | National Highways passing through the District |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Chennai | 4, 5, 45, & 205 (4 Nos.) |
| 2. | Coimbatore | 47, 67, 209, 67 Extn. (4 Nos.) |
| 3. | Cuddalore | 45A, 45 (2 Nos.) |
| 4. | Dharmapuri | 7 (1 No.) |
| 5. | Dindigul | 45, 209, 7, 45 (3 Nos.) |
| 6. | Erode | 47, 67, 209 (3 Nos.) |
| 7. | Kancheepuram | 4, 45 (2 Nos.) |
| 8. | Kanniyakumari | 47, 7, 57B (3 Nos.) |
| 9. | Karur | 7, 67 (2 Nos.) |
| 10. | Krishinagiri | 46, 7, 219, 66 (4 Nos.) |
| 11. | Madurai | 45, 45B, 7, 49, 208 (5 Nos.) |
| 12. | Nagapattinam | 67, 45A (2 Nos.) |
| 13. | Namakkal | 7, 47 (2 Nos.) |
| 14. | Nilgiris | (0 No.) |
| 15. | Perambalur | 45 (1 No.) |
| 16. | Pudukkottai | 45B, 210 (2 Nos.) |
| 17. | Ramanathapuram | 49210 (2 Nos.) |
| 18. | Salem | 47, 7, 67 (3 Nos.) |
| 19. | Sivagangai | 49210 (2 Nos.) |
| 20. | Thanjavur | 45C, 67 (2 Nos.) |
| 21. | Theni | 49 (1 No.) |
| 22. | Thiruvannamalai | 66 (1 No.) |
| 23. | Thiruvarur | 67 (1 No.) |
| 24. | Thoothukudi | 7A, 7, 45B (3 Nos.) |
| 25. | Tirunelveli | 7, 208, 7A, 47B (4 Nos.) |
| 26. | Tiruvallur | 5, 4, 205 (3 Nos.) |
| 27. | Trichy | 45, 45B, 210, 67 (4 Nos.) |
| 28. | Vellore | 4, 46, 205 (3 Nos.) |
| 29. | Villupuram | 66, 45, 68, 45A (4 Nos.) |
| 30. | Virdhunagar | 7, 208, 45B (3 Nos.) |

***Statement II***

| Sl.No. | Name of Road Projects |
|---|---|
| 1. | Reconstruction of minor bridge at km 33/2 of NH 209 including approaches. |
| 2. | Forming bypass to Oddanchatram town in km 23/2 to 31/2 of NH 209. |
| 3. | Land acquisition for the realignment in km 36/8 to 39/0 of NH 209 (Chatrapatty bypass). |
| 4. | Strengthening of NH 209 in km 198/0-211/0, 219/0-222/0. |
| 5. | Improvement to Riding Quality in km 40/0-73/4 of NH 45 Extn |
| 6. | Improvement to Riding Quality in km 2/75-28/0 of NH 45 Extn |
| 7. | Improvement to Riding Quality in km 325/0-357/0 of NH 45 |
| 8. | Forming pedestrian footpath in km 0/0-52/0 of NH 209 (Dindigul to Palani). |
| 9. | Detailed engineering for Sathyamangalam bypass. |
| 10. | Paved shoulder including providing wearing surface in km 0/0-1/2, 3/6-4/4, 5/8-8/8, 11/0-12/8 & 18/0-19/0 of NH 209. |

**Spread of AIDS**

5956. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a tribe, Dommara, mainly found in Telangana and Karnataka regions are facing extinction due to the spread of AIDS as appeared in The Hindu dated January 14, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to control the spread of AIDS in the said regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No Sir. There is no survey conducted on the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in 'Dommara' community. 'Dommara' is a community notified under BC (A) category by Government of Andhra Pradesh. Some

women in this nomadic community indulge in sex work. But there is no specific data available on HIV prevalence in this community. The study mentioned in the news item by the 'Human Action for Rural Development' (HARD). Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) was done in Ramayampeta town of Medak district on the 'Dommara' community womens' vulnerability and not on HIV prevalence.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Targeted Interventions (TIs) taken by the International HIV/Alliance, as part of Bill & Melinda Gates Avahan programme, cover the 'Dommara' Community of Ramayampet in the Medak district for promotion of sexual health and prevention of STDs and HIV.

Voluntary counseling and training facility has been set up in all district hospitals & in all sub district 100 bedded area hospitals in this region. Prevention of Parent to Child Transmission Centres have also been set up in all district hospitals.

**Construction of Roads through BoT Route**

5957. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the roads proposed to be constructed through BoT route in different States;

(b) whether any such road has been selected for construction in Rajasthan through BoT route in 2005-06; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The National Highways proposed to be upgraded on BoT basis under NHDP Phase II, NHDP Phase III and other than NHDP projects are given in enclosed Statement-I, II and III respectively.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The details are given in the enclosed Statement-IV.

***Statement I***

*BOT Projects proposed to be upgraded under NHDP Phase-II (North South & East West Corridor)*

| Sl.No. | NH Section | NH No. | Length (km) | State |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Assam/WB Border to Gairkatta | 31C | 28 | West Bengal |
| 2. | Assam/WB Border to Gairkatta | 31C | 24 | West Bengal |
| 3. | Assam/WB Border to Gairkatta | 31C | 26 | West Bengal |
| 4. | Gairkatta to Silliguri | 31C | 30 | West Bengal |
| 5. | Gairkatta to Silliguri | 31 & 31C | 21 | West Bengal |
| 6. | Gairkatta to Silliguri | 31C | 20 | West Bengal |
| 7. | Gairkatta to Silliguri | 31 & 31C | 23 | West Bengal |
| 8. | Silliguri to Islampur | 31 | 29 | West Bengal |
| 9. | Gorakhpur Bypass | 28 | 32.4 | Uttar Pradesh |
| 10. | Bara to Orai | 2 & 25 | 62 | Uttar Pradesh |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11. | Pindwara to Palanpur (Rajasthan-42 km & Gujarat-34 km) | 14 | 76 | Rajasthan and Gujarat |
| 12. | Panipat Elevated Highway | 1 | 10 | Haryana |
| 13. | Agra Bypass km 199.8 of NH-2 to km 8.0 of NH-2 | 2 & 3 | 29 | Uttar Pradesh |
| 14. | Gwalior Bypass (Approx length 24 km) & Gwalior-Jhansi | 75 | 119 | Uttar Pradesh/ Madhya Pradesh |
| 15. | Jhansi to Lalitpur | 26 | 92 | Uttar Pradesh |
| 16. | Lakhnadon to MP/MH Border | 7 | 108 | Madhya Pradesh |
| 17. | MP/MH Border to Manasar | 7 | 37 | Maharashtra |
| 18. | Manasar to Nagpur I/C Kamptee Kanoon bypass | 7 | 34 | Maharashtra |
| 19. | Nagpur Bypass | 7 | 30 | Maharashtra |
| 20. | MH/AP border to Armur | 7 | 134 | Andhra Pradesh |
| 21. | Armur to Kalkallu Village | 7 | 138 | Andhra Pradesh |
| 22. | Farukhanagar to Kottakata | 7 | 98.2 | Andhra Pradesh |

***Statement II***

*Stretches proposed to be upgraded under NHDP Phase-III*

| Stretch/ Corridor No. | NH No. | Stretch/Corridor | Length (km) | States involved |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | 1 | Jalandhar-Amritsar | 49 | Punjab |
| 2. | 1A | Srinagar-Baramula-Uri | 101 | J&K |
| 3. | 3 | Guna Bypass | 14 | MP |
| 4. | 3 | Indore-Khalghat-MP/ Maharashtra Border-Dhule | 546 | MP/Maharashtra |
| 5. | 4 | Neelamangala-Bangalore | 105 | Karnataka |
| 6. | 4 | Kalamboli-Mumbra (6 laning) | 20 | Maharashtra |
| 7. | 4A | Balgaum-Panji | 153 | Goa/Karnataka |
| 8. | 6 | Sambalpur-Baragarh-Chhattisgarh/Orissa Border | 88 | Orissa |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9. | 6 | Aurang-Raipur | 45 | Chhattisgarh |
| 10. | 6 | Nagpur-Maharashtra/ Chhattisgarh Border-Durg | 226 | Maharashtra/Chhattisgarh |
| 11. | 6 | Nagpur-Talegaon-Amravati | 148 | Maharashtra |
| 12. | 6 | Gujarat/Maharashtra Border-Surat | 84 | Gujarat |
| 13. | 7 | Bangalore-Hosur | 25 | Karnataka |
| 14. | 8 | Kishangarh-Ajmer-Beawar | 82 | Rajasthan |
| 15. | 8D | Jetpur-Somnath | 127 | Gujarat |
| 16. | 9 | Pune-Sholapur | 170 | Maharashtra |
| 17. | 9 | Hyderabad-Vijayawada-Machhlipatnam | 240.5 | Andhra Pradesh |
| 18. | 10 | Delhi-Hissar | 160 | Delhi/Haryana |
| 19. | 11 | Agra-Bharatpur-Jaipur-Reengus | 282 | UP/Rajasthan |
| 20. | 12 | Bhopal-Deori-Jabalpur | 297 | MP |
| 21. | 12 | Jaipur-Tonk | 86 | Rajasthan |
| 22. | 14 | Beawar-Pali-Pindwara | 246 | Rajasthan |
| 23. | 15 | Amritsar-Pathankot | 101 | Punjab |
| 24. | 17 | Panvel-Indapur | 84 | Maharashtra |
| 25. | 17 | Maharashtra/Goa border-Panaji-Goa/KNT Border | 139 | Goa |
| 26. | 17 | Kundapur-Surathkal | 71 | Goa/Karnataka/Kerala |
| 27. | 17 | Mangalore-Khozikode-Eddapally | 469 | Karnataka/Kerala |
| 28. | 18 | Cuddapah-Mydukur-Kurnool | 192.5 | Andhra Pradesh |
| 29. | 19 & 77 | Patna-Muzzaffarpur-Sonbarsa | 149 | Bihar |
| 30. | 19 & 85 | Gopalganj-Chapra-Hajipur | 153 | Bihar |
| 31. | 21 | Chandigarh-Kiratpur | 73 | Chandigarh/Punjab |
| 32. | 22 | Ambala-Kalka-Shimla | 168 | Haryana/Punjab/Himachal Pradesh |
| 33. | 24 | Muradabad-Sitapur-Lucknow | 322 | UP |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 34. | 28A | Motihari-Raxaul | 67 | Bihar |
| 35. | 30 | Patna-Bakhtiarpur | 53 | Bihar |
| 36. | 31 | Bakhtiarpur-Begusarai-Khagaria-Purnea | 255 | Bihar |
| 37. | 33 | Barhi-Ranchi-Jamshedpur | 265 | Jharkhand |
| 38. | 35 | Barasat-Bangaon | 60 | West Bengal |
| 39. | 36, 39 | Doboka-Dimapur | 124 | Assam, Nagaland |
| 40. | 31, 52 & 52A | Balhata Chariali (on EW corridor)-Itanagar | 345 | Assam/Arunachal Pradesh |
| 41. | 39 | Kohima-Imphal | 140 | Nagaland/Manipur |
| 42. | 43 | Kumud-Dhamtari | 23 | Chhattisgarh |
| 43. | 44, 53 | Shillong-Agartala (excluding Shillong Bypass) | 447 | Meghalaya/Assam/Tripura |
| 44. | 45 | Dindigul-Trichy | 80 | Tamil Nadu |
| 45. | 45B | Madurai-Arupukottai-Tuticorin | 144 | Tamil Nadu |
| 46. | 45 Ex | Dindigul-Perigulam-Theni | 73 | Tamil Nadu |
| 47. | 47 | Cherthalai-Tiruvananthapuram-Kanyakumari | 265 | Kerala/Tamil Nadu |
| 48. | 48 | Neelamangala-Hassan | 154 | Karnataka |
| 49. | 49 | Madurai-Ramnathpuram-Rameshwaram-Dhanuskodi | 186 | Tamil Nadu |
| 50. | 50 | Pune-Khed | 30 | Maharashtra |
| 51. | 54 | Silchar (on E-W corridor)-Aizawl | 190 | Assam/Mizoram |
| 52. | 57A | Forbesganj-Jogwani | 13 | Bihar |
| 53. | 1, 24, 58, 72 | Delhi-Dehradun | 280 | Delhi/UP/Uttaranchal |
| 54. | 59 | Indore-Jhabua-Ahmedabad | 379 | MP/Gujarat |
| 55. | | Krishnagiri-Thiruvannamalai- | 210 | Tamil Nadu/Pondicherry |
| 56. | 67 | Nagapatnam-Thanjarur-Trichy-Karur | 180 | Tamil Nadu |
| 57. | 67 Ex | Coimbatore-Mettupalayam | 45 | Tamil Nadu |
| 58. | 68 | Salem-Ulundrupet | 134 | Tamil Nadu |
| 59. | 69 | Obaidullaganj-Bheembetka | 13 | MP |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 60. | 75 | Jhansi-Khajuraho | 100 | MP |
| 61. | 80 | Mokama-Munger | 70 | Bihar |
| 62. | 84 | Patna-Buxar | 130 | Bihar |
| 63. | 86 (Ext) | Bhopal-Sanchi | 40 | MP |
| 64. | 91 | Ghaziabad-Aligarh | 106 | UP |
| 65. | 200 | Raipur-Simga | 28 | Chhattisgarh |
| 66. | 200 | Chandikhole-Duburi | 39 | Orissa |
| 67. | 202 | Hyderabad-Yadgiri | 30 | Andhra Pradesh |
| 68. | 203 | Bhubaneswar-Puri | 59 | Orissa |
| 69. | 205 | Tirupati-Tirthani-Chennai | 138 | Andhra Pradesh/ Tamil Nadu |
| 70. | 215 | Panikholi-Keonjhar-Roxy | 249 | Orissa |
| 71. | 220 | Theni-Kumili | 57 | Tamil Nadu |
| | | Total | 10417 | |

***Statement III***

*BOT Projects proposed to be upgraded on sections other than NHDP*

| Sl.No. | NH Section | NH No. | Length (km) | State |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Km. 493.00 to km 524.00 of Pune Hyderabad section | 9 | 31 | Andhra Pradesh |
| 2. | Rewa Bypass | 7 | 19.4 | Madhya Pradesh |
| 3. | Shajapur Bypass | 3 | 12 | Madhya Pradesh |

***Statement IV***

*BOT Projects proposed to be upgraded in the State of Rajasthan*

| Sl.No. | NH Section | NH No. | Length (km) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **NHDP Phase II (East-West Corridor)** | | |
| 1. | Pindwara to Palanpur | 14 | 42 |
| | **NHDP Phase III** | | |
| 2. | Jaipur-Reengus | 11 | 54 |
| 3. | Jaipur-Tonk | 12 | 86 |
| 4. | Beawar-Pali-Pindwara | 14 | 246 |
| 5. | Kishangarh-Ajmer-Beawar | 8 | 82 |

**Internet Subscribers**

5958. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

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

(a) the number of internet subscribers in the country, State-wise;

(b) the percentage of population having access to internet, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to reduce the rental/accessibility charges for internet connection;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to promote internet in the Rural Areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) As per Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Act, 1997, tariffs for telecom services are under purview of TRAI. The tariff for Internet services are under forbearance in terms of the provisions of Telecommunication Tariff Order (TTO) '99 and the service providers are at liberty to offer attractive tariffs keeping in view the usage pattern and other requirements of different classes of subscribers.

(e) The steps taken by the Government to promote Internet in rural areas are detailed below:

(i) Any company registered in India under Companies Act 1956 is eligible to apply for the ISP license.

(ii) License fee is waived upto 31.10.2003 and is Rs. 1/- per annum thereafter under ISP license for providing Internet Access and content service and there is no entry fee under the license.

(iii) To promote proliferation of Internet in rural and urban areas, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) provides Internet services on local call basis throughout the country. Additionally, for the Rural Block Headquarters, free Internet Access and a 25% commission on Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) charge for accessing the Internet is provided to the Internet Dhabas (PCOs). Further, BSNL has provided Internet Dial up connections to 4066 Internet Dhabas operated through its franchisees.

(iv) Department of Information Technology (DIT) has also set up 487 Community Information Centres (CICs) in the hilly, far-flung areas of the country for socio-economic developments of these regions. CICs are a citizen's interface for Information Technology (IT) enabled e-government services and are provided with Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) connectivity and computers and peripherals.

*[Translation]*

**Fencing of Highways**

5959. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes fencing on Delhi-Agra and Delhi-Jaipur Highways to avoid the accidents being caused by cattle/animals;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes the similar fencing on other Highways; and

(c) if so, the details of the resource mobilisation for the same?

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. However, warning signs with retro reflective paints at close intervals is being provided in some of the highways, where animals cross.

*[English]*

**Condition of PCOs in Karnataka**

5960. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of public call offices functioning in Karnataka, at present District-wise;

(b) the number out of them lying closed as on date;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of such PCOs are struggling hard for survival due to introduction of new type of multi-media kiosks; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, a total of 2,29,739 Local and STD/ISD public call offices are functioning in Karnataka as on 31.3.2005. District-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Nil, as on PCO which is functioning is closed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of (c) above. However, following steps are taken to improve the earnings of PCO franchisees:

(i) STD/ISD PCO franchisees have been given permission to sell India Telecom Card (ITC) and Postal Items and earn commission.

(ii) Additional STD/ISD/Local PCO line at the same premises is allotted if desired by the franchisee.

(iii) Franchisees are allowed to upgrade their PCOs into IT Kiosks.

***Statement***

*District-wise details of STD/ISD/PCOs functioning is Karnataka*

| Sl.No. | Name of the District | Total number of PCOs (Local and STD/ISD) functioning as on 31.3.2005 |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Bangalore | 1,01,520 |
| 2. | Belgaum | 11,058 |
| 3. | Bellary | 3,864 |
| 4. | Bidar | 2,410 |
| 5. | Bijapur | 7,174 |
| 6. | Chickmaglur | 3,640 |
| 7. | Dakshina Kannada | 17,840 |
| 8. | Davangere | 8,788 |
| 9. | Gulbarga | 7,361 |
| 10. | Hassan | 7,486 |
| 11. | Hubli | 12,604 |
| 12. | Madikeri | 2,330 |
| 13. | Kolar | 3,620 |
| 14. | Mandya | 6,249 |
| 15. | Mysore | 12,780 |
| 16. | Raichur | 3,933 |
| 17. | Shimoga | 7,133 |
| 18. | Tumkur | 5,504 |
| 19. | Uttar Kannada | 4,445 |
| | Total | 2,29,739 |

*[Translation]*

**Anti-India Propaganda by Pak High Commissions**

5961. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan High Commissions situated in other countries are allegedly engaged in anti-India propaganda and providing security to terrorists;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported to the Union Government during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government has taken up or proposes to take up this with the concerned countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the concerned countries thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (e) Pakistan is known to carry out anti-India propaganda on various issues, especially on Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan also supports non-Governmental organizations and institutions which conduct seminars, demonstrations, etc. on Jammu and Kashmir, its High Commissions and Embassies in third countries regularly participate in and provide support to such events.

Government have appropriately brought to the attention of the third country, and also taken up the issue directly with Pakistan, whenever instances of dissemination of propagandist and false information by Pakistan have come to its notice.

Our concerns on terrorism have been consistently brought to the attention of Pakistan and the international community. The Government has, in its interaction with Pakistan, continuously emphasized the criticality of the fulfilment of President Musharraf's commitment of January 6, 2004 not to permit any territory under Pakistan's control to be used to support terrorism in any manner.

*[English]*

**Framework Convention on Tobacco Control**

5962. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commonwealth Medical Association has urged health ministers of the Commonwealth Countries to vote for full implementation of the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Globally;

(b) if so, whether the World Health Organization has adopted a sweeping anti-tobacco treaty in unprecedented global push to regulate a product that kills one in two of its regular users;

(c) whether India has decided to implement it; and

(d) if so, the steps being considered by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Framework Convention for Tobacco Control (FCTC) is the first international treaty negotiated under the auspices of the World Health Organisation (WHO), aimed at curbing tobacco-related deaths and disease. The FCTC was unanimously adopted at the 56th World Health Assembly on 21st May 2003. India is a signatory to this Convention and has already translated important provisions of FCTC into its domestic law by regulating "The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003" in May 2003. The legislation include total ban on direct and indirect advertisements of all tobacco products; prohibition on sponsorship of sports and cultural events which encourage tobacco use; ban on smoking in public places; ban on sale of tobacco products to minors; ban on sale of cigarettes and tobacco products within a radius of 100 yards of educational institutions; mandatory pictorial depiction of warnings like skull and cross bones and such others for the benefit of illiterate persons; provision of specified health warnings and clear indication of nicotine and tar contents on packets and cartons of all tobacco products. Some of the provisions of the Act like ban on direct and indirect advertisement of all Tobacco products, in any form, ban on smoking in public place, ban on sale of tobacco products to minors and sale within a radius of 100 yards of Educational Institutions have already been implemented.

*[Translation]*

**Rural Employment Generation Programme**

5963. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) till date;

(b) whether the Government has estimated the total number of employment given to unemployed during the last two years;

(c) if so, the number of projects funded by the Government during the year 2004-05 under the REGP;

(d) the total percentage of SCs/STs/OBCs benefited by the said projects; and

(e) their total percentage share in employment under the REGP?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The Government has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), a credit-linked subsidy programme, through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) to create employment opportunities in rural areas and small towns with population up to 20,000. The steps initiated by the Government through the KVIC for better performance under the REGP include authorization of banks to take credit decision in order to ensure hassle free credit flow, communication of State-wise targets under the REGP well in advance, earmarking of funds for backward-forward linkages, viz., conducting Entrepreneur ship Development Programmes (EDPs), exhibitions, workshops, awareness camps, etc. In addition, the KVIC has opened 49 Rural Industries Consultancy Service (RICS) Cells to guide the entrepreneurs in setting up village industry units under the REGP.

(b) Under REGP, 3.61 lakh and 4.71 lakh employment opportunities have been created during 2002-03 and 2003-04, respectively.

(c) to (e) The final figures of category-wise number of units set up and employment generated under the REGP during 2004-05 are not yet available.

*[English]*

**Packed Drinking Water/Mineral Water**

5964. SHRI K.J.S.P. REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the water supply by the Delhi Municipal Corporation meets the B.I.S. specifications for packaged drinking water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the PFA has made rules for packaged drinking water;

(e) if so, the details of the Codex Standards for packaged drinking water;

(f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the observance of these standards in the water supplied by the Delhi Municipal Corporation;

(g) whether packaged drinking water differs from natural mineral water; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The definition of 'food' under PFA Act, 1954 excludes 'water'. Hence the water supplied through pipelines by Delhi Jal Board does not come under the purview of PFA Act, 1954.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No packaged water shall contain substances or emit radioactivity in quantities that may be injurious to health. To this effect, all packaged water shall comply with the health-related requirements of the most recent '*Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality*' published by the World Health Organization.

(f) The definition of 'food' under PFA Act, 1954 excludes 'water'. Hence the water supplied through pipelines by Delhi Jal Board does not come under the purview of PFA Act, 1954.

(g) and (h) The standards for packaged drinking water and mineral water have been laid down under PFA Rules, 1955.

Packaged drinking water means water derived from any source of potable water which is subjected to treatments. Mineral water is obtained directly from natural or drilled sources from underground water bearing strata and not form public water supply. It is not subjected to any treatment other than filtration and decapitation. It is packed close to the point of emergence of the source with particular hygienic precaution.

**Second Phase of Reproductive and Child Health Care Programme**

5965. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to launch second phase of the Reproductive and Child Health Care programme in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the investment proposed to be made in the said programme;

(d) whether the Union Government has reviewed the performance of the first phase;

(e) if so, the shortcomings noticed therein; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to rectify these shortcomings?

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

(b) The Reproductive and Child Health Programme Phase II has been launched with effect from 01.04.2005 for the period of five years. The program intend to improve the performance of the Family Welfare Programme in reducing Maternal and Infant Morbidity and Mortality and unwanted pregnancies, leading to stabilization of Population Growth. The program has been re-oriented and revitalized to give it a pro outcome and pro-poor focus. The Program is envisaged as an umbrella program by integrating all the related and interlinked stand alone schemes into a single composite program. This is to adopt a sector wide approach in family welfare sector. The program includes procurement of drugs and equipments, vaccines for routine immunization, Oral Polio Vaccine for Pulse Polio Immunisation, Information Education Communication and Behavioral Change Communication, Non-Government Organisation etc. The program is needed to adopt a decentralized process by inviting each State/ Union Territory to prepare their own Programme Implementation Plan based upon a situational analysis of ground realities and requirement. The States will be further encouraged to evolve district plans with the clear objective of each district having its own plan as per schedule to be laid down by the States/Union Territories themselves. The above feature will place the onus of the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation more squarely on the States than even before. The program pays more attention towards result orientation by requesting States/ Union Territories to prepare logical framework, which will ensure that for each program intervention there is an outcome as well as objectively verifiable indicator. The program recognizes the partnership of public and private stakeholder and accordingly involves both profit and non-profit private sector participants. This is to extend the reach and quality of the family welfare services.

(c) The financing plan/investment proposed to be made in the program is presented in the table below:

| Source of Financing | Rs. in Crores |
|---|---|
| Government of India | 31,732 |
| Donor Partners | 8,268 |
| Total | 40,000 |

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The shortcoming or the lessons learnt from the implementation of Reproductive and Child Health Programme Phase-I are as follows:

(i) Absence of State ownership and with no space for the district due to their limited involvement in the formulation of the program.

(ii) Presence of Multiple vertical schemes.

(iii) Weak managerial and technical capacities at different levels hampering program performance.

(iv) A State alone program without intra and inter sector convergence.

(v) Absence of private sector participation.

(vi) Perceived poor quality of services at Public Health facilities causing under utilisation.

(vii) Poor financial management systems, delayed fund flows and reporting of fund utilisation.

(viii) Program without well defined outcome indicators leading to poor monitoring.

(ix) Almost exclusive focus on the supply side strategies.

(x) A top down centrally designed program, not necessarily need based.

(f) The Government has kept the lessons learnt from the Reproductive and Child Health Programme Phase I to designing the Phase II of the programme. The details of the steps are explained in Answer (b) above.

**Life Style Related Diseases**

5966. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether life style related diseases are on the rise which are affecting most people of the country;

(b) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Diabetes is one such disease playing havoc with the public life; and

(e) if so, the plan of action proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), there is a rise in lifestyle related diseases in the country. However, there is no authentic data regarding time trends for non-communicable diseases.

Various reports estimate that 10-15% of adults suffer from hypertension, approximately eight lakhs people die from coronary heart disease and more than six lakhs people die from stroke. There are 20 to 25 lakhs cancer cases in the country at any given point of time and approximately an incidence of 7-9 lakhs new cases every year. The World Bank sponsored study on global burden of diseases indicates that the deaths due to non-communicable diseases have increased from 40.4% of total deaths in 1990 to 51.2% in 2000.

It is estimated that there are currently 32 million people with diabetes in India and this number is projected to go up to 80 million in the year 2030.

A Working group on Non-Communicable Diseases strategies for 10th Plan proposed a National Programme for Cardio Vascular Diseases (CVD) Diabetes and Stroke which could not be taken up. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have now initiated steps to obtain the in principle approval of the Planning Commission in respect of the National Programme for Control to Diabetes and CVD.

**Funds for Regional Cancer Centres**

5967. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL; Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides funds to the Regional Cancer Centres for diagnosis, treatment and follow up of cancer patients under the National Cancer Control Programme;

(b) if so, the details of the assistance provided to each centres during each of the last three years till date;

(c) the objectives of the National Cancer Control Programme;

(d) the extent to which objectives of the NCCP have been achieved by such centres; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to combat cancer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Earlier an amount of Rs. 75.00 lakhs per annum used to be released to the recognized Regional Cancer Centres for purchase of equipments and to carry out the research activities in the field of cancer. As per the revised guidelines of National Cancer Control Programme, a one time assistance up to Rs. 3.00 crore is provided to the Regional Cancer Centre (RCC) for strengthening of infrastructure and procurement of equipment. The details of the grant-in-aid released to the various RCCs during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) National Cancer Control Programme was started in 1975-76. Its Goals & Objectives are:-

1. Primary prevention of cancers by health education regarding hazards of tobacco consumption and necessity of genital hygiene for prevention of cervical cancer.
2. Secondary prevention by early detection and diagnosis of cancers.
3. Strengthening of existing cancer treatment facilities.
4. Palliative care in terminal stage cancer.

(d) The National Institute of Health & Family Welfare, New Delhi who evaluated the NCCP in 2002 has concluded that the Regional Cancer Centres are providing comprehensive cancer prevention and treatment activities in their respective regions. These centres have proved to be successful model in achieving the objectives of NCCP.

(a) Under the schemes of National Cancer Control Programme special emphasis is now being laid on early detection of Cancer through screening, promoting health education, creating awareness etc. under District Cancer Control Programme. Further the Central Govt. is also supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial assistance for setting up of Radiotherapy Units in Govt. Medical Colleges/Hospitals for providing treatment facilities.

***Statement***

*Financial Assistance to Regional Cancer Centres*

| Sl.No. | Name of the Institution | Funds released (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | **2002-2003** | |
| 1. | Gujarat Cancer Res. Instt., Ahmedabad | 75.00 |
| 2. | Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram | 75.00 |
| 3. | Cancer Institute, Chennai | 75.00 |
| 4. | Kidwai Men. Instt. of Oncology, Bangalore | 75.00 |
| 5. | Acharya Harihar Res. & Treatment Society, Cuttack | 75.00 |
| 6. | RST Cancer Hospital, Nagpur | 75.00 |
| 7. | IGIMS, Patna | 75.00 |
| 8. | Cancer Hospital Research Institute, Gwalior | 75.00 |
| 9. | Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital, Allahabad | 75.00 |
| 10. | PGIMS, Rohtak | Nil |
| 11. | Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla | Nil |
| 12. | MNJ Institute of Oncology, Hyderabad | 75.00 |
| 13. | Acharya Tulsi RCC, Bikaner | 75.00 |
| 14. | RCC, Pondicherry, (JIPMER) | 75.00 |
| 15. | Pt. JNM Medical College & Hospital (RCC) Chhattisgarh | 35.00 |
| 16. | RCC, Aizawal (NER) | 75.00 |
| | **2003-2004** | |
| 1. | Gujarat Cancer Res. Instt. Ahmedabad | 75.00 |
| 2. | Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapuram | 75.00 |
| 3. | Cancer Institute, Chennai | 75.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 4. | Kidwai Mem. Instt. of Oncology, Bangalore | 75.00 |
| 5. | RST Cancer Hospital, Nagpur | 75.00 |
| 6. | Cancer Hospital Research Institute, Gwalior | 75.00 |
| 7. | Kamala Nehru Memorial Hospital, Allahabad | 75.00 |
| 8. | PGIMS, Rohtak | 75.00 |
| 9. | Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla | 75.00 |
| 10. | MNJ Institute of Oncology, Hyderabad | 75.00 |
| 11. | Acharya Tulsi RCC, Bikaner | 75.00 |
| 12. | RCC, Pondicherry, (JIPMER) | 75.00 |
| 13. | Pt. JNM Medical College & Hospital (RCC) Chhattisgarh | 75.00 |
| 14. | RCC, Aizawal (NER) | 72.88 |
| | **2004-2005** | |
| 1. | RCC Trivandrum | 300.00 |
| 2. | RCC Bangalore | 300.00 |
| 3. | RCC Ahmedabad | 300.00 |
| 4. | RCC Chennai | 300.00 |
| 5. | RCC Guwahati | 284.00 |
| 6. | RCC Allahabad | 300.00 |
| 7. | RCC Pondicherry | 300.00 |
| 8. | RCC Bikaner | 300.00 |
| 9. | RCC Gwalior | 300.00 |

**CVC Lists of Tainted Officers**

5968. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CVC (Central Vigilance Commission) has posted a list of tainted officers on its website recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Ministries/Department-wise;

(c) whether the concerned Ministries/Departments have not accorded sanction for prosecution despite clear directions from the Supreme Court in this regard;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken against the officials responsible for holding/delaying permission for sanction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS

AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) The Central Vigilance Commission does not maintain any list of tainted officers. Therefore, the question of putting up of such a list on the website does not arise.

(c) to (e) In its periodic review meeting, the Commission monitors the prosecution cases where the sanction for prosecution are not accorded by the concerned Ministries/Department within the stipulated time limit and advise appropriate course of action.

**Prices of Khadi Products**

5969. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the prices of Khadi products are very high; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make the Khadi products available to common man at affordable price?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The cost of khadi products may not be termed as very high as the price of khadi products are worked out based on a cost chart system after taking into consideration all the inputs that go into the making of khadi products. A major part of the cost of khadi products is attributable to the wages of spinners and weavers. As such, the cost of kahdi products cannot be further reduced without adversely affecting the wages or other input costs. Considering the nature of khadi activity, which is quite distinct from other textiles, its price cannot be compared with that of the latter.

(b) KVIC has taken various measures for making available khadi products at affordable prices to the customers. It provides rebate on sales, throughout the year at the rate of 10 per cent and additional rebate of 10 per cent for 108 days in each year. Six sliver plants have been established in different parts of the country in order to provide quality raw material to the khadi institutions. Slivers are provided to the khadi institutions on soft terms and conditions by taking only 10 per cent of the cost at the time of placing the order and adjusting the remaining amount out of the rebate payment due to these institutions. KVIC also has a tie-up with the Textiles Committee, a statutory autonomous body set up by the Ministry of Textiles under the Textiles Committee Act, 1963 to make use of their laboratory facilities for testing the khadi samples, which, in turn, ensures the availability of quality products to customers at a reasonable price. The Product Development Design Intervention and Packaging (PRODIP) scheme has been launched by KVIC for improved designs, thereby enhancing productivity of the institutions. This, in turn, reduces the cost of the khadi products, making them available to the common man at affordable prices.

*[Translation]*

**Setting up of New Postal Circles and Divisions**

5970. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the places in which new postal circles and divisions were set up during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government is considering to set up new postal circles and postal divisions especially in Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) During the last three years, no Postal Circle was set up. However, two Postal Divisions *i.e.* Nawada in Bihar and Parbhani in Maharashtra were created in 2002.

(b) No, Sir.

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

*[English]*

**Improving Health Status in Tenth Plan**

5971. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

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

(a) whether the various social development programmes during the Tenth Five Year Plan have laid

their main thrust on the improvement of the general health of the population of the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to achieve the goal;

(c) the Central assistance provided by the Government to each State to improve the access to health services of deprived section of the society during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government has received any request from the Government of Maharashtra to increase the financial assistance; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Improvement in the health status of the population has been one of the major thrust areas in social development programmes of the country. A number of steps have been taken for improving the general health of the population. A vast network of infrastructure and manpower at primary, secondary and tertiary level has already been established in the country to provide quality health care services especially the poor and undeserved areas. 142644 Sub-Centres, 23109 Primary Health Centres and 3222 Community Health Centres have been established as on September, 2004. Health infrastructure is being upgraded under the State Health System Projects, which are being implemented in selected States with World Bank assistance.

(c) Besides providing for health infrastructure, Government is implementing various national health programmes in respect of communicable and non-communicable diseases like TB, AIDS, Malaria, Leprosy and Blindness for improving access to health services and promoting amongst the population. A statement showing allocations/releases during the last three years is enclosed.

(d) to (e) As per available information, no such proposal has been received from Government of Maharashtra.

***Statement***

*State-wise Allocations/Releases of major diseases control programmes during the last three years*

*National Anti Malaria Programme*

(Rs. in Lakh)

| Sl. No. | States/UTs | 2001-02 Allo./Rel. | 2002-03 Allo./Rel. | 2003-04 Allo./Rel. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 226.84 | 217.85 | 236.75 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 794.77 | 529.21 | 382.53 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 486.93 | 280.72 | 316.17 |
| 4. | Assam | 1983.27 | 1626.56 | 2068.28 |
| 5. | Bihar | 377.44 | 77.71 | 100.62 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 41.06 | 36.00 | 34.25 |
| 7. | Chhattisgarh | 826.39 | 2460.92 | 1641.41 |
| 8. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 40.67 | 34.33 | 41.27 |
| 9. | Daman and Diu | 16.08 | 11.72 | 15.15 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10. | Delhi | 97.57 | 97.39 | 105.24 |
| 11. | Goa | 6.08 | 8.85 | 9.60 |
| 12. | Gujarat | 1330.96 | 754.40 | 410.47 |
| 13. | Haryana | 18.43 | 72.30 | 79.00 |
| 14. | Himachal Pradesh | 2.20 | 3.06 | 3.47 |
| 15. | Jammu and Kashmir | 22.96 | 11.94 | 42.31 |
| 16. | Jharkhand | 759.92 | 1159.64 | 727.57 |
| 17. | Karnataka | 308.24 | 176.28 | 258.01 |
| 18. | Kerala | 64.22 | 12.63 | 20.73 |
| 19. | Lakshadweep | 6.35 | 6.10 | 6.47 |
| 20. | Madhya Pradesh | 2238.77 | 2063.15 | 961.59 |
| 21. | Maharashtra | 2239.20 | 976.91 | 454.07 |
| 22. | Manipur | 358.91 | 121.36 | 106.63 |
| 23. | Meghalaya | 384.02 | 167.63 | 263.66 |
| 24. | Mizoram | 433.94 | 118.51 | 165.32 |
| 25. | Nagaland | 346.91 | 212.48 | 292.77 |
| 26. | Orissa | 1478.23 | 1953.62 | 1953.85 |
| 27. | Pondicherry | 13.43 | 22.61 | 22.12 |
| 28. | Punjab | 49.38 | 70.79 | 66.15 |
| 29. | Rajasthan | 534.04 | 303.37 | 1379.07 |
| 30. | Sikkim | 0.11 | 4.37 | 3.30 |
| 31. | Tamil Nadu | 303.11 | 242.30 | 207.85 |
| 32. | Tripura | 542.45 | 302.79 | 390.70 |
| 33. | Uttar Pradesh | 548.62 | 200.48 | 516.33 |
| 34. | Uttaranchal | 23.64 | 7.84 | 5.07 |
| 35. | West Bengal | 589.86 | 198.67 | 295.05 |
| | Total | 17495.00 | 14544.49 | 13582.83 |

*National Programme for Control of Blindness*

(Rs. in Lakh)

| Sl.No. | States/UTs | 2001-02 Allo./Rel. | 2002-03 Allo./Rel. | 2003-04 Allo./Rel. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 16.80 | 1.59 | 7.30 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 1063.81 | 834.82 | 450.43 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 43.81 | 16.22 | 36.04 |
| 4. | Assam | 62.67 | 35.70 | 100.09 |
| 5. | Bihar | 72.50 | 157.97 | 258.00 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 20.15 | 10.07 | 19.58 |
| 7. | Chhattisgarh | 302.74 | 165.23 | 186.59 |
| 8. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 16.92 | 4.16 | 7.87 |
| 9. | Daman and Diu | 12.86 | 4.97 | 5.71 |
| 10. | Delhi | 22.15 | 22.30 | 48.86 |
| 11. | Goa | 33.95 | 10.52 | 28.09 |
| 12. | Gujarat | 245.85 | 231.45 | 377.45 |
| 13. | Haryana | 104.63 | 45.36 | 147.09 |
| 14. | Himachal Pradesh | 64.03 | 54.11 | 98.22 |
| 15. | Jammu and Kashmir | 110.04 | 66.79 | 94.50 |
| 16. | Jharkhand | 29.30 | 118.57 | 161.29 |
| 17. | Karnataka | 454.43 | 368.30 | 651.75 |
| 18. | Kerala | 184.85 | 153.22 | 253.61 |
| 19. | Lakshadweep | 5.02 | 1.56 | 6.04 |
| 20. | Madhya Pradesh | 908.02 | 667.29 | 457.16 |
| 21. | Maharashtra | 1251.09 | 627.15 | 523.93 |
| 22. | Manipur | 50.73 | 20.13 | 27.84 |
| 23. | Meghalaya | 78.28 | 25.12 | 33.39 |
| 24. | Mizoram | 35.56 | 31.72 | 25.13 |
| 25. | Nagaland | 51.10 | 23.22 | 15.18 |
| 26. | Orissa | 468.34 | 324.80 | 302.18 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 27. | Pondicherry | 15.50 | 2.04 | 13.10 |
| 28. | Punjab | 65.05 | 189.25 | 136.55 |
| 29. | Rajasthan | 1128.85 | 526.93 | 328.01 |
| 30. | Sikkim | 6.61 | 20.56 | 23.36 |
| 31. | Tamil Nadu | 1972.99 | 1653.03 | 1495.29 |
| 32. | Tripura | 397.74 | 39.88 | 52.71 |
| 33. | Uttar Pradesh | 2166.92 | 1063.20 | 1001.44 |
| 34. | Uttaranchal | 175.03 | 115.02 | 138.63 |
| 35. | West Bengal | 180.76 | 305.12 | 385.99 |
| | Total | 11819.09 | 7937.37 | 7899.21 |

*National Tuberculosis Control Programme*

(Rs. in Lakh)

| Sl.No. | States/UTs | 2001-02 Allo./Rel. | 2002-03 Allo./Rel. | 2003-04 Allo./Rel. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 1200.00 | 2.23 | 1.84 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 1.53 | 1050.00 | 600.00 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 119.42 | 15.00 | 30.19 |
| 4. | Assam | 212.38 | 391.77 | 411.91 |
| 5. | Bihar | 700.05 | 697.27 | 608.38 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 12.84 | 9.54 | 9.00 |
| 7. | Chhattisgarh | 36.54 | 183.56 | 333.00 |
| 8. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 0.04 | 1.48 | 1.23 |
| 9. | Daman and Diu | 0.88 | 1.48 | 1.23 |
| 10. | Delhi | 228.75 | 146.24 | 138.06 |
| 11. | Goa | 15.55 | 13.78 | 13.00 |
| 12. | Gujarat | 810.07 | 536.22 | 506.26 |
| 13. | Haryana | 195.23 | 179.75 | 619.00 |
| 14. | Himachal Pradesh | 183.57 | 64.64 | 61.03 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 15. | Jammu and Kashmir | 73.42 | 95.28 | 86.71 |
| 16. | Jharkhand | 55.13 | 233.91 | 431.00 |
| 17. | Karnataka | 632.73 | 534.01 | 497.42 |
| 18. | Kerala | 687.23 | 337.00 | 318.17 |
| 19. | Lakshadweep | 3.28 | 1.06 | 1.00 |
| 20. | Madhya Pradesh | 658.38 | 592.09 | 545.77 |
| 21. | Maharashtra | 1683.61 | 1025.81 | 968.53 |
| 22. | Manipur | 100.47 | 30.77 | 65.88 |
| 23. | Meghalaya | 19.59 | 31.74 | 45.92 |
| 24. | Mizoram | 14.17 | 11.82 | 22.56 |
| 25. | Nagaland | 99.36 | 25.64 | 54.90 |
| 26. | Orissa | 600.00 | 450.00 | 515.00 |
| 27. | Pondicherry | 11.67 | 9.96 | 9.23 |
| 28. | Punjab | 281.74 | 227.65 | 206.68 |
| 29. | Rajasthan | 1072.53 | 598.74 | 565.31 |
| 30. | Sikkim | 31.82 | 6.41 | 13.72 |
| 31. | Tamil Nadu | 999.81 | 658.09 | 621.34 |
| 32. | Tripura | 30.52 | 33.57 | 68.49 |
| 33. | Uttar Pradesh | 1402.20 | 1586.38 | 1449.76 |
| 34. | Uttaranchal | 15.56 | 67.21 | 136.00 |
| 35. | West Bengal | 1109.92 | 849.90 | 802.44 |
| | Total | 13299.99 | 10700.00 | 10760.00 |

*National AIDS Control Programme*

(Rs. in Lakh)

| Sl.No. | States/UTs | 2001-02 Allo./Rel. | 2002-03 Allo./Rel. | 2003-04 Allo./Rel. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 95.5 | 89.50 | 100.00 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 18.75 | 2080.00 | 2175.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 214.88 | 130.50 | 150.00 |
| 4. | Assam | 653.8 | 614.50 | 475.00 |
| 5. | Bihar | 809.5 | 600.50 | 700.00 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 152.65 | 156.50 | 225.00 |
| 7. | Chhattisgarh | 129.5 | 243.50 | 250.00 |
| 8. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 26 | 17.00 | 67.00 |
| 9. | Daman and Diu | 31 | 36.00 | 100.00 |
| 10. | Delhi | 334 | 451.00 | 500.00 |
| 11. | Goa | 99 | 170.50 | 200.00 |
| 12. | Gujarat | 1188.3 | 1295.19 | 1477.62 |
| 13. | Haryana | 266 | 315.00 | 300.00 |
| 14. | Himachal Pradesh | 308.5 | 256.50 | 270.00 |
| 15. | Jammu and Kashmir | 244.5 | 295.50 | 150.00 |
| 16. | Jharkhand | 156 | 193.00 | 200.00 |
| 17. | Karnataka | 893.15 | 1025.00 | 1100.00 |
| 18. | Kerala | 835 | 855.00 | 850.00 |
| 19. | Lakshadweep | 29.5 | 25.50 | 50.00 |
| 20. | Madhya Pradesh | 780.5 | 521.50 | 490.00 |
| 21. | Maharashtra | 1598.65 | 2293.50 | 2120.00 |
| 22. | Manipur | 706.15 | 787.50 | 1100.00 |
| 23. | Meghalaya | 224.93 | 90.50 | 50.00 |
| 24. | Mizoram | 246.7 | 311.50 | 450.00 |
| 25. | Nagaland | 635.5 | 626.50 | 675.00 |
| 26. | Orissa | 565 | 448.00 | 500.00 |
| 27. | Pondicherry | 54 | 74.00 | 100.00 |
| 28. | Punjab | 266.5 | 403.50 | 250.00 |
| 29. | Rajasthan | 409.5 | 368.50 | 250.00 |
| 30. | Sikkim | 120.02 | 64.00 | 75.00 |
| 31. | Tamil Nadu | 2072.32 | 2221.95 | 2588.38 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 32. | Tripura | 196.67 | 71.00 | 75.00 |
| 33. | Uttar Pradesh | 1465.65 | 1674.50 | 700.00 |
| 34. | Uttaranchal | 98 | 162.00 | 200.00 |
| 35. | West Bengal | 1059.5 | 1503.50 | 1200.00 |
| | Total | 18843.37 | 20482.14 | 20163.00 |

*National Leprosy Eradication Programme*

(Rs. in Lakh)

| Sl.No. | States/UTs | 2001-02 Allo./Rel. | 2002-03 Allo./Rel. | 2003-04 Allo./Rel. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andaman and Nicobar Islands | 18.3 | 20.22 | 0.50 |
| 2. | Andhra Pradesh | 223.83 | 179.22 | 174.80 |
| 3. | Arunachal Pradesh | 62.09 | 115.96 | 72.75 |
| 4. | Assam | 153.85 | 97.48 | 93.28 |
| 5. | Bihar | 663.94 | 855.85 | 413.77 |
| 6. | Chandigarh | 5.5 | 10.13 | 10.50 |
| 7. | Chhattisgarh | 378.34 | 354.41 | 305.60 |
| 8. | Dadra and Nagar Haveli | 6 | 6.00 | 6.00 |
| 9. | Daman and Diu | 18.4 | 14.50 | 9.50 |
| 10. | Delhi | 48.36 | 93.42 | 100.50 |
| 11. | Goa | 11.52 | 8.10 | 7.53 |
| 12. | Gujarat | 61.97 | 99.65 | 88.21 |
| 13. | Haryana | 61.94 | 43.89 | 2.16 |
| 14. | Himachal Pradesh | 49.69 | 30.45 | 36.15 |
| 15. | Jammu and Kashmir | 100.55 | 96.39 | 21.90 |
| 16. | Jharkhand | 356.23 | 257.46 | 147.60 |
| 17. | Karnataka | 196.05 | 122.66 | 70.46 |
| 18. | Kerala | 74.61 | 69.36 | 15.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19. | Lakshadweep | 6 | 7.26 | 5.50 |
| 20. | Madhya Pradesh | 395.32 | 676.61 | 225.91 |
| 21. | Maharashtra | 435.99 | 263.14 | 83.01 |
| 22. | Manipur | 71.02 | 101.25 | 65.50 |
| 23. | Meghalaya | 46.94 | 46.24 | 1.99 |
| 24. | Mizoram | 60.51 | 76.50 | 22.50 |
| 25. | Nagaland | 89.22 | 112.44 | 83.00 |
| 26. | Orissa | 540.77 | 478.63 | 403.02 |
| 27. | Pondicherry | 2 | 6.00 | 0.35 |
| 28. | Punjab | 32.3 | 40.27 | 25.19 |
| 29. | Rajasthan | 123.07 | 52.32 | 23.42 |
| 30. | Sikkim | 34.87 | 39.36 | 23.54 |
| 31. | Tamil Nadu | 413.04 | 240.63 | 230.02 |
| 32. | Tripura | 46.47 | 33.60 | 8.50 |
| 33. | Uttar Pradesh | 1282.5 | 1508.04 | 1168.93 |
| 34. | Uttaranchal | 129.01 | 120.01 | 43.78 |
| 35. | West Bengal | 574.66 | 599.55 | 412.47 |
| | Total | 6774.86 | 6877.00 | 4403.04 |

*[Translation]*

**Permanent Membership in G-7 and G-8 Countries**

5972. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRI BALASHEB VIKHE PATIL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India attended the Round Table of G-7 held recently in London;

(b) if so, the details of deliberations held and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the decision taken in the meeting in regard to inclusion of India as permanent member of G-7 and G-8 countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) At the invitation of the Chancellor of Exchequer of the United Kingdom, Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram attended a breakfast meeting with G-7 Finance Ministers on February 5, 2005.

(b) There was no formal agenda. The discussions focused around challenges and opportunities of globalization. Finance Minister briefed others on trends in the Indian economy. The participants expressed views on the rising international oil prices.

(c) The question of inclusion of India as a permanent member of G-7/G-8 has not arisen.

*[English]*

**Universal Service Obligation Fund**

5973. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned by the Union Government from the universal service obligation (USO) fund during the last three years;

(b) the details of the organisations, institutions, to whom the money was provided;

(c) whether the Union Government is satisfied with the achievements made under this fund vis-a-vis the amount spent;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to allow some more organisations, institutions to share the USO Fund; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Rs. 300 crore, Rs. 200 crore and Rs. 1314.58 crore have been allocated for financial years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively.

(b) The details of the organisations, institutions, to whom the money was provided are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Rules, 2004 provide for criteria for selection of Universal Service Providers through a biding process from amongst the eligible operators. The Basic Service Operators, Cellular Mobile Service Providers and Unified access Services Licencees or any other entities as may be specified in this behalf by the Central Government from time to time are eligible to participate in the bidding process.

***Statement***

*The details of the organisations, institutions, to whom the money has been provided from 2002-03 to 2004-05*

| Sl.No. | Name of the Service Provider | Service Area | No. of VPTs installed for the quarter ending 31.12.2004 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Tata Teleservices Ltd. | Andhra Pradesh | 1398 |
| 2. | Reliance Infocom Ltd. | Gujarat | 3599 |
| 3. | Bharti Infotel | Madhya Pradesh | 592 |
| 4. | Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd. | Maharashtra | 2595 |
| 5. | HFCL | Punjab | 55 |
| 6. | Shyam Telelink Ltd., Rajasthan | Rajasthan | 946 |
| | Total | | 9185 |

From 2002-03 to 2004-05, BSNL and the above Service Providers have been disbursed Rs. 1805.94 crore and Rs. 8.64 crore respectively from the Universal Service Obligation Fund.

*[Translation]*

**Ban on Indian Channels in Nepal**

5974. SHRIMATI ANURADHA CHOUDHARY:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nepal has imposed a ban on showing Indian channels;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has taken up this matter with the Nepalese Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof;

(d) the names of channels currently being shown in Nepal; and

(e) the loss incurred by the Union Government due to the ban on these channels in Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) Given the geographical proximity of Nepal, Indian satellite television channels can also be seen in Nepal. However, following the imposition of the emergency in Nepal on February 1, 2005, Nepalese authorities have not allowed Indian satellite news channels to be carried by Nepalese cable operators. *Nepal 1*, a Nepali language news and entertainment channel telecast from India is also not being allowed to be shown. Restrictions in respect of *DD News* have since been lifted.

Government of India has taken up this issue with the Government of Nepal including at the highest level. We have conveyed to His Majesty's Government of Nepal that the continuing restriction on Indian channels is discriminatory and should be lifted immediately.

(e) While the Union Government has not incurred any direct losses, it is possible that revenue earnings of TV channels may have been affected.

**Setting up of Ayurvedic and Dental Hospitals and Colleges**

5975. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has framed any rules pertaining to requirement of land and other infrastructure for opening of Ayurvedic and Dental Hospitals and Colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is enough difference in the land requirement for opening of Ayurvedic and Dental Hospitals and Colleges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) According to the Central Council of Indian Medicine Regulations, 2003, the minimum land required for establishing a new Ayurvedic Medical College with an annual admission of 50 students is 10 acres. The minimum required land is 5 acres for opening a new Dental College as per the Dental Council of India Regulations, 1993.

(c) and (d) The difference in requirement of land for the colleges of Ayurveda and Dentistry attributable to the infrastructural needs of the educational institutions under these systems. An Ayurveda medical college presupposes existence of a herbal garden over an area of at least three acres of land and a pharmacy. These components are not required in respect of a dental college. While a hundred bedded indoor hospital is essential for an Ayurveda College, no such facility is needed for a Dental College.

*[English]*

**Post Offices in Delhi and Osmanabad**

5976. SHRI D.B. PATIL:
SHRIMATI KALPANA RAMESH NARHIRE:

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

(a) the number of small and big post offices functioning in Delhi and Osmanabad district;

(b) the number of postal employees working therein alongwith the number of Post Masters and Deputy Post Masters therein;

(c) since when they are in their current posts; and

(d) the transfer policy adopted by the Government to facilitate rotation in postings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of post offices under various categories in Delhi and Osmanabad district are given below:-

| | Delhi | Osmanabad District |
|---|---|---|
| Head post offices | 12 | 1 |
| Sub post offices | 414 | 29 |
| Gramin Dak Sevak Sub post offices | 19 | — |
| Gamin Dak Sevak branch post offices | 134 | 252 |

(b) and (c) There are 6897 postal employees working in Delhi, which includes 18 Postmasters and 47 Deputy Postmasters. The Postmasters and Deputy Postmasters are all working in their present assignments for less than

four years. There are 121 postal employees working in Osmanabad District, which includes 1 Postmaster and 1 Deputy Postmaster. Both the Postmaster and Deputy Postmaster are working in their posts from 14.4.2005.

(d) Postal employees are generally transferred after completion of four years in an office/post, on annual transfer of the employees, except in the cases of postmen and Group 'D' officials, who are non transferable.

**Amendment of Freedom of Information Act, 2002**

5977. SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is committed to bring about amendment in the Freedom of Information Act, 2002;

(b) if so, whether this proposed amendment to the Act calls for the enforcement of penal measures like imprisonment and fines on Government officials who block information from the public domain;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government also proposes to bring in a legislation titled 'Duty to Publish' Bill;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether the Government has consulted various Ministries/Departments and State Governments in respect of Freedom of Information Act;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

(j) if not, the reasons for delay in obtaining the consultations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (g) With a view to make the Right to Information Act more progressive, participatory and meaningful, Government have decided to repeal 'The Freedom of Information Act, 2002' and enact a new law in its place following which 'The Right to Information Bill, 2004' has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 23rd December, 2004. The Bill contains a penal provision under which a Public Information Officer who has failed to provide information without any reasonable cause within the specified time period, will be liable to punishment. A provision also exists wherein every public authority shall constantly endeavour to take steps to provide as much information *suo moto* to the public at regular intervals through various means of communications so that the public have minimum resort to the use of the contemplated Act to obtain information.

(h) to (j) Government had obtained the views/ comments of various Central Ministries/Departments and the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and these were duly taken into consideration while finalizing the provisions of the 'Freedom of Information Act, 2002'.

*[Translation]*

**Rural Industrial Sector Scheme**

5978. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI TAK LAL MAHTO:
SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

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

(a) the total number of industrial units granted loan during 2004-05 under the Rural Industrial Sector Scheme initiated by the Government, State-wise;

(b) the employment opportunities generated by these units, State-wise;

(c) the percentage share of women entrepreneurs in generating the said employment opportunities;

(d) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding production in these units;

(e) if so, whether the production is meeting the target fixed;

(f) if not, the measures being taken by the Government for boosting production of these units; and

(g) the expenditure likely to be incurred by the Government for the implementation of this scheme during the year 2005-06, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The Government has not initiated any programme in the name of Rural Industrial Sector Scheme.

(b) to (g) In view of reply at (a) above, the question does not arise.

*[English]*

**Promotion of Assistants/Section Officers**

5979. SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a large number of Assistants and Section Officers of Central Secretariat Service were appointed by promotion as Section Officer and Under Secretary respectively on ad-hoc basis for indefinite period instead of regular promotion consequent upon cadre re-structure of Central Secretariat Service due to the administrative reasons;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether promoted Section Officers and Under Secretaries belonging to SC/ST category are senior to the last candidate belonging to general category promoted in the grade of Section Officer and Under Secretary;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government proposes to follow the guidelines issued on 11.7.2002 to adjust SC/ST candidates appointed by promotion on their own merit without any relaxation against unreserved point of roster in these promotions;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) Consequent upon Government's decisions on Cadre Restructuring of Central Secretariat Service (CSS) in October, 2003, a number of cadre posts of various grades of CSS became available. In order to meet the immediate aspirations of the CSS personnel, *ad hoc* arrangements have been made as a stop-gap measure in various grades of CSS. These *ad hoc* appointments may continue only till regular candidates are appointed in accordance with the provisions of Statutory CSS Rules and the extant Government instructions.

(c) to (e) In the Department of Personnel & Training (DOP&T)'s O.M. dated 17.2.2005 relating to promotion of Assistants to the Section Officer's Grade, the last candidate belonging to General category is senior to the last candidate belonging to SC as well as ST categories. Similarly, in the DOP&T's order dated 15.2.2005 relating to promotion of Section Officers to Grade-I (Under Secretary), the last Section Officer of General category is senior to the last Section Officer of SC as well as ST categories. These promotions have been made on *ad hoc* basis.

(f) to (h) The instructions contained in DOP&T's O.M. dated 11.07.2002, as clarified vide O.M. dated 31.1.2005, are followed for providing reservation to SC/ST candidates in the matter of merit-based promotion. These instructions are not applicable in case of *ad hoc* promotions, which are made on the basis of seniority-cum-fitness.

**Demand and Supply of Coal**

5980. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the demand and supply of coal during the last three years company-wise;

(b) the action plan being contemplated to increase the coal production to meet the demand;

(c) the projected role of the private sector/MNC in meeting the demand;

(d) whether the Government proposes to import coal and provide it to industries which are not getting coal on subsidised rates;

(e) if so, the details thereof including the names of the countries for import of coal; and

(f) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) The demand of coal is assessed by Planning Commission based on the demand of various consuming sectors for whole country *i.e.* sector-wise and not company-wise. However, the details of the all India coal demand and total indigenous supply are as under:

(In Million Tonnes)

| Particulars | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 (Prov.) |
|---|---|---|---|
| Demand | 363.30 | 380.90 | 414.82 |
| Total Indigenous supply | 340.08 | 359.23 | 371.92* |
| Gap | 23.22 | 21.67 | 42.90 |

*excluding Meghalaya

(b) The action plan contemplated by the domestic companies to increase coal production so as to meet the demand is listed as under:

**I. Coal India Ltd.**

(i) 102 Projects have been considered to be taken up during Xth Plan. These include 3 augmentation projects namely, Sarpi, Jhanjhra and Kotadih Underground mining projects of Eastern Coalfields Ltd.

(ii) Efforts are underway to improve the utilization of equipment.

(iii) Mechanization/modernization of existing mines.

(iv) Timely implementation of Projects.

(v) All new mines are being planned with mechanization.

**II. Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd.**

(i) Introduction of Continuous Miner on risk—gain sharing concept initially in one mine (VK-7) with subsequent introduction in two more mines (PVK-5 and GDK-11 A Incline)

(ii) A Committee was constituted to study the feasibility of High wall mining technology to release locked up reserves in open cast beneath high wall.

(iii) 4 deep shaft mines with high capacity longwalls and continuous miners are at various stages of approvals.

(iv) Feasibility is being examined for adopting mixed-mode of working in some of the mines (deeper seams of OC with UG technology).

(v) Identifying the pool of Officers/employees to be associated with transfer of new technologies.

(vi) Entering into annual maintenance contract with manufacturers on lorig terms basis to ensure guaranteed performance.

(c) Presently, the private sector is allowed to mine coal only captivity for specified end-uses and in this context 136 coal mining blocks have been identified in CIL. Out of these, as on 1.3.2005, allocation letters allotting captive blocks been issued to 29 companies in the private sector and a further 27 companies in the private sector have been approved for receiving letters of allocation. With the measures taken to ensure early production of coal from captive mines, it is expected to bridge the supply demand gap substantially.

(d) to (f) No, Sir. As import of coal is placed under Open General License, consumers are free to import coal for either end-use or for trading purposes. However, the Government has impressed upon the major power utilities to import at least 10 million tonnes (M.T.) of non-coking coal during the current financial year so as to bridge the gap between demand and supply to the power sector. Subsequently, the Ministry of Power has reported that NTPC has entered into an agreement with MMTC to import 2 M.T. of coal for its power houses.

**Population Growth in Rural Areas**

5981. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that migration is the main contributor to the capital's population as reported in the Statesman dated January 3, 2005;

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

(c) whether the birth rate in rural areas of the country has been increasing; and

(d) if so, the details of plan formulated to control population in rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per the Annual Report on registration of births and deaths in Delhi-2001 released by Government of N.C.T. of Delhi, 2.96 lakhs births were registered in Delhi as against 0.81 lakhs deaths. The natural increase in population was 2.15 lakhs. The total increase in population of Delhi was 4.90 lakhs during 2001. Thus, the remaining increase of 2.75 lakhs of the population was due to migration during 2001.

(c) No, Sir. The birth rate in rural areas as per Sample Registration System, Registrar General, India is as below:-

| Year | Birth Rate |
|---|---|
| 1998 | 28.0 |
| 1999 | 27.5 |
| 2000 | 27.6 |
| 2001 | 27.1 |
| 2002 | 26.6 |

(d) Various steps have been taken by the Government to effectively implement the Population stabilization programmes. These include:

(i) adoption of National Population Policy (NPP);

(ii) constitution of National Commission of Population;

(iii) registration of the National Population Stabilization Fund;

(iv) constitution of an Empowered Action Group (EAG) for focused attention on 8 demographically weaker States;

(v) The Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme was launched by the Government in 1997 for provision of reproductive, maternal, child health and contraceptive services to the people.

(vi) The Government has recently launched the National Rural Health Mission to provide comprehensive integrated primary health services throughout the country with special emphasis on 18 States *i.e.* Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Meghalaya, Tripura, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir for provision of comprehensive integrated primary health care services.

*[Translation]*

**Use of L.P.G. as Auto Fuel**

5982. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether use of L.P.G. as auto fuel in the country is legal;

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

(c) whether the use of L.P.G. in vehicles as fuel is non-polluting; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to popularise the use of LPG as auto fuel?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The use of environmental friendly fuels like LPG as auto fuel has been legalized through an amendment to Section 52 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 in August, 2000. Further, the safety and emission norms for LPG driven vehicles have also been issued. Any manufacturer or supplier has to get a type approval certificate from one of the testing agencies authorized under the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989.

(c) L.P.G. is a less polluting fuel as compared to the conventional fuels like petrol and diesel.

(d) Use of particular fuel as auto fuel depends upon availability of said fuel, cost economics and prevailing emission regulations. A large number of LPG kits have been type approved by testing agencies for automotive usage.

*[English]*

**Vacancy based Roster Reservation**

5983. SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether vacancy based roster for SCs/STs was in force in promotion upto 2.7.1997 *i.e.* before issue of Government orders dated 2.7.1997 and after issue of these orders post based roster for SCs/STs is effective from 2.7.1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether as per judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court vacancy based roster can operate only till such time as the representation of persons belonging to the reserved categories in the cadre reaches the prescribed percentage of reservation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a large number of Section Officers of CSS were promoted/reguarlised as Under Secretaries on regular basis in CSS against vacancies of Under Secretaries for select lists of 1987 to 1990 by following post based roster instead of vacancy based roster w.e.f. 1.7.1987;

(f) if so, whether these Under Secretaries have gained all due benefits like seniority, option for fixation of pay, counting of approved service in next promotion from 1st July of each select lists of 1987 to 1990;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court were followed for providing adequate representation of SC/ST in these regular select lists of Under Secretary from 1987 to 1990 with a view to enable them to reach the prescribed percentage of reservation;

(i) if so, the details thereof;

(j) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(k) the names of Under Secretaries belonging to SCs/STs as on 1st July of 1987?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) In pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement in the case of R.K. Sabharwal Vs. State of Punjab, post based rosters have been introduced in place of vacancy based rosters vide DOP&T instructions dated 2.7.1997. These instructions have been made effective from the date of issue. It was laid down in these instructions that where selections have already been finalized, they need not be disturbed and in other cases, recruitment may be withheld till the revised rosters are brought into operation and recruitment effected in accordance with these instructions.

(c) and (d) As per the judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court, the vacancy based rosters can operate only till such time as the representation of persons belonging to reserved categories, in a cadre, reaches the prescribed percentage of reservation. Thereafter, the rosters cannot operate and vacancies released by retirement, resignation, promotion etc. of the persons belonging to the general and reserved categories are to be filled by appointment of persons from the respective category so that the prescribed percentage of reservation is maintained.

(e) Due to protracted litigation over the issue of inter se seniority between the Direct Recruit (DR) and Promotee Section Officers, the Select List of Grade I (Under Secretary) of CSS for the year 1987 and onwards could not be prepared in time. Finally, in pursuance of Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement on the issue, the Common Seniority List of Section Officers was issued in December, 1997. Thereafter, the proposal for finalisation of Grade I Select Lists for the year 1987 and 1988 was sent to UPSC. Since by that time, the post based rosters had come into effect, the reservations for SC/ST were determined on the basis of post based rosters as per instructions contained in DOP&T O.M. dated 2.7.1997. The same procedure was adopted of the subsequent Select Lists of Grade I (Under Secretary) of CSS.

(f) and (g) The appointment of the persons included in the Grade I (Under Secretary) Select Lists of 1987 to 1990 were deemed to have been made with effect from 1st July of the respective Select List year for the purpose of approved service, fixing their pay on notional basis etc.

(h) to (k) Upto the Select List of Grade I (Under Secretary) of CSS for the year 1986, reservation for SC/ST Officers was being provided on the basis of vacancy based roster. For the Grade I Select List of year 1987 and onwards, reservation for SC/ST officers has been provided on the basis of post-based roster as per the Government's instructions dated 2.7.1997, issued in pursuance of the judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of R.K. Sabharwal Vs. State of Punjab. As on 1.7.1987, the number of SC Officers in Grade I (Under Secretary) of CSS was in excess of their prescribed quota.

In accordance with the instructions dated 2.7.1997, to operate the roster following the principle of replacement, the vacancies were filled by appointment of persons belonging to the category to which relevant roster point belonged. Since adequate number of SC Officers were already available, no post was reserved for SC in the Grade I Select Lists for the years 1987, 1988, 1989 & 1990. However, there was a shortfall in the representation of ST Officers as adequate number of ST Officer in the feeder grade were not available for promotion even in the extended zone of consideration. The unfilled ST vacancies have to be filled from amongst ST Officers in future Select Lists.

*[Translation]*

**Intrusion of Chinese Army into Indian Territory**

5984. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Chinese Army has allegedly intruded into Indian territory by violating the Line of Control along the borders in Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh during the last one year;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether India has lodged its protest against the continuous intrusion by the Chinese Army into Indian territory;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether India has taken initiative to solve the border dispute in order to establish better bilateral relations with China; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) The resolution of the boundary question between India and China is outstanding. The two sides also have differences in perception of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the India-China border areas. Both sides carry out patrolling activity in the India-China border areas. There are instances, from time to time, of transgression of our perception of LAC by the Chinese military personnel.

(c) and (d) Government takes up violations of the LAC with the Chinese side through the established mechanisms of diplomatic channels and Border Personnel Meetings.

(e) and (f) It has been at India's initiative that both sides have agreed to explore, through the mechanism of Special Representatives, the framework of a boundary settlement from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship. During the visit of the Chinese Premier to India in April 2005, the two sides signed an "Agreement on the Political Parameters and Guiding Principles for the Settlement of the India-China Boundary Question". In addition, both sides also seek an early clarification and confirmation of the LAC through the Joint Working Group (JWG) on the boundary question, with the objective of arriving at a common understanding of the alignment of LAC. Pending a final resolution of the boundary question, the two sides have agreed to continue to make joint efforts to maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas.

*[English]*

**Review of Revised Long Term Action Plan for Orissa**

5985. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the implementation of the revised long term action plan in the KBK districts of Orissa;

(b) if so, the progress made in the implementation of the plan;

(c) the amount allocated under the plan so far and the actual amount spent till date;

(d) the number of persons benefited so far under the plan;

(e) whether in view of the difficult financial position of the State, the Government proposes to increase its share for the plan;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) The implementation of the Revised Long-Term Action Plan (RLTAP) consisting of Central Plan and Centrally Sponsored Schemes in various sectors for the years 1998-99 to 2000-01 and for the year 2001-02 was reviewed by the Committee of Secretaries in the meetings held in April, 2002 and April, 2003 respectively. The Review and Action Taken Reports were laid in both the Houses of Parliament.

(c) Additional Central Assistance (ACA) was provided for RLTAP from 1998-99 to 2001-02. From the financial year 2002-03, a Special Plan for the KBK districts of Orissa became operative under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana and received Special Central Assistance on 100% grant basis. An allocation of Rs. 943.95 crore has been made for the KBK districts from 1998-99 to 2004-05 against which the expenditure reported is Rs. 758.25 crore (up to December, 2004).

(d) Most of the schemes included in the Special Plan relate to infrastructure development and only some schemes are beneficiary oriented. In 2004-05 (up to December, 2004), under the Emergency Feeding Programme, two lakh beneficiaries have been covered; Ninety Mobile Health Units have treated 11,28,855 patients; 3000 women SHGs have been supported; and 293 youth received training under skill upgradation programme.

(e) and (f) The allocation for the KBK districts of Orissa has already been substantially enhanced from Rs. 100 crore in 2001-02 to Rs. 200 crore in 2002-03 and Rs. 250 crore in 2003-04 and 2004-05.

(g) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Telephone Facility in Uttaranchal**

5986. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telephone facility has been provided in urban and rural areas of all districts of Uttaranchal;

(b) if not, the number of villages in which this facility is available, district-wise;

(c) the details of waiting lists in rural areas of Uttaranchal, district-wise;

(d) the reasons for non-achievement of targets of National Telecom Policy in rural areas of Uttaranchal;

(e) the time by which the waiting list of telephone connections is likely to be cleared in the rural areas of Uttaranchal;

(f) the amount provided for this purpose; and

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

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

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

(c) Telecom District-wise waiting list in rural areas of Uttaranchal is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) As per the objectives of the New Telecom Policy, 1999, the target is to achieve the rural tele-density from 0.4 to 4% by year 2010. The present tele-density is 1.63%. It is expected that the target of 4% fixed under NTP 1999 will be achieved by 2010.

(e) The waiting list of telephone connections in the rural areas of Uttaranchal is likely to be cleared progressively by 2007.

(f) The likely amount to be allocated for Uttaranchal Telecom Circle for this purpose will be Rs. 36 crore approximately.

(g) It has been planned to provide WLL connections to clear the waiting list.

***Statement***

*Telecom District-wise waiting list in rural areas of Uttaranchal (As on 31.3.2005)*

| Sl.No. | Name of the Telecom District | Waiting list |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Almorah | 25 |
| 2. | Dehradun | 407 |
| 3. | Haridwar | 629 |
| 4. | Nainital | 19 |
| 5. | New Tehri | 628 |
| 6. | Srinagar (Garhwal) | 758 |
| | Total | 2466 |

**Conversion of Telephone Exchanges into Electronic Exchanges**

5987. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI ILYAS AZMI:

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

(a) the names of telephone exchanges in Uttar Pradesh which have not been converted into electronic exchanges so far;

(b) the time by which such telephone exchanges are likely to be converted into electronic exchanges;

(c) the number of telephone exchanges proposed to be converted into electronic exchanges during the 2004-05;

(d) the target fixed for conversion of telephone exchanges into electronic exchanges in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(e) the work done in Uttar Pradesh in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, all the telephone exchanges are already converted into electronic exchanges in Uttar Pradesh.

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

*[English]*

**Indian Officials In World Organisations**

5988. DR. K.S. MANOJ:
SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Government officials of India receiving pensions from the World Bank and its affiliated organisations like WHO, UNICEF and FAO etc. and not accountable under the relevant All India Service rules or the Official Secrets act;

(b) the number of Government officials who as International experts were holding position far below their earlier status in the said International organisations;

(c) the names of these International experts who have their permanent residence in foreign countries;

(d) the details thereof, country-wise;

(e) whether they are beyond the powers of Indian laws; and

(f) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to make them accountable to the Indian laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) India has on obligation, as a Member State of various international organizations like IMF, World Bank etc. to lend the services of employees of the Government of India, the State Governments as well as other Indian professionals to these organizations. Since there is no bar on lending the services of Government employees to these international organizations, as a logical corollary there is no bar on drawing of pension by Government employees who have served with international organizations in accordance with the instructions on the subject issued from time to time. Every Government servant irrespective of the fact whether he is in receipt of a pension from UN and other international organization is governed by the laws of the land including the rules of the service to which he belongs.

(b) The Government servants appointed to posts as international experts enjoy the status of the post to which they are appointed in accordance with the rules governing such posting irrespective of the status enjoyed by them in their previous employment.

(c) Acquiring of movable and immovable properties abroad by Indian nationals, including Government servants, is regulated by the regulations/orders issued on the subject from time to time.

(d) This information is not monitored centrally.

(e) No Government servant is beyond the powers of the Indian laws.

(f) Does not arise.

**Non-Utilisation of Plan Expenditure**

5989. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States which have not achieved the stipulated target in regard to plan expenditure during the last three years;

(b) the reasons for non-utilisation of plan expenditure, State-wise; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the defaulting States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Statement of Plan performances indicating names of States that have not achieved targeted Plan expenditure during the last three yeas viz. 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 is in enclosed statement.

(b) As per information available at present, the main reasons for shortfall in Plan expenditure during the last three years are the inability of States to mobilise States' Own Resources as planned and also draw fully Central Assistance especially the Additional Central Assistance for Externally Aided Projects.

(c) Proportionate cut in Central Assistance is imposed for States for shortfall in expenditure vis-a-vis the Approved Plan Outlays/Revised plan Outlays and also on account of shortfall in the earmarked outlays.

***Statement***

*Plan Performance of States in 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05*

(In Percent)

| Sl.No. | States/UTs | Percent of Expenditure over approved outlay/revised outlay | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2002-03 | 2003-04# | 2004-05@ |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 97.22 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 78.66 | 88.84 | 100.00 |
| 3. | Assam | 80.85 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 4. | Bihar | 95.36 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 5. | Chhattisgarh | 99.59 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 6. | Goa | 72.22 | 91.67 | 100.00 |
| 7. | Gujarat | 71.09 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 8. | Haryana | 97.64 | 100.85 | 100.00 |
| 9. | Himachal Pradesh | 100.43 | 97.87 | 100.00 |
| 10. | Jammu & Kashmir | 91.13 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 11. | Jharkhand | 79.08 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 12. | Karnataka | 96.95 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 13. | Kerala | 115.15 | 93.91 | 100.00 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 14. | Madhya Pradesh | 78.73 | 100.22 | 100.00 |
| 15. | Maharashtra | 52.09 | 50.93 | 100.00 |
| 16. | Manipur | 37.96 | 48.58 | 100.00 |
| 17. | Meghalaya | 83.27 | 90.87 | 100.00 |
| 18. | Mizoram | 85.96 | 104.89 | 100.00 |
| 19. | Nagaland | 88.58 | 95.05 | 100.00 |
| 20. | Orissa | 97.02 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 21. | Punjab | 72.82 | 68.15 | 100.00 |
| 22. | Rajasthan | 101.38 | 109.81 | 100.00 |
| 23. | Sikkim | 91.85 | 91.07 | 100.00 |
| 24. | Tamil Nadu | 101.51 | 101.26 | 100.00 |
| 25. | Tripura | 93.55 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 26. | Uttar Pradesh | 104.82 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| 27. | Uttaranchal | 88.36 | 102.66 | 100.00 |
| 28. | West Bengal | 72.59 | 100.00 | 100.00 |
| | Tota (States) | 86.13 | 93.75 | 100.00 |

#Revised Outlays are used as estimated expenditure for the State of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, J&K, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Orissa, Tripura, UP & West Bengal.

*Revised Outlays are taken as Estimated Expenditure.

**Revision in Gadgil-Mukherjee Formula**

5990. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:
SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central assistance has been reduced during the Tenth Five Year Plan in comparison to the Ninth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) if not, the details of Central assistance during the Ninth Five Year Plan alongwith the Central assistance sanctioned and released as demanded by the State Governments during the Tenth Five Year Plan, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government proposes to revise the Gadgil-Mukherjee formula;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Details of Central Assistance in the scheme of financing for State Plans during the Ninth and Tenth Plans are given in enclosed statement.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not apply.

(f) In regional meetings with Chief Ministers of States held by the Planning Commission, only Rajasthan raised the issue of amendment of the existing Gadgil formula of allocating Normal Central Assistance (NCA) for State Plans. Hence, it is not proposed to revise the formula.

***Statement***

*Central Assistance for State plans during Ninth and Tenth Plans*

(Rs. crore)

| | States | Ninth Plan (1997-2002) | | Tenth Plan* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Annual Plan | Actuals# | Annual Plan | Latest# Estimates# |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| A. | SPECIAL CATEGORY STATES | | | | |
| 1. | Arunachal Pradesh | 2814.09 | 2753.33 | 2151.13 | 2122.56 |
| 2. | Assam | 7786.86 | 7390.76 | 6727.46 | 6748.84 |
| 3. | Himachal Pradesh | 4432.39 | 4460.79 | 4134.99 | 4334.99 |
| 4. | Jammu & Kashmir | 11458.61 | 11370.17 | 8640.89 | 8664.49 |
| 5. | Manipur | 2500.91 | 2474.50 | 2152.90 | 1813.33 |
| 6. | Meghalaya | 1941.37 | 1788.48 | 1556.20 | 1608.66 |
| 7. | Mizoram | 1866.83 | 1830.84 | 1700.39 | 1667.03 |
| 8. | Nagaland | 1989.19 | 1950.80 | 1674.75 | 1661.24 |
| 9. | Sikkim | 1354.26 | 1383.32 | 1119.63 | 1105.29 |
| 10. | Tripura | 2958.47 | 2874.64 | 2271.48 | 2206.87 |
| 11. | Uttaranchal | — | — | 5207.52 | 5004.27 |
| | Total A | 39102.98 | 38277.63 | 37337.33 | 36937.56 |
| B. | NON SPECIAL CATEGORY STATES | | | | |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 17395.30 | 15572.71 | 18928.05 | 15402.44 |
| 2. | Bihar | 10593.05 | 9614.88 | 8786.10 | 8179.19 |
| 3. | Chhattisgarh | — | — | 2931.15 | 2695.01 |
| 4. | Goa | 507.56 | 486.20 | 436.38 | 372.99 |
| 5. | Gujarat | 11534.82 | 9833.80 | 13338.27 | 9939.13 |
| 6. | Haryana | 3935.99 | 2533.92 | 1749.93 | 1732.52 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7. | Jharkhand | — | — | 3594.66 | 3508.77 |
| 8. | Karnataka | 8736.00 | 7816.42 | 10701.12 | 7432.32 |
| 9. | Kerala | 4196.80 | 3265.14 | 5831.89 | 4685.30 |
| 10. | Madhya Pradesh | 9719.24 | 8219.10 | 8391.83 | 8221.27 |
| 11. | Maharashtra | 9650.31 | 8417.63 | 8743.83 | 6864.93 |
| 12. | Orissa | 9350.96 | 7989.83 | 11033.55 | 7750.40 |
| 13. | Punjab | 4170.74 | 3128.32 | 2580.35 | 1991.75 |
| 14. | Rajasthan | 7265.21 | 6000.46 | 7573.15 | 6986.56 |
| 15. | Tamilnadu | 8520.53 | 7264.64 | 7326.55 | 5649.91 |
| 16. | Uttar Pradesh | 26238.24 | 19007.69 | 18364.43 | 16769.00 |
| 17. | West Bengal | 13949.75 | 10590.29 | 10246.77 | 7976.509 |
| | Total B | 145764.50 | 119741.03 | 140558.09 | 116157.98 |
| | Total States (A+B) | 184867.48 | 158018.66 | 177895.43 | 153095.55 |

*Includes the first three years of the Plan only, *i.e.* 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05.

#LEs for the Tenth Plan are based on latest information provided by States for 2002-03 and 2003-04 and Annual Plan for 2004-05.

**Telephone Connections in Post Offices**

5991. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether only the departmental post offices and not the branch post offices in remote areas are provided with telephone connections;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of such branch post offices working in the country, State-wise;

(d) whether any plan has been drawn to provide these branch post offices with telephone facility immediately; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the funds allocated for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Opening of Post Offices in Rural Areas**

5992. DR. K. DHANARAJU:
SHRI FURKAN ANSARI:

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

(a) the number of post offices functioning in Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand, district-wise;

(b) whether the people of rural areas face great difficulty in gaining access to the post offices as they are situated very far off;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to open new post offices in the rural areas of these States in the year 2005-06;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) District-wise number of post offices functioning in Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand is given in the enclosed Statement I and II respectively.

(b) Post Offices are opened subject to fulfilment of distance, population and income norms, which are given in enclosed Statement-III. In normal rural areas the distance norms is only 3 Kms and in hilly, remote, desert and tribal areas there is provision to relax even this distance norm. Therefore, post offices are likely to be at a greater distance than 3 Kms only where the subsidised income norm and population norms are not satisfied. In such cases basic Postal facilities like sale of stamps and stationery are provided through postmen at the door step in rural areas.

(c) to (e) Opening of post offices in rural areas is an ongoing process. Since post offices are opened subject to fulfilment to prescribed distance, population and income norms and availability of resources, post offices will continue to be provided wherever justified as per norms.

***Statement I***

*District-wise Number of Post Offices in Tamil Nadu*

| Sl.No. | Districts | No. of Post Offices |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Chennai | 173 |
| 2. | Cuddalore | 492 |
| 3. | Coimbatore | 626 |
| 4. | Dindigul | 465 |
| 5. | Dharamapuri | 258 |
| 6. | Erode | 511 |
| 7. | Kanchipuram | 483 |
| 8. | Kanyakumari | 267 |
| 9. | Karur | 249 |
| 10. | Krishnagiri | 308 |
| 11. | Madurai | 348 |
| 12. | Nagapattinam | 378 |
| 13. | Namakkal | 436 |
| 14. | Nil Giris | 183 |
| 15. | Pudukottai | 349 |
| 16. | Perambalur | 364 |
| 17. | Ram. N. Puram | 321 |
| 18. | Salem | 454 |
| 19. | Sivaganga | 314 |
| 20. | Thanjavur | 340 |
| 21. | Theni | 231 |
| 22. | Trichirapalli | 885 |
| 23. | Tirunvelveli | 556 |
| 24. | Tiruvallur | 407 |
| 25. | Tiruvarur | 367 |
| 26. | Tri V. Malai | 498 |
| 27. | Tuticorin | 432 |
| 28. | Vellore | 667 |
| 29. | Villupuram | 653 |
| 30. | Virudhu Nagar | 286 |
| | Total | 12101 |

***Statement II***

*District-wise number of Post Offices in Jharkhand*

| Sl.No. | Districts | No. of Post Offices |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Bokaro | 147 |
| 2. | Chatra | 90 |
| 3. | Deoghar | 129 |
| 4. | Dhanbad | 194 |
| 5. | Dumka | 207 |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| 6. | Garhwa | 86 |
| 7. | Giridih | 190 |
| 8. | Godda | 126 |
| 9. | Gumla | 151 |
| 10. | Hazaribag | 225 |
| 11. | Jamtara | 85 |
| 12. | K. Sarai | 77 |
| 13. | Kodarma | 40 |
| 14. | Latcher | 80 |
| 15. | Lohadarga | 55 |
| 16. | Pakur | 83 |
| 17. | Palmau | 175 |
| 18. | Ranchi | 392 |
| 19. | Sahibganj | 87 |
| 20. | Simdega | 100 |
| 21. | Singhbhum (East) | 156 |
| 22. | Singhbhum (West) | 174 |
| | Total | 3049 |

***Statement III***

*Norms for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices*

1. **Norms for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices:**

1.1 **Population:**

(a) **In Normal Areas:**

3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village)

(b) **In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:**

500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2 **Distance:**

(a) **In Normal Areas:**

The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

(b) **In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:**

The distance limits will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limits can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3 **Anticipated Income:**

(a) **In Normal Areas:**

The minimum anticipated revenue will be $33^{1}/_{3}$% of the cost.

(b) **In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas:**

The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

2. **Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub Post Offices:**

(a) **In Rural Areas:**

The minimum workload of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

(b) **In Urban Areas:**

In Urban areas, the post office should initially be self supporting, and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post offices should be 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other Urban areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. for each other.

Heads of Circle have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases.

A delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen's beats.

**Indo-Sino Joint Steering Committee**

5993. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and China are keen to form a Joint Steering Committee of the two countries for promoting joint venture in the field of Science and Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed with China in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Minister of State (Science & Technology and Ocean Development) and the visiting State Councillor from China, during their Meeting in New Delhi held on November 17, 2004, agreed to set up a Joint Steering Committee in Science and Technology with Minister of State (Science & Technology and Ocean Development) and the Chinese Minister for Science and Technology as the Co-Chairman to promote Science and Technology cooperation between the two countries. This was further reiterated in a Joint Statement signed during the recent visit of the Chinese Premier to India by the two Prime Ministers. No agreement has been signed.

**Financial Condition of Ports**

5994. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:

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

(a) the total length of coastline of the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of ports situated in each State, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government reviews the financial condition of the ports periodically;

(d) if so, the names of the ports which faced financial crunch during 2004-05;

(e) whether the Government provides loans to various ports;

(f) if so, the details of the loan provided to various ports during each of the last three years; and

(g) the steps taken for improving the condition of ports?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The requisite information is given below:

| Sl.No. | State | Length of (in coastline Kilometers) | Total number of ports (major and non-major ports) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Gujarat | 1214.7 | 41 |
| 2. | Maharashtra | 652.6 | 55 |
| 3. | Goa | 118.0 | 6 |
| 4. | Karnataka | 280.0 | 10 |
| 5. | Kerala | 569.7 | 14 |
| 6. | Tamil Nadu | 906.9 | 17 |
| 7. | Andhra Pradesh | 973.7 | 13 |
| 8. | Orissa | 476.7 | 3 |
| 9. | West Bengal | 157.5 | 2 |
| 10. | Pondicherry | 30.6 | 1 |
| 11. | Daman & Diu | 42.5 | 2 |
| 12. | Andaman & Nicobar | 1962.0 | 23 |
| 13. | Lakshadweep | 132.0 | 10 |
| | All States | 7516.6 | 197 |

(c) and (d) As per Indian Ports Act, 1908, the Ports other than Major Ports are under the administrative control of the State Government concerned. As such, the Central Government reviews the financial condition of the Major Ports only. As per available information, none of the Major Ports faced financial crunch during 2004-05.

(e) and (f) Depending upon the requirements of the Major Ports, loans are provided by Central Government. An amount of Rs. 3 crores has been given to Cochin Port Trust as loan during the financial year 2004-05.

(g) Improvement of ports is an ongoing process. Periodical reviews of different activities are conducted by the management of Major Ports to increase their efficiency. Modernisation of ageing plants and machinery is also undertaken by Ports to enhance operational efficiency.

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**12.01 hrs.**

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Cochin Shipyard Limited and the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2044/05]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Shipyard Limited and the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2045/05]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, Noida, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, Noida, 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 2046/05]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004 together with Audit Report thereon under sub-section (2) of section 103 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2047/05]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): On behalf of my colleague, Shrimati Panabaka Lakshmi, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Academy of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Academy of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2048/05]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 23 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954:

(i) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (4th Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 812 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th December, 2004.

(ii) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (5th Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 821 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 2004, together with a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 175 (E) dated the 16th March, 2005.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2049/05]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Dental Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Dental Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2050/05]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004.

(7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2051/05]

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) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:

(i) S.O. 324 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th March, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 934 (E) dated the 19th August, 2004.

(ii) S.O. 325 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th March, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Jabalpur-Nagpur section) in the State of Maharashtra.

(iii) S.O. 243 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of construction (widening) of National Highway No. 28 (Uttar Pradesh/Bihar border-Muzaffarpur) in District Gopalganj in the State of Bihar.

(iv) S.O. 244 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of construction (widening) of National Highway No. 28 (Uttar Pradesh/Bihar Border-Muzaffarpur) in District Muzaffarpur in the State of Bihar.

(v) S.O. 283 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 2 (Panagarh to Palsit section) in the State of West Bengal.

(vi) S.O. 288 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th March, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 599 (E) dated the 19th May, 2004.

(vii) S.O. 289 (E) and S.O. 290 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th March, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building, maintenance, management and operation of different stretches on National Highway No. 31 in the State of Bihar.

(viii) S.O. 291 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th March, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 31 in the State of West Bengal.

(ix) S.O. 1270 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 45 (Tindivanam-Villupuram-Trichy section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(x) S.O. 1271 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for building (four laning) of National Highway No. 45 (Tindivanam-Villupuram-Trichy section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xi) S.O. 1272 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th November, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (four laning and widening) of National Highways No. 45B (Tiruchirapalli-Viralimalai-Madurai section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xii) S.O. 1282 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th November, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (widening) of National Highway No. 47 (Salem-Coimbatore section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xiii) S.O. 405 (E) and S.O. 406 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (four laning) of different stretches on National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipeti section) in District Vellore in the State of Tamil Nadu.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 2052/05]

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**12.02 hrs.**

## MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

*[English]*

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Coastal Aquaculture Authority Bill, 2005 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd May, 2005."

Sir, I lay on the Table the Coastal Aquaculture Authority Bill, 2005, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 3rd May, 2005.

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**12.02 1/2 hrs.**

## COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

### Ninth Report

*[English]*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): I beg to present the Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

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**12.02 3/4 hrs.**

## COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

**Twelfth Report**

*[English]*

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (Quilon): I beg to present the Twelfth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme on the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation—'Proposals to amend Guidelines on MPLAD Scheme.'

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**12.03 hrs.**

## STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

**(i) Status of implementation of Recommendations made by the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests, in its 127th Report on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Department of Biotechnology***

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am making this statement in pursuance of your Direction No. 73A dated the 1st September, 2004, to inform the Members of this House about the status of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests in its 127th Report. This Report relates to the consideration of the detailed Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT). The Committee reviewed the progress made by DBT during the reporting period and considered the Demands for Grants (2004-05) in detail. The Department made an oral presentation before the Committee during its meeting on 9th August, 2004.

The Committee, while reviewing the working and considering the detailed Demands for Grants of DBT, analysed the Demands for Grants with reference to the aims, objectives and achievements of the Department and presented the 127th Report thereon to the House on the 18th August, 2004. The Report contains 16 recommendations in all, which were advisory in nature. The recommendations were received in DBT in September, 2004. The Department has furnished a detailed Action Taken Note on these recommendations to the Committee in December, 2004. The current status on the action taken is detailed in the appended Annexure.

Sir, I request you to allow me to place the Annexure on the Table* of the House.

***Annexure***

**Parliamentary Standing Committee Recommendation—Status of Implementation on Action Taken Report*

| Recommendations of Parliamentary Standing Committee | Action taken as per the Action Taken Report | Current Status on Action Taken |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| **Point 3, Para 20—Stem Cell and Tissue Engineering** | | |
| The Committee is aware of the fact that researches in Embryonic Stem cell involve a lot of hindrances due to infant stage of development of knowledge in this field. | Department of Biotechnology has laid major thrust in the area of stem cell research. A separate Task Force has been set by the Department to expand this area and to deal | Four meetings have been scheduled during April-May 2005 to discuss biomaterials, biosensors, |

*Also placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2054/05.
†Laid on the Table.

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| However, this infant stage of research in fact urges the Committee to strongly recommend that Department of Biotechnology should initiate Comprehensive Research Programme to bring up coming development in this sphere at par with the international standard and explore for a more wider application of embryonic stem cell research so that some concrete achievement could be made in critical areas. The Committee feel that in order to move ahead in the field, the DBT needs to work on both embryonic stem cell and adult derived stem cell for more functional applications in the field of Biotechnology.<br><br>The Committee has been given to understand that Researches in the field of Tissue Engineering will deliver new medical techniques and devices, including small blood vessel replacement, bone, tendon, ligament and cartilage repair, healing of skin wounds and advances in nerve re-generation. It will also lead to cellular based therapies for de-generative problems in muscles for cardiac regeneration in the heart and in treating de-generative conditions in the brain. In view of this, the Committee strongly recommends for the in-depth research in the field. | with the programmes on stem cells. The Department has also identified priority areas of research both for embryonic and adult stem cells based on the inputs/suggestions received from the experts and detailed discussion held during the Task Force. There areas have been mainly categorized into Basic research, Applied research, Human Resource Development and Facility. In order to explore wider applications of stem cell research, efforts are being made to form city based clusters in the country for stem cell research by involving basic researchers and clinicians. In addition, the Department has also supported a number of programmes on haematopoitic, limbal, liver and neural stem cells and to establish stem cell lines.<br><br>The Department has organised a brainstorming session on bioengineering to discuss the identified key areas i.e. tissue engineering and stem cells; biomaterials for drug delivery; biomedical instrumentation and biosensors by inviting scientists, clinicians and industry representatives. It has been felt that the involvement of clinicians and industry at appropriate stage is equally important as they are the end users of the developed products. The issues like developing linkages among the institutes for research in these areas; mechanisms for national/international networking; Human Resource Development (HRD); R&D programmes; infrastructure strengthening etc. were discussed during the brainstorming. The action will be initiated as per the recommendation of the brainstorming on bioengineering. | bioinstrumentation and tissue engineering for creating Road Map of bioengineering. |
| **Point 12, Para 52—Infrastructure Facilities**<br><br>Providing infrastructure facilities for the promotion of Biotechnology is an ongoing process of the Government of India for the benefit of various organizations including small, medium and large industrial entrepreneurs. The Committee hopes that the Department should provide need based inputs for facilitating implementation of | The Department has been facilitating implementation of proposals for establishing different facilities such as Biotechnology Incubators, Downstream Processing Facilities, Pilot Plants; Tissue Culture Hardening facilities etc. by various States at Biotech Parks, by providing scientific and technical inputs apart from identifying resource | The Department has got approval from the Planning Commission to support more than two Biotech Parks. After necessary approval by EFC, four parks have been sanctioned in |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|---|---|---|
| proposals of establishing different kind of facilities like Biotechnology Incubators, Downstream processing facilities, Pilot Plant facilities, Tissue Culture hardening facilities etc. at biotech Parks created by the States as and when required. The Committee is strongly of the view that the Department should approach the Planning Commission for enhancing the allocation for establishment of Bio-parks in strategic areas in the country. | persons. The Department has approached the Planning Commission, as recommended by the PSC for additional grants to support more project proposals in addition to the two approved earlier for Lucknow and Hyderabad and an additional grant of Rs. 12 crores has been approved for the current financial year for the scheme "Assistance for Technology Incubator, Pilot Projects, Biotechnology Parks, Biotech Development Fund". The Department is in discussion with the Planning Commission for necessary approval for support to more than two Parks, as stipulated by them in the EFC meeting. | Karnataka, Kerala, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. |
| **Point 15, Para 59—Animal Biotechnology** | | |
| The Committee would like to suggest that a section of research in Biotechnology should concentrate on the breeding of special cows that naturally produce low-fat milk that boost immune system which may be termed as 'green cow' and which are specifically engineered to produce less methane to help stem global warming. Green cows generally deliver low fat milk that boosts immune system, improve lactose utilization and relive diarrhoea. Recent advances in Biotechnology as what the Committee has been given to understand have identified gene for milk fat synthesis that may one day allow scientists to selectively breed cows that naturally produce low fat milk. This will also considerably improve the efficiency of the milk production of the cows. Since the green cows are environmentally cleaner cows they produce less significant amount of methane, which is a major contributor to green house effect, in the atmosphere, second, only to $CO_2$ which generally contributes to global warming. Green cow can alter cattle digestion either by removing microorganisms from their stomachs that produce methane or by creating microorganisms that can produce metabolic products other than methane. The Committee also feels that if DBT makes a concentration on such type of research, the emphasis on food safety will | The concept of the designer cows and green cows is one among the many promises of genetic engineering and recombinant DNA technology. Producing animal products that selectively suits human beings with the specific demand is one of the goal. Department of Biotechnology has already supported a programme on development/ standardization of transgenic technology in mice model and more than 20 lines of transgenic mice have been developed. Efforts are on the develop similar programme in cattle keeping in view the need of the country. Embryo transfer technology is now well established in cattle, buffalo, goat, camel etc. through the support of the Department and the technology can be used to multiply designer/elite animal at a faster rate. A major cattle breeding programme using DNA markers and embryo technology is on the anvil. Selective use of creating knockdown livestock for undesirable traits without affecting the base genetic make up of livestock population is one of the most important thrust area for which programmes are being initiated.<br><br>This Department has also initiated a programme on exploration of unconventional rumen microflora from wild ungulates. Its recolonisation in the rumen of domestic | A project entitled "Rumen microbial biomass synthesis and fibredigestion covering feed factor affecting partitioning of fermentable organic matter between microbial biomass and fermentation waste products" has already been implemented at UAS, Bangalore. In this project, collection of inoculum from the rumen and anaerobic processing prior to incubation with feed samples have been standardized.<br><br>Standards have been developed using finger millet strant ›and compound feed as the substrates with a view to monitoring the variations in fermentation sectirity of the rumen microbial inoculum. |

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| increase and by increasing the body's defence mechanism, a great section of population could be saved from constant attacks of common incurable diseases. | livestock has already been done. A 1200 lit. capacity reactor has been designed for solid state fermentation and associated process for large scale bioconversion of lingo cellulose residues to animal feed. Programmes have also been supported for selection and improvement of lignin degrading microorganism and Genetic manipulation of microbes for enhanced ligninase expression. Efforts would be made to develop specific programme on identifying microorganism or to develop recombinant microorganism that can produce useful metabolic products other than methane. | |
| **Point 16, Para 60—Bio-security** | | |
| The Committee recommends that the Department of Bio-technology should take steps to ensure bio-security without hampering legitimate research of free flow of information in the field biotechnology. First, there must be an increased awareness of risk of Bio-Terrorism among scientists and scientific leaders. In order to augment awareness about security, the committee would like to suggest for arrangement of training and accreditation programmes that would increase considerable awareness and stimulate better communications between scientific and national security communities. The Committee feels that any Bio-security policies must take a 'bottom up' approach by including direct involvement of working scientists. The security provisions should work hand in hand with the progress in biological research. It is the categorized opinion of the Committee that the strategies that block the publication of certain research materials would deter the free flow of information, impede careers of scientists in the field of bio-technology and discourage new incumbents in entering the field of research in Bio-Technology.<br><br>The guidelines should, therefore, be developed to allow researchers to publish their work without providing information that would be useful to Bio-Terrorists. Universities | The Recommendations of the Committee that the Department of Biotechnology should take steps to ensure bio-security without hampering legitimate research and free flow of information in the field of biotechnology have been taken note of and efforts would be made to increase the awareness of risk of bio-terrorism amongst scientists and scientific leaders. The whole issue of bio-security would be looked into from the viewpoint of bio-safety, bio-security and information dissemination and if necessary Standard Operating Procedures would be developed. The Department would set up a small group, which would look into the details of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee and suggest ways for implementations. | The Department has set up a small group, which would look into the details of the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee and suggest ways for implementation. |

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| and other scientific institutions as what the Committee feels should develop the procedures to monitor scientific activities and design full proof action plan to prevent any strategic information leakage relating to Bio-Technology to bio terrorists who would in turn adversely utilize these information for creating Bio-Terrorism thereby throwing considerable threat on the very existence of human communities by waging biological warfare.<br><br>Biological weapons pose a strategic threat mirrored by no other form of attack other than nuclear weapons. The Committee feels that as there is no simple solution to bio security, the Department of Bio-Technology must construct a system of checks and balances needed to assure that the growing power of life sciences is only used to protect life and not to destroy it. | | |

**(ii) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 130th Report of Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests, on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Department of Atomic Energy***

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, with your permission, I would like to make a statement regarding the status of implementation of recommendations made by the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests in its 130th Report.

Sir, the Department of Atomic Energy has submitted an Action Taken Report to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat on the recommendations of the 130th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests of the Rajya Sabha on the Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the Department of Atomic Energy vide O.M. No. 1/2 (2)/2004-Budget/314 dated 29.11.2004.

Further, during the period September 20-27, 2004, the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests of the Rajya Sabha had paid a visit to the Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC) and the Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL), Hyderabad. The summary of the proceedings was forwarded to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat vide DAE O.M. No. 3/1 (2)/2004-PS/9231 dated December 27, 2004. The Department will take further necessary action on receipt of the recommendations of the Committee.

During the period January 30 to February 6, 2005, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests of the Rajya Sabha visited the Institute of Physics (IOP), Bhubaneswar and the Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre (VECC) and the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics (SINP), Kolkata. The summary of the proceedings of the Committee is under submission by the Department to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Finance Minister is not here.

Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, where is the Finance Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

*Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2055/05.

OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): He is coming.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, item No. 11, Calling Attention. Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

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**12.06 hrs.**

## CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

### Situation arising out of disinvestment of Juhu Beach Centaur Hotel, Mumbai and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto

*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Finance to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of disinvestments of Juhu Beach Centaur Hotel, Mumbai and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

*THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, the facts regarding the sale of Centaur Hotel Juhu Beach, Mumbai, as appearing from the official records, are detailed below:

Disinvestment of the Hotel/flight kitchens of Hotel Corporation of India, a subsidiary of Air India, was initiated by Air India under the supervision of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. A Sub-Committee of the Board of Air India was constituted by the said Board to oversee the disinvestment process. On the basis of the Sub-Committee's recommendations, Air India appointed M/s. Jardine Fleming Securities India Limited (currently known as M/s. JP Mogan India Private Limited) as Global Advisors on June 6, 2000. An advertisement inviting Expressions of Interest from the prospective bidders was issued by Air India on October 11-12, 2000 for all the business of Hotel Corporation of India including Centaur Hotel Juhu Beach, Mumbai. The Sub-Committee, with the assistance of the Global Advisors, accomplished: (i) Finalization of the transaction structure of selling the individual business on slump sale basis; (ii) Finalization of the Confidential Information Memorandum; (iii) Shortlisting of bidders; (iv) Appointment of Legal Advisors and Asset Valuers; (v) Conducted data room study and due diligence by the bidders; and (vi) Finalization of transaction documents.

On 27th September 2001, based on a Government decision, the Department of Disinvestment took over the process of disinvestment in Hotel Corporation of India. After taking over the process, Department of Disinvestment constituted an Inter-Ministerial Group and adopted the transaction structure and transaction documents as finalized by Air India.

For the five businesses of Hotel Corporation of India that were offered for sale, the Qualified Interested Parties had already been identified. In respect of Centaur Hotel Juhu Beach, Mumbai, Expressions of Interest were received initially from 20 parties of whom three were found to be ineligible. Of the remaining 17 Qualified Interested parties, 16 did not furnish the prescribed Expression of Intent Letters along with the Earnest Money Deposit of Rs. 5 lakh, thereby withdrawing themselves from further participation from the disivnestment process. Therefore, there was only one Qualified Interest Party. On 24th October, 2001, the Global Advisors addressed the Qualified Interested Party, namely, M/s. Tulip Hospitality Services Limited (Hereinafter called THSL) asking it to submit its price bid on 6th November, 2001. THSL submitted its price bid on 6th November, 2001.

An Evaluation Committee comprising the concerned Joint Secretaries of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of Disinvestment and the Managing Directors of Air India and Hotel Corporation India under the Chairmanship of the Joint Secretary and Financial Advisor, Ministry of Civil Aviation met on 8th November, 2001. After detailed consideration of the asset valuation report reported by the Asset Valuer (M/s. Kanti Karamsey & Co., Mumbai), the valuation report prepared by the Global Advisor and the merits and demerits of the various methods of valuation adopted by them, and the then prevailing market conditions, the Evaluation Committee determined the reserve price for Centaur Hotel Juhu Beach, Mumbai at Rs. 101.60 crore. The price bid, which was in a sealed cover, was thereafter opened by the Evaluation Committee on 8th November, 2001. The bid was for Rs. 153.00 crore.

The Evaluation Committee recommended for acceptance the financial bid submitted by THSL of Rs. 153.000 crore for Centaur Hotel Juhu Beach, Mumbai,

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*Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2056/05.

since it was above its determined reserve price. The Inter-Ministerial Group in its meeting held on 9th November, 2001 accepted the recommendations of the Evaluation Committee. The recommendations of the Evaluation Committee/Inter-Ministerial Group were accepted by the Core Group of Secretaries on Disinvestment on 9th November, 2001 and by the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment on 10th November, 2001. Initially, Air India proposed to execute the Agreement to Sell by 21st December, 2001 and notified M/s. THSL. However, M/s. THSL made a series of representations from time to time, seeking extensions for conclusion of the transaction. Three extensions were given to M/s. THSL, the last being on 23rd February, 2002. These extensions were given apparently with the view to complete the sale of Centaur Hotel Juhu Beach Mumbai at a price of Rs. 153.00 crore, which was above the reserve price of Rs. 101.60 crore.

Since some concerns had arisen with respect to M/s. THSL's ability to meet the financial obligations under the transaction, a decision had been taken on 21st February, 2002 to invoke the Bank Guarantee of M/s. THSL and terminate the deal. However, the Chairman of M/s. THSL met the then Minister (Disinvestment) on 22nd February, 2002 and sought an opportunity to demonstrate M/s. THSL's intent to complete the transaction by producing his consortium of bankers before the Minister. On 23rd February, 2002, M/s. THSL and a consortium of bankers met the then Minister (Disinvestment) and committed to finance the sale transaction by 9th March, 2002. On this commitment, a further extension was granted on 23rd February, 2002 until 9th March, 2002. Since, 9th March, 2002 was a Saturday, high value clearing did not take place and, consequently, the transaction was completed on 11th March, 2002. The business was transferred to M/s. THSL on 31st May, 2002 on completion of the required formalities.

As per the transaction Agreement, M/s. THSL, the purchaser, was bound to offer a Voluntary Retirement Scheme to the employees of the hotel by 30th May 2003. Anticipating that the management might not offer the scheme in time, the Officers' Association filed a writ in the Bombay High Court on 9th May, 2003. On the directions of the High Court, M/s. THSL introduced a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) on 1st October, 2003. Not accepting this Scheme, the Association approached the High Court again but no relief was given by the Court. The Association then moved the Division Bench of the Bombay High Court on 1st July, 2004. The concerned parties reached an agreement on all critical issues on 6th August, 2004. On the basis of this agreement, M/s. THSL filed on affidavit before the Bombay High Court on 12th August, 2004.

As per report received from Hotel Corporation of India M/s. THSL have released under VRS all the officers covered under Notice of Motion No. 319 of 2004 in Writ Petition No. 1248 of 2003, namely, HCI Officers association and Others VS. HCI and Others. Hence this case stands disposed of in terms of Minutes of Order dated 31st December, 2004. Apart from the above, HCI has also informed that M/s. THSL have also released 140 unionised category of employees. Thus a total of 314 employees have been released under VRS.

The CAG took up the audit of this transaction in the month of February, 2004. Preliminary report from the CAG was received in January, 2005. Reply of the Government to the preliminary report was sent to the Audit in the month of January, 2005. The final report of CAG is awaited.

Latest available audited and unaudited reports of M/s. Tulip Hospitality Services Limited reveal that the company has incurred a net loss of Rs. 34.66 crore for the year ending 31st March, 2003 and a net loss of Rs. 36.08 crore for year ending 31st March, 2004. The existing loans of the Banks/Financial institutions to M/s. Tulip Hospitality Services Limited are secured by equitable mortgage of fixed assets.

It is learnt that M/s. Tulip Hospitality Services Limited is seeking strategic investors for their project. As per article 13.4 of the Share Purchase Agreement signed between Hotel Corporation of India (Vendor) and M/s. Tulip Hospitality Services Limited (Purchaser), "Neither this Agreement nor any benefits or burdens under this Agreement shall be assignable by either party without the prior written consent of the other party."

The public sector banks are vigilant in protecting their financial interests *vis-à-vis* the loans/banks guarantees provided by them to M/s. Tulip Hospitality Services Limited. The Ministry of Civil Aviation (Administrative Ministry of Air India/Hotel Corporation of India) is monitoring the other non-banking related post-disinvestment issues of erstwhile Juhu Beach Centaur Hotel, Mumbai.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The sale of Centaur Hotel, Juhu Beach to Mr. Ajit Kelkar's M/s. Tulip Hospitality Services Limited was a highly questionable sale. Every stage of its disinvestment was dubious. It was sold at a throw away price of Rs. 153 crore. Now, the market price of this particular hotel is more than Rs. 350 crore. It means a profit of nearly Rs. 200 crore was there for him in just two years. It is an incredible profit for a Group whose authorised share capital was mere Rs. 5.05 crore. Now the new name of Centaur Hotel, Juhu Beach is Tulip Start, Mumbai.

According to the Minutes of the Air India Board meeting held on November 3, 1998, Shri Ajit Kelkar became a part of the sub-committee for the disinvestment of the Hotel. So, the seller and the buyer were the same person. The Hotel Corporation of India, which then owned the Juhu Beach Centaur Hotel, had also recommended to the sub-committee for the disinvestment of the Hotel Corporation of India. Its main objective was to meet the Air India's requirement as early as possible.

It is also surprising that Kelkar's M/s. Tulip Hospitality Services Limited was the sole bidder. The bid was submitted on 6th November, 2001. It was accepted and communicated through a confidential letter to Mr. Kelkar on 21st November, 2001. Though, it was made clear on the note that the payment of Rs. 153 crore shall be made within 30 days—days from the date of acceptance—and the last date of payment was 20.12.2001, yet he got extension after extension from the Ministry of Disinvestment and the money was finally paid in March 2002.

Sir, the authorised share capital of M/s Tulip was only Rs. 5.05 crore and the company needed bank loan to purchase this property. To get bank loan, a sale agreement was necessary. In simple terms, the sale agreement was a security that the banks needed to clear the loan. M/s. Tulip had no other security to offer. The pre-condition of the transaction document in regard to mode of payment of the amount by scheduled date approved by the Government of India was also violated and yet no other bidder was invited because the Ministry of Disinvestment was determined to see that Shri Kelkar alone acquired this property. Encashment of bank guarantee was held back by the Department of Investment. They decided to invoke the bank guarantee. Why did that decision of invoking the bank guarantee was not implemented? The extension for payment of money was given from 21st of December to 31st of December 2003. On February 23, the Minister of Disinvestment himself held a meeting with the representatives of M/s Tulip along with several bankers in which several nationalised banks agreed to give loan. The loan amount was to be disbursed on 9th March, 2002, the very date on which the sale agreement was to be signed. The nationalised banks and other financial institutions that agreed to advance the loan were Punjab National Bank, United Bank of India, Bank of India, LIC and UTI. It may not be wrong to say that public funds were used to give effect to the sale of public assets.

Sir, moreover, M/s. THSL violated many conditions relating to employees. The Minister has stated in his statement that all the employees were given VRS. But after the agreement was signed, employees were asked not to come for duty. There is a move a retrench almost all the unionised employees of the erstwhile Juhu Beach Centaur Hotel. I would like to know whether the background of a seller becoming a buyer was explained to Air India, Ministry of Disinvestment and Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Sir, in the first meeting of the Sub-Committee Shri Ajit Kelkar suggested that the fund that would come out by way of disinvestment of hotels under Hotel Corporation of India would be utilised for the benefit of Air India. I would like to know from the Minister, the Minister of Civil Aviation is also present here today, whether out of the Rs. 153 crore, how much fund was utilised for the benefit of Air India? Is it also a fact that a member of Air India himself has asked this question about how much has been utilised out of that Rs. 153 crore for the benefit of Air India?

Sir, I would like to know why extension was given, whether extension was asked for in any other case of disinvestment and whether such an extension was given in other cases also.

Sir, how was the evaluation done? Within a year, the price of this Hotel is increased from Rs. 153 crore to Rs. 350 crore. I want to know whether it was undervalued and the hon. Minister may clarify this point. He has stated that a preliminary report was submitted by C&AG in the month of February. What were the observations of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India? The Government of India has already replied to the observations made in that report. But what were those observations? Why was the Government in a hurry to go ahead with only one bidder who was not fulfilling the obligation as per the transactions? He was being pursued as he was trying to get time for delaying so far as the transaction was

concerned. Sir, he was given extension time and again. I want to know whether it was in the knowledge of the Ministry of Disinvestment that the same person is the seller and the purchaser. When there was only one bidder and when he failed to fulfil the formalities, why was it not cancelled and why was not a fresh bid asked for?

Everything was done in a fraudulent manner. Sir, I demand that the disinvestment of Juhu Beach Centaur Hotel should be inquired into by CBI. I also demand that, as there are many questions arising out of this agreement, the agreement should be cancelled. It should be re-opened and should be inquired into by CBI to find out why a particular person was favoured, why was the value of this Hotel undervalued; and how, within a year, was the value of the particular Hotel increased from Rs. 153 crore to Rs. 350 crore.

Action should be taken against the persons who are responsible for this fraudulent deal. So, there is a case for inquiry by CBI. I want to know from the hon. Finance Minister as to whether he will hand over this fraudulent deal to CBI for a proper inquiry.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we will take up item No. 8 Hon. Defence Minister to make a statement.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We shall come back to the Calling Attention.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It was fixed for 1230 hours. So, nothing unusual is being done.

*...(Interruptions)*

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**12.30 hrs.**

## STATEMENT BY MINISTER-*Contd.*

### (iii) Article appeared in *Outlook* magazine about the visit of the Justice S.N. Phukan Commission to Pune and other places*

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, with your permission I beg to make this *suo motu* statement.

The issue of the Outlook magazine dated 9th May, 2005 has commented adversely on the visit of Justice S.N. Phukan Commission to Pune and other places. In this connection, I would like to place the facts before the hon. Members.

Hon. Members may kindly recall that the Commission was looking into fourteen items relating to the Ministry of Defence which included:

(i) T-90S Tanks

(ii) Tank Navigation System

(iii) Upgunning of 130mm Field Guns

(iv) Krasnopol

(v) Armoured Recovery Vehicle

(vi) Simulators for the Army

(vii) Komet-E

(viii) Light Weight Binoculars

(ix) Hand Held Thermal Imagers

(x) Image Intensifier Tubes

(xi) Rocket Launcher Mk-III

(xii) Sukhoi-30 Aircraft

(xiii) Barak Missiles

(xiv) Advanced Jet Trainer

The matter regarding a visit by the Commission to see the equipment listed above had come up for discussion several times during the hearings before the hon. Commission.

In view of the anticipated visit an order dated 16.12.03 was issued to the Service Headquarters and concerned officers in the Ministry of Defence to prepare for the visit. A request was made to the Service Headquarters to prepare a detailed programme and to send it to the Ministry by 19th December 2003.

Air Headquarters moved Joint Secretary (G/Air) on 17.12.03 to seek the approval of Raksha Mantri for providing Service aircraft.

On 19th December 2003, Secretary of the Commission, wrote a letter to the Ministry of Defence

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*Also placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2053/05.

[Shri Pranab Mukherjee]

that "pursuant to a submission made by the learned Counsel for the Union of India, hon. Chairman has directed that equipment relating to the past defence transactions located at various places may be inspected. Accordingly, hon. Chairman along with the team of counsels for the Commission and officers of the Commission shall visit Pune, Ahmednagar, Bangalore and Mumbai starting 22nd December, 2003 to 27th December, 2003."

On 22nd December 2003 the then Raksha Mantri approved the provision of an IAF Service aircraft.

On 22.12.03 Justice S.N. Phukan, accompanied by Mrs. Phukan and eight officers listed below undertook the visit:

(i) Shri Vijay Hansaria, Senior Counsel

(ii) Shri Yogesh Malhotra

(iii) Shri Pragyan Sharma

(iv) Shri Rahul Bezbaruha

(v) Shri S.K. Dasgupta, Secretary of the Commission

(vi) Shri J.P. Mehta

(vii) Shri Suresh Chander Chawla

(viii) Shri S.L. Bunker from the Ministry of Defence.

The visit was undertaken in a Service aircraft (Avro) to Pune. The visit to Ahmednagar was done in a IAF helicopter. The journey from Pune to Mumbai was made in a helicopter. From Mumbai to Delhi the journey was made by IL-76 transport aircraft. No vist was made to Bangalore.

The Commission visited the shrine of Shirdi from Ahmednagar on 24.12.2003 by road.

The instructions regarding the use of VIP aircraft were issued by the Ministry of Defence on 6.1.1981. *Inter alia* these instructions are reproduced below:

Entitled Personages

(a) The President, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister are entitled to the use of the VIP aircraft.

(b) The following personages are also entitled to the use of the VIP aircraft, if it is essential to do so and if an aircraft is available:

(1) Minister of Defence;

(2) Minister of Home Affairs;

(3) Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence;

(4) Chief of the Army Staff;

(5) Chief of the Naval Staff;

(6) Chief of the Air Staff;

(7) Defence Secretary;

(8) Other Ministers of the Central Government and senior services and civilian officers who are connected with the Defence organisation; and

(9) Cabinet Secretary.

It is expected that, except the President, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister, other users will make use of commercial air services on official duty, whenever possible.

The aircraft of the VIP flight are to be used on official duty only.

For entitled personages when journey is not for Defence purposes, the cost will be recovered according to the scales prescribed from time to time.

No recovery will be made in cases where the Competent Authority for reasons of State decides to provide an aircraft.

Normally for visits of a Commission, Indian Airforce aircraft are not provided. ...*(Interruptions)*

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*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: No questions are permitted here.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, sorry. Let us go back to the Calling Attention.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Then, what is to be done now?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, it is important. No expert was there. No expert went. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow any discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The aircraft did not include any expert. What was the reason to go there? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats. There are many methods which are open. Let us not start a system which is not available here. But, there are many other methods available to hon. Members. Please take recourse to them. Mr. Bansal, I will not allow any question-answer.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, sorry.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, we want some clarifications. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bansal, nothing is being recorded. Why are you saying? I will not allow anything to be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: It is well established so far as this House is concerned. There is a rule in this House on this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, I will not allow you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Are you interested in your Calling Attention, Mr. Acharia?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow. Sorry, Mr. Bansal. I will not permit. I will permit a discussion provided it is initiated in a proper manner. I have to have a notice on that. I cannot allow like this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry. Nothing is being recorded. Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Why are you saying, I do not know.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate. I can only say that. The hon. Leader of the House will please take notice. The rules do not permit it; it is expressly made clear. I have not stopped any discussion in an appropriate manner.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot remake the rules every minute as you like.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Then, I will adjourn the House. I will adjourn the House, if the Members of the ruling party behave in this manner. I can only express my unhappiness, to put it very mildly.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): Sir, the Statement is incomplete.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you go and talk to your Minister?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow, Mr. Ram Kripal Yadav. I have got some more requests for asking clarificatory questions on the Calling Attention.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): It is a very important matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow up to four other hon. Members. I will request them to only mention the question because an elaborate opening has been made by Shri Acharia.

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*Not recorded.

**12.39 hrs.**

## CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE-*Contd.*

**Situation arising out of disinvestment of Juhu Beach Centaur Hotel, Mumbai and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto**

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Gurudas Dasgupta. Only questions please and no preface.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, this is one of the rare of the rarest examples of the Government which was in power at that time to deviate from normal accountable practices in order to give benefit to a person who was known to the Government, was connected with the Government, and who was on the Board of Air India.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: It is rare of the rarest incidences.

MR. SPEAKER: You have made it.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I will take only two minutes. Another exceptional circumstance that you can find is this.

The hon. Minister himself had piloted the transaction. It is the Minister who did it! ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Therefore, one plus one is equal to two. The Government did something which was not only*...* dubious but also against the interest of the country because this hotel was built with our money, the public money. The Government is holding in trust the public money. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question? I will not allow this. Rules are there.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I am coming to that.

MR. SPEAKER: Well-known rules are there. I am here to regulate the House proceedings according to the rules.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: As I said earlier, the Government is holding in trust the public money. Therefore, the question arises. I would like to know whether the hon. Finance Minister takes note of the fact that the former Minister himself was interested in the deal. This is question number one.

Secondly, I would like to know whether it is palpably clear that the Department of Civil Aviation had deliberately pre-decided, pre-judged the sale.

Thirdly, this was all done to reap the benefit. I would like to know whether the benefit of the transaction had been distributed among those who decided the sale, among those who purchased it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: These are assumptions. I cannot allow.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: This is a matter of inquiry. The Government should find it out. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask for an inquiry but do not make assumptions.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: These should be the parameters of the inquiry.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good. You can suggest that but such assumptions will not be proper.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: There is a parameter.

MR. SPEAKER: They are absent today. I cannot allow this. Therefore, you put the question.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: There are four questions that I want to put to the hon. Minister of Finance. After four extensions, why did the banks come to the rescue of the bidder? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, you have put your question. Shri Shailendra Kumar.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: There are just two more questions to be put. Why did the banks come to

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*.....* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

the rescue? Will the Minister clarify? Is it a part of the banking system to finance a palpably clear, fraudulent deal? Will the hon. Minister look into that?

MR. SPEAKER: Very strong words are being used.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: My last question is this. I am not for any CBI inquiry. Let me be very clear. I demand on open judicial inquiry because the sale of the Centaur Hotel is an example of how India's old, the best public sector company was deliberately sold out to make money. ...*(Interruptions)* He is considering the seriousness of it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Next, Shri Shailendra Kumar. Are you putting the question?

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker Sir, I am putting a question only. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Gurudas Dasgupta, you have made you point. Please sit down.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: I would implore upon my friend Shri Chidambaram to kindly respond to it. He should not order just a CBI inquiry but should order an open judicial inquiry to put on toes those who were responsible for draining out India's public sector.

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point more than clear. Shri Shailendra Kumar. You should put only the question. I will not allow a discussion. We are becoming too much habituated to making prefaces.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that right now, the hon. Minister made a statement regarding Juhu Beach Centaur Hotel Mumbai upon which Shri Basu Deb Acharia ji using his logic gave a clarification. It is a very big scam. Through you, I would urge upon the hon. Minister to get a CBI inquiry conducted into this matter after cancelling the entire deal. I would like to know what action would be taken against the guilty persons?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Next, Shrimati C.S. Sujatha. Please put your question only.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavelikara): Sir, in connection with the just referred issue, I wish to draw the attention of this House to the controversial sale of the ITDC Hotel, Kovalam in Kerala. I want a clarification regarding this. The C&AG made a clarification. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: ITDC Hotel, Kovalam has nothing to do with this. I am sorry.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: It is the same subject.

MR. SPEAKER: No. I am sorry. Please wait for another opportunity! If there is a *ghotala*, then, you can come up with this.

Shri Rupchand Pal.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): May I know from the hon. Minister one thing? Is it not a fact that in the course of the reply given on the BALCO debate, the former hon. Finance Minister had given an assurance that every sale, every case of disinvestment would be scrutinised by the C&AG? ...*(Interruptions)* It was not made by you but the former Finance Minister made this in the course of the debate on BALCO. Here, the point is this.

It took about two years for CAG to be provided with the necessary details about the transaction after all these things have become public. The CAG preliminary report was received in January, 2005, that is, after more than two years. The reply of the Government to the preliminary report was sent in the same month, that is, January. What was the main thrust of the report? It is known to the public. It is nothing secret. What is the main thrust of the preliminary report? What is the response of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, it is true that Shri Ajit Kerkar was a member of the Board of Air India at the relevant time. On 3rd November, 1998, Air India constituted a sub-committee to advise on the disinvestment of assets belonging to its subsidiary, the Hotel Corporation of India. On 10th December, 1998, the sub-committee decided to disinvest the hotels held by the subsidiary company and to appoint certain consultants. It is also true that on the very next day, 11th December, 1998, the Air India Board was reconstituted and Shri Ajit Kerkar's name did not figure in the reconstituted Board.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: After the decision was taken!. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have given the facts. It is also true that the Department of Disinvestment presumably with the approval of the Minister decided to invoke the bank guarantee. According to records, which I have seen, the decision to invoke the bank guarantee was taken twice.

The first decision to invoke the bank guarantee was taken on 1st February, 2002 directing that the bank guarantee be invoked unless M/s. THSL fulfil the requirements by the 4th February, 2002. On the 4th February, 2002, M/s. THSL submitted a bankers cheque for Rs. 10 crore to the Hotel Corporation of India. It appears from the records that representatives of M/s. THSL met the Secretary, Disinvestment on the 6th February, 2002 and offered to pay Rs. 5.3 crore by the 15th February, 2002. They signed the agreement to sell and buy and pay Rs. 10 crore by the 1st March, 2002 and execute the escrow agreement and pay the balance of Rs. 127.70 crore by the 10th March, 2002. It appears that some schedule of payment was agreed upon on the 6th February, 2002. That is why, it appears that the decision to invoke the bank guarantee was actually not carried out.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I would like to know whether any undue favour was shown to a particular person? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right. Mr. Acharia, please wait till he completes his reply.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am answering the question. It appears that M/s. THSL failed to meet these deadlines set in the schedule. On the 21st February, 2002, the Minister of Disinvestment once again ordered the invocation of the bank guarantee.

And the advisors served a notice on THSL and requested Air India to proceed for invoking the bank guarantee. It appears from the record that Shri Kerkar met the Minister on the next day, the 22nd of February, 2002 and based on some understanding reached on that day that he would bring the bankers to meet the Minister on the 23rd February, 2002, the decision taken to invoke the bank guarantee was not actually carried out. So, from these events, it is a reasonable inference that while on two occasions the Minister took the decision to invoke the bank guarantee, in subsequent discussions with the representatives of THSL that decision was not implemented and further indulgence was shown to Shri Ajit kerkar and M/s. THSL.

Sir, out of the price of Rs. 153 crore, it appears from the record that the consortium of bankers had lent Rs. 129 crore. The question was about the valuation and the hon. Member asked me whether the hotel was under-valued. Obviously I cannot come to any final conclusion on the valuation because the matter is under examination by the C&AG. However, there is a Valuation Report which encloses, what is called, an Asset Valuation Report. The Asset Valuation Report was made by M/s. Kanti Karamsey and Company. They have adopted two methods to value the asset. The first method was the reinstatement value as on 31st May, 2001 and that value has been given as Rs. 246.50 crore. The second method was the depreciated value as on 31st May, 2001 and that value has been given as Rs. 214.14 crore. This Asset Valuation Report was considered by the Global Advisors and the Global Advisors gave their report and that was considered by an Evaluation Committee on the 8th of November, 2001. But from the minutes of the meeting of the 8th of November, 2001 I find that the Global Advisors had observed that the results of the Asset Valuation Report must be adjusted and the adjusted value of Centaur Hotel at Juhu Beach was put at Rs. 134 crore.

Sir, these are very complicated calculations and I do not think I should take the time of the House by disclosing the manner in which these calculations are arrived at. But the bottom line is, they put the value at Rs. 134 crore. Therefore, I infer that through a process of adjustment, the value reported by the Asset Valuation Report namely two values of Rs. 246.50 crore and Rs. 214.14 crore were adjusted and fixed at Rs. 134 crore.

As far as the Discounted Cash Flow method was concerned, that method yielded a range of Rs. 81.70 crore to Rs. 121.60 crore depending upon some assumptions that you will have to make for the DCF method. When the advisors were asked to give one number for the DCF value, they said, "If you want one number under the DCF value between Rs. 81.70 crore and Rs. 121.60 crore, we say that that is Rs. 101.60 crore". It is that number, Rs. 101.60 crore, which was taken as the reserve price. So, we have a reserve price of Rs. 101.60 crore, which is the middle of the range of DCF value. We have two valuations given by the Asset Valuer, namely M/s Kanti Karamsey & Co., which is Rs. 246.50 crore and Rs. 214.14 crore. We have an adjusted value of Rs. 134 crore and we have the bid of Rs. 153 crore.

Whether the asset was under valued? I am afraid, speaking for the Government, I would have to await the C&AG's final report. Why was there a single bidder? I have given the facts in my statement. There was a single bidder because out of the original 20, three were disqualified and 16 withdrew, leaving only a single bidder.

Was Shri Ajit Kerkar both the seller and the purchaser? As on 10th of December 1998, Shri Ajit Kerkar was indeed a member of a sub-committee and a member of Air India Board and as a member of the sub-committee, he was a party to sell the asset. As on the day THSL put the bid, he was obviously the buyer of the asset. But in between, as I said, on 11th December 1998, he ceased to be a member of the Board of Air India.

Was the hon. Minister interested in the deal? The word 'interested' is a very loaded word. I cannot answer whether he was interested. Sir, it appears that the hon. Minister took an active interest in processing the transaction.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: The hon. Minister piloted it. I thank Shri Chidambaram for saying that.

MR. SPEAKER: Your intermediate thanking is not necessary.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: He can thank me once for all in the end, Sir.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: He said, the hon. Minister had taken an active role in processing. I said, he piloted it.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am using the words, which I am capable of using.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, which you should use.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The hon. Minister appears to have taken an active interest in processing the transactions.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: ...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: No interruptions, please.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: And not to be recorded, please.

MR. SPEAKER: Not to be recorded also. Yes, you are right.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Did the Ministry of Civil Aviation pre-judge the sale? I doubt it. I do not think the Ministry of Civil Aviation really came into the picture at that time because as I said in my statement, the Ministry of Civil Aviation handed over the disinvestment process to the Ministry of Disinvestment. Here, it appears that the Air India Board appointed a sub-committee to commence the process. So, I have nothing on record to show that anybody may have pre-judged the sale.

Were benefits distributed among the people concern? I do not know what the word 'benefits' mean here, so I cannot answer this question. Why did the bank come to the rescue of the buyer? It appears that THSL and presumably Shri Ajit Kerkar, who was the Chief Promoter was able to persuade the banks that this was a bankable transaction.

**13.00 hrs.**

There is not one bank; there are seven banks. They form a consortium. They may have come to the conclusion that this is a valuable asset against which they are lending because the entire asset is an equitable mortgage to the bankers. Purely from the banking point of view, as long as the loan was secured by an asset and as long as documentation was complete, perhaps the bankers thought that this was a bankable transaction. Whether they were encouraged to lend, these are not matters which can be found on record. Therefore, kindly wait until I make my concluding statement on this.

Now, Shri Rupchand Pal asked me if it is not a fact that the former Finance Minister gave an assurance that every disinvestment would be scrutinised by C&AG. Frankly speaking, I need notice to answer the question because I need to look into the records. I have not gone through the records, so I cannot say anything. If he has made a statement on the floor of the House that would be a part of the Parliamentary record. But, I am willing to look into the record if you indicate me broadly the month or the year in which he made the statement. I will look into the record and send you an answer. I do not know the answer to the question.

Sir, what remains to be answered is the inquiry by the C&AG. C&AG has indeed made, what is called, a Report on Audit. It is a very long Report. The Ministry of

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*Not recorded.

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

Finance, Department of Disinvestment has responded to that audit Report. I believe, our response is fair, objective, unbiased and factual. I am awaiting the final Report of C&AG. I was informed this morning that C&AG is likely to submit its final Report very shortly. In the meanwhile, we have some information about what happened post-disinvestment. According to the information given to me by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the total number of employees of the erstwhile Centaur Hotel, Juhu was 801. Both under the category of VRS and resignations; 593 employees have left the service leaving a balance of 208 employees. Again, according to the information given to me by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, it is learnt that the remaining 208 employees are receiving their salaries. I cannot say whether they are receiving the salaries on the due date or up to date. I have also received information from the banks concerned. M/s. Vijaya Bank have reported that there was a proposal from the Hotel to sell 55,000 square feet of land to a party, and Vijaya Bank had issued a No Objection Certificate in the year 2003. I have also received information that the borrower defaulted in payment of interest from the very beginning. Due to irregularities in repayment of instalments and servicing the interest, the account became an NPA with effect from November, 2002. When these irregularities came to the notice of the bank, the bank issued a public notice and published a cautionary notice in newspapers advising the members of the public not to deal with the company's assets charged to the bank without the consent of the bank.

M/s Vijaya Bank also decided to go ahead with the filing of a winding up petition in order to prevent the company, that is, M/s THSL, from transferring its assets or shares to a third party without the knowledge of the bank. It appears the bank has taken some pre-emptive action. As I said, the Report of the C&AG is expected.

The Bank of India has reported that out of Rs. 129 crore, Rs. 99 crore was converted into an ECB loan against the bank guarantee issued by the Bank of India, UBI, Canara Bank and the Punjab National Bank. M/s Vijaya Bank and the Indian Bank have not joined in that guarantee. They continue as regular term loans, RTLs. The Bank of India has reported that they have been informed by M/s. THSL that they are looking for a strategic investor for the project. They propose to bring in a strategic partner into the company. Therefore, we have conflicting reports. One bank has reported that the company is apparently trying to sell the assets against which that bank has published a cautionary notice. Another bank has reported that the company intends to bring in a strategic partner into the company. Now I do not know which of these reports is correct. I also do not know what is the intention of M/s THSL. We have to be prepared for either eventuality and take appropriate action to defend the interest of the bankers.

Therefore, for the present, all I can say is this. My Ministry will advise the bankers to take all pre-emptive and protective legal and other action in order to secure the loan and the monies due to the banks. The Ministry of Civil Aviation has been advised to look into all the non-banking post-disinvestment issues. Once I get the C&AG's Report, we will decide whether it calls for further action. If further action is required and further inquiry is to be made, we will then take a decision what kind of inquiry should be made into this matter.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, as per the reply given by the Finance Minister, it is a fit case for the inquiry to be made by CBI. What is the difficulty in handing over this to CBI? Or, a JPC will inquire. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Why can he not say that an inquiry should be conducted? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot answer for him. You are asking me.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav has to mention an important matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: There are a lot of irregularities. We should inquire into the irregularities. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Only the speech of Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised an important matter. The hon. Minister has replied to it.

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*Not recorded.

*[Translation]*

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): 120 villages of my Lok Sabha Parliamentary constituency are facing severe crisis. There is a Balm Organics Chemical factory in Gajraula, Muradabad district of Uttar Pradesh. Its poisonous effluent is drained into Bagat River flowing nearby. The water of the river has been poisoned by this effluent so it is no longer fit for consumption by the 120 villages The vegetables which are grown here get purified within 24 hours and the foodgrain produced there is also no longer fit for consumption. Several kinds of diseases have spread among people of all age groups. There water drawn out of the handpumps or wells turns yellow within five minutes and is not safe for drinking. Inspection of the treatment plant is carried out however, the untreated poisonous discharge continues to be released. This plant belongs to such a powerful person that no Government can take action against him. I need your protection for safe guarding the interests of voters of my constituency and demand the Government to direct the Ministry of Environment and Forests to cancel the license of this company of shut it down. Compensation should be given for the loss of life and property. The government should make arrangement for drinking water in the villages since the water pipes are getting polluted, drinking water is getting contaminated and soil is also getting polluted. Therefore, arrangements for compensation should be made after sealing the factory and cancelling its license. I demand you to direct the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I am waiting for you to complete.

*[Translation]*

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: I am not able to visit my constituency whenever I go there people start complaining ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate. I can only say that this is very unfortunate. Although it is past one o'clock yet I have allowed this matter because a responsible and a respectable Member told me to be allowed to raise it. Please wait whether I will make any comment or not.

*[Translation]*

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Saidpur): Reply must come from the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: You go to your seat otherwise I shall not take notice of it. I believe the hon. Minister will take a notice of this. This is a very serious matter, and I hope there will be an early response.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are not waiting for me to help you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Allow me to conduct this House. There are so many super speakers, What can I do?

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAVINDER NAIK DHARVATH (Warangal): Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you on behalf of the Banjara Community in their dialect "Panch pachare Raja Bhoje Ri Sabha, Pachare lakh, Un pachare Sawalakh, Bhaiyan Saga se pachare jagat" for providing me an opportunity to speak on their issue. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the Banjara community which is known by 12 names like- Gawaria, Maru, Brajwasi, Sirkiband, Bajigar, Dhankuta, Nat, Gwal, Badi, Mathura Sikaligar and Kangshya and for the redressal of their problems.

This community resides far from all the villages and cities of the country in Lak Banjara Tando (settlements) who have been deprived of the minimum basic amenities as of now. This community has been given the status of scheduled tribes in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Bihar while in Karnataka, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan, they enjoy the status of scheduled castes. And in the remaining States of the country they are not covered under any category. Therefore, this community is deprived of several facilities. I would urge upon you to direct the Government in this regard. As in the year 1976 the then Prime Minister Late Smt. Indira Gandhi through an Ordinance, conferred the status of scheduled tribe, to this community in Telangana region of Andhra Pradesh, orders should be issued for the remaining parts of the country also. I would like to bring to your notice that Banjara settlements have not been recognised. Their settlements should be awarded the status of Gram Panchayats. Special budget allocation should be made to provide them with Minimum basic amenities. Banjara community having 12 names has a dialect called 'Gor' and does not have a script and its population is 6 crore. Their 'Gor' dialect should be included in the Eighth schedule of the Constitution.

[Shri Ravinder Naik Dharvath]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, under article 340 of the Constitution, the Government has constituted a commission for the Banjara and other nomadic community in last March which will look into the matter of their financial, social and educational backwardness. I would request that the report of this Commission should be submitted to the Government at the earliest so that action could be taken in this regard.

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO (Giridih): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through the House, I would like to apprise the Government that adequate arrangements for Doctor, Nurse, Compounder and medicines have nowhere been made in the Health Centres, Additional Health Centres, Government dispensaries, Sub-Divisional Hospital, Referral Hospital and District Headquarters Hospital in the State of Jharkhand. Most of the doctors are engaged in their private practice and do not visit the Health Centres or Additional Health Centre. No arrangements for a proper medical treatment are there even in the RIMS Hospital of Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand. The management of Patliputra Medical College and Dhanbad Hospital has been collapsed. The patients in Jharkhand suffering from incurable disease are referred to Delhi or CMC Vellore. So much so that the doctors of Jharkhand are referring the patients suffering from even common diseases to either Delhi or Vellore, Tamil Nadu. Owing to poverty the poor patients are unable to go to Delhi or Vellore for medical treatment. Under this situation, untimely deaths are taking place in absence of medicine and treatment.

Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government to make proper arrangements of doctors and medicines in all the hospitals of the State immediately.

Sir, in addition, people are dying due to dog-bite there. Earlier, medicines were available in Government hospitals, but now there is no supply of medicines there. Even if there are some, medicines, they are very costly, which are out of the reach of a poorman. A number of people are dying of Kala-azar and Malaria. Even the DDT powder is not being sprayed timely. Therefore, I would request the Union Government to make arrangements to solve these problems immediately.

**13.16 hrs.**

**(i) Re: Need to pass Women's Reservation Bill**

*[English]*

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, for giving me the privilege to raise an important matter in this august House.

Representation for women through reservation in various political forums has been identified as one of the important means of achieving gender equality throughout our country. It has been an issue that had seized women activists not just today but even in the pre-Independence era. The issue of separate representation was first voiced when the idea of provincial autonomy was mooted during the days of the British Raj. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not give a speech here. Just mention that you want the Bill to be taken up early.

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: I am coming to the point regarding the Women's Reservation Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the point.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you are disturbing your own colleague, I cannot help you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: The highest representation of women is in Scandinavian countries. Throughout the world, women's representation in Parliament is 14 per cent whereas in India it is only around eight per cent.

I, on behalf of my party, urge upon the Government, through you, to place the long awaited Women's Reservation Bill in its present form. After placement, if necessary, let it be put to vote but under any circumstances further dilly-dallying would create a deep-rooted misunderstanding among women.

Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please wait.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The names of Shrimati Jyotirmoyee Sikdar, Prof. Basudeb Barman, Shrimati Satheedevi, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shrimati C.S. Sujatha and Shri T.K. Hamza would be recorded as having associated.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankuara): Sir, we want a response from the Government. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here. We would like to know

whether the Government would bring the Bill to provide for 33 per cent reservation for women before the House. He should inform the House. ...*(Interruptions)* It has been pending for the last ten years. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing would go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Lakshman Seth. If you do not want to hear him, I would adjourn the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let us see if the hon. Minister wants to respond. If he wants to respond, I would not stop him.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, I would bring this to the attention of the hon. Minister concerned. I would convey the feelings of the hon. Members.

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*[English]*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Sir, I would like to raise an issue of public importance.

Throughout the country, mainly in the southern India, in Tamil Nadu, *Gutkha,* which is very dangerous to health, is being now traded illegally. *Gutkha* and Pan Parag cause cancer. In the case of *gutkha* particularly, I think, there is a lobby which is manipulating things to run their business and trade throughout the country. So, I would urge upon the hon. Minister of Home Affairs and the hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare to bring a law banning the business of *gutkha* and Pan Parag. This is my earnest request to the Government through you.

MR. SPEAKER: This is what is needed. It is a very specific and good point.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR MANJHI (Gaya): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I request you to allow me to raise an important issue. In Bihar 32 person have died of starvation that includes 10 each in Nalanda and Jahanabad, 5 in Nawada district, 3 in Bhojpur and 1 in Rohtash district. Three person have died in my parliamentary constituency. The deceased includes children and women of backward caste and Dalits. Youth and aged people are also among the dying people. It is difficult to ascertain the exact number of people died. Whenever starvation death occurs, the administration tries to hide the reality under the guise of malnutrition or disease. Through this House, I demand the Union Government to declare Bihar as famine-affected State and while declaring all districts of State as backward districts, food for work scheme and Employment Guarantee Scheme should be implemented immediately there.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL (Kheda): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards an important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: There should be silence in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: In a news item published in "Dainik Jagaran" dated 3rd May, 2005 and news telecast on channel 7 mentioning a book wherein Sardar Patel, Mahatma Gandhi and Subhash Chandra Bose were condemned. It has been written about Sardar Patel that when he was Home Minister he used to work arbitrarily and his role was shameful. He used to misuse his office to prove Muslims as rioters instead of pacifying communal riots. Whatever is being taught to the students of history Journalism of second year in Delhi University for last 25 years about Sardar Patel, who had extended his commendable contribution to unite country, is very shameful.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: If you all read two pages, then how can I allow?

...*(Interruptions)*

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*Not recorded.

*[Translation]*

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, it has been written about Indian Constitution there that it is a tailor made document and most of the articles have been copied, as it is from Act of 1935 enacted by the Britishers. About Gandhiji it has been written that he was victim of defeat under the garb of non-violence. About Netaji Subash Chandra Bose it has been said that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not give so much details.

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: About Netaji, it has been written that he was inclined towards fascism. Thus he was criticised. Hon'ble Speaker Sir, I request you to take stringent action against the publisher of this book and to ban this book. Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that Mahatma Gandhiji, Sadar Patel, Subhash Chandra Bose and Nehru were not only in the past, they are with us even today and will remain tomorrow ideologically.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dinsha Patel, your matter is very important. That is why, I have allowed it to be raised. You have also very appropriately raised it.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI DINSHA PATEL: Therefore, the Government should take action in this matter immediately.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: It is for the Government to decide.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Amitava Nandy.

Please be brief. We are taking too much time. I am sorry, I cannot allow indefinitely.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMITAVA NANDY (Dumdum): Sir, I draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Defence to the barbaric atrocity of a few BSF personnel of B-106 Battalion stationed at Ghojadanga of North 24 Paraganas, West Bengal whereby a housewife was brutally shot down. Her only fault being she attempted to save herself from being raped by the BSF jawans who were posted there by your Ministry for providing protection. This has come in today's *Ananda Bazar Patrika.*

It appears that such kinds of mindless and ruthless incidents are gradually increasing in the border areas. A point has to be noted that as these BSF personnel does have a definite role to play in the border areas as far as national security is concerned so does these civilians, who reside along the borders. So, such kind of brutal attitude will only generate hatred and non-cooperation and the basic purpose of the BSF will be rendered futile.

I, therefore, demand immediate replacement of the present battalion, a very stringent punishment at par with court martial and adequate compensation to the affected families with immediate effect because this is a case which is a kind of extreme rarity and is beyond the normal imagination of a human being. Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow 15 Members if each of you take five to ten minutes each. Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy to speak now.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Thank you, Sir. Tobacco and chilly are two important commercial crops besides groundnut in Andhra Pradesh. The prices of tobacco and chilly fell down this year and the peasants are not getting a remunerative price. A group of Members of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh met the hon. Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Kamal Nath who directed the Tobacco Board to enter into the market of tobacco and save the peasants. But, unfortunately, it did not materialise. One single monopoly house in tobacco which is purchasing 75 per cent of tobacco is playing havoc with the peasants.

We appeal to the Government to intervene immediately to explore the possibility to exports, enter into the market and to save the peasants. The Tobacco Board should be directed to make purchases of tobacco at the minimum guarantee price.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Gopal Yadav to speak now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am very sorry. I stand corrected. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav to speak. It is because you are distracting me all the time.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): No, Sir. I have never distracted you.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well.

*...(Interruptions)*

**13.27 hrs.**

**(II) Re: Need for setting up an I.I.T. at Patna, Bihar**

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the matter of urgent public importance. Bihar has a population of approximately 9 crores and it has been a backward State since independence despite having such a huge population there is no engineering institute of national level there. It does not have IIT (Indian Institute of Technology). After the division, Bihar has been deprived of many important institutes which now fall in Jharkhand. There is no institute of national level in Bihar. Consequently, braindrain is taking place on large scale. Bihar is a poverty ridden State. The students in Bihar are unable to go to other places for studies. A big amount goes out of Bihar. Therefore, it is my request that keeping in view the population of 9 crore people of Bihar and to check the braindrain from there, proper steps should be taken immediately. The hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development is sitting here.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Mere repetition does not make it strong. You have made it very strongly. Please conclude.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: No, the hon. Minister is not present here.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Hon. Minister of State is sitting here. *...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed you. You have said it. What more do you want? Do not go on repeating.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If he wants to speak on his own, I have no objection.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): Shri Ram Kripal Yadavji has raised a very important issue regarding Bihar. Most of the population of Bihar is deprived of education. We will definitely consider it.

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*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P. Mohan to speak now.

*[Translation]*

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): *In the Union Territory of Pondicherry elections to the local administration bodies have not been conducted for the past 37 years. The Panchayati Raj institutions and Nagar Palikas which are supposed to have periodical elections under the Panchayati Raj Act as enacted in this Parliament through 93rd Amendment of the Constitution are run without elections. Union Government through this enactment has stipulated that Panchayati Raj institutions must have elections once every five years. It is mandatory and a constitutional requirement. Even after so many years of the Centre having legislated this Panchayati Raj Act no step has been taken to hold local bodies' election in Pondicherry, a Union Territory region that comes under the Centre directly. People of Pondicherry could not get basic civic amenities like sanitation and health facilities for want of accountable elected bodies. If there had been regular elections and if there had been regularly elected bodies the Panchayati Raj Ministry at the Centre would be giving Rs. 176 crore to carry out sanitation and other projects every year. That way it is a great loss to the people of Pondicherry. The State administration there in the Union Territory of Pondicherry is not getting its rightful

*Not recorded.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri P. Mohan]

allocation all these years for the past 37 years especially after the establishment of Panchayati Raj system with the constitutionally provided for regular elections. Basic amenities are not being improved adequately in that small but beautiful State of Pondicherry. Hence I urge upon the Union Government especially the Panchayati Raj Ministry and the Law Ministry to take steps to hold elections there for the local bodies.

With this I conclude.

*[English]*

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (Nagercoil): Sir, I associate myself with hon. Member Shri P. Mohan.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well.

The House is adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

**13.30**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

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**14.36 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at thirty-six minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL *in the Chair]*

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up Item No. 12 of today's Revised List of Business, namely, Matters under Rule 377. Shri Madhu Goud Yaskhi.

### (i) Need to formulate a comprehensive policy of social welfare schemes for the benefit of tribal population in the country

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI (Nizamabad): Sir, with your permission, I want to invite the attention of the Government towards the unabated incidents of exploitation and harassment of the tribal population in the country, which is also one of the reasons for spreading naxalism in the country.

Despite legal provisions and welfare schemes, the Scheduled Tribes population in the country still remain alienated from the National mainstream. The tribal people, particularly the youth, in the absence of any constructive support from the Government are taking to naxalism. I urge upon the Government to bring forward a comprehensive policy document envisaging social welfare schemes including provision of wage employment; institutional credit; school education; health facilities; land allotment; housing; in a nutshell, better living conditions with basic minimum amenities for the tribals.

There is also a need to ensure effective implementation and monitoring mechanism for all the welfare schemes being implemented for the tribals. The land of the tribals from which they have been alienated should be restored to them immediately. Such an action on the part of the Government would build confidence in the tribal population, help bring them in the National mainstream, and would also help the Government to effectively address the naxal problem.

### (ii) Need for early commissioning of Super Thermal Power Project at Nabinagar, Bihar

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): Sir, the Bihar Government, in 1989, had announced that a Super Thermal Power Project of 2,200 MW at a cost of Rs. 8,000 crore would be set up at Nabinagar in Aurangabad in Bihar. But there was no progress in it until 1999, when it was revived, put on the fast track, and included in the current five-year plan. Essential formalities needed to prepare the feasibility report were completed. Power purchase agreements should have been negotiated at that stage, but before it could be done, the Railways entered the scene and in a bid to hijack the project offered to finance the project with 51 per cent equity. In return, however, the Railways also stipulated that it would consume all the power produced by the project by itself. It meant that Bihar would be denied any share in it. The Railways, then, hurriedly organised its foundation-stone laying ceremony after the Thirteenth Lok Sabha was dissolved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Nikhil Kumar, the rules with regard to Rule 377 state that the hon. Members have to confine themselves to the text, which is approved. I am saying this because only the approved text goes on record. Therefore, please confine to that only.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Okay, Sir, I will do it. It is now learnt that the project does not, till date, have the necessary approval of the Union Cabinet.

The need of the hour is to commission this project at the earliest to improve the grim power situation in Bihar. The hon. Power Minister is requested to kindly accord the necessary approval and ensure that work on its construction begins without further delay, and that Bihar is given its due share.

**(iii) Need to provide remunerative prices to the chilli growers in Andhra Pradesh**

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): Sir, Andhra Pradesh is at the prime production of chillies. But there is a marketing problem. As the open market rate has fallen drastically during the year 2003-2004, a minimum support price was fixed at Rs. 2,700/-per quintal, which is also not remunerative. During this year, it has to be fixed at Rs. 3,000/-per quintal.

The approximate production of chillies during the present season is 60 to 70 lakh bags of 40 kgs each. This is roughly 2,40,000 MT. But so far, only 8,000 MT is marketed. This is causing much anxiety among the farmers and leading to agitational programmes.

To bail out the farmers from the crisis, the *Rytu Bandhu Pathakam* (scheme) has to be implemented effectively by the State Government wherein 75 per cent of the market price has to be provided as loan from the market yard funds at free of interest for three months.

I would request the Government of India to take the following steps immediately to save the chilli growers of Andhra Pradesh.

1. MARKFED & NAFED to enter the market under Market Intervention Scheme and procure the available stocks at a minimum guaranteed price of at least Rs. 2,700/-per quintal; ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, I have to make the same observation again. In case of 'Matters Under Rule 377', the Members are expected to confine to the approved text. That is the limitation to this.

SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Okay, Sir.

2. Sanction of loans from *Rythu Bandhu Scheme;*

3. Opening of more Purchasing Centres;

4. Exemption from Purchase Tax; and

5. Establishment of Chilly Board at Guntur.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sajjan Kumar—absent.

**(iv) Need to provide adequate financial assistance to the Government of Jharkhand for implementation of small irrigation projects in the State**

*[Translation]*

SHRI FURKAN ANSARI (Godda): Sir, Jharkhand is a very backward State. Only 1/4th part of land is cultivable there due to paucity of water for irrigation. The rest 3/4th of land is barren. There is no arrangement for irrigation of the land for agriculture in the State. Neither the Union Government nor the State Government has paid any attention towards this problem. The Union Government executed several big projects but they have not improved the situation regarding irrigation in any significant way.

I request the Union Government to implement small irrigation projects so that the land of the State could be made cultivable. It would on one hand make the State self-reliant in the field of agriculture and on the other hand, it would generate employment. Required funds should be made available to the State Government for these schemes of irrigation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Furkan Ansari, only that would go on record which you have spoken, nothing more would go on record.

*[English]*

Shri Y.G. Mahajan—Not present.

Shri Ganesh Singh—Not present.

Shri Sukdeo Paswan—Not present.

Shri Suresh Chandel—Not present.

Shrimati Manorama Madhavaraj—Not present.

Shri P. Karunakaran.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, the opposition is not present in the House then why are their names being called. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramdasji, please sit down. Please let him speak. You would also get a chance to speak.

**(v) Need to ensure supply of kerosene at subsidised rates to the fishermen community in Kerala**

*[English]*

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): I would like to invite the attention of the Government towards the serious problems being faced by the fishermen in Kerala.

Due to the unfortunate happening of the Tsunami waves, fishermen issue became very serious. The main livelihood of these poor people is fishing in the country boats, which needs kerosene. Now, kerosene has become very precious product in Kerala. The restriction on the import of kerosene and also the restricted quota allotted to Kerala has worsened the situation. Fishermen get only 30 per cent of their needs at subsidised price, that is, Rs. 10/-per litre. But the rests of the demand has to be met through open market. It costs Rs. 26/-per litre, which they cannot bear. The Government should take necessary steps to give kerosene to the fishermen at a price which they can bear. There are strong PDS and fishermen's Cooperatives in Kerala. Through IOC outlets, the kerosene with a bearable price can be supplied.

I would request the Government to take immediate action to supply kerosene to fishermen in Kerala at subsidised prices.

**(vi) Need to engage Private Companies for mining activities in Bundelkhand Region, Uttar Pradesh**

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Mr. Chairman, Sir, copper, lead, zink, gold, diamond and other precious stones are present in large quantity in Mahoba-Hamirpur-Jhansi-Lalitpur-Bandha-Chitrakut-Jalaun in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh. Various private companies engaged in mineral exploration have applied through the Uttar Pradesh Government for seeking reconnaissance permit. The exploration work of mineral reserves will be started if the Government consider on the application of the said companies and give approval for the exploration of minerals at the earliest.

So, I urge upon the Government to consider on the applications of the said companies and give approval for launching the exploration work of the minerals at the earliest.

**(vii) Need to provide more funds under ASIDE Scheme to Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, under the ASIDE scheme for the year 2004-05 the allocation of funds of Rs. 12.59 crore to the Uttar Pradesh is much less in comparison to the allocations made for the other States as Rs. 39.19 crore have been allocated to Tamil Nadu, Rs. 35.78 to Gujarat and Rs. 57.09 crore to Maharashtra.

Uttar Pradesh is land locked and high export growth potential State. The ASIDE funds are allocated approved by the Government to the various States on the basis of figures received from the Director General, Foreign Trade Kolkata. Since Uttar Pradesh is a land locked State so the exporters of the State have set up their offices/ branches in coastal States (Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Karnataka). Though the export done from the offices set up by the exporters of the State are affact the export of the Uttar Pradesh, however, the export entries are made in the name of the coastal States where the officers/branches have been set up by the exporters of Uttar Pradesh and goods are exported from those States. The result is that Uttar Pradesh is not being benefited by this.

So I urge upon the Government to release a minimum of Rs. 30 crore at the earliest in place of Rs. 12.59 crore as a central assistance under the ASIDE Scheme for the year 2004-05.

**(viii) Need to provide immediate financial assistance to meet the acute drinking water problem in Gaya District, Bihar**

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR MANJHI (Gaya): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the problem of acute shortage of drinking water is getting more serious day by day in my parliamentary constituency Gaya. The summer has yet to get its full intensity however rivers, ponds and wells have dried up. The people are migrating to other places in search of water. This problem is persisting equally in rural as well as urban areas. If the said problem is not solved at the earliest the situation will further deteriorate and it is very difficult to imagine what will happen during the severe heat of May-June.

So, through the House, I urge upon the Government to release emergency fund at the earliest to tackle the problem of drinking water in Gaya district.

**(ix) Need to ensure effective implementation of centrally sponsored scheme providing foodgrains to the people living below the poverty line in Barabanki district, Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV (Faizabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government of India had made available foodgrains worth billions of rupees for some of the backward and extremely poor districts of Uttar Pradesh under the foodgrains scheme for the year 2004-05 so that the poor families living below poverty line may not starve. However, there are certain districts of Uttar Pradesh where the Government's fund has not been utilized. Contrary to the objective of the Government of India, the guidelines of the said scheme have not been compiled with in some of the districts. The result is that the said scheme has completely failed in the said districts. It is on account of this that lakhs of people mainly, rural unemployed, extremely poor and the people living below poverty line have been deprived of the benefit of this popular scheme.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yadavji as per the Rule 377 you are supposed to read only that text which has been approved. If there is any deviation from the approved text, it is not recorded, you please read only the approved text.

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am reading the same.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, please go on.

SHRI MITRASEN YADAV: The scheme has not been implemented as per the guidelines of the scheme, even in those districts where the scheme has been implemented. For instance, out of the foodgrains worth Rs. 27 crore, the food grains worth oly Rs. 2 crore has been distributed in district Barabanki of Uttar Pradesh. Out of Rs. 27 crore, Rs. 25 crore has lapsed. Had the said fund been properly utilized it would have certainly provided employment to lakhs of poor people. However, such thing could not happen.

So, through you, I urge upon the Government to review the implementation of the said scheme in district Barabanki of Uttar Pradesh.

**(x) Need to sanction adequate funds to conduct Research in predicting Tsunami and to take preventive measures with a view to protect the lives of the people living in coastal areas.**

*[English]*

SHRI M. APPADURAI (Tenkasi): Sir, the black day of December 26, 2004 is unforgettable and very saddest day in the world history, particularly in Tamil Nadu, that day Tsunami, first time in Indian history, created panic among the public, particularly in the fishermen community. The coastal area of Chennai, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam, Tuticorin, Kanyakumari Districts and Andaman & Nicobar Islands were affected severelly by the so-called Tsunami which killed thousands of human beings and livestock and innumerable loss to the properties. The rehabilitation programmes carried out by both Central and State Government are still continuing.

Exactly after four months, again on 27th April, 2005, the coastal area of my district, that is, from Tuticorin to Tiruchendur have realised the effect of Tsunami. The sea water level increased, consequently the fishermen boats and huts were washed away. The people of these areas are scared.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to take immediate useful scientific steps to predict the Tsunami in advance and to take preventive measures, so that the Government will protect the people and the fishermen before any adverse things happened in future. So, the Government must allocate necessary funds to conduct a research in this regard and take protective measures besides releasing enough funds for rehabilitation programmes to be taken at the time of such a natural disasters.

**(xi) Need to grant B-2 Status to Pondicherry city for HRA purpose**

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Sir, the issue of granting B-2 status to Pondicherry city for HRA purpose has not been approved by the Ministry of Finance on the ground that it does not have a population of five lakhs which implies that population is the criterion for deciding the status of cities. But it is understood that this criterion is not adopted in the classification of Goa, Portblair, Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and the rural areas of Lakshadweep group of Islands for the purpose of House Rent Allowance. For instance, Portblair city which has a population of less than one lakh, 99,984 to be exact, has been upgraded from C Class to B-1 Class. If these cities have been conferred higher status for peculiar situation, the same situation prevail in the case of Pondicherry city also. For instance, the cost of construction is higher, the rents are abnormally rising, the degree of urbanization is high (68.8 per cent of the population is the urban population), industrialisation is rapid, floating population is considerable and expansion of educational institutions is phenomenal.

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

Pondicherry, which is the capital city, is perhaps the only capital of a State or Union Territory in the whole country which still remains as Class "C" city even today. I request the Government to grant B-2 status to Pondicherry city immediately for House Rent purpose.

**(xii) Need to take steps for the revival of tea industry in the country**

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduar): Since 1998, Tea Industry has been passing through a bad phase, resulting in closure of several tea gardens. Ultimately, labour force has to suffer a lot. They are deprived of their statutory benefits. Wages are not paid timely as it should have been done as per Plantation Labour Act. Further, medical facilities are suspended, ration is not provided regularly, provident fund and LIC premium although deducted from the salary of the workers, are not deposited at the respective accounts. PF and gratuity are not paid to the employees even after retirement.

Replantation and rejuvenation were not done for long. Approximately, 1,72,000 and 42,000 hectares of land is required to be replanted and rejuvenated respectively in the existing tea gardens. It was given an impression by the hon. Commerce Minister that a package of relief would be announced during the Budget session to support the tea industry. Except withdrawal of surcharge of Re. 1.00 on one kilogram of tea, quantum of sum required for revival of tea industry has not been declared as yet.

I request the hon. Minister of Commerce to expedite the matter and a package of relief for the tea industry may be announced immediately.

**(xiii) Need to include Pandharpur in Maharashtra in the Central List of Pilgrimage centres and allocate adequate funds for its development as a tourist centre**

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): I draw your attention towards the development of pilgrimage centre in my parliamentary constituency—Pandharpur, Maharashtra. Pandharpur, in the Sholapur district of Maharashtra, which is situated in a quiet place in the laps of River Chandra Bhaga and the Temple Vithal Rakumai, is on the banks of River Chandra Bhaga.

The Temple Vithal Rakumai is being visited by lakhs of pilgrims from the States of Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and foreigners apart from Maharashtra itself to seek the blessings of Vithal Rakumai. However, these pilgrims are facing difficulties without proper arrangement for accommodation, sanitation etc. Development of this place as a pilgrimage centre will benefit both the pilgrims and the revenue earnings of the Government.

However, it is learnt that the Pandharpur is not in the pilgrimages list of Central Government and hence there is no authority to take care of the needs of pilgrims. Hence, it is requested that necessary steps may be taken so that Phandharpur is listed in pilgrimage centres list of Central Government with allocation of an amount of Rs. 50 crore for the development of this pilgrimage centre in the public interest.

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**14.58 hrs.**

## NAVY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up Item Number 13. The hon. Minister to move the Bill for consideration.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Navy Act, 1957, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I will just like to give a very small introduction to it. The Bill has only nine amendments and most of these amendments are quite innocuous. But, this Amendment Bill has a long history starting from 1996. We had a wait till almost nine years, up to 2005, to get the Bill passed. The Bill was introduced in 1996 and thereafter from Rajya Sabha, it came to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee has made the recommendations. After the recommendations were considered by the Government, the Bill was again introduced in the Rajya Sabha for consideration. At that stage, somebody pointed out that the Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha was considering the Coast Guard (Amendment) Bill 2001, which had analogous provisions. Therefore, they deferred the consideration of the Navy (Amendment) Bill. In between, the Coast Guard (Amendment) Bill was converted into the Amendment Act in 2002 but the Navy (Amendment)

Bill could not be taken up. The Twelfth Lok Sabha had collapsed. It was not taken up in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. After the constitution of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, it was considered necessary.

**15.00 hrs.**

The substantive parts of the amendments are these. Firstly, there is a great anomaly still today. Officially, it is known as 'Royal Navy'. Therefore, it is proposed to remove the word 'Royal'. Sometimes we face this problem. We re-employ the retired officers. But the definition of the officer is such that these redeployed persons cannot be brought within the purview of the definition. So, that definition is to be changed. That is why, it has been provided that an "Officer" means "(b) a commissioned officer re-employed as such". Another incongruity that prevails is this. In the original Act, there is a provision of limitation period for a period of three years. Therefore, whenever some offences were detected, no action could be taken once three years' period is passed since the date of retirement. Now, many a time, it has been found, when investigations and other things take place in between, that omissions and commissions are detected at a much later date and no action is taken because the limitation period was over. Another incongruous provisions was that, even for a minor offence, there was no provision in the Navy Act to try any offence expecting Court Martial. For minor offences like extension of leave without permission etc., either you have to let off the person or go in for his Court Martial. So, through these amendments, we have tried to correct the position and bring in the punishments analogous to the other penal laws. The amendments are in conformity with them.

With these words, I commend the Bill for the consideration of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Navy Act,1957, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, I rise to support this Navy (Amendment) Bill, 2005 as passed by the Rajya Sabha. I find no reason to have any objection in the passing of this amendment.

**15.02 hrs.**

[SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL *in the Chair*]

So, I think that there is no need for any elaborate elucidation with regard to the processing of this Bill.

It is true that the Amendment is mainly for imposing penalties on the officers in the Navy. The Amendment also gives the Central Government more powers to impose penalties on the officers who are found guilty. As has been stated in the Amendment, the Commanding Officer, the Flag Officer and the Chief of Naval Staff are the officers who have got the authority to punish them.

It is true that our Navy has a very glorious history. I would like to take this opportunity to praise them for the noble work that they have done. We, in India, have a very long marine coastal belt. So, the duty and the responsibility of the Navy become more deep. Of course, as a big Defence unit, there are occasions when mistakes are committed and all that. So, it is to correct them and give punishments to them.

I really appreciate the Government for the functioning of the Navy in recent times. In this connection, though it is not directly connected with these amendments, let me say a few words with regard to the Defence units in Kerala. We know that Kochi is known for nationally important Defence units. The Government of India, of course, gives due importance especially to the Defence units. But, at that, for the industrial belt of the Kerala and the central functioning of the Kerala, the Government has to give more importance in the case of financial assistance and other things. The more important issue, which I would like to say in this regard is with regard to the Ezhimala Naval Academy. I appreciate the initiatives of the Defence Minister as the first phase of the Naval Academy was commissioned in the last month itself.

It is really a very beautiful place; it is a very strategic point; everyone knew this.

I would like to say something here. When this project was proposed, without any objection, all the persons in the locality have given their consent. It is a very prestigious Defence Unit, which is not only known in Kerala and in India, but also throughout the world because of its strategic importance. At the time of starting of this project, it was decided—during the discussions with all the political parties and also the Government representatives in Kerala—that the infrastructure for the project has to be met by the Government of Kerala, because it is the need of the common people. So, hundreds of people had to give their lands. Without any objection, they have surrendered their lands; there was no struggle at all. But at the same time, it was pointed out to the authorities that roads were to be built to connect their places; railway over-bridge was to be built and there should be some medical facilities also.

[Shri P. Karunakaran]

I am really sad to say that many of the promises that were made were not fulfilled at all. The most important issue in this case in the pathetic condition of the poor farmers. They are now staying in different parts of the district and the State because they had already given their lands. They have sacrificed for the nation. At the same time, they have not been given the compensation as yet. They approached the State Government. The State Government has not taken any action. Then, they approached the High Court. The High Court has given a verdict to do it within the time limit. But it has not been done. The issue was not solved. So, I do fully agree with the amendments. A positive attitude was taken by our hon. Defence Minister in the commissioning of the first phase. The second phase has to be commissioned in no time. At the same time, we have to take up all these issues from the national point of view. Defence is very essential, at the same time, we have to think about the poor people who are living there. They are now scattered; they did not get compensation also.

While fully supporting this amendment, I want to place these issues before the Minister for his kind attention.

DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Bill further to amend the Navy Act, 1957, as passed by the Rajya Sabha and brought forward here by the hon. Defence Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee.

It is a well-known fact that the defence of our country is of paramount importance. There is a need to have a well-established and well-constituted system of punishment and to deal with the situation of disciplinary aspect. During the colonial period, these definitions, as brought out by our worthy Defence Minister were different. The connotation of an officer was different, in the sense that now we have a re-employed officer. We do not know whether the re-employed officer, in some cases, was an officer. Probably, that is how, the need was felt that the definition of that officer as such must be properly defined and codified. That is why, it has been brought out in this Bill, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha.

It says that the officer means, a commissioned officer and includes subordinate officer other than a petty officer. The petty officer in armed forces means JCO. The commissioned officer was re-employed as such and it was explained duly by the hon. Defence Minister. It is a very important amendment and I feel that there is a need to have an elaborate and a well-constituted system.

There is a surge of modernisation. We are all having modern weapons. We are all having a new machinery. We are all having stresses and strains when the Forces are operating. When a naval *jawan* goes about 36 feet down, in the submarine and comes out, his condition is worth watching. He may get some letters from home. During that time, he may not have dealt with it properly or he may not have been given his due. At that time, probably the disciplinary cases may come up.

That is how the disciplinary aspect of any other *jawan* for that matter whether he is in the jungles of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, anywhere in the North East, heights of Kargil, Siachen or in the arid base of Rajasthan, has to be seen in different perspectives today. he is not a soldier of 1957. Today, a soldier may be a B.Sc., M.Sc., a literate dealing with technologically advanced machinery, whether it is a gun fired in Jammu and Kashmir or a long distance gun fired from the naval ship. All these changes will have to be taken into account. There is an old adage very common in the Forces: 'It is not the weapon but the man behind the weapon which is more important.' That is why, we should concentrate more on the men.

I would like to quote Field Marshall William Slim. During the Second World War, campaigning in Burma, he said, "The single most battle winning factor is the morale of the Forces. It decides the fate of even a very-very advanced Army". We have seen over the years, whether it was the Second World War or even the earlier First World War, that it was men behind the weapon that mattered. That is why, various disciplinary aspects have to be carefully seen.

We have the system of Army, Navy and Air Force, Defence Minister and over him is the President of India who is the supreme Commander of Forces. We have different Acts for different Forces. For the Army, it is the Army Act, 1950. For Air Force, it is the Air Force Act, 1950 and for the Navy, it is the Navy Act, 1957. It has been duly explained by the Defence Minister as to how it took eight to nine long years to come to the Lok Sabha. As has been brought out earlier, with the changing circumstances in the Forces, we feel that the existing provisions be amended and certain new provisions be incorporated in the Navy Act. At this moment, since the hon. Defence Minister is here, I would only like to say a few things.

Whenever a court martial is carried against any offender, or a certain term of imprisonment or such other

punishment is given, we feel the justice given to him should be quick because justice delayed is justice denied. This provision, has, of course, been followed. Whenever there is default, we have seen many cases of insubordination. We have seen the morale of the Forces is affected because of that. That is why this provision is very important. I would also like to take this opportunity, with the permission of the Chair, to say a few things on the maritime doctrine.

Today, it is not the Navy which we had at the time of Shivaji. That was, of course, a very strategic and practical force which he had created but it has changed now. We have seen, whether it was the Seventh Fleet of US, which came into the Bay of Bengal which was deterrent or whether it was the forces of U.K., USA, Russia or France coming to the Persian Gulf in August, 1990 or any other presence in the Indian Ocean, it is a matter of deterrence. We cannot go with that deterrence alone. We will have to have a stable, strategic doctrine not only in the case of Navy but it is applicable to the entire gamut of Defence Services.

With your permission I would like to quote a clipping from *The Statesman,* captioned, 'Millennium maritime doctrine—We will be courting peril if we do not radically modify our outlook as a seafaring nation'.

I quote:

"India's posting in the new millennium continues to harbour a standard shortfall in the nation's concept of national security a shortfall that has been "carried over" from the last century—inadequate comprehension of the demands on India's sea power. In the realm of the Defence Budget for a start, the Navy has always been getting the least quantum of funds in comparison to the other two services."

I would like to supplement it. We have had an outlay of Rs. 83000 crore this time for the Defence Budget. Out of which, we have given only Rs. 6000 crore for the Navy. We have 7600 kilometres of coast line and 2.5 million square kilometres of Exclusive Economic Zone to defend. So, we have to keep this in mind.

Sir, *The Hindu* of 28th March says that the Navy is facing shortage of civilian staff. I know with the computerisation and modernisation of machinery, the staff requirement have been radically brought down. But I would like to quote what they have brought to our notice. It says:

"The Navy has told the Government that it would not be able to operate the facility for want of adequate civilian staff, according to the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Command, Vice Admiral Madanjit Singh."

The, *The Times of India* says:

"The Navy wants an early nod for the $ 2 billion project to manufacture at least six 'Scorpene' submarines at the Mazagaon Docks."

I agree with it. Last time when the Standing Committee on Defence visited the Mazagaon Docks, it noticed that there is a requirement of these submarines to have a modern and well-equipped Navy. We must prepare them and put our Navy at the top.

With these few submissions, I support this Bill which will go a long way to make our Navy self-sufficient and one of the best in the world.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your technical manpower is very much in short.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you. I am indeed grateful to both the hon. Members who have made their contribution on this Bill. I entirely agree with the hon. Members, especially who spoke last that some of the problems with which we are confronted include shortage of manpower. Secondly, a tremendous responsibility is bestowed on our Navy and the overall responsibility is of the Defence Forces. They are our protectors and more often than not I mentioned that they spend sleepless nights whether it is on the high sea or on the high mountain or in the deserts or in deep forests or North-Eastern India. They protect, watch and spend sleepless nights so that the rest of us could sleep in peace in the main land. Therefore, whenever we discuss the matters relating to them, we should keep that in mind.

Keeping that at the background, I do entirely agree that our doctrine must be updated not only to protect our 750 kilometres long coast line or two million square kilometres of Exclusive Economic Zone but we have the responsibility to protect the major sea line also which carry almost 40 per cent of the world energy.

Of late, the piracy and maritime crimes have increased. In this respect, I must compliment our Navy and Coast Guard who have projected their competence

[Shri Pranab Mukherjee]

while rendering services in the rescue operation, comprehending culprits in piracy cases and effectively tackling the pollution case. Very recently, there was a case of probable leakage in the oil tanker, and pollution, which could have been created was ably handled.

These works are being done. The contributions of the Navy, the Army and the Air Force in the recent Tsunami relief work are well-known. They not only provided relief and succour to our people in the Andaman group of islands and in the affected areas of the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Kerala, but also to Indonesia, Maldives and Sri Lanka. these are well-recognised facts.

I am aware of the problems which have been raised. It is mainly because of technical reasons. When the Government decided to reduce the manpower with the objective of having a lean administration, the axe fell on us that in the next five years ten per cent of the sanctioned strength is to be reduced and the operational staff were excluded from its purview. But in Navy we have a very peculiar situation unlike in the Army and the Air Force. Nearly 50 per cent of the manpower of the Navy is civilian. They are not uniformed persons. Persons working in dock and such other places are required in that. I have taken up the matter with the Ministry of Finance and I do hope that I will be able to convince the Ministry of Finance and get the requisite numbers which are needed.

Sir, the Kochi project has been referred to. I am fully aware of it. I can assure the hon. Members that it would be our efforts to complete the project on schedule. There are a certain other related problems to which the hon. Member has drawn my attention in regard to providing jobs and other facilities to those who have lost their land for the project and also to build up some infrastructural facilities—it is quite a natural expectation of the people that when a big project comes in an area we have to contribute in building up the infrastructure—I would surely look into all these aspects and see what best can be done, of course in consultation with and also with the support of the local Government.

In regard to the requirement of machines and equipment I would like to say that we have started the process of modernisation of our Armed Forces in all the branches—the Army, the Air Force and the Navy. But it takes some time mainly because of the fact that the international arms market is quite ineffective in the sense that it is neither competitive nor transparent. There are certain areas where there is exclusivity. They possess certain equipment which they would not like to transfer and even if they transfer, their conditions are high and unacceptable. So, all these aspects are to be looked into and keeping that in view, it sometimes takes time. Moreover, we had a peculiar situation before this year. Thank God, we have been able to utilise the Budgetary provisions which we got. The whole of Rs. 77,000 crore that we got was spent. For modernisation, new acquisition and for meeting our committed liabilities we have been able to utilise all the resources that were made available to us. I do hope, this year also whatever has been allocated to us we would be able to utilise it.

Sir, compared to the distribution and allocation between the Forces, manpower of Navy is much less. There is no comparison between the manpower of the Army and the Navy. The equipment and machines are much more costly. It is also a time consuming process. There is a saying that you can build up anything and everything at a shorter space, but not the Navy. It takes years. But even keeping that in view, it would be our endeavour to expedite it as fast as possible.

Sir, with these words, I once more congratulate the hon. Members for rendering their total support to the proposed amendments to the Navy Act.

It will meet the requirements. As I explained while introducing the subject, most of these recommendations are in conformity with the requirements of the Navy. For instance, we have brought certain provisions at par with the latest position in the Criminal Procedure Code. We have removed certain historical anachronisms like the title of the Royal Navy by deleting the word 'Royal'. We have also removed certain other technical infirmities which prevailed in the text of the statute. Those things have been addressed to.

With these words, I request the House to approve the proposed Navy (Amendment) Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have a small query. Will Court Martial give relief only to the Navy or to the Armed Forces and Air Force also? Will Court Martial cover only the Navy?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: There, the provision is already there. here, that provision was not there and that is why, we have brought it at par with the Armed Forces, Air Force and the Navy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is the major issue.

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Navy Act, 1957, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

*Clause 2 to 11*

MR. CHAIRMAN: 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, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

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**15.28 hrs.**

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

### Electoral Reforms—*contd.*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up further discussion regarding Electoral Reforms raised by Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav. Shri Sudhakar Reddy may speak now.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Sir, comprehensive electoral reforms is the need of the hour to create confidence among the people to improve voting in India. Some ills of the system are the bye-products of the structural defects in the electoral system. Lop-sided and corrupt system pave way for petty leaders and mafia gangsters to gatecrash into the Legislatures.

In fact, Indian political scenario has changed. Literacy percentage has changed in a big way. By and large, our electorate has matured very much but, because of the defects in our electoral system, we are unable to say that this is the best system which suits the present situation.

Sir, in 1997, Lok Sabha had a Special Session to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of our country's Independence. They passed a Resolution in which electoral reforms were also mentioned. I may be allowed to quote from it:

> "Meaningful electoral reforms be carried so that our Parliament and other Legislative Bodies be balanced and effective instruments of democracy, and further that the political life and process be free of the adverse impact of the governance of undesirable extraneous factors including criminalisation."

Sir, almost eight years have passed since the Lok Sabha passed this Resolution. I believe, it was a Joint Session. In March 1998, the President in his Address said that to ensure free, fair and fearless elections and to prevent the use of money and muscle power, electoral reforms are necessary. On the promise made by the President of India, a Committee with Shri Indrajit Gupta as Chairman was appointed. But that Committee's reference was only with regard to public funding for the political parties in the elections.

Earlier, in the nineties, Goswami Committee gave a Report. The Supreme Court in the year 2003 took initiative to bring in some electoral reforms. We do understand the concerns of the Supreme Court and the Election Commission to brig in electoral reforms. But by and large, the suggestions given were not fundamental in nature. The Supreme Court naturally took interest to see to it that undesirable elements do not enter the Legislatures and criminalisation of politics is stopped. But I believe that the suggestions made by the Election Commission later are not useful in this process. Several people have got different ideas on the reforms suggested by the Election Commission, particularly with regard to the question of those who are punished for some crime or the other. They cannot contest elections. if punishment

[Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy]

of imprisonment for more than six months is given, some legislation should be brought to deal with that.

There is no difference between political agitation and a criminal act of an individual for personal interest. Hence, poor people led by a political party going for the land occupation for justifiable cultivation, or poor people occupying lands of the Government for house sites is equated with *mafia* or a gangster occupying lands to sell them for his personal interest. Same types of cases are being framed by the police. Political agitation and criminal act is not being differentiated. In our Criminal Procedure Code, there is no possibility for that. Hence, political activities may be barred from contesting elections and they may be equated with criminals. This thing is to be considered. The so-called proposal to prescribe educational qualifications for the candidates does not make much of a change. Thirty-five per cent of the population in our country is illiterate for no fault of theirs. They are illiterate because of lack of opportunities. These types of suggestions have been made as if educational qualification is going to make a difference in the elections. I do not think that this is an important and fundamental reform.

We do need to go into important political structural changes. There is a defect in the present system. The defect is, 51 per cent is cent per cent and 49 per cent is zero per cent. The will of the 49 per cent of the people is not considered in the elections. There will be no representation for them. In some countries, there is proportional representation for elections. I believe, there is partial proportional representation for Parliament in France, Germany and in a few other countries.

In our country, there is a problem. Even a partial proportional representation may bring religious fundamentalists and casteists to take advantage of this situation. That is the reason why we should not go for a total proportional representation. A State can be made a unit by which each political party should announce the list of the candidates and according to the percentage of the votes, 50 per cent of their seats may be reserved in the Lok Sabha according to the percentage of the votes of each political party. The remaining 50 per cent may be elected directly by the people candidate-wise, as it is being doing today. This may be an experiment. But, it is worthy experiment, which we should try.

Then, another important change that is necessary and which we are all accepting but, unfortunately, is not coming in the form of a Bill, is the adequate representation to women. One-third representation for women is generally accepted. But, for some reason or the other, as the consensus could not be arrived at, it could not come in the form of a Bill. It cannot wait for long. If the consensus is impossible, with majority vote it should be passed. We cannot make the women to wait still a long time to get proper representation in the legislatures and the Parliament.

Then, Sir, there is the question of voting for non-resident Indians. I am not talking about the few sophisticated scientists of professionals who are living in Europe or the Northern Hemisphere. I am raising the issue of lakhs of people who are living in Gulf and other countries. They are labourers, semi-skilled, unskilled people, who are unfortunately not in a position to vote during the elections. The non-resident Indians are in such a large number that they exceed the total population of some countries in the world. They should have a right to vote. Earlier, Imperial countries and Colonial countries used to give this right to the people who were living in other continents also. Now, we should certainly look into this issue.

Then, comes the question of the anti-defection law. The present anti-defection law has been amended several times. The *a ayaram gayaram* politics ought to be put an end to. But, unfortunately, there is still some weaknesses in the anti-defection law. I believe, the size of the Cabinet, which has been reduced by a Bill to 15 per cent last time, is not enough. It should be reduced to 10 per cent. Then, there will be some meaningful Executive at the national level and in some States. The problem will come only in very small States. There can be two types of criteria for these things.

Then, I come to the issue of contest of independents which is a very big problem in India. There are some figures available. Sometimes, 99 per cent of the independents are losing their deposits. Only seven to nine people are getting elected. They should be discouraged, and there should be some law by which these independents, while filing their nominations, may have to get their nomination papers supported, proposed and seconded by more than hundred people. If it is for Lok Sabha, then not from less than 10 from each Assembly segment. This way, an experiment should be done to discourage the independents to come into the elections in our parliamentary democracy. By and large, our voters are rejecting the independents.

Then, comes the issue of trying to stop the criminals to enter into the Legislatures and Parliament.

This is becoming a very serious issue. In spite of the laws that have been proposed, we do know that they are finding their methods to enter Parliament and the Legislatures. All the political parties should come together to think of this serious issue.

One most important thing is about public funding of the political parties for the elections. The Indrajit Gupta Committee has gone in detail into it. Our hon. Speaker Shri Somnath Chatterjee and many other important personalities of the national parties were members of that Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

Further, the Inter-Parliamentary Council at the international level also recommended the public funding of the political parities. Elections are becoming costly. Huge funds are necessary. Hence, the private sources are being tapped by the political parties. Naturally, this is by questionable means. This will lead to political corruption. So, we should put an end to it. The weaker political parties will get an advantage by public funding. Of course, the new parties have to establish their credential before getting the advantage of getting help from the States. Even the Tarkunde Committee, appointed by the late Shri Jaiprakash Narain, recommended this. Already, countries like Germany, Austria, France, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Israel, Norway, the Netherlands, Italy, Canada, Japan, Spain, Australia and South Korea are giving State funds for political parities for the elections. Even in the United States of America, for the Presidential election, State funding is allowed. Countries like Mexico, Portugal, South Africa, Namibia and Zimbabwe are also going in for this type of funding ...*(Interruptions)* So, the State funding is a must. It is not given in cash as recommended but it is given in kind. This is given for the recognised political parties.

About time to be provided in DD and Radio, this had been accepted as a recommendation earlier. There should be a debate. Even the private channels should be asked to provide time for the recognised political parties to go into the air during the elections. This will help naturally. This can be a help on behalf of the State or on behalf of the public. ...*(Interruptions)*

There were several proposals about the compulsory voting system. I think the compulsory voting system is a coercive method. When we have a right to vote, we should also have a right not to vote. It is not necessary to have compulsory voting in a democracy like us. In an unusual circumstance, it can be. Of course, once we had seen what happened in Kashmir and in Assam also. When the people were terrorised, with less than two per cent votes, the legislators were elected. But that is not the case in general. In our country, our voters are mature enough. We are in a position to ascertain ourselves. In these circumstances, I would propose that the Government should come forward to call a meeting of all the political parties at the earliest to bring forth the electoral reforms. In the month of March only, our hon. Minister has said that it is a process that needs a consensus. We do need a consensus. For that consensus, I would request the hon. Minister to take the initiative from the side of the Government.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you very much for giving me this time.

*[Translation]*

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister is a learned person and he is an expert in this field. Thus, I would like to give suggestions in brief on certain points. Often, we discuss criminalisation of politics in the House. I would like to say that its basic problem lies in the social roots. No section of society has remained unaffected.

*[English]*

Are judges not being arrested? Are lawyers not being arrested? Are businessmen or industrialists not being arrested? So, why only politicians?

*[Translation]*

Sitting in the House we think that criminalisation is only limited upto politics. I said so even during Golden Jubilee Celeberations. Shri Bhardwaj ji was present at that time. Out of 234 Members present in the House at that time even a single member did not have criminal history. Quite limited people get inducted in politics. And just because of them there is often talk of criminalisation of politics. I would like my colleagues to refrain from saying that only politics is criminalized. There are several legal safeguards to check it, by which people with criminal background can be debarred from contesting elections. But until and unless one is convicted one can't be termed guilty. It is the rule of law. So, the existing system is adequate and there is no need to discuss it time and again.

[Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav]

Sir, rule of law says that unless one is found guilty of violating existing law, one can't be punished. A Member is guilty if he defects from his party or violates the whip. If one violates the whip he would be punished. But if hon. Speaker disqualifies a Member before voting, will it be proper? As it happened in Goa. Legislators were disqualified even before they could come for voting in the Assembly. Legal experts are sitting here. They should be punished only when they violate the law. Some way out should be found out in this regard. It should be clearly stipulated under what circumstances a political representative who is a Member of Parliament of Assembly is to be disqualified.

So far as state funding of election is concerned, I, along with Shri Inderjeet Gupta ji, our hon. present Prime Minister, hon. Speaker and Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and many other important leaders, was Member of that Committee. The recommendations given by the Committee were quite balanced one. The Government provides fund for vehicles of recognised political parties, diesel and petrol for the vehicles and the driver. The expenses on counting, boxes for voting and other kind of necessary literature are borne by the Government. And it is not much. Suppose, there is a very good worker in any political party, who has no money to meet expenditure likely to be incurred on contesting election, so he can't contest election. Though he can be a good person for serving the public, yet, since he has no money he can't contest the election and the political party doesn't give him a ticket. So, if there is a provision for State funding of elections, as has been recommended by the Committee, such persons can contest election. Sir, people are going through a big crisis. I do not want to talk of Election Commission, I want to talk of the observers. Their biased attitude poses a big problem. The BSF Commandant on election duty in Mainpuri had to lodge an FIR against the Observers, because the latter were telling him that they were also Central Government Employees like him so he should do what they wanted. The elections were to be counter manded.

*[English]*

The BSF Commandant on duty had to lodge an FIR against the Observers.

*[Translation]*

If such would be the mentality of the Observer and if officers will continue to be transferred during elections on the basis of their caste and if these transfers will be made by the Election Commission then it is also a matter of grave concern. Through you, I would like to tell the House that during Lok Sabha elections since Mulayam Singh Yadav was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, that is why the only Yadav, I.G., in the state was transferred. There was only one Yadav S.P. in 70 districts, he was transferred. No political party had complained about it but just because Mulayam Singh Yadav was the Chief Minister, so Election Commission directed him. If this would happen then Elections cannot take place in several states because there are more than half the number of Collectors and SPs belonging to the same caste as that of the Chief Minister in several states. If this mentality would prevail then how the elections can be conducted. I would like to cite an example, nobody should feel offended. Our elections were cancelled in Manipur. I knew it that Collectors will be transferred from the two districts of Mainpuri and Ferozabad. I suggested the Chief Minister that his Collectors will be transferred and then a panel of three Collectors in both the districts will be sought. I told Chief Minister to put 2-2 Yadav officers and one non-Yadav on the panel while sending the names on panel for both the districts. Both in Manipuri and even in Ferozabad the officer whom I wanted was posted, since Yadav was not supposed to be posted only a Non-Yadav was to be posted. ...*(Interruptions)* It is not a strategy, this is the mindset of the Commission. It is such a big organisation, would they adhere to such petty tactics. No Collector, no officer can be deputed during elections in Mainpuri, if he is a Yadav. This tendency will have to be checked. I hold this institution in high esteem. When T.N. Seshan Saheb cancelled our elections, we never complained because the kind of irregularities which were committed at that time, the elections had to be cancelled in those circumstances. We never complained. But the question that people want to know is when our Mainpuri election was cancelled, the NDTV people approached me for reaction. I did not react and I simply stated that we will contest the elections once again. But the question is that when Lalu Prasad Yadav or Mulayam Singh Yadav are there, only their elections are cancelled in the entire country. You give me one example where elections of any other person besides them or their party Member have been cancelled. Arun Gawali can contest, Hiten Thakur can contest and there would be no repolling in their case. But if brilliant boys from the Allahabad University and St. Stephen's College wish to contest for Parliament or Vidhan Sabha, then they feel that it will rock the world, all their elections will be cancelled.

Does not it hurt when polling is cancelled. The elections of my colleague Raghunath Jha ji were cancelled, if repoll were not conducted at 400 to 500 booths then I know that Raghunath Jha ji, would have been the Minister the very first day, but here the oath ceremony was already over, he was elected later on. Raghuvanshji, was not it an injustice? But nobody uttered a word in protest.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Raghuvansh Babu will not speak, he would not have been inducted.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: His induction would have remained intact if he would have been dropped then who would have been the Minister, so forget it. I do not want to level allegations against anyone, but this approach should not be there. Suppose, it is not right it may be good or bad, but no body should have such vision. But people ask me, illiterate people ask me that why the elections of Lalu Yadav and Mulayam Singh Yadav only are cancelled and not anybody else's?

This kind of mentality exists somewhere. As such, Bhardwaj ji, what conclusion you would draw. I am born and brought up in such a caste, where even today if one visits to a Yadav's house, in the village and asks for a water, then if milk, does not available in that House, he will definitely serve Gur. The propaganda against this community has been carried out in a entire country, that these people fight elections arbitrarily, involved in crimes and booth capturing. You know that when the election of Mainpuri was countermanded then I said that none of my party leader will go there for canvassing, rather I will observe elections only. Nobody will go for canvassing. I said that every body can cast his vote as per his desire. Despite this, our candidate won by the margin of two lakh votes. Not even a single leader went for canvassing. Suppose, a village has 2000 voters and not even a single person is in a job, then all the people, in village will cast their vote this way there would be 99% voting, what is wrong in it. Why should repolling be held there. Is there none such area in the country where not, even a single person is in job, then all people, of the village will definitely caste their votes. I asked the Election Commission in writing that out of them which 10 or 15% people, should be refrained from voting? When Shri Mulayam Singh ji was contesting election from Ganaur, repolling was conducted at 107 booths. Though not even a single complaint in this regard was received. I said that not more than 90 per cent people will go for voting. The women over there asked me which 10 per cent would be restricted from voting. They said that we will go to caste vote whether election be annulled hundred times. The Government or the Court will have to decide it. On one side the Government propagate on TV that everybody should cast vote, and when everybody casts vote, the elections are annulled. Repoll after repoll are conducted and in the last elections are annulled. The percentage of voting has always increased after repolling.

I would like to submit a few things about Exit Poll. Exit Poll harms small parties. We people do not own any newspaper. Nobody is here to listen to us. Shri Iliyas Azmi said rightly. In second round of Exist Poll, it was predicted that our party, will win only one seat namely from Agra, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav will lose elections, but when results were announced we won all 9 seats, that is Agra, Etah, Mainpuri, Farrukhabad, Ferozabad. Besides, we won many other seats also. But it was predicted about us, that we will win only one seat. Even Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav would lose from Kannauj. But it was absolutely false. Our candidates lost in those areas which were considered to be strongholds of our party. In our case, Exit Poll has proven miserably false everytime. The hon'ble Minister should enact a legislation to put check on it. The Supreme Court has ordered to publish Exit Poll only after all votes are caste. But Exit Poll leaves adverse impact, when elections are held in phase manner it affects even the results, therefore it should be banned.

With these words, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak and I hope that hon'ble Minister will bring out a legislation to improve the situation and to check irregularities being committed in this regard.

**16.00 hrs.**

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission I would like to add something in the discussion which is being held regarding the electoral reform. I have witnessed some practical shortcomings that I would like to share with all. First of all I would like to submit that we should not forget those sacrifices on account of which today the persons above 18 years of age have got right to franchise. You are an old man and you know that prior to 1947 it was the time to pick and choose. That was the time of kings, emperors and the Britishers. Our country was ruled by kings. At that time there were 2 votes in Kathua and two votes in some other district. Altogether there were 8 or 10 votes. However, today the situation has changed and even a

[Chaudhary Lal Singh]

poor person of the country has voting right at par with the President of India as the President too can cast only one vote. All the citizens of the country, whether they are top bureaucrates or a lower level employee, are equal in term of their voting right and are merely beads in the garland of election. Whether it is lower class people or the upper class people, both are equal in the country. The country is like a garden which has all types of flowers. I feel that it is a great achievement that democratic system of governance was adopted and all the citizens above 18 years of age have got the right to vote. For this I would like to congratulate those martyrs on account of whom we have gathered here.

Undoubtedly, comments are made a lot more happens here however, it is the House of 545 Members and the term hon'ble is used for this House. Presently its status may be high, however, regarding the economic condition and the allowances people say that it is less in comparison to the status but fact is that it only appears lower. The word hon'ble is used with the Members as they have been elected by the people and people know them so they are supreme. When it comes to offering facilities and allowances to the Member, it is said that he is getting this much, he travels by trains, travels by planes. He should travel on foot. he visits in the mountain and listens the grievances of poor people. I would like to submit that it is only the parliamentarians who are easily accessible and vulnerable and anybody can scuffle with him and may compel him for anything. Nobody can scuffle with bureaucrats. He will put them behind bar and they will be in trouble. The bureaucracy is the root cause of all ills. However, we are responsible for this state of affairs as we could not curb it. The Members from Bihar say one thing and the Members from U.P. say something else. It is our fault that we do not have control over them. The elections are being conducted by Election Commission, a returning officers and an observer who does not have knowledge about election or who never saw any election. What justice will they do to us. It cannot happen. If the inexperienced officers are projected, they will continue to face the present situation. Today politicians are condemned. I personally become angry when I listen such things as I did not take anything from any one. I do my job honestly. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please tell me as to what reforms should be made.

*[English]*

What is the reform.

*[Translation]*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: I am also talking about the reform. To whom will you reform? I am a practical person. I have contested three four elections and have seen as to what is done by the rich persons ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Certainly there is filth. However, you please tell us about reforms.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: What does a bureaucrat do. Nobody pays attention to those who are not in power. Even a petty officer ignores him ...*(Interruptions)*. Please leave it, do not try to explain it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please tell us as to what should we do.

...*(Interruptions)*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you please keep on listening me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Lal Singh ji, you please tell us as what reforms are to be done. We are listening.

*[English]*

You talk on reforms.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is required to be done to remove the filth?

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: If you carefully listen then you will find that all these things are related to the reforms. The percentage of voting in rural area is high as common people reside there. The percentage of voting remains low in posh locality where rich people live. They say that their wives will not stand in queue at the time of polling. The bureaucrats and their family members will not stand in queue. I would like to submit that the percentage of votes in urban areas remains low while in villages it is comparatively high. The Government have

constructed high overbridges, universities, colleges and have widened the roads. ...*(Interruptions)* It will be compulsory only when their development is stopped. ...*(Interruptions)* You are not understanding my point. Unless their development is stopped nothing will be achieved.

The people who cast their vote should be congratulated such people have strengthened the democracy and encouraged it. I would like to tell that a person who does not cast his vote, reaches the residence of elected Members of Parliament with packets of dry fruits and sweets just to congratulate the wining Candidate. A poor fellow casts his vote and none asks him. ...*(Interruptions)* They have life time, but they won't get an opportunity to hear Lal Singh's speech, so please keep listening him. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal is not listening to Choudhary Lal Singh's speech attentively ...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are adding fuel to it.

...*(Interruptions)*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir please pay attention. My submission is the regional parties have spread regionalism, communal parties have spread communalism and nationalist parties would spread nationalism. If we check regionalism and communalism, it would be greatest reform otherwise not.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the voter's lists are wrong.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This should be corrected.

*[Translation]*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: There is no voter list. My submission is that voters lists are of three kinds, *i.e.* the list contains the names which in fact are not voters. It is our misfortune that lists in Jammu and Kashmir are in Urdu, our Patwari also maintains revenue records in Urdu only. When the list is prepared in Hindi it does not tally with the original list. ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me, what else reform he wants. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly conclude. You have taken ten minutes time.

*[Translation]*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: I would like to say that there is no criteria for creation of polling stations. It is also not certain as to how many voters should be in one booth in plain and hilly areas. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken ten minutes.

*[Translation]*

You should conclude within a minute. You have been speaking for ten minutes. Please come to the point.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him speak now.

*[Translation]*

Please let him speak Lal Singh ji, Please conclude within two minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: I would conclude by adding two more points. Firstly, I would speak on huge expenditure being incurred by candidates on elections. My submission is that the maximum amount stipulated for expenses should be deposited separately and all the expenses should be met out of that account. I would make last point and conclude. Madam Sonia ji is sitting here. 10 Pakistanis, who have been residing in Jammu and Kashmir have not been granted voting right. They are here from generation to generation . In which part of the country they would be entitled to vote. Representatives from the state say that they should be granted right to vote. Secondly, 24 seats allotted for POK, which are unrepresented, should be transferred to the State.

In the end, I would like to say that Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi lowered the voting age to 18 years. It was a good idea. As the children are technologically advance, so if it is further lowered by 2 years, no one would object to it.

And, qualification must be there. There is a need to lower eligibility age.

*[English]*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, electoral reforms are overdue. All of us know that the Indian electoral system is in a crisis.

I shall begin from my own experience. I contested the first election in 1953 at the panchayat level and got elected as the President of the panchayat. When our Constitution came into existence, there was no provision for conducting local elections after a particular specific period. It was only stated that the State shall endeavour to form panchayats. As a Directive Principal of State Policy, that was stated in the Constitution but there was no provision that panchayat elections should be conducted as per schedule after every five years. It was only during the late Rajiv Gandhi's time that the Seventy-fourth and Seventy-fifth Amendments to the Constitution came into existence and there came a specific rule. Hence, I had to continue as Panchayat President for over twelve years without elections being conducted. So, elections to local bodies is a matter of big concern for us.

I shall cite one or two examples here. In 1965, I contested the Kerala Assembly elections. The elections were over. The late E.M.S. Namboodiripad was the leader of our party. He was having the largest number of MLAs in the House but the party in power at the Centre did not allow convening of the Assembly. It was dissolved. Normally, the largest party ought to have been asked to form a government. That was not done.

In the recent elections in Bihar, we have encountered another peculiar experience. In Bihar, the elections are over. The Election Commission has reported to the Governor that so many people were elected and a list of it has been submitted to the Governor. In the normal course, the Governor ought to have selected a Speaker *pro tem* to administer the oath of office to the people who have been elected but that was not done in Bihar. So, the elected people do not get any privilege as MLAs due to want of formation of the Assembly. It is very strange that without even constituting the Assembly the Governor decided that the House should be kept in abeyance. How can a House which was not formed be kept in abeyance? I could understand if the House was kept in abeyance after the MLAs took oath and no party had a majority. The Supreme Court has also said that there is no bar on keeping the House in abeyance. Here is a case where no House is formed. So, how can you keep in abeyance a House which has not been formed? I do not understand the logic behind it. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Mr. Chairman, this is not a correct proposition. The House is immediately constituted after the election results are conveyed to the Election Commission and the notification is issued but no Member can take part in the proceedings before taking oath. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: You can interpret it in your own way. The House is a material object. It should have been formed.

For example, voting in the Lok Sabha comes into effect only when the Members take oath. So also, voting in the Bihar Assembly will come into existence only when the Members take oath. That has not been done. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Radhakrishnan, just a minute. This position is already clarified by the hon. Minister of Home Affairs when the discussion was there at that time as to why the oath was not there and what is the status of the Assembly etc. Kindly do not mix up the issue.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am only speaking about the post-election experience. It is not finding fault with anybody else here or in Bihar. We were coming across with such an experience in the past and that is why I was telling you about this.

There is no provision in the Constitution to keep the House in abeyance. But the argument is that there is no provision prohibiting keeping the House in abeyance. That is the argument. There is no affirmative or positive provision in the Constitution to keep the House in abeyance. There is no provision at least for prohibition and so that House can be kept in abeyance. This is what you say. Even if the House is to be kept in abeyance, there must be a House formed. That is the argument. We have come across with such experiences.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We understand. Kindly go ahead with the next point.

*[Translation]*

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, since the House was not in session, so how could you say so? ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him continue.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Where do we stand now? There Indian democracy is the largest democracy in the whole world. It is very correct. But where do we stand now? The elections are contested. I applaud the Election Commission. They have conducted the elections to the extent possible. They might have committed some flaws in certain periods. But barring that, on the whole, the Election Commission was doing their job to the satisfaction and to the extent possible.

Now, what is our experience at present? Money power has a dominating role in our electoral process. Those people who can wield money can contest elections. The Party which can collect huge amount of money an put up candidates, spend money and fight the election. A party or an individual who cannot control money is incapable of fighting Indian parliamentary elections.

There is another thing on election expenses, accounting. Nobody will give a correct account. It is not possible. So, the people are compelled and the Parties are compelled to give incorrect accounts. That is the position now. The only remedy is there must be State funding of elections. Then only we can think of a proper electoral process. I plead that the electoral reforms should be undertaken in such a way that the entire process of expenses of the candidates of recognised political parties will have to be met by the State. Then only the electoral process can be democratic and the poor man can also contest the election.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made the point on State funding. There are 25 more Members who are yet to speak. We want to conclude this at 6 o'clock. Please conclude your speech now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I will come to another point. There is a demand for recall of Members. In our election process there must be a provision to recall a Member who has gone against the mandate of the people. We do have the anti-defection law. That law has its defects. Under that law defection is an offence. When it is committed by individuals it becomes an offence. But when it is committed by one-third of the strength or more, then it is not an offence. There is no logic behind it. That means, the defections conducted in retail are offence and it will not be an offence if conducted in wholesale.

The wholesale defection is allowable and retail defection is not allowable. This is a very unfortunate situation. You will have to change the anti-defection law. When a defection is committed, whether it is defection committed by an individual or by a group of people, it should have the same effect. So, my humble submission is that the anti-defection law will have to be changed to suit the changing conditions.

**16.20 hrs.**

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

Now, for ourselves, we will have to make self-criticism. In India, a party which has got minority votes can get into power and a party which has got 25 or 30 per cent of the total votes polled can have majority in the House. It is not a real reflection of the will of the people. Now, we are thinking of coalition Government at the Centre as well as in the States. That has become the order of the day. So, in that context, why do we not think of having proportional representation system in our country also? That will reflect the real will of the people. If no party is getting the majority, every party can have proportional representation. Now, we have UPA Government and previously, we had NDA Government. One party system is over. One-party Government is over and we are having coalition Governments. In this context, why should we not think of introducing proportional representation system in our country? That also will have to be looked into.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, please conclude your speech. You have already taken 13 minutes.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I shall stop. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You conclude within one minute.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Now, I come to another aspect of exit polls. Whenever elections are conducted in India, we hear about the exit polls conducted by the Press. I think, it is not correct. Exit polls always go wrong. Then, why should we allow exit poll propaganda during election time? That will also have to be taken into consideration as exit poll from predictions is not good or conducive to proper parliamentary electoral system. Since other points have been covered I would request the Government to bring in a legislation.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

I would also like to say one word about the constitution of Election Commission. Now, we have Election Commission consisting of only three persons. It must be raised to five because in taking decisions, plurality is better than singularity or minority. I say that the strength of the Election Commission should be increased either to five or seven because we have a good number of judges. Even the Full Bench of the Supreme Court, which takes decision, has nine judges. So, in the matters of taking decision with regard to conduct of elections, it will be better to have a larger Election Commission. That aspect may also be considered and we should amend the law in such a way that we will have a larger Election Commission.

With these words, I impress upon the Government once again to bring in reforms to suit the changing conditions of India.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Respected Sir, I am very happy to participate in this discussion on electoral reforms.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have only five minutes because there is time constraint.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, it is very unfortunate. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, it was you who initiated this discussion and you took 60 minutes yesterday. ...*(Interruptions)* and you are talking of all things under the globe. ...*(Interruptions)* No aspersions on the Chair, only the reality is talked about.

A number of speakers before me spoke about the need for electoral reforms. These electoral reforms are required to create a cadre of dedicated politicians in this country, politicians who are men of ability, persons of ability and acumen, persons with patriotic fervour and persons who can serve this country better. One of the hon. Members, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav was asking a question in the House 'why are you singling out politicians as criminals?'

He had asked a couple of questions with regard to this issue. Are there no criminals among the judges? Are there no criminals among the lawyers? Why single-out only the politicians? I would like to humbly submit to him that politicians are supposed to be the leaders of this country. Anybody can be corrupt and of criminal nature, but politicians cannot be criminals because politicians are supposed to be the Members of Parliament, who are the lawmakers. They are to set examples for the posterity, and to the people. There cannot be criminals among them. Therefore, the electoral system, which helps us to create this breed of dedicated politicians in this country, has to be foolproof.

A number of suggestions have come from the Hon. Members about this issue. Various Committees constituted by the Government of India have also given a number of suggestions on this issue. The Goswami Committee Report of 1990, the Indrajit Gupta Committee Report of 1998, the Law Commission's Report on Electoral Reforms, the Election Commission's recommendations on Electoral Reforms, and finally, the National Commission to Review the working of the Constitution in the name of Justice Venkatachaliah have all dealt very eloquently with the need for electoral reforms.

I would look at the system as a whole, and there are four elements that are deficient from the point of view of the electoral system. According to me, the four elements are first, the total electorate; second, the representatives; third, the political party; and fourth, the election machinery.

First of all, I would like to mention about the electorate. We do not find full participation by the people in the elections. We find that only 45 to 50 per cent of the people are participating in the elections. Why do they not participate in the elections? It is because they feel that there are no competent candidates contesting the elections. There is no confidence on the candidates who are contesting the elections. Today, there is a kind of indifference on the entire political system. The people do not care whether it is the rule of Ram or it is the rule of Ravana. Therefore, there is a kind of indifference and apathy on the part of the voters, who go to the polling booth and elect their representatives. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakapur): The rule of Sita is much better.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Yes, the rule of Sita is much better. It is true that Sita was a person of supreme sacrifice as Madam Sonia Gandhi, who is sitting here in the House. Therefore, I would say that they should rule, and we welcome their rule also.

Our concern is that the people must have faith in the system, and to cultivate this faith in the people compulsory voting is not essential, but we would have to

persuade the people to go to vote. The people must be inspired to have confidence in the candidates, who are contesting the elections. If it is not possible, the Government should announce some disincentives, namely, if the people do not vote, then they would not be entitled to get certain concessions from the Government like the ration card, educational facilities, scholarship facilities, etc. If we convey about some such kind of disincentives to the people, then the people may feel that it is an obligation or a duty to go to vote.

The poor percentage of voting is not the only issue, but even the candidates who get elected secure less than 50 per cent of the votes polled. What kind of representatives will we get in our Electoral Colleges; in the Assemblies as well as in the Parliament? Therefore, we should evolve a system where the candidates are declared as elected only if the candidate secures 50 per cent plus one per cent of the votes polled. If it is not possible, then there should be a run-off election, and this election must be conducted on the second day itself among the two front-ranking candidates, who secured between 45 per cent and 50 per cent of the votes that were polled. This sort of a system should be introduced in order to elect better candidates.

There is also a suggestion about making a provision of negative voting. Negative voting can have two advantages. As regards negative voting, in the ballot paper itself choice can be given to the voters that if they do not want to elect any of the candidates contesting the election, then they should be able to mark the option 'none of the above'. It would be like a multiple choice question where you have four options, namely, 'a', 'b', 'c', 'd' and at the bottom is another option, namely, "none of the above'. If the people choose the option 'none of the above' and a particular percentage is attained in this particular option, then we should be able to go for second election. This would be the answer to criminalisation in politics, and it would also instil confidence in the people to go and select the right kind of people as their representatives.

Much has been said about the question of money power and the cost of elections. I would feel that Indrajit Gupta Committee recommendations should be accepted. More important than this is that there should be a broad consensus among all the political parties in the country that they would not go for unnecessary expenditure in the elections. If there is an agreement between all the parties that they will not bribe the voters, they will not give anything in kind or they will not incur any expenditure on extravaganza and if they can limit the expenditure to a particular level and if all of them evolve a model code of conduct, the problem concerning the cost of elections and the problem of money power could be eliminated. Therefore, we will have to think of innovative ways, and there is no dearth of ideas on electoral reforms. There is abundant literature existing in various sources of material. What is lacking today is the political will. Even Hon'ble Shri Advani brought a unanimous resolution in the Parliament asking for electoral reforms. Now, the time has come when we should be able to arrive at a consensus. We are the masters who can bring these reforms, and the sooner the electoral reforms are done the better it is for all of us.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ARUNA KUMAR VUNDAVALLI (Rajahmundry): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first, I would like to thank you. I was prepared to speak in Tamil today, but translation is no available. Translator has gone on retirement*...* Whereas there are 42 Telugu speaking Members. I, myself am a translator. When Shri Rajiv ji used to visit my State. I used to translate his speech and now, when Smt. Sonia ji visits my State I translate her speech. Today, when I wanted to speak in Telugu there is no translator. See my luck. So I would try to speak in Hindi as I have learnt Hindi. I would not take more time and give you a chance to ring the bell.

Sir, so many members have spoken by now and it is essence of their speech. I would say, that let as may Members speak, but unless there is consensus there would be no use. Two months ago, an MLA was shot dead in my State which created furore in the assembly. He was leader of a faction. Whole Anantpur is factionalised. Leaders of all the parties had said that they would not field my factional leader. Telugu Desam Party, which is in opposition had said that they would field a candidate who doesn't belong to any faction and even Congress Party also had said so. There was consensus on it for some months but now TDP is fielding wife of a deceased MLA in election. Congress Party workers are telling they would field the wife of the person who had been accused. Will it be good? There we can see who will win. But our Chief Minister had said that we would stick to the principle and we would field a person who do not belong to any faction. It won't matter if he loses. We should make efforts unitedly in this direction. We would keep the country above party.

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*.....* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri Arun Kumar Vundevalli]

Sir, second important point is about election manifesto. In 1996 election, TDP has promised that they would provide rice at the rate of rupees 2 a kilo, provide electricity to farmers in 50 rupees and enforce total prohibition. I asked the Congressmen that it would involve rupees fifty thousand cores and how they would manage so much funds? They said, it is we to think and we know where from it would be mobilised. People voted them to power. 2 rupees a kg rice issue died in three months, 50 rupee electricity issue died in five months and prohibition issue took nine months to die down.

Sir, there is no restriction on election manifesto and any party can promise anything. My submission is that there should be a Committee to check false claims and to see whether the party is making just flim-flam promises or it can implement them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would not say that our bureaucracy or the whole system or the world itself is faulty. If it is was so, I would not have come to Lok Sabha as an elected Member. Despite, there is a need to tone it up to better it. I hope the discussion which we held on this topic will send a signal that the Government is trying to do something in this regard. I am confident that it would bear fruits. I am thankful to you for not ringing the bell.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is very good that you made very good suggestions and that too within the time allotted to you. My thanks to you.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Bilhaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to present some important suggestions in regard to election reforms.

After the independence of country, the founding father of our Constitution, Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar has given the right to vote to every citizen of India, but even after 57 years, the poor attaining age of 18 prevented from voting at polling booth by using force and money. I would like to suggest that a person indulging in preventing another person from voting should be kept prosecuted under serious crime category so that in future that person is not able to fight any elections. In my opinion, this suggestion would prove effective.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today, most discrepancies are found in the voter's list. A labour in the village even after attaining the age of 18 years to 25 years does not find his name in the voter list. The person who prepares the voter's list whether he is a teacher or an accountant or of any caste, woks as per the directions of influential people. The most affected voters are dalits and people of weaker sections of society and their strength is 25 to 40 percent. My suggestion is that as soon a person attains the age of 18 years, his/her name should be automatically added to the voter's list. If official engaged in preparation of voter list fail to include the name of a person attaining the age of 18, then there should be provision of strict action against them. It has also been seen that the names of voters residing in the village disappear from the voter's list but the names of persons of a particular caste or religion are added to the voter's list.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell something about photo-identify cards, there have been many irregularities in this work also. The poor dalit people are stopped from voting on the pretext of preparation of photo-identity cards. I would like to say that every person whose name figures in the voter's list should have right to vote, *i.e.* there should be no binding of photo identity card. 30-40 percent people of this country are asked to show other documents of identity like Jotbandi, Kisan credit card, bank receipt, bank pass book or ration card in the absence of photo-identity card. There are 25, 30 percent such people in country, who do not fulfil any of 4 conditions, and they are prevented from voting in the absence of any proof of identity. We need to pay attention to this aspect. I have already said that booth capturing should be made cognisable offence and the political parties which are in power in States indulge in booth capturing with the help of employees, constables, SHO and CEO etc. Strict action should be taken against such employees.

Mr. Chairman Sir, the voting should be made compulsory in the country. Today, many hon'ble Members have expressed their concern that voting percentage is continuously falling. The people are not serious towards using their voting rights. Certain amount should be given to every voter as incentive in order to create awareness in this regard. Some hon'ble Members also said if criminalisation, use of muscle power are to be checked, and honest patriotic. MPs and MLAs are to be elected then we should definitely make arrangement for state funding.

Sir, hand bill, poster, and other election material should be provided by Election Commission as financial assistance to candidates, of national and regional parties

to check corruption. The Election Commission should allow candidates to spend funds in elections only up to permissible limit fixed earlier so as to put a check on those candidates who spend too much and win. Many times it has been said in the House, that economic criminal should not be stopped from fighting elections. I would like to say that the criminal may belong to any category, if he/she indulges in economic crime then he commits the act of treason. Such person should be disqualified from fighting elections.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Sir, at least 100 introducers should be fixed for the independent candidates.

MR. CHAIRMAN; Your time is over, please sit down.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: If the dignity of this House has to be made maintained.

MR. CHAIRMAN; Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: None of your views are being recorded. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav ji, please start speaking, otherwise your time would be deducted from this. I have allowed your to speak.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my gratitude towards you for giving me an opportunity to speak on very important subject. I would also like to express my gratitude towards you as the motion regarding election reform has been brought by you. The hon'ble Speaker has given his approval for it and since yesterday a detailed discussion on this is being held in the House, I would like to thank you for this. I would especially make a submission that you should bind the ongoing discussion on election reform in time limit and please do not ask to conclude within five minutes. For this, I would be grateful to you. I would like to express my views before you.

Sir, even after the 58 years of independence, the common voters of our country, do not find their vote as secure. The poor, dalit, oppressed and voters living in rural areas are unable to cast their vote. There are many important reasons for this and many hon'ble Members have been discussing them since yesterday. I do not wish to repeat them, but for the survival of democracy and this House, it is essential that the base of democracy should be strengthened. Unless the poor voters whose population is 85 percent use their right to vote, our democracy will not be called true democracy. Therefore, such process should be adopted which may enable the voters to cast their vote. We are grateful to those greatmen, because of their sacrifices. We are in this House I would also like to thank these common voters who exercise their right of voting during elections. But it appear to me that there are some lacunae somewhere, due to which common voter is being deprived of his/her right to vote.

Sir, Election Commission is an autonomous and impartial organisation. We all respect it, but if the functioning of Election Commission comes under suspicion and the people start thinking that it has become an organisation to refrain them from voting, and it has become instrument of affluent class, then democracy will definitely not survive.

Today several hon'ble Members expressed their views on this subject. I come from Bihar which is a backward and poor state. It is Vaishali where democracy was established for the first time in the world. It still holds its place in history. Patna, from where I am elected, is also a historical place. Patliputra is our heritage. Today the democracy is in danger in the State from where I am elected.

Just now the countermanding of the election has been mentioned. Hon'ble Gujaral Saheb was contesting election in 1998 and at that time I had also got ticket. When I was contesting election for the third time, my election was also countermanded in 1998. It was only Patna constituency in the country where election was countermanded. Whether it is a misfortune or fortune but the issue that is being discussed since yesterday and you also took part...* at that time too there were election observers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The name will not go on record.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: My election was countermanded. The election of three Assembly seats under my parliamentary constituency was completely countermanded even though there were no complaints from any corners. I could not win election in 1998. When election was held again after one month the Government was changed and NDA came into power. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee became the Prime Minister. At that time every Member of Parliament was important for the Government.

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

At that time I was stopped from entering into the House. CRP and BSF personnels were deployed at all the booths. 30 to 40 CRP and BSF jawans were deputed at one booth and the voters of Rashtriya Janta Dal who were Muslims, Backwards and Dalits were selectively threaten not to cast their votes. You will be surprised to hear that minority Muslim voters who were in 'Burka' (veil) were asked to unveil themselves and their hands were held to mark them. In a civilised society holding the lands of women is not permitted. In rural areas women are asked to tell the names of their husbands. In our culture and tradition women do not utter the names of their husbands. Is it appropriate? It was told not to vote lantern symbol but to lotus symbol. The voters were forcibly driven and were told not to vote lantern. Can the democracy survive in such situation? Is this act appropriate in any way?

It is being mentioned about photo identity cards. We all want that each and every voter of the country should cast votes and of course without any fear. Every voters may get fair chance of voting. Nobody should stop them from casting their votes. As long as voters are stopped from casting their votes on account of biasness towards a particular party, the voters will not get justice.

Sir, there are six Assembly constituencies under the Dharbhanga parliamentary constituency from where Hon'ble Minister, Shri Fatmi is elected. On many occasions and this time too, the election in four constituencies out of the said six constituencies has been countermanded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please come to the point. The time allotted to you is going to be over.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I had requested you that time limit is not appropriate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will have to take care that all hon'ble Members get time. You should cooperate.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will I be stopped for stating my experience? I am being stopped here as well. I am submitting that elections in four Assembly constituencies were countermanded and of course with any complaints. The teachers in Madarsas were stopped in Darbhanga and other parts of Bihar as they belonged to minority community, so that, they may not exercise their voting right. Are Muslim not the citizens of this country? Will they be stopped? Is this democracy? Is this there criteria and mindset? Will the democracy survive in such situation? The democracy is not going to survive in such situation. Not one but there are many such examples. I would like to submit you about the voter's identity card. There are 18 districts in Bihar which are affected every year by flood. You also come from one of those districts. The people there are also affected by flood. Flash floods occur there. On such occasions they lose their photo identity cards and all other alternate identity proofs like LIC, licence, Bank passbook as at that time their priority is to save their small children and not identity cards. Is it appropriate to deprive them of their voting right because they do not have their identity cards? It is the duty of the Government to issue them new identity cards. Is it not the duty of the Government? Why will the Government not issue new identity cards to them? Some of the voters have their identity cards, however, their names are not included in the voter's list. Who will remove these irregularities related to the voter's lists. The Government should do away with there irregularities. The Election Commission becomes the final arbitrator. What kind of system it is, how will the democracy survive in this way? How will the democracy be maintained, how will the House be protected, how will the democracy survive in the country? I would like to submit you that we will have to seriously ponder over it. The Government have come out with the proposal of a booth per 1500 voters who will cast their voters at that booth. Polling booths were set up for the convenience of the people. Today the land lords and influential people prevent people of backward and oppressed sections of society from casting their votes by way of coercion.

Sir, why is the old voter's criteria of a booth not restored. Why the provision has been made to set up a booth for as many as 1500 voters. I would once again like to submit that 1500 voters cannot cast their votes at one booth within the time period fixed by the Election Commission. The polling booths have been set up at the distance of one or two kilometre. I would like to submit that no voter will cover such a long distance for casting their votes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ram Kripal Yadav ji, now you please conclude.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: If you permit I would like to speak on two-four points and then I will conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: OK, now you please speak your last point.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, nobody has any objection of observers are appointed by the Election Commission, however, I will have serious objection if observers are appointed on the basis of caste considerations. Appointing observers on the basis of caste will be objectionable. The persons who are opposed to Rashtriya Janta Dal and Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav were appointed observers. How can we expect justice if such persons are appointed observers. There was gross injustice committed against us. The Election Commission took all the administrative powers in its hand and SP and DM were entrusted with all the powers.

Sir, as per the earlier procedure in vogue, there, out of three officials one used to be appointed as observer. However, this time all the observers were appointed directly from S.P. and DM offices in Bihar. If such thing had not been done in Bihar, it would not have lead to the existing situation and our party would have formed the Government. The people of Bihar would not have to face the President's Rule. The situation that has arisen in Bihar is the outcome of the negative proactive role played by the Election Commission. I would like to say what Saheb says* regarding Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The name that has been mentioned by the hon'ble Member will not go on record.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, in a press conference he had mentioned that a number of orders issued in regard to Bihar are in defiance of the existing rules. The Advisor, Election Commission says so in regard to the Bihar assembly polls. He said that the orders which have been issued should be adopted in the form of rules. He is saying that they have done a lot of work which was out of their jurisdiction. He* who is he, he is a retired clerk, he is only an advisor and he is all bent upon smothering the entire democracy.

Sir, the elections of Shri Lalu Prasadji were also *..... cancelled by them. They have become experts in cancelling elections. He should be bestowed with the doctorate for this. If the Election Commission's officials or advisors remain affected with such inferiority complex and *malafide* intentions then how can fair elections be conducted ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you please conclude. You are repeating. You are repeating the same what other hon'ble Members have already spoken. Therefore, now you conclude.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will conclude with one or two more points. It is nowhere mentioned in the rules that it is not appropriate if 65 to 70 percent voting takes place. It is nowhere mentioned in the code of conduct that it is not appropriate if 90 to 100 percent voting takes place. There is no such provision under the election procedure. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ram Kripal ji, I have been requesting you again and again that you please do not repeat. Please speak if you have any new point. You are repeating the same what has already been said by other hon'ble Members. Do you want to say something about election funding or would like to speak on some other new points then please speak.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, election expenditure itself is the root cause of corruption. If corruption is to be removed then the Government should fund the elections themselves. This will simplify the electoral process and will also eliminate the possibility of allegations levelled against the public representatives during the assembly and Lok Sabha elections. The Election Commission or the Government should bear the election expenditures.

Sir, we saw it for the first time as to what happened regarding posters and pamphlets. There is no such provision prohibiting the display of posters or pamphlets on the walls of somebody's own house but still those were also removed. This time to Election Commission removed the posters and pamphlets pasted in the office of Rashtriya Janta Dal. We will have to ponder over all these things else democracy cannot survive in the country.

Sir, the poor people are being deprived of their rights, while the modesty of women is being outraged. I would conclude my speech with one last thing. Electronic Voting Machines are being used in elections. Crores and crores of rupees are being spent upon this. Our country is poor and we cannot bear such huge expenditure but still the Government is making these expenditures. Through you I would like to summit that the public money is being misused and it should be stopped.

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

**17.00 hrs.**

Sir, many people are not aware about EVM machines. People are not being trained properly therefore, some changes are required to be made in this system.

Sir, in the end while concluding I would like to say that at our place. ...*(Interruptions)** had gone for conducting elections. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The name will not go into the proceeding.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Both were great people. ...*(Interruptions)* Both these people made a mockery of the rules. ...*(Interruptions)* Changes are required to be made in the rules so that fair elections could be conducted in the country. The Election Commission will need to keep a check on this. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to support your proposal of constituting a committee in this regard. This will continue to go on and there would be no improvement unless the House takes some concrete measures and decisions in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)* I strongly believe that the Government would reply positively upon this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now nothing of your speech will go into the proceedings. Shri Tufani Saroj ji, you may please start you speech.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI TUFANI SAROJ (Saidpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, every citizen of the country, every person whosoever desires that free and fair elections should be conducted. But in the shield of conducting free and fair elections the Election Commission is adopting a dictator's attitude and most of our colleagues have brought the attention towards this. Leader of our House have also said that there is a need to improve the *modus operandi* of Election Commission adopted by it for conducting elections from Mainpuri to Bihar. The Election Commission should not adopt a dictator's attitude in the shield of conducting free and fair elections.

Sir, when the elections begin, survey reports of polls start coming from the entire media and everything varied projections about the seats start to pour in and it also becomes the talk of the town. This affects the smaller parties in particular. In the year 1999 we were contesting the elections, and the exit polls never projected more than 4-5 seats for our party. One survey predicted victory while the other defeat for the leader, leaving the voters in state of confusion and dilemma. Even today in our country there are a number of illiterate and uneducated people and it is not difficult to misguide them through exit poll reports that such and such party is winning with so many seats. It is easy for two to four percent voters to get influenced through exit polls and all the hon'ble Members have expressed their concern, I would also like to submit that whenever there are election in the country or state exit poll results should not come before the entire polling is complete. Once the process of polling is complete they should be allowed to present the exit poll figures before the counting of votes takes place.

Sir, I would request the hon'ble Minister to form a law on the survey and figures of exit polls and that the figures should be announced only after when the voting is complete. I would like to suggest that a law should be formed for compulsory voting since a large number of people stay at home on the voting day. Once compulsory voting system is introduced then people will definitely vote and the voter turnout percentage would be good. This kind of system and reforms should be introduced at sensitive polling booths. The administration is well aware in advanced of the polling booths which are sensitive and targeted to be captured.

The administration remains informed in advance. The administration deploys paramilitary forces or amend forces. However, it is not so effective as those who indulge in booth capturing, do so and escape undetected. I would like to suggest that security money can be increased however, close circuit cameras should be fitted at some of the identified sensitive booths, if not all the booths in the Assembly Constituency. Some such arrangement must be made to ensure that if there is bogus voting or if someone comes to cast bogus votes he or she is caught and action may be taken against him in future.

In recent elections one booths was made per 1500 voters. It takes one and half to two minutes to cast a vote. Thus with this pace a maximum of 400 votes can be casted in one day. 50 per cent of 1500 vote is 750 votes thus with this speed even 50 per cent polling cannot be completed. So, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that the number of voters per booths should be reduced from 1500 voters to 1000 voters.

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*Not recorded.

At the end, I would like to submit that there is need to introduce uniform electoral reforms for a healthy democracy, so that democracy may be strengthened.

*[English]*

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this subject.

Firstly, I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister that there is an urgent need for going in for an Election Tribunal. It is because election related petitions take so long time—they take nearly five years—and by that time the term of a Member is completed. I would like to request the hon. Minister to examine the possibility of formation of an Election Tribunal so that there could be speedy disposal of election related petitions.

Secondly, I would like to mention about the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe candidates. Usually there is a controversy over the status of a particular candidate whether he or she belongs to a Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe category. Normally, when the election process starts, the courts do not interfere in it. So, if an opposition candidate is able to satisfy that an 'x' candidate does not belong to the Scheduled Caste or a Scheduled Tribe category, then at the initial stage of filing nominations, his or her candidature should be rejected. For that also a suitable amendment is needed to be brought in the Representation of People's Act.

My third point is regarding the sensitive areas. As far as my knowledge goes, in the State of Andhra Pradesh around 70 per cent of sensitive areas are Muslim-dominated. This has been the case over the last ten years. Not a single area has been changed. What is the criteria for declaring an area as sensitive? What is the definition of a sensitive area? Simply because an area has been classified as sensitive, the Government deploys higher number of police personnel in that area, there is deployment of CRPF, and the Rapid Action Force thereby the local people are afraid to come out and exercise their right to vote. There needs to be a clear definition about what really a sensitive area means.

Sir, my fourth point is about article 324 which authorises the Election Commission to prepare electoral rolls and to conduct elections. It is an Executive power. it does not vest any legislative powers with the Commission. At the same time, we have also to commend the Election Commission for doing some excellent job. Take the example of holding of elections in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. We have to commend the Election Commission for that.

What has recently happened during the elections in Bihar? I went to Bihar to campaign for Shri Lalu Prasad. It seemed to me that Election Commission has become a third chamber in our Constitution. How was it that an MP, a Union Minister was held back from going to his constituency? We have the classic example of Shri Syed Shahabuddin. He got bail but he was stopped from going to his constituency and he was also stopped for exercising his right to vote. I could have understood if the District Collector, or the Returning Officer had taken a decision on these lines. This decision was reported in the Supreme Court on 13th April citing a judgement in the case between the State of Karnataka and Shri Pravin Togadia. Are we equating Syed Shahabuddin and other Union Ministers with the Shri Pravin Togadia? Are you saying that they were going there to vitiate the atmosphere? I can understand that conducting free and fair elections is in the interest of the whole nation. But what right has the Returning Officer or the District Election Officer has to stop the concerned MP from going and campaigning in his constituency? Where has our valuable and cherished right of freedom of expression and speech gone? Is it not that this order is illegal without jurisprudence? It is passed with ulterior motives and on extraneous considerations of political victimisation. How can we control the Election Commission? The Election Commission must realise that it is an offspring of this Legislative Body. It cannot go beyond this Legislative Body. At the same time, we do not want a confrontation with them. But the situation is going out of hands. The Election Commission cannot become the third chamber of our system of Constitution. It has to be governed. It has to have a *Lakshman rekha*.

Another point is regarding the time allotted to the national parties and the State parties. Sir, 30 hours are given to the national parties in the national channels and the Regional Doordarshan Kendras and the same 30 hours are given to the State parties also. But what about unrecognised political parties like my Party? We have five MLAs in Andhra Pradesh and I am a Member of Parliament. Why are we stopped from utilising the same thing? There is an urgent need for a legislation so that you can form a criteria. Those unrecognised political parties which have elected members in the State Assembly can be given this right so that they can also propagate their programmes and can come on the national Doordarshan channels to give out their message.

[Shri Asaduddin Owaisi]

Regarding section 77 which is on expenses incurred by a political party to advance the prospects of the candidate does not fall under expenditure. This is a very grey area. We have a plethora of Supreme Court judgements. One judgement says one thing and another judgement says another thing. There is a need to bring in an amendment.

Lastly, clause 4, section 123 of 1951 Act speaks about corrupt practices. I do not understand the working of the Election Commission. When the Gujarat elections were held, the present Chief Minister of Gujarat had openly criticised the then Chief Election Commissioner for him being a Christian. For him to criticise does not fall under section 123! There should be uniformity in the Election Commission.

Moreover, I feel and it is unfortunate that there are some people in the nation who have this mentality that they are the ones to decide what is right and what is wrong for this country. We know what is good and right and when we decide that Mr. Lalu Prasad and his party is not good for the Indian policy, we have to defeat him. These people should realise that times have changed. And it is for the first time in the history of India that a Prime Minister who is a non-Brahmin is going to complete one year. We have to realise that the whole social and political system have changed. It is high time that we control these people. We cannot allow them to go ahead.

Moreover, when we talk of criminalisation of politics, we talk about low percentage. I can give you my classic example. In 1999, I was nearly killed by the Telugu Desam Government over there. I was beaten up by 20 policemen. This was on the day after polling. What did the Returning Officer do? I made a complaint but nothing happened. There needs to be uniformity over here. If stringent measures are not adopted, then, for sure, people are going to lose faith in our electoral system. It is high time that the Election Commission conducts election in a free and fair manner and not in an atmosphere wherein we are going at war.

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, you may please check up the words 'non-Brahmin' and others.

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Objectional thing will be expunged from the proceeding.

*[English]*

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA (Karimganj): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this discussion.

Common people of our country think that there is deterioration in the qualities of elected representatives because they find that Legislatures have become mere debating clubs. At times, these Legislatures also become boxing rings. Opposition has become opposing machine. They are opposing only for the sake of making noise and stalling the business of the House instead of giving constructive suggestions or constructive criticism. I think the people rightly think that there is deterioration in the quality of elected representatives.

Before fifty-five years, when we declared our country as Democratic, Socialist, Secular Republic, ninety per cent of our voters were illiterate. But they had one good quality. They had love for the nation and they had the strong feeling of oneness which guided them to elect good quality representatives who had integrity, who could command national respect. So, this is the paradox. Now-a-days, our people are more educated and more enlightened, but they are not able to elect representatives of that quality. This is because our country is heading towards economic and social problems of unparalled magnitude with uncontrollable population. If this is not prevented, the condition would be catastrophic. We need elections not just to change the Government but also to change the rules to tackle the situation. We have rules regarding funding of elections. The rule says that a candidate has to spend maximum Rs. 15 lakh. But we find in the papers that during the last general elections, about Rs. 800 crore were spent. If this money was not spent on elections, it could have been easily invested for employment generation and in other welfare schemes of the country. So, the rules which we make and the reforms which we propose should be realistic, purposeful and should serve the purpose.

Our country has experience of multi-party Government, both in the States as well as at the Centre. We find that because of the multi-party Government or the coalition Government at the Centre and in the States, the relations between the Centre and the States is loosening out, which is not conducive to development. All these things require constitutional or electoral reforms.

I would like to propose one suggestion for economic reforms. We should reduce the expenditure on elections.

For that all political parties are required to keep a close link with the people or the voters. They should make constant efforts to make the voters aware about the elections. It may reduce the expenditure which are incurred with regard to hoardings, mikes, banners etc. Another point is about State funding of elections. Many hon. Members suggested that there should be State funding of elections as recommended by Indrajit Gupta Committee.

The electorate should choose candidates who are educated. Some minimum educational qualification has to be there for all levels of elected representatives, right for panchayats to Parliament.

The Mover of the Bill said that many of the legitimate voters are not able to cast their votes because their names are not there in the electoral rolls or when they reach the booths, the election time is already over. In this connection, I would like to say that the Election Commission must ensure that it has proper, updated and correct list of voters. This is one point.

Now, I come to another point. I know, Sir, that whenever a voter reports to the booth, and if the number is more than hundred, or whatever may be, the Presiding Officer is bound to allow him to cast his voter within the time.

Sir, no reform will be required if all of us love our country and think that we are Indians and if we make tremendous economic development so that everyone can lead a better life. We have to imbibe the idea of nationalism and patriotism in the mind of our next generation, which is coming up now. I know that an impression created in the mind of child lasts lifelong. Therefore, in elementary education, we have to give the importance on teaching elements of democracy, secularism and social duties. If we can achieve it, it will bring the best reform of the Indian society, election and governance.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY (Jadavpur): Thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak on such a very important discussion on the floor of the House, mainly because of the Supreme Court's reference and on the onset of the Goswami Committee and the Inderjit Gupta Committee Reports. A huge amount of paper information, etc., is already with the Government. Probably, this is a time when we should try to form a consensus and act accordingly. I believe, there is no dearth of material in this regard.

Sir, these days the politics—though politics is basically the highest, refined, civilized social activity—is getting, more or less, condemned by the people at large. Sir, while we are on the floor of the House, we are, in fact, raising the issue of tainted Minister and thereby, the question of tainted MPs might come. Hence, the question of politicians getting tainted comes up. Where is the end? Who is raising the question and against whom? The end result is that the faith of the people in the politicians is coming down increasingly. If you see the asset liability declarations by the parliamentarians, again it is a very sorry figure. Enough is enough. I believe, the issues are known to all of us—basically, three 'Ms' for one 'M'. One 'M' means the manufactured verdict. For that purpose, '3 MS', money, muscle and media are getting used. Many of our colleagues have already talked about it. So, I would not like to go into the details. The questions of caste, religion, emotion, etc., are there. Thereby, obviously, State funding and equal opportunity is a must.

Sir, there is also the question whether the chargesheeted Members on chargesheeted people should be allowed to contest elections. I believe, we should give more attention to that. But the more important issue is that we are having a first post poll system, in which a member nearing the post is elected. Maybe, he is getting 32 per cent. In a 50 per cent total votes polled for, if he gets 30-32 per cent, the sum total he is getting is 15-20 per cent. That is not a proper representation. That is not a proper democratic practice. That cannot be. In some countries, the listing system is there. I will also urge that the proportional representation, obviously, is the better choice while the quality of the legislation also might be better.

The next point that I would like to refer to is 'right to recall'. In history, many a time, this was talked about. Probably, it could never get such important attention. Right to recall also is a must. I would not like to go into it any longer, but I would like just to conclude now. Basically ours is the biggest democratic country and we can boast of it. But, in spite of it, for the last 57 years, we still could not develop as desired. So, where is the fault? Where is the fault in the entire political system? Where is the fault in the election process and practice? So, from this way, things should be seen and thereby a political consensus should be tried to arrive at. The electoral reforms should be meant to achieve that end.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Finally, there is the importance of acts and reforms. But, more important are the issues of social, political consensus, social-political build-up, etc. ...*(Interruptions)*

We should be involving the political parties. We know whom we are going to propose, whom we are going to select and what we are going to talk to the people knowing that it may or may not be accepted. So, the role of the political parties is most important in such a discussion. I believe that from the end, the political consensus should be tried to be arrived at.

With these words, I conclude.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under what rule are you on a point of order?

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: The hon. Minister of Law and Justice said that the words "non-Brahmin Prime Minister" should be removed. They are not unparliamentary words. So, I would request that these words must remain on record. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar to speak.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): Thank you, Sir. I want to make only one or two observations. There is a case pending in the Supreme Court.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have got four minutes to speak.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: I will not at all take much time.

At the outset, I would like to say that in 1951, the old law said, I mean the Representation of the People Act, that whoever is convicted in the election, he cannot contest the elections. A lot of changes have taken place after the Patna High Court decision. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Chinta Mohan, it is your point of information only and not a point of order.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: In the midst of the recent General Elections, the Patna High Court had passed on Order that persons behind bars cannot contest elections. On the basis of an application moved by the Election Commission, this Order was stayed by the Supreme Court with the observation that the High Court could not have passed the Order during the course of the election process. However, the SLP [No. 9204-05/ 2004-ECI Vs. Jan Chowkidar (People's Watch) & Ors.] is pending before the Supreme Court for final disposal. Suppose the Supreme Court comes to a certain decision. A day will come when nobody will be able to contest the elections at all. A situation may come like that. So, I would request the hon. Minister to implead in the case which is before the Supreme Court.

Regarding criminalisation of politics, I would say that it is true that criminals now get into politics. There is a problem. We all know about that. The important point is that the Government can make anybody a criminal because our laws are like that. We need not have draconian laws. The Criminal Procedure Code itself is enough. Anybody could be booked on a charge. Suppose a social agitation, a political agitation is taking place somewhere. Suppose there is some violence and something happens. Somebody could be booked under Section 307 or for conspiracy. He could be barred from contesting the elections. By the time he is proved innocent, I do not know how many years it would take, it will be too late. So, we have to have some more transparency in respect of these issues. We have to see that under the guise of not allowing criminals to get into politics, under the guise of barring people who are criminals from contesting elections, Government machinery is not used against the public workers. We should not make them criminals and bar them from contesting elections.

Another issue is funding the elections. In the 50th Anniversary, we made a commitment. A Joint Committee of Parliament on amendments to the elections law was set up in 1971 under the Chairmanship of Shri J. Rao. It said that there must be electoral reforms and funding. The Goswami Commission report of 1990 is there. The present Law Commission's paper of 1998 said that there must be funding of elections. The Tarkunde Committee said that there must be funding of elections. Further, the 154th Session of the Inter-Parliamentary Council meeting in Paris held on 26th March, 1994 said that there must be funding of elections. It was represented by 129 Parliaments including the Indian Parliament. Moreover, the Indrajit Gupta Committee said that there must be public funding, Government funding. I do not want to go into the details of it. The problem is that of the will of the

Government to implement it. There must be a political will. In that Committee, our present hon. Prime Minister was a member. Our hon. Speaker, Shri Somnath Chatterjee was a member. Now, Dr. Manmohan Singh is the Prime Minister. Shri Somnath Chatterjee is the hon. Speaker of this House. Prof. Malhotra who is the Leader of the Opposition. ...*(Interruptions)* the question is this. What makes the Government not to implement this Committee's report? For how many years, have we been discussing about it? So, there must be a finality. Hence, I urge upon the Government to act. There is a proposal by the Indrajit Gupta Committee about how to create the corpus. It recommended that the corpus can be created by collecting Rs. 10 from every voter, Rs. 600 crore from the Centre and a matching fund from the State Government. So, that is how they wanted to bring the corpus. That is the recommendation. They had gone through it thoroughly. They had gone through the need for funding the elections in order to see that there is no criminalisation and also privatisation of politics.

I think privatisation will come in politics also. Big companies can just fund anybody in elections because elections are very costly. For democracy to function and become transparent, they must be made affordable. They cannot be costly like this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: It is an immediate task of the Government to see that the recommendations of the Indrajit Gupta Committee's Report are implemented and the electoral reforms are taken seriously.

*[Translation]*

SHRI LALMANI PRASAD (Basti): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my thanks to you for allowing me to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Lalmani Prasad ji, you are given four minutes to speak. Presently many Members are to speak.

SHRI LALMANI PRASAD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my thanks that you allowed me to speak on this serious subject. The detailed discussion should be held on this subject giving more time to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has been done for the sake of your convenience. I always take care of all the Members.

SHRI LALMANI PRASAD: Sir, through you, I would like to submit that the country got independence on 15 August, 1947 and on 25 January, 1950, Dr. Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, after framing the constitution, handed it over to the then President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and the then Prime Minister, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. While offering the Constitution, he (Ambedkar) remarked that everyone hold the equal status in politics. We have won half of the battle by offering the equal status to all, however, half of the battle is still to be won by way of social transformation and economic freedom movement. At that time Baba Saheb told that equal status should be given to all in politics. Now, democratic system has been adequate. Earlier administrators, kings were born out of queen's womb, however, today rulers are born from the ballot box. Now electronic voting machines have come in vogue. However, unfortunate state of the affair is that even after 57 years of independence, poor people are not able to exercise their fundamental rights provided to them by the Constitution in real sense of the term. Even today they are being deprived of their voting right. Similarly, regarding education, it has been mentioned in the Constitution that free and compulsory education should have been given to all, however, even after 57 years of independence this could not be achieved. It takes 20 years for a person to do graduation. If the free and compulsory education were implemented, all would have become literate in these 57 years. However, today on this occasion I would like to submit that poor people are being deprived of their voting right. It is a very serious issue. As far the corruption and money power is concerned, I would like to give point-wise suggestions and conclude as we have no time to elaborate it further.

I would like to say that Babasaheb had said that how far a law is good or effective depends on the intention of its implementaters. Have the people who prevented the poor from voting been punished? If law exists, why have not they have been punished? So, voting should be made mandatory today. My submission is that on the basis of spread of population country should be divided in approximately 50 states. One such state should comprise a population of 2 crore. A state should have 20 seats of Lok Sabha and 100 assembly seats. Parties should contest elections and not candidates. I mean each party should be allotted seats of Lok Sabha or assembly on the basis of votes received.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since time allotted to you is over, so please conclude.

SHRI LALMANI PRASAD: Sir, it would check misuse of money and muscle power and corruption. My submission is that village with a population of one thousand should have Panchayat, two block Pramukhs for 50 thousand, an MLA for 2 lakhs and M.P. for ten lakhs. Representatives should be nominated on the basis of votes polled by a party.

Further, in place of both Houses of Parliament, i.e. Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, only Lok Sabhha should remain and in the states, only Legislative assembly and not councils. The strength of Lok Sabha should be increased to 1000, one Parliamentary segment should comprise 5 assembly seats. Parties should be empowered to nominate 30 women. Concerned officer of the area should be held responsible for deletion of names of voters from the voters' list. And action should be initiated against such officers. Constitution should be amended to provide that elections are held only after five years. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. Now Shri Furkan Ansari. ...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI LALMANI PRASAD: Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I lay my remaining speech on the Table.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As per rules, since you have concluded your speech you can't lay it now. You may handover your speech to hon. Minister.

SHRI FURKAN ANSARI (Godda): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the discussion being held in Lok Sabha today on electoral reforms, I feel, is in the interest of democracy. It is an important issue as to how to check rigging in elections. ...*(Interruptions)* Yesterday, you spoke at length on electoral reforms. I feel, what you'd said is enough and there is no need to say anything further. But, on my behalf, I would like to make a few suggestions. I would like to say that though the Election Commission has imposed certain restrictions and gave directions but the instructions were not followed. Some people from my constituency come to me and stated that it was reported in newspapers that short at sight orders have been issued for both riggers and looters. It was to ensure free and fair election. Editorials were given in newspapers in this regard. One of the voters from my constituency told that his son was killed when he went to cast his vote. The Government have issued short at sight orders for the booth looters. Not to speak of firing, there was no one with lathi even. The NDA Government has changed the booths set up earlier. Shri Shakdhar had in 1980 ordered setting up of booths in areas where the poor, minorities, dalits and tribals are living. But, one can see that during last five years there booths were reshuffled in such areas where poor people were prevented from voting by upper castes. The commission says that it has set up booths and provided force. For whom the force was deployed? CRPF and Para-Military forces were deployed during recently held elections in Bihar and Jharkhand. It was deployed in the interests of weaker sections of society. CRPF personnel were deployed in tribal, harijan areas but no force was deployed in villages considered as stronghold of BJP and there the booths were looted. How can we change this situation? We can't have free and fair elections unless Elections Commission desires so. Therefore, my submission is that the Commission itself will have to act in a totally impartial way.

I had contested 1980 election. I spent Rs. 20 thousand for contesting assembly election. The Government wants to reduce the expenditure on elections but one can't even imagine who spent how much money in the recently held assembly elections. Rs. 40-50 lakh was spent in one constituency itself and crores of rupees have been spent on Lok Sabha elections. The malpractices sought to be checked by the elections Commission continued. Mere rhetorics can't lead to reforms. Now elections are manned by political criminals. And the citizens will have to awaken to make it free, fair and transparent. If we are not aware it can't be so. The Commission will have to be impartial and like some concrete measures in order to achieve the said objective. Returning Officers are sent to all districts from Delhi. There should be a provision of deploying the outside cadres for elections in states.

Voters lists are tampered with. Even today 40-50 percent voters have not been provided with identity cards; Election Commission is responsible for it. And it has failed to perform its responsibility. I would like to know as to whose responsibility it is? Is it not the responsibility of the Election Commission? Poor people and those belonging to weaker sections of society have not been issued identity cards even though the Government boasts of electoral reforms. Whenever the issue of reforms came up the Commission has only experimented and it has never been honest about bringing reforms. Will the experiments continue? We can't check corruption in this

*Not recorded.

way. So, the election commission will have to pay special attention to it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now conclude.

SHRI FURKAN ANSARI: Now 1500 voters have been allotted one booth whereas earlier one booths was earmarked for 500-700 voters.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This type of suggestion has already come.

SHRI FURKAN ANSARI: My submission is that in rural areas separate booths may be set up for weaker section of society.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your speech is over.

SHRI FURKAN ANSARI: There is enough scope for irregularity in it. ...*(Interruptions)* counting can be started immediately. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA (Barh): Mr. Chairman Sir, yesterday when you were not in the Chair you tendered very important suggestions. Since yesterday, many important suggestions have been made which I would not like to repeat because you are not going to give me that much time. I would only like to say that several suggestions have been made and discussions in regard to several Committees have been held. The reports of Dinesh Goswami Committee, Indrajit Gupta Committee and Tarkunde Committee have been put into cold storage even then we are discussing them. Would there be any logical outcome thereof? Despite that we express our faith in it. Shri Jai Prakash Narayanji was pioneer of the freedom-struggle, was a senior leader of the freedom struggle, he mooted the concept of "right to recall". Today, if the public representatives become irresponsible and do not fulfil their responsibilities then this method should be adopted. It should be considered vital in the process of electoral reforms. The people of this country have elected us and if we do not discharge our duties towards them and the people feel that their representative has become worthless then that representative should be recalled. The UPA Government should include this suggestion while making efforts for electoral reforms.

*Not recorded.

Mr. Chairman Sir, through you, I would like to express my viewpoint. Several things have been discussed here which I would not like to repeat. When a candidate losses election he files an election petition when the election process is over. Hon. Law and Justice Minister Shri Bhardwaj ji is present here. I would want that such a procedure should be fixed for the disposal of election petitions so that these petitions could be disposed with in a year. Whatever decision may be, whether it is in favour or is against I am a sufferer. Generally it has been observed that, elections are held for the second or third time since the election petition is filed in the year 1977, I lost elections from Varihayarpur Legislative Assembly (Bihar) by 255 votes. I field an election petition in High Court, fresh elections in 1980 approached. But no decision was taken this time in 1999 also I lost the elections of Parliament I moved the court to seek justice. Election were held and I was elected but my previous petition was not disposed of. So, through you, I would urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Law and Justice to take measures in the direction of electoral reforms and it should be kept in mind how to establish a better co-ordination in the disposal of election petitions and judicial process.

Sir, right now, several things have been discussed regarding electoral reforms. Better delimitation is extremely important for free and fair elections. What measures can be effective for better delimitation. ...*(Interruptions)* The Draft report of the delimitation Working Committee was submitted. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Member, you please address the Chair.

*[Translation]*

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Last time, there was a big controversy on the draft of the Working Committee. The revenue villages were divided, geography was not considered, readjustment of population was not done, restructuring was done, the proposal of the reserved area was not as per the rules and was not justified. Firstly, this kind of action was taken in Bihar and then in U.P. So, the process of delimitation is being taken in consideration again and it is in progress. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards this fact since better delimitation is necessary for free and fair elections.

[Shri Vijoy Krishna]

The Government should pay attention to it. Sir, I would like to mention Bihar. I would also emphasize on the strengthening of internal democracy of parties. Today, there is no internal democracy, instead, there is either groupism or democracy. The parties which talk of thesis, anti-thesis, dialectic materialism for them corruption, money? Manoeuvring, manipulation, air, water, lathi, baton have recover common practice. The parties which boast of Unitary humanism, do not exercise self control, discipline and co-ordination. How would internal democracy in parties survive. Today the question is what steps should be taken in this direction while making electoral reform? This should be kept in mind while deliberating on electoral reforms.

Sir, the issue of State funding has been raised. Arrangement for State Funding should be made so that the poorest of the poor can be elected to the House I cannot say what happens in various States namely Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat or in Delhi of the country and what kind of people are being elected from there. I do not want to create any controversy by raising that issue but today crores of rupees are being spent on elections in one constituency. Several ways are adopted in the name of election in Northern India. Even then people in great number belonging to poor families or middle class get elected from these States. That is why arrangement for funding should be made so that even the poor get elected to the House *...(Interruptions)* and an independent body having Constitutional powers should be constituted to Monitor the contribution and funds of political parties.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is over, please sit down.

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: I will conclude in two minutes. A detailed discussion on elections of Bihar was held. I would like to submit that retired officers particularly senior officers should not be appointed in the Election Commission, as they make different types of efforts to become a member of Rajya Sabha or State Legislative Council. They should come as elected representatives of the people. Retired officers are appointed to the Constitutional posts. There is a class which is suffering from inferiority complex. We do not know how they have been acting. So, retired officers should not be appointed the Election Commission. It would be better to avoid such people so that election process could be pursued. Now, our apprehensions have proved true that the Election Commission is functioning in high handed manner. The development works get stalled in the name of code of conduct. The development works should not be stalled. The report of administration in regard to sensitivity of a booth and the one submitted by the Election Commission are contradictory. Those people who have power and property for several thousand years prevent the poor people from going to booths. They stand on the booths with lathis in their hands and Election Commission remains a mute spectator. There are several examples of it Injustice has been meted out in the name of setting up of booth and sensationalizing it in Bihar. I will definitely say that the poor have been prevented from casting their votes. This issue has been raised by several Members in the House. I do not wish to repeat the issues which have been raised. Today aspersions are being cast on the Election Commission. They should think it themselves *...(Interruptions)*. After all why the Constitutional autonomous body is losing its image-faith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is over. Please sit down. Your statement will not go on record.

Shri Shailendra Kumar, please go ahead with your speech.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The Election Commission of India has submitted a report to the Government containing 22 recommendations. I want the Government to implement these recommendations. The Election Commission will keep making its efforts but the Government should also do something with the consensus of political leaders.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, recently by-elections were held in Bihar. Some hon'ble Members were banned from entering their respective districts whereas legally a criminal's entry is banned. But it is very unfortunate and condemnable that Members entry is being banned in their own districts. Hon'ble Member should consider this himself.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the recommendations of Vohra Committee should be implemented. There is a large number of independents when contestants file nomination from for elections. At some polling booths two voting machines are installed. A poor person in the village has to face problem, as he does not have the knowledge of exercising his right to vote. I would like to submit as a suggestion that the nomination fee for contesting Lok Sabha elections should be raised to Rs. 20 thousand from Rs. 10 thousand and the same should be increased upto Rs. 10 thousand from Rs. 5 thousand for assembly elections. This amount should be reduced to half for the contestants of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, some contestants fight election from two seats at the same time and they win also from both the seats. When they leave one seat, by-elections are held again for the seat. Under such situation Rs. 10 lakh should be recovered from Lok Sabha contestant and Rs. 5 lakh from Assembly Candidate so that the labour and expenditure involved in by-elections could be avoided. Similarly, all the records submitted at the time of nomination and those who have been imprisoned. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you please conclude. If you have any suggestion then please give that.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Voting should be made compulsory. Today the voting percentage in the country is declining rapidly. Now a days not more than 30-35

*Not recorded.

percent, voting takes place. More than 50 per cent of the country remain deprived of voting even today. Therefore, voting should be made compulsory.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, strict action should be taken against those persons involved in Booth capturing. Some of the polling booths and stations are far off in my area due to which a large number of people are not able to cast their vote. Therefore, arrangements for mobile polling booths should be made so that the voter can exercise their voting right. Besides, the errors in voter lists should be rectified immediately. A common voter list for all elections, namely from Lok Sabha to Panchayat elections should be prepared in the country. The voter identity card system should be implemented in the country. A number of hon'ble Members have said that the poor people are asked to bring their Ration Card, Licence, Pass Book etc. and in the absence of such identity proofs, a number of people remain deprived of casting there vote.

Furthermore, I would like to say that arrangement has been made in the country for 1500 people to cast their votes at a single polling booth. It is not possible to cast so many votes between 8 O'clock in the morning to 5 O'clock in the evening therefore, I would like to submit that this figure should be reduced to 1000. In addition, exit polls should also be banned in the country so that propaganda caused by the exit polls could be checked and voting may not be affected by it. There is sufficient time between voting and counting of voters, during that period exit poll can be projected.

Lastly, I would like to submit that a number of respected people in villages are booked under sections 107-116 and those go for their bail are deprived of voting. Such sort of panic is created. All the reputed people in villages are issued red or yellow cards. I would like to suggest that such cards should not be issued. I would also like to request that the Government should consider all the important issues that I have raised. Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

*[English]*

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Parvatipuram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, elections are a vital process in a democratic polity. So, electoral reforms are necessary, depending and based on our experience. Electoral reforms are something which should be reviewed and statutory provisions made periodically.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you initiated this debate and several hon. Members have spoken before me. I would not waste the time of this House by repeating what has already been said. You have spoken about the Election Commission, about observers, and several other practical difficulties and aspects that have come into the elections in recent times.

When we talk of electoral reforms, the first thing that crosses everybody's minds is the criminalisation of today's polity and the role that money has been playing in today's elections. If some statutory provision could be made to curtail or curb the role of criminals and to reduce the role of money power in elections, I think, we would have made our contribution as far as the preservation of democracy in our country is concerned.

Electronic voting machines have come into use. Now, they have been used and they are quite simple. Several hon. Members have expressed their apprehensions about delayed voting. These are practical problems. These are logistics which could always be verified. As far as the electronic voting machine is concerned, it is controlled by the Presiding Officer. Once the Presiding officer activates the button, only then could a voter go inside and cast his vote. So, unless the Presiding Officer is totally impartial and there is no threat, the elections cannot be fair and free elections. Even with electronic voting machines, elections have not been found to be more successful. So, I would suggest something very respectfully. I hope, the hon. Minister of Law and Justice would take note of it.

Recently, there was a meeting of Chief Ministers of all the States. In that meeting, it was decided that identity cards would be given to citizens. When Mr. Seshan was the Election Commissioner, he introduced a kind of identity card for electoral purposes. That was meant only for elections and it was not used for any other purpose. I would specifically like to suggest that multi-purpose photo identity cards be issued to citizens; those cards should have a kind of a holograph code and thumb impression; and the electronic voting machine should be attached to a scanner or a reader where if you swipe this card, the electronic voting machine would be activated.

**18.00 hrs.**

By this, you will be eliminating the role of the Presiding Officer. This identity card should serve as a birth certificate, as a nativity certificate, as a caste certificate, and for electoral purposes, for using in elections right from the panchayat to Parliament. So, if this kind of an identity card is introduced and if this scanner or this reader is attached to the electronic voting machine to be activated only when the genuine card is swiped over it. I think, booth capturing will become very difficult.

Sir, several Members have spoken about money power. I have contested so many elections. ...*(Interruptions)*.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Now the time is over.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, the discussion will continue and you can continue your speech tomorrow.

**18.01 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, May 5, 2005/Vaisakha 15, 1927 (Saka)*

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