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Wednesday, May 11, 2005
Vaisakha 21, 1927 (Saka)

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(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)

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LOK SABHA

Wednesday, May 11, 2005/Vaisakha 21, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan Q. No. 641.

[English]

Standardisation of Ayurvedic Treatment

*641. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to have any institutional arrangements to standardise Ayurvedic treatment and scientifically establish the efficacy of the medicines and practices in Ayurvedia;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Statement

(a) to (c) Ayurvedia is one of the oldest Systems of Medicine in India which is duly recognized by Government and regulated by law. Institutional arrangements are in place to standardize various aspects of Ayurevda including the system of treatment in a scientific manner. Government have taken steps for scientific validation of experience based Ayuredic medicines and application of the latest scientific and diagnostic tools for Ayurvedic treatment. The Central Council of Indian Medicine (CCIM), has the mandate to prescribe the standards of Ayurveda education, maintain a central register of Ayurveda practitioners and determine standards of professional conduct, etiquette and code of ethics for them.

In order to refine the treatment and improve the efficacy of Ayurvedic medicines, a number of projects are being implemented under the intra and extra mural research programme. Reputed scientific institutions and hospitals have been involved in implementing some of the projects.

Government have recently revised the Extra Mural Research Scheme to provide for an additional component of collaborative scientific research known as the Golden Triangle Partnership. Under the revised scheme, the Department of AYUSH, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) will join together to develop new and efficacious Ayurvedic drugs, acceptable globally, in addition to validating scientifically the existing experience based formulations.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, Ayurveda is the oldest system of medicine in our country. So far as my State, Kerala is concerned, about 12 Ayurvedic colleges are conducting graduate level courses for Ayurvedic treatment. There are two important Research Centres in Kerala. One of them is managed by the Government of India, which is at Thiruvananthapuram. There is the world famous reputed Kottakal Arya Vaidyashala where many of the VIPs go for treatment. We know that Ayurveda is a form of treatment where there is no reaction. So, we have to give all encouragement for the development of Ayurveda.

In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to a project-file submitted by the Government of Kerala for setting up an International Institute of Ayurveda at Thiruvananthapuram. It was not considered on the ground that there is no scheme. If there is no scheme, this proposal should have been approved separately as there cannot be a scheme for setting up an International Institute.

Moreover, in order to protect, propagate and keep the proprietary rights of this unique system, it is imperative for the country to have an International Institute governing all aspects of India's only system of treatment.

MR. SPEAKER: What are you reading? Put your question.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I would like to know whether the Government is prepared to reconsider the decision and sanction an International Institute at

Poojapura, Thiruvananthapuram. It is run by the Government of India. I would request him to take action in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: Give him an opportunity to answer.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: The Government is committed to propagating our own system of medicine, which is also our traditional system. I have been insisting time and again that it is our own system founded by our own forefathers. We have to propagate this system. It is a cost-effective system with less side effects. We are trying to propagate this.

Coming to the question of the hon. Member, which is about setting up an International Institute for Ayurveda in Kerala, I would like to say that a proposal was submitted to the previous Government and it was turned down. As it is, we do not have any such schemes from the Government to support such a big project, like setting up an International Institute. But we could support the Government of Kerala within the schemes which have been already evolved. For example, we could support the Government of Kerala to the extent of Rs. 3 crore which we are giving to the State-run colleges for upgradation to specialised college status.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: My second supplementary is with regard to maintaining patent rights of certain Ayurvedic medicines. It is because patent law is in force. There are various countries which have applied for patent rights for Ayurvedic medicines. So, I would request the hon. Minister to take immediate steps for maintaining patent rights. Kottakal Arya Vaidyashala is a Research Centre and it is producing very reputed medicines. That must be protected. I would request the hon. Minister to protect the rights of well-known reputed Ayuredic treatment centres, like the Kottakal Arya Vaidyashala and Shantigiri in Thiruvananthapuram, which is also manufacturing very important medicines.

MR. SPEAKER: Repetition does not help.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Government be pleased to take immediate steps to protect these medicines and give encouragement to their development by way of grant and legal action?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, I am sure, you will consider it. You will take note of it.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Yes, Sir, we understand the concern of the hon. Member about the protection of patent rights and the procedure. According to the Patent Law, knowledge, which existed in the public domain, cannot be patented. The Government has now formulated a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library called TDKL whereby we are compiling different formulations of Ayurvedic, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathic formulations. We are assembling that. Then, we are trying to register it with WIPO, the World Intellectual Property Organisation in Geneva whereby if someone in some country, patents a drug, they could always refer to that centre and find out whether there is already a patent existing for the Ayurvedic or herbal formulation. So, today, we have about 36 formulations in Ayurveda which have been registered with the WIPO. Also, 72,000 more are on the way. Like we have done for Homeopathy and Unani, we have been doing for Siddha also. We are trying to protect it. But then, this is a very complex issue of patenting rights because different countries have different procedures. So, we are trying to safeguard our interests.

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ayurvedic System of Medicine has been considered as the best system of medicine in India or centuries. Today, all the old medical colleges have a separate institute for Ayurvedic treatment. In Uttar Pradesh there is one such institute under the Banaras Hindu University which is a Central university. Nowadays, the said institute is facing some technical problems. The doctors of the said institute are submitting proposal to the Union Government which deals with in the treatment of diabetes and cancer, based on the traditional system of medicine. But, all their proposals are lying pending till date. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government, keeping in view the urgency of the proposals, sent by the said institute, would accord approval to them without any further delay.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is something else. Mr. Minister, are you in a position to answer it?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: If the proposals are rightly formated and approved by the appropriate authorities, I do not foresee any reason why they are pending. But if the hon. Member brings to notice any particular proposal which is pending, I would like to take it up.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question is for making institutional arrangements to standardise Ayurvedic

treatment and scientifically establish the efficacy of the medicines etc. Please put your supplementary relating to that.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: As per the statement laid on the Table by the hon. Minister, the CCIM is taking many steps to standardise Ayurveda education. It has mandate to maintain a central register of Ayurveda practitioners and determine standards of professional conduct, etiquette and code of ethics for them. In spite of all these things, the doctors, who are trained in the Indian system of medicine, AYUSH, are not practicing the Indian System of Medicine but they are practicing the modern system of medicine with which they are neither familiar nor do they know the subject. What is happening because of this is that there are many fatalities and even sometimes deaths are taking place. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: I am coming to that. In the open market, in spite of the best efforts of the Government, spurious Ayurvedic drugs are rampantly sold and they are easily available in the market. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, one thing. What are the steps taken to punish those doctors of Ayurveda who are practising in the modern system of medicine? What are the steps taken to stop the availability of spurious Ayurvedic drugs in the open market?

MR. SPEAKER: Is treating in the modern medicinal system punishable?

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: The hon. Member is a modern doctor, a modern physio-medicine doctor like me. I understand his concern that some of the doctors of the Indian System of Medicine, in fact, having degrees issued by the recognised Universities or Institutions of Indian System of Medicine, are practising modern system of medicine. Under the law, it comes under quackery. Doctors are not supposed to deviate from the recognised system. They cannot practice systems other than the duly recognised system. The Government is trying to bring forward an Anti-Quackery Bill in the coming months.

About the other part relating to spurious drugs, that is a very wider question. We have been taking a lot of initiatives to prevent this. We are modernising capacity building, and we have been trying to bring in Dr. R.A. Mashelkar's recommendation. Day before yesterday, a Bill has been submitted to the other House for bringing in the legal and penal recommendation of Dr. Mashelkar's recommendation for making the law more stringent.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, Kerala is known as the land of Ayurveda. In Ayurveda, different types of treatments are going on. As stated, a number of reputed institutions are there. Not only that; there are centres in many places in Kerala for the treatment of special diseases, namely, treatment of eye, of fracture and also many other diseases. Not only the people of Kerala but also people from abroad are coming to Kerala for treatment. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You may please put the question.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: We know that our former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, had come for the Ayurvedic treatment. ...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM: All these are examples.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, considering all these facts, not only for the sake of Kerala but also for the national sake, will the Government consider to start a research centre, especially a centre of excellency in the field of Ayurveda in Kerala?

MR. SPEAKER: Similar question has already been asked.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: There is already a very beautiful centre—Central Research Institute of Ayurveda in Cheruthuruthy in Kerala. It has been upgraded. We have given Rs. 60 lakh more for further upgradation. The Government is going to take all the steps to promote this system, especially in Kerala.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rewati Raman Singh. Let there be no repetition.

[Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister the reasons for the standardisation of ayurvedic treatment. Does the Ayurveda permit it as whether the proposal of standardisation is against the basic tenets of the Ayurvedic system of medicine, if so, I would like to know whether the government propose to reject the said proposal.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: There is a need for standardisation of all the formulations. It is because in guise of Ayurvedic formulations, people arbitrarily treat and then market these products. So, we have to standardise them and we have to scientifically validate these products. It is because this has been our own system, and this system is being accepted globally. For global acceptance, we have to scientifically validate each of the Ayurvedic formulations and combinations, whether it is raw material or formulated material. Of course, this has been acceptable. As I said earlier, 25 per cent of the American medicines are planted. We need to propagate them and we need to have standards.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rajaram Pal. If it is a new point, then please ask. The same thing is not to be asked.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, India is a country of sages and Ayurveda is the oldest system of medicine in our country. Allopathic system of treatment induces new diseases in the patient in form of its side effects. I through you, would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether in order to promote the Ayurvedic system of medicine, the Hon. Minister is going to open the department of Ayurvedic medicine the primary health centres at district, tehsil and block headquarters level in the whole country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise under this Question. Sorry. Repeatedly, I am requesting restrict yourselves to the question and answer. You cannot raise any question for the sake of question.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, we are trying to integrate. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know that whether Ayurvedic Hospital is going to be opened in every district. Are you going to do it?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: No, Sir. But under the National Rural Health Mission, we are coordinating with the States that there could be an Indian-system doctor present at a primary health centre along with the modern-system doctor. We are supplying medicines also both in the sub-centres as well as in the primary health centres under the National Rural Health Mission.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav. If it is repetition, then I will reject it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we all have realized that people's faith is growing in the Ayurveda system of medicine and various things related to it are also being promoted. Yoga institutions are also being opened. Bihar is the most backward state. It has a large number of poor people. The people there do not have adequate money to seek allopathic treatment. There are two Ayurvedic colleges which impart education regarding ayurvedic system of medicine. There are some other big and small institutions also. In Bihar one ayurvedic college is in Patna and another one is in Motihari. I would like to know whether the Hon. Minister will allocate funds for making both these colleges as centres of excellence.

Other point is that medicinal plants are cultivated at large scale for the treatment of the poor people.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, there are two colleges. Are you going to help them?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: The farmers are making efforts to raise the production of medicinal plants. Will the Hon. Minister like to provide assistance to the farmers for more production of medicinal plants in Bihar or at the national level?

MR. SPEAKER: You are talking about the farmers and the ayurveda.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Ayurveda will grow only when the production of medicinal plants is raised.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to know about medicinal plants?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Yes Sir, I am talking about their production.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, as far as the first part of the hon. Member's question is concerned, like I said earlier, I would like to inform that we have different scheme to promote not only State Government institutions, but also private institutions. In fact, we have schemes to support even the small-scale manufacturing units. We support them with about 20 per cent financial assistance or Rs. 5 lakh whichever is maximum. In fact, for a Centre of Excellence, if the State Government recommends a project from Bihar or from any other State, we could support them to the tune of about Rs. 3 crore. Then, we have different schemes for upgradation of pharmacy for medicinal plants. Definitely we will do our best for Bihar because it is a much-needed State and, in fact, under the National Rural Health Mission also we are trying to propagate it.

MR. SPEAKER: We all support it.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: As far as the second part of the hon. Member's question about medicinal plants is concerned, we are trying to propagate medicinal plants in the country. We have a National Medicinal Plant Board through which we are giving assistance to the farmers. There are two types of assistance. One is promotional assistance and the other is commercial assistance. In the promotional type, we give assistance to the tune of about Rs. 30 lakh and in the commercial type, we give assistance to the tune of about Rs. 9 lakh to farmers who have 100 per cent buy-back facility for their products. We are trying to propagate it and we can increase it.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem in our country is that till today we do not have pharmacopoeia for Indian medicines. But in our neighbouring countries like Vietnam, China, etc., they have a governmental approach for integrated treatment of medicines like herbal treatment, acupuncture, etc. But unfortunately, in our country the modern medical journals give a notice to the allopathic practitioners that if they prescribe any Indian medicine or Ayurvedic medicine, they will be debarred from the Medical Council and will never be considered as a practitioner of modern medicine. Will the Government look into this because the integrated treatment of complicated diseases has always been a successful experiment in our country, like in China and Vietnam? I would like to know whether the Government will look into it so that no such directive is given to the allopathic practitioners not to prescribe Ayurvedic medicines.

MR. SPEAKER: He has answered this question.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS; Sir, I deny the statement of the hon. Member that there is no pharmacopoeia for Ayurvedic or any other Indian system products. There are pharmacopoeial standards for Ayurvedic formulations, for about 431 formulations which have been published for standardisation including the Siddha formulary. There are physico-chemical values for about 250 drugs. So, there is a pharmacopoeia for Indian systems.

With regard to modern doctors being debarred from practice for prescribing Indian system medicines, I would like to state that it does not exist because there are some diseases like jaundice, skin disorders, etc., which can be cured only though Indian system of medicine. Then, the Government is trying to integrate Indian systems of medicine with modern medicine. To start with, we are going to bring about a subject, at least, of Indian system in the MBBS curriculum and their products to basically create awareness.

MR. SPEAKER: There is a related question to this. Q. No. 648. Shri Vinod Kumar—not present.

Q. No. 642—Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan—not present.

Q. No. 643—Shri Asaduddin Owaisi.

Universal Service Obligation Fund

*643. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether 5 per cent of the revenue is collected from the telecom companies to maintain the Universal Service Obligation (USO) fund;

(b) if so, whether the BSNL is the main beneficiary of this fund;

(c) if so, the total fund made available to the BSNL during the last three years;

(d) whether any private company has been able to meet the rural obligation of providing subsidised fixed line services in rural and remote areas;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government proposes to amend the Telegraph Act in order to get a share from this fund for providing cellular services in rural areas;

(g) if so, the time by which this decision is likely to be taken;

(h) whether the Government has taken up the matter with the administrator of USO fund; and

(i) if so, the reaction of the administrator thereto?

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

Statement

(a) Universal Service Levy at the rate of 5% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) is collected from all Telecom Operators except value added service providers.

(b) and (c) Rs. 1805.94 crore have been disbursed to BSNL for providing services in the rural areas Rs. 297.26 crore, Rs. 197.40 crore and Rs. 1311.28 crore have been disbursed to BSNL in the years 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively.

(d) and (e) Agreements have been signed with Six Private Service Providers for providing subsidy towards Operation and Maintenance of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) installed by them. They are maintaining 9,185 VPTs now.

(f) to (i) A proposal to provide financial support for setting up passive infrastructure in eligible rural areas to facilitate roll-out of Cellular mobile services is under consideration.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the rural teledensity is 1.1 per cent. From 2002-03 to 2004-05, about Rs. 6,696 crore have been estimated to be collected from the USO Fund and even after spending about Rs. 800 an odd crore, Rs. 4,891 crore is still left with the Ministry. The collection for 2005-06 is estimated at 10 per cent growth, that is, Rs. 3,034 crore for this year.

Sir, around 84,000 villages are still not covered with VPTs. I would like to know from the hon Minister what steps are being taken to provide these villages with VPTs. Also, is it true that much of the time is lost in obtaining data in terms of number of villages or VPTs cost and revenue details? What steps are being taken to expedite the process?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, there are around six lakh villages which have been identified by the Census of India. out of six lakh villages, 5,25,000 villages have already been provided with Village Public Telephones. For the remaining around 66,000 villages, agreements have been signed in November, 2004 with BSNL. They will be completing it in three years. They will be completing it in a phased manner, and on that basis, 20 per cent will be completed in the first year, 40 per cent and 40 per cent will be completed in the remaining two years. So, in three years, we will be completing them.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps are being taken to provide VPTs to those 21,000 villages, which have a population of less than 1000 and which are facing insurgency problems, especially the Telangana area of Andhra Pradesh, which is having a high Naxalite problem over there. Also, is the Government considering to amend the Telegraph Act to facilitate mobile operators' rural network in rural areas by sharing infrastructure that is funded by USO Fund? Is he going to meet the target set out in NTP, that is New Telecom Policy of 1999? And also...

MR. SPEAKER: Too many alsos!

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Sir, the budgetary estimate for 2004-05 is Rs. 2,700 crore. There is a shortfall of nearly Rs. 900 crore. What steps are being taken by his Department to ensure or to meet this shortfall?

I know that steps are being taken by the Finance Ministry. Will the hon. Minister give a pointed reply to the specific questions that I have raised?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, I think, the hon. Member has asked many questions. There are many parts to it. I will try to answer part by part.

With regard to villages which are covered by insurgency, we are taking coordinated steps with the local State Government to provide enough security for us to go ahead. The process is on-going and based on that we are doing it. But our initial target is to cover 66,000 villages first and then go into the more minute part of the other villages.

With regard to changing the Telegraph Act, yes, we are considering to change the Telegraph Amendment Act to include the USO Fund to be allocated for cellular phones also. The idea is that right now, the USO Fund is used only for fixed lines or fixed wireless phones. But we realised that this should be technology neutral and should also accommodate other services like CDMA and mobile GSM, which can be shared *i.e.* passive infrastructure like towers and sheds. The process is on. Very soon, we will be coming out with necessary regulation for that.

With regard to the other part...

MR. SPEAKER: Where do you get the funds?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: We have still a lot of USO levy collections. The levy collections does not remain with us, it remains with the Finance Ministry and from time to time, we are getting it. We have enough of levy collections and we have asked for Rs. 5,000 crore. The Finance Ministry has got a lot of money through USO levy.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, about USO the hon'ble Minister has told that this amount is spent on the fixed telephone. You also know that, 1.7 percent of the people have telephones in the villages and 27 percent in the cities and there is a huge gap between them. Are you going to contemplate on the USO Act in order to remove this gap by utilising the five percent money which you charge from the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited under the USO in the rural sector or not?

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: The National Telecom Policy of 1999 (NTP 99), as I mentioned, had a target of 70 million phones by 2005. Also, NTP 99 planned for increasing tele-density in the rural areas to three per cent by the year 2007. Fright now, before the completion of the year 2005, we have already reached the target of 100 million telephones. Already we are on the right target of 1.7 per cent in the rural areas; we are planning to reach three per cent by the year 2007. We will be much ahead of the target. The hon. Member is right. We would be spending all the fund which is collected. It will be spent only on telecom facilities in the rural areas.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have got one more question to ask. Please allow me.

MR. SPEAKER: It is contrary to the rules. You should have made it part (a) and part (b). Once I allow you, the other Members will also make such requests. I am sure, you are a very-very responsible and articulate Member. I appreciate your interventions. I will certainly keep in mind your grievance.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the universal services obligation it has been decided to give licenses to the Private Sector institutions in order to improve the telecommunication system of the country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the Minister the terms and conditions prevalent at the time of giving licenses and whether he is satisfied with the work carried out by the private companies and Private institutions till now? Is there any provision of taking any penal action against the private service providers in case they fails in their objective?

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: I would like to mention, through you, that till now the majority of the work was done by BSNL. Just now the private operators are coming into business. They have just now signed agreements. They have to start the work. So, we will be evaluating BSNL and the private operators. If they do not fulfil the service conditions, they will be penalised as per the Agreements.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am just asking if they don't fulfill the ferms and conditions as laid down what action the Government will take against them? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot go on asking questions.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He said it has recently started and they are evaluating it. As soon as the occasion arises, they will take action.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: As it has been pointed out by Suman ji also, our past experience with the private operators has not been a very happy one. We all know that it was part of the terms and conditions that they were to provide VPTs in a large number of villages. Perhaps, none of them could do it. In fact the necessity to introduce USO came only thereafter. Once those people having failed us, if we are again entering into agreements with them, what is the guarantee that they will fulfil it now, when they did not do it earlier despite the bank guarantees to that effect?

The second part of my question would be this. I would like to know about the number of the Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) VPTs, the defective ones, which have been replaced during the last one year.

MR. SPEAKER: You have now referred to the Standing Committee's recommendations.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: As far as the accusation that the private operators are not fulfilling them is concerned, I think, the Member has somewhat not addressed it properly. The USO was envisaged in the year 1999 itself. Earlier, the obligations were relaxed for the private operators. The private operators were asked to go to Unified Access Service Licence from the year 2003. For that, there was some migration penalty; Rs. 1643 crore were collected for non-obligation of their roll-out plan. Now, the private operators are just coming to the roll-out of the village areas with support from USO Fund. They have just started. Let them start.

I think let us not blindly accuse anyone at this point of time.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Maybe, the Minister wanted me to frame the question differently.

MR. SPEAKER: Even after violation, their security was not forfeited.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: That is the basic point.

MR. SPEAKER: You did not ask. What can I do?

MD. SALIM: My question pertains to what Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal has pointed out and you also kindly pointed out. I had the opportunity of working under you. You were the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Information Technology. We pointed out the failure of those who were committed to provide services to the rural areas.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pawan Kumar Bansal was a valued Member.

MD. SALIM: Now, I am totally on a different point. It is related to the mechanism of implementing or providing services of rural telephony to the rural and far-flung areas. It is all said and done. Big companies hardly find it profitable to go there and implement that. The BSNL is doing with the USO fund. Your anxiety and our anxiety is to utilise the USO fund so that the villages get these services. You must have known that there is our brief experience at the grassroot level in West Bengal where there is involvement of community with the NGO, non-profiting organisations and with the help of the BSNL dovetailing with the self-employment scheme. We have unemployed youth in the rural areas and they are service seekers. We have to provide them some opportunity so that they can be service providers instead of service seekers. So, will the Minister encourage this model throughout the country by dovetailing with the *Gramin Swarozgar Yojana* and other Central Plan Schemes with certain State channellising agencies created by the State Governments? We have a similar experience in Karnataka also. You give some opportunity to the State Governments and those societies where the USO fund can be mobilised so that the BSNL services or any other kind of services which are available can be made available to the rural areas.

MR. SPEAKER: He knows about it. Let him answer.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: I think the Member is right. I think in West Bengal a very good service is done by the NGOs. It is really getting a lot of response from

the public. The public is really happy. We are also encouraging it and giving all kinds of incentives to ensure that this develops.

About the other part, it is also part of the job of the Government to ensure that a person has a telephone. The idea of the NGO service is to ensure that a person carries his own fixed wireless telephone or makes his own call. We encourage it. But at the same time, we are also ensuring that we give more telephones to the rural areas so that the individual can have a phone in his own residence or in a place where he stays. Similar thing is also happening in other parts of the country. We are encouraging it. But at the same time we are also ensuring that in the next three years we will cover most of the areas.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Madan Lal Sharma.

I am giving this opportunity because you have kept quiet.

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am satisfied with the answer given to my question asked by Mr. Bansal.

MR. SPEAKER: I thank you for your co-operation.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 644, Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar—Not present.

He has written to me that there is illness in his family.

Q. No. 645, Shri Sugrib Singh—Not present.

Q. No. 646, Shri Anjan Kumar M. Yadav—Not present.

Shri Tukaram Ganpatrao Renge Patil—Not present.

Telephone Exchanges in Rural Areas

*647. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges set up by the BSNL in the rural areas during 2004-05, State-wise;

(b) the number of telephone exchanges proposed to be set up during 2005-06, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve telecommunication facilities in rural areas of the country?

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

Statement

(a) 253 new telephone exchanges were opened in the rural areas network of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) during the year 2004-05. Telecom Circuler-wise detail is given in the enclosed Annexure.

(b) and (c) The following steps have been taken to improve telecom facilities in the rural areas of the country:—

(i) Chief General Manager, Telecom Circles have been empowered to open new exchanges in rural areas as per the new norms and requirement in the field.

(ii) Replacement of Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) based Village Public Telephone (VPTs).

(iii) Deployment of at least one Base Transmitting Station (BTS) of Wireless Local Loop (WLL) technology in each Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA).

(iv) Conversion of 256P C-DOT Rural Automatic Exchange (RAX) to Access Node Rural Automatic Exchange (AN-RAX) and Single Base Modules (SBMs) to Remote Switching Units (RSUs) to provide facilities in rural areas at par with urban areas.

(v) Planning of Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (DSPTs) for provisioning of VPTs in remote and far-flung villages.

Annexure

Telecom Circle-wise Status of Rural Telephone Exchanges

Sl.No.	Telecom Circle	No. of exchanges opened during 2004-05
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	0
2.	Assam	2
3.	Andhra Pradesh	87
4.	Bihar	27
5.	Chhattisgarh	0
6.	Gujarat	0
7.	Haryana	26
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	7
10.	Jharkhand	2
11.	Kerala	14
12.	Karnataka	2
13.	Maharashtra	7
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3
15.	North East-I	9
16.	North East-II	4
17.	Orissa	13
18.	Punjab	1
19.	Rajasthan	1
20.	Tamil Nadu	13
21.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	10
22.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	1
23.	Uttaranchal	7
24.	West Bengal	14
	Total	253

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Sir, my supplementary question is related to part (b) of my main Question that is, the number of telephone exchanges proposed to be set up during 2005-06, State-wise. It is not answered. What is answered is, how many exchanges have been set up State-wise. So, I would like to know what is the proposal to set up the telephone exchanges during 2005-06 all over the country and State-wise. How much percentage of villages will be covered?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: Sir, I think if the Member reads the answer, it has been answered specifically that way. It is because the BSNL has given the authority to the local CGMs to decide and act based on the demand and take independent decision for creating a new exchange. We are not able to exactly give the numbers because the data has been collected by the local CGMs. Anyway since the Member has asked, the demand is already there. We know the demand. There are already 12,50,000 applications for connections which are in the waiting list. There is a mixture also. I cannot say exactly that we are going to give the fixed lines. It is also the policy of the BSNL to give everybody connectivity preferably by a fixed wireless phone. So, it is not mean an exchange. The moment we put BTS cover, it is not considered to be an exchange. So, that is the reason we had to answer that way.

MR. SPEAKER: No, there must be some pilot programme for setting up telephony in rural exchanges. Some material should be there.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: I can say that there is a waiting list of 12,50,000 which we are going to clear by June next year. It is only a mixture of both; mostly of fixed wireless telephone. So they cannot come under exchange.

MR. SPEAKER: That is the best information we can get. Mr. Prabodh Panda, your second supplementary please.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: My second supplementary is this. The Minister admits that several subscribers are in the queue; thousands and thousands of subscribers are there in the queue so far for getting SIM card. The matter is that the private companies are supplying enough SIM cards. What is the reason? Why can the State sector does not supply sufficient SIM cards to the subscribers when thousands and thousands of subscribers are there to stand in the queue? What is the cause behind it?

MR. SPEAKER: That is not the question. Put your question.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: It seems that there is a game behind it to minimise the State Sector and to encourage the private companies. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he will take proper steps so that the State sector, the BSNL can provide SIM cards which is required by the subscribers? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a good repetition.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: I would like to mention to the hon. Member that I have already made an assurance only a month back in this House that within six months, all the cell phones will be given on demand. The work has already started. By the middle of June, we will be having the results of it. I have said that the process has started. In the fixed lines, we have a waiting list of about 12 lakhs, which will be completed by June next year.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, telephone is not a luxury but a necessity. The tele-density in rural areas, as has been admitted by the Minister, is only 1.7 per cent. The gap between the rural and the urban areas has widened after the New Telecom Policy was adopted. May I know from the hon. Minister as to why the pending lists are piling up, and the telephone connections are not being provided in rural areas. Even out of turn quota has also not been provided in the rural areas. Most of the MARR technology, which was provided long back, is outdated.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Most of these telephones are out of order. May I know from the hon. Minister, in order to increase the tele-density in the rural areas, what steps he is going to take to increase the tele-density, and to reduce the pending lists to provide telephone connections in the rural areas?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: I would also like to inform the Member the reason that the exchanges are not working in some areas. It is not due to the complete mistake of BSNL alone. It is partly due to electricity supply in those States, especially in Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, and States like Assam, Bihar and Jharkhand.

MR. SPEAKER: It is the same answer about tele-density also.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: The reason is that the exchanges are not working as power supply is very erratic. That is the reason. We are taking all steps. We have realised it and the MARR equipments are being replaced continuously. The remaining about 70,000 MARR equipments will be replaced by June next year. I have already answered to the previous question.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shailendra Kumar. You want to put a supplementary to every question.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have received the opportunity to speak after two-three weeks. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Very good! It shows that you are an alert Member.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, wherever we go in the rural areas, high installed towers of MARR are seen. These telephones are not working at all. Now, you have started the process of installing WLL telephone in place of them. And even the WLL telephone are also not working properly. I would like to know from the Minister whether he would get some system installed in the rural areas which may result in convenience to the consumer in terms of conversation on telephone. You please get the MARR and WLL scheme closed because no conversation takes place via telecommunication through it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: If the hon. Member could give a specific complaint, I would definitely take action on that. I can also inform the hon. Member that all towers are not telephone towers or cellular phone towers. There are also microwave towers. The hon. Member might have mistaken those towers for wireless towers.

MR. SPEAKER: But there are complaints. I hope, you are trying to rectify them.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: If any complaint is there, I would definitely take action.

MR. SPEAKER: Next, Shri Ramdas Athawale. If it is a relevant and new question, I would allow; otherwise, I would be disallowing it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the year 2004-2005, 253 exchanges have been set up all over the country. How many exchanges are going to be installed in the year 2005-2006? The announcement with regard to extend telephone facility to every village of the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has already answered this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I mean to say that it is necessary to provide telephone facility in each and every village of the country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the required number of telephone exchanges still to be installed as also the action being taken by the Government to provide telephone facility in those villages of the country where it has not been provided as yet? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please fix a half an hour discussion on this point. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am very sorry. He has specifically answered this question already. Hon. Members, please co-operate. Do not rise just for the sake of putting a supplementary.

Next, Shri Yerrannaidu.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question relates to the number of telephone exchanges set up by the BSNL. The ground reality is that in the rural areas, even today, they have no telephones. If you take one village, they might have landlines, they might have cellular phone connections and even WLL phones. But in the remote areas, they have no access to landline or cellular phones and they have no access to WLL phones. That is why we are proposing several exchanges to the Chief General Managers in our State. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how many exchanges are proposed throughout the country till date and whether the Government would sanction all these exchanges in a time-bound programme. I would also like to know what are the difficulties they are facing in putting up new exchanges.

MR. SPEAKER: He has answered it.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: As you have said, I have answered it, but I can answer the hon. Member again in a different way.

The priority right now is to give rural connections. We have a waiting list of 12,50,000 applications. The first priority is to give connections using the WLL method because it is much faster and economical for the BSNL. That is the policy. The moment we are not able to provide connections by the WLL method, we think about giving connections by the exchange method. This is the process. We are trying to complete the clear all the applications on the waiting list by June next year. This is what I can answer here at the moment.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly allow me also to raise question on this ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have to go to your seat.

Shri N.N. Krishnadas.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Thank you, Sir.

It is a clear reality, as the hon. Minister has mentioned here, that lakhs of people are waiting for telephone connections.

MR. SPEAKER: Is there anything new? All these things have been covered.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: It is not just that. In the case of the waiting list, some cases are such that the telephone connection has been sanctioned for them but it has not been installed due to the shortage of cable. Cable shortage is a very serious problem for installing

telephone connections which have been sanctioned earlier. So, may I know from the hon. Minister what are the steps being taken by the Government or the BSNL to purchase the proper quantity of cable for installing telephone connections which have been sanctioned?

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know whether you are going to purchase cable.

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: The hon. Member is very right. We have had this problem. This problem is very peculiar only to the BSNL but not for private operators. The moment the BSNL opens tenders, people who do not get the tender, file cases in courts and get a stay on placing orders. We have just got the stay vacated. The order has been placed and we are waiting for the delivery. This is peculiar only to the BSNL.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Have you given the order to Hindustan Cables?

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: The rates of Hindustan Cables are very high, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a plan to install atleast one Base Transmission Station (BTS) of WLL technology in short distance rural areas. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the time by which the above BTS would be set up; for even at present, there are so many complaints about the WLL facility in rural areas.

Sir, there are so many complaints about the WLL facility and it seems that it has become like MARR system. This system has completely failed. So, I would like to know the time by which his Ministry would set up the BTS?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is the same question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN: I think, we have replaced more than half of the MARR equipment. I can give an answer to a specific question in this area.

MR. SPEAKER: He has already said. He is concentrating especially on Bihar.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 648—Shri B. Vinod Kumar—not present.

Q. 649—Shri Dushyant Singh—not present.

Shri Kuldeep Bishnoi—not present.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There should be no whispering in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 650—Shri Ravi Prakash Verma.

Vande Mataram Scheme

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

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

(a) whether the Government had launched the Vande Mataram Scheme in the country on February 9, 2004;

(b) if so, the objectives thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has made any preliminary assessment of the performance of the Vande Mataram Scheme;

(d) if so, the extent to which it is helpful in reducing the maternal mortality, morbidity of the pregnant and expectant mothers; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to make Vande Mataram Scheme more effective?

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

Statement

(a) to (e) The Vande Mataram Scheme is a voluntary scheme launched on 9th February, 2004, under the auspices of Federation of Obstetric and Gynecological Society of India (FOGSI) and private clinics. The objective of the scheme is to reduce the maternal mortality and morbidity of the pregnant and expectant mothers by involving the vast resources and specialist/trained

workforce available in the private sector for providing obstetric care. The scheme also focuses on improving the acceptance and access to Family Planning methods through improved family planning counseling during both ante-natal and post-natal check up.

The scheme is a purely voluntary scheme. FOGSI have appealed to its members to provide for free OPD services for Ante-natal and Post-natal check up for pregnant women & family planning services on 9th of every month, free of cost and to refer such women who require treatment for any complications, if necessary, to pre-identified referral centers.

The scheme is being coordinated by FOGSI. As per information made available by FOGSI, 1653 volunteer doctors are providing services under the scheme. In addition, as per information received from 69 districts and 492 Nursing Homes/Maternity Homes have been enrolled and are providing free check up under the scheme.

Instructions have been issued to all State Governments to facilitate voluntary doctors by providing them with free Vande Mataram boards for their clinics, create awareness in the community about the scheme and about the voluntary doctors and also to provide Iron Folic Acid Tablets, Injection Tetanus Toxoid, Condoms and Oral Pills etc. for free distribution to the patients who attend the clinics of these doctors on the 9th of every month. These items are to be provided by the District Administrations from out of the funds and drugs available with them under the Reproductive & Child Health (RCH) Programme.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Sir, as per the statement given by the hon. Minister, the Vande Mataram Yojana is a voluntary scheme which is being implemented through the Federation of and Gynaecological Society of India. I would like to know as to whether any survey had already been conducted in this regard and whether any provision has been made for its evaluation, supervision and collecting and maintaining datas at district level?

[English]

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: This is being done purely on a voluntary basis. That is why, there is no clear-cut information from the doctors as such. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The information is not available with the Government.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Sir, it is being considered that the problems pertaining to mother and child as well as population problem are very big and the Vande Mataram Yojana is expected to be beneficial to address these problems to some extent. I would like to know as to whether the Government propose to include the public representatives as well as the panchayat institutions for the propagation of this scheme?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: She has already answered it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: This is basically a voluntary scheme. That is why, under the able leadership of the UPA Chairperson, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and my leader, the hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, we have launched the National Rural Health Mission. Under this Rural Health Mission, we are going to involve private-public partnership also. We are also involving panchayat and village level workers.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not think there is any other question on this.

Shri Anandrao V. Adsul—not present.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: The private-public partnership scheme had been launched in the year 2004. It is a welcome scheme. The main objective of the scheme was to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates.

In our country, a vast number of nursing homes and private clinics are there. Gynaecology and obstetric practitioners are engaged in private practice. But how far these private practitioners are dedicated to render free services to these deserving mothers, for giving them ante-natal and post-natal care for reducing maternal mortality rate and infant mortality rate? This is part-A of my question.

Part-B of my question is this. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise from this Question. This is about voluntary organisations. The hon. Minister has already said that.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: But they are getting funds and materials from the Government. That is the concern.

MR. SPEAKER: Then, ask that.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: That is why, I am asking. So, a critical review of this programme is necessary. At the same time, to reduce material and infant mortality, traditional *dais* and community health volunteers are one of the important components in our country, who render services to these mothers in rural India, but their services are not used properly and scientifically. I would like to know whether the Government has any comprehensive plan to utilise the services of vast numbers of traditional *dais* by giving them training, inputs, incentives, etc.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to answer?

SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI: Sir, I agree with the hon. Member. That is why, we are planting National Rural Health Mission. Through this fund, in every village, we are nominating one ASHA, Accredited Social Health Activist. She will guide pregnant mothers to institutional deliveries.

MR. SPEAKER: The only thing is that money is provided for a voluntary scheme. You should see that it is properly utilised.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: The answer is not to the. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: She has said that all your concerns will be noted under the National Rural Health Mission.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to add anything?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): Sir, this programme of Vandematram Scheme was envisaged in the year 2004 whereby during a meeting of the Federation of Obstetric and Gynaecological Society of India, FOGSI, convened in Agra, they had said that on 9th of every month, volunteers from this Federation will give free treatment for ante natal as well as post natal check up for the pregnant as well as delivered group of mothers. It was a totally voluntary scheme and organisations came forward with the scheme. The Government accepted the scheme. Till today, we have about 1,653 volunteers all over the country. They have enlisted under the scheme.

The Government is providing the material, folic acid and injection tetanustoxide to these hospitals who do this free to the patients. As such, we do not have much survey done since the organisation FOGSI is the topmost organisation in the country for obstetric and gynaecology. We only believe them and trust them. We are discussing with them how we could modify the scheme further.

For these traditional *dais,* attendants, right now we are concentrating on institutional deliveries. In the country, approximately 30 per cent of the deliveries only are institutional today and that is one of the high causes for maternal mortality rate. So, the aim of the Government is to take the pregnant women to the institution for delivery, rather than depend on the traditional *dais.* Skilled attendants and skilled traditional birth attendants, like ASHW in the Rural Health Mission, are going to take the women to institution for delivery. Like that, they are going to reduce maternal mortality rate. *...(Interruptions)*

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Sir, there are many shortcomings. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot understand this.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Please give me protection, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: From what do you want protection?

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Since it is a very important issue, Sir, I want your protection.

MR. SPEAKER: I want protection from the entire House.

Why is there is no monitoring of the public money spent? That is my question.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: The National Rural Health Mission, which the Minister has stated, has so many shortcomings because it will take another 100 years for hospital or institutional delivery in our country to reach 100 per cent. That is the problem.

MR. SPEAKER: There are many problems.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Sir, it is necessary to have a detailed discussion in this House on National Rural Health Mission.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Dome, which great vehemence, you have mentioned one of the problems in this country. They will look after it.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I would be very happy to have a discussion in this House on National Rural Health Mission.

MR. SPEAKER: You give priority, but I am not satisfied with you. Public money has to be accounted for.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, we are giving these materials to a lot of people through public-private partnership. Today, we give these materials to a lot of NGOs. We give it to a lot of private hospitals also. Since this is a voluntary scheme, they are coming forward to treat poor patients. This is not much of material. Certainly, we need accountability for it.

Supply of Coal to Power Plants

*651. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a short supply of coal and the coal mines are not able to meet the requirements of the power plants;

(b) if so, the demands received and the supplies made during each of the last two years to power plants;

(c) the reasons for the short supply, if any; and

(d) the measures taken to meet the demand?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Coal companies have been producing more coal than target fixed for them and by and large have been meeting the demand of power sector. On account of higher generation due to improved Plant Load Factor, there is marginal shortfall in availability for which some quantity of coal is being imported. The All India demand of coal for power utilities as assessed by the Planning Commission for 2003-04 and 2004-05 and the offtake to power sector is as under:

(Figures in million tonnes)

Year	All India Demand for power utilities	Offtake to power utilities	Imports by Power utilities
2003-04	268.13	265.60	3.00
2004-05	280.19	281.01*	3.75*

*Provisional
(The demand includes imports)

(c) Despite in reduction of import duty, expected imports did not materialize due to sudden increase in the cost of imported coal.

(d) Measures taken to meet the additional requirement of coal to power sector are as follows:

1. 99 projects in CIL and 23 projects in SCCL are being taken up during Xth Plan.
2. Improvement in equipment utilization.
3. Speeding up the process of mining coal from the captive blocks allotted to the power utilities.
4. Import of coal by power utilities to the tune of 10 million tonnes during 2005-06.
5. Close monitoring of implementation of new projects.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Sir, there is a continuous problem of coal supply to the power plants, especially Simhadri power plant which is located in Andhra Pradesh. What are the reasons for the short supplies? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, this is a very important Question. Kindly allow me to ask a Question on this issue.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: What are the steps being taken by the Government to meet the coal requirement of the power plants?

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Sir, the hon. Member belongs to Andhra Pradesh. Therefore, he is concerned about Simhadri.

MR. SPEAKER: He is entitled to be so.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: It is not only in Simhadri, but out of 75 powerhouses there are 16 powerhouses, which are at a critical stage. It is not just because of shortage of coal supplies, but there are other infrastructural constraints like unloading problem; non-installation of coal-handling plants; conveyor system; wagon-clippers; low inventories due to financial reasons; payment constraints; disputes in prices in supply by the Railway; law and order problems; etc.

As regards Simhadri, I would like to submit through you that we have actually supplied more than the linkage at Simhadri. In 2004-2005, the linkage was 5.5 million tonnes, but we have supplied 104 per cent. But the problem is that for some reasons the stock position becomes critical now and then. It is partly because of increase in the Power Load Factor.

MR. SPEAKER: It is Plant Load Factor (PLF).

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: They have not only increased it there, but almost all the plants have increased the PLF. I think that there is an increase in demand of 390 billion units from the year 2001 to the year 2005. This is the growth, and I think, we cannot produce coal to that extent. Still, we have evolved a contingency plan to improve the stock position at Simhadri. As per this plan, 1.6 rakes of coal will be moved to this plant from the IB Valley at Mahanadi Coalfields, and another 2.4 rakes will be moved daily from the Talcher Coalfields. The Ministry of Power has also asked the NTPC to import coal for the extra usage, and extra need.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: There is a rapid expansion of the economic activities, and thereby, increase in the gap between demand and supply of coal. What are the steps being taken by the Government for increase of production keeping this in view?

MR. SPEAKER: He has mentioned everything in the answer given by him.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: No, Sir. It was about power plant supply, and now I am asking about production.

MR. SPEAKER: No, he has already mentioned about that in his reply.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Sir, I will try to reply to the question asked by the hon. Member. The Coal India Limited should be congratulated for their efforts this year because they have actually crossed the target of the Planning Commission. This year, we have given 17 million tonnes more than the Planning Commission target. Actually, for the running year, 343 million tonnes was the target and we are going to achieve 361 million tonnes. Even for 2006-2007, 350 million tonnes was the targeted figure and we are going to achieve 373 million tonnes.

As regards meeting the supply, the last Government had cleared only one project in five years' time. On the other hand, after this Government came into power, out of 99 projects, which include 28 mega-projects, we have cleared three mega-projects, and 14 projects are at the verge of getting clearance. This is the factual position with regard to this issue. I am sure that within five years' we are going to produce 190 million tonnes extra production out of these 99 projects. As a result of this measure the gap between the supply and demand will come close.

MR. SPEAKER: Next, Shri E. Ponnuswamy. Please ask a very brief question.

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Thank you, Sir. I would like to ask one question about the shortfall in meeting the demand. The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that one of the measures taken is close monitoring of the implementation of the new projects. I am also happy to hear our hon. Minister mention that he has taken up work for 99 projects, out of which 28 projects they have already started.

12.00 hrs.

My contention is that the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited are continuously making losses. If proper environment and facilities are provided to the workers, I am sure, production in Coal India limited will increase, and we can also reduce the import of coal. We are importing 22 million tonnes of coal, and the gap is only 32 million tonnes. If the Ministry takes all these steps, they can definitely increase the production of coal. In this way, we can not only meet the demand, but also completely reduce the imports. I would like to know from the Minister whether he would consider these suggestions.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a suggestion for action. I am sure, you will consider them.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Demand and Supply of Coal

*642. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the annual production, demand and sale of coal in terms of quantum and value during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the import of coal is increasing every year;

(c) if so, the quantum of coal likely to be imported during the current year and the expenditure likely to be incurred on it; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken during the Tenth Plan period to curtail import of coal and become self-reliant in the production of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The details of annual production, demand, despatch and value of coal during the years 2002-03 to 2004-05 is given below:

(in million tonnes)

Year	All India coal demand as per Planning Commission projections	Production of coal	Despatch of coal	Value (Rs. in crores)
2002-03	365.98	341.27	340.09	24187.39
2003-04	380.91	361.15	359.22	25887.73
2004-05 (Provisional)	414.82	382.83	377.42	27907.93

(b) The trend in imports during the last five years indicates that the quantum of import remained in the range of 22-25 million tonnes.

(c) Import of coal during the current year is expected to be about 35 million tonnes. Expenditure cannot be estimated due to volatility in international market.

(d) Coal India Limited has taken up the following steps to reduce the gap between demand and indigenous supply:

(i) 99 new projects are proposed to be taken up during Tenth Plan.

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

(iii) Improvement in equipment utilization.

(iv) Mechanization/modernization of existing mines.

[English]

Unethical Practices of Assisted Productive Technology Clinics

*644. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the unethical practices of privately run Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) clinics spread all over the country with combined annual estimated turnover of several thousand crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether infertility clinics/hospitals are functioning without being subjected to any restriction, regulation or prescribed standard;

(d) whether these clinics are indulging in unethical practices of procuring, storing, selling and indiscriminately using donor ova/sperm/embryo; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to streamline the procedure in these clinics?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the unethical practices adopted by few ART Clinics through scientific meetings and conferences.

- Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) requires enormous technical expertise and infrastructure.
- Has a success rate below 30% under the best of circumstances. It is expensive and taxes the couple's endurance physically, emotionally and monetarily.
- Many of ART Clinics in the country do not have adequate trained manpower and infrastructure facilities to deliver these highly sophisticated technologies.
- In some cases the infertile couples are being cheated by providing relatively simple procedure and charged for complicated and expensive procedure.
- Some techniques, which are not being universally accepted are also being used here like Round Spermatic Nuclear Injection and Pre-implementation genetic diagnosis in gender selection of the embryo.

(c) The existing rules and regulations for clinics/ hospitals are also applicable to infertility clinics/hospitals. However, no standards/regulations have been prescribed for conducting ART procedures yet.

(d) Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) involves use of donor ova/sperm/embryo for treatment of infertile couples. There is chance of some clinics indulging in unethical practices of indiscriminate use of donor ova/ sperm/embryo.

(e) *Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has prepared Guidelines for Accreditation, Supervision and Regulation of ART Clinics in India after detailed discussions and debate by expert groups of the ICMR and the National Academy of Medical Sciences and then by practitioners of ART and the general public.

Wrong Diagnosis by Hospitals

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that cases of wrong diagnosis of diseases by hospitals particularly by private hospitals are increasing as reported in the 'Times of India' dated April 13, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of such cases reported during 2004-05 till date;

(c) whether there is any mechanism to check the recurrence of such incidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to fix the responsibility of hospitals particularly of private hospitals charging huge amount by wrong diagnosis of diseases?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) The News-item appearing in the 'Times of India' dated 13th April, 2005, relates to a specific case of 1992 wherein a patient named Shri K.L. Bhola with complaint of chest pain was diagnosed as heart attack and was treated accordingly at Khera Hospital, a Private hospital in New Delhi. However, on a follow up at Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, he was informed by the Cardiologist that there was no cardiac problem. Based on the above facts, the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission of Delhi has directed Khera Hospital to pay compensation to Shri K.L. Bhola. Based on aforesaid case, it cannot be concluded that there has been an increase in the cases of wrong diagnosis by Hospitals.

Health being a State subject, if is for the State Government to regulate/monitor the functioning of its hospitals including private hospitals as well as to ensure that they comply with the norms/regulations prescribed by the respective State Governments as well as to take punitive action against Private Hospitals/Doctors in cases of proven unethical and unscrupulous conduct. The

*Guidelines have been examined by the Ministry and are proposed to be sent to the State Governments for Accreditation, Supervision and Regulation of ART Clinics.

aggrieved party can also take recourse to legal remedies under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 which covers the Private Hospitals/Private Medical Practitioners for any proven act of unethical and unscrupulous nature.

There is an inbuilt mechanism in the Central Government hospitals to improve their functioning by way of inspections, supervisions and review from the patients.

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

[Translation]

Procedure for Renewing Passports

*646. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian citizens living abroad face various difficulties in getting their passports renewed and getting fresh passport in the event of loss of the same;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) the assistance provided by Indian Missions abroad in such cases; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to mitigate the said difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) No, Sir. Indian citizens living abroad do not face difficulties in getting their passports renewed or obtaining duplicate passports in the event of loss/damage of their previous passports if they provide correct information and if there is nothing adverse against them in the records.

(b) to (d) All possible assistance, including seeking of confirmation from the passport issuing authority in India leading to timely issuance of fresh passport against expired/loss passport, is provided by the Indian Mission/ Post abroad. In case of an emergency, a short Validity Passport/Emergency Certificate is issued immediately to the Indian national to tide over the crisis.

[English]

Promotion of Indian Systems of Medicine

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

(a) the steps taken by the Government to develop and propagate the Indian Systems of Medicine such as Ayurveda Unani, Siddha etc. as an alternative system of medicine;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the number of dispensaries and hospitals proposed to be set up in Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha during the Tenth Five Year Plan in each State;

(d) the number of research projects commissioned and the number of drugs patented by Central Research Institutes in Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha during the last three years; and

(e) the total amount sanctioned and spent under various schemes for development and promotion of Indian Systems of Medicine during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) Government have introduced a number of Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes to develop and propagate the Indian Systems of Medicine which comprise Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani systems. Financial assistance is given under these schemes for development of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani educational institutions, hospitals & dispensaries, drugs quality control, strengthening of drug testing laboratories & pharmacies, cultivation of medicinal plants, awareness generation, modernization of drug manufacturing units, information, education and communication etc.

(c) Primary health being a state subject under the Constitution, it is for Governments of respective States to provide for establishment of dispensaries and hospitals of the Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani systems. However, the Tenth Five Year Plan provides for establishment of

7 Ayurveda, 2 Siddha and 3 Unani dispensaries under the Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS).

(d) The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda & Siddha (CCRAS) has taken up 30 Research Projects and the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) has taken up 18 during the last three years. The number of drugs patented by the CCRAS during the last three years is five. The CCRUM has not received patents on drugs during the period under reference.

(e) Under various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for development and promotion of Indian Systems of Medicine during the last three years, the total amount sanctioned for expenditure is as under:

Year	Amount (in lakhs)
2002-03	8,977.93
2003-04	13,395.50
2004-05	19,876.12

Imparting Quality Medical Education

*649. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI:

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

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to revamp the institutions imparting Medical Education in the country for quality education;

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

(c) whether a post graduate Medical Education Board is proposed to be set up; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) The Medical Council of India (MCI) frames various regulations with the approval of the Government of India under the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, wherein various modalities for the medical education institutions in India are laid. These regulations include provisions such as admission, examination, general conditions for teaching and training, goals and objectives, components of curriculum, nomenclature of courses, the minimum qualifications for appointment of teachers and their deployment in the medical institutions and the code of medical ethics.

These regulations are reviewed by the MCI from time to time so as to keep pace with the latest advancement in the field of Medicare. Necessary modifications are made in the regulations with the approval of Government whenever necessary as a part of ongoing process.

At present as per the provisions of the Medical Council of India Act, 1956, the Central Government has constituted a Post Graduate Medical Education Committee in the MCI for prescribing the standards of post-graduate education for the guidance of Universities and for advising of Universities in the matter of securing uniform standards for post-graduate medical education throughout India.

Strengthening of Auxiliary Health Care System

*652. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received requests from the State Governments for strengthening auxiliary health care system in the States;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has sought assistance from the World Bank for improving auxiliary health care system in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Programme Implementation Plans (PIPs) for the second phase of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH-II) have been received from all the States and Union Territories except Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.

(b) Under RCH-II, an indicative financial envelope was communicated to each State/Union Territory. Based upon the likely availability of resources, each State/Union Territory was requested to prepare its PIP with a clear emphasis on reduction of Total Fertility Rate (TFR), Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) as envisaged in the 10th Plan. Accordingly, the States/

UTs have prepared their respective PIPs which are currently being appraised for approval by the Ministry. The salient features of the State PIPs include a basic essential package comprising of the following:

- Making all community Health Centres functioning as First Referral Units operational for provision of essential and emergency obstetric care and also for providing 24 hour delivery services;
- Making at least 50% of the Block Primary Health Centres as 24 hour delivery service units;
- Provision and preparedness of the Centres from PHC upwards for treatment of sick neo-nates and for treatment of diarrhoea and ARIs;
- Provision of Family Planning services including Medical Termination of pregnancy commencing from PHC level upwards;
- Continued training of Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) and provision of delivery kits;
- Establishment of one Urban Health Care for every 50,000 population in each of the cities with population greater than one lakh including the Metros;
- Improving availability of technical staff (Medical, Finance and Managerial) at different levels through contractual mechanisms in order to assure service delivery;
- Provision of training to different levels of staff to ensure basic minimum skills of provision of requisite services;
- Availability of basic minimum infrastructure such as power, water supply and operational buildings in the Health facilities.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The International Development Association (World Bank) has committed to extend a credit equivalent to two hundred and thirty two million special Drawing Rights (SDRs 232,100,000) for implementation of RCH-II.

Patenting of Drugs/Formulations

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

(a) whether the Governing Council of Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) has decided to patent the seven drugs/formulations pertaining to Rheumatoid Arthritis, Bronchial Asthma, Hepatitis Drancotiasis etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the diterpinoid anticancer compound derived from plants native to Kashmir Himalayas was to be patented and the matter was pursued through the CSIR; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the achievements made with regard to these formulations?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) The Governing Body of Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) in its 15th meeting held on 1st March, 1996, had resolved to get patents in respect of drugs, without specifying any number, found effective in different diseases. Accordingly, the Council filed applications for patent rights in respect of 7 drugs, namely, two each for Rheumatoid Artritis, Bronchial Asthma and ineffective hepatitis and one for Malaria through National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) in the year 2002. The patents have not been granted so far.

(c) and (d) The Regional Research Laboratory, Jammu, has jointly field a preliminary patent application for the Diterpinoid anti-cancer compound derived from the folk lands for Kashmir along with the Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM), Srinagar, in US and PCT on 28th March, 2003 and 27th March, 2003, respectively. The US application could not be pursued as the claimed compound had already been disclosed before the date of filing the patent application. No progress in respect of PCT application to obtain protection for Deterpine from the new source Lavatera Cachmeriania has been reported.

[Translation]

Agencies for Overseas Recruitment

*654. MS. INGRID MCLEOD:
SHRI A.F.G. OSMANI:

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

(a) the approximate number of Indians working in the middle-east countries, country-wise;

(b) the number of licensed recruitment agencies involved in recruiting unemployed youth at present, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government has received several representations against these agencies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to redress the grievances of such unemployed persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIANS AFFAIRS (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Specific data relating to number of Indians working in the Middle-East countries is not maintained as most categories of persons do not require emigration clearance for employment abroad. However, details of emigration clearances granted to regulated categories of persons for employment in these countries during the last three years is enclosed as Statement-I).

(b) A Statement-II indicating the state-wise number of recruiting agencies who have been granted registration under the Emigration Act, 1983 is enclosed.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Complaints regarding over-charging, sending labourers against non-existent jobs, promising wages higher than those offered by foreign employers etc. are received from time to time against registered recruiting agents.

(e) Several steps have been taken which include, *inter-alia*, issue of directions/show cause notice to the recruiting agents to settle/resolve the complaint within a reasonable timeframe. If the agent fails to settle the complaint, action is taken to suspend and thereafter cancel the registration certificate. In case of unregistered agents, complaints are filed with the concerned Police Authorities for taking action against them for violation of provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983.

Statement I

Number of persons who had obtained emigration clearance for employment in the Middle East Countries during 2002 to 2004

Sl.No.	Country	2002	2003	2004
1	2	3	4	5
1.	U.A.E.	95,034	1,43,804	1,75,262
2.	Saudi Arabia	99,453	1,21,431	1,23,522
3.	Kuwait	4,859	54,434	52,064
4.	Oman	41,209	36,816	33,275
5.	Bahrain	20,807	24,778	22,980
6.	Qatar	12,596	14,251	16,325
7.	Jordan	841	2,928	2,576
8.	Israel	79	119	647
9.	Yemen	105	49	279
10.	Iran	23	65	239
11.	Iraq	12	193	195
12.	Egypt	98	16	122

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Lebanon	26	20	77
14.	Syria	11	7	7
15.	Cyprus	16	5	0
16.	Turkey	11	0	0
	Total	2,75,180	3,98,916	4,27,570

Statement II

Number of recruiting agencies granted registration under the Emigration Act, 1983 as on 30.04.2005

Sl.No.	Name of State/U.T.	No. of Agents
1	2	3
1.	Maharashtra	2043
2.	Delhi	854
3.	Tamil Nadu	406
4.	Kerala	362
5.	Punjab	175
6.	Andhra Pradesh	122
7.	Chandigarh	93
8.	Karnataka	69
9.	Rajasthan	51
10.	Uttar Pradesh	45
11.	Goa	43
12.	Gujarat	40
13.	West Bengal	21
14.	Haryana	20
15.	Madhya Pradesh	09
16.	Orissa	08
17.	Jammu and Kashmir	07
18.	Himachal Pradesh	06
19.	Uttaranchal	03
20.	Pondicherry	03
21.	Bihar	02
22.	Mizoram	02
23.	Assam	01
	Total	4385

[English]

Verification of ICCR Publications

*655. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recalled copies of Maulana Azad's biography as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated April 10, 2005;

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

(c) whether the Government plans to verify all such publications being brought out by the ICCR;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the action proposed to be taken against officials for alleged inaccuracies in the publications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the book titled "Journey of a

Legend" published by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

The book has not been released and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations has sealed and safely locked all the copies available with it in secure premises.

This was done in light of an administrative inquiry which revealed that the photograph on page 1 of the book showing Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and President, ICCR seated together on a sofa may be a cut and paste job.

(c) and (d) The Government does not plan to verify other publications brought out by the ICCR. Verification of the authenticity of Council's publication is the responsibility of the ICCR itself, which is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of External Affairs.

(e) No officials of the ICCR were involved in deciding the photographs and the text of "Journey of a Legend". All the photographs and text were personally selected by the President of ICCR who had also approved the dummy copy before printing. President, ICCR had also written the introduction to the book. The Editorial Board of the book was headed by President, ICCR and other members of the Editorial Board were chosen by President, ICCR.

The Government is considering further action in the matter.

Signing of Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties

*656. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of countries which whom India has already signed extradition treaties;

(b) whether mutual legal assistance treaty has also been signed with several countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to sign the above treaties with the rest of the countries as well; and

(e) if so, the efforts being made in this direction along with the extent to which these treaties have been helpful to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table on the House.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Government of India wants to conclude Extradition Treaties and Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties in Criminal Matters with as many countries as possible. In this regard, discussions and negotiation with other countries are ongoing. The Extradition Treaties provide a legal framework for seeking extradition of fugitive criminals from India and vice-versa, and Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties provide the framework to facilitate the widest measure of mutual assistance in the service of summons, execution of warrants and other judicial documents and commissions and to improve the effectiveness of both countries in the suppression of crime.

Statement

(a) India has signed Extradition Treaties with 29 countries and since independence, out of which the treaties with 17 countries are in force *viz.* Belgium, Bhutan, Canada, Germany, Hong Kong, Mongolia, Nepal (old Treaty), Netherlands, Russia, Switzerland, UAE, U.K., U.S.A., Uzbekistan, Spain, Turkey and Tunisia. The treaties with Netherlands and Switzerland were signed before independence, and were notified after Independence under Extradition Ac, 1962 the treaties with Philippines, Bahrain, Bulgaria, Tajikistan, Mauritius, Ukraine, France, Poland, South Africa, Korea (ROK), Kuwait, Oman have not yet come into force after exchange of the instruments of ratification. India also has reciprocal arrangements with 8 countries *viz.* Australia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Sir-Lanka, Sweden, Tanzania and Thailand.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Since independence, India has signed Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties in Criminal Matters with 19 countries out of which Treaties with 12 countries are in force *viz.*, Turkey, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Canada, Kazakhstan, Russia. Uzbekistan, United Arab Emirates, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Mongolia and Thailand. France, Kyrghyzstan, United States of America, South Africa, Bahrain, Kuwait and South Korea are yet to come into fore.

Visit of Japanese Prime Minister

*657. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Japan visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details of the bilateral and multilateral issues discussed during the said visit and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether India and Japan have agreed to work out a common bilateral approach for securing permanent membership in UNSC;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any agreement has been signed on the occasion; and

(f) if so, the salient features thereof and the benefits to be accrued to India as a result thereof?

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

(b) The discussions between the two Prime Ministers covered a wide range of bilateral, regional and international issues. The two countries agreed to add a strategic focus to their global partnership, work together as partners in the new emerging Asian era, and launch an "Eight-fold Initiative" to take their partnership to a higher dimension.

(c) and (d) India and Japan reiterated their support for each other's candidature for the permanent membership in an expanded United Nations Security Council, and agreed to further strengthen their cooperation in this regard, both bilaterally and in the G-4 framework.

(e) and (f) The two Prime Ministers signed a Joint Statement captioned "India-Japan Partnership in the New Asian Era: Strategic Orientation of India-Japan Global Partnership". The Joint Statement outlines an updated vision of the India-Japan global partnership and lays down an "Eight-fold Initiative" for strengthening the global partnership. The Eight-fold Initiative comprises of measures for cooperation in eight key areas of interaction, namely: (1) enhanced and upgraded dialogue architecture; (2) comprehensive economic engagement; (3) enhanced security dialogue and cooperation; (4) science and technology initiative; (5) cultural and academic initiatives and strengthening of people to people contacts; (6) cooperation in ushering a new Asian era; (7) cooperation in the UN and other international organisations; and (8) cooperation in responding to global challenges and opportunities.

The visit of Prime Minister Koizumi has deepened the friendly and cooperative relationship between India and Japan. The two countries have also agreed to work as partners for promoting the security, stability and prosperity of Asia and in advancing international peace and equitable development.

Review of Performance of Health Care Programmes

*658. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the success achieved in various Health Care Programmes launched to bring down infant mortality rate birth-rate and increase in the life expectancy as projected in the current five year plan;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the targets fixed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) Government of India is implementing the Reproductive and Child Health programme in all the states and Union Territories of the country since 1997 with the objective of bringing down infant and maternal mortality rates and improving health of mothers and children. The Family Welfare programme is also being implemented as a 100% centrally sponsored scheme in all states and Union Territories of the country.

As a result of implementation of the interventions, the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) at the national level, as per the Sample Registration System (SRS) of the Registrar-General of India, has declined from 71 per thousand live births in 1997 to 63 in 2002. The Crude Birth Rate (CBR) at the national level, as per the Sample

Registration System (SRS) of the Registrar-General of India, which was 30.2 per thousand population in 1990 has declined to 25 per thousand population in 2002, thus registering a decline of 5.2 per thousand population since 1990. The life expectancy at the national level, as per the Report of the Technical Group on Population projections, 1996, Registrar-General of India, has also shown an increase to 63.9 years in males and 66.9 years in females during 2001 compared to 60.6 years for males and 61.7 years for females in 1991. State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statements-I, II and III.

In order to improve the availability of and access to quality health care including services for Immunization and Safe Motherhood, Government of India have recently launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). 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 health 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.

The goals of the Mission include: Reduction in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) in keeping with the stated National Health and Population Policy Goals; Universal access to public health services such as women's health, child health, drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, immunization and nutrition; Prevention and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases, including locally endemic diseases; access to integrated comprehensive primary healthcare; population stabilization, gender and demographic balance; revitalise local health traditions and mainstream AYUSH and promotion of healthy live styles.

The existing programmes like Family Welfare and Reproductive and Child Health Programme have become part of the Mission. Under the NRHM, the services provided under the RCH Programme will be further 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 center/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 immunication to children.
- Operationalising 2000 Community Health Centers as First Referral Units (FRU) for providing Emergency Obstetric and Child Health and family planning services.
- Making 50% Primary Health Centers 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.

The expected outcomes of the Mission include reduction of the Infant Mortality Rate to below 30 per thousand live births.

Statement I

Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)

Sl.No.	States	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	63	66	66	65	66	62
2.	Assam	76	76	76	75	74	70
3.	Bihar	71	67	63	62	62	61
4.	Chhattisgarh	89	94	78	79	77	73

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Gujarat	62	64	63	62	60	60
6.	Haryana	68	70	68	67	66	62
7.	Jharkhand	68	62	71	70	62	51
8.	Karnataka	53	58	58	57	58	55
9.	Kerala	12	16	14	14	11	10
10.	Madhya Pradesh	94	98	90	87	86	85
11.	Maharashtra	47	49	48	48	45	45
12.	Orissa	96	98	97	95	91	87
13.	Punjab	51	54	53	52	52	51
14.	Rajasthan	85	83	81	79	80	78
15.	Tamil Nadu	53	53	52	51	49	44
16.	Uttar Pradesh	85	85	84	83	83	80
17.	West Bengal	55	53	52	51	51	49
18.	Himachal Pradesh	63	64	62	60	54	52
19.	Jammu and Kashmir	NA	45	52	50	48	45
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	47	44	43	44	39	37
21.	Delhi	35	36	31	32	29	30
22.	Goa	19	23	21	23	19	17
23.	Manipur	30	25	25	23	20	14
24.	Meghalaya	54	52	56	58	56	61
25.	Mizoram	19	23	19	21	19	14
26.	Nagaland	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
27.	Sikkim	51	52	49	49	42	34
28.	Tripura	51	49	42	41	39	34
29.	Uttaranchal	—	—	52	50	48	41
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	33	30	25	23	18	15
31.	Chandigarh	40	32	28	28	24	21
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	63	61	56	58	58	56

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
33.	Daman and Diu	38	51	35	48	40	42
34.	Lakshadweep	36	26	32	27	33	25
35.	Pondicherry	22	21	22	23	22	22
	All India	71	72	70	68	66	63

Source: Sample Registration System, Registrar-General, India

Statement II

Crude Birth Rate (CBR)

Sl.No.	States/Union Territories	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22.5	22.4	21.7	21.3	21.0	20.7
2.	Assam	28.2	27.9	27.0	26.9	27.0	26.6
3.	Bihar	31.7	31.1	31.5	31.9	31.2	30.9
4.	Chhattisgarh	32.2	28.7	26.9	26.7	26.5	25.0
5.	Gujarat	25.6	25.5	25.4	25.2	25.0	24.7
6.	Haryana	28.3	27.6	26.8	26.9	26.8	26.6
7.	Jharkhand	28.2	26.9	26.3	26.5	26.2	26.4
8.	Karnataka	22.7	22.0	22.3	22.0	22.2	22.1
9.	Kerala	17.9	18.3	18.0	17.9	17.3	16.9
10.	Madhya Pradesh	31.9	30.7	31.1	31.4	31.0	30.4
11.	Maharashtra	23.1	22.5	21.1	21.0	20.7	20.3
12.	Orissa	26.5	25.7	24.1	24.3	23.5	23.2
13.	Punjab	23.4	22.4	21.5	21.6	21.2	20.8
14.	Rajasthan	32.1	31.6	31.1	31.4	31.1	30.6
15.	Tamil Nadu	19.0	19.2	19.3	19.3	19.1	18.5
16.	Uttar Pradesh	33.5	32.4	32.8	32.8	32.1	31.6
17.	West Bengal	22.4	21.3	20.7	20.7	20.6	20.5
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	21.4	22.5	22.3	22.3	22.2	20.2
19.	Delhi	21.1	19.4	20.3	20.3	18.9	17.2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20.	Goa	14.2	14.3	14.3	14.3	14.2	14.0
21.	Himachal Pradesh	22.6	22.6	23.8	22.1	21.2	20.7
22.	Jammu and Kashmir	NA	19.8	20.9	19.7	20.2	19.2
23.	Manipur	19.7	19.0	18.6	18.3	18.3	16.8
24.	Meghalaya	30.2	29.2	28.7	28.5	28.3	25.8
25.	Mizoram	15.0	15.8	17.0	16.0	15.7	16.9
26.	Nagaland	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
27.	Sikkim	19.8	20.9	21.6	21.8	21.6	21.9
28.	Tripura	18.3	17.6	17.0	16.5	16.1	14.9
29.	Uttaranchal	22.9	23.6	19.6	20.2	18.5	17.0
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	18.6	17.7	18.1	19.1	16.8	16.8
31.	Chandigarh	18.8	17.9	17.9	17.5	16.3	14.6
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	28.2	34.1	34.2	34.9	29.5	30.4
33.	Daman and Diu	24.9	21.7	26.9	23.7	22.3	22.4
34.	Lakshadweep	22.9	23.0	25.1	26.1	20.4	19.3
35.	Pondicherry	18.4	18.2	17.7	17.8	17.9	17.9
	All India	27.2	26.5	26.0	25.8	25.4	25.0

Source: Sample Registration System.

Statement III

Expectation of Life at Birth

Major States	Male		Female	
	1991-96	2001-2006	1991-96	2001-2006
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	61.4	62.79	64.48	65.00
Assam	58.74	58.96	58.48	60.87
Bihar	60.81	65.66	60.09	64.79
Gujarat	60.94	63.12	62.74	64.10

1	2	3	4	5
Haryana	65.21	64.64	64.22	69.30
Karnataka	64.15	62.43	65.30	66.44
Kerala	67.23	71.67	72.37	75.00
Madhya Pradesh	59.24	59.19	57.96	58.01
Maharashtra	63.9	66.75	65.06	69.76
Orissa	60.13	60.05	58.40	59.71
Punjab	66.61	69.78	66.55	72.00
Rajasthan	60.5	62.18	61.34	62.80
Tamil Nadu	62.85	67.00	63.05	69.75
Uttar Pradesh	57.14	63.54	52.84	64.09
West Bengal	61.95	66.08	61.94	69.34
INDIA (Pooled)	60.6	63.87	61.70	66.91

Autonomy to National Highways Authority of India

*659. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the road construction under the National Highways Programme especially the Golden Quadrilateral and the North-South and East-West Corridors has been speeded up;

(b) whether the Government has since granted greater autonomy to the National Highways Authority of India to make it more professional and efficient; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Modalities for restructuring National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to make it a multidisciplinary professional body with high quality financial management and contract management expertise are being worked out.

Revamped National T.B. Control Programme

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

(a) the total funds allocated to each State under the revamped National TB Control Programme being implemented with the help of the World Bank during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government released funds to NGOs and the Private Organisations to make the Programme more effective during the said period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action plan formulated by the Union Government to combat TB?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) A statement indicating allocation of funds during the last three years to the States in which the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) is being implemented with the assistance of the World Bank is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Under the Programme, involvement of NGOs has been decentralized to the district level and no

cash grant is given directly to NGOs from the Centres. The funds are released to the State TB Societies in lump sum for onward transmission to districts for implementation of RNTCP including involvement of NGOs. Details of funds spent under NGO head during the last three years as reported by State TB Societies are as under:

Year	Amount in Rupees
2002-03	63.29 lakhs
2003-04	87.95 lakhs
2004-05	109.70 lakhs

Many NGOs also participate without any assistance. However, under the Global Funds for AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) assisted RNTCP project, for establishment of Urban DOTS Centres, funds are released directly from the Centre to the NGOs, detail is as under:

Amount released out of GFATM Funds:

Bhagwan Mahavir Medical Research Centre, Hyderabad	Rs. 16.75 lakhs
Social Welfare Institute, Varanasi	Rs. 8.30 lakhs
Resource Group for Education & Advocacy for Community Health-(REACH), Chennai	Rs. 109.70 lakhs

(d) Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP), widely known as DOTS, which is a WHO recommended strategy, with the objective of achieving cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases, is being implemented in the country since 1997 in a phased manner as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme. Diagnosis by sputum microscopy instead of by X-ray helps in detecting and curing infectious cases on priority. Facilities for diagnosis by sputum microscopy have 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. By now, 1 billion population in 564 districts/ reporting units has been covered under the revised strategy. The Project districts have reported cure rate of more than 85% which means that more than 8 out of every 10 patients put on treatment under the revised strategy are being successfully cured as against below 4 in the earlier Programme. The case detection during 2004 has been achieved 72% as against target of 70%. To make the programme more accessible to larger segments of the population, and to supplement the Government efforts in this direction, emphasis is being given to also involve medical colleges, all general hospitals, private practitioners and NGOs in the programme. It is envisaged to cover the entire country under the Revised Strategy during the current year (2005).

Statement

Details of Allocation of funds during the last three years to the States in which the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) is being implemented with the assistance of the World Bank

Sl.No.	Name of the State	2002-03 Allocation	2003-04 Allocation	2004-05 Allocation
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	15.00	30.19	31.03
2.	Assam	391.77	411.91	750.26
3.	Bihar	697.27	221.17	328.40
4.	Goa	13.78	13	14.17
5.	Gujarat	536.22	506.28	551.38
6.	Haryana	179.75	*	*
7.	Himachal Pradesh	64.64	61.03	66.47

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	95.28	86.71	110.06
9.	Karnataka	534.01	497.42	574.26
10.	Kerala	336.99	318.17	346.52
11.	Madhya Pradesh	592.09	545.77	658.17
12.	Maharashtra	1025.81	968.53	1054.81
13.	Manipur	30.77	65.88	67.69
14.	Meghalaya	31.74	45.92	64.87
15.	Mizoram	11.82	22.56	25.38
16.	Nagaland	25.64	54.9	56.41
17.	Punjab	227.65	206.68	264.79
18.	Rajasthan	598.74	565.31	615.67
19.	Sikkim	6.41	13.72	14.10
20.	Tamil Nadu	658.09	621.34	676.69
21.	Tripura	33.57	68.49	90.26
22.	Uttar Pradesh	1586.38	1037.14	1294.82
23.	West Bengal	849.9	802.44	873.92
24.	Delhi	146.25	138.08	150.38
25.	Pondicherry	9.96	9.23	10.90
26.	Andaman and Nicobar	2.23	1.84	3.27
27.	Chandigarh	9.54	9	9.81
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.48	1.23	2.18
29.	Daman and Diu	1.48	1.23	2.18
30.	Lakshadweep	1.06	1	1.09
31.	Jharkhand	233.91	*	*
32.	Uttaranchal	67.21	*	*
33.	Chhattisgarh	183.56	*	*
	Total	9200.00	7326.17	8709.94

*Note: RNTCP in the under mentioned States is supported by the Donor agencies other than the World Bank as under:

Andhra Pradesh—Department for International Development (DFID)

Orissa—Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA)

Haryana—from the year 2003-04 onwards by USAID

Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal: Global Funds for AIDS, TB and Malaria from the year 2003-04.

Bihar and Uttar Pradesh: 29 districts of Bihar and 27 districts of U.P. by GFATM from the last quarter of 2003-04. Remaining districts of these two States are covered under the World Bank Project.

[Translation]

Theft in Coal Mines

6764. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified such coal mines in Korba (Chhattisgarh) and other parts of country in which the incidents of pilferage of coal are increasing;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents that came to light, company-wise and mine-wise so far during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the estimated quantity of coal pilfered, year-wise;

(d) the details of the steps taken by the Government to check the pilferage;

(e) whether the Government is considering to involve the trade unions in the move to check the pilferage;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details of the punishment meted out to the guilty persons?

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) As per raids conducted by security personnel as well as joint raids with the law and order authorities of the concerned State Governments during last three years, the following quantities were recovered in the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited:

Company	2002-2003			2003-2004			2004-2005 (upto Feb. 2005 (Prov.)		
	FIRs lodged	Qty. recovered (te)	App. Value (Rs. Lakh)	FIRs lodged	Qty. recovered (te)	App Value (Rs. Lakh)	FIRs lodged	Qty. recovered (te)	App. Value (Rs. Lakh)
ECL	804	14140.00	113.00	698	11912.00	95.46	372	10032.85	80.23
BCCL	47	71.69	0.977	155	5223.23	54.86	329	2476.14	34.25
CCL	13	704.50	7.00	11	1200.00	12.06	26	2255.00	22.90
NCL	0	0	0	1	9.00	0.07	—	—	—
WCL	20	277.21	2.23	18	169.39	1.66	4	16.80	0.16
SECL	7	65.48	0.55	17	139.50	1.54	43 & 2 (RPF)	689.71	7.14
MCL	4	34.60	0.16	3	31.00	0.15	10 & 4 (RPF)	104.02	0.63
NEC	40	49.70	0.53	0	0	0	38	137.57	1.70
Total	935	15343.18	124.45	903	18,684.12	165.8	822+6 (RPF)	15712.09	209.38

(d) Law and order is a State subject, hence the coal companies maintain close liaison with the State authorities. In addition, the following steps are being taken by subsidiary companies of CIL to prevent theft/pilferage of coal:

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

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

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

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

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

(vi) Sealing of illegal mining spots.

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

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

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

(e) and (f) The measures to curb theft/pilferage of coal are regularly discussed with the Trade Unions at different levels.

(g) If any employee of the company is involved in pilferage, departmental action is taken as per company's rules. In case of non-employees involved in pilferage of coal, FIR is lodged with the Police. The State Administration takes action as per law.

[English]

Exploration of Coal Bed Methane

6765. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to explore the coal bed methane in the country;

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

(c) the present status of the exploration, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As per information received from Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, so far, 13 blocks have been awarded under two rounds of Coal Bed Methane (CBM) bidding under CBM policy and 3 blocks awarded on nomination basis, covering an area of 7809 sq. km. in different coalfields of the country. The present exploration status of these blocks, location-wise is given in enclosed Statement.

Statement

Progress of Work in Awarded CBM Blocks

Block Name (Block Nomenclature	Award consortium	Work Status as on 30.04.2005 (Exploration Phase-I)
1	2	3
A. CBM Block Awarded Under 1st Round Bidding (CBM-I)		
Bokrao	ONGC-IOC	• Completed drilling and geophysical logging of 8 coreholes.
[BK-CBM-2001/1]		• CBM related studies on coal completed.
		• Completed drilling, geophysical logging and cementing of 1st Test Well. Preparation for hydrofracturing are on.
North Karanpura [NK-CBM-2001/1]	ONGC-IOC	• Completed drilling and geophysical logging of 9 coreholes.
		• CBM related studies on coal completed.
		• Test Well drinking likely to start in June 2005.

1	2	3
Sohagpur East [SP(East)-CBM-2001/1]	RIL	• Completed drilling and geophysical logging of 8 coreholes. • CBM related studies on coal completed. • Carried out injection fall of test in all the coreholes. • Completed drilling, geophysical logging, cementation & hydrofracturing of all 5 Test Wells. • Completed fitting of SR Pump in all the 5 test wells. • Dewatering is in progress for assessment of CBM production.
Sohagpur West [West/SP(West)-CBM-2001/1]	RIL	• Completed drilling and geophysical logging of 8 coreholes. • CBM related studies on coal completed. • Carried out injection fall off test in all the coreholes. • Completed drilling, geophysical logging, cementing & hydrofracturing of 5 test wells in a cluster. • S R pump fitting in all 5 test wells completed. • Dewatering is in progress for assessment of CBM production in all 5 test wells.
Raniganj East [G(East)-CBM-2001/1]	EOL	• PEL deed signed on 29.3.2005
B. CBM Blocks Awarded on Nomination Basis		
Raniganj North	ONGC-CIL	Signing of PEL Deed with State Government is awaited.
Jharia	ONGC-CIL	PEL granted on 28.2.2004. • Corehole drilling started in January, 2005. • Completed drilling of 1 corehole. • Drilling of 2 coreholes are in progress.
Raniganj South (the block was earlier awarded through FIPS route)	GEECL	• Phase-I work programme completed. Phase-II:- • Pilot Assessment & Market Survey Phase. • Completed drilling of 1 corehole and CBM related studies. • Drilling and hydrofracturing of 3 Pilot wells completed. • Dewatering is in progress for assessment of CBM potentiality in all the 3 Pilot wells. • Flow of gas @ 2000 M^3/day completed with water in well #SN-2

1	2	3
C. CBM blocks awarded under second round of bidding (CBM-II)		
South Karanpura SK-[CBM-2003/II]	ONGC	PEL awaited.
North Karanpura [NK(West)-CBM 2003/II]	ONGC	PEL awaited.
Satpura [ST-CBM-2003/II]	ONGC	PEL granted on 4.01.2005. • Corehole drilling likely to start soon.
Wardha [WD-CBM-2003/II]	ONGC	PEL granted on 12.01.2005. • Corehole drilling likely to start soon.
Sonhat [SH(North)-CBM-2003/II]	RIL	PEL granted on 30.10.2004. • Corehole drilling started in January end 2005. • Completed drilling and GPL of 6 Coreholes. • CBM related studies on coal cores are in progress.
Barmer (1) [BS(1)-CBM-2003/II]	RIL	PEL granted on 1.4.2005
Barmer-(2) [BS(2)-CBM-2003/II]	RIL	PEL granted on 15.3.2005.
Barmer-Sanchor [BS(3)-CBM-2003/II]	ONGC-GSPCL	PEL granted on 10.9.2004. • Corehole & Test Wells locations for drilling finalized. • Corehole drilling likely to start soon.

List of Abbreviations

- ONGC — Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
- IOC — Indian Oil Corporation
- CIL — Coal India Limited
- RIL — Reliance Industries Limited
- EOL — Essar Oil Limited
- GEECL — Great Eastern Energy Corporation Limited
- PEL — Petroleum Exploration Licence.

Implementation of Post Based Roster

6766. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the interest of the SC/ST employees has been adversely affected after implementation of post based roster in place of vacancy based roster from 1.7.1997;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to bring a Bill against Supreme Court Judgement dated 10.2.1995 during the current Session to give justice to SC/ST employees;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by when the Bill is likely to be introduced?

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) Representations have been received stating that post based reservation rosters have adversely affected the interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Supreme Court judgement dated 10.2.1995 that provides for post-based reservation in services has also held that the SC/ST candidates appointed/promoted on their own merit shall not be adjusted against reserved vacancies. It may not be in overall interest of SCs/STs to bring a Bill against the judgement.

(e) Does not arise.

Allocation to North-Eastern Region

6767. SHRI NARAIN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has issued a directive wherein a minimum of 10% of the total Planned Budget allotted to a particular Ministry during a fiscal year must be spent in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the total planned budget allotted under various heads to the Department of Posts during the last three fiscal years;

(c) the percentage of these funds sub-allotted to Assam and other North-Eastern Postal Circles;

(d) the actual amount of the allotted funds spent by these circles and the amount surrendered year-wise; and

(e) the reasons for surrender of funds and the steps taken against officials for not making complete utilization of funds?

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

(b) to (d) Scheme-wise details of funds allocated to the Department for the country as a whole, as well as for Assam and North East Circles, and the amounts actually utilised along with percentage thereof and the amounts surrendered during the first two years of the Plan period are given in enclosed Statement. Information for the third year regarding actual utilisation is yet to be firmed up. Hence, information for the 3rd year will be collected and laid on the Table of the House.

(e) In the first two years funds could not be utilised, to the extent allocated, due to time taken to approve scheme-wise outlays, after undertaking a detailed zero based budgeting exercise, and to secure approval of the competent authority for the implementation plan for each Plan scheme. Restriction of Plan outlay at the RE stage, economy orders issued from time to time, non-receipt of bills from suppliers/procurement agencies within the financial year etc. are also reasons that contribute to the non-utilisation of Plan funds.

Corrective action is being taken to increase the level of utilisation of funds by improving the capacity of the system of absorb funds, through early release of funds, regular monitoring, training, etc.

Statement

Scheme-wise Details of Funds Allocated to the Department for the Country as a whole as well as for the North Eastern Region including Assam during 2002-03 & 2003-04

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Activity	Total Outlay		Funds allocated for North East		Funds utilised by North East		% of funds utilised over allocation		Funds unspent in North East	
		2002-2003	2003-2004	2002-2003	2003-2004	2002-2003	2003-2004	2002-2003	2003-2004	2002-2003	2003-2004
1.	Expansion of Postal Network	3.41	2.10	0.28	0.21	0.08	0.21	28.5	100	0.20	0.00
2.	Computerisation of Post Offices, (Installation of MPCMs), Accounts and Administrative Offices and Software Development	38.86	59.32	0.09	3.40	0	0	0	0	0.09	3.4
3.	Computerisation and Networking of Mail Offices	13.32	0.82	0.63	0	0	0	0	0	0.63	0
4.	Upgradation of Customer Care Centre	11.57	11.57	1.00	1.00	0	0.19	0	19	1.00	0.81
5.	Modernisation and Upgradation of VAST	0.75	2.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Modernisation of Operative/workings systems (Improving Ergonomics)	5.54	5.06	0.55	0.61	0.09	0.31	16.36	50.8	0.46	0.3
7.	Automatic Mail Processing Centres	24.00	0.05	4.46	0	0	0	0	0	4.46	0
8.	Mechanisation and Modernisation of Mail Movement	0.30	15.31	0.03	0.07	0.07	0.09	233%	128	(0.04)*	(0.02)*
9.	Modernisation/upgradation of Premium Products	2.74	5.94	0.26	0.55	0.11	0.33	42.3	60	0.15	0.22
10.	Upgradation and Promotion of Philately	0.84	1.00	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.08	100	80	0	0.02
11.	Training	6.65	11.28	0.66	0.78	0.19	0.64	28.7	82	0.47	0.14
12.	Construction of Buildings	28.00	24.00	6.50	2.00	1.81	2.06	27.8	103	4.69	(0.06)*
13.	Modernisation of Circle Stamp Depots	0.26	0.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14.	National Data Centre	5.00	0.50	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Research and Development/Studies/Surveys	1.00	0.07	0.10	0.00	0	0	0	0	0.10	0.00
16.	Establishment of Express Parcel Post Centres	0.50	0.01	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	e-Post	0.50	2.30	0.05	0.06	0.09	0	180	0	(0.04)*	0.06
18.	e-Billpost	0.50	3.00	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	New Products and Services including development of Financial Products.	5.00	3.60	0.30	0.14	0	0	0	0	0.30	0.14
20.	Computerisation of International Mail Processing	1.26	2.06	0	0.06	0	0	0	0	0	0.06
	Total	150.00	150.00	15.00	8.98	2.53	3.91	16.86	43.54	12.55	5.15

*Indicates excess expenditure over allocation.

Harmful Effects of Asbestos Exposure

6768. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Dr. T.K. Joshi of the Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Hospital has given detailed account of the dangers of Asbestos;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures being taken to save the construction workers from Asbestos exposure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Dr. T.K. Joshi of Lok Nayak Jaiprakash Narayan hospital has expressed his view in an article published in 'Indian Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine' that asbestos used in any form and in any manner is carcinogenic with no safe levels of exposure as evidenced by the position taken by a number of international agencies. However, according to Indian Council of Medical Research, there is no convincing evidence that the consumers of asbestos products face any significant risk of cancer.

(c) Various standards have been prescribed by Bureau of Indian Standards to ensure safety in handling and use of asbestos and asbestos products. In addition, there are provisions under the Factories Act, 1987, Mines Act, 1952 and Environment Protection Act, 1986 to reduce/ control the hazards produced due to asbestos exposure.

[Translation]

BSNL Towers in Madhya Pradesh

6769. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of BSNL exchanges, Cell One towers and Tarang towers sanctioned for Damoh, Panna, Chatarpur and Jabalpur districts of Madhya Pradesh alongwith the places where the said services are proposed to be provided;

(b) the time-limit fixed for providing the above services;

(c) the date on which the above services were likely to be started;

(d) whether the work has not been started till date even after the acquisition of the land;

(e) if so, the time by which the above work is likely to be completed; and

(f) whether the Union Government proposes to take action against the officers responsible for the delay; and

(g) if so, the time by which the action is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of BSNL Exchanges (Cell One Towers and Tarang Towers sanctioned/proposed for Damoh, Panna, Chhatarpur and Jabalpur districts are:

District	BSNL Exchange	Cell-one Towers Places (Nos.)	Tarang Towers Places with one Tower each
1	2	3	4
Damoh	Nil	Damoh (Two), Narsingpur (One), Hatta (One), Patharia (One),	Damoh, Patera & Jabera
Panna	Nil	Panna (One), Gunnore (One), Shanagar (One), NMDC (One), Amanganj (One) & Ajaygarh (One)	Ajaygarh, Gunnore & Shahnagar.
Chhatarpur	Nil	Chhatarpur (Five), Kharjuraho (Two), Tikamgarh (Two), Nowgaon (One), Orchha (One), Niwari (One), Badmalhara (One), Loundi (One), Bijawar (One), Rajnagar (One), Palera (One), Gaurihar (One) & Harpalpur (One),	Badmalhara, Baldeogarh, Jatara, Rajnagar, Niwari, Nowgoan, Buxwaha & Gourihar.

1	2	3	4
Jabalpur	Nil	Jabalpur (Twenty Three), Katni (Three), Sehora (One), Kymore (One), Patan (One), Barera (One), Bahurband (One), V. Raghogarh (One), Dhimarkhedi (One), Panumaria (One), Pangar (One), and Barhi (One)	Kundam, Umariapan & Vijayraghogarh

(b) Planned in year 2005-06.

(c) Likely to be started by 31.3.2006 subject to the availability of equipment.

(d) No land has been acquired or proposed to be acquired at these places.

(e) Work likely to be completed by 31.3.2006.

(f) There is no delay in execution of project.

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

[English]

Expenditure on Health Care

6770. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that only 17% of all health expenditure in India is borne by the Union Government and the rest is being borne privately by the people making it one of the most highly privatised health care system of the world;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the public expenditure on medicines for the common people in Primary Health Centres and Government Dispensaries; and

(d) the break-up of expenditure on preventive and curative measures in rural areas during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per the World Health Report, 2005, the Government spends 21.3% out of the total expenditure on health and rest are being borne privately by the people in India which is relatively high compared to other countries. The reasons for this include *inter-alia* inadequate public health infrastructure.

(c) and (d) Information is being collected.

Diabetes Menace

6771. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has emerged as diabetic capital of the world;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether more and more children are suffering from diabetes; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to control diabetes, particularly in children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) the diabetic cases are on the rise in the country. This is because of population ageing, low birth weight, unhealthy diets, obesity and sedentary lifestyle, better availability of diagnostic facilities, environmental degradation, etc. It is estimated that 10% of the 32 million diabetes patients in the country are insulin dependent diabetes of the young as reported by the World Health Organisation. However, data on incidence of childhood diabetes mellitus is not available.

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 of Diabetes and Cardio Vascular Diseases.

Posts of Doctors Lying Vacant in CGHS Dispensaries

6772. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of posts of doctors of Indian System of Medicine & Homeopathy (ISM&H) lying vacant in each dispensary of CGHS;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to fill up the posts of doctors of Ayurvedic, Homoeopathic and Unani systems of medicines in each dispensary of CGHS in and outside Delhi; and

(c) by when these are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) The requisition for filling up of vacant posts of ISM&H physicians has already been sent to UPSC. The vacant posts will be filled up as soon as nominations of candidates are received from the UPSC.

Statement

Vacancy Position

Sl.No.	CGHS City	Sanctioned	Filled	Vacant
AYURVEDA PHYSICIANS				
1.	CGHS, Chennai	2	1	1
2.	CGHS, Jaipur	2	1	1
3.	CGHS, Kanpur	2	1	1
4.	CGHS, Lucknow	2	1	1
5.	CGHS, Delhi	39	31	8
HOMOEOPATHY PHYSICIANS				
1.	CGHS, Bangalore	2	1	1
2.	CGHS, Chennai	2	1	1
3.	CGHS, Kanpur	4	3	1
4.	CGHS, Nagpur	2	1	1
5.	CGHS, Delhi	28	25	3
UNANI PHYSICIANS				
1.	CGHS, Bangalore	1	1	—
2.	CGHS, Hyderabad	4	3	1
3.	CGHS, Kolkata	2	1	1
4.	CGHS, Lucknow	2	1	1
5.	CGHS, Delhi	10	11	—

[Translation]

Opening to CGHS Government Dispensaries/ Government Hospitals

6773. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that there is no CGHS Dispensary nor hospital in the Najafgarh area of Delhi particularly in Shanti Vihar, Dinpur, Durga Vihar, Kakrola, Roshanpura, Shyam Vihar, Bijwasan where employees of Central Government are residing in large numbers;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for opening of Government Hospitals and dispensaries in the above areas; and

(c) the present arrangements made/proposed to be made for providing medical facilities to the CGHS card-holders residing in the above colonies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Though there are no CGHS dispensaries in the said areas, the Central Government employees living in such non-CGHS areas automatically get medical facilities as per provisions under the Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944.

(b) As Health is a State subject, opening of hospitals in Delhi comes within the purview of the Government of NCT of Delhi.

A proposal to open a CGHS dispensary in Najafgarh areas has been included in the 10th Five Year Plan. However, due to constraints of resources and manpower, it would not be possible to open a CGHS dispensary in Najafgarh at present.

(c) The position relating to the serving Central Government employees residing in the non-CGHS areas has been stated in (a) above. As regards CGHS pensioner cardholders residing in non-CGHS areas, they are eligible to obtain OPD facilities and referral for in-patient medical facilities from the nearest CGHS dispensary. However, such pensioner cardholders living in non-CGHS areas are not eligible for domiciliary visit by the CGHS doctor during emergencies. The Central Government pensioners also have the option to get fixed medical allowance of Rs. 100/- per month for outdoor treatment which, if exercised, makes them ineligible for availing OPD facilities under the CGHS.

Vacant Posts of All India Service Cadre

6774. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several posts of All India Service cadre have been lying vacant in Rajasthan for a long time;

(b) if so, the care-wise and category-wise number of sanctioned posts and the posts lying vacant and the time by when the vacant pots are likely to be filled;

(c) whether inquiry against several officers of Indian Administrative Service cadre and other All India Services is being conducted;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the names of such officers against whom inquiry is being conducted;

(e) whether posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the said services in Rajasthan have been filled as per stipulated provisions;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the details of the posts filled as per the stipulated norms of reservation for the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

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) Though some posts in All India Services (AIS) are lying vacant, they are not lying vacant for a long time. As per information received from the State Government, the details of the break up of all the three all India Services *i.e.* IAS, IPS and IFS cadre are as below:

			filled up	vacant
IAS	Sanctioned	260	—	—
	CDR	56	35	21
	Other State posts	204	188	13
IPS	Sanctioned	184	—	—
	CDR	40	20	20
	Other State posts	144	126	18
IFS	Sanctioned	112	—	—
	CDR	13	05	08
	Other State posts	92	92	07

Filling up of vacant posts is a continuous exercise and no time limit could be indicated for this.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. As per information received from the State Government, there are 4 IAS officers namely S/Shri Sanjay Purohit (IAS: 89), S.N. Khandelwal (IAS: 75), G.S. Narwani (IAS: 79), T.R. Verma (IAS: 75) and 4 IFS officers namely S/Shri K.L. Saini, K.C. Sakarwal, L.K. Sharma, P.R. Siyag against whom departmental inquiries are pending for violation of various rules/ regulations. No inquiry is pending against any IPS officer.

(e) to (g) So far as posts reserved for Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the AIS cadres of Rajasthan is concerned, it is mentioned that in respect of vacancies decided to be filled in various cadres/ joint cadres of AIS on the basis of Civil Services Examination (CSE), reservation for candidates belonging to SCs and STs is not required to be maintained cadre-wise. In respect of total vacancies decided to be filled through direct recruitment in AIS cadres on the basis of CSE, reservation is provided for candidates belonging to SCs and STs as per prescribed percentage of reservation. Presently, reservation prescribed for SCs and STs for direct recruitment is 15% and 7.5% respectively. Further, after declaration of final result of a CSE, the recommended candidates are allocated to AIS (including other services/posts) against available vacancies in accordance with the rules of the examination and usually all the vacancies to be filled in AIS on the basis of a CSE are filled by candidates of respective category. The unfilled reserved vacancies in AIS, if any, on account of non-joining of a candidate or for any other reason are carried forwarded in accordance with the instructions in the matter. As far as appointment to All India Service by promotion from the feeder services is concerned, there is no provision for reservation, as such provisions for reservation exist in the feeder services.

[English]

Discontinuation of Calling Cards

6775. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the TRAI has issued any direction to VSNL regarding discontinuation of various calling cards of "Tata Indicom Outbound Prepaid Calling Cards"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the loss, if any, expected due to the said decision of the TRAI?

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

(b) TRAI issued a Direction to VSNL under Section 13 read with Section 11 (1) (b) (i) and (iv) of the TRAI Act 1997 to stop the sale of the various "Tata Indicom Outbound Prepaid Calling Cards" immediately and the sale of cards can be continued only after obtaining the approval of licensor. No interim relief was granted by Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) against the direction of TRAI. There is no question of loss for the activity which, in the opinion of TRAI, is not as per the terms and conditions of Licence.

Norms for Nurses in Central Government Hospitals

6776. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure had submitted a report in April 1992 on the norms for nurses in Central Government hospitals; and

(b) if so, whether the assistant nursing superintendents were supposed to handle the store (non-nursing job) and nursing sisters were clubbed with the staff nurses for performing nursing;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether according by the report, the recommendation of the report have not been implemented by the DGHS;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the action taken or proposed to be taken for the implementation of recommendations made in the report in the interest of the patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) The Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) of the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure had submitted a report on the norms for Nurses in the Central Government Hospitals. The posts of Nursing Sisters and Staff Nurses have been clubbed together for calculating staff entitlement.

One of the recommendations of the report was that there should be one Assistant Nursing Superintendent for every 4.5 Nursing Sisters. The Assistant Nursing Superintendent should be entrusted with Non-Nursing jobs.

The report of the SIU was examined and accordingly additional 989 Nursing posts were sanctioned and duties and responsibilities were circulated to all the institutions for implementation. Through proper deployment of nurses, it is ensured that patient care services are not affected in the Hospitals.

More Private Hospitals under CGHS Scheme

6777. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that only one private hospital *i.e.,* Escorts Hospital and Research Centre is recognised by the CGHS to provide medical facilities/ hospitalization to the thousands of serving and retired Central Government employees residing in National Capital Region (NCR) towns;

(b) if so, whether the Government would conduct a fresh survey in this regard and provide *suo moto* recognition to some more private hospitals/Nursing Homes/ Diagnostic Centres to meet the medical requirements of growing numbers of CGHS beneficiaries living in NCR towns and particularly in Faridabad; and

(c) if so, the measures being contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) In the NCR town of Faridabad, Noida, Ghaziabad and Gurgaon covered under CGHS Delhi, there are 13 private CGHS recognised hospitals including Escorts Hospital and Research Centre, Faridabad as per details given below:

1. Kalyani Hospital (P) Ltd., 354/2, Mehrauli Road, Gurgaon
2. Dr. Taneja Hosptial & Heart Centre, 113-A, New Colony, Gurgaon.
3. Sheetla Hospital & Eye Institute Pvt. Ltd., Near D.S.D. College, New Railway Road, Gurgaon.
4. Umkal Hospital & M.P. Heart Research Institute, A-520, Sushant Lok-I, Gurgaon.
5. Narendra Mohan Hospital, Mohan Nagar, Ghaziabad.
6. Santosh Medical & Dental College Hospital, 1, Ambedkar Road, Ghaziabad.
7. Yashoda Hospital & Research Centre III-M, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad.
8. U.P. Stone and Urology Centre, II-A/40, Nehru Nagar, Ghaziabad-201001.
9. Metro Hospital & Heart Institute, Noida.
10. Kailash Hospital & Research Centre, H-33, Sector-27, Noida
11. Prakash Hospital, D-12, 21A, 12B, Sector-33, Noida
12. Satya Medical Centre, A-98/A, Sector-34, Noida
13. Escorts Hospital & Research Centre Ltd., Neelam Bata Road, Faridabad.

The CGHS beneficiaries can avail treatment in any of the private hospitals recognised hospitals under CGHS by obtaining permission from the Government. During emergency, the CGHS beneficiaries can directly go to any hospital for taking treatment.

(b) and (c) The CGHS had during March-April, 2004, invited tenders for fresh recognition of private hospitals/ diagnostic centres under CGHS in the various CGHS-covered cities including NCR towns under CGHS Delhi.

The eligible applicant hospitals/diagnostic centres satisfying the criteria laid down in the tenders would be entitled for consideration on merit for recognition under CGHS.

Problems Faced by Pensioners of CGHS Scheme

6778. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that pensioners find it difficult to get certain medicines/injections on the prescriptions of Government Hospitals from CGHS dispensaries in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether they are asked to obtain permission from the Medical Store Depot, Gole Market, New Delhi in this regard;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to simplify the procedure in this regard and direct CGHS dispensaries to obtain the permission from the Medical Store Depot?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Adequate quantity of medicines is available in CGHS dispensaries. However, any drug prescribed by the specialists and not available in the dispensary is made available to the beneficiary from the Authorised local Chemist on the basis of individual prescription. In the case of CGHS dispensaries which do not have any authorised local chemist attached to them, the CGHS beneficiaries (including pensioner beneficiaries) are permitted to purchase the medicines from the open market for which reimbursement is made by the Government.

In some cases where the drugs are costly or are to be imported, the drugs are directly procured by the CGHS Medical Store Depot, Gole Market, New Delhi. The list of such medicines that are to be directly procured by the CGHS (MSD) is updated from time to time by a Committee constituted for the purpose.

The CGHS Medical Store Depot directly procures medicines:-

(1) That are not available in India and requires being imported.

(2) That are imported medicines marketed in India and generally not available with the CGHS autorised local chemists.

(3) That is very costly.

The procedure adopted by the CGHS Medical Store Depot for procurement of the above medicines involves obtaining financial and administrative sanction from the Additional Director (HQ)/Director, CGHS. In the case of procurement of imported medicines, it also requires obtaining permission from the Drugs Controller of India and obtaining Customs Duty Exemption Certificate (CDEC) for importing the medicine. The above drugs are issued directly to the CGHS beneficiaries by the CGHS Medical Store Depot and therefore the CGHS dispensary where the beneficiary is registered is not involved in the process. All efforts are made to procure the drugs and supply it to the beneficiaries at the earliest.

Export of Medicines

6779. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the value of medicines of Homoeopathy, Ayurvedic, Unani, etc. exported during the last three years till date, country-wise; and

(b) the details of the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for the promotion of Indian Systems of Medicines for export purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The country-wise details of value of medicines of Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy exported during the last three years is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The Government have taken measures to promote Indian Systems of Medicine including export of products of these systems. The measures that have been taken include development of pharmacopoeial standards to ensure production of quality drugs, GMP compliance for manufactures of drugs, incentive/subsidy for production of quality raw drugs, financial assistance for strengthening of pharmacies and drug testing laboratories, incentive for creation of in-house quality control laboratories, incentive for participation in international events/exhibitions, deputation and participation of experts of Indian systems of Medicine abroad, etc. The Government have also

organized presentation-cum-exhibition of Indian Systems of Medicine during the World Health Assembly in Geneva.

Statement

Country-wise value of medicines of Homoeopathy, Ayurveda, Unani & Siddha exported during the year 2002-03

(Rs. in Lacs)

Sl.No.	Country	Value of Exported ASU&H medicines
1	2	3
1.	Afghanistan	250.22
2.	Albania	26.84
3.	Algeria	46.80
4.	Ameri Samoa	—
5.	Angola	223.43
6.	Antigua	62.36
7.	Argentina	139.70
8.	Armenia	1.83
9.	Australia	482.78
10.	Austria	46.44
11.	Azerbaijan	50.34
12.	Bahamas	16.44
13.	Baharains	43.24
14.	Bangladesh	473.90
15.	Barbados	—
16.	Belgium	292.04
17.	Benin	414.54
18.	Bolivia	36.03
19.	Bosnia	12.30
20.	Botswana	—
21.	Brazil	1,140.80
22.	Brunei	0.16
23.	Bulgaria	15.14
24.	Burkina Faso	16.26
25.	Burundi	9.15
26.	Belarus	59.41
27.	Cambodia	132.79
28.	Cameroon	696.40
29.	Canada	746.07
30.	Capeverdeis	0.30
31.	Cafrirep	24.17
32.	Chad	4.65
33.	Chile	326.58
34.	Chinese Taipei	645.37
35.	China PRP	7,964.76
36.	Colombia	247.87
37.	Congo PREP	1,275.21
38.	Costa Rica	136.28
39.	Croatia	0.67
40.	Cuba	4.20
41.	Cyprus	54.49
42.	Czech Republic	133.30
43.	Denmark	206.38
44.	Djibouti	18.09
45.	Dominic REP	29.76
46.	Dominica	11.92
47.	Ecuador	3.80
48.	Egypt ARP	139.39
49.	El Salvador	10.91
50.	Estonia	—

1	2	3
51.	Ethiopia	135.31
52.	Finland	52.72
53.	Fiji	60.59
54.	France	1,079.01
55.	FR Guiana	3.14
56.	FR Polynesia	6.82
57.	Gabon	7.65
58.	Gambia	19.54
59.	Georgia	17.69
60.	German F REP	5,662.96
61.	Ghana	658.42
62.	Greece	1.72
63.	Guatemala	69.54
64.	Guinea	409.68
65.	Guinea Bisu	28.15
66.	Guyana	4.32
67.	Haiti	192.45
68.	Honduras	24.89
69.	HongKong	1,169.75
70.	Hungary	130.37
71.	Iceland	2.32
72.	Indonesia	300.35
73.	Iran	361.03
74.	Iraq	23.50
75.	Ireland	385.48
76.	Israel	353.09
77.	Italy	542.10
78.	Ivory Coast	210.17
79.	Jamaica	44.02
80.	Japan	832.49
81.	Jordan	224.00
82.	Kazakhstan	109.34
83.	Kenya	509.27
84.	Kiribati REP	0.81
85.	Korea DP RP	119.18
86.	Kyrghyzstan	7.86
87.	Korea RP	843.44
88.	Kuwait	37.67
89.	Lao PD RP	4.09
90.	Latvia	53.47
91.	Lebanon	10.85
92.	Liberia	62.99
93.	Lithuania	38.75
94.	Macao	5.22
95.	Maceoemia	2.55
96.	Malagasy RP	36.48
97.	Malawi	63.09
98.	Malaysia	655.56
99.	Maladives	66.21
100.	Mali	100.63
101.	Malta	4.23
102.	Marshall Island	15.81
103.	Mauritius	307.75
104.	Mayanmar	929.25
105.	Mexico	524.21
106.	Moldvia	6.03
107.	Mongolia	—
108.	Montserrat	—

1	2	3
109.	Morocco	41.77
110.	Mozambizue	220.56
111.	Namibia	2.79
112.	Nepal	2,402.83
113.	Netherland	1,613.39
114.	Netherland Antil	0.41
115.	New Caledonia	—
116.	New Zealand	663.60
117.	Nicaragua	6.19
118.	Niger	405.92
119.	Nigeria	5,557.08
120.	Norway	28.40
121.	Oman	41.77
122.	Pakistan	167.40
123.	Panama Rep.	1.50
124.	Papua N GNA	27.21
125.	Paraguay	4.19
126.	Peru	133.65
127.	Philippines	736.43
128.	Poland	341.26
129.	Portugal	80.67
130.	Qatar	16.25
131.	Reunion	19.35
132.	Romania	189.10
133.	Russia	4,841.80
134.	Rwanda	13.69
135.	Saudi Arab	184.47
136.	Senegal	66.57
137.	Serbia & Montenegro	74.40
138.	Seychelles	1.79
139.	Sierra Leone	53.60
140.	Slovak REP	15.83
141.	Singapore	3,001.82
142.	Slovenia	41.19
143.	Solomon Is.	5.38
144.	Somalia	10.03
145.	South Africa	1,944.50
146.	Spain	786.59
147.	Sri Lanka	858.10
148.	Sudan	270.96
149.	Surinam	13.58
150.	Swaziland	17.01
151.	Sweden	10.49
152.	Switzerland	412.17
153.	Syria	252.54
154.	Tajikistan	4.50
155.	Tanzania	153.67
156.	Thailand	569.66
157.	Togo	9.98
158.	Tonga	6.05
159.	Trinidad	156.79
160.	Tunisia	25.93
161.	Turkey	950.90
162.	Turkmenistan	42.60
163.	Turks CIS	9.58
164.	Uganda	369.47
165.	U. Arab Emts.	1,247.20

1	2	3
166.	U.K.	2,362.09
167.	Ukrain	1,378.76
168.	USA	39,885.65
169.	Uruguay	126.72
170.	Uzbekistan	29.71
171.	Veneguela	125.88
172.	Vietnam Soc. Rep.	1,058.47
173.	Vergin Is. US	10.98
174.	Wallis FIS	2.77
175.	West Samol	14.94
176.	Yemen Republic	456.00
177.	Zaire Rep.	88.17
178.	Zambia	159.69
179.	Zimbabwe	19.98
180.	Unspecified	139.45
	Total	109,157.76

Country-wise value of medicines of Homoeoapthy, Ayurveda, Unani & Siddha exported during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05

(Rs. in Lacs)

Sl.No.	Country	Homoeopathy		Ayurveda		Unani		Siddha	
		2003-04	2004-05 (Apr.-Dec.)	2003-04	2004-05 (Apr.-Dec.)	2003-04	2004-05 (Apr.-Dec.)	2003-04	2004-05 (Apr.-Dec.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Afghanistan	—	—	28.14	3.46	—	—	—	—
2.	Albania	—	—	—	39.11	—	—	—	—
3.	Algeria	—	—	—	1.72	—	—	—	—
4.	Ameri Samoa	—	—	—	61.90	—	—	—	—
5.	Angola	—	—	4.46	10.01	—	—	—	—
6.	Argentina	—	—	20.36	2.23	—	—	—	0.01
7.	Armenia	—	—	0.76	2.04	—	—	—	—
8.	Australia	—	—	27.12	19.52	—	—	—	—
9.	Austria	—	—	8.79	6.21	—	—	—	—
10.	Azerbaijan	—	1.59	10.57	71.05	—	—	—	—
11.	Baharain IS	—	—	48.60	49.12	—	—	—	—
12.	Bangladesh	31.25	—	30.56	28.12	—	—	—	—
13.	Barbados	—	—	—	6.75	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14.	Belgium	—	—	20.64	13.70	7.85	—	—	—
15.	Benin	—	—	—	10.21	—	—	—	—
16.	Bosnia	—	—	—	0.11	—	—	—	—
17.	Botswana	—	—	3.90	14.42	—	—	—	—
18.	Brazil	—	14.84	105.75	81.23	—	—	—	—
19.	Bulgaria	—	—	8.54	48.87	—	—	—	—
20.	Burundi	—	—	—	0.33	—	—	—	—
21.	Belarus	—	—	21.12	1.78	—	—	—	—
22.	Cambodia	—	—	16.13	3.88	—	—	—	—
23.	Cameroon	—	—	2.83	6.38	—	—	—	—
24.	Canada	—	0.12	26.79	13.73	—	—	—	—
25.	Chad	—	—	—	5.28	—	—	—	—
26.	Chile	—	—	0.25	34.35	—	—	—	—
27.	Chinese Taipei	0.11	—	18.29	10.24	—	—	—	—
28.	China PRP	—	—	20.30	206.55	—	—	—	—
29.	Colombia	—	—	—	1.06	—	—	—	—
30.	Congo P Rep.	—	—	3.71	—	—	—	—	—
31.	Costa Rica	—	—	0.29	138.33	—	—	—	—
32.	Cyprus	—	—	4.75	10.82	—	—	—	—
33.	Czech Republic	—	—	5.41	17.64	—	—	—	—
34.	Denmark	—	—	—	31.94	—	—	—	—
35.	Dominic Rep.	—	—	0.30	0.52	—	—	—	—
36.	Ecuador	—	—	0.23	12.66	—	—	—	—
37.	Egypt ARP	—	—	33.04	16.33	—	—	—	—
38.	Estonia	—	—	1.20	2.79	—	—	—	—
39.	Ethiopia	—	—	51.36	11.51	—	—	—	—
40.	Eretrea	—	—	0.76	—	—	—	—	—
41.	Finland	—	—	88.97	92.54	—	—	—	—
42.	Fiji Is.	—	—	1.30	2.20	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
43.	France	5.45	—	23.03	11.73	—	—	—	—
44.	Gabon	—	—	0.16	—	—	—	—	—
45.	Georgia	—	—	2.29	6.24	—	—	—	—
46.	German F Rep.	37.49	2.26	242.79	140.17	—	—	—	—
47.	Ghana	—	—	91.75	66.03	—	—	—	—
48.	Greece	—	—	2.62	—	—	—	—	—
49.	Guam	0.76	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
50.	Guatemala	—	0.31	19.91	1.45	—	—	—	—
51.	Guinea	—	—	40.08	167.39	—	—	—	—
52.	Guyana	—	—	—	2.45	—	—	—	—
53.	Haiti	—	—	70.22	2.94	—	—	—	—
54.	Honduras	—	—	—	20.50	—	—	—	—
55.	Hong Kong	—	—	91.88	6.31	—	—	—	—
56.	Hungary	—	—	135.25	0.21	—	—	—	—
57.	Indonesia	—	—	17.26	1.31	—	—	—	—
58.	Iran	181.79	—	126.78	42.02	—	—	—	—
59.	Iraq	—	—	2.78	—	—	—	—	—
60.	Ireland	—	—	98.94	8,814.95	—	—	—	—
61.	Israel	—	—	35.82	18.33	—	—	—	—
62.	Italy	0.18	—	353.74	472.24	0.11	—	—	—
63.	Ivory Coast	0.64	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
64.	Jamaica	—	—	14.10	15.65	—	—	—	—
65.	Japan	2.67	—	263.57	104.98	—	—	—	0.10
66.	Jordan	—	—	44.98	55.08	—	—	—	—
67.	Kazakhstan	—	—	52.55	47.59	—	—	—	—
68.	Kenya	—	—	117.24	40.01	2.55	—	—	—
69.	Korea DP RP	—	—	23.97	26.20	—	—	—	—
70.	Kyrghyzstan	—	—	27.37	2.92	—	—	—	—
71.	Korea RP	—	—	43.02	54.65	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
72.	Kuwait	—	—	17.53	4.16	—	—	—	—
73.	Lao PD RP	—	—	1.25	—	—	—	—	—
74.	Latvia	—	—	12.13	19.31	—	—	—	—
75.	Lebanon	—	—	2.75	—	—	—	—	—
76.	Liberia	—	—	11.07	—	—	—	—	—
77.	Lithuania	—	—	10.63	10.25	—	—	—	—
78.	Maceoernia	—	—	1.42	3.12	—	—	—	—
79.	Malawi	—	—	14.02	2.60	—	—	—	—
80.	Malaysia	—	2.71	199.90	213.01	—	0.70	—	—
81.	Maladives	—	—	5.91	3.30	—	—	—	—
82.	Mali	—	—	0.25	2.08	—	—	—	—
83.	Malta	—	—	1.31	—	—	—	—	—
84.	Mauritius	—	—	42.88	18.71	—	—	—	—
85.	Myanmar	—	—	14.70	43.13	—	—	—	—
86.	Mexico	—	—	52.66	25.18	—	—	—	—
87.	Moldvia	—	—	—	4.41	—	—	—	—
88.	Mongolia	—	—	2.48	—	—	—	—	—
89.	Montserrat	—	—	6.41	—	—	—	—	—
90.	Morocco	—	—	6.76	—	—	—	—	—
91.	Mozambeique	—	—	12.81	17.11	—	—	—	—
92.	Nepal	10.53	72.28	1,375.69	913.90	15.80	18.16	—	—
93.	Netherland	—	—	4.18.42	304.33	—	—	—	—
94.	Netherland Antil	—	—	—	0.41	—	—	—	—
95.	New Caledonia	—	—	0.31	—	—	—	—	—
96.	New Zealand	—	—	44.94	20.84	—	—	—	—
97.	Nicaragua	—	—	11.80	—	—	—	—	—
98.	Niger	21.68	—	23.25	43.11	—	—	—	—
99.	Nigeria	0.33	—	80.33	392.63	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
100.	Norway	—	—	29.10	0.31	—	—	—	—
101.	Oman	—	—	3.39	14.22	—	—	—	—
102.	Pakistan	0.06	29.59	5.67	37.56	—	—	—	—
103.	Panama CZ	—	—	2.54	—	—	—	—	—
104.	Papua N GNA	—	—	0.02	9.92	—	—	—	—
105.	Peru	0.89	—	1.60	21.00	—	—	—	—
106.	Philippines	—	—	20.04	54.66	—	—	—	—
107.	Poland	—	—	38.82	107.59	—	—	—	—
108.	Portugal	—	—	23.02	0.51	—	—	—	—
109.	Qatar	—	—	5.07	16.60	—	—	—	—
110.	Reunion	—	—	—	0.85	—	—	—	—
111.	Romania	—	—	60.06	97.54	—	—	—	—
112.	Russia	—	—	1,089.10	749.64	19.49	—	—	—
113.	Rwanda	—	0.95	25.67	4.62	—	—	—	—
114.	Saudi Arab	—	—	30.38	26.72	—	—	—	—
115.	Senegal	—	—	—	17.38	—	—	—	—
116.	Serbia & Montenegro	—	—	4.26	—	—	—	—	—
117.	Seychelles	—	—	4.34	0.51	0.17	0.59	—	—
118.	Sierra Leone	—	—	0.58	54.21	—	—	—	—
119.	Slovak Rep.	—	—	7.44	1.73	—	—	—	—
120.	Singapore	0.15	0.46	38.46	65.14	1.93	2.26	—	—
121.	Slovenia	—	—	1.00	18.38	—	—	—	—
122.	Somalia	—	—	0.71	2.43	—	—	—	—
123.	South Africa	6.81	—	152.05	233.13	0.81	—	—	—
124.	Spain	—	—	3.52	6.88	—	—	—	—
125.	Sri Lanka	0.18	—	119.91	94.48	1.08	—	—	—
126.	Sudan	—	—	70.65	124.27	—	—	—	—
127.	Surinam	—	—	—	2.49	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
128.	Sweden	—	—	—	6.61	—	—	—	—
129.	Switzerland	—	—	157.90	14.25	—	—	—	—
130.	Syria	—	12.43	43.75	120.61	—	—	—	—
131.	Tajikistan	0.14	—	3.31	—	—	—	—	—
132.	Tanzania	—	—	2.03	35.10	3.23	9.57	—	—
133.	Thailand	—	—	36.62	113.56	—	—	—	—
134.	Togo	—	—	—	0.58	—	—	—	—
135.	Trinidad	—	—	42.74	33.62	—	—	—	—
136.	Turkey	—	—	16.12	158.16	—	—	—	—
137.	Turkmenistan	—	—	4.96	—	—	—	—	—
138.	Uganda	—	4.32	0.93	195.63	—	—	—	2.81
139.	U Arab Emts.	1.51	—	553.97	614.78	—	1.26	—	—
140.	U.K.	2.64	—	231.66	225.63	—	—	—	—
141.	Ukraine	—	—	48.90	555.37	—	—	—	—
142.	USA	6.51	—	2,012.23	8,117.17	—	73.49	7.83	15.69
143.	Uruguay	—	—	—	10.54	—	—	—	—
144.	Uzbekistan	—	—	6.11	8.79	—	—	—	—
145.	Veneguela	—	—	3.52	—	—	—	—	—
146.	Vietnam Soc. Rep.	—	—	111.52	75.44	—	8.17	—	—
147.	Yemen Republic	—	—	3.65	1.25	—	—	—	—
148.	Zaire Rep.	—	—	38.32	—	—	—	—	—
149.	Zambia	—	—	47.97	18.39	0.64	—	—	—
	Total	311.76	141.85	10,031.87	25,574.89	52.58	115.28	7.83	18.61

Opening of Tetulia Corridor

6780. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to negotiate with Bangladesh Government to open up the Tetulia Corridor through the territory of Bangladesh;

(b) if so, whether the proposed corridor was earlier planned to connect Tetulia in Dinajpur and Chawalhati in Jalpaiguri through Bangladesh;

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

(d) the current status of the said proposal and the time by when the said corridor is likely to be opened; and

(e) the benefits which are likely to accrue to both the countries as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) Government of India have taken up the opening of the Tetulia corridor, between Chopra in North Dinajpur district of West Bengal to Maynaguri in Jalpaiguri district of West Bengal through Bangladesh territory, with the Government of Bangladesh.

(d) The response of Government of Bangladesh is awaited.

(e) The opening of the corridor would be in consonance with Article-VIII of the India-Bangladesh Trade Agreement 1980 which states that "The two Governments agree to make mutually beneficial arrangements for the use of their waterways, railways and roadways for commerce between the two countries and for passage of goods between two places in one country through the territory of the other". The opening of the Tetulia corridor would also reduce the travel distance between the two points and thereby the time and expenditure involved in the transport of goods and people. It could also facilitate trade between India and Bangladesh.

Use of Gelatin by Ayurvedic Pharma Companies

6781. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Ayurvedic Pharma companies are using Gelatin, which is an animal bye-product for preparing the casings for capsules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a mandatory for the pharma companies to inform the consumers about the usage of Gelatin in such capsules; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or likely to be taken against these Ayurvedic Pharma companies found violating it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Gelation is a pharmaceutical aid allowed for capsule formation of Ayurveda, Siddha & Unani drugs on the recommendation of the Ayurvedic, Siddha & Unani Drugs Technical Advisory Board (ASUDTAB). However, the standards laid down for gelation capsules are required to be strictly observed by the Pharma Companies.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Losses to Small Scale Industries

6782. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Scale Industries of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala have suffered heavy losses due to recent severe tsunami;

(b) if so, the details of losses incurred; and

(c) the effective measures being taken by the Government for the development of affected Small Scale Industries in the said States?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the State Governments, the details of the small scale industries (SSIs) that have suffered losses in the States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala due to Tsunami are as under:

State	Losses suffered by the SSIs	
	Number of Units	Estimated amount (Rs. lakh)
Tamil Nadu	143	160.80
Andhra Pradesh	4	44.80
Kerala	85	208.00

(c) The Government has approved a special package of Rs. 3644.05 crore to provide assistance for immediate relief in the Tsunami affected areas, which includes Rs. 2347.19 crore for Tamil Nadu, Rs. 70 crore for Andhra Pradesh and Rs. 249.36 crore for Kerala. In addition, the Small Industries Development Bank of India has created an emergency fund of Rs. 250 lakh to assist the families hit by Tsunami and facilitate their rehabilitation. Under this Fund, assistance is provided for repair/construction of houses and creation of assets for livelihood of the

affected families, through Micro Finance Institutions and Non-Government Organisations. However, the Government of Kerala has requested Central assistance of Rs. 208 lakh for recouping the loss sustained by the SSI units. Central assistance of Rs. 249.45 lakh has been requested for rehabilitation of coir industry units in Tamil Nadu. No assistance has been sought by Andhra Pradesh from the Central Government in respect of rehabilitation of affected SSI units.

[Translation]

Arbitrary Disconnection of Telephones by BSNL

6783. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of any incident of disconnecting the telephones by the BSNL despite the fact that the bills of S.S.A., Kota were already paid and no payment was outstanding;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the number of telephones disconnected in Kota and Bundi Telecom districts of Rajasthan during the last six months despite timely payment of bills; and

(d) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to streamline the system in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. There were some incidence of telephones having been disconnected despite payment of bills. However, such incidences were rare, mainly due to non-receipt of payment particular/receipt of wrong information from Post Offices, Banks or other departmental counters thus showing the bills as outstanding in TR Billing system.

(b) As soon as case of wrong disconnection comes to notice restoration is made immediately. In this regard, Government has been instructing BSNL from time to time to streamline the system of billing and collection.

(c) Since such incidences happen rarely and the telephones are connected immediately, therefore details not maintained on a regular basis.

(d) The following steps have been taken to streamline the system:

(i) CCMS package integrated to TR Billing system is under installation by which all the departmental collection centers will be on-line.

(ii) Off-line payment collection machines have been installed to transfer the payment particulars on daily basis to TR Billing computer system to avoid any manual transaction.

(iii) Post Offices have been instructed to send the payment particulars on daily basis and steps have been taken to update TR Billing system on daily basis immediately on receipt of collection details.

(iv) Now disconnection is made only after feeding of all collection details well in time and after reconciliation of monthly payment schedule to ensure correct disconnection.

[English]

Levy of New Tourist Tax in Nepal

6784. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nepal has begun collecting a new tourist tax from diplomats, foreign Government employees and foreigners living in the kingdom even though they are exempted from the levy;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Indian staffers posted in Nepal for the three years, employees of foreign Government organisations like Indian Airlines or the State Bank of India and all who hold a non-Nepalese passport are required to pay the levy meant only for tourists;

(d) if so, whether any protest has been lodged by the Union Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Nepalese Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) Yes. His Majesty's Government of Nepal has, with effect from January 14, 2005, started levying a tourism service tax

fee @ Nepali Rupees 565.00. The fee is levied on all non-Nepalese persons departing from Kathmandu airport, including diplomats, foreign Government employees and foreigners living in Nepal. The Indian Embassy staff and the employees of Government organizations like Indian Airlines and State Bank of India are also required to pay this fee.

(d) and (e) Government of India has taken up this matter with His Majesty's Government of Nepal and sought exemption from this tax for the Embassy officials and their family members. Response of His Majesty's Government of Nepal is awaited.

[Translation]

Development/Expansion of Works in Telecom Sector in WB

6785. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of works done during the last three years in the rural and urban areas of West Bengal with regard to development, expansion and upgradation of the telecom sector;

(b) whether the said works in regard to the telecom sector are moving at a very slow pace in the rural areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The details of works done during the last three years in the rural and urban areas of West Bengal with regard to development, expansion and upgradation of the telecom sector are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. For development of network in the rural remote areas, following steps are being taken:

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

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

(iii) BSNL is deploying its mobile network in all the Highways, important towns, pilgrim centers and State Highways giving incidental coverage to large parts of rural areas.

(iv) 1,07,200 Direct Exchange Lines (DELs), 400 Rural Community Phones (RCPs) and replacement of 8939 Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) Village Public Telephones (VPTs) have been planned by BSNL in rural areas of West Bengal during the year 2005-06.

Statement

Details of works done during the last three years in the rural and urban areas of West Bengal with regard to development, expansion and upgradation of the telecom sector

Sl.No.	Work Item		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2		3	4	5
DEVELOPMENT					
I.	**West Bengal (excluding Kolkata)**				
1.	New Telephone Exchange	Urban	12	4	6
		Rural	68	12	14
2.	OFC (RKMs)		2805.143	1022.577	505.8
3.	Broadband Connections	Urban	—	—	24

1	2		3	4	5
4.	WLL Connections	Urban	295	1181	3628
		Rural	18028	6497	23015
5.	Cellular Connections	Urban	66727	87354	104721
II.	**Kolkata**				
1.	New Telephone Exchange	Urban	127	44	27
2.	OFC (RKMs)		554.889	327.573	616.251
3.	Broadband Connections	Urban	—	—	5043
4.	WLL Connections	Urban	2454	18932	937
4.	Cellular Connections	Urban	30244	7242	222613
EXPANSION					
I.	**West Bengal (excluding Kolkata)**				
1.	Expansion of WLL Capacity	Urban	719	1780	720
		Rural	17235	42720	17280
2.	Expansion of Cellular Capacity	Urban	37500	95190	99768
II.	**Kolkata**				
1.	Expansion of WLL Capacity	Urban	11500	29500	4400
2.	Expansion of Cellular Capacity	Urban	15000	30000	246400
UPGRADATION:					
I.	**West Bengal (excluding Kolkata)**				
1.	SBM to RSU conversion		39	187	74
2.	C 256 conversion to AN-RAX		0	304	514
II.	**Kolkata**		—	—	—

There are no SBM and C-DOT telephone exchanges in Kolkata Telecom District, therefore, there is no conversion of telephone exchanges since 2002.

Widening and Repair of National Highways in Bihar

6786. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the National Highways in Bihar where works for their widening, extension and repair have been started since February, 2002 till date and the time by which the said works are likely to be started in the remaining National Highways passing through Bihar; and

(b) the details of estimated expenditure and the actual amount spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Since February, 2002, the improvement, maintenance and repair works on different stretches of all the National Highways (NH) except for the recently declared NHs (No. 57-A, 28-B & 110) has been taken up under different schemes of widening, strengthening, improvement of riding quality, four

lane divided carriage way, reconstruction and rehabilitation or bridges, periodical renewal, flood damage repair etc., depending upon the *inter-se* priority and availability of funds. As regards the works on the remaining three National Highways, it is too early to indicate the date of start for improvement works because Detailed Project Report (DPR) for NH-57-A is under progress and provision of DPR for NH-28-B and 110 has been included in the current year Annual Plan. During the last four years, improvement works amounting to Rs. 435.06 Crores have been sanctioned on different stretches of National Highways in Bihar by the Ministry under aforesaid schemes, apart from the allocation of routine maintenance of National Highways and an expenditure of Rs. 388.56 Crores has been incurred since 2001-02. Besides, the development works amounting to Rs. 1324.45 Crores have been awarded by the National Highways Authority of India for four laning under National Highway Development Project, Phase-I & II, out of which an expenditure of Rs. 925.36 Crores has been incurred.

[English]

Establishment of Nursing Colleges

6787. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Nursing Colleges opened in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to open Nursing Colleges in the States during the current year;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As per information received from the Indian Nursing Council 364 Nursing Colleges have been permitted by it during the period 2002 to 2005. The state-wise breakup is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) The Government of India has no proposal to open Nursing Colleges in the States during the current year. However, it has provided one time assistance of Rs. 1.5 Crores, for upgrading the Schools of Nursing into College of Nursing, to each of the following seven states during the year 2004-05:

(i) Andhra Pradesh

(ii) Karnataka

(iii) Mizoram

(iv) Maharashtra

(v) Orissa

(vi) Tamil Nadu

(vii) West Bengal.

Statement

State-wise list of Nursing Colleges permitted by the Indian Nursing Council during the period 2002 to 2005

Sl.No.	Name of the States/ Union Territory	2002	2003	2004	2005	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4	29	30	8	71
2.	Assam	—	1	—	—	1
3.	Chhattisgarh	—	2	1	3	6
4.	Delhi	—	1	—	—	1
5.	Gujarat	—	—	2	—	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Haryana	—	1	1	—	1
7.	Karnataka	2	25	99	36	163
8.	Kerala	2	—	6	32	40
9.	Madhya Pradesh	1	3	10	1	15
10.	Maharashtra	—	1	5	1	7
11.	Orissa	—	—	4	1	5
12.	Pondicherry	—	2	3	—	5
13.	Punjab	1	7	4	1	13
14.	Rajasthan	1	—	—	2	3
15.	Tamil Nadu	3	10	6	5	24
16.	Uttar Pradesh	—	1	1	—	2
17.	Uttaranchal	—	—	1	—	1
18.	West Bengal	—	—	2	1	3
	Total	14	83	175	92	364

[Translation]

STD Facility in Taluka Headquarters

6788. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Taluka or Tehsil Headquarters in Gujarat where telephone centers with STD facility is available and the names thereof;

(b) the number of such Talukas in the State where such facility is not available and the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The total number of Taluka Headquarters in Guajrat is 226 and all the 226 Taluka Headquarters are having telephone exchanges with STD facility. The names of Taluka Headquarters are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Statement

Names of Taluka Headquarters in Gujarat

Sl.No.	Name of Taluka Headquarters
1	2
1.	Ahmedabad
2.	Ahwa
3.	Amirgadh
4.	Amod
5.	Amreli
6.	Anand
7.	Anjar
8.	Anklav

1	2
9.	Ankleswsar
10.	Babra
11.	Bagasara
12.	Balasinor
13.	Bansda
14.	Bardoli
15.	Bavla
16.	Bayad
17.	Becharaji
18.	Bhabhar
19.	Bhachau
20.	Bhanvad
21.	Bharuch
22.	Bhatia
23.	Bhavnagar
24.	Bhesan
25.	Bhiloda
26.	Bhuj
27.	Borsad
28.	Botad
29.	Cambay
30.	Chanasma
31.	Chikhli
32.	Chorasi
33.	Chota Udepur
34.	Chotila
35.	Dabhoi
36.	Dadra Nagar Haveli (Silvasa)
37.	Dahod

1	2
38.	Daman
39.	Danta
40.	Dantiwada
41.	Daskroi
42.	Dediapada
43.	Deesa
44.	Dehgam
45.	Detroj
46.	Devgadhbaria
47.	Dhandhuka
48.	Dhanera
49.	Dhanpur
50.	Dhansura
51.	Dharampur
52.	Dhari
53.	Dholka
54.	Dhoraji
55.	Dhamgadhra
56.	Dhrol
57.	Diodar
58.	Diu
59.	Diwada Colony
60.	Dwarka
61.	Fatehpura
62.	Fort Songadh
63.	Gandevi
64.	Gandhidham
65.	Gandhinagar
66.	Gariadhar

1	2
67.	Ghadhada
68.	Ghogha
69.	Godhra
70.	Gohamba
71.	Gondal
72.	Gorbada
73.	Halvad
74.	Hansot
75.	Harij
76.	Himatnagar
77.	Holol
78.	Idar
79.	Jafrabad
80.	Jalalpur
81.	Jambughoda
82.	Jambusar
83.	Jamjodhpur
84.	Jamkandorna
85.	Jamnagar
86.	Jasdan
87.	Jetpur
88.	Jhagadia
89.	Jodia
90.	Junagadh
91.	K. Mandvi
92.	Kadi
93.	Kalavad
94.	Kalol
95.	Kamrej
96.	Kapadwanj
97.	Kaprada
98.	Kathlal
99.	Kawant
100.	Keshod
101.	Khambha
102.	Khambhalia
103.	Khanpur (Bakor)
104.	Kheda
105.	Khedbrahma
106.	Kheralu
107.	Killapardi
108.	Kodinar
109.	Kolol (Derol)
110.	Kotda Sangani
111.	Kutiyana
112.	Lakhapar (Dayapar)
113.	Lakhtar
114.	Lalpur
115.	Lathi
116.	Liliya
117.	Limbdi
118.	Limkheda
119.	Lodhika
120.	Lunawada
121.	M.M. Mangrol
122.	Mahuda
123.	Mahuva
124.	Mahuva (BV)

1	2
125.	Maliahatina
126.	Maliyamiyana
127.	Malpur
128.	Manavadar
129.	Mandal
130.	Mandvi
131.	Mangrol
132.	Mansa
133.	Matar
134.	Meghraj
135.	Mehsana
136.	Memdabad
137.	Mendarda
138.	Miyagam
139.	Modasa
140.	Morbi
141.	Morwa
142.	Muli
143.	Mundra
144.	Nadiad
145.	Nakhatrana
146.	Naliya
147.	Naswadi
148.	Navsari
149.	Nizar
150.	Olpad
151.	Paddhari
152.	Padra
153.	Palanpur

1	2
154.	Palitana
155.	Palsana
156.	Patan
157.	Patdi
158.	Pavijetpur
159.	Petlad
160.	Porbandar
161.	Prantij
162.	Radhanpur
163.	Rahpar
164.	Rajkot
165.	Rajpipla
166.	Rajula
167.	Ranavav
168.	Ranpur (AM)
169.	Sagbara
170.	Sami
171.	Sanand
172.	Sankheda
173.	Santalpur
174.	Santrampur
175.	Satlasna
176.	Saverkundla
177.	Savli
178.	Sayla
179.	Sehra
180.	Sidhpur
181.	Sihor
182.	Sihori

1	2
183.	Sinor
184.	Sojitra
185.	Surat
186.	Sutarpada
187.	Talaja
188.	Talala
189.	Talod
190.	Tankara
191.	Tarapur
192.	Tharad
193.	Thasra
194.	Tilakwada
195.	Ucchal
196.	Umargaon
197.	Umarpada
198.	Umrala
199.	Umreth
200.	Una
201.	Unjha
202.	Upleta
203.	Vadgam
204.	Vadia
205.	Vadnagar
206.	Vadodara
207.	Vagara
208.	Valia
209.	Valiabhipur
210.	Valod
211.	Vallabhipur
212.	Vanthli
213.	Veraval
214.	Vijapur
215.	Vijaynagar
216.	Viramgam
217.	Vimpur
218.	Visavadar
219.	Visnagar
220.	Vyara
221.	Wadali
222.	Wadhwan
223.	Waghodia
224.	Wankaner
225.	Wav
226.	Zalod

[English]

Reduction in Tariff

6789. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to reduce the tariff of rural telephones/PCOs particularly in hilly and inaccessible areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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. At present there is no such proposal.

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

(c) The Public Sector Undertaking Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) is the main service provider of telecom facilities in the rural areas and its present tariff for rural subscribers including hilly and inaccessible areas is highly subsidized. It is not only below the cost of provision but also below the ceiling prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

The tariff for local PCOs has been recently rationalized with effect from 01.04.2005. Hence further reduction is not possible at present.

Telephone Facilities to Gram Panchayats

6790. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of targets fixed by the Government to provide telephone facilities in Gram Panchayats in the NER during each of the last three years, district-wise; and

(b) the necessary steps being taken by the Government to achieve the target for providing telephones to Gram Panchayats in the NER Sates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The details of targets fixed to provide telephone facilities in Gram Panchayats in the North Eastern Region (NER) during the last three years *i.e.* 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Following steps are being taken to achieve target for providing telephones to remaining accessible, undisturbed, undisputed and inhabited villages with population more than 100 including Gram Panchayats:—

(i) Mobile Switching Centre (MSC) based Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) equipment is being deployed.

(ii) Remote and isolated villages including Gram Panchayats which can not be covered by any terrestrial technologies are planned to be provided with telephones by deployment of Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (DSPTs).

Statement

Details of the Targets fixed to provide Telephone facilities in Gram Panchayats in the North Eastern Region (NER) during the last three years i.e. 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05

Sl.No.	State	Target fixed for providing telephone facility in Gram Panchayats during the years		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	93	32
2.	Assam	150	150	179
3.	Manipur	107	275	213
4.	Meghalaya	9	8	9
5.	Mizoram	130	132	136
6.	Nagaland	89	77	5
7.	Tripura	4	40	75

[Translation]

Telephone Adalats in Orissa

6791. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the dates on which telephone adalats were organized in each district of Orissa during the last two years;

(b) the District-wise number of cases filed in these adalats during the said period;

(c) the district-wise number of cases out of them settled; and

(d) the details of the relief provided to telephone subscribers and the rules to organize 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 the enclosed Statement-I and II.

Statement I

Details of Telephone Adalats held in Orissa during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05

Name of the SSA/Circle office	Dates of holding of Adalats	Number of cases received	Number of cases disposed	Details of relief given in Rs.
1	2	3	4	5
		1.4.2003 to 31.3.2004		
Baripada	9.5.03	0	0	0
	30.7.03	6	6	19,146
	5.11.03	15	15	10,956
	30.12.03	7	7	7,605
	5.2.04	0	0	0
	9.3.04	0	0	0
Berhampur	5.12.03	17	17	1,32,000
	27.3.04	7	7	8,368
Bhawanipatna	28.10.03	19	19	0
Bhubaneswar	10.2.04	20	18	40,431
Bolangir	25.2.04	10	7	2,674
Cuttack	14.11.03	28	27	11,692
Dhenkanal	23.6.03	23	23	500
	10.12.03	13	13	4,000
Keonjhar	10.11.03	17	15	0
Koraput	21.8.03	11	7	5,327

1	2	3	4	5
	14.11.03	18	11	28.940
Rourkela	16.6.03	0	0	0
	28.8.03	12	12	19,645
Sambalpur	4.9.03	10	10	4,834
	20.2.04	14	14	18,080
		1.4.2004 to 31.3.2005		
Balasore	28.7.04	56	56	1,594
	27.09.04	93	93	0
	7.12.04	39	39	0
	29.12.04	18	18	0
	25.1.05	7	7	0
	11.3.05	7	7	2,400
Baripada	19.5.04	6	6	0
	14.7.04	14	14	14,142
	14.9.04	13	13	10,599
	24.11.04	14	14	3,000
	11.1.05	7	7	1,502
	18.2.05	12	12	20,949
Berhampur	27.7.04	9	9	15,051
	29.7.04	8	7	1,508
	5.10.04	7	7	14,490
	22.12.04	9	9	15,631
	17.1.04	6	6	6,083
	2.3.05	12	12	18,078
Bhawanipatna	21.6.04	1	1	0
	15.9.04	8	8	0
	25.11.04	4	4	0
	5.1.05	10	10	0
	31.1.05	16	16	0

1	2	3	4	5
	4.3.05	5	5	0
	24.3.05	6	6	0
Bhubneswar	8.9.04	13	13	46,530
	29.12.04	8	8	2,471
	11.1.05	9	9	4,193
	2.3.05	7	7	7,961
	15.3.05	7	7	2,956
	28.3.05	0	0	0
Bolangir	19.8.04	5	5	0
	27.9.04	0	0	0
	29.11.04	0	0	0
	31.12.04	29	29	0
	8.2.05	0	0	0
	8.3.05	0	0	0
Cuttack	16.6.04	17	17	0
	28.9.04	30	28	14,280
	28.10.04	34	34	50,924
	22.12.04	45	39	11,469
	2.2.05	10	9	9,282
	28.3.05	26	26	47,190
Dhenkanal	31.5.04	25	25	0
	20.7.04	12	12	2,500
	14.10.04	19	19	8,262
	30.11.04	7	7	7,120
	31.1.05	7	7	3,500
	14.3.05	8	8	4,400
Keonjhar	26.6.04	21	21	25,576
	25.9.04	46	43	16,079
	25.11.04	21	21	3,671

1	2	3	4	5
	22.12.04	7	1	0
	5.2.05	28	28	19,097
	5.3.05	20	20	4,710
Koraput	27.7.04	12	8	2,962
	15.9.04	16	16	10,424
	29.10.04	11	7	1,304
	11.1.05	16	8	2,774
	17.2.05	4	4	4,741
	8.3.05	1	1	0
Phulbani	16.6.04	1	1	0
	15.9.04	10	7	81,621
	5.11.04	0	0	0
	29.12.04	3	3	23,075
	10.2.05	0	0	0
	25.3.05	0	0	0
Rourkela	22.7.04	3	3	0
	31.8.04	6	6	465
	15.10.04	4	4	5,984
	16.12.04	9	9	10,214
	25.1.05	3	3	3,650
	25.1.05	5	5	46,366
Sambapur	27.7.04	5	5	13,281
	14.9.03	11	10	0
	3.11.04	5	5	15,468
	13.12.04	0	0	0
	15.1.05	3	3	14,545
	8.3.05	3	3	0

Statement II

No. 12-1/2001-(PG)
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited
(A Government of India Enterprise)
10th floor, Chandralok Building
Janpath, New Delhi-110001

Dated: 22.06.2001

To

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 203.2001

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 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 GCM 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 GCM

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

(ii) List of nominee from BSNL headquarter 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 GCM 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 on GCM 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 in improved. After each Circle level Adalat, the representative from BSNL HQ attending the Adalat shall give a brief (one 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]

Safeguard the Interests of Indigenous SSIs

6792. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

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

(a) whether the foreign goods particularly from China have flooded the Indian markets;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of indigenous small scale industries particularly cottage industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The export-import data for the period between 1999-2000 and 2003-04 indicate that while the exports of India have gone up by 83.9 per cent, the imports have increased by 66.8 per cent. Similarly, India's imports from China have increased from 5,559 crore during 1999-2000 to Rs. 18,625 crore during 2003-04 while the exports from India to China have grown from 2,336 crore in 1999-2000 to Rs. 13,579 crore in 2003-04.

(c) The Government has put in place several measures to help small enterprises, including cottage industries, to become globally competitive. These include schemes/programmes for technology upgradation, development of clusters of such industries, making bank credit of upto Rs. 5 lakh available without collateral, 75 per cent credit guarantee for loans upto to Rs. 25 lakh, creating awareness among these industries regarding export-related issues and sensitizing them to the emerging challenges of trade liberalization, reimbursement of the cost of obtaining ISO 9000/14001 certification upto Rs. 75,000, reimbursement of registration fee upto Rs. 15,000 for adopting bar coding of products, etc.

The Government has also put in place appropriate trade-defence mechanisms, such as import licensing safeguards against surge in imports and anti-dumping measures to provide protection to domestic industries, including small and cottage industries.

Policy for Redressal of Public Grievances

6793. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has adopted a policy for redressal of public grievances, simplification of procedures, monitoring of programmes and other related matters;

(b) if so, the main features of the policy thereof; and

(c) the guidelines issued to the Central Ministries/ Departments and to the States Governments for implementation of the said policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) The Government has issued detailed instructions for prompt redress of public grievances. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances has been issuing guidelines from time to time on simplification of procedures and for effective redress of grievances. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances in consultation with National Informatics Centre (NIC) has designed a Public Grievances Redress and Monitoring System (PGRAMS) for effective monitoring of redress of grievances in Ministries/Departments of Government of India.

(b) The main feature of the policy for redress of public grievances is the decentralized system of handling of grievances, which consist of strengthening the internal redress machinery and introduction of inbuilt mechanisms to handle the grievances within each Ministry/Department. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances mainly concentrates on framing of policy guidelines, monitoring of implementation of guidelines issued by the Department from time to time and

functioning of PGRAMS. The Department in its capacity as a nodal agency for matters relating to redress of public grievances, acts as an external monitoring agency and reviews periodically the performance of Ministries/ Departments with respect to public grievances. The Department has also requested all Ministries/Departments to nominate nodal officers, to concentrate on the grievance prone areas identified to simplify the procedures and for keeping one meeting less day in a week to hear the general public.

(c) The guidelines issued to the Central Ministries/ Departments and to the State Governments for implementation of the said policy and for close monitoring of the grievance redress mechanism have been compiled in the publication of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances titled 'Guidelines for Grievance Redress Mechanism in Government of India'.

Setting up of Cyber Regulation Appellate Tribunals

6794. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up Cyber Regulation Appellate Tribunals;

(b) if so, the number of Tribunals so far set up by the Government; and

(c) the number of cases referred to these Tribunals and the cases settled so far by these Tribunals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Cyber Regulation Appellate Tribunals (CRAT) has not been set up so far.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Four Laning of N.H. 23

6795. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the heavy traffic on National Highway No. 23;

(b) whether the section from Rourkela to Banarpal of N.H. 23 requires four laning; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) There is heavy traffic in a few sections of NH 23. Due to limitation of financial resources and priority of other development works on National Highways, four-laning of National Highways is taken up in phases. Presently, priority for NH 23 is to develop it to two lane NH standard.

Coal Linkage to Sova Ispat

6796. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sova Ispat an industry situated at Baukura district of West Bengal has been waiting for coal linkage for years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the coal linkage will be granted to the said industry?

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) Coal linkages for sponge iron units are considered and approved by the Standing Linkage Committee for Sponge Iron Units and Ferro Alloys Units functioning in the Ministry of Steel based on the priority of the consumers and availability of coal. The Ministry of Coal gives only coal availability report to the Ministry of Steel for their consideration. The request of M/s Sova Ispat Limited was forwarded by the Ministry of Steel in October, 2004 to the Ministry of Steel for their consideration. The request of M/s Sova Ispat Limited was forwarded by the Ministry of Steel in October, 2004 to the Ministry of Coal for indicating coal availability. Linkages are granted subject to fulfilment of eligibility by consumers and availability of coal at the particular source.

Vacant Posts of Stenographers

6797. SHRI PARAS NATH YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3946 dated 20th April, 2005 and state:

(a) the reasons for filling up only 5 posts in respect of Scheduled Caste out of a total of 47 posts during the last three years in Grade C Stenographers in the Ministry;

(b) the number of posts filled through Direct Recruitment during the last three years, particularly of Scheduled Castes;

(c) the number of vacancies likely to be filled through Direct Recruitment of Grade C Stenographers and Grade D Stenographers, particularly of Scheduled Castes in the current year;

(d) the details of proposals for Special Recruitment Drive for filling these backlog vacancies;

(e) the number of vacancies indented to SSC for recruitment through this drive, particularly of Scheduled Castes; and

(f) the time by when these vacancies are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) Reservation position is determined according to extant guidelines of the Department of Personnel & Training, based on which the prescribed percentage of reservation for Scheduled Castes was reached by filling 5 reserved posts in Grade C Stenographers during the last three years.

(b) A total of 6 posts of Grade C Stenographers were filled through Direct Recruitment during the last three years. As the prescribed number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes had already been met, no additional posts were reserved for Scheduled Castes during this period. No Direct Recruitment of Grade D Stenographers was made during the last three years.

(c) In Grade C Stenographers, the actual number of vacancies to be filled through Direct Recruitment in the current year will be determined by the Department Screening Committee for Optimization of Direct Recruitment, which has been set up in accordance with the directive of the Department of Personnel & Training vide their OM. No. 2/8/2001-PIC dated May 16, 2001. Even assuming that all the vacancies that are expected to arise in this Grade during the current year are approved for filling through Direct Recruitment by this Committee, no vacancy is expected to be reserved for Scheduled Castes as the number of posts filled by reservation for Scheduled Castes already meets the prescribed number of posts to be reserved for Scheduled Castes. No vacancy in Grade D Stenographers is expected to be filled through Direct Recruitment in the current year.

(d) to (f) There is no backlog Scheduled Castes vacancy for Direct Recruitment, either in Grade C Stenographers or in Grade D Stenographers.

However, in Grade C Stenographers, there are 2 unfilled Scheduled Caste vacancies, which pertain only to the current year. Of these, 1 vacancy is to be filled by Departmental Promotional during the year. Appropriate action is being taken in this regard. The other vacancy is to be filled through Limited Departmental Examination, for which indent has already been placed with the Staff Selection Commission. The post will be filled as soon as a suitable candidate is recommended by the Staff Selection Commission.

In Grade D Stenographers, there are 6 backlog Scheduled Caste vacancies, which are to be filled through Limited Departmental Examination. These vacancies have already been indented regularly with the Staff Selection Commission. Ministry is awaiting recommendation of candidates by the Commission and as soon as suitable candidate are recommended, these posts would be filled.

Outstanding Amount

6798. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the outstanding amount to be recovered by the BSNL from the private service providers in respect of infrastructure and ADC charges as on date;

(b) the circle-wise and company-wise break up of above mentioned amount during each of the last three years;

(c) the reasons for accumulation of amount;

(d) whether any responsibility has been fixed in this regard;

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the BSNL against the authorities found responsible; and

(f) the steps taken to recover the aforesaid amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) As on 31.01.2005 an amount of Rs. 900 crore is pending to be recovered by BSNL from the private service providers in respect of IUC charges including infrastructure and ADC charges etc.

(b) The Circle-wise and WLL, ILD and Basic Operator-wise details of the above amount are given in the enclosed Statement. Company-wise break up of the same is not readily available and is being called for from the Circles.

(c) The recovery of dues from the Private Operators is an ongoing and continuous process. The cumulative outstanding at the end of Jan, 2005 was Rs. 900 crore some of these bills raised by BSNL on the Private Operators are disputed resulting in the accumulation of outstanding amount.

(d) The delay is due to dispute raised by the Private Operators. Constant efforts are being made by Circles to recover the dues.

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

(f) The performance of Circle in the matter of realisation of dues from the Private Operators is constantly reviewed at BSNL HQ. The review reports are also sent to the Heads of Circles for taking appropriate action, within the framework of relevant Interconnect Agreement, aimed to realise the unpaid arrears from Private Operators.

Statement

Circle-wise, Operator-wise and Year-wise Outstanding details of IUC Charges

(In thousand of Rupees)

Name of the Circle	BASIC/WLL Operator				Cellular Operators				ILD/NLD Operators				Grand Total
	upto 2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 [upto Jan. 05]	Total	upto 2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 [upto Jan. 05]	Total	upto 2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 [upto Jan. 05]	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Andaman and Nicobar	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Andhra Pradesh	29424	52264	116527	198215	222	34584	126793	161599	4751	6721	116728	128200	488014
Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bihar	0	0	6782	6782	2069	37603	172858	212530	0	0	1382	1382	220694
Chhattisgarh	6269	2481	25503	34253	2548	605	8561	11714	0	0	9901	9901	55868
Gujarat	0	7700	52560	60260	0	144	38959	39103	0	11113	141191	152304	251667
Haryana	0	8676	32283	40959	0	0	1475	1475	0	0	49352	49352	91786
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	898	898	0	15	78777	78792	0	81	4773	4854	84544
Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jharkhand	0	1326	10760	12086	0	11	9626	9637	0	0	0	0	21723
Karnataka	304	7479	27716	35499	0	1087	33186	34273	0	181	123765	123946	193718
Kerala	0	8360	485069	493429	0	50	13381	13431	0	5253	107067	112320	619180

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Madhya Pradesh	80612	72039	532395	685046	389	13250	215015	228654	0	58260	99325	157585	1071285
Maharashtra	32297	20252	428230	480779	4371	13501	188876	206748	0	102791	129601	232392	919919
North East-I	0	0	0	0	0	0	6637	6637	0	0	0	0	6637
North East-II	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orissa	0	8376	28292	36668	0	1618	26013	27631	0	1672	40187	41859	106158
Punjab	6077	20484	49506	76067	1066	199	25618	26883	14	85	39820	39919	142869
Rajasthan	118787	19025	61954	199766	1485	1232	15788	18505	0	2889	41562	44451	262722
Tamil Nadu	6008	58020	250433	314461	0	3050	66908	69958	0	11056	109277	120333	504752
Uttar Pradesh (East)	0	14680	139827	154507	11110	485	11570	23165	0	34368	67812	102180	279852
Uttar Pradesh (West)	0	5276	18825	24101	501	40643	33499	74643	0	791	54569	55360	154104
Uttaranchal	0	485	14	499	89	0	4762	4851	0	0	3669	3669	9019
West Bengal	0	5526	42993	48519	0	1627	19303	20930	0	0	10401	10401	79850
Kolkata T.D.	0	0	882002	882002	0	0	45802	45802	0	29521	412964	442485	1370289
Chennai T.D.	0	7824	324372	332196	912	2971	24344	28227	487	18132	231768	250387	610810
Northern Telecom Region	0	568	85954	86522	0	0	185	185	7930	28862	541407	578199	664906
Southern Telecom Region	0	0	67703	67703	0	0	30144	30144	0	0	320707	320707	418554
Eastern Telecom Region	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Western Telecom Region	0	0	36381	36381	0	0	258382	258382	0	0	77245	77245	372008
Total	279778	320841	3706979	4307598	24762	152675	1456462	1633899	13182	311776	2734473	3059431	9000928

[Translation]

Constitution of Telephone Advisory Committee

6799. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telephone Advisory Committee has been constituted in Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the said committee is likely to be constituted in Haridwar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Telephone Advisory Committee (TACs) in all the six Telecom Districts in Uttaranchal State have been constituted. These are:—

(i) Dehradun
(ii) Almora
(iii) Nainital
(iv) Uttarkashi
(v) Kotdwar
(vi) Haridwar

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

Fake Passports

6800. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several cases of fake passports have come to the notice of the Government;

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

(c) if so, the number of persons and fake companies found involved therein alongwith the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) There have been some cases of forgeries and photo-substitutions in the passports;

(b) and (c) Necessary action in this regard is taken by investigating and state police authorities. Several cases of arrests have been reported recently.

Supply of Coal to Aluminium Companies

6801. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether supply of coal to Aluminium companies has been reduced during the last three years;

(b) if so, the impact of this reduction on the production of Aluminium during the above period; and

(c) the steps taken to increase supply and coal to aluminium companies?

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) No, Sir. The trend of supply of coal to Aluminium companies (Aluminium CPP & Aluminium Priority) has shown a steady increase during the last three years and there was no production loss of Aluminum on this count.

[English]

Shortage of Explosives

6802. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether collieries are facing shortage of explosives that may lead to drop in coal production;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to provide adequate explosives of the coal companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) There is no shortage of explosives at present in the mines of Coal India Limited.

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

(c) Necessary steps have been taken by Coal India Limited to provide adequate supply of explosives to its subsidiary companies.

Empanelled Private and Diagnostic Centres

6803. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government had empanelled a number of private hospitals and other diagnostic centres and their number increased from 34 in 2000 to 101 till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some of the hospitals have since been de-empanelled;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the details of hospitals and diagnostic centres that have been de-empanelled during each of the last three years and the current year; and

(f) the details of empanelled hospitals that have been referred to the CBI for investigation alongwith the action taken against the Government officials found involved in irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The total number of private hospitals/diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS in various cities has increased from 242 in 1996-1997 to 708 as on date per details given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Two hospitals have been derecognised/de-empanelled so far from the list of CGHS recognised hospitals as given below:—

(i) Millennium Hospitals, Pusa Road, New Delhi.

(ii) P.R.S. Hospital, Trivandrum

(d) A Standing Committee under Dte. GHS was constituted to review the referral system and appropriateness/treatment given by the private hospitals/ diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS Delhi. The Committee observed the following irregularities leading to the derecognition of Millennium Hospital, Pusa Road, New Delhi in March, 2005:—

(i) Patients kept in ICU/ICCU without justification.

(ii) Gross error in billing

(iii) Unrelated and irrelevant investigations done

(iv) Intentional hiking of bills

As regards, de-recognition/de-empanelment of PRS hospital, Trivandrum in April, 2005, the Medical Team constituted for the purpose had found that the hospital had made lapses in providing treatment to the beneficiary thereby violating the provisions of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

(e) No CGHS recognised private hospital/diagnostic centre was derecognised during the last three year, even though referrals have been stopped in regard to some hospitals. However, two private hospitals as stated in (c) above have been derecognised/de-empanelled from CGHS during the year 2005.

(f) Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

List showing number of Private Hospitals/Diagnostic Centres Recognized in various CGHS Cities

Sl.No.	Name of CGHS City	1996-1997 No. of Hospitals/ diagnostic centers	2003-2005 No. of Hospitals/ diagnostic centers
1.	Ahmedabad	02	06
2.	Allahabad	05	25
3.	Chennai	20	41
4.	Hyderabad	23	81
5.	Jabalpur	20	48
6.	Jaipur	10	35
7.	Kanpur	17	46
8.	Meerut	09	37
9.	Mumbai	07	23
10.	Trivandrum	00	12
11.	Patna	10	34
12.	Ranchi	03	07
13.	Lucknow	08	21
14.	Pune	27	67
15.	Delhi	24	94
16.	Bangalore	16	51
17.	Kolkata	15	31
18.	Nagpur	26	49
	Total	242	708

Promotion of Letrozole

6804. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Letrozole was promoted and marketed by M/s Sun Pharmaceutical Industries without obtaining prior permission from Drug Controller General of India and violation Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether clinical trial of this drug in infertility cases was conducted on a large number of women; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Drug Regulatory Authority had approved marketing of Letrozole by M/s. Sun Pharmaceuticals on 28th June 2001, and by a few other firms, as second line treatment of advanced Breast Cancer in women. Since, no approval was issued for its use as fertility drug, the firm was issued a notice on 25.9.2003, to explain about their alleged promotion of Lertozole as a fertility drug.

The firm explained that they did not make any, specific claim about its use in fertility in the label of their product. However, based on the articles published in International Medical Journals about beneficial use of letrozole in fertility enhancement, the gynecologists in the country have used it for their patients. The firm was however 'Warned' not to engage in any promotional activity, which leads to off-lable use of anti-cancer drug letrozole for fertility enhancement.

Letrozole, which was developed as inhibitor of estrogen synthesis is reported to have been used by some Gynecologists in developed countries for treatment of infertility, and such studies have been published. Reports about the drug affects on the health of women have not come to notice.

Experts consulted in the matter had opined that aromatase inhibitors like Letrozole have been used for ovulation induction and the drug is well tolerated.

[Translation]

Investigation by CBI against CIL

6805. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has investigated the functioning of Coal India Limited;

(b) if so, the aspects investigated and the facts which came to light so far;

(c) whether there is any proposal to launch a drive against the corruption and alleged irregularities prevailing in the coal department;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Coal India Limited has no information regarding any investigation by Central Bureau of Investigation into the functioning of CIL.

(c) to (e) Any allegation of corruption and irregularity is got looked into by the Ministry. The complaints are investigated through the Chief Vigilance Officers of the companies. Advice of Central Vigilance Commission is also obtained in case any of the officers involved come in their jurisdiction.

[English]

Annual Leather Research Industry Get-Together

6806. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Annual Leather Research Industry Get-together (LERIG) was held in Chennai as appeared in the *Hindu* dated January 29, 2005;

(b if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome 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. Annual Leather Research Institute Get-together (LERIG) was held from 28th January to 30th January, 2005 at Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai.

(b) and (c) LERIG 2005 started with B.M. Das Oration Lecture by Dr. Campbell T. Page from TFL Leather Technology Ltd. Switzerland while the summary; LERIG 2005 was conducted by Director, CLRI, Chennai. The LERIG 2005 was also addressed by a host of other prominent speakers. The major recommendations of LERIG were:

(i) Launching of footwear mission with a goal to gain 5% of global footwear trade in value by 2010 to be implemented through an industry driven and institutional mechanism, which includes alliances with market leaders.

(ii) Hold workshops in Taiwan and Europe with a view to attract investors and partners in Indian footwear industry.

(iii) Tannery sector should be leveraged to gain sustainability of the footwear industry.

Lack of Dialysis Machines in Government Hospitals

6807. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government hospitals in Delhi particularly Safdarjung Hospital do not have dialysis machines in adequate number for the benefit of the patients;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total requirements of the dialysis machines and the number actually available in the hospitals; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to procure the machines in adequate number for the benefit of patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) In so far as Safdarjung Hospital is concerned, two dialysis machines are functioning and four additional machines are at an advanced stage of procurement.

In Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital six Haemodialysis machines are available for the benefit of the patients.

[Translation]

BSNL Mobile Towers in UP

6808. SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL mobile towers have been sanctioned at Pihani, Pali, Shawyez in district Hardoi and an Mitouli in district Khiri;

(b) if so, the time by which they are likely to start functioning;

(c) whether the G.M. Telephone district Khiri is planning to install the sanctioned Mitouli Mobile Tower at Uchouliya whereas Uchouliya is hardly 8 kms. from Jung Bhadur Ganj Tower and the mobile service is available up to there;

(d) whether there is any proposal to issue any direction to erect the said tower at Mitouli in public interest; and

(e) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has planned provision of Mobile Services at Pihani, Pali and Shawyezpur (District Hardoi) and services are likely to be available during current year. However, mobile services have not been planned at Mitouli in District Lakhimpur (Khiri).

(c) No, Sir. The mobile radio station planned at Uchouliya is to provide proper coverage to a stretch of National Highway NH-24 between J.B. Nagar and Shajahanpur.

(d) and (e) The provision of mobile service at Mitouli is to be decided based on business and commercial viability.

[English]

Purchase of Gas Masks

6809. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. had purchased about 30,000 gas masks technically called "filter Self Rescuers at a cost of Rs. 5 crore which were later found to be faulty;

(b) if so, whether such gas masks were purchased after proper test; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Thirty thousand (30,000) filter self rescuers approved by Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) were procured in 1996-97 and put into use. However, in 1998, as per advice of DGMS, these were withdrawn from use and after sample testing at Central Mining Research Institute, Dhanbad, all these thirty thousand self rescuers have again been put into use in 1999 on the basis of satisfactory test results.

(c) Not applicable in view of reply given to parts (a) & (b) abuse.

Telephone Connections under Privilege Quota

6810. SHRI SURAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the terms and conditions for telephone connections under the privileges quota;

(b) the time limit fixed for providing telephone connection under MPs quotas and action taken against officers in case of failure; and

(c) the details of telephone connections regarding date of recommendation, date of connection, date of registration on priority basis in telecommunication districts of Begusarai, Khagraia and Samastipur in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the terms and conditions for telephone connections under privilege quota of MPs are as under:

(i) Every Member of Parliament is entitled for out of turn quota of 100 telephone connections in a calendar year. M.P.s who are Members of the Consultative Committee for Ministry of Communications or of the Standing Committee on Information Technology are, however, entitled for a quota of 200 telephone connections in a calendar year.

(ii) An M.P. can recommend provision of out of turn telephones in the area as under:

(1) Lok Sabha MP—within his/her Parliamentary Constituency

(2) Rajya Sabha MP—within the State represented by the MP

(3) Nominated MP—anywhere in the country.

(iii) Hon'ble MPs in their recommendation letter are required to give a statement/certificate that the concerned individual is in urgent need of telephone connection.

(iv) The out of turn telephone connection is to be given only to the persons who are included in the current waiting list.

(b) A time limit of 30 days has been prescribed for installation of out of turn telephone connections recommended by Hon'ble MPs from their quota subject to technical feasibility. Constant monitoring at various levels is being done for executing the sanction orders. Normally, provision of such telephones is not delayed except for reasons of technical non-feasibility or subscriber reasons.

(c) The details regarding date of recommendations, date of provision of connection and date of registration on priority basis in respect of connections under M.P. Quota provided during the calendar years 2004 and 2005 (upto 30.4.2005) in the districts of Begusarai, Khagaria and Samastipur in Bihar are given in the enclosed Statement. Details of pending connections as on 30.4.2005 in these districts are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I

Details of no. of cases of OOT Telephones from MP Quota provided during 2004 (Calendar Year) & 2005 (upto 30.4.2005) in Begusarai, Khagaria & Samastipur Telecom Districts

Name of District		Name & address of beneficiary	Date of registration of NTC by the applicant (beneficiary)	Date of receipt of recommendation from M.P.	Date of OOT Sanction	Date of provision of connection
1		2	3	4	5	6
Begusarai	1.	Shri Janardhan Sharma, S/O Late Kailu Sharma VPO: Birpur, Begusarai	22.06.2002	12.12.2004	21.12.2004	17.2.2005
	2.	Shri Madan Kumar Singh, S/O Shri Krishna Mohan Singh, Vill: Phulmallik, S.K. Kamal, Begusarai	21.01.2001	12.12.2004	21.12.2004	20.4.2005
	3.	Smt. Radha Devi W/O Late Anugarh Das Mirzapur, Husaniya, Begusarai	19.01.2002	12.12.2004	21.12.2004	5.3.2005
	4.	Shri Raj Kamal Rajiv Singh, S/O Shri R.P. Singh, VPO: Kummi, Begusarai	31.12.2003	29.12.2004	12.1.2005	15.02.2005
	5.	Shri Rajiv Kumar Paswan, S/O Shri R.K. Paswan, VPO: Khodavan pur, Begusarai	09.11.2002	29.12.2004	12.1.2005	20.12.2004*
	6.	Shri Umesh Sharma S/O Shri Ramashish Sharma, VPO: Kummi, Begusarai	09.11.2002	29.12.2004	12.1.2005	15.02.2005
	7.	Shri Amarjeet Yadav S/O Shri Ram Mohan Yadav, VPO: Kummi, Begusarai	29.09.2004	29.12.2004	12.1.2005	15.02.2005
	8.	Shri Amit Kumar, S/o Shri S.P. Singh, Singh, Malhipur, PO: BTPs, Begusarai	27.03.2004	24.01.2005	25.01.2005	31.01.2005
	9.	Shri Jitendra Pathak, S/o Late Geeta Pathak, Chakbali, Noorpoor Begusarai	05.03.2001	24.01.2005	25.01.2005	21.03.2005
	10.	Shri Nagendra Prasad Singh, S/o Late D.N. Singh, VPO: Maktiyarpur Begusarai	15.12.2003	17.3.2004	26.03.2004	22.03.2004*
	11.	Smt. Gulni Begum, Matihani, Churahi, Begusarai	24.12.2002	29.6.2003	4.7.2003	11.10.2004
	12.	Shri Anup Lal Chauhan, Siraiya, Begusarai	3.1.2001	29.6.2003	4.7.2003	20.3.2004

1		2	3	4	5	6
	13.	Shri Uma Shankar Rastogi, Bari Ballia, Begusarai	3.1.2001	26.12.2003	31.12.2003	23.9.2004
	14.	Shri Ram Sharma, Bishanpur, Begusarai	1.2.2003	26.12.2003	31.12.2003	30.8.2004
	15.	Shri Lalan Pd Singh, Choki, S. Kamal, Begusarai	2.8.1999	29.6.2003	4.7.2003	27.3.2004
	16.	Shri Nand Lal Mahto, VPO: Chouki, Begusarai	9.8.1999	29.6.2003	4.7.2003	29.3.2004
	17.	Shri Jagdish Das, Bindtola S. Kamal, Begusarai	25.5.2001	25.10.2003	29.10.2003	7.3.2004
	18.	Shri Shankar Yadav, Sonbarsa, Pansalla, Begusarai	2.11.2002	25.10.2003	29.10.2003	12.11.2004
	19.	Shri J.N. Yadav, VPO: Kumbhi, Begusarai	14.8.2002	25.10.2003	29.10.2003	10.10.2004
	20.	Shri Rajeev Ranjan, VPO: Kumbhi, Begusarai	11.4.2003	26.12.2003	31.12.2003	2.8.2004
	21.	Shri Sunil Sah, Vill: Samastipur, Begusarai	17.4.2003	26.12.2003	31.12.2003	23.11.2004
	22.	Smt. Renu Kumari, Baraipur, Rahatpur, Begusarai	30.3.2001	26.12.2003	31.12.2003	25.2.2004
	23.	Shri Tarakant Mishra, VPO: Meghaul, Begusarai	20.1.2001	26.12.2003	31.12.2003	7.10.2004
Khagaria	1.	Shri Sudhanshu Kumar S/O Shri Janardhan Yadav VPO: Thatha, Distt: Khagaria	30.06.2004	03.11.2004	11.11.2004	18.12.2004
	2.	Smt. Punam Kumar, W/O Shri Vijay Kr. Yadav, Vill: Ekaniya, PO: Mansi, Khagaria	28.10.2003	03.11.2004	11.11.2004	11.01.2005
	3.	Shri Ugan Deo Kumar S/O Shri Ram Kripal Sah, Vill: Rampur, Distt: Khagaria	27.02.2004	03.11.2004	05.11.2004	20.12.2004
	4.	Shri Sudhir Kumar, S/O Shri Anandi Mandal, Vill: Gamhatta PO: Shergurh, Khagaria	20.11.2000	26.10.2004	01.11.2004	01.01.2005
	5.	Shri Praful Kumar Tiwai, VPO: Kulharia, Khagaria	21.10.2003	5.11.2003	12.11.2003	15.1.2004
	6.	Shri Surendra Pd Singh, Sabalpur, Marar, Khagaria	14.6.2002	29.11.2003	10.12.2003	10.1.2004

1		2	3	4	5	6
	7.	Smt. Aruna Devi, VPO: Balha, Khagaria	29.9.2001	3.3.2003	4.3.2003	29.2.2004
	8.	Shri Kishor Pd Singh, Sabalpur, Marar, Khagaria	4.4.2001	12.11.2003	20.11.2003	10.1.2004
	9.	Shri Jai Prakash Azad, VPO: Rason, Khagaria	11.1.2004,	21.1.2004	29.1.2004	30.12.2004
Samastipur	1.	Shri Upendra Narayan Singh S/O Shri Sant Lal Singh, Parmatma Machinery Stores, Dalsingh Sarai, Samastipur	27.09.2004	30.09.2004	07.10.2004	10.11.2004
	2.	Shri Mahesh Kr. Jha, S/O Late Anirudhlal Jha PO: Harilochapur, Samastipur	31.03.2005	26.10.2004	05.11.2004	27.02.2005
	3.	Shri Faizer Rahman S/O Late Safiur Rahman, VPO: M. Nagar, Distt. Samastipur	13.12.2002	26.10.2004	05.11.2004	27.06.2004*

*Connection provided in the normal course

Statement II

Details of pending cases of OOT Telephones under MP Quota in Begusarai, Khargia & Samastipur Telecom Districts as on 30.04.2005

District		Name of beneficiary	Date of registration of NTC BY beneficiary	Date of receipt of recommendation of M.P.	Date of OOT sanction	Reasons of Pendency
1		2	3	4	5	6
Begusarai	1.	Smt. Parwati Singh W/o Late Ravindra Pd. Singh, Vill: Parvanda, PO Fazilpur, Begusarai	07.08.2004	06.09.2004	10.09.2004	All the connections are beyond 5 km of exchange and are TNF on Landline Applicants have refused to take connection on WLL
	2.	Md. Monazir Alam S/O Md. Majahir Alam VPO: Sanha, Begusarai	07.06.2002	12.12.2004	21.12.2004	
	3.	Shri Vinod Kumar Chaudhary, S/O Shri Moti Lal Pd. Chaudhary	20.01.2004	12.12.2004	21.12.2004	
	4.	Shri Ram Charitra Mahto, S/O Shri Sita Ram Mahto, VPO: Khajhapur, Begusarai	07.10.2003	29.12.2004	12.01.2005	

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Shri Pramod Kumar S/O Shri Shyam Mahto VPO: Kummi, Begusarai	01.10.2002	29.12.2004	12.01.2005	
6.	Shri Ganga Pd. Yadav S/O Late Bilat Pd. Yadav VPO: Bikrampur, BGS	10.02.2002	15.03.2005	16.03.2005	
7.	Shri Kapildeo Thakur S/O Shri Ram Kishore Thakur, Chauki S. Kamal, Begusarai	21.05.2001	15.03.2005	16.03.2005	
8.	Raja Ram Paswan S/O Shri Kusheshwar Paswan, Cheriya Bariarpur, Shripur, BGS	16.06.2004	15.03.2005	16.03.2005	
9.	Shri Kamal Kishore Singh, S/O Ramakant Singh VPO: Khanjahapur, Begusarai	15.03.2002	15.03.2005	16.03.2005	
10.	Shri Manoj Kumar, S/o Shri Asharfi Ram, Khanjhapur, Begusarai	18.12.2003	15.03.2005	16.03.2005	
11.	Shri Manoj Kumar, S/o Shri Asharfi Ram, Khanjhapur, Begusarai	18.12.2003	15.03.2005	16.03.2005	
12.	Md. Mashur Ansari, Bariyarpur, Begusarai	10.12.2003	15.03.2005	16.03.2005	
13.	Shri Rajesh Kumar, Bahadurpur, Ramur, Begusarai	2.08.2004	24.01.2005	25.01.2005	
14.	Shri Raju Kumar, Near Prakash Dry Cleaners, Begusarai	10.03.2005	30.03.2005	1.04.2005	
15.	Shri Manoj Kumar, Ratanpur, Begusarai	19.03.2005	30.03.2005	1.04.2005	
16.	Shri Saroj Kumar, At: Haritola Rahimur, Begusarai	4.6.2001	29.6.2003	4.7.2003	
17.	Shri Shyam Kishor Singh, Sokhara, Barauni Begusarai	2.1.2002	29.6.2003	4.7.2003	
18.	Shri Ram Krishna Das, Vill: Mosadpur, Torath Begusarai	11.2.2003	29.6.2003	4.7.2003	
19.	Shri Suresh Kr. Suman, Pimagar Gamharia, Begusarai	11.7.2001	29.6.2003	4.7.2003	

1		2	3	4	5	6
	20.	Shri Pankaj Kumar, Sanha Naya Tola, Begusarai	18.12.2000	29.6.2003	4.7.2003	
	21.	Shri Raj Kumar Poddar, Karaiya, Begusarai	28.1.2001	29.6.2003	4.7.2003	
	22.	Shri Kedar Jha, VPO Pabra, Begusarai	15.6.2002	29.6.2003	4.7.2003	
	23.	Shri Randhir Kumar Yadav, Sakara, Rajour, Begusarai	30.8.2001	29.6.2003	4.7.2003	
	24.	Shri Kamal Kishor Prasad, VPO: Maheshpur, Begusarai	25.4.2001	25.10.2003	29.10.2003	
	25.	Shri Jogendra Mahto, VPO: Tarabariyarpur, Begusarai	25.4.2001	25.10.2003	29.10.2003	
	26.	Shri Ramasish Yadav, VPO: Kumbhi, Begusarai	29.4.1999	25.10.2003	29.10.2003	
	27.	Md. Asharf, Kamal Madarsa Tola, Meghaul Begusarai	23.09.2003	26.12.2003	31.12.2003	
	28.	Shri Manoj Kumar, Bhakhada, Chhourahi, Begusarai	23.9.2003	26.12.2003	31.12.2003	
	29.	Shri Ratan Kumar, VPO: Bhapot, Begusarai	15.3.2002	26.12.2003	31.12.2003	
	30.	Shri Yashwant Kumar, VPO: Kumbhi, Begusarai	05.11.2003	26.12.2003	31.12.2003	
	31.	Shri Ram Milan Sah, VPO: Akopur, Begusarai	20.10.2003	26.12.2003	31.12.2003	
	32.	Shri Bangali Pd. Yadav, Phulwaiya, Begusarai	14.12.2002	26.12.2003	31.12.2003	
	33.	Shri Amrendra Kumar, Gyantola, S. Kamal BGS	11.12.2002	26.12.2003	31.12.2003	
	34.	Shri Krishna Kumar Verma, VPO: Khodawanpur, BGS	26.10.2001	26.12.2003	31.12.2003	
Khagaria	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	
Samastipur	1.	Shri Sandeep Saran Pheria VPP: Baini, Samastipur	08.11.2001	31.01.2002	07.02.2002	
	2.	Smt. Suraj Kala Devi VPO: Baini, Samastipur	28.11.2001	31.01.2002	07.02.2002	

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Smt. Renu Devi, VPO: Ujiyarpur, Samastipur	19.03.2001	31.01.2002	07.02.2002	
4.	Smt. Sudama Devi, VPO: Akdaur, Samastipur	07.08.2001	31.01.2002	07.02.2002	
5.	Shri Rajiv Kumar Ray, Hanuman Nagar, Mohiddin Nagar, Samastipur	07.08.2001	31.01.2002	07.02.2002	
6.	Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh, Jitwarpur, Samastipur	26.08.2002	24.09.2002	27.09.2002	
7.	Shri Rajeev Ranjan Bhudhania, Dhurlak, Samastipur	18.12.2002	29.04.2003	01.05.2003	
8.	Shri Ram Kr. Singh, Ramchandraur, Samastipur	19.8.2002	21.10.2003	29.10.2003	
9.	Shri Krishnadeo Singh, Rasalpur, Samastipur	6.5.2002	24.4.2003	1.5.2003	
10.	Shri Ranjeet Kr. Bharti, Balamagh, Samastipur	18.5.2003	16.10.2003	21.10.2003	
11.	Shri Jawahar Mandal Dumra Moha, Rajopur, Samastipur	28.01.1999	01.05.2003	06.05.2003	

Standing Committee for Redressal of Grievances of Officials

6811. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a Standing Committee with a view to suggest systematic changes in dealing with service related grievances of officers and staff below the level of Joint Secretary working in the Central and State Governments as well as PSUs and autonomous organisations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (c) No separate Standing Committee has been constituted with a view to suggest systemic changes in dealing with service related grievances of officers and staff below the level of joint Secretary working in the Central and State Governments as well as PSUs and autonomous organizations.

However, the Establishment Division of Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions had advised all concerned Ministries/Departments that officials could bring their genuine service related grievances to the Establishment Officer. These orders were further reviewed and the Departments concerned were advised that the grievance redressal mechanism at the Establishment Officer level may be confined to the service related issues of officers dealt with the Establishment Officer or by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. The grievances of the personnel working under the administrative control of Ministries/Departments should be dealt with the concerned Ministries themselves.

Affiliation of Medical College

6812. SHRI VENKATESH A. NAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Mysore Medical College, the oldest in Karnataka State, faces the possibility of affiliation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether 46 per cent of the posts of lecturers and professors in fourteen departments are lying vacant;

(d) whether it is feared that the intake of students during 2005-06 is also likely to cone down; and

(e) if so, the concrete 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) to (e) At present no proposal for curtailment of seats at Mysore Medical College is pending with Central Government.

[Translation]

Free Treatment to Poor

6813. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to free several private hospitals from the lease of providing free treatment to the poor;

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

(c) the alternative measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for the poor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Urban Development, Land & Development Office has informed that some hospitals were allotted land in Delhi by Land & Development Office and Delhi Development Authority with the condition of providing free treatment to the poor patients.

There have been violations of the allotment and lease conditions by some hospitals.

A proposal has been mooted for freeing the hospitals from the obligation of free treatment and taking up a health insurance scheme for poor in Delhi. No decision, however, has been taken.

[English]

Number of Beneficiaries in CGHS Dispensaries

6814. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beneficiaries being catered by a single CGHS Dispensary;

(b) the number of beneficiaries attached to the CGHS dispensaries at Ghaziabad, Faridabad and Gurgaon;

(c) the doctor-patient ratio at the above dispensaries; and

(d) the proposal under consideration of the Government to meet the shortfall of doctors and dispensaries in the said areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) On an average, there are 23,591 beneficiaries attached to each of the Allopathic dispensaries under CGHS Delhi.

(b) The number of beneficiaries attached to the CGHS dispensaries at Ghaziabad, Faridabad and Gurgaon are as under:—

Name of dispensary	Total number of beneficiaries
1. Ghaziabad	66,710
2. Faridabad	21,243
3. Gurgaon	34,276

(c) The doctor-patient ratio in the above CGHS dispensaries are as under:—

Name of dispensary	Total number of beneficiaries
1. Ghaziabad	1:121
2. Faridabad	1:53
3. Gurgaon	1:109

(d) Posting of doctors in the above dispensaries depends on the overall availability/strength of doctors under CGHS Delhi. Further, opening of new CGHS dispensaries involves creation of new posts and is subject to availability of resources and inter-se priorities.

[Translation]

Contract Labourers in Coal Mines

6815. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the management of Coal companies including North Eastern Coal Fields Ltd. are getting the production work in the mines under its control done on contract basis;

(b) if so, the number of people working under the contractors and the details of production in the mines during 2004-05;

(c) whether the Government is aware that some of the works done by the contractors fall under the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of action taken or likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) In subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd. barring NCL, certain activities of coal production in some of the open cast mines *i.e.* mechanized extraction, loading and transportation of coal from face to surface and overburden removal are undertaken by hired equipments.

(b) Average number of persons employed by contractor for operation of hired equipments for the above works and details of production of coal (Provisional) by hiring of equipments during 2004-05 in subsidiary companies are as under:—

Company	No. of persons engaged	Production of coal (In Lakh Tonnes)
1	2	3
ECL	338	20.60
BCCL	337	52.23
CCL	172	125.22
WCL	1020	25.22
SECL	1138	591.68
MCL	3623	630.83
NEC	475	4.78
	Total	1450.56

(c) and (d) Hiring of equipments/machineries where the contractor/firm has engaged its own employees for operation of equipments is not covered under the prohibited category as per provision of Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970.

(e) Does not arise in view of the answer given (c) and (d) above.

[English]

Modernisation of BSNL

6816. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to modernize the BSNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide cheapest cellular services in comparison to private cellular services; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Modernization and upgradation is a continuous process in BSNL. Over the years BSNL has taken a number of steps to modernize its network as detailed below:—

(i) All Electromechanical and Analog Exchanges have been converted to Digital Exchanges connected on reliable media.

(ii) The fault prone paper core cable is being replaced by Jelly filled cable and project for rendering the external plant poleless is under execution.

(iii) Extensive use of Wireless in Local Loop Technology (WLL) in urban and rural areas as planned and being implemented to eliminate local line faults for improving services to the customer, and to provide faster and more economic roll out of telecom services.

(iv) Optical fiber technology has been deployed in local and long distance network to provide larger bandwidth and reliable telecom service.

(c) and (d) BSNL's cellular tariff on overall basis is either cheaper or comparable to the tariff of other operators. At present, BSNL has no proposal for further reduction in the tariff.

Visit of UN Rapporteurs

6817. SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is contemplating to give permission to the UN Rapporteurs on Torture and Extra Judicial Killings to visit India;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) Government of India is considering the requests from the Special Rapporteur on Torture and the Special Rapporteur on Extra judicial Killings for visiting India in accordance with the respective mandates of these two Special Rapporteurs.

(c) Does not arise.

Testing Centres of SSIs

6818. SHRI C.H. VIJAYASHANKAR: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Testing Centes (Testing SSI raw-material and finished products) functioning in Karnataka;

(b) the details of year-wise allocation made by the Ministry of Industries of such Centres; and

(c) the total number of such testing centres functioning in the country?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) One Field Testing Station has been set up by the Central Government at Bangalore. Five Testing Centres, one each at Bangalore, Belgaum, Mangalore, Chellakere and Gulbarga, have been set up by the Industries Associations, with financial assistance of the Central Government.

(b) There is no State-wise allocation of funds. However, the Year-wise utilization of the funds made available by the Ministry of Small Scale Industries to these Station and Centres in Karnataka is as follows:

Year	Amount utilized (Rs. lakh)
2000-01	16.25
2001-02	8.92
2002-03	9.85
2003-04	10.00
2004-05	10.70

In addition, during the period 1998-2000, Central grants of Rs. 60 lakh were released to Testing Centres in Karnataka.

(c) Four Regional Testing Centres and seven Field Testing Stations have been set up by the Central Government in the country. In addition, twelve Testing Centres have also been set up with financial assistance of the Central Government. Out of these twelve, five have been set up by the Industry Associations and seven by respective State Governments for modernization of their Quality Marketing Centres.

Phasing out of Mercury Equipments

6819. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that mercury equipment in hospitals may cause serious health problem to the general public if not handled properly and disposed of like general wastes without precaution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is no regulation and safeguards for handling mercury in the hospitals across the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for proper usage and disposal of mercury equipments and its gradual phase out from hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There are no known cases of health problems resulting from the involvement of mercury in hospitals. The breakage of mercury thermometers may lead to spillage of some mercury which is supposed to be collected as a part of the hospitals health and safety practices.

The disposable of mercury bearing waste, irrespective of the source of generation containing mercury and mercury compounds equal to or greater than 50-mg. per kilogram is required of the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules as amended in May 2003.

It is for the State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees to ensure collection/disposal of the mercury/mercury bearing waste in the health care facilities in the respective State/UT as per the provisions of these Rules.

(c) and (d) In so far as the Central Government Hospitals are concerned, they follow the guidelines laid down in the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules as amended in May 2003. The mercury waste generated from the broken thermometer, B.P. apparatus, etc., is collected and recycled. The Mercury thermometers/sphygmomanometers used traditionally for measuring body temperature/blood pressure have been replaced in some countries due to environmental concerns. However, in replacement of these instruments, there are also concerns in many countries about the availability, affordability and accuracy of alternative devices.

[Translation]

Setting up of Vigilance Cells

6820. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the Ministries/Departments of the Government have set up Vigilance Cells to check corruption;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the percentage of CBI personnel in proportion to the total population of the country; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for making Vigilance Commission and the CBI more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) Each Ministry/Department of the Government has its own vigilance set up. The Secretary of the concerned Ministry/Department assisted by the Chief Vigilance Officer has been made directly responsible for ensuring integrity and probity in that Department.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The percentage of CBI personnel in proportion to the total population of the country comes out to be 0.00047 (approx).

(d) The Government has taken various steps to make Central Vigilance Commission and CBI more effective including:—

(i) The Government has enacted the CVC Act, 2003 there by enhancing the power of the Central Vigilance Commission to curb corruption.

(ii) The Central Vigilance Commission has also been given powers to exercise superintendence over CBI in the matter related to corruption so as to ensure that the two agencies work in close coordination for checking corruption.

(iii) The Central Vigilance Commission has also been declared as Designated Agency to look into the complaints made by whistle blowers for effectively checking corruption.

(iv) The CBI selection Board has been set up by the Government to speedily decide about matters related to appointment, extension in tenure etc. of officers working in CBI.

Recognition of Nursing Certificates

6821. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

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

(a) whether the Nursing Certificates issued by the Indian Armed Forces Medical Core are not being recognised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether thousands of persons retiring from Armed Forces Medical Core as Medical Assistants are wandering about in search of job;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to reconsider its decision in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per the information made available by the Indian Nursing Council, the training given to the Nursing Assistants in Army Medical Corps is not equivalent to the General Nursing training given in the civilian side. Therefore, the Nursing Certificate issued by the Army Medical Corps is not recognized by the Indian Nursing Council.

(c) to (e) As per the information made available by the Ministry of Defence on an average 180 Nursing Assistants retire every year. They are issued general proficiency certificates. As both the courses are not equivalent, there is no reason to reconsider the decision.

[English]

Ill Effect of Fructose Corn Syrup

6822. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the high fructose corn syrup found in beverages and soft aerated drinks in particular is playing a major role in increasing the epidemic of obesity which is afflicting a large number of children in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has carried out any research in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) 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) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the high fructose corn syrup provides empty calories. When consumed in excess by the children without adequate physical activities, it may lead to development of overweight and obesity. However, the Council has not carried out any study in this regard.

The Central Government has developed dietary guidelines and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material wherein excess consumption of soft aerated beverages has been discouraged. Since 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.

Conferring Legal Powers on NHAI

6823. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways, Authority of India is helpless even to protect its own property for lack of legal powers;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government is contemplating to equip NHAI with punitive power;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (d) The Government of India has already brought into force with effect from 27.1.2005 "The Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002" which

has adequate provision for removal of encroachments on National Highways land and protection of highway assets.

Improving Medical Facilities at AIIMS

6824. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 130 doctors treat an average of 7,000 patients in the OPD of All India Institute of Medical Sciences of Delhi; and

(b) if so, the steps being contemplated by the Government to improve the medical facilities for the OPD patients at AIIMS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) An average of 5000 to 6000 patients attend general OPD and specialty clinics at AIIMS everyday, besides an average of 400 to 500 patients in the emergency services. The AIIMS is maintaining the required number of doctors, nurses and other staff to maintain fullest required number of doctors, nurses and other staff to maintain fullest patient care services as far as possible. AIIMS is also increasing its infrastructure facilities keeping in view the increasing flow of patients for better patient care. A new air conditioned OPD complex exclusively for Medicine and Pediatrics has also been created. Speciality clinics like Nephrology, Endocrinology, Immunology and Gastroenterology have increased the OPD days. Number of registration counters have been increased to reduce waiting time of patients in OPD.

Production of KVIC

6825. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is fall in production of Khadi and Village industries and sales in Tamil Nadu during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the spinners and weavers of Khadi have lost their jobs in rural areas due to the non-supply of cotton to them;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether proper supervision of Khadi production and sales is done by the State office KVIC at Chennai; and

(f) if not, the reasons for non-supervision or non-monitoring thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The value of production and sales of Khadi and village industries (VI) in Tamil Nadu for the last three years is given below:

(Rs. crore)

Year	Production		Sales	
	Khadi	TV	Khadi	TV
2001-02	54.08	599.62	83.24	705.99
2002-03	59.70	657.74	77.06	813.32
2003-04	54.83	713.66	73.01	883.65

(b) There has been no fall in either production or sales of village industry products. The decline in the production and sales of Khadi was due mainly to liquidity problem in Khadi institutions on account of non-payment of rebate on sales of Khadi, by the State Government.

(c) No, Sir. There was no loss of employment among the spinners and weavers during the period. In addition to the cotton purchases made by the khadi institutions themselves, the two Central Silver Plants at Kuttur in Kerala and Chitradurga in Karnataka have been supplying slivers/rovings to the institutions in Tamil Nadu under a liberal credit supply policy.

(d) In view of reply to (c) above, the question does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir. In addition to the State Office located at Chennai, KVIC has also opened a Divisional Office at Madurai. These help ensure close monitoring of the implementation of programme in the State.

(f) In view of reply to (e) above, the question does not arise.

Alleged Online Crimes

6826. SHRI PRAHLAD JOSHI:
SHRI M. SHIVANNA:

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

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government regarding alleged online crimes being committed;

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

(c) whether any international racket has been found to be involved in the said crimes;

(d) if so, whether the Government has conducted any inquiry into the same;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(f) the regulatory steps taken/likely 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) The number of online cyber crimes registered by CBI and by the National Crimes Record Bureau for the year 2003 are as follows:

No. of online cases registered by CBI	:	26
No. of cyber crimes cases registered under the IT Act (in various States)		56
No. of cyber crime cases registered under the IPC Section (in various States)	:	348

(c) to (e) In some of the cases involvement of international racket has come to the notice of CBI. Chargesheets have been filled.

(f) The Government has conducted several awareness and training programmes on cyber crimes for Law Enforcement Agencies including those on the use of Cyber Forensics Software packages and the associated procedure with it to collect digital evidences from the scene of crime. Special training programmes have also been conducted for Judiciary to train them on the Techno-legal aspects of cyber crimes and on the analysis of digital evidence presented to them.

Moreover, a number of steps have been taken by the Government to fight cyber crimes. It is a coordinated effort on the part of several agencies in the Ministry of Home Affairs and in the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology on an on going basis. The fight against cyber crimes involves Law Enforcement Agencies such as the Central Bureau of Investigation, Intelligence Bureau, State Police organizations and other specialized organizations such as the National Police academy and the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In). CERT-In has a role in developing appropriate Security Guidelines and other best practices to advise the Systems Administrators of computer systems and networks all over the country to implement them so as to avoid the systems from being attacked by the hackers and other criminals. In the event of systems being attacked, CERT-In helps the victim organizations recover their systems from the computer security incidents so as to make them operational at the earliest. Cyber Forensics is an emerging discipline which helps the Law Enforcement organizations collect evidence from the scene of crime. The legal framework for fighting cyber crimes is a part of the Information Technology Act, 2000. Central Bureau of Investigation and other police organizations have set up Cyber Crime Cells with police officers who have been specially trained in cyber forensics and also on IT security matters.

Industrialisation of Villages

6827. SHRI JIVABHAI AMBALAL PATEL:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up door-to-door industries in the rural areas on the pattern of Japan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to industrialise the villages?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government has been implementing the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP), a credit-linked subsidy programme, through the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), throughout the country, to assist eligible applicants in setting up industries in the rural areas and small towns with population upto 20,000. Under this programme, entrepreneurs can establish village industries, by availing of margin money assistance from the KVIC and loans from any public sector scheduled commercial bank, for projects with a maximum cost of Rs. 25 lakh. The permissible margin money assistance is as detailed in the table below:

Margin Money Assistance under REGP

Sl.No.	Category of beneficiary	Project cost	Margin money assistance
1.	General	Upto Rs. 10 lakh	25 per cent of project cost
		Above Rs. 10 lakh and upto Rs. 25 lakh	Rs. 2.5 lakh plus 10 per cent of balance project cost.
2.	SC/ST/OBC/ Women/PC/ Exservicemen/NE Region/Hill Areas	Upto Rs. 10 lakh	30 per cent of project cost
		Above Rs. 10 lakh and upto Rs. 25 lakh	Rs. 3 lakh plus 10 per cent of balance project cost.

Note: SC/ST—Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe: OBC-Other Backward Classes: PC-Physically Challenged; NE—North Eastern

Besides, the Government has also 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 and is implemented through the District Industries Centres of the States and Union Territories, with the loans being provided by banks. Under the PMRY, projects costing upto Rs. 1 lakh for business sector and upto Rs. 2 lakh in other sectors are eligible for assistance, with the subsidy being limited to 15 per cent of the project cost, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 7,500/-. Eligible persons can join together in a partnership to get assistance for projects upto Rs. 10 lakh. The margin money contribution from the beneficiary varies from 5 per cent to 16.25 per cent of the project cost so as to make the sum of the Government subsidy and beneficiary's own contribution equal to 20 per cent of the projects cost.

[Translation]

Uniform Policy for Medical Colleges

6828. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate uniform policy for all the medical colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any memorandum from the All India Medical Colleges in this regard;

(d) if so, the main points thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(f) the details of the medical colleges to be opened in the year 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) There are Regulations already in place to maintain uniform policy for all the medical colleges in the country.

The Medical Council of India (MCI) with the approval of the Union Government has laid down broad principles to be observed by the institutions/Universities in the Graduate Medical Education Regulations, 1997 and the Postgraduate medical Education Regulations, 2000. These Regulations prescribe, inter-alia the objectives of the course, minimum eligibility requirement for joining the course, selection criteria, period of training/internship, procedures relating to the conduct of examination, award of marks and the qualifications of the examiners etc.

These regulations are reviewed by the MCI from time to time so as to keep pace with the latest advancement in the field of medical education. The suggestions received by the Government in this regard from various organizations are also kept in view while reviewing the Regulations.

(f) Permissions have been given for opening of four medical colleges during the year 2005-06 so far. There are some other proposals which are referred to the Medical Council of India for evaluation. Clearance of these proposal depend on fulfilling the qualifying the criteria prescribed in the regulations of MCI, availability of infrastructural facilities and the recommendations of the MCI.

[English]

Opening of Teacher Training Centres

6829. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Microsoft India plans to open a teacher training centre in Chennai to help teachers impart best IT knowledge to students;

(b) if so, whether the Government also plans to open such training centres throughout the country;

(c) if so, the steps being taken in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Microsoft India has submitted a draft paper for discussion to the Department of Information Technology which also envisages setting up of Microsoft IT Academies in 14 States to empower schools to help teachers and students reach their academic and career potential through training programmes on IT.

Population Policy

6830. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

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

(a) whether the population policy has been reviewed and revised in view of the last census figures for 2001;

(b) if so, the new population policy, indicating the basic census figures for different socio-economic groups and sections of the society as compared to the population growth registered during the preceding decade in respect of different sections;

(c) the rate of population growth during the decade compared to that registered in the preceding three decades; and

(d) the extent to which it represents the success of the population policy?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The rate of population growth percentage during the decade compared to that registered in the preceding three decades is as under:—

1971-81	1981-91	1991-2001
25.00	23.87	21.54

(d) It is too early to make opinion regarding success in achieving population stabilization after the Government adopted National Population Policy-2000. However, trends indicate an improvement in main demographic indicators viz. CBR, TFR and MMR for the last three years as given below:

Demographic indicators of the country	2000	2001	2002
Crude Birth Rate (CBR)	25.8	25.4	25.00
Total Fertility Rate (TFR)	2.3	2.3	2.2
Infant Mortality Rate (IMR)	68	66	63

Source: SRS Estimates, RG, India

Printing of Telephone Directories

6831. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enlist the names and addresses of all telecom subscribers including mobile ones in telephone directories;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be brought out;

(c) whether the TRAI has directed all the private operators to bring out their printed telephone directories;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of the operators in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) TRAI has provided its recommendations to the Government on publication of Telephone Directory and Directory Enquiry Services, on 05.05.2005. The same are under process.

Procedure for Seeking CGHS Permission

6832. SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria laid down for granting CGHS permission for certain ailments like fixing of artificial limb, rectification of heart valve etc.;

(b) the number of such cases pending during the last two years;

(c) the average time taken to dispose of such cases;

(d) whether the disposal of cases takes too much time;

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to cut down the time period;

(f) whether some instances have come to the notice of the Government in which during the pendency of the cases, the patients have died;

(g) if so, the mechanism put in place to deal with serious cases; and

(h) the steps proposed to be taken to simplify the permission seeking procedure including the quick disbursement of medical bills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The criteria laid down for granting permission by CGHS is as follows—

(i) The CGHS beneficiaries can avail of in-patient (IPD) treatment and OPD tests/investigations like X-Ray, Ultrasound, etc. in the private hospitals/ diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS by getting due permission from the Government for specific medical procedure/tests/investigations that have been advised by the CGHS/ Government specialist or CMO in-charge of the CGHS dispensary. Permission is granted to the beneficiaries for follow-up treatment in CGHS recognised private hospitals up to a period of six months in certain specified conditions.

(ii) In the case of medical procedures for which there are no CGHS rates, permission is granted to the beneficiary as per AIIMS rates or as per actual in case there is no AIIMS rate, provided the cost of procedure is less than Rs. 20,000/-.

(iii) In the case of medical procedures for which there are no CGHS rates/guidelines and the cost

of the procedure is above Rs. 20,000/-, permission is to be granted by the Department of Health in consultation with the Dte. General of Health Services and the Integrated Finance Division. In such cases, an expert committee is also constituted where technical opinion is required before granting permission e.g. special type of hearing aids/artificial appliances/limbs, infusion pump, oxygen concentrator, CPAP machine, etc.

(iv) In the case of artificial appliances costing less than Rs. 2,000/- that has been advised by a Senior Specialist of the Govt. Hospital, no prior permission is required for purchasing the appliance.

(b) The number of cases received during the years 2004 and 2005 that are still under process in the CGHS Dte. pertain to procedures not approved under CGHS for which there are no CGHS rates and require approval of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The details of such cases are as under:—

06 Cases pertaining to Cardiac Defibrillator

03 Cases pertaining to DBS implant

03 Cases of specialized Artificial appliances

01 Case of Liver Transplant

03 Cases of Cadaver Kidney Transplant

01 case of Biventricular Pace Maker

(c) and (d) in the case of approved procedures with prescribed ceiling rates like for Heart Valve replacement, permission is granted within one day subject to complete documents being furnished by the beneficiary. In the case of procedures involving approval of Standing Committee, permission is generally granted within three weeks. In respect of procedures where there are no guidelines and involves obtaining the opinion of Expert Committee and the approval of Department of Health like for Liver Transplantation, DBS implants, specialized artificial appliances etc., the requests for permission are examined on a case to case basis and the processing time varies in such cases.

(e) For many procedures, the CMO In-charge of the CGHS dispensaries have been delegated powers to grant permission to the pensioner beneficiaries. There is, however, a constant endeavour to improve the procedures under the CGHS.

(f) No such report/complaint has been received by the CGHS in this regard.

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

(h) As already stated in (e) above, permission in respect of many procedures for which there are approved rates, are being granted by CMO In-charge of the CGHS dispensaries in the case of pensioner beneficiaries. Powers are also being delegated to the Zonal Additional Directors under CGHS Delhi for processing the medical claims of pensioner beneficiaries.

Instructions/Guidelines for SC/ST Promotions

6833. SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN:
SHRI ATMA SINGH GILL:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the instructions/guidelines issued on July 11, 2002 to adjust SC/ST candidates appointed by promotion on their own merit are applicable in respect of ad-hoc promotions made for indefinite period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government has now issued revised guidelines on January 31, 2005 to the effect not to adjust SCs/STs candidates appointed by promotion on their own merit without any relaxation against unreserved point of roster in seniority-cum-fitness promotion in future by withdrawing the previous guidelines issued on July 11, 2002;

(d) whether such a step taken by the Government will not adversely affect the interests of SCs/STs in promotions and the commitment of Government to safeguard the interests of SCs/STs as about 80% promotions are made on the basis of seniority-cum-fitness; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The O.M. dated 31.1.2005 clarifies that since promotions by non-selection are made on the basis of

seniority-cum-fitness and the concept of merit is not involved in such promotions, the O.M. dated 11.7.2002 does not apply to the promotions made by non-selection.

(d) and (e) The Government is committed to protect the interests of SCs/STs. SC/ST candidates appointed on their own merit are adjusted against unreserved vacancies.

[Translation]

Reduction of Allocation to States

6834. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount under the assistance scheme to States is slashed/reduced in proportion to the unspent part of funds released to them against the scheme's fund allocations made to them over the previous year;

(b) if so, the grounds on which this is done;

(c) whether the scheme limits for States are decided by the Planning Commission on the basis of available/ estimated resources;

(d) whether it is a fact assistance scheme to the States is not related with the size of the scheme; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) Since each scheme for Central Assistance to State Plans has its own specific Guidelines/Criteria, allocations and releases of Central Assistance for schemes are primarily governed by the relevant Guidelines/Criteria. Moreover, allocations and releases of Central Assistance under various schemes for the Annual Plans of States are based on a wide variety of factors. In addition to Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) to Plan based on overall resource availability of the Centre, other factors include Utilization Certificates, periodic reviews in the Planning Commission on the progress in implementation of schemes, assessments based on State specific priorities of schemes, absorption capacity and changes in national priorities.

(e) Does not apply.

Use of Heavy Machinery

6835. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether heavy machinery is being used in the Dudhichua project under the Northern Coalfield, Singrauli;

(b) if so, the country from which the machinery procured alongwith the details thereof;

(c) the total number of heavy dumpers which have been purchased from the Taurex Company, USA;

(d) whether all of these heavy dumpers are working properly;

(e) whether the Ministry is taking timely action to make these heavy machineries operational; 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of machines purchased along with the names of countries from where purchased are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) 38 Nos of Rear Dumper 120 Ton, Model Mark 30B have been purchased from the Terex Company, USA by Coal India Limited in 1998 for Dudhichua Project.

(d) All the above 38 Nos. Dumpers were commissioned between 04.04.1999 to 03.02.2000.

At present, Out of 38 Nos. procured for Dudhichua project, 23 Nos. are not under working condition. All 23 Dumpers require 6 Nos. tyre each and some dumpers also require spares which are under order.

(e) and (f) The Tyre (size 30.00 x 51) required for making these Dumpers operational have been ordered as given below:—

Supplier	Ordered on date	Qty. on Order	Actual supply made till 04.05.2005
Good Year	02.12.2004	159	10 Nos.
Yakohama	03.09.2004	132	10 Nos.
Michelin	03.09.2004	121	Nil

Ministry of Coal takes up the matter from time to time with CIL to impress upon the manufacturers to expedite supply of tyres.

Statement

List of Heavy Earth moving Machineries at Budhichua Project and their details

Equipment	Model	On Roll as on 04.5.2005	Ordered On	Country
1	2	3	4	5
Dragline 24/96	W-2000	1	Heavy Engineering Corporation	India
Dragline 24/96	HEC	2	Heavy Engineering Corporation	India
Dragline 24/96	BEML/Bucyrus	1	Bharat Earth Movers Limited	India
ER Shovel	P&H 1900	4	Harnischfeger International Corporation	Austria
ER Shovel	P&H 1900	5	Kobe Steel Limited, Japan	Japan
ER Shovel	P&H 1900	9	Harnischfeger Corporation	United States of America
HYD. Shovel	PC-300	2	Bharat Earth Movers Limited	India
Dumper 120T	Mark 30B	38	Terex Corporation	United States of America
Dumper 120T	BH-120	6	Bharat Earth Movers Limited	India
Dumper 120T	CAT-785	5	Caterpillar India Private Limited	India
Dumper 85T	HD 785-2	33	Bharat Earth Movers Limited	India
Bumper 85T	BH-85	21	Bharat Earther Movers Limited	India
Dumper 85T	CAT 777	4	Caterpillar India Private Limited	India
Dozer	CAT 11R	5	Caterpillar Asia Pte. Limited	Singapore
Dozer	D-355/BD 355	21	Bharat Earth Movers Limited	India
Wheel Dozer	D 155	1	Bharat Earth Movers Limited	India
Wheel Dozer	G30D	1	Bharat Earth Movers Limited	India
Wheel Dozer	WD 834B	3	Caterpillar Asia Pte. Limited	Singapore
Drill 311 MM	DM-H 311 MM	4	Ingersoll Rand (India) Limited)	India
Drill 250 MM	IDM 703 E	7	Ingersoll Rand (India) Limited)	India
Drill 250 MM	RECP 750E	8	Revathi CP Equipment Limited	India
Drill 250 MM	SBSH 250 MNA-32	4	Rudgormach Joint Stock Company	Russia
Drill 160 MM	RECP 650	9	Revathi CP Equipment Limited	India
FE Loader	72-71B/20-71	2	Hindustan Motors Limited	India
Grader 280HP	GD-825A-1	4	Bharat Earth Movers Limited	India

1	2	3	4	5
Grader 280HP	CAT 16-H	4	Caterpillar Asia Pte. Limited	Singapore
Water Sprinkler 28 KL	HM-1035	6	Hindustan Motors Limited	India
Water Sprinkler	LW-50T Dumper	2	Bharat Earth Movers Limited	India
Water Sprinkler	HD 785-2 Dumper	4	Bharat Earth Movers Limited	India
Crane 90T	Tata-1055	1	Tata Engg. Locomotives Limited	India
Crane 60T	Huskey-680	1	Coles Crane Limited	U.K.
Crane 30T	Grove RT-30	1	Tractors India Limited	India
Crane 18T	Escorts	1	Escorts Limited	India
Crane 8T	Escorts	2	Escorts Limited	India
Crane 3T	Excorts	1	Escorts Limited	India
Tyre Handler	G14	2	Bharat Earth Movers Limited	India
Tyre Handler	Lansing	1	Lansing Limited Hampshire	U.K.

Setting up Monitoring Group

6836. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a monitoring group in the Planning Commission to oversee the implementation of public distribution system and food for work programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the monitoring group is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) There is a proposal to set up a Food and Nutrition Security Watch (FNSW) in the Planning Commission which is expected to be set up soon. It will study the performance of major programmes of Food and Nutrition covering Public Distribution System (PDS), Food For Work, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and Mid-day Meals. At the end of the year, the Food and Nutrition Security Watch would bring out reports on these Programmes.

Development/Strengthening of Infrastructural Facilities in Lucknow City

6837. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any request from Uttar Pradesh Government for additional Central aid for the development and strengthening of the infrastructure facilities of Lucknow city;

(b) if so, the amount of additional Central aid sanctioned;

(c) the time by which the said amount is likely to be released; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) Government of Uttar Pradesh has prepared Lucknow Water Supply cost Rs. 102.60 crore and requested central assistance from Central Government in 20 Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 33.90 crore were sanctioned and released during period 2001-04. A proposal was received on April 6, 2005 in the Planning Commission sanction of Rs. 68.70 crore. The proposal of the State

Government to wholly fund project could not be supported due to lack of resources.

[English]

Shortage of IAS/IPS Officers

6838. DR. K. DHANARAJU:
SHRI FURKAN ANSARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that there is shortage of IAS/IPS officers in Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details of sanctioned strength of IAS/IPS officers and their placement separately;

(c) whether administrative work is suffering due to the shortage of the officers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to appoint officers as per sanctioned strength?

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 the State Government of Tamil Nadu, out of sanctioned strength of 325 IAS officers, 309 officers are in position and out of sanctioned strength of 214 IPS officers, 196 officers are in position as on 1st May, 2005. So far as Jharkhand is concerned, out of sanctioned strength of 143 IAS officers, 115 officers are in position and out of a sanctioned strength of 110 IPS officers, there are 86 officers in position as on 1st January, 2005.

(c) Tamil Nadu has reported that the shortage has had no effect on administrative work. Jharkhand has reported that presently there is no shortage of IAS officers in the State. However, they have reported that there is a shortage of IPS officers and administrative work is suffering on this account.

(d) Cadre strength of IAS and IPS officers has been increased for the State of Jharkhand recently in December, 2004. The cadre strength of IAS has been increased from 129 to 143 and of IPS from 87 to 110. Filling of vacancies is a continuous process and the gap is filled up by direct recruitment through Civil Services Examination and by promotion from the state feeder service.

[Translation]

Increasing Seats in Medical Colleges

6839. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) the State-wise details of private medical colleges in the country;

(b) whether the Government had granted permission in March, 2005 to approximately 100 medical colleges for increasing the seats;

(c) if so, the number of seats permitted to be increased in each college;

(d) the number of medical colleges granted permission for increasing the seats;

(e) the details of proposals from medical colleges for increasing the seats pending before the Government during the last three years;

(f) by when the pending applications are likely to be cleared; and

(g) the rules prescribed by the Government for Private Medical Colleges regarding fee structure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Information is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) to (d) No fresh increase in MBAs seats have been given during the year 2005 in any of medical college so far.

(e) and (f) Details are given in the enclosed Statement II. These proposals have been sent to Medical Council of India for evaluation. Clearance of these proposals depends on availability of infrastructural facilities and recommendation of Medical Council of India thereon.

(g) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 14.8.03 in the case of Islamic Academy of Education has clarified that each institution shall have freedom to fix its own fee structure. Each State Government is required to set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of a retired High Court Judge to decide whether fee provided by the institute is justified and does not amount to profiteering or charging of captivation fee. The said Committee may approve the fee structure proposed by the institute or may propose some other fee which shall be binding on the institute for a period of three years.

Statement I

State-wise List of Private Medical Colleges in the Country as on 6.5.2005

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Private Medical College
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20
2.	Assam	—
3.	Bihar	2
4.	Chandigarh	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	—
6.	Delhi	—
7.	Goa	—
8.	Gujarat	5
9.	Haryana	2
10.	Himachal Pradesh	—
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1
12.	Jharkhand	—
13.	Karnataka	27
14.	Kerala	8
15.	Madhya Pradesh	2
16.	Maharashtra	19
17.	Manipur	—
18.	Orissa	—
19.	Pondicherry	4
20.	Punjab	3
21.	Rajasthan	2
22.	Sikkim	—
23.	Tamil Nadu	8
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3
25.	Uttaranchal	2
26.	West Bengal	—
	Total	108

Statement II

State-wise pending proposal for increase of seats

State		Name of the College	Year in which the proposal was received
1		2	3
Gujarat	1.	Govt. Medical College, Bhavnagar	2004
	2.	Pandit Deendayal Upadhayay Medical College Rajkot	2004
	3.	Govt. Medical College, Surat	2004

1	2		3
Maharashtra	4.	Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Sevagram, Wardha	2003
	5.	D.Y. Patil Medical College, Navi Mumbai	2004
	6.	Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences, Karad, Maharashtra	2004
	7.	MGM Medical College, Aurangabad	2004
	8.	MGM Medical College, Navi Mumbai	2004
Rajasthan	9.	Govt. Medical College, Kota	2004
Uttar Pradesh	10.	Santosh Medical College, Ghaziabad	2004
Tamil Nadu	11.	Govt. Kilpauk Medical College, Chennai	2004
	12.	Govt. Mohan Kumarmangalam Medical College, Salem	2004
Punjab	13.	Sri Guru Ram Das Institute of Medical Sciences, Sri Amritsar	2004

Family Planning Camps

6840. SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court's directions lay down a number of conditions for organising family planning camps in villages;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government proposes to arrange family planning camps as per the directions of the Supreme Court; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Supreme Court has not given any direction regarding organization of family planning camps in the villages. However, the Supreme Court has given certain directions in its order dated 1.3.2005 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 209/2003 filed by Shri Ramakant Rai on the guidelines to be followed by the States for conducting sterilization operations in general. These guidelines would also be applicable to family planning camps that are organized.

[English]

Grant of Second ACP to Government Employees

6841. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN:
SHRI P. MOHAN:
SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1083 dated March 9, 2005 and state:

(a) the Ministries/Departments and PSUs that have given Second Assured Career Progression (ACP) to their employees;

(b) the Ministries/Departments and PSUs that have not given Second Assured Career Progression to the employees;

(c) the details of inbuilt checks and balances in the system as per the reply given in part (c) and (d) of USQ No. 1083;

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against the Ministries/Departments and PSUs that have not given second ACP to the employees;

(e) whether any circular has been issued for expediting cases involving grant of second ACP to the employees of all the Ministries/Departments and PSUs;

(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) and (b) Assured Career Progression (ACP) Scheme implemented by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) is applicable to the Central Government civilian employees. It has no direct applicability to employees of the Public Sector Undertakings. Insofar as DoPT is aware, the Scheme has been implemented in various Central Ministries/Departments. However, information regarding implementation of the various instructions issued by DoPT is not maintained centrally. It is the responsibility of each Ministry/Department to follow the instructions issued by DoPT.

(c) Those aggrieved by non-implementation of the ACP Scheme can take up the issue departmentally or through the Joint Consultative Machinery (JCM). Departments can also consult DoPT in case of any doubt about the provisions of the Scheme if that is holding back its implementation. Internal Finance Division/Pay and Accounts organization of the Ministry/Department are also expected to check any incorrect application.

(d) No specific instance of non-implementation of the ACP Scheme by a central Ministry/Department has come to the notice of the Department of Personnel and Training.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view of reply to (e) above.

(g) No case of non grant of second financial upgradation in accordance with the provisions of the ACP Scheme has been reported to DoPT.

Modernisation of NLC

6842. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved any proposal for revamping/modernization and expansion of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. NLC has expanded its scope of activities by taking up the following projects with approval of Government of India:

(i) Expansion of existing Mine II from 10.5 million tonne per annum (MTPA) to 15.0 MTPA at a cost of Rs. 2161.28 crores.

(ii) Expansion of second thermal power station (2x250 MW) at a cost of Rs. 2030.78 crores.

(iii) Opening up of a new mine viz. Barsingsar Lignite Mine of 2.10 MPTA capacity at a cost of Rs. 254.07 crores and a Thermal Power Station (2x125 MW) at cost of Rs. 1114.18 crores at Barsingsar in Bikaner District in Rajasthan.

(c) Does not arise in view of answer given to parts (a) & (b) above.

Widening of N.H. 52

6843. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total Tenth Plan outlay envisaged for improvement as well as widening of NH-52 including the by pass at North Lakhimpur and Mangaldoi indicating

year-wise target, allocation and achievement made against such sector;

(b) the present status and target set towards construction of bridge over Simen and Jiahbarali river; and

(c) the list of timber bridges being replaced by concrete and shoulder strengthening work sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) During the 10th Plan, so far, widening and improvement (improvement of riding quality and strengthening) of NH-52 has been completed in a length of 33 km. and 182 km. respectively. The year-wise and sector-wise allocations made and funds utilized up to March, 2005 are given below:—

Sector	Allocation (Rs. in crore)			Fund utilized (Rs. in crore)		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Baihatacharali to Thelamara (km o to 113)	3.81	7.40	4.00	3.81	7.40	4.00
Thelamara to Akajan (km 113 to 440)	2.90	8.16	12.42	2.90	8.16	12.42
Akajan to Rupai (km 440-876)	24.00	17.55	21.26	24.00	17.55	21.26

The allocation for the remaining period of 10th Plan is yet to be finalized. At present, there is no proposal for construction of bypasses at North Lakhimpur and Mangaldoi.

(b) During the current financial year, sub-soil investigations is proposed to be carried out for the construction of bridge over river Simen. The actual construction of the bridge is planned to commence in 2006-07, subject to the availability of funds. The model study for bridge over river Jiahbarali has commenced during December, 2004 and is expected to be completed in a period of 19 months from the date of commencement mentioned above. The feasibility for construction of the proposed bridge can be ascertained on the outcome of the said study.

(c) There are 18 wooden timber bridges on NH-52 at various locations. The Border Roads Organization, who are developing and maintaining this NH have planned to convert these bridges into permanent RCC brides in a phased manner by 2010 subject to availability of funds. The improvement of shoulders is a part of the maintenance and repair work of the National Highway, which is a continuous process and such works are taken up subject to availability of funds and inter-se-priority.

Target for Bharat Nirman Plan

6844. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the annual target fixed for achieving the goal with regard to Bharat Nirman Plan;

(b) the details of the total quantum of funds to be incurred in this regard; and

(c) the manner in which the funds for Bharat Nirman Plan is likely to be mobilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The annual targets for achieving the goals set out in Bharat Nirman as also the total quantum of funds and the manner in which required the funds will be mobilised have not been finalised.

Production of Coal by Outsourcing

6845. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of coal by outsourcing has been started in different coal companies; and

(b) 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 NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, certain activities in coal production are

undertaken by the hired equipments. The company-wise coal production of Coal India Limited by hired equipment is given below:—

Company	2004-05 — Production by hired equipment in Lakh Tonnes (provisional)
ECL	20.60
BCCL	52.23
CCL	125.22
WCL	25.22
SECL	591.68
MCL	630.83
NEC	4.78
Total	1450.56

Quality of Services of BSNL and MTNL

6846. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the TRAI had laid down the parameters of Quality of Services (QoS) for telecom operators;

(b) if so, the QoS for Mobile, GSM and CDMA technology, separately;

(c) whether according to feedback received by the TRAI wireless offers better QoS to the customers;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether the BSNL and the MTNL are not meeting the QoS parameters for fixed line phone service; and

(f) if so, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. TRAI has laid down the QoS parameters applicable for Basic and Cellular Mobile Service Provider's network vide gazette notification No. 112-17/98-TRAI (Tech.) Vol.-III dated 5.7.2000. These benchmarks for mobile services prescribed in the regulation are equally applicable to both GSM and CDMA technology. Extracts from the notification are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The QoS parameters for basic service are applicable to both wireline and wireless. However, as per the report received by TRAI, performance of operators providing basic service through wireless technology is comparatively better than those providing the service through wireline technology in respect of parameters like provision of new connections, fault incidences, fault repaired by next working day, mean time to repair, shifts and closures.

(e) and (f) As per the performance monitoring report (PMR) for quarter ended December, 2004, BSNL and MTNL are not meeting the stipulated benchmarks of TRAI, in respect of certain parameters. MTNL and BSNL have legacy network based on copper which is difficult to maintain and are very old and fault prone. Almost one-third of the telecom lines and about 79% of telephone exchanges of BSNL are working in rural, far flung and difficult to access areas where there is either no power or reliable electric supply. Further, in fast developing scenario, some areas become technically non-feasible. The two PSUs are continuously taking measures to meet the service parameters by modernizing the network, providing, innovative services at affordable rates and improving customer care services.

Statement

Extracts from TRAI Regulation on Quality of Service of Basic and Cellular Mobile Telephone Services, 2000

(2 of 2000)

Section-IV

QOS Parameters:

(i) For Basic Telecommunication Services:

Sl.No.	Parameters	Short term before the end of 12 months	Intermediate term before the end of 24 months	Long term before the end of 48 months	Averaged over a period of
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Provision of a telephone after registration of demand	<21 Days	<15 days	<7 days	One quarter

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Fault incidences (No. of faults/100 subscribers/month)	<12	<7	<3	One quarter
3.	Fault repair by next working day	>85%	>87%	>90%	One month
4.	Mean Time to Repair (MTTR)	<24 Hrs.	<12 Hrs.	<8 Hrs.	One month
5.	Dial Tone Delay	0.90 Probability of not exceeding 600 msec with a mean value of <400 mS	0.92 Probability of not exceeding 600 msec with a mean value of <400 mS	0.95 Probability of not exceeding 600 msec with a mean value of <400 mS	One quarter
6.	Grade of Service	(a) Junction between local exchanges — 0.002 (b) Outgoing junctions from TAX to local exchange—0.005 (c) Incoming junctions from local exchange to TAX—0.005 (d) Incoming or out going junctions between TAX's 0.005 (e) Switching network should be non-blocking or should have extremely low blocking probability	Same as short term	Same as short term	One quarter
7.	Can Completion Rate within a local network should be better than	>55%	>60%	>65%	
8.	Metering and billing credibility	Not more than 0.2 of bills issued should be disputed over a billing cycle	Not more than 0.15% of bills issued should be disputed over a billing cycle	Not more than 0.1% of bills issued should be disputed over a billing cycle	One Billing Cycle
9.	Operated Assisted Trunk Calls	Urgent Calls < 1 hr. 30 min delay Ordinary calls <2 hrs. 30 min delay	Urgent Calls < 1 hr. 15 min delay Ordinary calls <2 hrs. 15 min delay	Urgent Calls < 1 hr. delay Ordinary calls <2 hrs. delay	One month
10.	Response Time to other operator assisted services	85% calls <10 sec	90% calls <10 sec	95% calls <10 sec	One month
11.	Customer Care (Promptness in attending to customers requests) 95% of requests				One month
	— — Shifts				
	— — Closures				
	— — Additional Facility	<7 days <24 Hrs. <48 Hrs.	<5 days <24 Hrs. <36 Hrs.	<3 days <24 Hrs. <24 Hrs.	

1	2	3	4	5	6
12.	Percentage of repeat faults	<2%	1.5%	<1%	One month
13.	Customer perception of services				
	(i) % satisfied with the provision of service	>80	>90	>95	
	(ii) % satisfied with the billing performance	>80	>85	>90	
	(iii) % satisfied with help services	>80	>85	>90	
	(iv) % satisfied with network performance, reliability and availability	>85	>90	>95	
	(v) % satisfied with maintainability	>85	>90	>95	
	(vi) Overall customer satisfaction	>80	>85	>95	
	(vii) Customer satisfaction with offered supplementary services % satisfied	>80	>85	>95	

(ii) QoS parameters for Cellular Mobile Telephone Services:

Sl.No.	Parameter	Short term (before the end of 12 months)	Intermediate term (before the end of 24 months)	Long term (before the end of 36 months)	Averaged over a period of
1	2	3	4	5	6
A.	**Fault incidence & Repair**				
	(i) Fault Incidence (Number of faults/100 subscribers/month)	<3	<2	<1	One quarter
	(ii) Faults cleared within 24 Hrs.	>98%	>99%	100%	One quarter
	(iii) Accumulated down time of Community Isolation	<24 hours	<24 hours	<24 hours	One quarter
B.	**Network Performance**				
	(i) Cell Success Rate (within licensees own network)	>98%	>98%	>99%	One quarter
	(ii) Service Access Delay	Between 9 to 20 seconds depending upon number of paging attempts (Average of 100 calls 15 sec)			One quarter
	(iii) Call Drop Rate	<4%	<3.5%	<3%	One quarter
	(iv) Percentage of connections with good voice quality	>99%	>92%	>95%	One quarter
C.	**Billing Complaints**				
	(i) Billing complaints per 100 bills issued	<0.2%	>0.15%	0.1%	One quarter

1	2	3	4	5	6
	(ii) % age of billing complaints resolved within 4 weeks	>99%	100%	100%	One quarter
	(iii) Period of all refunds/payments due to customers from the date of resolution of complaints as in (ii) above	<6 weeks	<5 weeks	<4 weeks	One quarter
D.	**Customer perception of service**				
	(i) % satisfied with the provision of service	>80	>90	>95	
	(ii) satisfied with the billing performance	>80	>85	>90	
	(iii) satisfied with help services	>80	>85	>90	
	(iv) % satisfied with network performance, reliability and availability	>85	>90	>95	
	(v) % satisfied with maintainability	>85	>90	>95	
	(vi) Overall customer satisfaction	>80	>85	>95	
	(vii) Customer satisfaction with offered supplementary services % satisfied	>80	>85	>95	

Import of Coal

6847. DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRIMATI USHA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether coking and non-coking coal is being imported in huge quantities though there is vast scope of their production in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantity of import for the last three years, country-wise and type-wise;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to further improve the production of coking and non-coking coal in the country;

(e) whether the quality of imported coal is superior as compared to the domestic coal; 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) On account of limited reserves of coking coal in India, coking coal is being imported by Steel and allied industries, to meet the gap in demand and supply. Likewise, some quantity of non-coking coal is also being imported by consumers as per their need and cost consideration.

(c) A statement showing the details of imports during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 (upto Dec. 2004), country-wise and type-wise, is enclosed.

(d) Coal India Limited has taken up the following steps to reduce the gap between demand and indigenous supply and increase the productivity of coal:

(i) 99 projects have been considered to be taken up during Tenth Plan

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

(iii) Improvement in equipment utilization

(iv) Mechanization/modernisation of existing mines

(v) Timely implementation of projects

(e) and (f) The Indian coal is traditionally high ash coal and low calorific value, because of mixing of the extraneous material in its geological formation itself and the imported coal generally has low coal ash content and high calorific value properties.

Statement

Source Country-wise Import of Coal by type to India during 2002-03

(Quantity in Million Tonnes & Value in Million Rs.)

Country	Coking Coal Quantity	Non-Coking Coal Quantity	Total Coal Quantity
Australia	11.398	1.302	12.700
Indonesia	0.061	3.905	3.966
South Africa	0.732	2.861	3.593
China PRP	0.574	1.418	1.991
United Arab Emirates	0.000	0.191	0.191
Singapore	0.000	0.168	0.168
New Zealand	0.148	0.000	0.148
Switzerland	0.000	0.134	0.134
Others	0.034	0.334	0.369
Total	12.947	10.313	23.260

Source: DGCI & S, Kolkata

Source Country-wise Import of Coal by type to India during 2003-04

(Quantity in Million Tonnes & Value in Million Rs.)

Country	Coking Coal Quantity	Non-Coking Coal Quantity	Total Coal Quantity
1	2	3	4
Australia	12.521	0.789	13.310
Indonesia	0.019	5.652	5.672
China P RP	0.263	1.446	1.709
South Africa	—	0.642	0.642

1	2	3	4
New Zealand	0.093	—	0.093
Switzerland	0.008	0.042	0.050
Korea RP	—	0.026	0.026
USA	0.018	0.001	0.019
Other	0.070	0.093	0.162
Total	12.992	8.691	21.683

Sources: DGCI & S, Kolkata

Source Country-wise Import of Coal by type to India during 2004-05 (upto Dec. 2004)

(Quantity in Million Tonnes & Value in Million Rs.)

Country	Coking Coal Quantity	Non-Coking Coal Quantity	Total Coal Quantity
Australia	8.917	0.175	9.092
Indonesia	0.207	5.739	5.946
China P RP	0.455	1.118	1.573
USA	0.539	0.002	0.541
South Africa	0.065	0.287	0.352
New Zealand	0.201	0.000	0.201
Vietnam SOC REP	0.007	0.152	0.159
Russia	0.132	0.021	0.154
Taiwan	0.100	0.000	0.100
Canada	0.048	0.000	0.048
Poland	0.045	0.000	0.045
Other	0.078	0.009	0.086
Total	10.794	7.503	18.297

Source: DGCI & S, Kolkata

[Translation]

Road Construction Projects

6848. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

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

(a) whether the Government has accorded approval for road construction work for the year 2005-06 in which the roads of the States would be widened and repaired;

(b) if so, the length of roads in kilometers likely to be completed during the current year;

(c) the details thereof;

(d) the number of road overbridges on National Highways in Uttar Pradesh cleared for construction; and

(e) the number of road construction projects proposed to be undertaken in the public and private sector separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The development of National Highways including widening and repairs is a continuous process. There is a programme for various development activities such as widening to 4-lane, widening to 2-lane, strengthening and improvement of riding quality of the existing National Highways for an aggregate length of 7,078 km during 2005-06 subject to the approval of the Budget of 2005-06.

(d) Under National Highways Development Project (NHDP), there is a proposal for construction of 73 numbers of Road Over Bridges on National Highways in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(e) 32 numbers of contracts under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-II and 29 numbers of stretches of National Highways under NHDP Phase-IIIA are so far identified and planned through Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) bias with private sector participation. In addition to this, for other National Highways, 2 numbers of projects one each in States of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are planned through BOT basis with private sector participation. The remaining works are to be financed from the budgetary resources.

[English]

Underground Mining

6849. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal submitted by the Western Coalfields Ltd. for grant of permission for underground mining is pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of mines in which underground operation is still going on;

(d) whether the Government is considering to give permission for continuation of operation in these mines;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Government approves project proposals of coal companies where capital investment is Rs. 100 crores and more. There is no underground project proposal of Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) pending with the Government for approval.

(c) There are 44 underground mines in WCL which are in operation as on 1.4.2005.

(d) to (f) WCL has proposed to operate 40 mines in 2005-06. Name of the underground mines of WCL, which would be in operation in 2005-06, is enclosed in as statement.

Statement

Underground Mines of WCL to BE Operational in 2005-06

Sl.No.	Name of the Project/Mine	Target (Million Tonne) (2005-06 B.E.)
1	2	3
1.	Ambara	0.14
2.	Chanda Rayatwari	0.04

1	2	3
3.	Ganpati	0.08
4.	Mahakali	0.22
5.	New Majri	0.31
6.	Rawanwara Khas	0.12
7.	Ballarpur RO	0.19
8.	Chattarpur I (Incl Chattarpur-III Reserves)	0.12
9.	Chattarpur II	0.17
10.	Damua East PH-I	0.09
11.	Durgapur Rayatwari RPR	0.33
12.	Gajendoh	0.11
13.	Hindusthan Lalpeth	0.43
14.	Inder	0.10
15.	Jharna	0.18
16.	Mahadeopuri	0.06
17.	Mathani	0.12
18.	Mauri Block RCE	0.40
19.	Nandan/Dhau Extn.	0.38
20.	Patansaongi RPR (Incl. Patansaongi Scheme)	0.15
21.	Pathakhera Exp.	0.50
22.	Pipla	0.14
23.	Rajur (Incl. RO)	0.21
24.	Saoner RPR (Incl. Expn.)	0.90
25.	Sarni	0.31
26.	Satpura	0.50
27.	Sasti RO	0.21
28.	Shobhapur	0.50
29.	Silewara Ph-II	0.52
30.	Tandsi RPR	0.05
31.	Tawa Ph-I	0.60
32.	Thesgora	0.14
33.	Vishnupuri-I	0.09
34.	Vishnupuri-II	0.11
35.	Adasa	0.08
36.	Durgapur Ryt. 6, 7, & 7 Inclines	0.10
37.	Kumberkhani	0.35
38.	Morpar	0.10
39.	Naharia	0.30
40.	Tandsi Expansion	0.35
	Total	9.80

[Translation]

Construction of NHs in Tenth Five Year Plan

6850. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned by the Government for construction of National Highways during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the length of road in k.ms. constructed under it so far; and

(c) the amount spent thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The Government has approved an outlay of Rs. 58,940 crore during Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) for development of National Highways and related programmes.

(b) Under Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-I and II 4/6-laning of about 4059 km have been completed during the Tenth Plan till 31st March, 2005.

Apart from NHDP Phase-I & II, for other National Highway sections, 99 km have been 4-laned, 2101 km of single lane have been widened to two-lanes, 2075 km

have been strengthened and improvement of riding quality of about 11719 km. have been completed during the Tenth Plan till 31st March, 2005.

(c) An expenditure of Rs. 21,021.98 crore (provisional) has been incurred so far during the Tenth Plan, till 31st March, 2005.

[English]

Use of Helmets

6851. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of two wheelers in India;

(b) whether use of helmets would be made mandatory for two wheeler riders driving on State Roads, National Highways and for test ride for obtaining driving licence; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to create public awareness about use of helmets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) As per information received from States/UTs, as on 31.3.2002, there were approximately 4.15 crores two wheelers in the country;

(b) While driving or riding a two wheeler in a public place, it is mandatory to wear a protective head gear, except by the category of persons exempted under Section 129 of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

(c) Awareness campaigns on road safety launched by the Ministry in print/electronic media *inter-alia* include the same.

Mental Health Home

6852. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of community based Mental Health Rehabilitation Half-way Homes in the Voluntary sector in Kerala are facing closure due to the implementation of the Mental Health Act, 1987;

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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) to (c) As per information provided by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in the Government of India, there is no information about the Half-way Homes in the voluntary Doctor in Kerala facing closure due to implementation of Mental Health Act, 1987. However, under the Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, grants-in-aid have been provided for running Half-way Home for psycho-social rehabilitation of treated and controlled mentally ill persons to three organizations in Kerala viz: Abhaya, Thiruvananthapuram; Shalom Karunya Trust, Pathanamthitta; and St. Joseph Mental Health Care Home, Thrissur.

[Translation]

Pending Applications for Coal Linkage

6853. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI:
SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications of companies for setting up iron, steel, cement and captive power stations in Chhattisgarh pending with the Government for coal linkage;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the pending applications are likely to be cleared?

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) Number of applications under examination for coal linkage to private companies in core sectors in Chhattisgarh are as under:

(i)	Captive Power Plants (CPPs)	25 nos.
(ii)	Sponge iron	44 nos.
(iii)	Iron & Steel	Nil
(iv)	Cement	Nil

(c) Linkages are granted subject to fulfilment of eligibility by consumers and availability of coal at the particular source.

[English]

Internet Telephone on VOIP

6854. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Internet Telephony on Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) is causing concern among Indian security agencies, as such calls made to overseas parties, leave no trace of calls being made at all;

(b) whether several internet telephony service providers in Gujarat, Andhra and Kerala are selling calling cards of different overseas unregistered companies;

(c) if so, whether ITSP licensees maintain details of call records as a part of the licensing conditions;

(d) whether apart from security considerations, such clandestine operations by ITSPs cause severe revenue loss to the Centre; and

(e) if so, 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) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shortage of Staff in National Medicinal Plants Board

6855. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that there is acute shortage of staff in National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) as a result of which thousands of projects are lying pending for examination;

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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) to (c) Officers & staff have been provided to National Medicinal Plants Board from Department of AYUSH and organizations working under the Department for smooth functioning of the Board. Approval of Department of Expenditure has been taken for creation of 3 posts viz. Senior Research Assistant, Stenographer Grade-'D' and Computer Operator and outsourcing services for 2 posts viz. Driver and Messenger. A comprehensive proposal for creation of additional 30 posts in the Board has been furnished to the Department of Expenditure.

[Translation]

Medical Facilities by Coal Companies' Hospitals

6856. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing free medical treatment in the hospitals of CCL, BCCL to the people residing in the adjoining areas of the coal mines of Central Coalfields, Bharat Coking Coal Fields;

(b) if so, the number of people provided such facilities during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether this facility has been withdrawn;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government proposes to restore the said facility again in public interest; and

(f) if so, the time by which this facility is likely to be restored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Not applicable in view of answer given in above (a).

Categorization of Agro and Rural Industries

6857. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria formulated by the Government for categorization of Agro and Rural based industries;

(b) the names of the industries categorized as Agro and Rural Industries; and

(c) the progress made by agro/rural based industries as a result of step taken by the Government for their promotion during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) So far as the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) is concerned, khadi as well as village industries are defined in the Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act, 1956.

(b) The agro and rural industries in the KVIC fold have been classified under 7 broad categories, as given below:

(1) Mineral Based Industry

(2) Forest Based Industry

(3) Agro & Food Processing Industry

(4) Polymer & Chemical Based Industry

(5) Handmade Paper & Fibre Industry

(6) Rural Engineering & Bio Technology Industry

(7) Service & Textiles Industry

(c) The progress made by each of these categories of industries in terms of production and employment during the last three years (2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04) is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Details of production and employment generated by Agro & Rural Industries in the KVIC fold during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2004-05

Sl.No.	Particulars	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
		Production (Rs. lakh)	Employment (lakh persons)	Production (Rs. lakh)	Employment (lakh persons)	Production (Rs. lakh)	Employment (lakh persons)
1.	Mineral-based industry	105946.42	9.64	125684.02	10.34	151562.17	11.54
2.	Forest-based industry	57807.91	4.02	73796.85	4.10	85495.4	4.44
3.	Polymer & chemical-based Industry	131638.11	8.06	137224.44	8.62	146465.47	8.73
4.	Agro & food processing industry	230118.8	23.59	218970.53	21.91	250386.58	22.8
5.	Rural engineering and biotechnology industry	144216.71	6.45	157880.86	6.85	183615.54	7.58
6.	Hand made paper and fibre industry	0.00	0.00	39695.05	3.49	44730.97	3.63
7.	Service & textiles industry	44324.39	2.39	59377.82	2.57	60571.03	3.86
	Total	714052.34	54.15	812629.57	57.88	922827.16	62.58

[English]

Investment in Telecom Sector

6858. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL has any proposal for huge investment in near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the special schemes earmarked for Rural Sector by the BSNL; and

(d) the source of funding for such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. BSNL has chalked out a programme for investment in next three year as per detailed below:

Year	Amount
2005-06	Rs. 27000 crores
2006-07	Rs. 27250 crores
2007-08	Rs. 26350 crores

(c) Schemes earmarked for rural sector during the current year are as under:—

(1)	No. of Rural DELs to be provided	14,00,000
(2)	No. of Rural Community Phones to be provided	5,992
(3)	No. of VPTs to be provided	12,509
(4)	No. of MARR replacement to be carried out	76,734

(d) Sir, as of now, BSNL will be funding these projects from its internal resources. Market borrowing at competitive commercial terms may be resorted in case of need.

CSIR Centre in Gujarat

6859. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a centre of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the time by when it is likely to be set up; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) No Sir. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research already has a centre in Gujarat *i.e.* Central Salt & Marine Chemicals Research Institute at Bhavnagar and there is no fresh proposal for any new centres to be established.

[Translation]

Locating Herbs in Sehayadri Hill Region

6860. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to locate various herbs in Sehayadri hill region keeping in view their Ayurvedic importance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the estimated cost likely to be spent on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, an autonomous organization under the Department of AYUSH, has plan to undertake survey of medicinal plants of Ayurvedic importance in the areas of Thal ghat, Londa, Khanpur, Kolhapur, Satara, Mahabaleswar, Panchgant, Kolaba, Jalgaon, Bhusawal, Ahmednagar, Shiradighat, Sampaje ghat and Subramaniya area. The survey work will be completed in 5 years. The Council is also maintaining a Medicinal Plants Garden at Pune which has a number of medicinal plants of Ayurvedic importance found in Sehayadri hill region.

Bridge on N.H.-80

6861. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Champa Nullah bridge was constructed as many as 100 years back at Bhagalpur's Nathnagar on National Highway No. 80 in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether the above bridge may collapse at any time;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to construct a new bridge in its place; and

(d) if so, by when the new bridge is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The existing Screw Pile Bridge in Km. 123 on Champa Nallah near Bhagalpur in NH-80 in Bihar was reportedly constructed in 19th century. As this bridge is old, weak and narrow, the traffic on this bridge is being allowed with restricted loading. A proposal for repair of this bridge has recently been received which is under consideration.

(c) and (d) An estimate for preparation of Detailed Project Report for construction of Bhagalpur Bypass which includes the proposal for construction of new bridge across Champa Nallah was sanctioned in October, 2004 and the award of this work is under finalisation. It is therefore, too early to indicate the time by which it will be constructed.

Schemes for Development of Science and Technology

6862. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes formulated by the Government for the development of science and technology in the country and the State-wise amount provided by the Government during each of the last three years for that purpose;

(b) the State-wise details of new techniques developed in the scientific centers during the last five years; and

(c) the names of proposals pending for clearance under scientific community scheme along with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Reforms in Coal Mines Pension Scheme and EPF Scheme

6863. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is difference in the Government's contribution in coal mines pension scheme 1998 and EPF scheme of coal employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the dearness allowance is given like Central Government Employees under the above pension scheme;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to bring about reforms in the pension and EPF of coal mines employees in conformity with the demands of the coal workers' association?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government's contribution for Coal Mines Pension Scheme, 1998 is one and two-third percent of the salary of the employees subject to a maximum pay of Rs. 1600/- per month and the Government's contribution for Employee's Pension Scheme 1995 is 1.16% of employee's pay subject to a maximum pay of Rs. 5000/- per month.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Central Government Pension Scheme and Coal Mines Pension Scheme, 1998 are different schemes with difference in provisions of contribution etc. The benefits under the Coal Mines Pension Scheme, 1998 is admissible to the beneficiaries in addition to the Contributory Provident Fund in which Coal companies contribute 12% of the salary towards Provident Fund while in the case of Central Government employees, there is

no contributory Provident Fund. As such comparison between Central Government Pension Scheme applicable to Central Employees and Coal Mines Pension Scheme, 1998 cannot be made.

(e) The amendment for improvement of Coal Mines Pension Scheme, 1998 and in Provident Fund Schemes are made time to time keeping in view demand of Members and also sustainability of respective funds.

[English]

Posts of Pharmacists Lying Vacant

6864. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3962 on April 9, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that three posts of Ayurvedic and four posts of Homoeopathic Pharmacists in CGHS Delhi were lying vacant as on April 01, 2003;

(b) whether it is a fact that Central Employment Exchange had sponsored the names of candidates for the posts of Homoeopathic/Ayurvedic Pharmacists in August, 2003;

(c) if so, the reasons for keeping the post vacant so far; and

(d) the time by which these vacancies are likely to be filled up?

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

Non-Utilisation of Fund

6865. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an amount of Rs. 368 crores out of the total amount of Rs. 2180.73 crores sanctioned for the development works in the State of Assam for 2004-05 could not be utilized;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the schemes and projects adversely affected and delayed on this account; and

(c) the steps since taken to release the fund so as to ensure implementation of the projects affected by this delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Government is not aware as the State Government of Assam has not submitted expenditure details for the development works undertaken during Annual Plan 2004-05.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Panel of Under Secretaries

6866. SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared a panel of Under Secretaries of Central Secretariat Service (CSS) for the years 1987 to 1996 after 2000 and applied the amended rules of 1999 for the persons belonging to SC/ ST category;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) has given directions to revise the panels based on the Central Secretariat Rules existing at relevant periods;

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the judgment given by the CAT; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) The third proviso to Sub-Rule (2) of Rule 12 of CSS Rules, 1962 which permitted consideration of Senior Section Officers belongings to SC/ST category with four years' approved service, when their juniors were being considered for promotion to Grade I (Under Secretary) was omitted vide notification dated 8.3.1999. The Grade I Select Lists for the years 1987 to 1996 were prepared and issued from the year 2000 onwards. These Select Lists were prepared in accordance with the provisions of CSS Rules as amended vide notification dated 8.3.1999.

(c) to (e) An application for Review of the CAT's order dated 30.11.04 has been filed in the CAT.

Project Cost of Expressways Under Construction

6867. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India has sought permission to increase the project cost of expressways under construction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total estimated increase for each expressway, State-wise?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Alleged Irregularities in Purchase of Medicines and Equipments

6868. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various alleged irregularities regarding the purchase of machines, consumable items, and imported equipments by the various Government hospitals have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details of such cases detected during the last one year;

(c) the action taken by the Government against those officials who were found guilty; and

(d) the amount of loss to the Government hospitals on account of such alleged irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) In so far as Central Government Hospitals are concerned, no case of alleged irregularities regarding the purchase of machines, consumable items, and imported equipments has been reported in last one year.

[English]

Discovery of New Genes

6869. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indo-US team working on X-chromosome has discovered dozens of new genes promising research on mental retardation and other disorder;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to utilize the new discovery in Government hospitals and elsewhere 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) to (d) As per report published in Nature Genetics 2005, April Vol. 37(4), an Indo-US team of St. Johns Hopkin's University and Indian Institute of Bioinformatics, Bangalore by analyzing the genes in X Chromosome identified many novel genes in X Chromosome identified many novel genes linked to mental retardation and other disorders. The team, while comparing the X-chromosome genetic make up in humans, monkeys and mice, found that similarities in some conserved areas. Some of the newly identified genes which are conserved are found to sit on regions long associated to X-linked mental retardation syndrome. Although, this study is ploneering and novel, its immediate clinical application in screening for mental retardation in human beings needs to be evaluated.

New Ventures of Postal Department

6870. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRI AJIT JOGI:
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

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

(a) whether the postal department has agreed to sell mobile phones and BSNL pre-paid cards;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has given permission to postal circles to take up profitable ventures;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the income earned through such ventures during the last one year;

(f) whether the rural postal Life Insurance Schemes have gained popularity in the country; and

(g) if so, the details of their growth during the last three years, year-wise?

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

(b) Department of Posts sells mobile phones and pre-paid cards of mobile phone companies through post offices on commission basis.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Heads of Postal Circles have been empowered to approve profitable business packages, based on the utilization of the vast retail network of the Department.

(e) Department has earned a revenue of Rs. 50.5 crores in 2004-05 from such ventures.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The details of business growth, during the last 3 years is as under:

Year	No. of Policies Procured	Sum assured (Rupees in Lakhs)
2001-2002	3,68,527	1,69,685.41
2002-2003	7,02,542	3,34,794.55
2003-2004	10,83,152	5,94,997.82

[Translation]

Sam Vikas Yojana

6871. SHRI SHYAMA CHARAN GUPTA:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:
SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:
SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of backward districts identified for the 'Sam Vikas Yojana' by the Government in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of the schemes formulated for development of these backward districts alongwith the amount likely to be spent on the schemes, State-wise, district-wise including the target set for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government has received any complaints in connection with the alleged irregularities under the various schemes;

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

(e) the details of the contribution and role of the concerned Member of Parliament with regard to monitoring of implementation of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Backward Districts Initiative of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana covers 147 districts—115 backward districts and 32 districts affected by left wing extremism. The list of number of districts, State-wise, is enclosed as statement.

(b) Under the scheme, District Plans are required to be prepared to address the problems of low agricultural productivity, unemployment and to fill critical gaps in physical and social infrastructure. The schemes included in the District Plans are in sectors such as roads and bridges, education, agriculture, energy, irrigation, health, livelihood support, etc. The schemes included in District Plans vary from district to district based on their requirement. Physical and financial targets have been set for each scheme in each District Plan. Each district covered under the scheme is to receive Rs. 45 crore over a period of three years on 100 per cent grant basis.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Some complaints have been received from the Members of Parliament regarding irregularities in implementation of schemes included in the District Plans of Unnao, Hardoi, Mirzapur and Chitrakoot districts of Uttar Pradesh and Chatra district of Jharkhand. These complaints have been referred to the concerned State Governments and they have been requested to furnish reports to the Planning Commission in this regard.

(e) As per the guidelines of the scheme, peoples' participation and involvement of PRIs, NGOs and Self Help Groups is to be ensured at every stage including plan formulation, implementation and monitoring. Although, the guidelines do not specify the role of Members of Parliament, they may, however, send in their suggestions to the State Governments/district administrations in this regard.

Statement

Number of districts, State-wise, covered under the Backward Districts Initiative of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Number of districts covered
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
3.	Assam	5
4.	Bihar	21
5.	Chhattisgarh	8
6.	Gujarat	3
7.	Haryana	1
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	3
10.	Jharkhand	16
11.	Karnataka	4
12.	Kerala	2
13.	Madhya Pradesh	10
14.	Maharashtra	9
15.	Manipur	1
16.	Meghalaya	1
17.	Mizoram	1
18.	Nagaland	1
19.	Orissa	5
20.	Punjab	1
21.	Rajasthan	3
22.	Sikkim	1
23.	Tamil Nadu	5
24.	Tripura	1
25.	Uttar Pradesh	21
26.	Uttaranchal	3
27.	West Bengal	8
	Total	147

Shortage of Statutory Manpower in Coal India Ltd.

6872. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR DUBEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether insecurity has increased and coal production is getting affected in all the ancillary units of the Coal India Ltd. due to shortage of statutory manpower;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is only marginal shortage of statutory staff in different subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL). The vacancies are caused mainly due to superannuation, death etc. The shortage is being met by authorizing/promoting employees who possess/acquire certificate of competency.

(c) Coal India Ltd., has given sanction for recruitment of 256 statutory personnel under Special Recruitment Drive. Subsidiaries were also instructed to assess the requirement of manpower to ensure a stable strength in accordance with the requirement.

Construction Work on N.H. 57

6873. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in starting construction work of National Highway No. 57 in Bihar;

(b) the time by which its construction work is likely to be started; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The entire length of 310 kms. of NH-57 is a part of East-West Corridor, which is being developed to four lane divided carriage way under National Highway Development Project Phase-II by National Highways Authority of India. Due to heavy floods, the survey and preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the construction work of National Highway No. 57 has been affected. The construction is likely to be started by September, 2005 after finalisation of DPR and award of work.

[English]

Construction of IID Centres

6874. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has provided Rs. 200 lakhs for the construction of IID Centres at Dalgaon and Darrang districts in Assam;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received the utilization certificate in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details of expenditure made thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The details of expenditure in respect of IID Centre located at Dalgaon in Darrang district in Assam, as reported by the Assam Industrial Development Corporation, the implementing agency for this Centre and duly certified by its Chartered Accountants are as under:

Sl.No.	Items	Expenditure (Rs. lakh)
1.	Land and site development	54.65
2.	Road laying	74.33
3.	Water supply and effluent treatment	17.21
4.	Drainage	65.46
5.	Power distribution network	21.90
6.	Other sanitary works	5.00
7.	Administrative office building, etc.	32.00
8.	Greenery & beautification	2.40
9.	Provision for pre-operative expenses	17.00
10.	Contingencies and escalation provision	12.00
	Total	301.95

[Translation]

Telephone Facility in Madhya Pradesh

6875. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is unable to provide telephone facility in rural areas such as Pateria, Sagouni, Samnapur, Rajpura and towns in Madhya Pradesh despite depositing the requisite advance by the applicants for connections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether even after the promise of providing W.L.L. service, the same is not available and the areas where this service is being provided the people are facing difficulties due to lack of coverage and the plan of the Union Government is this regard; and

(d) the reasons for not providing WLL services by the BSNL in the remaining areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The village-wise details are as under:-

(i) Pateria, Sagouni: There is a paid demand of 79 connections. Efforts are being made to provide Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) connections by planning new Code Division Multiplex Access (CDMA) Cor-DECT equipment.

(ii) Samnapur: WLL coverage is available in this area. Few connections on WLL have been provided to the willing applicants but public is demanding land line connection. Connections on WLL are feasible.

(iii) Rajpura: There is a paid demand of 23 connections. WLL coverage from HATTA Base Transmitting Station (BTS) is not available because of hilly terrain. However, a Cor-DECT system is being planned for coverage of these villages.

(c) and (d) As per the plan of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), all Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) are being provided with WLL equipment. However, there has been some delay in supply of Fixed Wired Terminals due to court case.

Assistance for Construction of Buildings of Health Centres

6876. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Uttar Pradesh Government regarding the financial assistance for the construction of buildings of health centres;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the action is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The proposals received from the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh in May, 2002 for funding support for establishing the facilities *i.e.* (a) Trauma Centre (b) Oncology Centre (c) Minimal invasive Surgery and Telemedicine (d) Centre for Maternal & Child Health (e) Centre for Organ transplantation (f) Centre for Biomedical Engineering at Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute, Lucknow, were forwarded to German Embassy through the Deptt. of Economic Affairs in June, 2002 for consideration under the Indo-German Bilateral Development Cooperation Programme. The German Embassy is yet to take up the project for assistance.

However, the World Bank assisted State Health System Development Project with an estimated cost of Rs. 478.07 crore is under implementation in Uttar Pradesh since 1.7.2000 which, *inter-alia* aims to provide quality health care services to the people in the rural areas through a viable first referral mechanism at the level of the community health centers, sub-divisional hospitals and district hospitals.

[English]

Hefty Medical Bill

6877. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that despite the existence of a public health system, 80 per cent of patients in India are resorting to private hospitals for minor and major ailments;

(b) if so, whether the present system of health care forces the citizens to spend hefty amount;

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

(d) whether in the absence of health care rights of patients, people are being forced to move consumer protection forums and invoking penal code; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Despite this vast network of Primary, Secondary and Tertiary health care infrastructure, patients approach private providers on account of easy accessibility and availability of doctors and medicines. Approaching the private practitioners puts a strain on personal finances and exposes patients many a time to avoidable risks. Additionally private sector healthcare is unregulated and may not always to prescribed norms laid down.

(d) to (e) Information is being collected.

Promotion of Telemedicine

6878. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:

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

(a) the details of the steps taken/achievement made in the promotion of telemedicine in the country;

(b) the details of the organisations engaged in promotion of telemedicine in the country;

(c) whether three hospitals in Punjab have been linked with Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh through telemedicine project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of hospitals in the country linked with various hospitals through such telemedicine projects in the country; and

(f) the details of growth expected to be achieved through such telemedicine projects planned to be implemented in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Department of Information Technology has informed that they have taken steps for promotion of Telemedicine through supporting development of technology, initiation of pilot schemes and standardization activity in Telemedicine in the country.

(b) As per Department of Information Technology and Department of Space, various super speciality hospitals like AIIMS, New Delhi, PGIMER, Chandigarh, SGPGIMS, Lucknow, Regional Cancer Centre, Thiruvananthapura, Apollo Hospital, Indira Gandhi Medical College, Shimla, School of Tropical Medicine, Kolkata, Narayana Hrudayalaya, Bangalore, R & R Army Hospital, New Delhi, Amrita Institute, Kochi, Ramachandra Medical College Hospital, Chennai etc. and organisations like Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC), IIT, Kharagpur, Webel Electronic Communication System (Kolkata) etc. and various State Governments like Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tripura, West Bengal etc. are engaged in promotion of Telemedicine in the country.

(c) and (d) As per information given by Department of Space, three remote hospitals viz., Civil Hospital, Dasuya, Hosiyarpur District, Sub Divisional Hospital, Ajnala, Amritsar District, and Govt. Mata Kaushalya Hospital, Patiala in Punjab were connected to PGIMER, Chandigarh, during April 2005.

(e) Department of Space has informed that 113 hospitals have been connected through Telemedicine Network across the country, out of them 28 are Super Speciality Hospitals and 87 Remote/District/Medical College/Mobile Hospitals.

(f) Department of Space has planned to extend Telemedicine facility in a phased manner to meet the demand and specific requirements of the State/Hospitals.

Automatic and Modern Telephone Exchanges in Tamil Nadu

6879. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of automatic and modern telephone exchanges set up in Tamil Nadu during the last three years, location-wise;

(b) the details of such exchanges proposed to be set up in Tamil Nadu during the current year; and

(c) the details of the telephone exchanges whose capacities were expanded in the current financial year; and

(d) the details of telephone exchanges where waiting list for telephone connection still exists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The details of automatic and modern telephone exchanges set up in Tamil Nadu during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statements I(a), I(b) & I(c).

(b) The details of such exchanges proposed to be set up in Tamil Nadu during the current year are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) The details of the telephone exchanges whose capacities were expanded in the current financial year are given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(d) The details of telephone exchanges where waiting list for telephone connection still exists are given in the enclosed Statement-IV.

Statement I(a)

Details of Telephone Exchanges set up during 2002-03 in Tamil Nadu

Sl.No.	Name of Exchange (Location)	Capacity	Type/Technology	District
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Avinashi-II	4000	CDOTMBM XL	Coimbatore
2.	K.P. Pudur II	2000	EWSDRSU	Coimbatore
3.	CBT-Race course RSU	3000	EWSDRSU	Coimbatore
4.	Anuppar palayam	2000	EWSD	Coimbatore
5.	Periyandipalayam	2000	EWSD	Coimbatore
6.	Cuddalore Port II	1000	OCBRSU	Cuddalore
7.	Chidambaram-Sakthinagar	1500	CDOTMBM XLRSU	Cuddalore
8.	Valayamadevi	168	CDOT 256	Cuddalore
9.	Cuddalore Main II	250	OCB	Cuddalore
10.	Orathur	168	CDOT 256	Cuddalore
11.	Andevanapalli	152	CDOT 256	Dharmapuri
12.	Pochampalli Sipcot	500	CDOTMBM XLRSU	Dharmapuri
13.	Nandimangalam	152	CDOT 256	Dharmapuri
14.	Urigam	152	CDOT 256	Dharmapuri
15.	Irudukottah	152	CDOT 256	Dharmapuri
16.	Regadahalli	152	CDOT 256	Dharmapuri
17.	Oddanchatram Ambilikkai	560	CDOTMBM LRSU	Dindigul
18.	Poomparai	152	CDOT 256	Dindigul
19.	Mylambadi	304	CDOT 256 TW	Erode
20.	Perameum	336	CDOT 256	Erode
21.	Vadugapatti	184	CDOT 256	Erode
22.	Naryanavalasu	2000	OCBRSU	Erode
23.	Palur	184	CDOT 256	Kancheepuram

1	2	3	4	5
24.	Vallam	1500	EWSDRSU	Kancheepuram
25.	Chengalpattu II	6000	EWSD	Kancheepuram
26.	L. Endathur	152	CDOT 256	Kancheepuram
27.	Maraimalai Nagar II	512	EWSDRSU	Kancheepuram
28.	Thiruvithankode	1750	CDOTMBM XLRSU	Kanyakumari
29.	Kollenkode II	1500	CDOTMBM XLRSU	Kanyakumari
30.	M. Pudupatti	152	CDOT 256	Madurai
31.	Madurai New Jail Road	2700	EWSDRSU	Madurai
32.	Sitharkadu	1000	CDOTMBM XLRSU	Nagapattinam
33.	Vengateshwaranagar	1000	CDOTMBM XLRSU	Nagapattinam
34.	Thattuvancherry	700	CDOTMBM	Nagapattinam
35.	Srinivasapuram	1000	CDOTMBM XLRSU	Nagapattinam
36.	Panangudi	600	CDOTMBM	Nagapattinam
37.	Kothandapuram	160	CDOT 256	Nagapattinam
38.	Kadalangudi	368	CDOT 256 TW	Nagapattinam
39.	Manapathur Dalavai	16	TDMAPMPRSU	Perambalur
40.	Sripurantham	152	CDOT 256	Perambalur
41.	Sannasinallur Dalavai	16	TDMAPMPRSU	Perambalur
42.	R.S. Mathur Dalavai	16	TDMAPMPRSU	Perambalur
43.	Periyakurichi Dalavai	16	TDMAPMPRSU	Perambalur
44.	Cholankudikadu	16	TDMAPMPRSU	Perambalur
45.	Anganur	16	TDMAPMPRSU	Perambalur
46.	Vankaram	32	TDMAPMPRSU	Perambalur
47.	Kulumur	64	TDMAPMPRSU	Perambalur
48.	Konkaollaipatty Karambakudi	32	TDMAPMPRSU	Pudukottai
49.	Nayakarpatty Karamabakudri	32	TDMAPMPRSU	Pudukottai
50.	Ambalavananendal	152	CDOT 256	Pudukottai
51.	L.N. Puram Aranthangi	1000	CDOTMBM LRSU	Pudukottai
52.	Kadukkadu Karambakudi	32	TDMAPMPRSU	Pudukottai

1	2	3	4	5
53.	Kallakottai	152	CDOT 256	Pudukottai
54.	Karupattupatty Karambakudi	16	TDMAPMPRSU	Pudukottai
55.	Manganur Gandarvakottai	16	TDMAPMPRSU	Pudukottai
56.	Mooludayanpatty Karambakudi	16	TDMAPMPRSU	Pudukottai
57.	Punalukam Gandarvakottai	32	TDMAPMPRSU	Pudukottai
58.	Thatchankuruchi Gandarvakottai	32	TDMAPMPRSU	Pudukottai
59.	Thattamanipatty Karambakudi	16	TDMAPMPRSU	Pudukottai
60.	Thuvarvellaviduthi Karambakudi	16	TDMAPMPRSU	Pudukottai
61.	Chinnakoneviduthi Karambakudi	16	TDMAPMPRSU	Pudukottai
62.	Nadupatty Karambakudi	16	TDMAPMPRSU	Pudukottai
63.	Thettuvasalpatty Gandarvakottai	32	TDMAPMPRSU	Pudukottai
64.	Thondamanurani Gandarvakottai	16	TDMAPMPRSU	Pudukottai
65.	M. Vellalaviduthi Karambakudi	16	TDMAPMPRSU	Pudukottai
66.	Ganapathipuram Gandarvakottai	32	TDMAPMPRSU	Pudukottai
67.	Neppugai Gandarvakottai	16	TDMAPMPRSU	Pudukottai
68.	Southupalai Gandarvakottai	64	TDMAPMPRSU	Pudukottai
69.	Vembanpatty Gandarvakottai	16	TDMAPMPRSU	Pudukottai
70.	Thirukokaram Pudukottai	1000	CDOTMBM XLRSU	Pudukottai
71.	Kodumbalur Chatram	152	CDOT 256	Pudukottai
72.	Veladipatty Karambakudi	16	TDMAPMPRSU	Pudukottai
73.	Thirumalairayapuram	152	CDOT 256	Pudukottai
74.	Andanur Gandarvakottai	16	TDMAPMPRSU	Pudukottai
75.	Manjur	184	CDOT 256	Ramanathapuram
76.	Udaikulam	152	CDOT 256	Ramanathapuram
77.	Kondulallanpatty	152	CDOT 256	Ramanathapuram
78.	Devannagoundanoor	500	CDOTMBM XLRSU	Salem
79.	Seshanchavadi	500	CDOTMBM XLRSU	Salem
80.	Salem Suramangalam	1500	EWSDRSU	Salem
81.	Salem Ponnamapet	2000	EWSDRSU	Salem

1	2	3	4	5
82.	Karaikudi Kalanivasal	1500	CDOTMBM XLRSU	Sivaganga
83.	Puzhithipatti	152	CDOT 256	Sivaganga
84.	Mallakottai	240	CDOT 256	Sivaganga
85.	Karaikudi K. Katti OCB	5000	OCB	Sivaganga
86.	Pandiyur	152	CDOT 256	Sivaganga
87.	Perrakalaikadu	152	CDOT 256	Sivaganga
88.	Marukkankudi	368	CDOT 256 TW	Thanjavur
89.	Thirumandankudi	500	CDOTMBM XLRSU	Thanjavur
90.	Kamarajnagar RSU	2000	CDOTMBM XLRSU	Thanjavur
91.	Sastra	500	OCBRSU	Thanjavur
92.	Kumbakonam OCB	4000	OCB	Thanjavur
93.	Thengumarahada	152	CDOT 256	The Nilgiris
94.	Con-Mt-Pleasant	2000	CDOTMBM LRSU	The Nilgiris
95.	Sandynulah	152	CDOT 256	The Nilgiris
96.	Mannargudi OCB Main	6000	OCB	Thiruvarur
97.	Tirunelveli Palayamkotai Main	2000	OCB	Tirunelveli
98.	V.M. Chatram	2000	OCBRSU	Tirunelveli
99.	Padaevdu	152	CDOT 256	Tiruvannamalai
100.	T.V. Malai II	5000	OCB	Tiruvannamalai
101.	Pothamettupatty Manaparai	1000	CDOTMBM XLRSU	Trichy
102.	Thiruvalarsolai	152	CDOT 256	Trichy
103.	ValadyTR E 10B	504	E 10 BRLU	Trichy
104.	Tuticorin M.S. Puram	3000	EWSDRSU	Tuticorin
105.	Ranipet Sipcot II	2000	OCBRSU	Vellore
106.	Asokapuri	120	CDOT 256	Villupuram
107.	Kalpattu	184	CDOT 256	Villupuram
108.	Nadukuppam	80	CDOT 256	Villupuram
109.	Kallakurichi Annanagar	1250	CDOTMBM XLRSU	Villupuram
110.	Peravalur	80	CDOT 256	Villupuram

1	2	3	4	5
111.	Muttathur	88	CDOT 256	Villupuram
112.	Othiyathur	80	CDOT 256	Villupuram
113.	Valathy	104	CDOT 256	Villupuram
114.	Villupuram S.G. Puram	1250	CDOTMBM XLRSU	Villupuram
115.	Kothakudi	104	CDOT 256	Villupuram
116.	Adanapattu	80	CDOT 256	Villupuram
117.	CCSM Nagar	80	CDOT 256	Villupuram
118.	Enathimangalam	80	CDOT 256	Villupuram
119.	Nedimozhianur	80	CDOT 256	Villupuram
120.	Vadaponaparappi	104	CDOT 256	Villupuram
121.	N. Subbiahapuram	152	CDOT 256	Virudhunagar
122.	Nathampatti	152	CDOT 256	Virudhunagar
123.	Keelarajakularaman	152	CDOT 256	Virudhunagar
124.	Alagianallur	152	CDOT 256	Virudhunagar
125.	O. Mettupatty	304	CDOT 256 TW	Virudhunagar
126.	Sivakasi Reserve Line RSU	2000	OCBRSU	Virudhunagar
127.	Jawahar Nagar	3700	5ESS	Chennai
128.	Secretariat	2000	5ESS	Chennai
129.	SIDCO Thirumashisai	2000	5ESS	Chennai
130.	Madhavaram	2240	5ESS	Chennai
131.	Kathivakkam	3000	5ESS	Chennai
132.	Anna Nagar West Extn.	3500	AXE	Chennai
133.	Medawakkam	1000	EWSD	Chennai
134.	Old Perungalathur	1500	EWSD	Chennai
135.	Gowrivakkam	2000	EWSD	Chennai
136.	Choolaimedu	5000	EWSD	Chennai
137.	Gandhi Nagar	5000	EWSD	Chennai
138.	Moulivakkam	1000	EWSD	Chennai

1	2	3	4	5
139.	Vandalur	1500	OCB	Chennai
140.	KumaranNagar	750	OCB	Chennai
141.	R.K. Nagar	0	OCB	Chennai
142.	Kallikuppam	4000	OCB	Chennai
143.	Royapuram	4000	OCB	Chennai
144.	Sait Colony	5000	OCB	Chennai
145.	Agasthiar Nagar	6000	OCB	Chennai
146.	Mugalivakkam	3500	OCB	Chennai
147.	Thirumalai Road	5000	OCB	Chennai
148.	Jones Road	4000	OCB	Chennai
149.	Avadi	0	OCB	Chennai
150.	Brindavan Nagar	2000	OCB	Chennai
151.	Dinrose	4000	OCB	Chennai
152.	Income Tax	3500	OCB	Chennai
153.	Gopalapuram	4000	OCB	Chennai

Details of WLL Exchanges Set up during the year 2002-03

Sl.No.	Station	Capacity	Type of WLL	Name of SDCA
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Chidambaram	500	CDMA-R	Chidambaram
2.	Kallakurichi	500	CDMA-R	Kallakurichi
3.	Vridhachalam	500	CDMA-R	Vridhachalam
4.	Arakandanallur	500	CDMA-R	Villupuram
5.	Cheyyur	500	CDMA-R	Maduranthagam
6.	Maduranthagam	500	CDMA-R	Maduranthagam
7.	Gummidipoondi	500	CDMA-R	Ponneri
8.	Tiruvellore	500	CDMA-R	Tiruvellore
9.	Karur	500	CDMA-R	Karur
10.	Ariyalur	500	CDMA-R	Ariyalur

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Perambalur	500	CDMA-R	Perambalur
12.	Ponnamravathy	500	CDMA-R	Ponnamravathy
13.	Pudukottai	500	CDMA-R	Pudukottai
14.	Manaparai	500	CDMA-R	Manaparai
15.	Musiri	500	CDMA-R	Musiri
16.	Sathanur	400	CDMA-R	Chengam
17.	Tiruvanamalai	500	CDMA-R	Tiruvanamalai
18.	Wandiwash	600	CDMA-R	Wandiwash
19.	Walajah MW Stn.	500	CDMA-R	Ranipet
20.	Tirupathur	500	CDMA-R	Tirupathur
21.	Chennai	1500	CDMA-U	Chennai

Statement I(b)

Details of Telephone Exchanges set up during 2003-04 in Tamil Nadu

Sl.No.	Name of Exchange (Location)	Capacity	Type/Technology	District
1	2	3	4	5
1.	CBT-peelamedu EWSD	1000	EWSDRSU	Coimbatore
2.	Cuddalore Kumarapet	1500	E10BRLU	Cuddalore
3.	Korakkaivadi	88	CDOT 256	Cuddalore
4.	Cuddalore Nehrunagar	1500	E10BRLU	Cuddalore
5.	Athanur	80	CDOT 256	Cuddalore
6.	Neyveli-TS-block-20	2000	CDOTMBM XLRSU	Cuddalore
7.	Dindigul-II	2000	EWSDRSU	Dindigul
8.	Olimohamedpet	1000	E10BRLU	Kancheepuram
9.	St gobain (EWSD RSU)	256	EWSDRSU	Kancheepuram
10.	Nagercoil II	2000	EWSD	Kanyakumari
11.	Thengaipattinam	1500	CDOTMBM XLRSU	Kanyakumari
12.	Samalpallam	248	ANRAX	Krishnagiri
13.	Irudukottah	152	CDOT 256	Krishnagiri

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Urigam	152	CDOT 256	Krishnagiri
15.	Madurai Anupanadi	2045	EWSDRSU	Madurai
16.	Melacauvery RSU	2000	OCB RSU	Thanjavur
17.	Gudalur-DLC-Kayunni	420	DLC CDOTMBM	The Nilgiris
18.	Gudalur-DLC-Nadugani	240	DLC CDOTMBM	The Nilgiris
19.	Gudalur-DLC-Pandanthorai	420	DLC CDOTMBM	The Nilgiris
20.	Courtalam	1000	CDOTMBM LRSU	Tirunelveli
21.	Erumbi	184	CDOT 256	Tiruvellore
22.	Gummidipoondi old town	2000	EWSDRSU	Tiruvellore
23.	Kaduvanur	136	CDOT 256	Villupuram
24.	Ottanapattu	88	CDOT 256	Villupuram
25.	V. Pagandai	152	CDOT 256	Villupuram
26.	Villupuram Ragavanpet	1000	CDOTMBM XLRSU	Villupuram
27.	Illodu	80	CDOT 256	Villupuram
28.	Nalanpillaipetral	88	CDOT 256	Villupuram
29.	Pidagam	144	CDOT 256	Villupuram
30.	Soolankurichi	80	CDOT 256	Villupuram
31.	Rajiv Nagar RSU	1000	CDOTMBM LRSU	Virudhunagar
32.	Radha Nagar (2265)	4000	EWSD	Chennai
33.	Chetput RSU (2836)	3000	OCB	Chennai
34.	Choolai RSM (2669)	3400	5ESS	Chennai
35.	Arumbakkam (2363)	4000	EWSD	Chennai
36.	Manali New Town (2593)	2000	5ESS	Chennai
37.	Kaladipet (2599)	4000	OCB	Chennai
38.	Rajbhavan MSU (2250)	7500	OCB	Chennai
39.	Pallavaram RSU (2264)	3500	EWSD	Chennai
40.	Periamedu RSM (2561)	3000	3ESS	Chennai
41.	Spencer Plaza RSU (2849)	2000	OCB	Chennai
42.	Chindadripet RSU (2845)	2300	OCB	Chennai

1	2	3	4	5
43.	Shenoy Nagar RSU (2668)	1250	OCB	Chennai
44.	Pattabiram RSU (2685)	2750	OCB	Chennai
45.	Vijaya Nagra RSU (2685)	3000	OCB	Chennai
46.	Madipakkam RSU (2258)	1750	OCB	Chennai
47.	Vembuliamman Kovil St. (2364)	4500	EWSD	Chennai
48.	Flower Bazaar RSU (2536)	2180	5ESS	Chennai
49.	Jothi Nagar (2574)	2000	5ESS	Chennai
50.	Broadway (2528)	4000	5ESS	Chennai
51.	Flowr Bazaar RSU (2534)	8000	OCB	Chennai

Details of WLL Exchanges Set up during year 2003-04

Sl.No.	State	Capacity	Type of WLL	Name of SDCA
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Coimbatore	5000	CDMA-U	Coimbatore
2.	Tiruppur	5000	CDMA-U	Tiruppur
3.	Dindigul	5000	CDMA-U	Dindigul
4.	Madurai	5000	CDMA-U	Madurai
5.	Pondicherry	5000	CDMA-U	Pondicherry
6.	Namakkal	1000	CDMA-U	Namakkal
7.	Attur	1000	CDMA-U	Attur
8.	Salem	3000	CDMA-U	Salem
9.	Karur	2000	CDMA-U	Karur
10.	Trichy	3000	CDMA-U	Trichy
11.	Rajapalayam	1000	CorDect-U	Rajapalayam
12.	Kattumannarkoil	750	CDMA-R	Chidhambaram
13.	Veppur	750	CDMA-R	Vridhachalam
14.	Ulundurpet	750	CDMA-R	Ulundurpet
15.	Villupuram	750	CDMA-R	Villupuram
16.	MM Nagar	750	CDMA-R	Chengalpattu

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Sriperumpudur	750	CDMA-R	Sriperumpudur
18.	Harur	750	CDMA-R	Harur
19.	Uthangarai	750	CDMA-R	Uthangarai
20.	Thiruvadanai	750	CDMA-R	Devakottai
21.	Kadaladi	750	CDMA-R	Mudukulathur
22.	Paramakudi	750	CDMA-R	Paramakudi
23.	Karaikudi	750	CDMA-R	Karaikudi
24.	Padamathur	750	CDMA-R	Manamadurai
25.	Kalayarkoil	750	CDMA-R	Sivaganga
26.	Kumbakonam	750	CDMA-R	Kumbakonam
27.	Alambadi Mines	750	CDMA-R	Vedasandur
28.	Pattukottai	750	CDMA-R	Pattukottai
29.	Thiruvarur	750	CDMA-R	Thiruvarur
30.	Avudaiyarkoil	750	CDMA-R	Aranthangi
31.	Keeranur	750	CDMA-R	Keeranur
32.	Thirumayam	750	CDMA-R	Ponnamaravathi
33.	Thiruchuli	750	CDMA-R	Aruppukottai
34.	Sivakasi	750	CDMA-R	Virudhunagar
35.	Tiruvettipuram	750	CDMA-R	Tiruvettipuram
36.	Arakkonam	750	CDMA-R	Arakkonam
37.	Mettupalayam	1000	CorDECT-R	Mettupalayam
38.	Pollachi	1000	CorDECT-R	Pollachi
39.	Udumalpet	1000	CorDECT-R	Udumalpet
40.	Valparai	1000	CorDECT-R	Valparai
41.	Jayankondam	1000	CorDECT-R	Jayankondam
42.	Gandharvakottai	1000	CorDECT-R	Pudukottai
43.	Rajapalayam	1000	CorDECT-R	Rajapalayam
44.	Chennai	10000	CDMA-U	Chennai

Statement I(c)

Details of Telephone Exchanges set up during 2004-05 in Tamil Nadu

Sl.No.	Name of Exchange (Location)	Capacity	Type/Technology	District
1.	Ettimadai	420	DLC	Coimbatore
2.	CBT-Rajastreet I	3500	AXE RSU	Coimbatore
3.	CBT-Rajastreet II	1000	EWSDRSU	Coimbatore
4.	Ondiputhur II	256	AXE RSU	Coimbatore
5.	Chatiram	176	CDOT 256	Cuddalore
6.	Virudhachalam P Nagar	1500	CDOTMBM XLRSU	Cuddalore
7.	Gundupatty	192	ANRAX	Dindigul
8.	Kavunji	184	CDOT 256	Dindigul
9.	Soolerikadu	480	DLC V 5.2	Kancheepuram
10.	Nelgercoil DLC	1000	DLC V 5.2	Kanyakumari
11.	Madurai High Court	420	DLC V 5.2	Madurai
12.	Madurai Hindu	420	DLC V 5.2	Madurai
13.	Madurai ICICI	420	DLC V 5.2	Madurai
14.	Kariyamanickam II	1000	OCBRSU	Pondicherry
15.	Aminjikarai RSU (2664)	3000	OCB	Chennai
16.	Ekkaduthangal RSU (2225)	4300	OCB	Chennai
17.	New Washermenpet RSU (259)	5200	OCB	Chennai
18.	Vadapalani RSU (2365)	3000	EWSD	Chennai
19.	MKB Nagra RSM	4500	5ESS	Chennai

Details of WLL Exchanges set up during year 2004-05

Sl.No.	Station	Capacity	Type of WLL	Name of SDCA
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Coimbatore	1000	CorDECT-U	Coimbatore
2.	Thiruvellore	1000	CorDECT-U	Thiruvellore
3.	Nagercoil	1000	CorDECT-U	Nagercoil

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Ooty	1000	CorDECT-U	Ooty
5.	Palladam	1000	CorDECT-R	Palladam
6.	Tiruppur	1000	CorDECT-R	Tiruppur
7.	Cuddalore	1000	CorDECT-R	Cuddalore
8.	Kallakurichy	1000	CorDECT-R	Kallakurichy
9.	Gingee	1000	CorDECT-R	Gingee
10.	Kancheepuram	1000	CorDECT-R	Kancheepuram
11.	Thiruthani	1000	CorDECT-R	Thiruthani
12.	Hosur	1000	CorDECT-R	Hosur
13.	Krishnagiri	1000	CorDECT-R	Krishnagiri
14.	Oddanchathram	1000	CorDECT-R	Oddanchathram
15.	Palani	1000	CorDECT-R	Palani
16.	Usilampatti	1000	CorDECT-R	Usilampatti
17.	Gudalur	1000	CorDECT-R	Gudalur
18.	Kothagiri	1000	CorDECT-R	Kthagiri
19.	Thalaivasal	1000	CorDECT-R	Attur
20.	Omalur	1000	CorDECT-R	Omalur
21.	Mannargudi	1000	CorDECT-R	Mannargudi
22.	Thiruthuraipoondi	1000	CorDECT-R	Thiruthuraipoondi
23.	Aravakurichy	1000	CorDECT-R	Aravakurichy
24.	Veppanthattai	1000	CorDECT-R	Perambalur
25.	Chengam	1000	CorDECT-R	Chengam
26.	Tiruvannamalai	1000	CorDECT-R	Tiruvannamalai
27.	Jolarpet	1000	CorDECT-R	Thirupathur
28.	Nellikuppam	750	CDMA-R	Cuddalore
29.	Vadalur	750	CDMA-R	Cuddalore
30.	Sirupakkam	750	CDMA-R	Virdhachalam
31.	Virdhachalam	750	CDMA-R	Virdhachalam

1	2	3	4	5
32.	Gingee	750	CDMA-R	Gingee
33.	Tindivanam	1500	CDMA-R	Tindivanam
34.	Arakandanallur	750	CDMA-R	Villupuram
35.	Thirukalikundram	750	CDMA-R	Chengalpattu
36.	Gummidipoondi	750	CDMA-R	Ponneri
37.	Ponneri	750	CDMA-R	Ponneri
38.	Tiruvellore	1500	CDMA-R	Tiruvellore
39.	Ramnad Collectorate	750	CDMA-R	Ramnad
40.	Devakottai	750	CDMA-R	Devakottai
41.	Tirupathur	750	CDMA-R	Tirupathur
42.	Nilakottai	750	CDMA-R	Batlakottai
43.	Natham	750	CDMA-R	Natham
44.	Melur	750	CDMA-R	Madurai
45.	T. Kallupatti	750	CDMA-R	Tirumangalam
46.	Uthamapalayam	750	CDMA-R	Cumbum
47.	Theni	750	CDMA-R	Theni
48.	Kollengode	1500	CDMA-R	Kuzhithurai
49.	Neyoor	750	CDMA-R	Kuzhithurai
50.	Kovilpatti	750	CDMA-R	Kovilpatti
51.	Srivaikundam	750	CDMA-R	Srivaikundam
52.	Christianagaram	750	CDMA-R	Tiruchendur
53.	Puthiyamputhur	750	CDMA-R	Tuticorin
54.	Vilathikulam	750	CDMA-R	Vilathikulam
55.	Ambasamudram	750	CDMA-R	Ambasamudram
56.	Nanguneri	750	CDMA-R	Nanguneri
57.	Sankarankoil	750	CDMA-R	Sankarankoil
58.	Pavoorchathram	750	CDMA-R	Tenkasi
59.	Gangaikondan	750	CDMA-R	Tirunelveli

1	2	3	4	5
60.	Radhapuram	1500	CDMA-R	Valliyur
61.	Rajapalayam	1500	CDMA-R	Rajapalayam
62.	Virudhunagar	750	CDMA-R	Virudhunagar

Statement II

Details of Telephone Exchanges proposed to be set up during 2005-06 in Tamil Nadu

Sl.No.	Name of Exchange (Location)	Capacity	Type/Technology	District
1.	Mahendral IT Park	1000	EWSD RSU	Kancheepuram
2.	Papanayakanpalayam	4500	EWSD RSU	Coimbatore
3.	Ukkadam	1000	EWSD RSU	Coimbatore
4.	Krishnagiri Collectorate	1000	CDoT RSU	Krishnagiri
5.	Villukuri	1000	CDoT RSU	Kanyakumari
6.	Asaripallam	1000	EWSD RSU	Kanyakumari
7.	Edalakudi	2000	EWSD RSU	Kanyakumari
8.	SMRV Vadaseri	2000	EWSD RSU	Kanyakumari
9.	Nanguneri SEPZ	2000	CDoT RSU	Tirunelveli
10.	Akkarai RSU	1000	EWSD	Chennai
11.	Sivagamipuram RSU	2000	OCB	Chennai
12.	Nehru Nagar RSU	2000	EWSD	Chennai
13.	West KK Nagar RSU	6000	EWSD	Chennai
	Total Capacity Planned	26500		

*Details of CDMA WLL Plan for Year 2005-06**

Sl.No.	SSA	Capacity	Type
1	2	3	4
1.	Chengalpattu	5200	MSC Based WLL
2.	Cuddalore	6000	MSC Based WLL
3.	Kumbakonam	3000	MSC Based WLL

1	2	3	4
4.	Madurai	4500	MSC Based WLL
5.	Karaikudi	3000	MSC Based WLL
6.	Nagercoil	2250	MSC Based WLL
7.	Tirunelveli	6000	MSC Based WLL
8.	Tuticorin	4500	MSC Based WLL
9.	Virudhunagar	2250	MSC Based WLL
10.	Thanjavur	4500	MSC Based WLL
11.	Chennai	50000	MSC Based WLL
	Total Capacity Planned	91200	

*In addition, purchases order for 100 K equipment (MSC based) has been placed and is due for supply. The frequency planning and BTS locations are being finalized.

Statement III

Details of Automatic and Modern Telephone Exchanges Expanded during the current year 2005-06 (i.e. April 2005)

Technology	Exchange	Capacity
1	2	3
EWSD	Salem Meyya	2500
	Coonoor	1000
	Ooty	1000
E10B	Noyyal	500
CDOT MBM	Puliyangudi	256
	Koonimedu	8
	Mangalampet	8
	Villupuram S	240
	Nakkambadi	56
	Thulasiyapatt	100
	Krishnarajapu	136
	Nachalur	100
	Thathayanga	128
	Water Tank	1350
Small & Medium	Ottanpattu	8
	Peruvalur	8
	Thiruvampattu	8
	Vallam	16
	Enathimangalam	8
	Kalamarudur	8
	Othiayathur	8
	Zameenenathur	16
	Meyyur	16
	Poondi	40
	Kalipettai	16
	Azhagumanagari	16
	Eriyur	40
	EKKAGUI	32

1	2	3
	Karisalpatti	32
	Kilakarai	100
	Ramnad	150
	Thinnaikulam	24
	Uchipulli	50
	Madugupatti	16
	Muttakurichi	16
	Mahibalanpatti	16
	Panaikulam	50
	Pottagavayal	16

Statement IV

Details of Telephone Exchanges where waiting list for telephone connection still exists

Name of SSA	Sl.No.	Name of Exchance	Waiting List
1	2	3	4
CHENGALPATTU			
	1.	Acharapakkam	125
	2.	Amaipakkam	22
	3.	Ammaiyarkuppam	82
	4.	Arambakkam	39
	5.	Arni <CPT>	107
	6.	Arungulam	44
	7.	Athimanjeripet	74
	8.	Athipattu	62
	9.	Athipedu	62
	10.	Ayyampettai	59
	11.	Ayyangarkulam	60
	12.	Baluchettichatram	90
	13.	Buchireddipalli	37
	14.	Chengalpattu II	49
	15.	Chengalpattu III	6
	16.	Cheyyur	84
	17.	China Kancheepuram	16
	18.	Chittamur	81
	19.	Chunampet	112
	20.	Devampattu	6
	21.	Edayarpakkam	124
	22.	Ekkadu	44
	23.	Elapakkam	87
	24.	Elavambedu	17
	25.	Enathur	17
	26.	Ennore Port	53
	27.	Equvarpalayam	80
	28.	Erumbi	26
	29.	Guduvancherry I	150
	30.	Gummudipoondi	148
	31.	Gummudipoondi Old Town	127
	32.	Gunipalayam	136
	33.	K.G. Kandigai	128
	34.	Kadambathur	179
	35.	Kadappakkam	113
	36.	Kalpakkam	2
	37.	Kalpakkam Township	100
	38.	Kanakammachatram	70
	39.	Kancheepuram II	7
	40.	Kancheepuram-Collectorate	20
	41.	Kandigai	52

1	2	3	4
	42.	Kannigaipair	93
	43.	Kannigapuram	70
	44.	Karunguzhi	95
	45.	Kavaraipettai	90
	46.	Kayarambedu	34
	47.	Kelambakkam	61
	48.	Kovalam	77
	49.	L. Endathur	38
	50.	Madarpakkam	170
	51.	Maddur	38
	52.	Madurantagam	60
	53.	Magaral	46
	54.	Mamallapuram	46
	55.	Mambakkam	29
	56.	Manamathy	26
	57.	Manapathy	31
	58.	Manavalanagar	136
	59.	Maraimalainagar I	56
	60.	Mathur	126
	61.	Melmaruvathur	100
	62.	Mevalurkuppam	99
	63.	Meyyur	67
	64.	Minjur	173
	65.	N.N. Kandigai	43
	66.	Navalur	26
	67.	Nedumaram	100
	68.	Nellikuppam	38
	69.	Nerumbur	121
	70.	Olimohamedpet	25
	71.	Orathi	113
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	1250.	Variyankaval	88
	1251.	Vayalapadi	0
	1252.	Velliyanai	59
	1253.	Vengamedu Karur	29
	1254.	Venthanpatti	42
	1255.	Veppanthattai	82
	1256.	Veppur	166
	1257.	Vikramangalam	93
	1258.	Vilangudi Ariyalur	121
	1259.	Viralimalai Keeranur	58
	1260.	Yembal	44
TUTICORIN			
	1261.	Alwarthirunagari	73
	1262.	Chettikurichi	121
	1263.	Christianagaram	76
	1264.	Deivachayalpuram	140
	1265.	Duraiyur	146
	1266.	Eppodumvendran	88
	1267.	Eral	26
	1268.	Ettayapuram	180
	1269.	Ilayarasanendal	44
	1270.	Kadalaiyur	57
	1271.	Kadambur	40
	1272.	Kalugumalai	184
	1273.	Karuvelambadu	81
	1274.	Kayalpattinam	2
	1275.	Kayathar	45
	1276.	Kodiankulam	62
	1277.	Kongarayakurichi	19
	1278.	Kovilpatti	13
	1279.	Kulathur	151
	1280.	Kurukkuchalai	9
	1281.	Manapadu	16
	1282.	Maniyachi	127
	1283.	Meighananpuram	4
	1284.	Melakarandhai	129
	1285.	Mudivaithanendal	81
	1286.	Naduvakurichi	2
	1287.	Nagalapuram	36
	1288.	Nalatinputhoor	15
	1289.	Nazareth	129
	1290.	Ottapidaram	40
	1291.	Padukkapattu	18
	1292.	Paramankurichi	46
	1293.	Pasuvanthunai	85
	1294.	Pazhayakayal	41
	1295.	Peikulam	16
	1296.	Perilovanpatti	88
	1297.	Pudukottai	61
	1298.	Pudur	42
	1299.	Punnakayal	66
	1300.	Puthantharuvai	34
	1301.	Puthiamputhur	10
	1302.	Sathankulam	49

1	2	3	4
	1303.	Sawyerpuram	63
	1304.	Seidunganallur	27
	1305.	Serakulam	7
	1306.	Sivagannapuram	64
	1307.	Srivaikuntam	18
	1308.	Tharuvaikulam	14
	1309.	Tiruchendur	10
	1310.	Tuticorin	5
	1311.	Tuticorin Apnagar	2
	1312.	Tuticorin C Nagar-I	6
	1313.	Tuticorin Krishna	2
	1314.	Tuticorin M Puram	3
	1315.	Tuticorin M.S. Puram	5
	1316.	Tuticorin Sipcot	5
	1317.	Vallanad	3
	1318.	Veerapatti	58
	1319.	Vembar	106
	1320.	Veppalodai	7
	1321.	Vilathikulam	71
	1322.	Villiseri	72
VELLORE			
	1323.	Agaramcheri	1
	1324.	Alaganandal	26
	1325.	Alangayam	94
	1326.	Ambalur	37
	1327.	Anaicut	145
	1328.	Andiyappanur	157
	1329.	Anvarthikanpet	82
	1330.	Arakonam III	70
	1331.	Arakonam-I	90
	1332.	Arakonam-II	65
	1333.	Arakonam-Kaveripakkam	109
	1334.	Arakonam-Thakkolam	62
	1335.	Arni	243
	1336.	ARNI-Kannamangalam	264
	1337.	Banavaram	69
	1338.	Brammadesam	33
	1339.	Chetpet	36
	1340.	Chinnapallikuppam	22
	1341.	Damarapakkam	96
	1342.	Desur	96
	1343.	Devikapuram	77
	1344.	Eraiyur	162
	1345.	Gudiyatham	45
	1346.	Gudiyatham-Pernambut	20
	1347.	Guruvarajapettai	74
	1348.	Hasanamapet	68
	1349.	Jamnamarthur	3
	1350.	K.R. Thangal	96
	1351.	K.V. Kuppam	170
	1352.	Kajalnaickenpatti	103
	1353.	Kalambur	38
	1354.	Kalasapakkam	25
	1355.	Kalavai	82
	1356.	Kallapadi	47
	1357.	Kandapalayam	31
	1358.	Kanji	59

1	2	3	4
	1359.	Karigiri	108
	1360.	Karumbur	13
	1361.	Kattamppondi	63
	1362.	Kavanur	148
	1363.	Kelur	40
	1364.	Kilkodungalur	52
	1365.	Kilkovalaiveedu	22
	1366.	Kilpennathur	50
	1367.	Kodakkal	49
	1368.	Koddapattu	151
	1369.	Koolamandal	62
	1370.	Kosavanpudur	82
	1371.	Kunnathur	93
	1372.	Kuppanatham	32
	1373.	M.V. Kuppam	64
	1374.	Machampattu	32
	1375.	Madhanur	4
	1376.	Malaiyur	72
	1377.	Mamandur	72
	1378.	Mangalam	166
	1379.	Melpadi	49
	1380.	Melpallipattu	46
	1381.	Mittalam	19
	1382.	Morasapalli	51
	1383.	Munugapattu	84
	1384.	Nadalaganandal	146
	1385.	Narthampoondi	20
	1386.	Memili	65
	1387.	Nesal	104
	1388.	Odugathur	77
	1389.	Onnupuram	120
	1390.	Osur	54
	1391.	Pachur	77
	1392.	Padavedu	35
	1393.	Pakkampalayam	24
	1394.	Pallikonda	90
	1395.	Pallur	53
	1396.	Panapakkam	74
	1397.	Paradarami	58
	1398.	Paranji	29
	1399.	Pattuthakkam	76
	1400.	Periyakolappalur	44
	1401.	Periyakulam	19
	1402.	Pernamallur	54
	1403.	Perungulathur	24
	1404.	Polur	30
	1405.	Porkunam	30
	1406.	Pudumallavadi	50
	1407.	Purisai	36
	1408.	Ranipet-Arcot	80
	1409.	Ranipet-BHEL	11
	1410.	Ranipet-I	52
	1411.	Ranipet-II	41
	1412.	Ranipet-Melvisharam	63
	1413.	RanipetPonnai	111
	1414.	Ranipet-Sholingur	37

1	2	3	4
	1415.	Ranipet-Sipcot-II	42
	1416.	Ranipet-Walajah	28
	1417.	Rantham	23
	1418.	S. Mottur	62
	1419.	S. Pudupalayam	48
	1420.	Sakkaramallur	70
	1421.	Sampathrayanpet	49
	1422.	Santhavasal	40
	1423.	Sathanur	48
	1424.	Sempalli	36
	1425.	Somasipadi	52
	1426.	Sundarampalli	121
	1427.	T.V. Malai-I	45
	1428.	T.V. Malai-II	30
	1429.	T.V. Malai-Thamarai Nagar	22
	1430.	T.V. Malai-Vengikal	16
	1431.	Thandarampattu	36
	1432.	Thimmanamathur	70
	1433.	Timiri	134
	1434.	Tippasambudram	71
	1435.	Tirupathur	271
	1436.	Tirupattur-Jolarpet	168
	1437.	Tirupattur-Natrampalli	93
	1438.	Tirupattur-Pudupet	188
	1439.	Tirupattur-Vishamangalam	151
	1440.	Tiruvettipuram	197
	1441.	Ussoor	101
	1442.	Vadamathimangalam	5
	1443.	Vakkadai	82
	1444.	Valarpuram	50
	1445.	Valathur	42
	1446.	Vanapuram	96
	1447.	Vaniyambadi-I	128
	1448.	Vaniyambadi-II	7
	1449.	Velakalnatham	45
	1450.	Velam	147
	1451.	Vellakuttai	71
	1452.	Vellore-Ammundi	113
	1453.	Vellore-Kalpudur-RSU	8
	1454.	Vellore-Kaniyambadi	210
	1455.	Vellore--Latteri	194
	1456.	Vembakkam	56
	1457.	Veraiyur	128
	1458.	Vettavalam	25
	1459.	Vilvarani	23
	1460.	Vinnamangalam	3
	1461.	Virinjipuram	123
	1462.	Wandiwash	9
	1463.	Wandiwash-Thellar	120
	1464.	Yelagiri Hills	18
VIRUDHUNAGAR			
	1465.	Alaginallur	25
	1466.	Alangulam	78
	1467.	Amathur	117
	1468.	Anuppankulam	68
	1469.	Appaiyanaickenpatti	100

1	2	3	4
	1470.	Aruppukottai	132
	1471.	Aviyoor	28
	1472.	Chatrapatti	18
	1473.	Chockanathanputhur	65
	1474.	Cholapuram	53
	1475.	Dhalavaipuram	15
	1476.	Elayirampannai	62
	1477.	Erichanantham	30
	1478.	Kakkaivadanpatti	137
	1479.	Kalkurichi	33
	1480.	Kalloorani	23
	1481.	Kariapatti	164
	1482.	Keelarajakularaman	33
	1483.	Koomapatti	37
	1484.	Kunnur	64
	1485.	M. Pudupatti	62
	1486.	M. Reddiapatti	51
	1487.	Malaipatti	32
	1488.	Mallanginar	45
	1489.	Malli	89
	1490.	Mamsapuram	2
	1491.	Meenakshipuram	121
	1492.	Mettugundu	36
	1493.	N. Subbaihpuram	83
	1494.	Narikudi	102
	1495.	Nathampatti	23
	1496.	Nenmeni	95
	1497.	O. Mettupatti	13
	1498.	P. Ramachandrapuram	78
	1499.	Palavanatham	12
	1500.	Pandalgudi	59
	1501.	Paralachi	57
	1502.	R.R. Nagar	114
	1503.	Rajapalayam	22
	1504.	Rajiv Nagar RSU	63
	1505.	Sankaralingpuram	70
	1506.	Sattur	90
	1507.	Sengundrapuram	15
	1508.	Sevalpatti	41
	1509.	Sithurajapuram	2
	1510.	Sivakasi I	25
	1511.	Sivakasi II	12
	1512.	Sivakasi Reserve Line RSU	5
	1513.	Sivalingapuram	23
	1514.	Sivkasi TTL RSU	6
	1515.	Srivilliputhur	22
	1516.	Sundarapandiam	41
	1517.	Thayilpatti	34
	1518.	Tiruchuli	132
	1519.	Uppathur	29
	1520.	Veeracholan	38
	1521.	Vembakottai	80
	1522.	Virudhunagar Allampatti	1
	1523.	Virudhunagar Collectorate	7
	1524.	Virudhunagar I	64
	1525.	Watrap	73
		Total	99,195

Losses to Cottage Industries

6880. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of AGRO ON RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cottage industries of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala have suffered heavy losses due to Tsunami;

(b) if so, the details of losses incurred; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government for the development of affected cottage Industries in the said States?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) As per reports received by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), 4 units set under the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) have suffered some losses due to Tsunami in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The details are as under:

State	No. of units	Description of units	Amount of losses (Rs.)
Tamil Nadu	Three	2 engaged in bricks manufacturing and one in collection of lime shell.	Rs. 88,000
Kerala	One	Flour mill	Rs. 1,50,000

(c) While three of the affected units have started functioning, the fourth is expected to resume production shortly.

[Translation]

Visit of Amir of Qatar

6881. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Amir of Qatar visited India recently; and

(b) if so, the issues discussed and the outcome thereof?

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

(b) Discussions were held on regional and international issues and those of bilateral interest such as cooperation in the areas of oil and gas, civil aviation, trade and investment, health, education, information technology, tourism, security and defence cooperation & issues related to welfare of Indian expatriates in Qatar. These exchanges would lead to further strengthening and enhancement of bilateral cooperation to mutual benefit.

Biotechnology Based Programmes

6882. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the programmes/schemes run by the Government under the bio-technology based programmes for the SCs/STs and weaker sections and the criteria for providing loans, grants and other financial assistance for the same;

(b) the names of the agencies through which the programmes are being run and the amount shared by the State Governments; and

(c) the names of the programmes being run in Rajasthan during the last three years and the agencies through which these programmes are being run along with the year-wise, programme-wise and agency-wise details of the funds provided in the form of loan, grants and financial assistance?

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) The Department of Biotechnology provides grant for demonstration and training projects to benefit SC/ST people, women and rural population and farming community under the biotech based programmes for societal development. The major criteria for support are credibility and proven track record of the implementing agency, scientific and technical expertise required for implementing the project and the proposed benefits to the target group. The proposals are peer reviewed by experts and later placed before a Task Force of exports for final recommendation.

(b) The projects are being funded at universities, R&D institutions, Govt. institutions, autonomous and national institutes, colleges, NGOs and charitable trusts etc. As such, there is no requirement that the state government should share the grant amount.

(c) The projects supported in Rajasthan under the SC/ST scheme are:

Rupees in lakh

Sl.No.	Project Title/Agency	Sanction date	Total Amount Sanctioned	Release I	Release II	Release III	Total Release
1.	"Vermicompost for SC/ST/BPL population in Alwar District" to Indian Institute of Rural Development, (IIRD), Jaipur	22.02.2000	17.11	6.20	3.205	0.00	9.405
2.	"Lage Scale Production of Vermicompost and its use on economically important crops especially rose and seed spices and forest trees etc. involving SC/ST population of certain district of Rajasthan" to Indian Institute of Rural Development, A-11, Mahaveer Udyan Path, Jaipur-302015	20.02.2002	67.20	19.40	12.578	0.00	31.978
3.	"Production and promotion of enriched organic manures and their effect on productivity of major crops" to Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Banasthali Vidyapith, P.O. Banasthali Vidyapith, Distt. Tonk-304022	01.11.2004	9.49	2.88	0.00	0.00	2.88

Repair and Maintenance of N.Hs in Andhra Pradesh

6883. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise amount sanctioned for the repair and maintenance of national highways in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, till date;

(b) whether the aforesaid annual allocation has always been less for Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether most of the national highways in the State are in bad shape; and

(d) if so, the remedial steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The details of allocation of funds of maintenance and repairs of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years are as under:

Year	Allocation
2002-03	Rs. 42.16 crore
2003-04	Rs. 43.70 crore
2004-05	Rs. 43.95 crore

(b) Funds for maintenance and repairs of National Highways are allocated depending upon length of National Highways in the concerned State, extent of flood damages and overall availability of funds.

(c) and (d) Four laning of 1778 km length of National Highways in Andhra Pradesh has been taken up under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase-I & II. Out of this four-laning of 973 km has already been completed and the balance length is likely to be completed by December, 2007. Out of total length of 2736 km being developed and maintained by the State PWD, 2300 km length has been improved during the last 5 years under various schemes. The balance length is proposed for improvement in future plans. As such, the National Highways in Andhra Pradesh are being maintained in traffic worthy condition within the available resources.

[English]

NHAI Projects

6884. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects at present with the National Highways Authority of India;

(b) the estimated cost of the projects;

(c) whether the NHAI proposes to privatise some of these projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has been entrusted to develop National Highways under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase I, Phase II & Phase IIIA as per the following details:

Particulars	Approved Cost (Rs. in crore)
NHDP Phase I	30,300.00 (at 1999 prices)
NHDP Phase II	34,339.90 (at 2002 prices)
NHDP Phase IIIA	22,000.000 (at 2004 prices)

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The projects under NHDP Phase IIIA are proposed to be implemented through Public Private Partnership on Built Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. In addition, seven numbers of contracts are under implementation of BOT basis under NHDP Phase I & II and 31 numbers of contracts are proposed to be awarded on BOT basis.

(e) Public Private Partnership enables raising of additional resources through participation of private sector and has other advantages like efficient and timely completion of projects besides ensuring maintenance over a period of time.

New National Postal Policy

6885. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any new National Postal Policy in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) No, Sir. While no National Postal Policy has been formally announced, development of the sector over the last five decades has been guided by policy imperatives spelt out in the various Five Year Plans. However, in view of the fast paced developments in the communication sector, there is need for a National Postal Policy which will, inter-alia, define the role and future development of postal services in meeting communication needs. No new policy has yet been formulated.

Setting up of Software Development and Support Centre by EMC

6886. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether EMC Corporation, a global provider of Information storage and management solutions has set up its Software Development and Support Centre in Bangalore;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it has been helpful for Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A unit in the name of M/s EMC Data Storage Systems India Pvt. Ltd. has been approved in December, 2002 at Bangalore under STP (Software Technology Park) Scheme for software development with an initial investment of Rs. 10 crore.

(c) The unit has generated a cumulative export revenue of Rs. 66 crore with an employment generation for about 450 people.

Cadre Review of Central Secretariat Stenographers Service

6887. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Secretariat Stenographers Services (Gazetted) Officers are treated on a par with that of Central Secretariat Service (Gazetted) Officers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether cadre review has taken place in respect of Central Secretariat Stenographers Service as was done in case of Central Secretariat Service; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) The Central Secretariat Stenographer's Service (CSSS) and Central Secretariat Service (CSS) are two distinct Services. Nature of work, duties and responsibilities of the CSSS Officers are different from those of CSS Officers. Therefore, Gazetted Officers belonging to CSSS and CSS are distinguishable.

(c) and (d) The 'Group of Officers' on the Cadre Structure of CSSS, which was constituted by the Government, has made several recommendations with a view to alleviate some of the major grievances of the members of CSSS, consistent with the overall administrative, organizational and financial concern of the Government. A final decision on these recommendations is yet to be taken.

Flyover on National Highway-8

6888. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents reported while crossing National Highway No. 8 during 2004 and 2005, till date;

(b) whether the Government has received a number of requests/representations for construction of flyover on National Highway No. 8;

(c) if so, the details thereof including the location thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) the time by which the flyover is likely to be constructed by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) National Highway-wise data on road accidents is not maintained by this Ministry.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) The details of the flyovers requested on National Highway No. 8 alongwith the current stretches are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Regarding Flyovers on National Highway-8

Sl.No.	Location on which request/ representation for construction of flyover received	Status of flyover
1	2	3
1.	Kapashera intersection-Km 20.317 (Delhi-Gurgaon Section)	Not feasible as the required height of flyover as per norms of Airport Authority of India is not available.

1	2	3
2.	Kendriya Vihar km 25.130 (Delhi-Gurgaon Section)	Being undertaken and targeted to be completed by December, 2005.
3.	Hero Honda Chowk km 36.175 (Delhi Gurgaon Section)	
4.	Kadodara Junction km 260 near Surat (Vadodara-Surat Section)	These flyovers are included in the Detailed Project Report of proposed six-laning project of Vadodara-Surat Section of Built Operate & Transfer (BOT) basis.
5.	Golden Chawkadi Km 113 near Vadodara (Vadodara-Surat Section)	
6.	Damnizampa at km 348 (Surat-Manor Section)	
7.	Udwada Railway Crossing at km 354 (Surat-Manor Section)	Existing traffic does not warrant construction of flyovers at these locations.
8.	Bhilad at km 375 (Surat-Manor Section)	
9.	Charoti at km 418 (Surat-Manor Section)	
10.	Crossing Balasar-Kargaon (Surat-Manor Section)	

Facilities for Mentally Challenged Persons

6889. SHRI A.F.G. OSMANI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mentally challenged persons lodged in Government hospitals/protection homes/other care centres as on 31 December, 2004;

(b) whether there is a guideline to ensure adequate facilities to the mentally challenged persons lodged in Government hospitals/protection homes/other care centres; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The data relating to the number of mentally challenged persons lodged in Government hospitals/protection homes/other care centers is not centrally maintained at present.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Mentally challenged persons are provided with adequate facilities such as clean beds, adequate drinking water, bathroom, toilets and hygienically prepared food. They are provided with high quality medical and nursing care. Essential drugs are provided free of cost to below poverty line patients. Financial concessions in treatment charges are given to poor patients.

Pending Applications for PCOs in Tamil Nadu

6890. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for installation of PCO booths pending in various districts particularly in Karur district of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to clear the pending PCO applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, there are no applications pending for installation of Local and STD/ISD PCOs in Tamil Nadu including Karur District as on 31-3-2005.

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

Global Treaty on Nuclear Terrorism

6891. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UN Assembly has approved a global treaty to check nuclear terrorism;

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

(c) the response received in this regard; and

(d) the names of the countries which have ratified the treaty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The UN General Assembly on 13 April, 2005 adopted by consensus the International Convention for Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. The Convention aims at preventing and punishing acts of terrorism involving the use of nuclear materials and substances and promotion of international co-operation for extradition and prosecution of persons involved in such acts.

(d) The Convention will be opened for signature by member states of the UN at the UN Headquarters from September 14, 2005 to December 31, 2005.

Marketing of Gabapentin

6892. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that M/s Pfizer INC have paid $430 million in fines and settled charges for flouting law for promotion and marketing of Gabapentin in case of Neuropathic pain without approval for such induction in the United States;

(b) whether the Drug Control General of India, Mumbai, permitted M/s Sun Pharmaceuticals Industries Limited for promotion and marketing of Gabapentin in case of neuropain in India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether such sales promotion and marketing are in violation of Drugs and Cosmetic Act, 1940; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) This Ministry has no information that M/s. Pfizer Inc have paid $ 430 million in fines and settle charge for flouting law for promotion and marketing Gabapentin in case of Neuropathic pain without approval of such induction in United States.

(b) and (c) M/s. Sun Pharma informed that the drug Gabapentin (Brand name-GABANTIN) is being only promoted for its approved indication for the treatment in epilepsy i.e. for the adhjunctive therapy in the treatment of partial seizures with or without secondary generalization in adults with epilepsy.

(d) and (e) Does not arise, in view of above.

[Translation]

Responding to MPs Letters

6893. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments are not covered by the existing provisions of guidelines contained in the Central Secretariat Official Procedure Manual for responding to the letters received from the Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to include the State Governments and Public Sector Undertakings under the said guidelines; and

(d) 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 Central Secretarial Manual of Office Procedure (CS MOP) has laid down various procedures for performance of Secretariat work by the functionaries in various Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

(c) and (d) The Government has no proposal to include the State Governments and Public Sector Undertakings under the guidelines contained in CSMOP.

[English]

Vacant Post In MCI

6894. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of posts are lying vacant in the Medical Council of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date;

(c) the separate break up of SCs/STs OBCs and other categories; and

(d) the steps taken to fill up the vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Information is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Vacant Posts in MCI

Sl.No.	Name of Post	Category and Number of posts vacant	Steps taking to fill the post
1.	Whole Time Inspector	1 (General)	Under Process
2.	Joint Secretary	1 (General)	Under Process
3.	Deputy Secretary (Medical)	1 (General)	Under Process
4.	Law Officer	1 (General)	Under Process
5.	Assistant Secretary	2 (General)	Under Process
6.	Section Officer (Including Supdt.)	1 (ST)	Promotion Post. No eligible employee available
7.	Stenographer Gr. II	2 (General)	Under Process
8.	Stenographer Gr. III	2 Gen., 1 OBC, 1 SC	Under Process
9.	Telephone Operator-cum-Receptionist	1 (General)	Under Process
10.	Computer Operator	3 (General), 1 OBC	Under Process
11.	UDC	2 Gen., 1 ST, ISC	Promotion Post. No eligible employee available
12.	Store Keeper	1 (General)	Promotion Post. No eligible employee available
13.	Lower Division Clerk	2 Gen., 2 OBC, 1 ST, 1 Ph.	Under Process
14.	Gestetner Operator	1 (General)	Under Process
15.	Peon	2 OBC, 1 ST	Under Process
16.	Electrictian	1 (General)	Under Process
17.	DG Set Operator	1 (General)	Under Process

Re-Vital as a Food Supplement

6895. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:
MOHD. MUKEEM:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that M/s Ranbaxy had been selling their product Re-vital as a food supplement;

(b) if so, whether a case was filed against Ranbaxy for selling this product as food supplement; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The licensing of food is done by the State Governments.

The Central Committee for Food Standards (CCFS), which is a statutory body under PFA Act, 1954, in its meeting in February, 1995, recommended that "Gingseng' may be termed as food for Special Dietary use or in the preparation of therapeutic foods without any medical claims. The recommendation is not related to specific product 'Revital'. "Gingseng" is a herbal root extract and is one of the ingredients of 'Revital'.

(b) and (c) The Central Government has not filed case against Ranbaxy in this regard.

Connecting of Villages with Mobile Network

6896. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 5000 villages with population above 5000 are likely to be connected with mobile network by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited till December, 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of villages and towns in each State of the country including Jharkhand and Bihar connected with mobile network alongwith the number of villages and towns in the country which is yet to be connected with mobile network;

(d) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has recently decided to connect all national highways and rail lines with its network; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has so far provided cellular service covering 3966 towns including all the District Headquarters except newly created districts or the districts falling in Buffer Zone. The expansion of the network is in progress to extend the coverage of additional towns upto Tehsil Headquarters. Due to vast coverage of national highways and railway routes about 6000 villages having population more than 5000 are benefited as on date by incidental coverage of cellular services.

(c) The details of towns and villages covered by BSNL with cellular services state-wise are given in the enclosed Statement. Further expansion of cellular coverage in other towns including villages is to be decided depending upon techno-commercial viability.

(d) and (e) BSNL has already covered significant length of National Highways and proposes to cover all National Highway except where it is technically non-feasible, during current financial year. Only important Railway routes are proposed for cellular mobile coverage.

Statement

State-wise details of Towns and Villages covered by BSNL Mobile Services

Sl.No.	Circle	No. of Towns/Cities Covered with Cellular Services	Total No. of Villages	Total No. of Villages having Population ≥5000	No. ov Villages having ≥ 5000 Population and Getting Incidental Cellular Coverage of BSNL
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	5	201	2	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	241	29460	2286	52

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Assam	53	24685	120	14
4.	Bihar	123	41077	3166	828
5.	Chhattisgarh	55	19720	25	33
6.	Gujarat	293	18125	960	485
7.	Haryana	106	6850	602	299
8.	Himachal Pradesh	88	16925	9	7
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	38	6764	0	0
10.	Jharkhand	70	71703	364	183
11.	Karnataka	319	27066	839	285
12.	Kerala	511	1468	1280	1016
13.	Madhya Pradesh	149	51806	382	20
14.	Maharashtra including Goa	336	42467	1279	165
15.	North East. I (Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura)		7125		
16.	North East II (Nagaland, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh)	71	7020	172	84
17.	Orissa	142	46989	184	50
18.	Punjab	182	12687	223	100
19.	Rajasthan	138	39483	761	119
20.	Tamil Nadu including Pondicherry	318	17924	1530	522
21.	Uttar Pradesh	526	103396	2550	862
22.	Uttaranchal	54	15610	82	58
23.	West Bengal including Sikkim	148	38774	1881	405
	Total	3966	647325	18697	6058

Mobiles Phone Companies

6897. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the five top mobile companies which are providing mobile phones in the country alongwith their subscribers;

(b) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, a Government enterprise, has failed to cross the private mobile operator's subscribers;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the concrete measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) M/s Bharti Cellular Ltd., M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd., M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd., M/s Idea Cellular Ltd. and M/s Hutchison Max Telecom Pvt. Ltd., are the top five mobile phone companies, which are providing mobile service in the country. The number of subscribers of these companies as on 31st March 2005 are 104.78 lakhs, 94.07 lakhs, 93.30 lakhs, 31.89 lakhs and 15.12 lakhs respectively.

(b) to (d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has been licensed to provide GSM (Global System for Mobile Communication) based cellular mobile service in all the Service Areas of the country except Delhi and Mumbai. BSNL launched its countrywide GSM mobile service except in Delhi and Mumbai w.e.f. October, 2002 onwards progressively and within a short span of two years and 6 months, BSNL has 94.07 lakhs cellular subscribes as on 31.03.2005. BSNL further proposes to augment its GSM network capacity by 14 million lines in the current year to ensure good Quality of Service (QOS) and to meet the overwhelming demand.

Installing Incinerators in Hospitals

6798. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that 40,000 used syringes are being generated by 85 hospitals in the capital every day;

(b) if so, whether only 40 per cent of the syringes are destroyed or incinerated and recycled syringes are used on almost two-third patients in the country;

(c) if so, whether the hospitals and nursing homes have installed sufficient number of incinerators and made them operational and managed the waste properly; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to get installed more incinerators in the Government Hospitals and Nursing Homes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare does not maintain such information. In so far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi viz. Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated Hospitals and All India Institute of Medical Sciences are concerned, used syringes are decontaminated at source as per the method laid down in the Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998. Thereafter, the same are shredded and disposed of. The incinerators are already installed in all Central Government Hospitals, which are operational and functioning satisfactorily.

[Translation]

Telecom Services in U.P.

6899. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding pathetic telecom services in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the district-wise number of complaints received during the last three years till date and the number of complaints disposed out of them so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. No complaints regarding pathetic telecom services in Uttar Pradesh was

received by BSNL. However, few communications were received from Hon'ble M.P., Shri Brajesh Pathak recently regarding improvement of services.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

However, following steps are taken to further improve the services.

(i) Connecting all exchange on reliable digital media.

(ii) Replacement of under ground paper core cables by other systems in phased manner.

(iii) Creation of pole less network.

(iv) Opening of more Remote Subscriber Unit/ Remote Line Unit (RSUs/RLUs) in Multi-exchange network thereby reducing exchange area size.

(v) Introduction of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) system, Digital Line Concentrators.

(vi) Conversion of Single Base Module (SBM) exchange into RSU exchanges.

(vii) Conversion of C.DOT 256 Port exchanges into AN-RAXs (Access Network Rural Automatic Exchanges).

(viii) Centralized fault booking at SDCC (Short Distance Charging Centre)/LDCC (Long Distance Charging Centre).

(ix) Provision of maintenance free battery sets and Engine Alternators for back-up power supplies.

(x) Provision of extended maintenance free battery with WLL-FWT (Wireless in Local Loop-Fixed Wireless Terminal) for providing longer talk time and standby time in future supplies.

(xi) Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) entered for WLL equipments working in rural area including FWTs and provision of AMC in new supplies.

(xii) Battery charger of WLL-FWT to operate in the voltage range of 90-300 V in future supplies.

(xiii) Action has been taken to augment the mobile network capacity by 12.2 Lakh in 2005 in Uttar Pradesh to remove congestion, ensure good Quality of Service (Qos) and to meet the overwhelming demand.

(xiv) Mobile network is being optimised for its performance continuously and monitoring of network has been strengthened by BSNL to ensure performance as per the QoS parameters prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

[English]

Meeting of the National Shipping Board

6900. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 105th meeting of the National Shipping Board, the apex body of the Ministry of Shipping has decided to deliberate on many of the important issues of the sector like development of coastal shipping, regulation of shipping lines, off shore and marine logistic support service, navigational issues, taxation etc;

(b) if so, the main decision taken in the meeting;

(c) the extent to which these decisions have been agreed upon by the Government; and

(d) the steps being taken to implement them?

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

(b) Detailed discussions could not take place. Consequently, no specific decision has been taken. However, the following recommendations have been made:

(i) Automatic Identification System (AIS) should be introduced. This system requires on board a ship technology capable of providing information about a ship to other ships and to coastal authorities, automatically. In India introduction of AIS is very much essential for ensuring effective security of maritime trade and bringing Indian monitoring system at par with other maritime nations in Indian waters.

(ii) Concrete efforts should be made to prevent spurious distress calls. Spurious calls on the distress frequency have become a common occurrence in the recent past. In order to prevent

such calls, an awareness campaign is needed to educate mariners.

(iii) Customs' duty on bunkers and spares required for coastal vessels should be exempted so as to increase the share of coastal shipping.

(iv) An Empowered Committee should be set up in the Ministry to deal with all matters connected with development of coastal shipping.

(c) Government has not yet received the recommendations of National Shipping Board.

(d) Does not arise.

Funds for Procurement of Modern Equipments in Govt. Hospitals

6901. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the funds allocated to Government Hospitals to procure modern equipments during the years 2003-2004 and 2004-05 have been utilised;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the MRI machines, ventilators and other modern equipment could not be procured even after the tenders were floated;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to streamline the procurement procedure for essential equipment in the various hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) The purchase of costly equipments including imported equipments for the Central Government hospitals is carried out after following all the codal formalities laid down in the rules.

The funds allocated for the purchase under the sub head of Machinery & Equipment for Dr. R.M.L. Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated Hospitals have been utilized. However, in case of Safdarjung Hospital, orders were placed for the procurement of C.T. Scan, MRI Cobalt Therapy Machines in the year 2003-2004 and 2004-2005. But the machines could not arrive in the respective years resulting in surrender of funds, however the equipments would be procured during the current year.

The procedure for procurement of costly equipments has been streamlined and the calendar of events have been circulated to the Central Government Hospitals.

Discontinuing Sale of Non-Popular Products by Kendriya Bhandar

6902. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 'popularity of the products' is taken into consideration while selecting suppliers by the purchase committee as per part (a) of the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 454 dated July 7, 2004;

(b) if so, whether 'popularity' of a product is determined on its turnover, sale outside Kendriya Bhandar and such other co-operatives which have a regional or national presence by way of market share;

(c) whether Kendirya Bhandar is selling products not having such popularity;

(d) if so, the details of such products; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to discontinue the sale of those products?

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) Popularity of the products is one of the criteria for selection of suppliers.

(b) to (e) Kendriya Bhandar has informed that they sell universally popular branded products as well as products which have generalized specifications and for which there is a local demand. There is no proposal to discontinue the sale of any product as long as it is in demand by customers.

CVC to Probe Graft Cases

6903. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has directed the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to take direct route to probe graft cases as reported in the *Indian Express* dated March 24, 2005;

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

(c) the details of cases pending investigation with the CVC against senior officials; and

(d) the reasons for not resorting to such steps earlier?

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 has decided that it would invoke sections 8 and 11 of CVC Act, 2003 to conduct an enquiry on its own in such cases where there is undue delay in handling of complaints of various nature against senior government officials.

(c) and (d) As reported by the Central Vigilance Commission as on 30.4.2005, out of the 94 such cases against senior officers, taken up by the Commission for direct enquiry by its own officers, reports have been received in respect of 47 cases.

Providing Employment to Youth Crossing Age Limit

6904. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any specific plan for providing employment to those youths who have crossed the age limit permissible for employment in Government and Semi-Government Sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its financial implications; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government.

(c) As per extant instructions on the subject, only those candidates are considered for employment in the Central Government, who fulfil all eligibility criteria as prescribed in the Recruitment Rules.

No Diabetes Case among Tribes of Rajasthan

6905. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that in people belonging to some tribes in the country particularly in Rajasthan not a single case of diabetes has ever been reported so far;

(b) if so, whether the ICMR has launched studies to find out the exact reasons for this; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) had conducted random studies on Raica and non-Raica communities in Rajasthan and their consumption of Camel Milk. The mean fasting blood glucose of persons belonging to Raica Community was found to be 90.4 mg % whereas it was 95.2 mg % for non-Raica Community. It was found that prevalence of Diabetes was 0% in Raica community taking camel milk, 1.1% in Raica community not taking camel milk, and 2.8% in non-Raica community not taking camel milk but living in the same geographical and socio-agricultural environment.

Further studies are required to confirm that consumption of camel milk will actually reduce the incidence of diabetes mellitus. In this regard the ICMR has proposed to initiate two studies on the anti-diabetic properties of camel milk. These are entitled "Hypogliycemic/insulin like activity of camel milk: quantification of the effect in animal models of diabetes/ insulin resistance" and "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 two years time after commencement.

Prime Minister's Meeting with District Collectors

6906. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister is likely to meet all District Collectors from across the country shortly;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its venue and timing;

(c) the purpose of the meeting;

(d) whether prior consultations with the State Governments have been held with regard to the desirability of such a meeting; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) The National Conference of District Collectors to be addressed by the Prime Minister is proposed to be held in Delhi on 19-20 May, 2005.

(c) The Conference will discuss issues of governance and improvement in the delivery of services at District level.

(d) and (e) As a prelude to the National Conference, 8 regional workshops were held on identified themes to which the State Governments deputed officers. The recommendations of the workshops will be considered in the Conference.

[Translation]

Accountability of Bureaucracy

6907. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to put to an end to red-tapism and inspector Raj;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to make bureaucracy and inspector Raj more accountable; and

(c) the success achieved by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (c) Regulatory reform is an ongoing process and changes in regulations/legislation are made keeping in view the broad objectives and need to cut transaction cost and time taken in doing business and making delivery of services to the citizens easier and free of difficulties. The following measures/issues are being taken in this regard:

(i) Single Window clearance and avoiding multiplicity of authorities.

(ii) Prescribe time limits for grant of non-statutory approvals

(iii) State specific fine-tuning of specific institutional and statutory/regulatory features.

(iv) Computerisation and Maintenance of records.

(v) Simplification of laws and procedures.

(vi) Reducing the number of routine inspections.

Per-Capita Expenditure in Urban/Rural Areas

6908. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the per-capita average expenditure for monthly consumption in rural and urban areas in the country is Rs. 554 and Rs. 1022 respectively;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

(c) the procedure followed by the Government for calculating the per-capita average expenditure; and

(d) the amount of minimum and maximum expenditure in both rural and urban areas separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The all-India average monthly per capita consumer expenditure (MPCE) was Rs. 554 for rural India and Rs. 1022 for urban India based on NSS 59th round conducted during January-December 2003.

(c) The estimate of per capita average expenditure has been worked out by dividing estimated total consumer expenditure by estimated total number of persons. The estimates of average MPCE are based on a nation-wide sample survey where 26,143 rural households spread over 6,553 villages and 14,870 urban households spread over 3,757 urban blocks were canvassed after selecting them scientifically in the 59th round during 2003.

(d) Based on NSS 59th Round Survey conducted during 2003; for Rural India, the average expenditures based on lowest MPCE Class (Rs. 0-225) and highest MPCE class (Rs. 950 and more) are Rs. 195 and Rs. 1440 respectively. While for Urban India, the average expenditures based on lowest MPCE Class (Rs. 0-300) and highest MPCE class (Rs. 1925 and more) are Rs. 250 and Rs. 3116 respectively.

[English]

Supply of Sub-Standard/Fake Medicines

6909. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of complaints have been received from the general public regarding supply of sub-standard/fake medicines being supplied in C.G.H.S. Dispensaries in Delhi;

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

(c) whether any surprise check have been conducted to verify the medicines being supplied to the CGHS dispensaries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken/proposed to be taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Occasionally, such complaints are received from the CGHS beneficiaries. There is an inbuilt mechanism to ensure quality of drugs supplied through the CGHS dispensaries as detailed below:

(i) Only pre-tested medicines are accepted by the CGHS Medical Store Depot from the Hospital Services Consultancy Corporation (HSCC) which is making bulk supply of medicines to CGHS Delhi. The HSCC gets the drugs tested from two Government authorised labs and submits the test reports to the CGHS MSD along with the medicine supplies.

(ii) Random samples of drugs are drawn by the Central Drug Standard Control Organisation/ CGHS MSD and sent to CIPL, Ghaziabad for testing the standard of the drugs.

(iii) Random samples of drugs are also sent by the CGHS MSD to Govt. approved labs in Delhi for testing.

(iv) Samples are also sent to the Govt. approved labs by the CGHS MSD when specific complaints are received.

The use of medicines/drugs that are found to be spurious/of substandard quality is immediately suspended and withdrawn from the CGHS dispensaries and the CGHS MSD and thereafter sent back to the HSCC who have supplied the medicines. Further, the Drug Controller General of India is immediately informed to take appropriate action against the Firm/Suppliers of the medicine.

The details of Lab testing of drugs in the dispensaries under CGHS Delhi during 2004-05 is as under:

A total of 57 samples of drugs were lifted out of which:

(i) The number of drugs tested by DCG (I) through the CDSCO is 34, and

(ii) The number of drugs tested by the CGHS MSD through Govt. approved labs is 23.

Out of the 57 items of drugs tested, only one item was declared substandard (17 samples of that item were found to be substandard).

The Drug Inspectors of DCG (I) also make surprise checks and lift samples from the CGHS dispensaries and

CGHS MSD. During the year 2004, there were three such surprise checks by the Drug Inspectors.

The following action was taken by the CGHS on receipt of the reports after analysis of drugs:

(i) All the CGHS units were advised to suspend the use of the substandard drugs and return the balance quantity to the CGHS MSD.

(ii) The HSCC was requested to replace/lift the quantity of drugs found substandard which was subsequently done.

(iii) The DCG (I) was requested to take appropriate action against the firm that had manufactured the substandard drug.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of Persons by Coal Mines

6910. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the cases relating to rehabilitation of persons displaced by coal mines pending with the coal companies;

(b) the details thereof, company-wise;

(c) the number of cases settled by the companies so far, company-wise; and

(d) the time by which the remaining cases are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (d) As reported by Coal India Limited, rehabilitation of project affected people is a continuous process in which rehabilitation of displaced families is done in phases in accordance CIL's Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) Policy, 2000. The subsidiary companies make all efforts to settle the cases within the minimum possible time and start mining operations only after affected persons are rehabilitated. As per records available, company-wise cases settled as on 1st March, 2005 are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	No. of families displaced	No. of families rehabilitated
1.	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	1593	1593
2	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	1573	1573
3.	Central Coalfields Ltd.	1666	1666
4.	Western Coalfields Ltd.	5503	5503
5.	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	4281	4281
6.	Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	2576	2576
7.	Northern Coalfields Ltd.	2321	2321
8.	North East Coalfields Ltd.	Nil	Nil
	Total:	19,513	19,513

Extended Warranty on Purchase of Computers

6911. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

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

(a) whether computer manufacturing companies in the country are providing an optional facility of extended warranty on their computers against certain charges;

(b) if so, the details of the companies which are providing the facility of extended warranty on their computers together with their charges;

(c) whether some companies such as Hewlett Packard India Ltd. (HP)/Compaq are neither issuing bills/cash memos nor are showing the extended warranty charges in their bills inspite of charging the extended warranty charges from the customers;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) According to the information provided by the Manufacturers Association of Information Technology (MAIT), presently, most of the computer manufacturing companies offer extended warranty on their computers.

(c) to (e) Extended warranty offered at the time of purchase is reflected in the cost of the product or else a standard warranty which consumer buys can be extended by paying marginally more. In either case, it is understood that proper documentation of warranty is provided to the customer.

[English]

Creation of Employment Opportunities under PMRY

6912. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the state-wise details of employment opportunities created under the Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana during the Tenth Five Year Plan period upto the year 2004-2005;

(b) the estimated number of Urban unemployed youth in the beginning of the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) the total amount of self employment credit given by different Nationalised Banks during the Plan period so far?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) The State-wise details of employment opportunities created under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during the 10th Five Year Plan period (2002-03 to 2004-05) (provisional) are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) According to the latest survey of the National Sample Survey of the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), conducted in 1999-2000 (55th quinquennial round), unemployed rate among the youth (15-29 years) in the urban areas on the Current Daily Status (CDS) basis is 15.4 per cent.

(c) Public sector banks extended credit amounting to Rs. 3161.52 crore under the PMRY during the 10th Plan period so far, i.e., during 2002-03 to 2004-05 (provisional).

Statement

State-wise details of employment opportunities created under the PMRY during the 10th Five Year Plan [2002-03 to 2004-05 (provisional)]

(based on Reserve Bank of India reports)

Sl.No.	State/UT	Estimated employment generated* (No.)
1	2	3
1.	Haryana	27773
2.	Himachal Pradesh	10877
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	2529
4.	Punjab	30086
5.	Rajasthan	48306
6.	Chandigarh	423
7.	Delhi	3027
8.	Assam	18492
9.	Manipur	1622
10.	Meghalaya	1086
11.	Nagaland	371
12.	Tripura	6335
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	1482
14.	Mizoram	1419
15.	Sikkim	98
16.	Bihar	36173
17.	Jharkhand	17978
18.	Orissa	25952
19.	West Bengal	11414
20.	Andaman & Nicobar	647
21.	Madhya Pradesh	68463
22.	Chhattisgarh	12197

1	2	3
23.	Uttar Pradesh	151809
24.	Uttaranchal	21507
25.	Gujarat	27332
26.	Maharashtra	67580
27.	Daman & Diu	12
28.	Goa	630
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	15
30.	Andhra Pradesh	62196
31.	Karnataka	40740
32.	Kerala	48155
33.	Tamil Nadu	44784
34.	Lakshadweep	45
35.	Pondicherry	1049
	Total	792596

*Estimated @ 1.5 per disbursed case.

Ayurvedic/Homoeopathic Facilities to Senior Citizens

6913. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government allows senior citizens to avail Ayurvedic/Homoeopathic facilities from any CGHS dispensary other than Ayurvedic/Homoeopathic CGHS Dispensary allotted/assigned to him/her;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to consider the extension of Ayurvedic/Homoeopathic facilities to senior citizens from any of the CGHS Dispensary; and

(d) if so, the time by when the same will be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The CGHS beneficiaries (both serving and pensioner) are required to avail of facilities from the CGHS Ayurvedic/Homoeopathic dispensary/Unit that is tagged to the CGHS allopathic dispensary where their CGHS card is registered. However, on receipt of a specific request from a pensioner cardholder for availing Ayurvedic/Homoeopathic facilities from a CGHS dispensary/Unit other than the one to which they are tagged/attached, such requests are considered by CGHS Directorate on merits.

(c) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Heavy Rush in Government Hospitals

6914. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Government hospitals are facing the problems of heavy rush of patients;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey to ascertain the gravity of the problem;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any scheme to tide over the above problem; 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) Health being a State subject under Constitution of India, the information in respect of States/Union Territories is not maintained in the ministry.

However, heavy rush of patients has been reported by the three Central Government Hospitals namely, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Lady Harding Medical College & Associated Hospitals in Delhi. In these Hospitals, monitoring of attendance of the patients is done on yearly basis.

Steps like Computerisation for registration, common sample collection, patient information system, special clinics in the afternoon and supervision by designated

officers are taken to reduce the waiting time of the patients.

[English]

Use of Radio Frequency Spectrum

6915. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wireless and Coordination (WPC) Wing administers the use of Radio frequency spectrum and issues/reviews licences for the user;

(b) if so, whether the WPC wing has been unable to devise proper procedure for maintenance of records and database of user resulting in non realization of licence fee and recovery of arrears; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps taken or 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.

(b) and (c) The wireless licensing records were earlier maintained in hard copies, files and registers as per normal government practice. Computerization of the data base has been undertaken as a part of the modernization of spectrum management process with the World Bank loan.

Repair and Maintenance of Highways in West Bengal

6916. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to widen the National Highway passing through Jalpaiguri;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has received clearances from other concerned Ministries in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government has earmarked any special fund for speedy repairing and maintenance or roads and highways connecting Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (e) The sections of NH-31 from Km 575.150 to 587.60 & Km 603.40 to 634.00 and NH-31C from Km 105.00 to 249.70 & Km 253.30 to 255.00 on East-West Corridor fall in Jalpaiguri District of West Bengal and are proposed to be four-laned under Phase-II of NHDP (National Highways Development Project). Preparation of detailed project reports for the East-West Corridor alignment in West Bengal is held up for want of clearance for survey and investigations from Ministry of Environment and Forest (MOEF) since the alignment passes through wildlife sanctuaries/national parks at many places and it is still awaited.

(f) to (h) Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri are connected through NH 55 from Darjeeling to Siliguri and State road from Siliguri to Jalpaiguri. This Ministry is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. No special fund has been earmarked for repairing and maintenance of sections of National Highways on East-West Corridor in Jalpaiguri District & NH-55 in Darjeeling District. These National Highways are being maintained in traffic-worthy condition out of normal maintenance and repair funds. The funds are allocated in traffic-worthy condition out of normal maintenance and repair funds. The funds are allocated to the State for all the National Highways and not to any particular National Highway.

Backward States Grants Commission

6917. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up or proposes to set up a Backward States Grants Commission;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of the Commission;

(c) if not, the time by when the Commission is likely to be set up;

(d) whether the Government also proposes to allocate funds to backward regions of those States which otherwise do not fall under the category of Backward States; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (e) No, Sir. however, in order to address the problem of regional imbalance, the Backward Regions Grant Fund is to be opertionalised from the Annual Plan 2005-06. The details of the scheme are yet to be finalized.

Projects of Rajasthan

6918. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of newly declared National Highways passing through Rajasthan;

(b) the total kilometre length of these National Highways part of Rajasthan;

(c) the target set for the completion of projects of the State; and

(d) the present status of each such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Five such State Highways have been declared as National Highways (NHs) in February, 2004 in the State of Rajasthan.

(b) Total length of these newly declared National Highways is 990.0 km which are located in Rajasthan State.

(c) and (d) The notification for entrustment of these National Highways was issued on 29th October, 2004. Development and Maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and projects are taken up depending upon the availability of funds and inter-sepriorities.

Functions of CSIR and ICAR

6919. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CSIR and the ICAR are the departments of Science and Technology;

(b) if so, the functions of these departments in rural areas;

(c) whether Ghutgoria fishing hook centre under the district of Bankura in West Bengal falls under the jurisdiction of these departments;

(d) if so, the funds allocated to the centre and the audited report of it;

(e) whether VAT will be imposed on Ghutgoria fishing hook co-operative or it will be imposed only on those fishing companies which are run by the big business houses; and

(f) 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, while Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is a department under the Ministry of Science and Technology, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) comes under the Ministry of Agriculture.

(b) Besides carrying out research work, CSIR laboratories are also developing technologies useful for rural areas which are (i) Food and agro-based and in the areas of (ii) Building and construction, (iii) Drinking water, (iv) Environment & sanitation, (v) Cultivation and processing of economic plants, (vi) Cottage & small scale industries, and (vii) Information technology.

(c) No Sir.

(d) to (f) Question does not arise.

National Policy on Dissemination of Statistical Data

6920. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had proposed a National Policy on dissemination of Statistical data;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Policy has come into effect; and

(d) if so, the current status of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. A National Policy on Dissemination of Statistical Data already exists.

(b) The guidelines for implementation of the policy were circulated to all the Central Ministries/Departments and the State/UT Governments in May, 1999. Under the policy, the validated unit level data, after tabulation and release of Report, is supplied to the users both within the country and outside the country on payment basis, after taken an undertaking from them to the effect that the data will not be passed on to a third party. However, research institutions entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry can get the data free of cost for specific research projects.

(c) The policy came into effect from the year 1999.

(d) Unit level validated data in respect of NSS Socio economic surveys, Annual Survey of Industries, Economic Censuses and Enterprises surveys are being supplied to the users both within the country and outside on payment basis.

Modernization and Expansion of Telecom Network in NER

6921. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the target fixed with regard to modernization and expansion of telecom and IT network in the North-East Region including internet, mobile and WLL connectivity during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the actual progress made so far in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure efficient internet accessibility and mobile service in the North-East Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The telecom facilities in North East Region are mainly provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). Reliance Telecom Private Limited and Bharati Hexacom Limited are the private operators in the Region. In addition to the fixed phones, to provide mobile telephone services, the targets for WLL and Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) were also fixed, as per the details given below:

Connections	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
WLL	6600	8958	31700	17412	60000	22492
CMTS	6000	6170	95500	54359	262900	210988
Internet	—	6954	—	6246	28000	11063

As a result, there are 54048 WLL and 379513 cellular mobile telephones in NE Region as on 31.03.2005. Further, the National Informatics Centre (NIC) is mainly responsible for I.T. Services in the North East Region. The details of installation of VSATs and Video Conferencing (VC) facility provided by NIC in the North Eastern States are as given below:

Sl.No.	State	No. of VSATs	VC
1	2	3	4
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	13	1
2.	Assam	25	1
3.	Manipur	10	1
4.	Meghalaya	11	2
5.	Mizoram	3	1
6.	Nagaland	9	10
7.	Sikkim	5	1
8.	Tripura	6	6

NIC has also set up 487 Community Information Centres in the North Eastern States to enable citizens to use the infrastructure for various Information

Communication technology (ICT) Services such as internet access, e-mail, training in computer basic, printing, world processing, Desk Top Publishing (DTP) etc.

As a part of cellular mobile expansion plan, BSNL is in the process of augmenting its cellular network capacity in NE Region by 4.5 lakh and the network roll out is expected from July, 2005 onwards. M/s Reliance Telecom private Limited has planned to cover large number of cities and towns by cellular mobile service in the next two years. Shortly, M/s Bharati Hexacom is also commissioning their cellular mobile service in the Region. Further, BSNL has planned to add about 23000 Dial Up Internet connections apart from Broadband connections in the NE Region during 2005-06.

Sanctioning of Petrol Pumps Along National Highways

6922. SHRI AHDIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has updated the existing guidelines for sanctioning petrol pumps/retail outlets along NHs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the cases sanctioned/cleared by the Executive Engineer are to be taken as clearance of site by the higher authorities and then the paper formalities are required to be completed as per the requirements;

(d) whether the MORTH has directed their officers to prepare the clear notes/drawings regarding the requirements to be completed by the user's agency for each site; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The Ministry has issued modified guidelines for regulations access for fuel Stations, Service Stations and Rest Areas along National Highways on 17.10.2003. In the modified guidelines, norms have been laid down for location, layout, and access to fuel Stations along National Highways. These norms are to be followed for seeking and granting permission for the access to the new fuel stations.

(c) The cases sanctioned/cleared by field Executive Engineer does not necessarily mean clearance of proposals by the competent authority. The proposals are to fulfil norms laid down in the Ministry's guidelines.

(d) and (e) Ministry's guidelines provide clear cut norms to be fulfilled, list of documents to be submitted and checklist to be followed for getting approval for installation of fuel Stations along National Highways.

[Translation]

Telephone Facilities in Rajasthan

6923. SHRI RAGHUVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pace of expansion of basic telephone facilities, WLL and cellular phones of the Bharat Sanchar Limited in the Kota, Boondi and Jhalawar telecom districts of Kota Division has been slow and expansion target fixed in regard to the said services could not be met in 2004-2005;

(b) if so the details of development works undertaken in the said areas during the last three years;

(c) the year-wise number of new subscribers connected with the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited in the above areas during the said period;

(d) the number of subscribers who surrendered their telephones during the last three years;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the telecom service in the said areas;

(f) the time by which mobile services are likely to be started in all the Tehsil Headquarters in the above mentioned telecom districts; and

(g) the time by which basic or WLL telephone services are likely to be provided to all the Gram Panchayati Headquarters in the said telecom districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. All the targets of expansion of basic telephone facilities and cellular services have been achieved in the referred districts for the year 2004-05. The achievement in case of WLL was less due to delayed receipt of equipment. This equipment is under various stages of installation/Acceptance Testing.

(b) Details of development works undertaken in the above said areas in the last three years is given the enclosed Statement-I.

(c) and (d) The year-wise number of new subscribers connected with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and subscribers who surrendered their telephone facility during the last three year is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(e) Telecom services are satisfactory in the referred districts. In order to further improve the services BSNL has taken a number of steps.

(i) All electromechanical and analog exchanges have been converted to Digital exchanges connected on reliable media.

(ii) The fault prone paper core cable is being replaced by jelly filled cable and efforts are on the make the external plant poleless.

(iii) DLCs and RSUs are being planned in various locations to reduce the length of cable to the subscriber premises.

(iv) Extensive use of Wireless in Local Loop Technology in urban and rural areas is being planned and implemented to eliminate local line faults.

(v) For deeper penetration of WLL services in the referred area, 16 Nos. WLL BTS of 12750 lines are under installation which are likely to be commissioned by September 2005. Additional 12750 Lines are planned by March, 2006.

(f) Cellular services are likely to be made available in all the Tehsil Head Quarters of Kota, Boondi and Jhalawar district during the year 2005.

(g) All accessible, undisturbed and undisputed villages inhabited with population more than 100 (including such Gram Panchayats in Kota, Boondi and Jahalwar Telecom District of Kota SSA of Rajasthan) are planned to be provided with basic and WLL telephone services/Village Public Telephone (VPT) facilities progressively by November, 2007.

Statement I

Details of Development works in DELs during last three years

(I) Details of Development works in Basic Telephone Facilities

	Boondi			Jhalawar			Kota		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Capacity Added	552	840	Nil	2620	868	848	21168	4612	2156
SBM to RSU Conversion	1	2	2	2	1	8	4	2	5
256 P to AN-RAX Conversion	0	9	13	0	12	15	0	8	43
New Exchange Opening	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	2
TAX Capacity Added	1000	500	4000	1000	0	5000	0	2000	1000

(II) Details of Development works in WLL Telephone Services

	Boondi			Jhalawar			Kota		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
WLL equipment commissioned	—	1K Cor-dect DIU at Keshorai patan	—	—	1K Cor-dect DIU at Khanpur	1K Cor-dect DIU at Bhawani mandi	CDMA 500L at Kota	Expansion of 500L at Kota CDMA & 1K cor-dect DIU each at Anta, Chabra & Rawatbhata	1K Cor-dect DIU at Atru

(iii) Details of Development works in Cellular Mobile Services

	Boondi			Jhalawar			Kota		
	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
GSM capacity commissioned/ expansion	1000	0	2600	1000	600	2550	12700	3500	6900

Statement II

New connection provided and surrendered during last three years

		Boondi			Jhalawar			Kota		
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Basic Telephone	Connections provided	1050	368	790	2071	1104	859	5218	1759	718
	Disconnections	694	1170	999	313	593	964	3085	5458	6454
WLL	Connections provided	0	28	529	0	3561	1560	148	182	2905
	Disconnections	0	0	0	0	3330	68	0	7	8
GSM	Connections provided	0	2135	1054	0	2204	3342	7003	8047	9402
	Disconnections	0	40	31	0	35	45	89	399	418

[Translation]

Mobile Hospitals to deal with Natural Disasters

6924. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
DR. M. JAGANNATH:

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

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to introduce the services of mobile hospitals and research centres in Gujarat and Orissa to deal with earthquake and cyclone with the facilities like ultra sound, X-ray, ECG, Laboratory Tests and basic instruments for ENT check up;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the foreign agencies like the World Health Organisation (WHO) and UNICEF which have offered financial assistance for running these hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is procuring a pre-fabricated, self contained, container based mobile hospital. This hospital, with 100 beds would have state of art operation theatre, diagnostic facilities including CT scan, kitchen, water purification, sanitary unit and its own power generator. This container based hospital would be located in New Delhi and can be transported by road, rail or air to the disaster sites in any part of the country at short notice. The Mobile Hospital is likely to be commissioned by the end of 2005. Government is procuring this unit from its own resources.

Setting up of New Drug Testing Laboratories

6925. DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up more new food and drug testing laboratories in the country;

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

(c) the time by which these new laboratories are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Under the World Bank Assisted Capacity Building project new laboratories are being set up in the States of Jharkhand (Ranchi), Uttaranchal (Rudrapur), Chhattisgarh (Raipur) for analysis of both food and drugs and Sikkim for analysis of food. These new laboratories are likely to become operational by September, 2008.

[Translation]

World Bank Estimate on Annual Growth Rate

6926. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the opinion of the World Bank that India can register an annual growth rate of 2%;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether World Bank has also revealed various disparities prevailing at regional, district and block levels in the country;

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

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. Planning Commission is not aware of any such Report.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Allocation of Coal to Core and Non-Core Sectors

6927. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:
SHRI ARJUN SETHI:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has laid down any norms for allocation of coal to core and non-core sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some reports regarding violation of guidelines in allotment of coal permits were received during the last three years and as on date;

(d) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(e) the action/steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(f) whether the Government proposes to introduce open tendering system for allocating coal blocks for captive mining;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Government has taken into consideration the interests of Power Generating Companies in public sector regarding auctioning of coal blocks; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Coal allocation to the core and non-core sector consumers is based on norms. The norms for various core and non-core sectors are determined by the various administrative Ministries. The norms are based inter-alia

on Plant Load Factor, the capacity of the plant, boiler efficiency, the Gross Calorific Value (GCV) and moisture of the coal.

(c) to (e) Neither Ministry of Coal nor the coal companies issue coal permits.

(f) to (i) Yes, Sir. The Central Government is considering a proposal to introduce competitive bidding as a selection process for allocation of coal blocks for captive mining. While taking a decision in this matter, the views of Power companies/Ministry of Power, would be duly taken into consideration.

[Translation]

Phone Booths/Wayside Amenities along NHs

6928. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to install special phone booths and provide wayside amenities along the national highways to help motorists and accident victims;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which such telephone booths/amenities are likely to be provided; and

(d) the expenditure estimated to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Ministry has a policy for facilitating development of wayside amenities 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.

Emergency call boxes have already been installed on Kotputli-Amer and Jaipur-Kishangarh section of NH-8, Chennai Bypass Phase-I, Taqda-Nellore section of NH-5 and Nandigama-Ibrahimpatnam section of NH-9. Emergency call boxes are proposed to be installed on some of the sections of NH-1, NH-2, NH-5, NH-8 and Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway and this work is targeted to be completed by December, 2006.

(d) These facilities are provided as part of the construction project.

[English]

Bridge Over River Torsa in WB

6929. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a bridge is being constructed over River Torsa, Cooch Behar, West Bengal for the last so many years has not been completed so far;

(b) the reasons for delay in the work;

(c) the budgetary allocation for the current year; and

(d) by when the bridge will be completed?

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

(b) The work for re-alignment of Falakata-Pundibari section of NH-31 including construction of major bridge across river Torsa in West Bengal was originally sanctioned for Rs. 13.71 crore in November 1988. The road work was started in November 1991 and bridge over river Torsa was started in December, 1992. After original sanction, there was delay of about 42 months in finalization of tenders/award of work by the state PWD. 1st revised cost estimate for the work was sanctioned for Rs. 36.71 crore in March 1996. The work was further delayed due to contractual problems and to stopped by the contractors since 2001.

(c) The budgetary allocation for the current year 2005-06 is Rs. 0.50 crore.

(d) Action has been initiated for seeking approval of the competent authority for the 2nd revised cost estimate for the project and balance work can be taken up after sanction of 2nd revised cost estimate. It may take about two years for completion of balance work after the award.

Funds for Family Welfare Programmes

6930. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for family welfare programmes during the 10th Five Year Plan; and

(b) the reasons for failure to check the declining trends in health care of women and child?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The funds allocated for family welfare programmes during the 10th Five Year Plan is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) There are no declining trends in health care of women and child as is evident from the following:

- The proportion of safe deliveries has increased from 40.2% in 1998-99 to 54.00% in 2002-03.
- The proportion of institutional deliveries has increased from 34.0% in 1998-99 to 39.8% in 2002-03.
- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has declined from 70 in 1999 to 63 in 2002.
- Child Mortality (0-4 years) has declined from 20.4 in 1999 to 17.8 in 2002.

Statement

Tenth Plan (2002-2007) Allocation of Funds for Family Welfare Programmes

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of Scheme	Tenth Plan Outlay
1	2	3
	A. Infrastructure Maintenance	
1.	Sub-Centres	9663.00
2.	Urban FW Services	580.00
3.	Direction & Administration	1100.00
4.	Logistics Improvement	90.00
5.	Contractual Services/Consultancies	1212.64
	B. Infrastructure Development	
6.	Area Projects (IPP Projects)	987.00
7.	Social Marketing Area Projects	25.00
8.	USAID Assisted Area Projects	400.00
9.	EC Assisted SIP Project	1000.00
	C. Transport	
10.	Maintenance of vehicles already available	303.00
11.	Supply of Mopeds to ANMs	75.00
	D. Training	
12.	Basic Training for ANM/LHVs	350.00
13.	Maintenance & Strengthening of HFWTCs	70.00
14.	Basic Training for MPWs Worker (Male)	50.00
15.	Strengthening of Basic Training Schools	10.00
16.	F.W. Training and Res. Centre, Bombay	10.00
17.	NIHFW, New Delhi	20.00
18.	IIPS, Mumbai	10.00
19.	Assistance to I.M.A.	1.00
	E. Research	
20.	Population Research Centres	45.00
21.	CDRI, Lucknow	12.00
22.	ICMR and IRR	100.00
23.	Other Research Projects	2.50
	F. Contraception	
24.	Fee distribution of contraceptives	1045.00
25.	Social marketing of contraceptives	660.00
26.	Sterilization	1002.00
27.	Testing Facilities	2.50
28.	Role of Men in Planned Parenthood	18.00
	G. Reproductive & Child Health	
29.	Immunisation	1410.00
30.	Routine Immunisation Strengthening	17.86

1	2	3
31.	Pulse Polio	1450.00
32.	Child Health	20.00
33.	Adolscent Health	50.00
34.	Maternal Health	1384.00
35.	MTP Services (Man. Vac. Aspirator for safe abortion)	4.00
36.	RTI/STI prevention and management	35.00
37.	Other RCH Interventions and services	730.00
38.	NGOs and SCOVA	130.00
39.	Training	328.00
40.	Tribal Projects	Included under SIP
41.	Urban Slums Projects	700.00
42.	District Projects	75.00
43.	Other Projects/Additional activities under RCH	25.00
	H. Other FW Programmes	
44.	Maternity Benefit Scheme	500.00
45.	Information, Education and Communication	489.50
46.	Travel of Experts/Conferences/Meetings etc.	7.00
47.	International Cooperation/Contribution	9.00
48.	Empowered Action Group	250.00
49.	Community Incentive Scheme	300.00
50.	FW Link Health Insurance Plan	250.00
51.	Policy Advocacy/Seminars	20.00
52.	Other Initiatives	97.00
	Grand Total	27125.00

[Translation]

Award of Tenders for Development of National Highways

6931. SHRI SURAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a case of change in the rules and terms was registered for some tenders out of all the tenders awarded during the last two years for the development of national highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the names of the big projects for which the tenders were awarded by the National Highways Authority of India during the last two years;

(d) whether tenders were invited again despite being these tenders already awarded;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the details of the schemes in which the Comptroller and Auditor General of India pointed out discrepancies during the review of the activities of the last two years of the National Highways Authority of India;

(g) whether the building committed in some schemes of the National Highways Authority of India have been brought to the notice of the Government; and

(h) if so, the action taken/likely to be taken against those found guilty?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Tenders were awarded for North-South & East-West Corridors, Golden Quadrilateral and Port Connectivity components of NHDP Phase I & II and also for NHDP Phase IIIA during last two years.

(d) and (e) One tender relating to Port Connectivity project was re-invited after issue of Letter of Acceptance as the contractor submitted a fake bank guarantee.

(f) to (h) The audit of NHAI activities is conducted by C&AG every year. In addition, C&AG also made a review of the NHDP Phase-I by selecting some sample stretches. In the report, the audit has made some observations about shortcomings and made suggestions for improvement and necessary action is being taken thereon.

[English]

Expenditure of Infrastructure

6932. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate expenditure being incurred by India on infrastructure expansion annually;

(b) whether this expenditure is less as compared to other countries like China;

(c) if so, the facts and the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to make the expenditure on infrastructure comparable to that of China during the next decade; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Gross Capital Formation which is basically investment/expenditure on infrastructure, in India, is given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Gross Capital Formation in infrastructure (at current prices)
1997-98	62903
1998-99	70762
1999-2000	75120
2000-01	94226
2001-02	91050
2002-03	90890

Source: Economic Survey 2003-04

(b) and (c) The information regarding expenditure incurred on infrastructure by other countries like China, is not available.

(d) and (e) 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.

[Translation]

Extraction of Coal

6933. SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coal being extracted from various mines in the country including Madhya Pradesh, mine-wise, company-wise;

(b) the time by which the scheme to extract huge quantum of coal from the 'B' and 'K' area under Kargil fields of the Central Coal Fields Limited located at Beramo of Bokaro district in Jharkhand is likely to be launched;

(c) the reasons for delay in launching the said scheme; and

(d) the number of families out of the displaced families provided employment and the time by which the remaining families are likely to be given employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Coal companies undertake extraction of coal by developing mines as per geological data. Statement-I showing the company-wise and mine-wise coal production during 2003-04 is enclosed.

Statement-II showing State-wise coal production, including Madhya Pradesh, is enclosed.

(b) and (c) The following projects have been envisaged in Bermo and Bokaro area to be taken up during the Xth Plan period:

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Estimated capacity (Mty)	Likely year of implementation
1.	Konar OC	3.50	2005-06
2.	Karo OC	3.50	2006-07

(d) As per initial assessment of the Project Reports, the number (tentative) of Project Affected Families (PAF) and employment given are as follows:

Sl.No.	Name of Project	Number of PAF	Employment given till date (Number)	Remarks
1.	Konar OC	266	36	A timeframe for giving employment to remaining persons can not be given because provision of employment is based on actual need manpower in the company.
2.	Karo OC	160	90	

Statement I

Mine Statistics during 2003-04

(000 Tons.)

Sl.No.	cmcd	Company	Area	Mine	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	01	ECL	Bankola	1. Moira Colliery	70
2.	01	ECL	Bankola	2 Khandra Colliery	131
3.	01	ECL	Bankola	3 Bankola Colliery	311
4.	01	ECL	Bankola	4 Shyam Sundarpur Colliery	239
5.	01	ECL	Bankola	5 Kumardihi-A Colliery	169
6.	01	ECL	Bankola	6 Kumardihi-B Colliery	102
7.	01	ECL	Bankola	7 Tilaboni Colliery	193
8.	01	ECL	Bankola	8 Sankarpur Colliery	328
9.	01	ECL	Bankola	9 Nakrakonda Collery	63
10.	01	ECL	Jhanjra	11 & 2 Incline,	510
11.	01	ECL	Jhanjra	2 MIC, Jhanjra Project	309
12.	01	ECL	Jhanjra	33 & 4 Incline	100
13.	01	ECL	Kajora	1 Madhujore Colliery	31
14.	01	ECL	Kajora	2 Madhusudanpur 3&4 Pits Colliery	50
15.	01	ECL	Kajora	3 Madhusudanpur 7 Pit Colliery	109
16.	01	ECL	Kajora	4 Naba Kajora Colliery	144
17.	01	ECL	Kajora	5 Central Kajora Colliery	62
18.	01	ECL	Kajora	6 Porascol East Colliery	120
19.	01	ECL	Kajora	7 Porascol West Colliery	108
20.	01	ECL	Kajora	8 Madhab Pur Colliery	71

1	2	3	4	5	6
21.	01	ECL	Kajora	9 Jambad UG Colliery	118
22.	01	ECL	Kajora	10 Khas Kajora Colliery	198
23.	01	ECL	Kajora	11 Lachipur Colliery	55
24.	01	ECL	Kajora	12 Jambad OCP	199
25.	01	ECL	Kajora	13 Ghanshyam Colliery	No Prodn.
26.	01	ECL	Kenda	1 New Kenda Colliery	109
27.	01	ECL	Kenda	2 Bahula Colliery	237
28.	01	ECL	Kenda	3 Lower Kenda Colliery	106
29.	01	ECL	Kenda	4 Haripur Colliery	91
30.	01	ECL	Kenda	5 Chora 7&9 Pits Colliery	90
31.	01	ECL	Kenda	6 Chora 10 Pit Colliery	67
32.	01	ECL	Kenda	7 Chora Block Incline Colliery	148
33.	01	ECL	Kenda	8 Sidhuli Colliery	114
34.	01	ECL	Kenda	9 C L Jambad Colliery	54
35.	01	ECL	Kenda	10 West Kenda OCP	442
36.	01	ECL	Kunustoria	1 Amritnagar Colliery	219
37.	01	ECL	Kunustoria	2 North Searsole Colliery	569
38.	01	ECL	Kunustoria	3 Kunustoria Colliery	183
39.	01	ECL	Kunustoria	4 Amrasota Incl. Colliery	69
40.	01	ECL	Kunustoria	5 Bansra Colliery	217
41.	01	ECL	Kunustoria	6 Belbaid Colliery	138
42.	01	ECL	Kunustoria	7 Parasea Colliery	191
43.	01	ECL	Kunustoria	8 Parasea 6&7 Colliery	51
44.	01	ECL	Kunustoria	9 Bansra OCP Colliery	Nil
45.	01	ECL	Kunustoria	10 Parasea OCP Colliery	Nil
46.	01	ECL	Mugma	1 Chapapur Colliery	115
47.	01	ECL	Mugma	2 Badjna Colliery	62
48.	01	ECL	Mugma	3 Hariajam Colliery	65
49.	01	ECL	Mugma	4 Gopinathpur Colliery	3

1	2	3	4	5	6
50.	01	ECL	Mugma	5 Khudia Colliery	38
51.	01	ECL	Mugma	6 Lakhimata Colliery	48
52.	01	ECL	Mugma	7 Shampur 'B' Colliery	105
53.	01	ECL	Mugma	8 Mandman 'Colliery	39
54.	01	ECL	Mugma	9 Rajpara OCP	244
55.	01	ECL	Mugma	10 Barmari OCP	129
56.	01	ECL	Mugma	11 Kumardhubi Colliery	32
57.	01	ECL	Mugma	12 Kapasara	No Prodn.
58.	01	ECL	Mugma	12 Kapasara	No Prodn.
59.	01	ECL	Mugma	13 Nirsa OC	No Prodn.
60.	01	ECL	Pandaveswar	1 Madhaipur Colliery	135
61.	01	ECL	Pandaveswar	2 Mandarboni Colliery	120
62.	01	ECL	Pandaveswar	3 South Samla Colliery	81
63.	01	ECL	Pandaveswar	4 Pandaveswar Colliery	116
64.	01	ECL	Pandaveswar	5 Pandaveswar Colliery	235
65.	01	ECL	Pandaveswar	6 Samla Colliery	0
66.	01	ECL	Pandaveswar	7 Kendra Colliery	20
67.	01	ECL	Pandaveswar	8 Khottadih Colliery	338
68.	01	ECL	Pandaveswar	9 Khottadih OCP	681
69.	01	ECL	Rajmahal	1 Rajmahal OCP	10539
70.	01	ECL	Rajmahal	2 Simlong OC	3
71.	01	ECL	S.P. Mines	1 Chitra 'A' Colliery	3
72.	01	ECL	S.P. Mines	2 Chitra 'B' Colliery	458
73.	01	ECL	S.P. Mines	3 Damgarha 9 & 10 Incline	No Prodn.
74.	01	ECL	Salanpur	1 Dabor Colliery	70
75.	01	ECL	Salanpur	2 Sangramgarh Colliery	47
76.	01	ECL	Salanpur	3 Gourandi-Begunia Colliery	37
77.	01	ECL	Salanpur	4 Khairabad Colliery	118
78.	01	ECL	Salanpur	5 Monoharbahal Colliery	48

1	2	3	4	5	6
79.	01	ECL	Salanpur	6 Chakballavpur Colliery	30
80.	01	ECL	Salanpur	7 Bonjemihari OC Colliery	177
81.	01	ECL	Salanpur	8 Mohanpur OC Colliery	306
82.	01	ECL	Salanpur	9 Gourangdhi OC Colliery	60
83.	01	ECL	Satgram	1 Satgram Project	104
84.	01	ECL	Satgram	2 Satgram Incline	63
85.	01	ECL	Satgram	3 Mithapur Colliery	39
86.	01	ECL	Satgram	4 J.K. Nagar Colliery	231
87.	01	ECL	Satgram	5 Jemehari Colliery	21
88.	01	ECL	Satgram	6 Puresearsole Colliery	16
89.	01	ECL	Satgram	7 Tirat Colliery	32
90.	01	ECL	Satgram	8 Kuardi Colliery	87
91.	01	ECL	Satgram	9 Ratibati Colliery	61
92.	01	ECL	Satgram	10 Chapuikhas Colliery	53
93.	01	ECL	Satgram	11 Nimcha Colliery	286
94.	01	ECL	Satgram	12 Setaldasji OCP	27
95.	01	ECL	Satgram	13 Kalidaspur Project	138
96.	01	ECL	Satgram	14 Ardhagram	No Production
97.	01	ECL	Sodepur	1 Parbeila Colliery	167
98.	01	ECL	Sodepur	2 Dubeswari Colliery	113
99.	01	ECL	Sodepur	3 Sodepur Colliery (R)	153
100.	01	ECL	Sodepur	4 Chinakuri-I Colliery	74
101.	01	ECL	Sodepur	5 Chinakuri-III Colliery	145
102.	01	ECL	Sodepur	6 Bejdih Colliery	144
103.	01	ECL	Sodepur	7 Patmohana Colliery	174
104.	01	ECL	Sodepur	8 B.C. Incline	
105.	01	ECL	Sodepur	9 Narsamuda Colliery	124
106.	01	ECL	Sodepur	10 Dhemomain Pit Colliery	62
107.	01	ECL	Sodepur	11 Dhemomain Include Colliery	70

1	2	3	4	5	6
108.	01	ECL	Sodepur	12 Methani OC (H)	
109.	01	ECL	Sodepur-Bazari	1 Sonepur Bazari Project	3116
110.	01	ECL	Sripur	1 Ningah Colliery	39
111.	01	ECL	Sripur	2 Sripur Seam Incline	81
112.	01	ECL	Sripur	3 Kalipahari Collery	52
113.	01	ECL	Sripur	4 New Ghusick Colliery	54
114.	01	ECL	Sripur	5 Girimint/K.D.I. Colliery	42
115.	01	ECL	Sripur	6 Adjoy-II Colliery	
116.	01	ECL	Sripur	7 Bhanora W.B. Colliery	64
1.	02	BCCL	Barora	1 Damoda	385
2.	02	BCCL	Barora	2 Madhuband	53
3.	02	BCCL	Barora	3 Phularitand	74
4.	02	BCCL	Barora	4 Muraidih	2056
5.	02	BCCL	Barora	5 Satabdi	792
6.	02	BCCL	Bastacolla	1 Bastacolla	322
7.	02	BCCL	Bastacolla	2 Bera	134
8.	02	BCCL	Bastacolla	3 Dobari	203
9.	02	BCCL	Bastacolla	4 Ghanoodih	1102
10.	02	BCCL	Bastacolla	5 Kuya (UG to Mixed in 2002-03)	388
11.	02	BCCL	Bastacolla	6 Kujama	
12.	02	BCCL	Block-II	1 Benedih	2791
13.	02	BCCL	Block-II	2 Jamunia OCP	1110
14.	02	BCCL	Chanch/Victoria	1 Laikdihdeep	
15.	02	BCCL	Chanch/Victoria	2 Dahibari	707
16.	02	BCCL	Chanch/Victoria	3 Basantimata	291
17.	02	BCCL	Chanch/Victoria	4 New Laikkdih/Kalyanchak	
18.	02	BCCL	Chanch/Victoria	5 Victoria (West)	0
19.	02	BCCL	Chanch/Victoria	6 Damagoria/Borca OCP	481
20.	02	BCCL	Chanch/Victoria	7 Begunia	106
21.	02	BCCL	E. Jharia	1 Bhowra (N)/COCP	122

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	02	BCCL	E. Jharia	2 Bhowra (N)	122
23.	02	BCCL	E. Jharia	3 Bhowra (S)	108
24.	02	BCCL	E. Jharia	4 Bowra South OCP (3 Pits)	65
25.	02	BCCL	E. Jharia	5 Amlabad & N. Amlabad	71
26.	02	BCCL	E. Jharia	6 Sudamdih Shaft	98
27.	02	BCCL	E. Jharia	7 Sudamdih Incline	399
28.	02	BCCL	E. Jharia	8 Patherdih/COCP (Sud)	92
29.	02	BCCL	Govindpur	1 Kharkharee	74
30.	02	BCCL	Govindpur	2 Maheshpur	66
31.	02	BCCL	Govindpur	3 Jogidih	110
32.	02	BCCL	Govindpur	4 Koridih/OCP (B IV)	580
33.	02	BCCL	Govindpur	5 S. Govindpur	
34.	02	BCCL	Govindpur	6 Govindpur	130
35.	02	BCCL	Govindpur	7 Akash Kinaree	373 (Declared closed earlier presently working)
36.	02	BCCL	Govindpur	8 Teturia	
37.	02	BCCL	Katras	1 Salanpur	95
38.	02	BCCL	Katras	2 Angarpathra	145
39.	02	BCCL	Katras	3 W. Mudidih/Keshalpur	2474
40.	02	BCCL	Katras	4 Ramkanali	200
41.	02	BCCL	Katras	5 Ramkanali	
42.	02	BCCL	Katras	6 W. Mudidih/Keshalpur Extn.	
43.	02	BCCL	Katras	7 Katras Choitdih	112
44.	02	BCCL	Katras	8 E. Katras	228
45.	02	BCCL	Kustore	1 Alkusa	82
46.	02	BCCL	Kustore	2 Kustore	5
47.	02	BCCL	Kustore	3 Ena-Fire	100
48.	02	BCCL	Kustore	4 South Jharia/Rajapur OCP	306

1	2	3	4	5	6
49.	02	BCCL	Kustore	5 Buragarh	62
50.	02	BCCL	Kustore	6 Simlabhal	136
51.	02	BCCL	Kustore	7 Hurri Ladih	61
52.	02	BCCL	Kustore	8 E. Bhuggatdih	61
53.	02	BCCL	Kusunda	1 E. Bassuriya	111
54.	02	BCCL	Kusunda	2 Bassuriya	46
55.	02	BCCL	Kusunda	3 Industry	
56.	02	BCCL	Kusunda	4 Gondudih	135
57.	02	BCCL	Kusunda	5 K. Kusunda	185
58.	02	BCCL	Kusunda	6 Kusunda	575
59.	02	BCCL	Kusunda	7 Godhur	79
60.	02	BCCL	Kusunda	8 KOCP/Dhansar	80
61.	02	BCCL	Kusunda	9 Dhansar	
62.	02	BCCL	Lodna	1 North Tisra UG	158
63.	02	BCCL	Lodna	2 North Tisra OCP	510
64.	02	BCCL	Lodna	3 South Tisra & D/L Patch	409
65.	02	BCCL	Lodna	4 Jeenagora	290
66.	02	BCCL	Lodna	5 Joyrampur	127
67.	02	BCCL	Lodna	6 Lodna	109
68.	02	BCCL	Lodna	7 Bagdigi	119
69.	02	BCCL	Lodna	8 Jealgora	17
70.	02	BCCL	Lodna	9 Bararee	96
71.	02	BCCL	P.B. Project	1 Kachhi Balihari 10/12 Pit	40
72.	02	BCCL	P.B. Project	2 S. Balihari	59
73.	02	BCCL	P.B. Project	3 P.B. Project	96
74.	02	BCCL	P.B. Project	4 Gopalichuck	96
75.	02	BCCL	P.B. Project	5 Pootkee	23
76.	02	BCCL	P.B. Project	6 Bhagabandh	83
77.	02	BCCL	P.B. Project	7 K.B. 5/6 Pit (Gopalichuck)	40

1	2	3	4	5	6
78.	02	BCCL	P.B. Project	8 Kenduadih	
79.	02	BCCL	Sijua	1 Bansdeopur	70
80.	02	BCCL	Sijua	2 Mudidih	125
81.	02	BCCL	Sijua	3 Kankanee	104
82.	02	BCCL	Sijua	4 Loyabad	89
83.	02	BCCL	Sijua	5 Sendra Bansjora	578
84.	02	BCCL	Sijua	6 Nichitpur	536
85.	02	BCCL	Sijua	7 Tetulmari	309
86.	02	BCCL	West Jharia	1 Lohapatty	32
87.	02	BCCL	West Jharia	2 Murulidih 20/21	212
88.	02	BCCL	West Jharia	3 Murulidih Patch	
89.	02	BCCL	West Jharia	4 Bhatdee	92
90.	02	BCCL	West Jharia	5 Moonidih	433
1.	03	CCL	Argada	1 Argada Colliery	72
2.	03	CCL	Argada	2 GIDI 'A'	320
3.	03	CCL	Argada	3 GIDI 'C'	243
4.	03	CCL	Argada	4 Sirka	45
5.	03	CCL	Argada	5 Sirka + Sirka Fire	163
6.	03	CCL	Argada	6 Religara	273
7.	03	CCL	Barka-Sayal	1 Bhurkunda & Sangam	222
8.	03	CCL	Barka-Sayal	2 Lapanga Block	
9.	03	CCL	Barka-Sayal	3 Saunda-D	11
10.	03	CCL	Barka-Sayal	4 Saunda-D	185
11.	03	CCL	Barka-Sayal	5 Saunda (NCDC)	82
12.	03	CCL	Barka-Sayal	6 Central Saunda	83
13.	03	CCL	Barka-Sayal	7 Sayal 'D' (5, 6, 8, 9, 10 & New Mine)	198
14.	03	CCL	Barka-Sayal	8 Urimari UG	79
15.	03	CCL	Barka-Sayal	9 Urimari OC	1406
16.	03	CCL	Barka-Sayal	10 North Urimari	901

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	03	CCL	Barka-Sayal	11 Hindgir	
18.	03	CCL	Barka-Sayal	12 Bhurkunda & Sangam	240
19.	03	CCL	Bokaro/Kargali	1 Kargali (Bermo SEAM)	56
20.	03	CCL	Bokaro/Kargali	2 Kargali OC	80
21.	03	CCL	Bokaro/Kargali	3 Bokaro,	283
22.	03	CCL	Bokaro/Kargali	4 Karo Special-UG-II	41
23.	03	CCL	Bokaro/Kargali	5 karo Seam Incline	1238
24.	03	CCL	Bokaro/Kargali	6 Khasmahal UG	466
25.	03	CCL	Bokaro/Kargali	7 Giridih	313
26.	03	CCL	Bokaro/Kargali	8 U.K. Incline	Production included in Giridh Mine
27.	03	CCL	Bokaro/Kargali	9 Kabirabad Proj.	Production included in Giridih Mine
28.	03	CCL	Dhori	1 Dhori Colliery	367
29.	03	CCL	Dhori	2 New Select Dhori	46
30.	03	CCL	Dhori	3 Select Dhori (Q. No. 1)	1015
31.	03	CCL	Dhori	4 Select Dhori (Q. No. 3),	1575
32.	03	CCL	Dhori	5 Amlo	490
33.	03	CCL	Dhori	6 Dhori Khas	84
34.	03	CCL	Dhori	7 Dhori Khas	0
35.	03	CCL	Hazaribagh	1 Kedla (U.G.)	161
36.	03	CCL	Hazaribagh	2 Tapin North	657
37.	03	CCL	Hazaribagh	3 Tapin South	22
38.	03	CCL	Hazaribagh	4 Tapin South	
39.	03	CCL	Hazaribagh	5 Jharkhand (Laiyo)	801
40.	03	CCL	Hazaribagh	6 Laiyo	93
41.	03	CCL	Hazaribagh	7 Parej East	1620
42.	03	CCL	Hazaribagh	8 Kedla (O.C.)	332
43.	03	CCL	Kathara	1 Kathara Colliery	421

1	2	3	4	5	6
44.	03	CCL	Kathara	2 Sawang Colliery,	330
45.	03	CCL	Kathara	3 Jarangdih Colliery	92
46.	03	CCL	Kathara	4 Jarangdih Colliery	518
47.	03	CCL	Kathara	5 Govindpur,	110
48.	03	CCL	Kuju	1 Kuju Colliery	79
49.	03	CCL	Kuju	2 Ara Colliery	
50.	03	CCL	Kuju	3 Ara Reorganisation	286
51.	03	CCL	Kuju	4 Sarubera Colliery	154
52.	03	CCL	Kuju	5 Chainpur (Sarubera) Colliery	167
53.	03	CCL	Kuju	6 Topa Colliery	456
54.	03	CCL	Kuju	7 Pindra Colliery	90
55.	03	CCL	Kuju	8 Karma	390
56.	03	CCL	Kuju	9 Pundi,	247
57.	03	CCL	N. Karanpura	1 Churi/Manki	185
58.	03	CCL	N. Karanpura	2 K.D. Hesalong	3400
59.	03	CCL	N. Karanpura	3 Dakra Bukbuka	223
60.	03	CCL	N. Karaanpura	4 Karkatta,	580
61.	03	CCL	N. Karanpura	5 Rohini	753
62.	03	CCL	Piparwar	1 RAY-Bachra	232
63.	03	CCL	Piparwar	2 Piparwar	8384
64.	03	CCL	Piparwar	3 Ashoka	4203
65.	03	CCL	Rajhara	1 Rajhara NW	125
66.	03	CCL	Rajhara	2 Teturia Khar	238
67.	03	CCL	Rajrappa	1 Rajrappa Project	1402
1.	04	NCL	Amlohri	1 Amlohri	3546
2.	04	NCL	Bina	1 Bina	4317
3.	04	NCL	Dudhichua	1 Dudhichua	9361
4.	04	NCL	Gorbi-B	1 Gorbi-B	
5.	04	NCL	Jayant	1 Jayant	9664

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	04	NCL	Jhingurda	1 Jhingurda	3891
7.	04	NCL	Kakri	1 Kakri	3004
8.	04	NCL	Khadia	1 Khadia	3750
9.	04	NCL	Nigahi	1 Nigahi	9500
1.	05	WCL	Ballarpur	1 Ballarpur Colliery 3 & 4 Pits	192
2.	05	WCL	Ballarpur	2 Sasti Colliery	214
3.	05	WCL	Ballarpur	3 Ballarpur OCM	385
4.	05	WCL	Ballarpur	4 New Bhuptala OCM	506
5.	05	WCL	Ballarpur	5 Sasti OCM	1418
6.	05	WCL	Ballarpur	6 Gouri-I OCM	475
7.	05	WCL	Ballarpur	7 Gouri-II OCM	665
8.	05	WCL	Ballarpur	8 Pauni OCM	489
9.	05	WCL	Ballarpur	9 Wirur UG/Chincholi UG	
10.	05	WCL	Chandrapur	1 Hindustan Lalpeth No. 1	93
11.	05	WCL	Chandrapur	2 Hindustan Lalpeth No. 3	40
12.	05	WCL	Chandrapur	3 Manna Incline	137
13.	05	WCL	Chandrapur	4 Nandgaon Incline	162
14.	05	WCL	Chandrapur	5 Chanda Rayatwari Colliery	78
15.	05	WCL	Chandrapur	6 Durgapur Rayatwari Colliery	326
16.	05	WCL	Chandrapur	7 Mahakali Colliery	218
17.	05	WCL	Chndrapur	8 Hindustan Lalpeth OC + H.L. Extn. OC	653
18.	05	WCL	Chadrapur	9 Durgapur OC	2020
19.	05	WCL	Chandrapur	10 Padampur OC	1263
20.	05	WCL	Chandrapur	11 Bhatadi OC	305
21.	05	WCL	Kanhan	1 Mohan UG Mine	46
22.	05	WCL	Kanhan	2 Maori UG Mine	368
23.	05	WCL	Kanhan	3 Ambara UG Mine	598
24.	05	WCL	Kanhan	4 Ghorawari UG Mine	440
25.	05	WCL	Kanhan	5 Damua UG Mine	117

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	05	WCL	Kanhan	6 Bansi UG Mine	—
27.	05	WCL	Kanhan	7 Nandan-2 UG Mine	238
28.	05	WCL	Kanhan	8 Nandan-2 UG Mine	150
29.	05	WCL	Kanhan	9 Tandsi 1 & 2	148
30.	05	WCL	Kanhan	10 Tandsi 3 & 4	46
31.	05	WCL	Majri	1 New Majr OC-II+ (Kawadi O/C + Extn)	1226
32.	05	WCL	Majri	2 New Majr Sec-A	275
33.	05	WCL	Majri	3 Chargaon Opencast + Sirna Opencast	1004
34.	05	WCL	Majri	4 Telwasa Opencast	987
35.	05	WCL	Majri	5 New Majri UG Mine-3	312
36.	05	WCL	Majri	6 Navinkunada OC	670
37.	05	WCL	Majri	7 Dhorwasa	631
38.	05	WCL	Nagpur	1 Silewara Colliery	300
39.	05	WCL	Nagpur	2 Silewara AB Incline	218
40.	05	WCL	Nagpur	3 Pipla Colliery	137
41.	05	WCL	Nagpur	4 Patansaongi Colliery	146
42.	05	WCL	Nagpur	5 Saoner Mine-I	405
43.	05	WCL	Nagpur	6 Saoner Mine-II	249
44.	05	WCL	Nagpur	7 Saoner Mine-III	242
45.	05	WCL	Nagpur	8 Inder Colliery	211
46.	05	WCL	Nagpur	9 Adasa	
47.	05	WCL	Nagpur	10 Kamptee	1240
48.	05	WCL	Nagpur	11 Gondegaon OC Mine	1175
49.	05	WCL	Nagpur	12 Walni	
50.	05	WCL	Pathakhera	1 Pathakhera Mine-I	313
51.	05	WCL	Pathakhera	2 Pathakhera Mine-II	319
52.	05	WCL	Pathakhera	3 Satpura-II Mine	601
53.	05	WCL	Pathakhera	4 Shobhapur Mine	512
54.	05	WCL	Pathakhera	5 Sami Mine	310

1	2	3	4	5	6
55.	05	WCL	Pathakhera	6 Tawa Mine	607
56.	05	WCL	Pathakhera	7 Chhatarpur-I Mine	123
57.	05	WCL	Pathakhera	8 Chhatarpur-II Mine	173
58.	05	WCL	Pench	1 Chandametta Colliery	
59.	05	WCL	Pench	2 East Donger Chikhli Colly.	
60.	05	WCL	Pench	3 Mahadeopuri Incline	65
61.	05	WCL	Pench	4 Ganpati Incline	80
62.	05	WCL	Pench	5 Gajendoh Incline	144
63.	05	WCL	Pench	6 Rawanwara Khas UG	125
64.	05	WCL	Pench	7 Pench East OC Mine	
65.	05	WCL	Pench	8 Nehariya UG Mine	195
66.	05	WCL	Pench	9 Chhinda OC Mine	46
67.	05	WCL	Pench	10 Vishnupuri-1 UG Mine	86
68.	05	WCL	Pench	11 Vishnupuri-II UG Mine	113
69.	05	WCL	Pench	12 Thesgora Mine	139
70.	05	WCL	Pench	13 Mathani UG Mine	121
71.	05	WCL	Pench	14 New Sethia OC Mine	196
72.	05	WCL	Pench	15 Haranbhata OC Mine	
73.	05	WCL	Pench	16 Shivpuri-II (7&8)	170
74.	05	WCL	Pench	17 Bhajimani OC Mine	25
75.	05	WCL	Pench	18 Barkuli OC Mine	
76.	05	WCL	Umrer	1 Umrer OC Mine	2308
77.	05	WCL	Umrer	2 Makardhokra Mine No. II	752
78.	05	WCL	Umrer	3 Murpar Project	56
79.	05	WCL	Wani	1 Ghughus OCM	1554
80.	05	WCL	Wani	2 Naigon OCM	692
81.	05	WCL	Wani	3 Naijai South OCM	610
82.	05	WCL	Wani	4 Niljai OCM	1759
83.	05	WCL	Wani	5 Mungoli/Nirgoda	1508

1	2	3	4	5	6
84.	05	WCL	Wani	6 Nakoda Incline	
85.	05	WCL	Wani North	1 Bhandewada Inc./Rajur Pit.	214
86.	05	WCL	Wani North	2 Kumber Khani	151
87.	05	WCL	Wani North	3 Ukni OCP	2000
88.	05	WCL	Wani North	4 Pimpalgaon OCP	668
89.	05	WCL	Wani North	5 Kolarpimpri OCP	985
90.	05	WCL	Wani North	6 Junad OCP	588
1.	06	SECL	Baikunthpur	1 Churcha East	484
2.	06	SECL	Baikunthpur	2 Churcha West	440
3.	06	SECL	Baikunthpur	3 Katkona Colliery 1&2	264
4.	06	SECL	Baikunthpur	4 Katkona Colliery 3 & 4	
5.	06	SECL	Baikunthpur	5 Pandavpara Colliery	197
6.	06	SECL	Baikunthpur	6 Jhilimilli/Bhaskarpara Colliery	255
7.	06	SECL	Bhatgaon	1 Bhatgaon	465
8.	06	SECL	Bhatgaon	2 Mahamaya	220
9.	06	SECL	Bhatgaon	3 Kalyani	73
10.	06	SECL	Bhatgaon	4 Shivani	194
11.	06	SECL	Bhatgaon	4 Dugga	1046
12.	06	SECL	Bhatgaon	6 Mahan OC	64
13.	06	SECL	Bhatgaon	7 Now Para Project	
14.	06	SECL	Bisrampur	1 Jaingar 3 & 4 (Old)	140
15.	06	SECL	Bisrampur	2 Jaingar 5 & 6 (New)	155
16.	06	SECL	Bisrampur	3 Kumda 1 & 2	123
17.	06	SECL	Bisrampur	4 Kumda 7 & 8	390
18.	06	SECL	Bisrampur	5 Balrampur 10 & 12	366
19.	06	SECL	Bisrampur	6 Rehar	130
20.	06	SECL	Bisrampur	7 Bisrampur	498
21.	06	SECL	Bisrampur	8 Gaayatri UG Project	10
22.	06	SECL	Chirimiri	1 N.C.P.H. Colliery (Old)	524

1	2	3	4	5	6
23.	06	SECL	Chirimiri	2 N.C.P.H. Colliery (R/6 New)	
24.	06	SECL	Chirimiri	3 North Chirimiri	371
25.	06	SECL	Chirimiri	4 Duman Hill	
26.	06	SECL	Chirimiri	*Korea	49
27.	06	SECL	Chirimiri	4 Chirimiri	700
28.	06	SECL	Chirimiri	7 Sonawani	
29.	06	SECL	Chirimiri	5 Chirimiri Bartunga Hill	434
30.	06	SECL	Chirimiri	6 Chirimiri Angan Hill	510
31.	06	SECL	Chirimiri	7 Kurasia UG	1257
32.	06	SECL	Chirimiri	8 West Chirimiri Patch	289
33.	06	SECL	Chirimiri	9 Rani Atari	
34.	06	SECL	Gevra	1 Dipka (Merged with Gevra)	22570
35.	06	SECL	Gevra	2 Dipka Augmentation	12981
36.	06	SECL	Hasdeo	1 North Jhagrakhand	
37.	06	SECL	Hasdeo	2 West Jhagrakhand	305
38.	06	SECL	Hasdeo	3 'B' Seam	130
39.	06	SECL	Hasdeo	4 Palkimara	77
40.	06	SECL	Hasdeo	5 Rajnagar UG (Old)	Closed
41.	06	SECL	Hasdeo	6 Rajnagar RO (New)	815
42.	06	SECL	Hasdeo	7 South Jhimar	298
43.	06	SECL	Hasdeo	8 Malga	372
44.	06	SECL	Hasdeo	9 Bijuri	402
45.	06	SECL	Hasdeo	10 Somna	169
46.	06	SECL	Hasdeo	11 Behraband	425
47.	06	SECL	Hasdeo	12 Kurja/Seetaldhara	243
48.	06	SECL	Hasdeo	13 Kapildhara	389
49.	06	SECL	Hasdeo	14 Rajnagar	1710
50.	06	SECL	Jamuna & Kotma	1 Jamuna RO (1 & 2, 11 & 12)	197
51.	06	SECL	Jamuna & Kotma	2 Jamuna 5 & 6/9 & 10	240

1	2	3	4	5	6
52.	06	SECL	Jamuna & Kotma	3 Kotma West	161
53.	06	SECL	Jamuna & Kotma	4 Govinda	150
54.	06	SECL	Jamuna & Kotma	5 Meera	86
55.	06	SECL	Jamuna & Kotma	6 Bhadra	166
56.	06	SECL	Jamuna & Kotma	7 Harad Incline	
57.	06	SECL	Jamuna & Kotma	7 Bartarai	215
58.	06	SECL	Jamuna & Kotma	8 Jamuna OC	507
59.	06	SECL	Jamuna & Kotma	9 Kotma OC	204
60.	06	SECL	Johilla	1 Nowrozabad (E)	77
61.	06	SECL	Johilla	2 Nowrozabad (W)	203
62.	06	SECL	Johilla	3 Birsinghpur	278
63.	06	SECL	Johilla	4 Pali	301
64.	06	SECL	Johilla	5 Umaria	157
65.	06	SECL	Johilla	6 Piparia	205
66.	06	SECL	Johilla	7 Pinoura	288
67.	06	SECL	Johilla	8 Vindhya	312
68.	06	SECL	Korba	1 Manikpur	2340
69.	06	SECL	Korba	2 Rajgamar-II (6 & 7)	218
70.	06	SECL	Korba	3 Pawan Incline	81
71.	06	SECL	Korba	4 Banki Main	334
72.	06	SECL	Korba	5 Banki Incline (9 & 10)	
73.	06	SECL	Korba	6 Surakachhar Main	341
74.	06	SECL	Korba	7 Surakachhar 3 & 4 Incline	
75.	06	SECL	Korba	8 Surakachhar 5 & 6 Incline	
76.	06	SECL	Korba	9 Balgi	276
77.	06	SECL	Korba	10 Dhelwadih Colliery	222
78.	06	SECL	Korba	11 Singhali Colliery	277
79.	06	SECL	Korba	12 Bagadeva Project	125
80.	06	SECL	Kusmunda	1 Kusmunda Project	7600

1	2	3	4	5	6
81.	06	SECL	Kusmunda	2 Laxman Project	987
82.	06	SECL	Raigarh	1 Baroud	265
83.	06	SECL	Raigarh	2 Chhal Incline	80
84.	06	SECL	Raigarh	3 Charam Incline	96
85.	06	SECL	Sohagpur	1 Dhanpuri	193
86.	06	SECL	Sohagpur	2 Subhas Incline	23
87.	06	SECL	Sohagpur	3 Amlai	
88.	06	SECL	Sohagpur	5 Chachai	
89.	06	SECL	Sohagpur	4 Bangwar	270
90.	06	SECL	Sohagpur	5 Navgaon	197
91.	06	SECL	Sohagpur	6 Rajendra	552
92.	06	SECL	Sohagpur	7 Baiga	267
93.	06	SECL	Sohagpur	8 Dhanpuri	731
94.	06	SECL	Sohagpur	9 Sharda	621
95.	06	SECL	Sohagpur	10 Amlai	402
96.	06	SECL	Sohagpur	11 New Amlai	344
1.	07	MCL	Basundhara	1 Basundhara (E)) OCP	891
2.	07	MCL	Hingula	1 Hingula II OCP	4750
3.	07	MCL	Hingula	2 Chhendipada	
4.	07	MCL	IB Valley	1 Lajkura OCM	815
5.	07	MCL	IB Valley	2 Samleswari OCM	4546
6.	07	MCL	Jagannath	1 Balanda Colliery	605
7.	07	MCL	Jagannath	2 Jagannath Colliery	4338
8.	.07	MCL	Jagannath	3 Ananta OCP Extn.	9469
9.	07	MCL	Kalinga	1 Bharatpur OCP Extn.	9600
10.	07	MCL	Kalinga	2 Kalinga	4020
11.	07	MCL	Lakhanpur	1 Belpahar OCM	2949
12.	07	MCL	Lakhanpur	2 Lakhanpur OCP	6765
13.	07	MCL	Lakhanpur	3 Lilari OCM	502

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	07	MCL	Lingaraj	1 Lingaraj	8740
15.	07	MCL	Orient	1 Orient Colliery 1 & 2	289
16.	07	MCL	Orient	2 Orient Mine No. 3	534
17.	07	MCL	Orient	3 Orient Mine No. 4	107
18.	07	MCL	Orient	4 Himgir Rampur Colliery	152
19.	07	MCL	Orient	5 Hirakhand Bundia Incline	435
20.	07	MCL	Talcher	1 Talcher Colliery	213
21.	07	MCL	Talcher	2 Deulbera Colliery	107
22.	07	MCL	Talcher	3 Nandira Colliery	290
23.	07	MCL	Talcher	4 Handidhua Anugul	
1.	08	NEC	Margherita	1 Tipong Colliery	44
2.	08	NEC	Margherita	2 Baragolai Colliery	51
3.	08	NEC	Margherita	3 Ledo Colliery	27
4.	08	NEC	Margherita	4 Tikak Colliery	190
5.	08	NEC	Margherita	5 Tirap Colliery	420
6.	08	NEC	Margherita	6 Jeypur-Dilli Colliery	
7.	08	NEC	Margherita	7 Sinsang Colliery	
1.	09	SCCL	Belampalli	1 Mahaveer Khani-1	0
2.	09	SCCL	Belampalli	2 Goleti-1	271
3.	09	SCCL	Belampalli	3 Goleti-1A	26
4.	09	SCCL	Belampalli	4 BPA Opencast	81
5.	09	SCCL	Belampalli	5 Khairagura OCP	0
6.	09	SCCL	Belampalli	6 Shanthi Khani,	
7.	09	SCCL	Belampalli	7 Mahaveer Khani-5,	
8.	09	SCCL	Belampalli	8 Mahaveer Khani-6,	
9.	09	SCCL	Bhoopalpalli	1 Kakatiya Khani-1,	122
10.	09	SCCL	Bhoopalpalli	2 Kakatiya Khani-1A,	201
11.	09	SCCL	Bhoopalpalli	3 Kakatiya Khani-2,	95
12.	09	SCCL	Bhoopalpalli	4 Kakatiya Khani-2A,	167

1	2	3	4	5	6
13.	09	SCCL	Bhoopalpalli	5 Kakatiya Khani-3	50
14.	09	SCCL	Bhoopalpalli	6 Kakatiya Khani-5	138
15.	09	SCCL	Bhoopalpalli	7 Kakatiya Khani-5A	133
16.	09	SCCL	Bhoopalpalli	8 Kakatiya Khani-6	58
17.	09	SCCL	IK & Chinnur	1 Indaram Khani-1	150
18.	09	SCCL	IK & Chinnur	2 Indaram Khani-1A	249
19.	09	SCCL	IK & Chinnur	3 Chennur-1 & 1A	128
20.	09	SCCL	IK & Chinnur	4 Chennur-2	108
21.	09	SCCL	Kothagudem	1 No. 5 Incline	433
22.	09	SCCL	Kothagudem	2 No. 5B Incline	116
23.	09	SCCL	Kothagudem	3 Venkatesh Khani-7	354
24.	09	SCCL	Kothagudem	4 Gautham Khani	2636
25.	09	SCCL	Kothagudem	*Hemachandrapuram	0
26.	09	SCCL	Mandamari	1 Shanthi Khani	91
27.	09	SCCL	Mandamari	2 Somagudem-1	271
28.	09	SCCL	Mandamari	3 Somagudem-3	40
29.	09	SCCL	Mandamari	4 Kalyan Khani-1	223
30.	09	SCCL	Mandamari	5 Kalayan Khani-2	208
31.	09	SCCL	Mandamari	6 Kalyan Khani-5	396
32.	09	SCCL	Mandamari	7 Kalyan Khani-5A	156
33.	09	SCCL	Mandamari	8 Kasipet	218
34.	09	SCCL	Mandamari	9 Kasipet OCP	
35.	09	SCCL	Mandamari	10 Ravindra Khani-1	0
36.	09	SCCL	Mandamari	11 Ravindra Khani-1A	317
37.	09	SCCL	Mandamari	12 Motilal Khani-4	436
38.	09	SCCL	Manuguru	1 Prakasham Khani-1	200
39.	09	SCCL	Manuguru	2 Prakasham Khani-2	105
40.	09	SCCL	Manuguru	3 Centenary OCP Extn.	
41.	09	SCCL	Manuguru	3 Opencast-II	3690

1	2	3	4	5	6
42.	09	SCCL	Manuguru	4 Opencast-IV	1251
43.	09	SCCL	Manuguru	5 Centenary Opencast	1001
44.	09	SCCL	Ramagundam-I	1 Godavari Khan-1	194
45.	09	SCCL	Ramagundam-I	2 Godavari Khani-2	154
46.	09	SCCL	Ramagundam-I	3 Godavari Khani-2A	182
47.	09	SCCL	Ramagundam-I	4 Godavari Khani-3	106
48.	09	SCCL	Ramagundam-I	5 Godavari Khani-5	478
49.	09	SCCL	Ramagundam-I	6 Godavari Khani-5A	134
50.	09	SCCL	Ramagundam-I	7 Godavari Khani-6	230
51.	09	SCCL	Ramagundam-I	8 Godavari Khani-6A	213
52.	09	SCCL	Ramagundam-I	9 Godavari Khani-6B (IGM)	274
53.	09	SCCL	Ramagundam-I	10 Godavari Khani-7 (LEP)	96
54.	09	SCCL	Ramagundam-I	11 Godavari Khani-11A	483
55.	09	SCCL	Ramagundam-II	1 Godavari Khani-9	393
56.	09	SCCL	Ramagundam-II	2 Godavari Khani-10A	513
57.	09	SCCL	Ramagundam-II	3 Godavari Khani-8	459
58.	09	SCCL	Ramagundam-II	4 Godavari Khani-8A	200
59.	09	SCCL	Ramagundam-II	5 Godavari Khani-10	367
60.	09	SCCL	Ramagundam-III	1 Opencast-III	3737
61.	09	SCCL	Ramagundam-III	2 Medpalli Opencast	1445
62.	09	SCCL	Ramagundam-IV	1 Opencast-I	2651
63.	09	SCCL	Ramagundam-IV	2 Opencast-II	1901
64.	09	SCCL	Ramakrishnapur	3 Ravindra Khani-3	
65.	09	SCCL	Srirampur	1 Ravindra Khani-5	489
66.	09	SCCL	Srirampur	2 Ravindra Khani-6	353
67.	09	SCCL	Srirampur	3 Ravindra Khani-7	461
68.	09	SCCL	Srirampur	4 Ravindra Khani-New Tech.	330
69.	09	SCCL	Srirampur	5 Ravindra Khani-8	141

1	2	3	4	5	6
70.	09	SCCL	Srirampur	6 Srirampur-1	252
71.	09	SCCL	Srirampur	7 Srirampur-2	269
72.	09	SCCL	Srirampur	8 Srirampur-2A	128
73.	09	SCCL	Srirampur	9 Srirampur-3 & 3A	383
74.	09	SCCL	Yellandu	1 No. 21 Incline	214
75.	09	SCCL	Yellandu	2 Jawahar Khani-5	359
76.	09	SCCL	Yellandu	3 Opencast-I	501
77.	09	SCCL	Yellandu	4 Opencast-II	374
78.	09	SCCL	Yellandu	5 Koya Gundem OCP	1271
1.	10	JKML	Kalakot	1 Metka Mine	8
2.	10	JKML	Kalakot	2 Moghla Coal Mine	9
3.	10	JKML	Kalakot	3 Bariyal Coal Mine	2
4.	10	JKML	Kalakot	4 Kotla	0
1.	11	JSMDCL	Latehar	1 Sikni Coal Project	444
1.	30	DVC	Bermo	1 DVC Bermo Mines	381
1.	31	IISCO	Chasnala	1 Chasnalla	138
2.	31	IISCO	Noonodih Jitpur	2 Noonodih Jitpur	143
3.	32	IISCO	Ramnagar	3 Ramnagar	302
1.	50	BECML	Tara	1 Tara OCP Churulia	3769
1.	51	ICML	Sarisatali	1 Sarshatali Open Cast Coal Mine	1495
1.	52	JSPL	Gare Area of Mand	1 Jindal Opencast Coal Mine	2466
1.	54	TISCO	Jamadoba	1 Jamadoba Colliery	285
2.	54	TISCO	Jamadoba	26 & 7 Pits Colliery	311
3.	54	TISCO	Jamadoba	3 Digwadih Colliery	328
4.	54	TISCO	Jamadoba	4 Sijua Colliery	323
5.	54	TISCO	Jamadoba	5 Bhelatand Colliery	356
6.	55	TISCO	West Bokaro	1 West Bokaro Quarry-AB (OC-I)	2322
7.	55	TISCO	West Bokaro	2 West Bokaro Quarry-E (OC-II)	2211

Statement II

State-wise Coal Production

Company (Million Tonnes)

	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01
West Bengal	16.83	15.93	16.80	17.88	16.90
Bihar	—	—	—	—	38.09
Jharkhand	70.18	72.08	71.51	69.73	30.76
Orissa	66.08	60.05	52.23	47.81	44.80
Uttar Pradesh	16.80	15.79	17.78	16.49	16.86
Madhya Pradesh	52.42	49.83	45.74	44.20	69.18
Maharashtra	34.53	32.91	31.36	30.83	28.75
Chhattisgarh	66.16	59.04	54.64	52.07	22.14
Assam	0.63	0.73	0.63	0.64	0.66
CIL	323.62	306.36	290.69	279.65	268.14

Coal Mining Depleting Water Level

6934. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal mining in Kathara Colliery and Washery and Swang Colliery and Washery in Kathara area of the Central Coalfields Ltd. in Jharkhand has depleted water level in the villages in proximity of coal-mining areas to very low;

(b) if so, the arrangements being made by the Government for providing water to the residents of the area; and

(c) the reasons, if any, for delay in providing water to the residents of said area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) As reported by Coal India Limited, water level in proximity of Kathara Colliery and Swang colliery has not depleted due to mining operations. There is no village in proximity of Swang colliery opencast workings.

(b) Water to Jhirkey village in proximity of Kathara colliery is being supplied through pump and pipe line on regular basis round the year.

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

Widening of NHs in Rajasthan

6935. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals regarding widening of national highways in Jodhpur city of Rajasthan lying pending;

(b) whether these proposals have since been cleared; and

(c) if so, the date thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No proposal regarding widening of National Highways in Jodhpur city is lying pending in Ministry.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Supply of Coal to Steel Sector

6936. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is deficiency in supplying coal to the steel industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including domestic supply of coal to steel industry and the supply from foreign companies during each of the last three years;

(c) whether coal industry has taken any steps to meet the entire need of steel industry;

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) At present with the available technology for steel making being used in the integrated steel plants and reserve of coking coal available in the country, it is not possible for domestic coal industry to meet the entire need of steel industry. Domestic coal industry is faced with constraint of techno-economically exploitable reserves of coking coal and hence cannot meet entire need of steel industry.

Statement

Companywise Supply of Indigenous and Imported Coal to Steel Sector during last four years

(in Million Tonnes)

Company	2004-05 (provisional)				2003-04				2002-03				2001-02			
	Steel (Direct Feed)	Steel (Washery feed-Ckg)	Cokeries	Total	Steel (Direct Feed)	Steel (Washery feed-Ckg)	Cokeries	Total	Steel (Direct Feed)	Steel (Washery feed-Ckg)	Cokeries	Total	Steel (Direct Feed)	Steel (Washery feed-Ckg)	Cokeries	Total
ECL	0.055		0.230	0.285	0.061		0.127	0.188	0.061		0.169	0.229	0.062		0.223	0.285
BCCL	Break Up not available			5.296	0.174	3.548	0.316	4.038	0.148	4.831	0.367	5.346	0.146	5.057	0.414	5.617
CCL		5.306		5.306		5.019		5.019		4.803	0.237	4.840		4.287	0.148	4.435
WCL		0.744		0.744		0.634		0.634		0.566	0.044	0.610		0.510	0.050	0.560
SECL	0.147			0.147	0.148			0.148	0.148			0.146	0.146			0.146
CIL				11.778	0.383	9.201	0.443	10.027	0.357	10.000	0.816	11.173	0.354	9.854	0.835	11.043
IISCO	0.010	0.522		0.532	0.013	0.502		0.515	0.020	0.550		0.570	0.319	0.535		0.854
TISCO		6.368		6.368		6.136	0.001	6.137		5.918		5.918		5.638		5.638
Total				18.678	0.396	15.839	0.444	16.679	0.377	16.468	0.816	17.661	0.673	16.027	0.835	17.535
Import				10.794*				12.992				12.942				11.107

*Data upto Dec 2004. Beyond that data is not available from DGCI&S.

[Translation]

Deficiencies NHs Network

6937. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:
SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
MOHD. SHAHID:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to remove deficiencies from the National Highways Network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether bridges for reconstruction and roads for widening have been identified in the current year;

(d) whether priority has been given to develop heavy traffic roads;

(e) if so, the areas of States identified and surveyed for the purpose; and

(f) the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The removal of deficiencies from National Highways is a continuous process. The deficiencies from the existing National Highways are being removed gradually and in phases during different plan periods based on the condition, traffic, inter-se priority and availability of fund.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III, 71 numbers of heavily trafficked stretches of National Highways in various States have been identified for 4/6-laning. The State-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise details of Heavily Trafficked Stretches of National Highways Identified for 4/6 Laning under NHDP Phase-III

Stretch/ Corridor No.	NH No.	Stretch/Corridor	Length (km)	States involved
1	2	3	4	5
1.	1	Jalandhar-Amritsar	49	Punjab
2.	1A	Srinagar-Baramula-Uri	101	Jammu and Kashmir
3.	3	Guna Bypass	14	Madhya Pradesh
4.	3	Indore-Khalghat-MP/Maharashtra Border-Dhule-Pimpalgaon-Nasik-Gonde-Vadape (Thane)	546	Madhya Pradesh/ Maharashtra
5.	4	Neelamangala-Bangalore-Hoskote-Kolar-Mudbagal	105	Karnataka
6.	4	Kalamboli-Mumbra (6 laning)	20	Maharashtra
7.	4A	Balgaum-Panji	153	Goa/Karnataka
8.	6	Sambalpur-Baragarh-Chhattisgarh/ Orissa Border	88	Orissa

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	Uttar Pradesh/Rajasthan
20.	12	Bhopal-Deori-Jabalpur	297	Madhya Pradesh
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-Chhapra-Hajipur	153	Bihar
31.	21	Chandigarh-Kiratpur	73	Chandigarh/Punjab
32.	22	Ambala-Kalka-Shimla	168	Haryana/Punjab/Himachal Pradesh
33.	24	Muradabad-Sitapur-Lucknow	322	Uttar Pradesh
34.	28A	Motihari-Raxaul	67	Bihar
35.	30	Patna-Bakhtiarpur	53	Bihar

1	2	3	4	5
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 & 52 A	Baihata Chariali (on EW corridor)-Itanagar	345	Assam/Arunachal Pradesh
41.	39	Kohima-Imphal	140	Nagaland/Manipur
42.	43	Kurnud-Dhamtari	23	Chhattisgrh
43.	44, 53	Shillong-Agartala (excluding Shilling Bypass)	447	Meghalaya/Assam/ Tripura
44.	45	Dindigul-Trichy	80	Tamil Nadu
45.	45B	Madurai-Arupukottai-Tuticorin	144	Tamil Nadu
46.	45 Ext	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)-Aizawal	190	Assam/Mizoram
52.	57A	Forbesganj-Jogwani	13	Bihar
53.	1, 24, 58, 72	Delhi-Dehradun	280	Delhi/Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal
54.	59	Indore-Jhabua-Ahmedabad	379	Madhya Pradesh/Gujarat
55.	66	Krishnagiri-Thiruvannamalai-Tindivanam-Pondicherry	210	Tamil Nadu/Pondicherry
56.	67	Nagapatnam-Thanjarur-Trichy-Karur	180	Tamil Nadu
57.	67 Ext	Coimbatore-Mettupalayam	45	Tamil Nadu
58.	68	Salem-Ulundrupet	134	Tamil Nadu
59.	69	Obaidullaganj-Bheembetka	13	Madhya Pradesh
60.	75	Jhansi-Khajuraho	100	Madhya Pradesh
61.	80	Mokama-Munger	70	Bihar

1	2	3	4	5
62.	84	Patna-Buxar	130	Bihar
63.	86 (Ext)	Bhopal-Sanchi	40	Madhya Pradesh
64.	91	Ghaziabad-Aligarh	106	Uttar Pradesh
65.	200	Raipur-Simga	28	Chhattisgarh
66.	200	Chandikhole-Duburi	39	Orissa
67.	202	Hyderabad-Yadgiri	30	Andhra Pradesh
68.	203	Bhuvaneswar-Puri	59	Orissa
69.	205	Tirupati-Tiruthani-Chennai	138	Andhra Pradesh/Tamil Nadu
70	215	Panikholi-Keonjhar-Roxy	249	Orissa
71.	220	Theni-Kumili	57	Tamil Nadu
		Total	10417	

[English]

Ahmedabad Delhi National Highway

6938. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to construct Ahmedabad-Delhi National Highway like Ahmedabad-Vadodara express highway;

(b) if so the details thereof and the time by when the project will be implemented; 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) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The construction of an expressway, which is a fully access-controlled road, is required only on the routes having very high level of traffic. The construction also involves huge financial investment and requires detailed engineering, financial, environmental and social impact study. However, the Government has taken up 4-laning of National Highways connecting Delhi and Ahmedabad and the work is in advanced stage of completion.

Possibility of Natural Disaster Risks in Indian Cities

6939. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether "Munich Re', in its recent report "Megacities-Megarisks" has listed Mumbai, Bangalore Delhi and Kolkata among high natural disaster risk cities, with possibility of occurrence of disasters like earthquakes, Tsunamis, Tropical Storms, Volcanic Eruptions, Winter Storms and Floods;

(b) if so, the position Mumbai, Bangalore, Delhi and Kolkata hold on the risk index in the Global Mega Risk Map; and

(c) the steps being taken to provide adequate forewarning systems for such disasters in these cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No such report has been received by Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the seismic zoning map of India, the country has been divided into four seismic zones, namely, Zone-II to V. Zone-V is considered to be the most seismically active region, while zone-II is the least. Mumbai, Bangalore, Delhi and Kolkata fall in seismic zones III, II, IV and III, respectively. Forewarning of earthquake is not yet possible anywhere in the world, however, damage to property and structure can be minimized by adopting earthquake resistant design and construction guidelines prepared by Bureau of Indian Standards. Also, microzonation of important cities has been initiated, which will help in assessment of related damage potential of smaller zones under different soil conditions and take appropriate measures to reduce the risk.

Delhi and Bangalore are not affected by tropical cyclone, while the frequency of cyclones affecting Mumbai is very low and Kolkata, being island, is not likely to be affected by storm surges. India Meteorogical Department (IMD) has the responsibility to monitor and forecast tropical cyclone and severe weather events. A good network of meteorological observatories is operated by IMD covering the entire coastline and islands. These are supplemented by observational data from Radar and Satellite systems. Doppler weather radar operational at Kolkata, Machilipatnam and Chennai provides very important information about the intensity and location of severe weather events. Government has also prepared a plan to set up an early Tsunami warning system in Indian Ocean. Department of Ocean Development, Department of Science and Technology and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research are the lead agencies involved in this endeavour.

Telephone Adalats in Tamil Nadu

6940. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Telephone Adalats held in each district of Tamil Nadu during the year 2004-05;

(b) the number of cases field and decided during the above period;

(c) the details of relaxations provided to the subscribers; and

(d) the details of the Telephone Adalats likely to be held during 2005-06 in Tamil Nadu, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of Telephone Adalats held in 2004-05 and Likely to be held in 2005-06 in Tamil Nadu

Sl.No.	Name of the SSA		Data of holding of Adalat	No. of Cases Reed.	No. of Cases disposed (Rs)	Details of Relief Given 1.4.05 to 31.3.06	Details of telephone adalats likely to be held during
1	2		3	4	5	6	7
1.	Chennai Telephones	North	13/05/04	0	0	0	It is planned to hold Telephone Adalat once in two months as per guidelines.
			09/09/04	4	4	0	
			09/12/04	0	0	0	
			07/03/05	0	0	0	
		South	17/06/04	1	1	0	It is planned to hold Telephone Adalat once in two months as per guidelines.
			25/09/04	4	4	810	
			17/01/05	7	7	0	
			23/03/05	2	2	0	

1	2		3	4	5	6	7
		West	15.05.04	2	2	0	It is planned to hold Telephone Adalat once in two months as per guidelines.
			29.09.04	0	0	0	
			14.12.04	0	0	0	
			25.03.05	3	3	2,517	
		Central	18.06.04	4	4	0	It is planned to hold Telephone Adalat once in two months as per guidelines.
			16.09.04	1	1	0	
			09.12.04	1	1	0	
			10.03.05	1	1	0	
2.	Chingleput		27.01.04	09	09	0	It is planned to hold Telephone Adalat once in two months as per guidelines.
			03.09.04	06	06	0	
			04.03.05	09	09	0	
3.	Coimbatore		25.05.04	01	01	0	It is planned to hold Telephone Adalat once in two months as per guidelines.
			29.07.04	25	25	18,362	
			15.10.04	15	15	0	
			30.11.04	02	01	0	
			28.01.05	15	15	0	
			30.03.05	04	04	0	
4.	Cuddalore		30.07.04	21	21	0	It is planned to hold Telephone Adalat once in two months as per guidelines.
			30.09.04	25	25	0	
			01.03.05	22	22	0	
			31.03.05	20	20	0	
5.	Dharmapuri		08.04.04	02	02	0	It is planned to hold Telephone Adalat once in two months as per guidelines.
			04.06.04	04	04	1,400	
			09.09.04	04	04	0	
			13.12.04	15	15	0	
			21.02.05	11	11	0	
			21.03.05	27	27	0	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	Erode	16.06.04	03	03	0	It is planned to hold Telephone Adalat once in two months as per guidelines.
		28.07.04	05	05	0	
		30.09.04	01	01	0	
		30.11.04	03	03	0	
		29.01.05	04	04	0	
		31.03.05	01	01	0	
7.	Karaikudi	11.06.04	18	18	0	It is planned to hold Telephone Adalat once in two months as per guidelines.
		09.09.04	16	16	0	
		10.12.04	20	20	0	
		30.12.04	23	23	0	
		05.02.05	03	03	0	
		11.03.05	18	18	0	
		29.03.05	15	15	0	
8.	Kumbakonam	27.05.04	14	14	0	It is planned to hold Telephone Adalat once in two months as per guidelines.
		17.07.04	18	18	0	
		15.09.04	12	12	0	
		18.11.04	08	08	0	
		06.01.05	14	14	0	
		17.02.05	11	11	0	
9.	Madurai	15.04.04	09	09	0	It is planned to hold Telephone Adalat once in two months as per guidelines.
		11.06.04	02	02	0	
		13.08.04	10	10	0	
		21.10.04	09	09	0	
		28.12.04	14	14	0	
		03.02.05	05	05	0	
10.	Nagercoil	27.08.04	19	19	0	It is planned to hold Telephone Adalat once in two months as per guidelines.
		29.11.04	06	06	11,554	
		28.12.04	08	08	0	
		29.01.05	22	22	0	
		28.02.05	18	18	0	
		30.03.05	13	11	0	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11.	Nilgiris	30.07.04	01	01	0	It is planned to hold Telephone Adalat once in two months as per guidelines.
		30.01.05	04	04	0	
12.	Pondichery	28.05.04	01	01	0	It is planned to hold Telephone Adalat once in two months as per guidelines.
		06.09.04	06	06	3,042	
		18.01.05	05	05	0	
13.	Salem	03.07.04	20	20	1,854	It is planned to hold Telephone Adalat once in two months as per guidelines.
		28.09.04	29	29	0	
		30.12.04	24	24	0	
14.	Thanjavur	01.06.41	10	10	0	It is planned to hold Telephone Adalat once in two months as per guidelines.
		24.08.04	24	24	0	
		18.10.04	09	09	0	
		05.02.05	34	34	0	
15.	Tirunelveli	06.07.04	01	01	0	It is planned to hold Telephone Adalat once in two months as per guidelines.
		31.08.04	07	07	0	
		17.12.04	01	01	0	
		20.02.05	03	03	0	
		30.03.05	18	18	0	
16.	Tiruchirappali	08.04.04	15	12	0	It is planned to hold Telephone Adalat once in two months as per guidelines.
		16.06.04	04	04	0	
		31.08.04	07	06	0	
		19.11.04	06	06	0	
		04.02.05	11	11	0	
17.	Tuticorin	15.06.04	14	14	0	It is planned to hold Telephone Adalat once in two months as per guidelines.
		09.12.04	14	14	15,219	
		31.12.04	11	11	0	
		01.03.05	21	21	0	
		26.03.05	11	11	0	
18.	Vellore	15.07.04	38	37	0	It is planned to hold Telephone Adalat once in two months as per guidelines.
		14.09.04	31	28	0	
		05.11.04	31	27	0	
		07.03.05	18	16	0	
		07.03.05	25	23	0	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
19.	Virudhunagar	21.05.04	05	05	0	It is planned to hold Telephone Adalat once in two months as per guidelines.
		26.07.04	00	00	0	
		27.12.04	04	04	0	
		31.03.04	00	00	0	

[Translation]

Condition of NH-80 in Bihar

6941. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the stretch of 12 K.m. between Pripanti and Mirjachawki under the N.H. 80 in Bihar is in a dilapidated condition;

(b) whether the Bihar Government has sent a proposal worth Rs. 8 crore 80 lakhs for carrying out the repairing work of the said stretch of road; and

(c) if so, the time by which the above proposal is likely to be sanctioned and the repair work likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) National Highways are maintained in traffic worthy condition within the available resources. Further, every year, funds are allocated to the State Government for maintenance and repair.

(b) and (c) A proposal amounting to Rs. 8.55 crores for work of widening and reconstruction in Km. 181 to 190 on NH-80 was received from Bihar Government but the same was returned because of the insufficient technical details. The State Government has recently resubmitted the modified proposal amounting to Rs. 10.87 crores for the aforesaid work. This work in included in the Annual Plan 2005-06 and sanction of the same will depend upon the availability of funds, inter-se-priority and sanction limit. Thereafter, it is too early to indicate the date of start for the aforesaid work.

[English]

Allocation of Funds to Backward States

6942. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated guidelines for allocation of funds under the new Backward States Development Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the basis for the determination of the backwardness of the State; and

(d) the time by which the backward States are likely to received their funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The guidelines for the Backward Regions Grant Fund, announced by the Union Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for 2005-06, are under formulation.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The scheme is yet to be finalized.

[Translation]

Coal Wage Agreement

6943. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the delay is being made in the implementation of 7th National Coal Wage Agreement though it became due w.e.f. 01.07.2004;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the loss suffered by coal sector in terms of coal production and the finance consequent upon the strike by labour organization of coal sector because of delay in the implementation of agreement;

(d) whether the Government has fixed any time limit to settle the problem of 7th wage agreement; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for expeditious settlement of wage agreement?

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) They delay in constitution of Joint Bi-partite Committee for Coal Industry (JBCCI) was on account of reluctance of Private Captive mining companies to participate in the negotiations. Delay in consequent wage agreement was on account of disagreement between Management and Unions on policy issues like 100% DA neutralization, execution of wage agreement to sick companies etc. which required a decision at Government level.

(c) Bhartya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) called for strike from 29-11-2004 to 01-12-2004. During this period against a normal production of 10 lakh tones per day preceding the strike, production during strike averaged at 9 lakh tones per day. In financial terms the loss was Rs. 22.76 crores.

In Singareni Collieries Company Limited strike was observed by five Left-oriented Trade Unions, during 25th-27th April, 2005 over a charter of nine common demands including immediate settlement of the 7th Wage Agreement. The loss of production of coal on account of the above strike was 83,450 tonnes. In financial terms the loss was Rs. 8.34 crores.

(d) and (e) Group of Ministers (GoM) under the Chairmanship of Minister of Defence was constituted on 16-11-2004 to look into the larger issues concerning the ongoing wage negotiation in best interest of industry, labour and national economy. The GoM heard the views of management and Trade Unions. It also requested Minister of State for Coal & Mines to hold separate discussion with the Unions. Accordingly, a meeting was held on 3-5-2005 in which a broad consensus was reached. The wage agreement is likely to be signed shortly.

[English]

Development of Existing National Highways

6944. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the project proposals received upto December 31, 2004 from several State Governments for development of the existing National Highways, State-wise particularly from Gujarat; and

(b) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) 753 numbers of proposals, included in the Annual Plan 2004-05, were received from various State Governments upto 31.12.2004 for development of existing National Highways in various States. Out of these, 670 proposals have been sanctioned. The State-wise details including Gujarat are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of State	Number of proposals	
		Received upto 31.12.2004 which were provided in Annual Plan 2004-05	Sanctioned during 2004-05 out of proposals received upto 31.12.2004
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	67	57
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	03	03
3.	Assam	21	20
4.	Bihar	33	16
5.	Chandigarh	01	01
6.	Chhattisgarh	26	26
7.	Delhi	03	03
8.	Goa	06	06
9.	Gujarat	39	39
10.	Haryana	30	24
11.	Himachal Pradesh	13	13
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	00	00
13.	Jharkhand	09	02
14.	Karnataka	83	83

1	2	3	4
15.	Kerala	25	25
16.	Madhya Pradesh	37	37
17.	Maharashtra	63	63
18.	Manipur	08	06
19.	Meghalaya	14	13
20.	Mizoram	06	06
21.	Nagaland	03	03
22.	Orissa	20	13
23.	Pondicherry	02	02
24.	Punjab	20	20
25.	Rajasthan	35	21
26.	Tamil Nadu	77	62
27.	Uttar Pradesh	81	81
28.	Uttaranchal	11	11
29.	West Bengal	17	14
	Total	753	670

MoU Between Karnataka and Australian State of Victoria

6945. SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:

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

(a) whether a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) envisaging bilateral cooperation in the field of Information Technology and Communication has been signed between Karnataka and the Australian State of Victoria;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to both the countries as a result of the MoU in the fields of diplomacy, trade and commerce;

(d) whether this cooperation will enable State of Victoria to outsource its jobs to Karnataka; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), inter-alia, envisages mutual cooperation in this area of Information and Communication Technology, Manufacturing Industries, Aerospace, Bio-Technology, Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Science, Agro Food Processing, Commercial Research & Development, Tourism and Allied areas, including Education and Research & Development.

(c) (1) Facilitating favourable conditions for cooperation in business development in the areas of information and communication technology and other areas of cooperation.

(2) Establishment of direct contracts between people, enterprises and organisations.

(3) Possibilities to develop cooperative joint ventures and prepare practical exchanges in research, industry, commerce, tourism and other related fields.

(d) and (e) In pursuance of the MoU, both sides would prepare a detailed action plan and constitute technical committees to look at sector specific/project and specific initiatives which would result in increased level of economic activity and job opportunities in Karnataka.

Family Planning Norms in China

6946. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether the members of Indian Medical Association recently visited China to study the Family Planning norms adopted by China to control population;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the suggestion and views expressed by the IMA regarding control of population in India on the basis of their study;

(d) the response of the Government thereto; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to control population in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A four-member delegation of Indian Medical Association visited China to study the Family Planning Policy adopted by China to control population on the invitation of the Chinese Medical Association and found that the one-child Policy of China has been widely accepted by the general public in China and the results thereof are very encouraging.

(c) IMA has urged that Govt. should formulate incentive oriented family welfare policy.

(d) As per the national Population Policy-2000 adopted by the Parliament, the priority of the Government is to meet the unmet needs of the people under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme so as to achieve net replacement levels of Total Fertility Rate of 2.1 by 2010.

(e) The steps being taken by Government for population stabilization in the country include—adoption of Naitonal Population Policy (NPP), constitution of the National Commission on Population, establishment of the Janasankhya Sthirata Kosh and constitution of an Empow-- 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 comprehensive reproductive, maternal, child health and contraceptive services to the people has reached in its 2nd Phase for providing more comprehensive and integrated services.

The Government has recently launched the National Rural Health Mission 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, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.

[Translation]

CGHS Centres in Uttar Pradesh

6947. SHRI SHYAMA CHARAN GUPTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are CGHS centres in districts Banda and Chitrakoot in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the scheme of the Government for establishing CGHS Centres in the aforesaid districts?

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

(b) and (c) Due to constraints of resources and manpower, it will not be possible to extend CGHS facilities to the districts of Banda and Chikrakoot at present.

Separate Cadres for Primary Health Centres' Doctors

6948. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a separate cadre of primary health centres' doctors for providing services in the rural areas;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve medical facilities in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There are State-wise cadres for doctors. The Government of India has been suggesting to the States/UTs to constitute District-wise cadres for doctors with a view to decentralisation and for efficient implementation of the programmes of Health & Family Welfare.

(c) The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) 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. Its key components are—provision of a female Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA), strengthening of the Rural Health Care Institutions such as Sub-centres, Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs). These institutions will be monitored by the community and made accountable.

By introducing Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS), it is proposed to standardise CHCs. It aims at integration of all vertical programmes. In effect, health care delivery will be made accessible and affordable.

Increasing Postal Facilities

6949. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the postal facilities in Deenpur, Shanti Vihar, Durga Vihar, Roshanpura, Shyam Vihar Colonies of Najafgarh area have not been provided as per the set criterion in regard thereto;

(b) if so, the number of post offices operating and the number of postmen employed in Najafgarh area as on date; and

(c) the steps being taken to increase postal facilities in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Postal facilities in terms of daily delivery and collection of dak are available throughout the country, while Post offices are opened only subject to fulfilment of distance, population and income norms, and subject to availability of resources. The latter is an ongoing process.

Therefore, while Postal facilities in terms of daily delivery and collection of dak are being provided in Deenpur, Shanti Vihar, Durga Vihar, Roshanpura, Shyam Vihar colonies of Najafgarh area, post offices are provided in these areas only to the extent justified as per norms.

(b) In Najafgarh area, there are at present, 1 Departmental sub post office, 2 Gramin Dak sevak sub post offices and 13 Gramin Dak sevak branch post offices. This area is served by 9 postmen and 14 Gramin Dak sevak delivery agents.

(c) Post offices will continue to be opened in the area, as per demand, and subject to fulfilment of norms and availability of resources.

[English]

Designing of Micro Satellite

6950. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Anna University has designed a micro satellite funded by the ISRO (Indian Space Research Organization);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total expenditure incurred thereon; and

(c) the benefits likely to be derived by the teachers/ students therefrom in improving the standards of education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Anna University has taken up the design and development of a micro satellite, namely ANUSAT. ISRO will provide Anna University with knowledge inputs and help in reviews, testing and experimentation, besides providing partial financial support.

(b) ANUSAT carries a Store and Forward communication payload for conducting message transfer experiments and weighs around 45 Kg. The total project cost is estimated to be Rs. 545 lakhs with Rs. 105 lakhs being contributed by the Anna University, and the balance provided by ISRO. ISRO has provided Rs. 300 lakhs to the Anna University so far.

(c) The development of ANUSAT is a step in ISRO's pursuit to strengthen the University linkages that could generate human resources for the space programme and build capacity in the Universities to undertake advanced research and development activities in high technology areas. The micro-satellite development will be a good opportunity for students and the faculty to get an insight into various aspects of space technology. It will also enable them to conduct meaningful application studies and gain experience in satellite mission operations.

[Translation]

Schemes for Modernisation of Traditional Industries

6951. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) The schemes being implemented by the Government for the modernization of traditional industries and the manner in which these schemes are proving beneficial to traditional industry;

(b) the amount provided to each State and Union Territory in the form of loan and grant for modernization

of these industries during the Tenth Five Year Plan period till date; and

(c) the year-wise and industry-wise funds provided particularly to Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) In keeping with the declaration in the National Common Minimum Programme and the announcement in the July 2004 budget speech of Finance Minister, the draft of a scheme titled the "Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries" has been circulated for comments of all concerned, prior to approval and implementation during 2005-06. The gross 10th Plan outlay for the Scheme can be stated after it is finally approved.

(b) and (c) In view of the reply to part (a), the questions do not arise.

[English]

NSIC Schemes in Assam

6952. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes launched by NSIC in Assam particularly in Darang district;

(b) whether the NSIC has assessed the impact of buyer-seller meet;

(c) whether the NSIC has been designated as nodal agency for marketing of SSI products in Assam; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) In the State of Assam, the National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC), implements all its seven schemes/programmes, to provide assistance and support for marketing, training, credit etc., to small scale industries (SSI). Approximately, 4597 beneficiaries in the small scale sector in Assam and 85 beneficiaries in Darrang District have been assisted under the above-mentioned schemes/programmes during the five year period 2000-2005.

(b) 21 SSI units in Assam have become vendors to Public Sector Undertakings and Government Departments as a result of the Buyer-Seller meets, conducted by the NSIC.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise, in view of the reply to part (c).

Vacant Posts of Officers Under Central Staffing Scheme

6953. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the existing instructions and guidelines for selection of officers in the grade of Deputy Secretary/ Director under the Central Staffing Scheme under the Government of India;

(b) the number of posts at the level of Deputy Secretary and Director separately lying vacant and to be filled up under the Central Staffing Scheme during 2005;

(c) the number of vacancies in which appointment orders has been issued by the Department of Personnel separately for Deputy Secretary and Director;

(d) the number of concerned Department/Ministry which has selected a particular officer but the relevant appointment order is yet to be issued for appointment of Deputy Secretary and Director; and

(e) the reasons for delay in issuance of appointment order by the Government?

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) Appointment to the posts of Deputy Secretary/Director in the Government of India are made under the Central Staffing Scheme, by borrowing officers from the All India Services and participating Group 'A' Services, so as to meet the Centre's need for fresh inputs at Middle Management levels in policy planning, formulation of policy and implementation of programmes. A panel of names for each vacancy is considered keeping in view the educational qualifications, service, experience, special training etc. required for effective performance of the job;

(b) As on 01.05.2005, the number of posts at the level of Deputy Secretary/Director under the Central Staffing Scheme which fall vacant during 2005 are 115. The posts of Deputy Secretary/Director are interchangeable under the Central Staffing Scheme.

(c) As on 01.05.2005, appointment orders of 39 Directors and 32 Deputy Secretaries during 2005 have been issued by the Deptt. of Personnel and Training.

(d) and (e) As on 01.05.2005, 9 Department/Ministries have selected officers for which the relevant appointment orders are yet to be issued. This is because of the fact that the Ministries/Departments have not indicated the reasons for deviating from the order of preference suggested by the Civil Service Board (CSB) in selecting the officers from the panels sent to them. Though the appointments of Deputy Secretary/Director level do not require the approval of the ACC, the above cases need ACC approval since the concerned Ministries/Departments have selected the officers by deviating from the order of preference indicated by the CSB. Accordingly, these appointments have been submitted to the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet for a decision.

Commissioning of Telephone Exchanges

6954. SHRI A.F.G. OSMANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telecom sub-division existing in the Bongaigaon Telephone district of Assam Circuit (T) including the names with the locations of their respective headquarters;

(b) the number of WLL and VPT phone connections issued in these Sub-divisions from 1.5.2001 to 31.3.2005, sub-division-wise both for WLL and VPT, category-wise;

(c) the number of applications for the above categories of phone connections pending till 31.3.2005; and

(d) the number of telephone exchanges commissioned during the period mentioned in part (b) to facilitate land line connections alongwith the number of telephone exchanges proposed to be set up during the current year, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The details are furnished below:

Sl.No.	Name of the Sub-Division	Sub-divisional HQ	Telephone connections provided on WLL from 01-05-2001 to 31-03-2005	VPT provided on WLL from 01-05-2001 to 31-03-2005
1.	Bongaigaon	Bongaigaon	253	421
2.	Dhubri	Dhubri	215	856
3.	Goalpara	Goalpara	474	339
4.	Nalbari	Nalbari	187	416
5.	Barpeta Road	Barpeta Road	733	802
6.	Kokrajhar	Kokrajhar	124	241

(c) No application was pending for above 2 categories of phone connections till 31-03-2005.

(d) A total of 29 telephone exchanges have been commissioned during the above period. Two new rural telephone exchanges are planned to be commissioned at Golpara and Gobradal in Nalbari Revenue District within the jurisdiction of Bongaigaon Telecom District during the year 2005-06.

Vacant Posts

6955. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts reserved for SCs/STs lying vacant in various Departments of Central Government/ PSUs for more than one year, Department/PSU-wise; and

(b) the steps taken to clear the backlog vacancies so accrued?

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) Information regarding vacant reserved posts is not centrally maintained. However, 69 Ministries/Departments etc. have identified 26419 backlog reserved vacancies of SCs and STs in Direct Recruitment Quota and 64 Ministries/Departments etc. have identified 33027 backlog reserved vacancies of SCs and STs in Promotion Quota in services under the Government of India.

(b) A Special Recruitment Drive has been launched to fill-up the backlog of vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Ban of Mobile Phones

6956. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to ban the use of mobile phone under the age of 18 years;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether SIM Cards are not issued to boys/girls under the age of 18 years; and

(d) if so, the reasons to ban mobiles in schools in some States where the students are already under 18 years of age?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Department of Telecommunications (DOT) does not propose to ban the use of mobile phone under the age of 18 years.

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

[Translation]

Public Grievances and Pension Related Complaints

6957. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding public grievances and pension related issues from various States including Gujarat during the last three years till date;

(b) if so, the total number and the nature of grievances and complaints so received; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Government proposes to dispose of the aforesaid public grievances and pension related complaints within the prescribed time limit and fix the responsibility on the concerned officers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (c) Grievances including pension related matters have been received in the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances relating to the State Governments including the Government of Gujarat. The grievances received in this Department after scrutiny have been forwarded to the concerned State Governments for quick redress of these grievances under intimation to the petitioners. The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances takes them up with the concerned States for intensive monitoring till their disposal. The details of grievances of all types including pensions, relating to the State Governments received in the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement. These complaints relate to delay in taking decisions/implementation of decisions, poor civic amenities/quality of services, law and order, compensation/ refunds of revenue/land tax etc., social evils, retirement dues, service related matters, allegation of corruption/ malpractices, harassment/misbehaviour by officials etc.

(d) and (e) The State Governments had adopted an Action Plan for Effective and Responsive Administration in the Chief Ministers' Conference held in May, 1997, organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievance, Government of India. This Plan enjoined that State Departments would widely publicize the facilities at various levels for the prompt and effective redress of public grievances from the secretariat downwards to the village level.

The respective State Governments have been requested to decide the issues related to disposal of grievances within a stipulated time frame and fix responsibility for delay, in compliance with the Action Plan for Effective and Responsive Administration.

Statement

Sl.No.	State Govt./Organisation	No. of Grievances received		
		2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
1	2	3	4	5
1.	BSES Rajdhani/Yamuna Power Ltd.	14	22	15
2.	Delhi Development Authority	19	42	58
3.	Delhi Police	76	97	123
4.	Delhi Secretariat	76	114	113
5.	Delhi Transco Limited	5	4	9
6.	Delhi Transport Corporation	0	3	5
7.	Government of Andaman & Nicobar	5	4	17
8.	Government of Andhra Pradesh	26	44	30
9.	Government of Arunachal Pradesh	8	5	4
10.	Government of Assam	14	13	9
11.	Government of Bihar	46	47	37
12.	Government of Chhattisgarh	26	35	17
13.	Government of Goa	1	5	1
14.	Government of Gujarat	13	42	24
15.	Government of Haryana	39	75	66
16.	Government of Himachal Pradesh	6	13	7
17.	Government of Jammu & Kashmir	2	11	12
18.	Government of Jharkhand	25	21	16
19.	Government of Karnataka	16	23	21
20.	Government of Kerala	3	16	8
21.	Government of Madhya Pradesh	86	68	46
22.	Government of Maharashtra	51	143	95
23.	Government of Manipur	1	10	1
24.	Government of Meghalaya	0	1	0
25.	Government of Mizoram	1	1	0
26.	Government of Nagaland	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Government of NCT of Delhi	2	0	18
28.	Government of Orissa	25	39	32
29.	Government of Pondicherry	2	6	8
30.	Government of Punjab	12	34	43
31.	Government of Rajasthan	46	86	60
32.	Government of Sikkim	0	0	1
33.	Government of Tamil Nadu	41	63	63
34.	Government of Tripura	0	3	1
35.	Government of Union Territory of Chandigarh	5	8	6
36.	Government of Union Territory of Daman & Diu	1	1	0
37.	Government of Union Territory of Dadar & Nagar Haveli	1	0	0
38.	Government of Union Territory of Lakshadweep	1	0	1
39.	Government of Uttar Pradesh	306	426	326
40.	Government of Uttaranchal	116	212	72
41.	Government of West Bengal	23	45	88
42.	Municipal Corporation of Delhi	38	91	82
43.	New Delhi Municipal Council	11	14	12
44.	North Delhi Power Limited	0	0	3
45.	Office of the Accountant General, Bihar	0	0	0
	Total	1189	1887	1550

Tele-Density in Bihar

6958. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRI SITA RAM YADAV:

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

(a) the telephone density in Bihar;

(b) the schemes formulated by the Government to bring it on a par with the national average;

(c) the district-wise and location-wise details of the waiting list in the State as on 2004-05;

(d) the time by which the applicants of the waiting list are likely to be provided with the telephone connections; and

(e) the schemes formulated by the Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The tele-density in Bihar (BSNL and private operators) is 2.40 as on 31.03.2005.

(b) BSNL is making efforts to provide larger number of telephone connections which, in turn, would improve the tele-density in the State.

(c) District-wise waiting list as on 31-03-2005 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) The following steps have been taken by BSNL to clear the waiting list:

(i) Large scale deployment of WLL network in rural areas has been planned.

(ii) Relaxation of the outdoor cable from 2.5 Kms to 5.0 Kms for Landline Exchanges has been given.

(iii) Mobile network in all the highways, important towns, pilgrim centres and State Highways are deployed to give coverage to more areas.

In addition to the efforts made by BSNL, the demand for telephones is also met by the private operators.

Further, financial support is provided to the telecom operators through the mechanism of Universal Service Obligation Fund (USO Fund) to encourage them, inter alia, to private phones in rural areas.

As against the waiting list of 96871 as on 31.03.2005, BSNL has set the following targets for the year 2005-06:

Sl. No.	Development Parameter	Target (Nos.)
1.	CMTS (Cellular Mobile Telephone Service)	12,00,000
2.	Landlines	1,22.000
3.	WLL (Lines)	1,69,000,
4.	Broadband	42,270

In addition, private operators will also provide telephones in the State.

Statement

District-wise Waiting List as on 31.03.2005

Sl.No.	Name of Districts in Bihar	Waiting List as on 31.03.2005
1	2	3
1.	Saran	5703
2.	Siwan	7890
3.	Gopalganj	3213
4.	E. Champaran	2521
5.	W. Champaran	2319
6.	Sitamarhi	6351
7.	Shivhar	678
8.	Muzaffarpur	6986
9.	Vaishali	4111
10.	Darbhanga	6588
11.	Madhubani	5342
12.	Patna	4681
13.	Nalanda	1582
14.	Gaya	2510
15.	Bhojpur	4468
16.	Buxar	3235
17.	Bhagalpur	1247
18.	Banka	914
19.	Munger	1228
20.	Lakhisarai	426
21.	Sheikhpura	397
22.	Jamui	491
23.	Rohtas	3187
24.	Bhabhua	868
25.	Saharsa	1137
26.	Supaul	1020
27.	Madhepura	908
28.	Katihar	488
29.	Purnea	342
30.	Araria	301
31.	Arwal	1247
32.	Aurangabad	1484

1	2	3
33.	Kishanganj	611
34.	Jehanabad	2556
35.	Nawadah	1071
36.	Begusarai	1440
37.	Khagaria	3227
38.	Samastipur	4103
	Total	96871

[English]

Development of Western and Eastern Peripheral Express Highway

6959. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has formulated any plan to develop western and eastern peripheral express highway with a view to provide better connectivity between NCR and New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of the plan formulated thereon; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) As per the direction of Supreme Court a plan for Western and Eastern Peripheral Expressway is being developed to avoid non-destined goods vehicles from entering into Delhi. This expressway will also provide better connectivity within the NCR region.

(b) The work is in preliminary stage and cost estimate in respect of Western Peripheral Expressway (WPE) has been prepared by the Haryana State Industrial Development Corporation (HSIDC). National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has been asked to prepare a DPR to arrive at a final alignment as well as the cost for Eastern Peripheral Expressway (EPE). Bids for preparation of DPR have been invited and received.

(c) Since the project is in the preliminary stage and the alignments are yet to be finalized, it is not possible to indicate the time for completion of the work at this stage.

[Translation]

Denial of Leaders of J&K on Bus Journey

6960. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the leaders of various political parties of J&K had been denied permission to travel on the recently commenced Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) India had proposed to Pakistan that a goodwill delegation comprising leaders from various political parties from Jammu & Kashmir could travel along with the passengers on the first Srinagar-Muzaffarabad bus service on April 7, 2005. Pakistan Government conveyed that it would not be possible to accept the proposal.

TV Cable Facility through Telephone

6961. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide TV cable facility through telephone to the Members of Parliament;

(b) if so, the details thereof; 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) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

Retired Officers Allegedly Favoured Private Telecom Companies

6962. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that several senior officers under the Uttar Pradesh Telecom Circle (East) had allegedly favoured the private telecom companies, just 2-3 years before their superannuation and now these officers are working in these private telecom companies as consultants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted or proposes to conduct any inquiry into it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Investigation against Higher Officers

6963. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cases for investigation against the officers of rank of Joint Secretary and above are pending;

(b) if so, the number of such cases till March, 2005 and Ministries/Departments in which these officers are posted;

(c) the reasons for not conducting investigation against these officers;

(d) whether the Government is considering to amend the law to effect changes in the present system; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Replacement of MARRs

6964. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to replace all the defunct Multi Access Rural Radio (MARR) Village Public Telephone in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, by when the said work is likely to be started;

(c) the number of M.A.R.R. to be replaced during the year 2005-2006; and

(d) the places in Vidisha district where M.A.R.Rs are in working condition or the places where they are not working?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The work of replacement of the Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) based Village Public Telephones (VPTs) is already in progress.

(c) It is planned to replace 9,905 MARR based VPTs in Madhya Pradesh during the year 2005-06.

(d) 30 MARR based VPTs are working in Vidisha district of M.P. The details of the places are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Places where Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) based Village Public Telephones (VPTs) are Working in Vidisha district of Madhya Pradesh

Sl.No.	Name of places where MARR based VPT is working
1	2
1.	Mahua Kehda 4
2.	Hargankhedi
3.	Devpur
4.	Sugal Sarai

1	2
5.	Karela
6.	Boriya
7.	Goshua
8.	Daus Basoda
9.	Pairwasa-2
10.	Champakhedi
11.	Rajoda 2
12.	Mundri
13.	Pipalwal Chak 1
14.	Pipalwal Chak 2
15.	Rusalli 2
16.	Mala
17.	Nipania
18.	Ghonsua
19.	Mungwara
20.	Chriwata
21.	Sirsavali
22.	Lakhangar
23.	Ganeshpur
24.	Mundra A
25.	Mirigawali
26.	Eran Chak
27.	Mehrukhedi
28.	Mehdon
29.	Pipariya 3
30.	Mundra Ganeshpur

[English]

Possibility of Earthquake in Himalayan Region

6965 SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of an overdue earthquake in the Himalayas as reported in the 'Hindu' dated April 5, 2005;

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

(c) whether any institutional arrangements have been put in place to deal with post-earthquake situation; 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) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is aware that the 'Hindu' dated April 5, 2005 has quoted statements by some foreign and Indian scientists about the possibility of an earthquake in the Himalayas. A major portion of Himalayan region lies in seismic Zone-V, which is considered to be seismically one of the most active regions. However, at present there is no method available which can scientifically predict earthquake in terms of magnitude, space and time.

(c) and (d) There is a well established institutional arrangement in place to deal with post earthquake situations for carrying out response to any disaster situations arising in the country. At the national level, Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is the nodal agency for all matters concerning disaster management. The Central Relief Commissioner (CRC) in MHA is the nodal officer to coordinate relief operations for natural disaster. The CRC receive information related to for casting/warning of natural calamity from India Meteorological Department (IMD) or from Central Water Commissioner (CWC) on a continuing basis. The nodal officer is responsible for preparing Sectoral Action Plan/Emergency Support Function Plan for Managing Disaster.

The National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC), which is headed by the Cabinet Secretary, gives directions to Crisis Management Group (CMG), as deemed necessary. The Secretary, MHA is responsible for ensuring that all developments are brought to the notice of the NCMC promptly. The NCMC may give directions to any Ministry/Department for specific action required for meeting the crisis situation.

The Crisis Management Group (CMG), in the Ministry of Home Affairs, is mandated to review every year contingency plans formulated by various Ministries/ Departments/organizations in their respective sectors,

measures required for dealing with natural disaster, coordinating the activities of the Central Ministries and the State Governments in relation to the disaster preparedness and relief. CMG in the event of natural disaster extends all possible assistance required by the affected States to overcome the situation effectively.

A National Emergency Operation Central (NEOC) also exists in MHA which functions round the clock to assist the Central Relief Commissioner. The activities of the Control Room include collection and transmission of information related to natural calamity and relief, keeping close contact with governments of affected States, interaction with other Central Ministries/Department in connection with relief, etc.

A National Contingency Action Plan for dealing with contingencies arising in the wake of natural disasters has also been formulated by the Government.

Improving Mental Hospitals and Psychiatric Wings

6966. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to improve the infrastructure and functioning of existing Government mental hospitals and psychiatric wings of general hospitals and medical colleges in the current five year plan;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated to various hospitals and medical colleges during the last three years, till date, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken for promoting relevant research and more effective public health interventions in this regard;

(d) whether the Government has also sanctioned funds for setting up more mental hospitals during the last three years;

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

(f) the number of proposals pending for clearance for setting up of mental hospitals especially in Madhya Pradesh; and

(g) the reasons for their pendency?

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

(b) The funds were released only in 2004-05, the details of which are:

Kerala

Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram—Rs. 11,90,525/-

Government Medical College, Thrissur—Rs. 11,16,500/-

Government Medical College, Kozhikode—Rs. 9,70,125/-

Tamil Nadu

Madras Medical College, Chennai—Rs. 24,97,500/-

Stanley Medical College, Chennai—Rs. 22,42,500/-

Kilpauk Medical College, Chennai—Rs. 25,00,000/-

Chengalpatu Medical College, Tirunelveli—Rs. 24,50,000/-

Madurai Medical College, Madurai—Rs. 25,00,000/-

Jharkhand

Ranchi Institute of Neuro-Psychiatry & Allied Sciences, Ranchi—Rs. 2,45,00,000/-

(c) Funds amounting to Rs. 23,97,500/- have been released during 2004-05 for undertaking research on (a) To integrate basic mental health care into general health care by training of general practitioners; (b) Epidemiology of Dementia in the urban center of Pune; (c) Epidemiological Profile of Psychiatric Morbidity in School going Adolescents of Armed Forces Personnel, New Delhi; (d) Community intervention in Psychotic Disorders: Relative Merits of Early Treatment; and (e) Road Rage—A Study

of Aggressive Behaviour and Intervention Strategies. In order to finalise the research on Epidemiological Study of Mental Disorder, a total amount of Rs. 21,93,600/- has also been released during 2004-05 to eight research centers.

(d) No Sirs.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) and (g) No proposals for setting up of new mental hospitals has been received.

Allotment of Captive Mining Blocks

6967. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the subsidiary-wise details of captive mining blocks available under the Coal India Ltd. alongwith geological reserves;

(b) the number of blocks allotted (company-wise and subsidiary-wise) with geological reserves and date of allotment;

(c) whether mining has started in all the allotted blocks;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken against those who left the reserves unexploited;

(e) whether allocation of coal blocks for captive consumption will have any impact on coal production; 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) Subsidiary-wise details of coal blocks identified for captive mining alongwith geological reserves under the command area of the Coal India Limited (CIL) are as follows:

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	No. of blocks	Geological Reserves (MT)
1.	ECL	29	8297.70
2.	CCL	37	6874.30
3.	NCL	1	144.20
4.	WCL	27	1250.70
5.	SECL	21	7025.25
6.	MCL	15	2954.35
7.	BCCL	6	3014.16
	Total	136	29560.73

(b) The number of blocks allotted (company-wise and subsidiary-wise) with geological reserves and date of allotment are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Production of coal has started in eight properties. In case of other blocks allocated, many of the allocatees are in various stages in the process of obtaining lease and installation of their end-use projects. The progress achieved by them against certain given milestones are reviewed by the Screening Committee and if the desired progress is not achieved despite consistent persuasion, the blocks are de-allocated. So far three coal blocks have already been de-allocated for want of satisfactory progress in development of coal block and installation of end-use projects. Recently the Coal Controller has been designated to monitor the progress of the use projects. Recently the Coal Controller has been designated to monitor the progress of the development of the captive coal mining projects and installation of the end-use project against given milestones of progress and submit half yearly report to the Ministry of Coal for review.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The contribution in production from captive blocks in 2004-05 is 9.22 mt (prov.) while the projection for 2005-06 is about 12.50 mt. This will increase with more number of coal blocks going into production.

Statement

Allotment of Captive Mining Blocks

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Name of the Block	Date of Allotment	Geological Reserves (mt)
1	2	3	4	5
	Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL)			
1.	M/s. RPG Industries	Sarisatolli	10.8.93	140.47
2.	M/s. WBSEB	Tara (East)	14.7.95	84.47
3.	M/s. WBPDCL	Tara (West)	17.4.96	125.71
4.	M/s. WBPDCL	Gangaramachak	23.6.2003	10
		Barjora		8
		Gangaramchak-Bhadulia		4
5.	M/s. DVC	Barjora (North)	3.3.2005	85.49
		Khadra-Joydev		196.15
		Kasta (East)		105
6.	M/s. WBPDCL	Pachwara (North)	26.4.2005	386
7.	M/s. PSEB	Pachwara (Central)	9/10.7.2001	562
	Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL)			
1.	M/s. Corporate Ispat Ltd.	Chitarpur		212.01
2.	M/s. NTPC	Pakri-Barwadhi	11.10.04	1600
3.	M/s. Usha Martin Ltd.	Kathautia	29.9.2003	29.76
4.	M/s. GVK Power (Gondwal Sahib) Ltd.	Tokisud (North)	7.1.2002	92.30
5.	M/s. TVNL	Badam	3.11.2003	144.63
6.	M/s. Domco Smokeless Fuel Pvt. Ltd.	Lalgarh (North)	22.7.2003	30
	Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL)			
1.	M/s. Central Collieries Co. Ltd.	Taki-Jena-Bellora (South)	29.5.1999	0.40
2.	M/s. B.S. Ispat Ltd.	Marki-Mangli-I	25.4.2000	34.34

1	2	3	4	5
3.	M/s. Shree Baidyanath Ayurved Bhawan Ltd.	Bhandak (West)	27.11.2003	36.18
4.	M/s. Fieldmining & Ispat Ltd.	Chinora Warora (West) Southern part	8.10.2003	20
5.	M/s BLA Industries	Gotitoria (East)	21.6.96	5.15
		Gotitoria (West)		4.19
6.	M/s. Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd.	Baranj I-IV	10.11.2003	68.31
		Kiloni		39.51
		Manora Deep		44.7
7.	M/s. Sunflag Iron & Steel Co.	Belgaon	28.3.2005	15.3
8.	M/s. Gondwana Ispat Ltd.	Majra	29.10.2003	31.5
	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL)			
1.	M/s. Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. (formerly Jindal Strips Ltd.)	Gare-Palma IV/1	20.6.1996	124.00
2.	M/s. Monnet Ispat Ltd. Gare Palma IV/5	Gare-Palma IV/5	21.6.1996	126.00
3.	M/s. Jindal Power Ltd.	Gare-Palma IV/2	1.7.1999	123.00
		Gare-Palma IV/3	1.7.1999	123.00
4.	M/s. Jayaswal Neco Ltd.	Gare-Palma IV/4	16.8.1999	125.00
5.	M/s. Raipur Alloys & Steel Ltd.	Gare-Palma IV/7	25.4.2000	156.00
6.	M/s. Garuda Clay Ltd.	West of Umaria	24.5.2004	7.00
7.	M/s. Prakash Industries Ltd.	Chotia	4.9.2003	34.48
8.	M/s. Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board	Gidhmuri Paturia	23.9.2004	80.27 269.25
9.	M/s. Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation	Tara	12.8.2003	259.47
	Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL)			
1.	M/s. Indalco	Talabira-I	25.2.1994	22.55
2.	M/s. Utkal Coal Ltd. (formerly ICCL)	Uttkal-C	29.5.1998	208.79

1	2	3	4	5
3.	M/s. Monnet Ispat Ltd.	Utkal B2	16.8.1999	106.00
4.	M/s. Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.	Utkal-B1	29.9.2003	228.4
5.	M/s. Rungta Mines Ltd.	Radhikapur (Sub-block)	21.10.2003	200
6.	M/s. Bhushan Ltd.	Jamkhani	12.11.2003	80
7.	M/s. Nalco	Uttkal-E	27.8.2004	194
8.	M/s. Orissa Mineral Development Corporation	Uttakal-D	19.12.2003	153.31
	Bharat Cocking Coalfields Ltd. (BCCL)			
1.	M/s. SAIL/IISCO	Tasra	26.2.1996	276.39

N.Hs. in Arunachal Pradesh

6968. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop the existing roads in Arunachal Pradesh as National Highways;

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

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

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

(b) and (c) In February, 2004 the Ministry had declared 7457 kms of State Roads as National Highways. Due to financial and other constraints, at present, emphasis is being given for development of roads already declared as National Highways instead of declaring more roads as National Highways.

Upgradation of Infrastructure for Food Safety and Drugs Control

6969. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to upgrade infrastructure in the food safety and drugs control;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to bring founding a comprehensive legislation for the above purpose; and

(c) if so, the initiative taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) A World Bank assisted Capacity Building Project on Food and Drugs is in operation since 18.10.2003 for a period of five years. The project envisages the Upgradation of Food & Drugs Control infrastructure at the Central and State Level by way of civil works, provision of equipments, training of food and drug regulatory personnel and personnel from the concerned industry and initiatives for information, education and communication in these areas.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal at present in this Ministry.

[Translation]

By-pass on National Highway No. 24

6970. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in respect of construction of the proposed by-pass on National Highway No. 24 in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the construction of by-pass on National Highways in Bareilly has commenced;

(c) if so, the details thereof; 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) There is only one proposed by pass on NH-24 viz., Bareilly by-pass for which the Land acquisition and Detailed Project Report (DPR) is in progress.

(b) to (d) The construction work of the by-pass would be taken up only after finalisation of the DPR and completion of the land acquisition.

[English]

Legal Protection to Children

6971. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is proposal under the consideration of the Government to provide legal protection to children born through use of donor gametes and born to a single woman through artificial insemination;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Medical Research has developed the 'National Guidelines for Accreditation, Supervision and Regulation of Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Clinics in India which is under active consideration of the Ministry.

These Guidelines also include issues related to legal protection to children born through the use of donor gametes and born to a single woman through artificial insemination. The relevant provisions are:

(i) A child born through ART shall be presumed to be the legitimate child of the couple, born within wedlock and with the consent of both the spouses. The child shall therefore have all legal right to parental support, inheritance and all other privileges of a child born to a couple through sexual intercourse. The sperm/oocyte donors shall have no parental right or duties in relation to the child and their anonymity shall be protected.

(ii) Children born through the use of donor gamets and their adopted parents shall have a right to avail medical or genetic information about the genetic parents that may be relevant to the child's health.

(iii) Children born through the use of donor gamets shall not have any right whatsoever to know the identity (such as name, address, parentage etc.) of their genetic parents.

(iv) There is no legal bar on an unmarried woman going for Artificial Insemination (AID). A child born to a single woman through AID would be deemed legitimate.

(c) There is at present no proposal for any legislation in this regard.

[Translation]

Laws on Organ Donation

6972. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court has given some suggestions in relation to organ donation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to make law in this regard?

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

(b) Hon'ble Supreme Court vide their judgement dated 31.3.2005 in Writ Petition No. 156 filed by Shri Kuldip Singh and other v/s State of Tamil Nadu has suggested that in the case of donor's willingness to donate the organ, the approval for donation is to be given by the state of his/her residence and before granting permission for donation of organ, recipient and donors may be requested to furnish income particulars for the previous three financial years and their vocations and accordingly rules/act may be amended.

(c) The suggestions given by Hon'ble Supreme Court have been referred to the Committee constituted by the Government on the directions of Hon'ble Delhi High Court (as per the judgement dated 6.9.2004 in W.P. No. 813/ 2004) to review the provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 and the Transplantation of Human Organs Rules, 1995 for necessary action.

[English]

Capital Investment by MTNL

6973. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) whether capital investment has been made by the MTNL in other commercial organisations during the last three years;

(b) if so, the Quantum of capital investment and the names of the organisations in which the investment has been made alongwith the dates of such investment;

(c) the assessment regarding receipt of dividend on this capital investment and the amount received so far by way of dividend; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) Investment of Rs. 100 Crores was made by MTNL on 30.03.2002 in 8.75% Preference Share Capital of M/s. ITI Ltd.

(c) and (d) M/s. ITI Ltd. is not in a position to declare any dividend in view of huge losses incurred during the last three years. No dividend amount was therefore received by MTNL on this Capital Investment.

Detention of Ships

6974. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY:
SHRI MITRASEN YADAV:

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

(a) whether the incidents of detention of Indian ships abroad have increased;

(b) if so, the number of Indian ships detained abroad during the last three years and till date, location-wise;

(c) the reasons for detention of these ships; and

(d) the efforts being made to get them released and make 2005, a detention free year?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. The detention figures so far during this year are higher than for the corresponding period during the last 2 years.

(b) A statement containing the details of Indian ships detained abroad since 2002 and till date, location-wise is enclosed.

(c) General cause for detention of Indian ships is inadequate Flag state control and can be attributed to poor house keeping, lack of adequate attention towards preventive maintenance both by the ship owners and the ship staff and poor interaction by the ships' staff with the Port State Control Officers at the time of inspection as also inadequate Port State Control inspection due to shortage of surveyors.

(d) A series of measures have been initiated to ensure that Indian ships are better prepared for Port State Control Inspections. This includes substantial increase in ship's inspection by Government Surveyors. Numbers of self-inspections by the technical officers of the shipping companies have increased substantially under the directions from the Director General of Shipping. Classification Societies have been instructed to ensure that ships are put up for inspection by the owners whenever they are due and no ships are allowed to operate with significant deficiencies. Also, efforts are afoot to strengthen the Mercantile Maritime Administration by way of augmenting the strength of surveyors and opening new Mercantile Marine Departments.

Statement

No.	Name	Company	Date	Place	MOU
1	2	3	4	5	6
		Indian Ships Detained Abroad during 2002			
1.	Dev Prayag	Shipping Corpn. Of India Ltd. (SCI)	9.1.02	Australia	Tokyo
2.	Rani Padmini	SCI	31.3.02	Australia	Tokyo
3.	Jag Arnav	Great Eastern Shipping Co. Ltd. (GESCO)	4.5.02	Russia	Paris
4.	Lok Pragati	SCI	8.5.02	Singapore	Tokyo
5.	Ravi Das	SCI	14.5.02	U.K.	Paris
6.	Chettinad Prince	Chettinad	20.5.02	China	Tokyo
7.	Lok Prakesh	SCI	6.6.02	USA	USCG
8.	Prospects	Prospects Shipping Ltd.	13.6.02	Spain	Paris
9.	Lok Kranti	SCI	23.6.02	Canada	Paris
10.	APJ Anjli	Surrendra Overseas Ltd.	5.8.02	Singapore	Tokyo
11.	Lok Maheshwari	SCI	10.8.02	Australia	Tokyo
12.	Maharashtra	SCI	12.8.02	Australia	Tokyo
13.	Vishwadoot	Varun Shipping Ltd.	13.12.02	Singapore	Tokyo
14.	Mandakini	SCI	31.12.02	Australia	Tokyo
		Indian Ships Detained Abroad during 2003			
1.	Jag Pragati	Gesco	7.1.03	South Africa	IOMOU
2.	Chennai Valarchi	Essar Shipping Ltd.	18.1.03	Singapore	Tokyo
3.	Richa	Mercator Lines Ltd.	5.2.03	Iran	IOMOU
4.	Jag Priya	Gesco	20.2.03	Singapore	Tokyo
5.	Lok Pragati	SCI	28.2.03	Australia	Tokyo
6.	APJ Shalin	Surrendra	10.303	Iran	IOMOU

1	2	3	4	5	6
7.	Chanda	Essar	11.4.03	Canada	Paris
8.	Sanmar Sonata	Sanmar	8.4.03	Italy	Paris
9.	Good Day	Eta Shipping	6.5.03	Singapore	Tokyo
10.	Jag Arpan	Gesco	10.5.03	Belgium	Paris
11.	Jag Anjali	Gesco	15.5.03	South Korea	Tokyo
12.	ICL Raja Rajan	ICL Shipping	23.6.03	Singapore	Tokyo
13.	Mandakini	SCI	13.9.03	Iran	IOMOU
14.	Surya Kripa	Varun Shipping	25.10.03	Canada	Paris
15.	Good Light (Ex. ICL Parthibhan)	ETA Shipping	29.11.03	Australia	Tokyo

Indian Ships Detained Abroad during 2004

1.	Sanmar Pavilion	Sanmar	2.1.04	Germany (Hamburg)	Paris
2.	Chennai Polivu	ESSAR	21.1.04	Iran	IOMOU
3.	Gangasagar	SCI	21.1.04	Australia (New Castel)	Tokyo
4.	APJ Shilan	Surrendra	4.2.04	USA (New Orleans)	USCG
5.	Murshidabad	SCI	7.2.04	Sustralia (Abbotpoint)	Tokyo
6.	Mandakini	SCI	16.2.04	Hong Kong	Tokyo
7.	Good Light (Ex-ICL) Parthibhan)	Eta Ship	18.2.04	Holland (Rotterdam)	Paris
8.	Good Light (Ex-ICL Parthibhan)	Eta Ship	15.3.04	Canada (Port Cartier)	Paris
9.	Jag Ratna	GESCO	29.3.04	Iran	IOMOU
10.	Jag Pranam	GESCO	2.4.04	Holland	Paris
11.	Guru Kripa	Galleon	26.4.04	Iran	IOMOU
12.	TCI "Arjun"	TCI Seaways	30.4.04	Japan (Kobe)	Tokyo
13.	APJ Anjli	Surrendra	13.5.04	Houston, USA	USCG

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Guru Prasad	Galleon	19.5.04	Iran	IOMOU
15.	Arcadia Progress	Arcadia (Fleet)	14.9.04	Zhagjiagana (China)	Tokyo
		Indian Ships Detained Abroad during 2005			
1.	Ratna Abha	India Steamship	3.1.05	Singapore	Tokyo
2.	Vispataurini	Polaris Marine	25.1.05	Russia	Paris
3.	Maanav Star	Ind-Aust Maritime	26.1.05	Iran	IOMOU
4.	Lok maheswari	SCI Ltd.	27.1.05	Malta	Other
5.	Nand Bhagirathi	Essar	10.3.05	Iran	IOMOU
6.	Surya Kripa	Varun	3.4.05	Australia	Tokyo
7.	Ristakez	Polaris	4.4.05	Iran	IOMOU
8.	Lok Pratima	SCI Ltd.	18.4.05	South Korea	Tokyo

[Translation]

Complaints pertaining to Procurement of Instruments

6975. SHRI SURAJ SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any complaints have been received regarding procurement of the instruments for BSNL mobile service;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the companies from whom instruments had been procured by the BSNL for its mobile service including the amount incurred thereon;

(c) whether some instruments for mobile service are procured on the basis of nomination;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether the mobile service is of lower quality to that being provided by private operators as the instruments and other systems procured by the BSNL for its mobile services are of inferior quality; and

(f) if so, the comparative details of the instruments procured by the BSNL and the private companies alongwith the amount incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The last procurement action initiated for mobile equipment was in January, 2004 through open tender and having finalized the same, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is presently rolling out the network. At the time of floating of the tender, some complaints received on eligibility conditions and experience requirements, were considered before finalizing the tender and issue of orders on successful vendors. The orders have been placed on M/s Nokia & M/s Mortel in the month of September/ October, 2004 and on M/s ITI in the month of April, 2004 for an amount of about Rs. 3350 Crores.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

(e) and (f) Presently network in operation is based on technology of M/s Ericsson, M/s ITI/Lucent and M/s Motorola/M/s Siemens. The services of BSNL Mobile are completely positioned and quality is comparable to that of private operators. The networks of private operators are also based on the same technology vendors who have supplied equipments to BSNL.

Impact of Anti-Mosquito Medicines

6976. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has undertaken any survey to study the adverse impact of the use of anti-mosquito medicines on the human body and the environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the effective steps taken/proposed to be taken for eradication of mosquitoes and the diseases resulting from mosquitoes in each State of the country particularly in Jharkhand and Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Only those insecticides which have been approved and registered by the Central Insecticide Board after clearance on bio-efficacy as well as toxicity are used under the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme for the control of vector borne disease.

Before introduction of any insecticide under the Programme, necessary registration with the Central Insecticide Board is required for which the concerned manufacturer has to provided details of the studies conducted on its bio-efficacy and toxicity.

(c) The Government of India has a well defined Programme viz. National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) for control of vector borne diseases in the country including Jharkhand and Bihar. The strategies adopted under the Programme include surveillance, early diagnosis and prompt treatment of cases, sustainable vector control including Indoor Residual Spray with insecticides treated bednets, use of larvivorous fish etc. besides Training & Information, Education and Communication to enlist community involvement.

Annual Sale of KVIC

6977. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state the State-wise details of annual sale of KVIC and the persons employed in this industry?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): The State-wise details of sales of khadi and village industry (KVI) products and the number of persons employed in the KVI sector during 2003-04 are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise details of Sales of Khadi and Village Industry (KVI) products and number of persons employed during 2003-04

Sl.No.	State/Union Territories	Sales (Rs. lakh)			Employment (No. of persons)		
		Khadi	VI	Total KVI	Khadi	VI	KVI
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Chandigarh	54.80	2771.89	2826.69	56	14990	15046
2.	Delhi	1064.68	5449.48	6514.16	3902	26909	30811
3.	Haryana	2237.85	33569.08	35806.93	37137	116972	154109
4.	Himachal Pradesh	987.19	26506.96	27494.15	7781	113004	120785
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	609.69	20542.40	21152.09	24967	112184	137151
6.	Punjab	1252.44	44104.30	45356.74	41763	162894	204657
7.	Rajasthan	3429.34	111791.64	115220.98	59607	495004	554611

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
8.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.00	716.14	716.14	0	15125	15125
9.	Bihar	1578.31	21336.46	22914.77	101545	161776	263321
10.	Jharkhand	797.42	3868.05	4665.47	3148	14014	17162
11.	Orissa	274.99	14174.53	14449.52	3504	218057	221561
12.	West Bengal	2184.25	38741.81	40926.06	66993	458043	525036
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	10.09	695.73	705.82	50	1466	1516
14.	Assam	297.66	8296.43	8594.09	10938	127539	138477
15.	Manipur	45.70	5849.14	5894.84	458	61696	62154
16.	Meghalaya	9.00	4597.57	4606.57	68	26728	26796
17.	Mizoram	2.70	5202.06	5204.76	5	23702	23707
18.	Nagaland	9.00	5944.78	5953.78	430	30735	31165
19.	Tripura	9.50	3506.88	3516.38	114	33060	33174
20.	Sikkim	12.50	703.52	716.02	25	8358	8383
21.	Andhra Pradesh	864.60	51332.31	52196.91	24023	397096	421119
22.	Karnataka	3468.73	87060.31	90529.04	34063	241918	275981
23.	Kerala	2364.03	48418.68	50782.71	15838	271032	286870
24.	Lakshadweep	0.00	62.02	62.02	0	1045	1045
25.	Pondicherry	1441.27	1217.71	2658.98	1015	8046	9061
26.	Tamil Nadu	7300.91	88365.06	95665.97	37228	1205153	1242381
27.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.00	87.61	87.61	0	1060	1060
28.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0	0
29.	Goa	0.00	4266.45	4266.45	0	13024	13024
30.	Gujarat	4025.69	64513.18	68538.87	26394	72816	99210
31.	Maharashtra	1087.09	149267.71	150354.80	2179	561868	564047
32.	Chhattisgarh	548.04	11164.82	11712.86	3014	26936	29950
33.	Madhya Pradesh	866.62	69240.39	70107.01	3697	223056	226753
34.	Uttaranchal	1774.54	8086.67	9861.21	26134	26101	52235
35.	Uttar Pradesh	20096.21	157365.06	177461.27	324683	986145	1310828
	Total	58704.84	1098816.83	1157521.67	860759	6257552	7118311

[English]

Indo-Israel Agreement for Micro-Satellites Technology

6978. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Israel have decided to focus on micro-satellites technology;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard was signed during the Israel Prime Minister's visit to India;

(c) if so, the details of the agreement; and

(d) the steps taken by both the countries to implement the said agreement?

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

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Multiple Entry Visa between India and Malaysia

6979. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Malaysia has announced that Indian businessmen should be given multiple-entry visas as it was aiming to give a fillip to bilateral economic cooperation and increasing the volume of trade;

(b) if so, whether during the Malaysian Prime Minister's visit in December, 2004, any agreements were reached between the two countries;

(c) if so the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which both the countries have agreed to improve trade ties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) No, Sir. The Malaysian authorities have not made any formal announcement so far with regard to the granting of multiple-entry visa to Indian businessmen.

(b) The problems faced by Indian businessmen in obtaining long-term multiple-entry visas for Malaysia were discussed during the visit of the Prime Minister of Malaysia to India in December, 2004. The Malaysian Prime Minister assured to look into the matter with a view to streamlining the procedure. However, no formal agreement on business visa facilitation was signed between the two countries during the visit.

(c) The main agreements reached in the trade and economic sphere during the Malaysian Prime Minister's visit to India include specific MOUs between Indian and Malaysian companies covering cooperation in diverse sectors such as satellite building, bio-technology, infrastructure, software development, information technology etc.

(d) India-Malaysia trade has been steadily increasing in recent years. The two-way trade registered a 33.9% growth reaching a record level of US $ 4.29 billion in 2004. Several initiatives have been taken of late to further enhance bilateral trade ties and economic cooperation, which was also the primary focus of the Malaysian Prime Minister's visit to India in December, 2004. During the visit, both sides agreed to explore the possibility of concluding a bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) to provide a further thrust and momentum to the trade and economic relations between the two countries. A Joint Study Group (JSG) to examine the feasibility of a CECA has since been constituted and its Terms of Reference finalized. The ISG has been mandated to submit its report and draw up a draft Framework Agreement, subject to the feasibility of CECA being established, by the end of 2005.

Levy of Toll Tax

6980. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government levies toll tax on all the four lane National Highways, by-passes and major bridges;

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

(c) the details of additional income generated therefrom during each of the last three years, National Highway-wise;

(d) the time frame fixed by the Government to collect such tax from these roads;

(e) the details of the projects undertaken on BOT basis, project-wise; and

(f) the criteria for collection of user-fee fixed for such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) In accordance with the powers conferred by Section 7 of the National Highways Act, 1956 the Central Government levies user's fee for providing following facilities on National Highways:

1. For converting 2-lane National Highways into 4 lane.

2. Bridges:

(i) Costing more than Rs. 25 lakhs and upto Rs. 100 lakhs and opened to traffic on or after 1st April, 1976 but before 1st May, 1992,

(ii) Costing more than Rs. 100 lakhs completed and opened to traffic on or after 1st May, 1992 but before 4th December, 2001 and

(iii) Costing more than Rs. 500 lakhs completed and opened to traffic on or after 4th December, 2001.

3. All National Highways improvement projects/bridges and bypasses taken up on BOT basis.

(c) The details of the income generated by way of the levy of user fee during last three years are given below. The amounts are accounted for year-wise and not highway-wise.

Year	Amount (Rs. in Crore)
2002-03	331.61
2003-04	443.33
2004-05 (Upto January, 2005)	424.91

(d) The user fee is collected in perpetuity on the above National Highways works completed and opened for traffic on or after 27th August 1997 in accordance with the provisions of the National Highways (Fees for the use of National Highways Section and permanent Bridge-Public Funded Projects) Rules, 1997.

(e) The details of projects undertaken on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis so far are given in the enclosed statement.

(f) The levy of user fee is regulated in accordance with the provisions of (i) The National Highways (Fees for the use of National Highway Section and Permanent Bridge-Public Funded Projects) Rules, 1997. (ii) The National Highways (Collection of Fees by any person for the use of section of National Highways permanent Bridge/ temporary Bridge on National Highways) Rules, 1997 and (iii) The National Highways (Rate of fee) Rules, 1997 as amended from time to time.

Statement

List of Projects Undertaken on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis

Sl.No.	Project Name	NH No.	State	Length in KM	Cost Rs. Cr	Current Status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Toll Based BOT Projects (on National Highways other than NHDP)					
1.	Thane-Bhiwandi Bypass	3	Maharashtra	24	103.00	Completed
2.	Nardhana ROB	3	Maharashtra	13	34.21	Completed
3.	Hubli-Dharwar Bypass	4	Karnataka	30.35	68.00	Completed
4.	Construction of additional 2-lane with tunnel in Khambatki Ghat on NH 4	4	Maharashtra	8	37.80	Completed

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Construction of six bridges	5	Andhra Pradesh	6 Nos.	50.00	Completed
6.	Kosasthalyar Bridge	5	Tamil Nadu	—	30.00	Completed
7.	Nasirabad ROB	6	Maharashtra	30m	10.45	Completed
8.	Wainganga Bridge	6	Maharashtra	530m	32.60	Completed
9.	Udaipur Bypass	8	Rajasthan	11	24.00	Completed
10.	Mahi Bridge	8	Gujarat	—	42.00	Completed
11.	Bridge across river Watrak	8	Gujarat	—	48.20	Completed
12.	Chalthan Road Over Bridge	8	Gujarat	4-lane ROB	10.00	Completed; concession period completed
13.	Narmada Bridge	8	Gujarat	6	113.00	Completed
14.	Patalganga Bridge & ROB	17	Maharashtra	1 No.	33.30	Completed
15.	ROB at Derabassi	22	Punjab	—	31.48	Completed
16.	Coimbatore Bypass	47	Tamil Nadu	33	90.00	Completed
17.	4-laning of Pune-Sholapur road Km. 14/00 to 40/00 of NH 9	9	Maharashtra	26	88.00	Completed
18.	Katni bypass	7	Madhya Pradesh	17.5	42.00	In progress
19.	4-laning of Raipur-Durg section of NH 6	6	Chhattisgarh	26.6	48.00	In progress
20.	ROB at km 26.428 at Kurali	21	Punjab	2-Lane ROB	20.52	In progress
21.	Construction of Bridge across Pingtai river in km 113/800 on NH 6	6	Maharashtra	—	14.15	In progress
22.	Four-laning and improvement of Mumbai-Pune section of NH-4 from Shilphata (km 131/200) to Nigadi (km 20/400)	4	Maharashtra	111	153.00	In progress
	Toll Based BOT Projects (on National Highways under NHDP)					
1.	Durg Bypass	6	Madhya Pradesh	18.4	70	Completed
2.	ROB at Kishangarh bypass	8	Rajasthan	1	18	Completed
3.	4-laning of Tumkur-Neelmangla (km 29.5 to km 62.0 of NH-4)	4	Karnataka	32.5	155	Completed

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	4-laning of Tada (km. 52.8) to Nellore (km. 163.6)	5	Andhra Pradesh	110.52	621.35	Completed
5.	Nandigama-Vijayawada	9	Andhra Pradesh	35	138.65	Completed
6.	4-laning of Satara-Kagal Section	4	Maharashtra	133	600.00	In progress
7.	Delhi-Gurgaon Section	8	Haryana	27.7	555.00	In progress
8.	Vivekananda Bridge and approach	2	West Bengal	6	641.00	In progress
9.	Mahapura (near Jaipur)-Kishangarh (km 273.5 km)	8	Rajasthan	90.38	644.00	In progress
10.	Pune-Nasik (km 12.90 to 42.00)	50	Maharashtra	30	127.60	In progress under NHDP-III
11.	Rajkot bypass and Gondal Jetpur (km 185.00-175.00)	88	Gujarat	36	388.09	In progress
	Annuity Based Projects (on National Highways under NHDP)					
1.	4-laning of Panagarh-Palsit	2	West Bengal	64.457	350.00	In Progress
2.	4-laning of Palsit-Dankuni Section (Durgapur Expressway)	2	West Bengal	65	432.40	In Progress
3.	4-laning of Maharashtra Border Belgaum Section	4	Karnataka	77	332.00	In Progress
4.	4-laning of Anakapalli-Tuni	5	Andhra Pradesh	58.947	283.20	In Progress
5.	4-laning of Tuni-Dharmavaram Section	5	Andhra Pradesh	47	231.90	In Progress
6.	4-laning of Dharmavaram-Rajamundry Section	5	Andhra Pradesh	53	206.00	In Progress
7.	Nellore bypass	5	Andhra Pradesh	17.2	143.20	In progress
8.	4-laning of Tambaram-Tindivanam Section	45	Tamilnadu	93	375.00	In Progress

Retaining of amount by Kendriya Bhandar

6981. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kendriya Bhandar recovered a sum of nearly Rs. 60 lakhs from Xerox Modicorp Ltd. on account of violating the price agreement and retained that amount with them;

(b) if so, the rules and regulations under which the Kendriya Bhandar retained that amount;

(c) whether the Kendriya Bhandar proposes to refunds the entire amount of the Government departments which purchased Modi-Xerox photocopier papers from them;

(d) if so, the details of the companies from whom

recoveries were also made on account of violating price agreement;

(e) whether the recovered amount is being reimbursed to the customers; and

(f) if not, the reasons 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) This amount was withheld because Xerox Modicorp Ltd. violated the price guarantee agreement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) There is no direct co-relation between the violation of agreement by the supplier and the selling price at Kendriya Bhandar.

[Translation]

Mobile Service in M.P.

6982. SHRI RAMSEVAK SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the inconvenience caused to the subscribers of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited due to the vacant posts of district Deputy Manager in district Bhind and of officers in Lahar Sub-division in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the concrete action being taken for solving the problems of the subscribers of district Bhind and other Sub-centres of this district;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide mobile services in the Lahar sub-division of district Bhind;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which the said service is likely to be provided to the subscribers; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There is no sanctioned post of District General Manager at Bhind. However, district General Manager of Morena is looking after the Telecom services at Bhind/Morena including Lahar sub division.

(b) District General Manager/General Manager of Morena SSA are already looking after the problems of the customers of district Bhind and other sub-centres of this District.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) BSNL has already planned to provide GSM Mobile Services in Lahar Sub-division during 2005-2006.

[English]

Installation of Tsunami Warning System

6983. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vulnerability of Indian Coastal areas to Tsunami, earthquakes and cyclones has been reviewed in view of the second Tsunami like earthquake hitting Indonesia on Monday, March 28, 2005;

(b) if sc, the conclusions drawn and revised decisions taken for installation of a Tsunami Warning System, its location and parameters of its operation;

(c) the location of the epicentre of this earthquake and its distance from nearest Indian coast; and

(d) the steps since taken to expedite installation of such a system and the technical and scientific aid sought and received or likely to be received 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The conclusions drawn earlier subsequent to Great Tsunami event of December 26, 2004 hold. A tsunami warning was issued after the 28 March, 2005 high magnitude earthquake off Indonesia on the basis of

advisories of Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre. No significant tsunami was generated on the Indian Coasts. This reiterates our view that for forecasting a Tsunami for Indian mainland and Andaman & Nicobar Islands coasts, a system as envisaged by India would be necessary.

(c) Epicenter of the 28 March 2005 was located in Northern Sumatra at 2.07 degree North and 97.01 degree East at a distance of about 800 km from the southernmost Nicobar Island.

(d) After the Tsunami Event of 26 December, 2004 it has been proposed to set up a Tsunami and Storm Surge Early Warning System with the following components;

- Strengthening of the existing seismological network to indicate in near real time occurrence of a tsunamigenic earthquake.
- Installation of tsunami warning sensors close to the ocean bottom at appropriate locales in the Indian Ocean, with real time connectivity.
- Tide gauge and data buoys networking.
- Modelling of the inundation scenarios for the entire coast.
- The establishment of a center for collection of the information, analysis and generating status advisories.

No scientific and technical support is sought for setting up the system.

FDI Cap for Coal Mining

6984. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering a proposal to do away with FDI cap for coal mining;

(b) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) As per the existing policy on FDI in coal sector, private Indian companies setting up or operating power projects as well as coal or lignite mines for captive consumption are allowed FDI upto 100%. 100% FDI is allowed for setting up coal processing plants subject to the condition that the company shall not do coal mining and shall not sell washed coal or sized coal from its coal processing plants in the open market and shall supply the washed or sized coal to those parties who are supplying raw coal to coal processing plants for washing or sizing. FDI upto 74% is allowed for exploration or mining of coal or lignite for captive consumption.

A comprehensive review of the extant policy on FDI in various sectors is being undertaken by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion. The review is aimed at identifying areas of further liberalization keeping in view the investment/ developmental needs, strategic concerns and other relevant factors.

[Translation]

Uranium Seized In Guwahati

6985 SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
SHRI JUAL ORAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assam Police had seized one kilogram uranium from two youths in Guwahati on the night of April, 2005;

(b) if so, whether the packet seized therefrom contained the print of the Department of Atomic Energy, Shillong on it;

(c) if so, the manner in which they managed to get this packet;

(d) the States where Uranium Mining Projects have been undertaken by the Government, location-wise;

(e) whether mining of uranium was stopped during the 90s in Meghalaya;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

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

Two Police personnel from Guwahati brought a packet weighing 850 gm to Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) office at Shillong on 08.04.2005. A rapid assessment of the sample indicated that the uranium content was insignificant. The police personnel were asked to formally send the material for detailed analysis duly forwarded by the Superintendent of Police, which is yet to be received.

(b) Yes Sir. However, it has not been printed by the Department and it does not belong to the Department.

(c) Not known.

(d) At present mining activities are carried out at Jaduguda, Bhatin, Narwapahar and Turamdih in Singhbhum (East) District of Jharkhand State.

(e) No uranium mining activity has been started till date in Meghalaya. However, only exploratory mining at Domiasiat uranium deposit, Meghalaya was carried by the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD) during 1991-1992 to collect bulk samples for metallurgical studies.

(f) and (g) Does not arise.

[English]

Adopting Technology to Predict Monsoon

6986. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there would be adequate rain in India in June 2005 and the fate of the monsoon in the remaining three months will depend upon the development of El Nino phenomenon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the country has acquired state-of-the-art technology to predict the monsoon;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to adopt the technology so developed in the advanced countries in forecasting monsoon?

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) Present indications suggest the country will receive near normal rainfall during June 2005. However, India Meteorological Department (IMD) will come out with a specific forecast for June rainfall by 20th May, 2005. Yes, it is true that rainfall during the four monsoon months (including June) is dependent on the evolution of El-Nino over the Pacific Ocean.

(b) Although a one to one relationship between El Nino and Monsoon rainfall has not been established, but adverse impact on the monsoon rainfall has been noticed during some El Nino years. The actual impact depends on the strength, timing and spatial coverage of the El Nino warming in the Pacific.

(c) Monsoon prediction is one of the most challenging problems due to chaotic nature of weather systems in the tropics. This restricts the theoretical limit of prediction in tropics to about a week, whereas in the mid-latitude regions (like USA, UK and Australia) this limit is about two weeks. However, due to the role played by the Oceans and snow cover on tropical climate, prediction of monthly rainfall pattern over a large area in the tropics is possible. Studies have also shown that in the Tropics, predictions over the Indian Monsoon Region is the most difficult, compared to the prediction of African monsoon and East Asian Monsoon. This is due to the fact that over the Indian Monsoon Region, contribution from chaotic intra-seasonal oscillations to the seasonal rainfall is more.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) has developed and is using the State of the art statistical model for the prediction of monthly and seasonal monsoon rainfall over the country making use of Oceanic and snow variables as predictors.

(d) Question Does not arise.

(e) IMD, at the National Climate Centre, Pune in collaboration with IISc Bangalore has also started a dynamical forecasting system based on the technology adopted from United State of America (USA). This model was used to prepare an experimental forecast for monsoon 2005. However, this system can be used for operational work only after some more validation. IMD proposes to use this system for operational work by 2007, in addition to operational statistical models.

For accurate prediction of monsoon, we should have coupled atomosphere-ocean model, which includes a

detailed treatment of oceanic process. Major climate prediction centres in USA and Europe are using the coupled dynamic models for prediction purposes. For this system to be implemented at the National Climate Centre, IMD, more investments are required. IMD has also to augment surface and upper-air observational network, to improve data assimilation techniques for ingesting this data into the numerical prediction model, to enhance the computing power and for the training of operational forecasters at reputed international climate centers.

[Translation]

New Millennium Fund

6987. SHRI LALMANI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any basic change has been brought about in the laboratories by the 'Team CSIR' of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for the changes in each laboratory;

(c) the progress made after implementation of the same and the complete details in this regard;

(d) whether the government has constituted a 'New Millennium Fund';

(e) if so, the amount available with the said Fund;

(f) the areas of research which are to be provided financial assistance from the said Fund;

(g) the projects which have been funded so far out of the said Fund alongwith the amount of assistance; and

(h) the criteria fixed for providing financial assistance to any project?

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. Various basic changes have been brought in CSIR.

(b) The key factors responsible for the changes have been:

1. Enunciation of 'CSIR 2001: Vision & Strategy' which provided a roadmap for change;
2. Enunciation of Intellectual Property Management Policy in 1996;
3. Operationalization of multi-laboratory network projects spanning entire CSIR.
4. Launching of new models for public-private partnership (PPP);
5. Creation of Human Resource Development Centre with progressive human resource policies;
6. Modernization of R&D facilities; and
7. Right sizing of the organization.

(c) The improvement in performance of CSIR during the period 1995 to 2004 could be gauged from the following indicators reflecting on the scientific research output as well as patents:

Sl.No.	Indicators	1995	2004
1.	Contributions to basic research (no. of papers in peer reviewed international SCI Journals)	~1600	~2628
2.	Average Impact Factor/Paper	0.85	1.920
3.	Foreign patents filling	58	430
4.	Foreign patents granted	14	240

(d) Yes Sir. The Government of India has initiated a farsighted new scheme entitled "New Millennium Indian Technology Leadership Initiative (NMITLI)" in the year 2000. The scheme is being implemented by CSIR on behalf of Government of India.

(e) A sum of Rs. 71.63 crore was made available for the terminal two years of the Ninth Five Year Plan and a sum of Rs. 205 crore was allocated in the Tenth Five Year Plan.

(f) The scheme supports niche projects in diverse technological areas including agriculture & plant biotechnology, biotechnology, chemicals, drugs & pharmaceuticals, energy, materials, information & communication technology.

(g) The list of the projects supported under the scheme along with the envisaged financial assistance is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(h) There are two broad categories of projects supported under the NMITLI scheme viz. (i) Nationally Evolved Projects, and (ii) Industry Originated Projects. Development of the projects and the criteria for financial assistance follows a well-laid step-wise procedure. The details of the procedure are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Sl.No.	Project Title	Envisaged Outlay (Rs. in Lakh)
1	2	3
	2000-2001	
1.	Defunctionalization of carbohydrates as a feed stock to manufacture well identified industrial chemicals	253.73
2.	Gene based new targets and markers for cancer of head & neck, gall bladder and brain (glioma)	1426.526
3.	Stimuli sensitive polymeric nano-particle based advanced drug delivery systems for cancer, diabetes and anti-bacterials	313.40
4.	New Targets, Drug Delivery Systems, Bio-enhancers and Therapeutics for latent M. tuberculosis	2354.320
5.	Pathway engineering in tea, mentha, aswagandha plants for desired secondary metabolities	788.30
6.	Stationary fuel cell based power packs using agro-alcohols, naphtha (methanol, LPG).	690.00
7.	Liquid crystals for flat panel display devices with unparalleled performance parameters	154.00
8.	Meso-scale modelling for monsoon predictions	1215.35
9.	Nano-material catalysts and associated process technology for alkylation/acylation/nitration of well identified industrial chemicals, pre-reforming of hydro-carbons and sulphur removal (<50 ppm) from petroleum fuels	552.40
	2001-2002	
10.	Versatile, portable PC based software for bioinformatics and Development of Linux cluster version of Bio-suite	1701.80
11.	Biotechnology for replacing chemical process in leather sector	630.00
12.	Biodegradable plastics from agricultural wastes: Cellulose esters based on bagasse	350.00
13.	Novel herbal therapeutics for degenerative disorders	1068.22
	i. Osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis especially for pain management	
	ii. Diabetes mellitus type II (NIDDM) with emphasis on insulin sensitisation	
	iii. Hepatic disorders with emphasis on hepatocellular protection.	

1	2	3
14.	Enhanced productivity in cement manufacture through Improved granular processing and resources conservation	487.00
15.	Microbiological conversion of Erythromycin to Clarithromycin and other novel biologically active molecules	121.54
16.	Development of novel biotech therapeutic molecule-Lysostaphin	780.00
17.	Development of an Oral herbal formulation for treatment of Psoriasis: a clinical and scientific challenge.	
	2002-2003	
18.	A cost effective Simple Office Computing *(Sof Comp)* platform to replace PC	330.00
19.	A PC base high-end 3D visualization platform for computational biology-*'Darshee*	
20.	Nano-material coatings and advanced composites for tribological applications in automative industry	754.24
21.	Environmentally secure rare earth based colorants for surface coatings	444.15
22.	Functionalization of alkanes	
23.	Novel molecular diagnostics for eye diseases and low vision enhancement devices	347.93
24.	Value added polymeric materials from renewable resources: Lactic acid and lactic acid based polymers	613.00
25.	Recombinant approach to produce a-linolenic acid and docosahexanoic acid (DHA) in sunflower and yeast	325.80
	2003-2004	
26.	Biotechnological Approaches for Improvement of Plant Species with Special Reference to Pulp and Paper	497.30
27.	Development of Novel Fungicides	554.20
28.	Improved Genome Annotation Through a Combination of Machine Learning and Experimental Methods: *Palsmodium falciparum* As a Case Study	625.215
29.	Development of next generation peripheral interface technologies; USB 2.0 PHY and 1394B PHY	529.60
30.	Oral Delivery of Insulin	287.13
31.	Pharmacological and Genomic Investigations on *Withania somnifera*—An Indian Medicinal Plant	367.00
32.	Development of fuel cells based on Hydrogen	2351.00
33.	Development of a 500 kW low cost horizontal-axis Wind Turbine	527.30
	2004-05	
34.	Novel expression system	215.59
35.	Development of selected Medical Implants	660.18
36.	Genetic Improvement of Jatropha curcas for Adaptability and Oil Yield	558.38
37.	Development of Globally competitive 'Triple-Play' Broadband Technology	1188.75

Statement II

Nationally Evolved Projects

In order to put in place nationally evolved projects, wide-ranging consultation is carried out to elicit ideas. The short listing of the ideas is done by a "screening committee" followed by selection of broad areas by the domain Expert Groups. The projectization of the areas is then carried out by "domain champions". The best players in the field are then invited to participate in the projects. Once the project is finalized, it is reviewed and considered by the designated Higher Powered Committee (HPC). The HPC recommended projects are considered for support by CSIR Governing Body.

Industry Originated Projects

For this category of projects the process begins by soliciting of proposals through press advertisement and personal letters from DG, CSIR, The screening of the conceptual proposals thus received is carried out by a "committee" followed by assessment and rating of short listed ideas by the domain experts. The development of top rated two ideas in each domain is undertaken with the assistance of NMITLI designated experts. The project thus finalized are considered and reviewed by the HPC and the recommendations of HPC are considered by CSIR Governing Body in order to decide on the projects to be supported in a given period. Usually less than 5% of the projects received are considered for development.

The companies registered in India and having more than 50% of shareholding by Indians/non-resident Indian are eligible for support under this category. However, at any given time not more than two projects of any company are supported.

Financial Support

The financial support to all the projects under NMITLI Scheme is in the form of grant-in-aid to the institutional partners in public domain and as soft loan (@ 3% interest) to the industrial partners.

[English]

Projects under TIFAC

6988. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the decade 1992-2003 the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) sanctioned more than 150 projects;

(b) if so, the number out of these sanctioned projects not completed or only partially completed;

(c) whether technologies developed by the TIFAC have not been commercialized; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

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. During the period 213 projects were sanctioned under the Home Grown Technologies Mission, Advanced Composites Technologies Mission and Fly Ash Mission and Umbrella Scheme on Technology Vision 2020 projects in Mission Mode.

(b) Out of 213 projects sanctioned, 50 projects are ongoing and 13 projects are partially completed/not completed.

(c) and (d) Commercialisation of technologies was attempted in all the cases and the private entrepreneurs attempted to implement the same. However, they failed to carry it beyond a point due to extreme criticality of targeted technologies which they felt might become unviable due to changed market conditions. It may be noted that projects with a significant innovation/technology development element are inherently unpredictable with regard to their outcome.

[Translation]

Stores of Kendriya Bhandar

6989. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BHUDHOLIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to open more stores of Kendriya Bhandar in different parts of the country;

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

(c) the number of Kendriya Bhandar stores in the country at present, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHAURI): (a) and (b) Kendriya Bhandar has informed that in an effort to extend their operations, they consider opening branches/stores in Delhi or other States, keeping in view, *inter alia* the following criteria:

(i) Demand from consumers, which may include Government Departments, Residents' Welfare Associations etc.

(ii) Economic viability of the Store or Branch

(iii) Availability of accommodation at nominal rent.

Negotiation with appropriate authorities for opening new branches/stores is a continuous process and no time frame is fixed for opening any store.

(c) At present, there are 115 stores/branches of Kendriya Bhandar operating at different locations/cities in the country. The State-wise details are indicated in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise List of Stores/Branches of Kendriya Bhandar as on date

Delhi	76
Maharashtra	01
Tamil Nadu	08
Andhra Pradesh	03
Pondicherry	01
Karnataka	01
Kerala	03
Daman	01
Goa	01
Haryana	02
Chandigarh	02
Punjab	01
Uttar Pradesh	10
Uttaranchal	01
Madhya Pradesh	01
Rajasthan	01
West Bengal	01
Himachal Pradesh	01
Total	115

[English]

Loss to MTNL

6990. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the MTNL is going to lose Rs. 400 crore per annum due to the new Access Deficit Charge (ADC) by TRAI's new norms as reported in the 'Economic Times' dated January 11, 2005;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the BSNL has been allowed ADC on its wireline telephones whereas the MTNL has not been allowed to get ADC;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being initiated by the Government to remove the anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (e) On 6th January, 2005, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) issued a Regulation revising Access Deficit Charge (ADC) regime effective from 01.02.2005. This was part of the annual review as announced by TRAI in its last Interconnection Usage Charge (IUC) Regulation effective from 01.02.2004. The new regime envisages reduction in ADC contribution for national long distance calls to 30 Paise from earlier slab of 30 Paise, 50 Paise and 80 Paise and for internaitonal long distance calls it envisages reduction in ADC to Rs. 2.50 per minute for outgoing calls and Rs. 3.26 for incoming calls as earlier ADC of Rs. 4.25 per minute applicable for both incoming and outgoing calls. Further, ADC is payable to BSNL for all calls originating

from Cellular Mobile/WLL (M). Earlier, all fixed line operators were eligible for ADC for calls terminating on fixed line from Cellular Mobile and WLL (M) and incoming international long distance calls.

According to the information available from MTNL, the annual reduction in the revenue of MTNL would be about Rs. 276 crore because of ADC now being payable to BSNL and not to MTNL. MTNL has filed a petition in Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal against the said Regulation of TRAI. Matter is *sub-judice*.

Report of National Sample Survey

6991. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the incidents regarding the denial of concessions and benefits enjoyed by the poor section of people living below poverty line in Kerala as per the report of the National Sample Survey;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Ship-Breaking Yard at Kakinada

6992. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a ship-breaking yard at Kakinada;

(b) whether 'Greenpeace' a non-governmental organization is opposing the proposal;

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

(d) whether ship breaking industry causes environmental hazard; and

(e) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Declining Interest in Study of Science

6993. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the declining interest of the students in the study of science;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to create initiatives and opportunities in the field of Science including Research and Development; and

(d) if so, the steps contemplated by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir. The Government is fully aware of the recent trend of meritorious students moving away from the basic science stream.

(b) The basic reasons are availability of alternative and lucrative employment opportunities in commerce, finance, engineering, Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES), etc. The employment opportunities in higher education and R&D in basic sciences are not considered attractive enough by students and parents, given the long and painstaking training required before entering the employment arena in basic R&D.

(c) and (d) The Government has already instituted several schemes to attract, train and help retain students in basic science and basic research. The Children's Science Congress, the Integrated Science Olympiad Programme, the Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana, the CSIR Programme on Youth for Leadership in Science are some of the attractive schemes for students from the school to the pre-doctoral stage. At the doctoral and post-doctoral levels, the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowships, Swaranjayanti Fellowships, Better

Opportunities for Young Scientist in Chosen Areas of Science and Technology (BOYSCAST) Fellowships, Biotechnology Fellowships, Fast Track projects etc. are in operation. The Women Scientists Scheme offers opportunities to women Scientists till 50 years of age for re-entry into mainstream science. Almost all scientific departments and agencies fund research projects to individual researchers in basic sciences. The newly launched Ramanna Fellowships will support outstanding researchers through flexible research grant irrespective of their age. The Government is constantly thinking about this challenge and responding to the needs in a dynamic fashion through innovative programmes.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2187/2005]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004., along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2188/2005]

(3) A copy of the each of the following Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 103 Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:

(a) (i) Annual Accounts of the Paradip Port Trust, Paradip, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.

(ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Paradip Port Trust, Paradip, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2189/2005]

(b) (i) Annual Accounts of the Tariff Authority for Major Ports, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, together with Audit Report thereon.

(ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Tariff Authority for Major Ports, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.

(4) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2190/2005]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kolkata Port Trust, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) on the working of the Kolkata Port Trust, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2191/2005]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Administrative Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chennai Port Trust, Chennai, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) on the working of the Chennai Port Trust, Chennai, for the year 2003-2004.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2192/2005]

(9) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Dredging Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2193/2005]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Shipping Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2194/2005]

(10) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 250(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 2005 approving the Madras Port Trust (Recruitment of Heads of Departments) Regulations, 2005 under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2195/2005]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, 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 International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai, 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 2196/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Technology Development Board, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Technology Development Board, 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 2197/2005]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2198/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, 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 Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, 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 2199/2005]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council of Homoeopathy, 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 Central Council of Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2200/2005]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Unani Medicine, 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 National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore, for the year 2003-2004.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2201/2005]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, 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 Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2202/2005]

(9) 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 (1st Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 184 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st March, 2005.

(ii) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 185 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st March, 2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2203/2005]

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune, for the year 2002-2003, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune, for the year 2002-2003.

(11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2204/2005]

(12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, 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 Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2205/2005]

(14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, 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 Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

(15) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (14) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2206/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Coal India Limited and the Ministry of Coal for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2207/2005]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Coal for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2208/2005]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Telecommunication Interconnection Usage to Charges (Fifth Amendment) Regulation (7 of 2005) published in Notification No. 409-8/2004-FN in Gazette of India dated the 13th April, 2004 under section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2209/2005]

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Sir, the Minister is now laying this paper regarding Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges, whereas the notification was done on 13th April, 2004. After one year, the Minister is laying this paper on the Table of the House without giving any reasons for the delay.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Sir, I will inform the hon. Member as to what are the reasons for the delay.

MR. SPEAKER: You have to inform the whole House.

DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD: Sir, through you, I will inform the whole House.

MD. SALIM: Sir, do not allow him now. Let him come with a statement giving reasons for the delay.

MR. SPEAKER: I will see that my office does not allow such things without any explanation.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): On behalf of my colleague Shri K.H. Muniappa, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:

(i) S.O. 286 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th March, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building (four laning) of the National Highway No. 45B (Tiruchirappalli-Viralimalai-Madurai section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(ii) S.O. 346 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th March, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building (four laning) of the National Highway No. 76 in the State of Rajasthan.

(iii) S.O. 353 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st March, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the public purpose of building (four laning) of National Highway No. 76 in the State of Rajasthan.

(iv) S.O. 369 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd March, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for the building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 26 in District Seoni in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(v) S.O. 531 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th April, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.R.O. 1181 dated the 4th April, 1957.

(vi) S.O. 1329 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building, maintenance, management and operation of stretches mentioned therein on National Highways No. 8A and 8B in the State of Gujarat.

(vii) S.O. 1352 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th December, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway including construction of bypass or realignments in the State of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

(viii) S.O. 1381 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th December, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 4 (Pune to Satara section) in the State of Maharashtra.

(ix) S.O. 1238 (E) to S.O. 1241 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th November, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of different stretches on National Highway No. 76 in the State of Rajasthan.

(x) S.O. 1327 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th December, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 5 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(xi) S.O. 1332 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 2004 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(xii) S.O. 344 (E) and S.O. 345 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th March, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (four-laning) of different stretches on National Highway No. 76 in the State of Rajasthan.

(xiii) S.O. 347 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th March, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (four-laning) of National Highways No. 14 and 76 in the State of Rajasthan.

(xiv) S.O. 354 (E) and S.O. 355 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st March, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building

(four-laning) of different stretches on National Highways No. 14 and 76 in the State of Rajasthan.

(xv) S.O. 356 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st March, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 76 in the State of Rajasthan.

(xvi) S.O. 364 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd March, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for widening of existing toll plazas on National Highway No. 5 (Vijayawada-Eluru-Visakhapatnam section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(xvii) S.O. 368 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd March, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 26 (including construction of bypass) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(xviii) S.O. 421 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 26 (including construction of bypass) in District Deori Tehsil in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(xix) S.O. 422 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 26 (including construction of bypasses) in District Sagar in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

(xx) S.O. 176 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th February, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1403 (E) dated the 8th December, 2003.

(xxi) S.O. 177 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th February, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning or six laning) of National Highway No. 25 in District Jhansi in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(xxii) S.O. 178 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th February, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning or six laning) of National Highway No. 25 in District Jalaun in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(xxiii) S.O. 216 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th February, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) of National Highway No. 26 in District Kanpur Dehat in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(xxiv) S.O. 351 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st March, 2005 authorizing M/s Ideal Road Buidling Limited, Dadar, Mumbai to collect and retain fees for the use of National Highway No. 4 (Khambatki Ghat between Pune and Satara) in the State of Maharashtra.

(xxv) S.O. 501 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th April, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 7 (Nagpur-Hyderabad section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(xxvi) S.O. 502 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th April, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 1A (including construction of bypasses) in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(xxvii) S.O. 540 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building, maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 5A (Chandikhole-Paradip section) in the State of Orissa.

(xxviii) S.O. 528 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th April, 2005 regarding

acquisition of land for building (widening), of National Highway No. 7 (Nagpur-Hyderabad section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2210/2005]

(2) A copy of each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 11 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988:

(i) S.O. 532 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th April, 2005 entrusting the Guna bypass on National Highway No. 3 to the National Highways Authority of India.

(ii) S.O 157 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd February, 2005 levy of fee from the user of four-laned stretches of National Highway No. 45 (Chingelpetu to Tindivanam section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

(iii) S.O. 158 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd February, 2005 levy of fee from the user of Cable Stayed Bridge across river Yamuna at Allahabad/Naini of the National Highway No. 27 (Allahabad-Mangawan) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

(iv) S.O. 180 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 2005 levy of fee from the user of four-laned stretch of National Highway No. 8A (Bamanbore to Samakhyali to Gandhidham section) in the State of Gujarat.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2211/2005]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 212 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988:

(i) The Central Motor Vehicles (Second Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 200 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum and Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 247 (E) dated the 27th April, 2005.

(ii) The Central Motor Vehicles (Third Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 206 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2212/2005]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for Training of Highway Engineers, Noida, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for Training of Highway Engineers, Nodia, 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 2213/2005]

(6) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Commercial) No. 7 of 2005)-Public Sector Undertakings—National Highways Development Project of National Highways Authority of India for the year ended March 2004, under article 151 (1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2214/2005]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT): (a) Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal, I beg to lay on the table:

(i) A copy of the Delhi Police (Appointment and Recruitment) (Amendment Rules 2005) (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F 131251/ 2003/HP/Estb./1376 to 1380 in Delhi

Gazette dated the 13th April, 2005 under sub-section (2) of Section 148 of the Delhi Police Act, 1978.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2215/2005]

(2) A copy of the Foreigners (Amendment) Order, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 159 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th March, 2005 issued under section 3 of the Foreigners Act, 1946.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2216/2005]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): On behalf of my colleague, Shrimati Suryakanta Patil, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on the assurance, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Ninth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Lok Sabha:

NINTH LOK SABHA

1. Statement No. LIV Second Session, 1990

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2217/2005]

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

2. Statement No. XXXIV Fourth Session, 1997

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2218/2005]

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

3. Statement No. XXVIII Third Session, 1998

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2219/2005]

4. Statement No. XXXI Fourth Session, 1999

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2220/2005]

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

5. Statement No. XXX Second Session, 1999

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2221/2005]

6. Statement No. XXXI Third Session, 2000

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2222/2005]

7. Statement No. XXVI Fourth Session, 2000

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2223/2005]

8. Statement No. XXV Fifth Session, 2000

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2224/2005]

9. Statement No. XXIV Sixth Session, 2001

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2225/2005]

10. Statement No. XXXII Seventh Session, 2001

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2226/2005]

11. Statement No. XIX Eighth Session, 2001

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2227/2005]

12. Statement No. XVII Ninth Session, 2002

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2228/2005]

13. Statement No. XIV Tenth Session, 2002

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2229/2005]

14. Statement No. XII Eleventh Session, 2002

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2230/2005]

15. Statement No. X Twelfth Session, 2003

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2231/2005]

16. Statement No. VII Thirteenth Session, 2003

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2232/2005]

17. Statement No. VI Fourteenth Session, 2003

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2233/2005]

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

18. Statement No. IV Second Session, 2004

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2234/2005]

19. Statement No. II Third Session, 2004

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2235/2005]

12.03 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 Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Bill, 2005 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th May, 2005."

2. Sir, I lay on the Table the Private Security Agencies (Regulation) Bill, 2005, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 10th May, 2005.

12.03$^{1}/_{4}$ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Tenth Report

[English]

SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur): I beg to present the Tenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.03$^{1}/_{2}$ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

Ninth and Tenth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions of the Standing Committee on Railways:

(1) Ninth Report on Railways (Amendment) Bill 2004; and

(2) Tenth Report on action taken by the Government on recommendations/observations contained in the 16th Report (13th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Railways (2003) regarding 'Mobilization of Resources'.

12.03$^{3}/_{4}$ hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Twelfth Report

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): I beg to present the Twelfth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.04 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(i) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 126th Report of Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests pertaining to Department of Science and Industrial Research

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sibal, you can lay the Statements on the Table.

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, I beg to lay the Statement on the Table of the House.

"I am making this statement in pursuance of Direction No. 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha issued *vide* Lok Sabha Bulletin, Part II, dated 1st September, 2004 to inform the esteemed House about the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the One

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*Statement was laid on the Table and also placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2236/05].

hundred twenty sixth report of Department Related Parliament Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests. This report relates to the consideration of the Demands for Grants of Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR) for the year 2004-05. The Committee reviewed the progress made by DSIR during the reporting period and considered the Demands for Grants (2004-05) in detail.

The Committee, while reviewing the working and considering the detailed Demands for Grants of DSIR, analyzed the Demands for Grants with reference to the aims, objectives and achievements of the department and presented the 126th Report thereon to the House on the 18th August, 2004. The report contains eighteen recommendations, some of which are advisory in nature. Other recommendations mainly relate to:

- technology transfers to industry and raise funds from industry by wider dissemination of technologies;
- remain vigilant to safeguard age old indisputable rights over traditional knowledge;
- conduct research & development of fuels from waste matter and other non-bio-degradable substances;
- work on aeroallergens and human health, environmental friendly biodegradable plastics, waste water management; and
- popularize Since.

All the eighteen recommendations of the committee have been considered in the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research. The Department has furnished a detailed Action Taken Report on these recommendations to the Committee in November 2004, on which further comments were made. The current status on the action taken is detailed in the appended Annexure.

12.04$^{1}/_{4}$ hrs.

(ii) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 128th Report of Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests pertaining to Department of Ocean Development

[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): Sir, I beg to lay the Statement on the Table of the House.

*I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the one hundred twenty-eighth report of the Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests on the Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the Department of Ocean Development as per the direction of the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha, in pursuance of the provisions of Rule 266 of the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Business in the Council of States, issued *vide* Rajya Sabha Bulletin-Part II, dated 28th September, 2004.

The Standing Committee examined the Demands for Grants of the Department of Ocean Development, for the year 2004-05 and presented their report in this regard to the Rajya Sabha 26th August, 2004 and the same was also laid in the Lok Sabha 26th August, 2004.

The 128th Report of the Standing Committee contained 22 recommendations which were considered by the Government and Action Taken Reports (ATRs) prepared for the consideration of the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee noted/appreciated the action taken in respect of nine recommendations. In one recommendation (No. 2) relating to Polar Science (Antarctic Research), the standing Committee was fully convinced about the quality of the research work undertaken so far under the uninhabited and inhospitable conditions. However, the Standing Committee strongly recommended to undertake basic and in depth researches in the fields/areas, the Antarctic Glaciology, Ozone-hole issues, geological and geophysical investigation of three mountains, Antarctic microbes, Antarctic pollution, Krill biology and auroral phenomenon. Research in these areas/fields suggested by the Standing Committee has already been taken/is being taken as per the mandated/ approved Antarctic Programme.

The Standing Committee has given its valuable comments observations on the Action Taken Reports in Respect of remaining 12 recommendations.

The Standing Committee considered the Action Taken Reports on all the 22 recommendations contained in its 128th Report and presented its views in its 138th Report presented to both the Houses on 17.3.2005. The action as proposed by the Standing Committee has been initiated and is in progress.

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*Statement was laid on the Table and also placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2237/05].

12.04½ hrs.

(iii) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 133rd Report of Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests pertaining to Department of Science and Technology

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): Sir, I beg to lay the Statement on the Table of the House.

"I am making this Statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the One Hundred Thirty Third (133rd) Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on the direction of the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha, in pursuance of the provisions of Rule 266 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Council of States issued *vide* Rajya Sabha Bulletin-Part II dated September 28, 2004.

The Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment Forests presented their One Hundred Thirty Third (133rd) Report on the Action Taken by the Department of Science and Technology on the recommendations contained in the One Hundred twenty fifth (125th) report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2004-05) in this regard to the Rajya Sabha on 17th August, 2004 and the same was laid in the Lok Sabha on 17th August, 2004. In all there were 10 (ten) recommendations in the 125th Report of the Committee. These were in the field of Seismology-Upgradation of national capacity for damage control; Drugs and Pharmaceuticals—utilizing the traditional and non-traditional medicines for finding treatment for common diseases; Upgrading the infrastructure of Aryabhatta Research Institute for Observational Sciences; Mission Mode Programme to unravel the phenomenon of monsoon and accurate forecasting of monsoon; developing cost-effective instruments for medical treatment; propularisation of science and technology; special incentives and opportunities for women in science and technology. All the ten recommendations of the Committee have been considered in the Department of Science and Technology. Action taken on these recommendations was reported to the Committee. Comments of the Committee on these reports have also been implemented. The present status of implementation is detailed in the appended Annexure.

MR. SPEAKER: I hope, these are read by hon. Members.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): These are not circulated to us, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Now it will be available to you. It cannot be circulated before it is made.

Item No. 15, Shri E. Ahamed.

12.05 hrs.

(iv) Status of implementation of recommendations contained in First Report of Standing Committee on External Affairs on Demands for Grants (2004-2005)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): Sir, may be permitted to read the statement."

MR. SPEAKER: No, you need not read it.

SHRI E. AHAMED: It is a very important one.

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to emphasise any important portion, you can read it.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Sir, I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the First Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs in pursuance of Direction 73-A of the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha.

The Standing Committee on External Affairs examined the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2004-05 and presented their First Report in the this regard to the Lok Sabha on 20th August, 2004. The report contained 50 recommendations. They related

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"Statement was laid on the Table and also placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2238/05]

"Statement was laid on the Table and also placed in Library. *See* No. LT 2239/05]

to budgetary procedures, checks on disproportionate expenditures in the last quarter of the financial year, streamlining of minor heads of expenditure, the need to avoid huge unspent balance towards the close of the financial year, early completion of Ministry of External Affairs' projects in India and abroad, mobilising assistance of NRIs for furthering the interests of the country, early finalisation of the panel of advocates for court cases especially for extradition proceedings, inspection of Indian Missions and Posts abroad, opening of District Passport Centres in all the Districts, augmenting the budget of the ICCR, the Society for Research and Information Systems for the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries as well as that of the Indian Council for World Affairs, the need to make greater efforts to make Hindi as one of the official languages at the UN, the better utilisation of the budget allotted for technical and economic cooperation programmes with developing countries etc.

The action taken report was submitted to the Standing Committee in November, 2004. Most of the recommendations of the Standing Committee were accepted by the Government and are being implemented. Some of the recommendations are under consideration of the Ministry for a decision. The present status of implementation of the recommendations is detailed in the Annexure, which is laid on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: The rest of the statement may be submitted.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much for your achievements.

12.07 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation arising out of fall in price of Chillies in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh causing hardship to the Chilli growers and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto

[English]

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (Bhadrachalam): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

> "The situation arising out of fall in price of Chillies in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh causing hardship to the Chilli growers and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

[Translation]

*THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): Hon'ble Speaker Sir, the hon'ble Member has expressed his concern over fall in the prices of chillies in Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu and has drawn the attention of the Union Government thereto.

A market intervention scheme aimed at saving the farmers from distressed sale of agricultural produce in the event of bumper crop is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. This scheme is implemented at the request of State Governments for the purchase of horticultural and perishable agricultural produces including chillies which are not covered by the Price Support Scheme.

At the request of the Andhra Pradesh Government a market intervention scheme for the purchase of 30,000 Metric Tonnes chillies was approved during the period from 23.2.2005 to 31.5.2005 with prices fixed at Rs. 2700 per quintal for premium quality and Rs. 2500 per quintal for ordinary quality of chillies. It comprises 5000 Metric tonnes of premium quality and 25000 Metric tonnes of ordinary quality.

No proposal for the purchase of chillies has been received so far from the Government of Tamil Nadu under the Market Intervention Scheme. The interests of the Chilly growers are being kept in view under the market intervention scheme. The work of chilly purchase in Andhra Pradesh is going on at the market. Intervention prices for the benefit of chilly growers. We shall immediately approve the proposal if the Government of Tamilnadu sends one for the purchase of chillies so that interests of farmers can be protected.

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*[Also placed in Library. *See* No-LT 2240/05]

[English]

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Sir, I have gone through the statement made by the MOS in the Ministry of Agriculture. His reply is misleading and contained no facts.

Chilly is a major commercial crop of our State, Andhra Pradesh. This is almost the second commercial crop, which is grown in Andhra Pradesh and other States. The actual position at the ground level is, there are about 2.5 lakhs of farmers growing chillies in my State. They are mainly growing in Guntur, Khammam, Warangal, and to some extent, Krishna and Nalgonda districts. They were at the middle of the season. The season starts from 1st February and ends by 15th June. They were happy at the beginning of the seasons because of two causes. Firstly, they were happy because this year they were able to produce more yields per acre. This year, they produced about 15 to 20 quintals per acre. They were happy because of this reason.

The second cause is that the National Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government has promised some remunerative price for chillies. In the first part, they were happy; and in the second part, they were angry; they were in discontent and despair. When they went to the market, to their utter despair, there were no buyers in the markets. The MARKFED, which is a subsidiary of NAFED, is almost sleeping. It has forgotten its prime duty. The prime duty of the MARKFED and NAFED is to buy or procure the chillies and other perishable commodities from the local markets and trade them in the national market. As far as MARKFED is concerned, in Andhra Pradesh, it is almost in a sleeping state. It is not all the working; it is not at all attending to the markets where trading and purchasing are going on.

On the other side, three months of the season have lapsed. But there was no mention of minimum support price. The Government has stated in the answer that the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has approved the implementation of the Market Intervention Scheme for 30,000 MT of chillies at the rate of Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 2,700 from 23.3.05 to 31.5.05. It is mentioned in the statement. But, it is not true. A few days back, this was announced. This year, the crop was sold for a meagre amount, that is, up to Rs. 1,300 to Rs. 1,400 per quintal. At the same time, last year, it was sold at about Rs. 2,300 to Rs. 2,700. Farmers are losing heavily. Out of discontent and despair, now, farmers in other districts like Guntur, Khammam and Warangal are burning their own produce and claiming that the Government is not looking at their needs and that they are in a pathetic state.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, put your question.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Yes, Sir. I am coming to the question.

I want to know from the hon. Minister as to why so much of time was taken to announce the minimum support price of Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 2,700. Already, three months have lapsed and only one month is remaining. Who will bear the losses incurred by the farmers in these three months? Private traders bought this at a cheaper price and they were given opportunity by following the delaying tactics. MARKFED and NAFED have given an opportunity to private traders to loot the farmers. My question is this. Why so much delay to announce the minimum support price by the Department?

MR. SPEAKER: Very good.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Sir, in the Market Intervention Scheme, previously, when the NDA Government in office, 50 per cent of the charges were borne by the Central Government and 50 per cent by the State Governments. Now, the Andhra Pradesh Government has requested the Central Government to follow the same ratio. But, it was stated in the letter that the Central Government would be able to bear only 25 per cent of the cost.

The Centre has to bear remaining 75 per cent. It was not given clearly in the answer. I want to know, what is the share of the Central Government in regard to Market Intervention Scheme? As we all know, *Mirchi* or chillies are highly exportable item. Nowadays, there is a lot of demand for chillies in USA, Sir Lanka and South Africa. We can market this. Why can the Government not explore this international market for export of chillies and thereby help the farmers?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bellarmin—Not present.

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply has stated that no proposal has come from the Government of Tamil Nadu. It is unfortunate that in Tamil Nadu Government is unsympathetic towards small and poor farmers. In Tamil Nadu, nearly one lakh chilli farmers were affected. Last year, farmers were getting

Rs. 4,000 per quintal and this year, they are getting only Rs. 800 per quintal. This situation in Tamil Nadu is due to middlemen. In this connection. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will evolve a national policy to procure directly through the FCI units to help the small farmers in several parts of the country. Whenever such a crisis occurs, farmers growing chilli and other perishable commodities like potatoes and tomatoes need the Central intervention. Will the Centre take note of it in the light of the indifferent attitude of the State Governments like Tamil Nadu.

SHRI M. APPADURAI (Tenkasi): Farmers who ensure bumper crops through their best of efforts must be rewarded. But, they are punished by the traders and also by the Government. In Tamil Nadu, even low key market intervention price is not available. Will the Centre take into consideration the minimum open market price while fixing the price? Will the Government also establish a chilli oil manufacturing unit to help the small farmers who grow chillies?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI (Bapatla): As we all know, India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of chillies. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, I have also given a notice to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, very late.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Chillie is not only valued as a vegetable or a spice but it is also valued for its diverse commercial use. Globally, chillies are highly sought after because of the by-products like, powder, deoresin, chillie paste, capsaicin, etc. Chilli extracts also have great medicinal use. Capsaicin, a chilli extract is used as an anti-cancerous drug. It is also used in instant pain relieving balms like Amrutanjan and Tiger Balm. Capasicum pigment is also incorporated in chicken feed to add red colour to the meat. In other words, this meat is highly valued.

MR. SPEAKER: I admire your knowledge. What is your question?

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWAP My colleague Shri Babu Rao talked of the market intervention scheme. Unfortunately, chilli which is of great importance, does not have minimum support price. We only have a Market Intervention Scheme which is existing. As per the scheme, prior to July 2001, 50 per cent of the capital as well as 50 per cent of the losses were borne by the Central and the State Governments. It was amended after July 2001. Now, 25 per cent of the losses are limited to the Central Government and 75 per cent is to be borne by the State Government. NAFED has clearly stated that losses are anywhere between 40 per cent to 80 per cent taking the last ten years into consideration. They have backed out of market and today the State has to provide the entire capital.

It is becoming burdensome on the States. The Agriculture Minister has taken a very sympathetic look towards this. He has forwarded this to the Finance Minister also wherein he has requested that the percentage be increased.

MR. SPEAKER: You put your question.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: I would request the hon. Agriculture Minister to kindly use his office to impress upon the Finance Minister to see that the investment is increased from the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yerrannaidu, you just put your question; no preface please.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I raised the same issue many times on the floor of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Ye, very well. Now, put your question.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: the ground reality even now is that the farmers are burning their crops.

MR. SPEAKER: This has been said, please do not repeat.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: But, Sir, I want to raise this issue. The previous NDA Government had intervened. They had provided fifty per cent from the Government of India. The other fifty per cent was coming from the State Government. The NAFED and the MARKFED intervened to purchase chillies in the first year. But, in this year, the Government of India and the State Government have failed. Even though the State Government repeatedly requested the Government of India to bear fifty per cent, they have not intervened to protect the chilli farmers. Why have they not intervened?

MR. SPEAKER: It is the same question. Yes, now the hon. Minister. I won't allow more.

...(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER: No, I won't allow you any more.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, totally agree.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not fair Yerrannaiduji. You want to repeat the same question. You had not given notice. You gave notice just before.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: But, it is an agony of the chilli farmers in Andhra Pradesh. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have given you full opportunity.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: But, Sir, this is a major issue in Andhra Pradesh. That is why. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You did not give notice. I think you gave it at 1154 hours.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: I would say that, even now, the Government of India should intervene in the market. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way. It is the same thing.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: The Government of India should intervene in the market and they have to purchase. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more. Yes the hon. Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Naidu, you please co-operate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It will not be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker Sir, I have given notice. Please allow me to ask one question.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shailendra Kumar, it will not be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Members have expressed their concern in the House over so many issues and I have clarified the situation in my statement. U.P.A. Government has worked resolutely in the interests of farmers. In order to ensure remunerative prices to farmers for their produce I would like to explain it in the House that so far 4227 farmers have sold their produces worth Rs. 12 crores in Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu whereby purchase of 3850 Metric tonnes has been made. Out of the share of the Union Government and the State Government upto a loss of 25%, 50% of the loss is bone by Union Government and 50% is borne by the State Government? Immediately after the formation of the Government our hon'ble Prime Minister and the chairperson of the U.P.A. Mrs. Sonia Gandhi had issued directions to accord priority to it. In accordance with these directions the Government issued instructions to the States from time to time in this regard and we fixed proper minimum support prices at proper time on the basis of which the State Governments make all these purchase at their own level. The way the hon'ble Members have put forth their views, the Governments bear the burden and 50% of that is borne by the Central Government. Both of them concertedly carry out this business. This Government is fully geared for this. Beside this the hon'ble Member has expressed his concern that purchase is not being made there. For that the present date i.e. 31.5.2005 is being further extended. The Government are very much concerned and aware ever since the traders started the drive of purchases at lower prices. We are trying to work on that. The proposal of the Andhra Pradesh Government is going to be approved very shortly. *...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[English]

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): Sir, it is already late. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: The way the hon'ble Members have expressed their concern, I would like to inform them that the Union Government takes prompt action as soon as they receive proposals from the State Governments. There is no question of any laxity or delay. As far as the procurement of chillies is concerned, the Government purchases the perishable items at their own level and there is the minimum support price for the food grains and it is essential for the food security of the country that a very large part of India is covered thereunder. There is guarantee on the non-perishable items. The Central Government does not take any decision ont he perishable items. The State Government consider those items under the NAFED. The Central Government is ready to purchase chillies as and when the need arises. The Central Government are prepared to bear 50% of the losses in this regard. The proposal of Andhra Pradesh Government has been recommended and forwarded to the Ministry of Finance so that decision can be taken expeditiously and action taken thereon.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, agriculture has not been accorded the status of industry. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. As you know, Shri Shailendra Kumar, nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: There are some rules and procedures that we have to follow. You know them very well.

I am trying to find out from the Minister. Mr. Minister, they are making a grievance that a quantity of 50 per cent purchase should be made and you are making only 25 per cent. Is there any proposal to consider having 50 per cent purchase? They are making this grievance.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. I am trying to help out all of you.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the burden of losses in purchase of perishable items is borne by the Central Government and the State Governments in a ratio of 50:50.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Very good.

Now, let us go to item no. 17, Shri Baalu to introduce a Bill.

12.27 hrs.

ADMIRALTY BILL, 2005*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the admiralty jurisdiction of courts, legal proceedings in connection with ships, their arrest, detention and sale and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to the admiralty jurisdiction of courts, legal proceedings in connection with ships, their arrest, detention and sale and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let us now take up 'matters of Urgent Public Importance' to be taken up after Question Hour.

Shri Rewati Raman Singh, please be brief so that we can accommodate more Members.

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*Not recorded.

*Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 11.5.2005.

Translation]

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Mr. peaker, Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving me an ɔportunity to speak.

Sir, Allahabad is a famous cultural, religious and ɔademic town. It has been a centre of politics before ıe struggle for freedom. It is being subjected to gross justice. The then Minister of Petroleum Shri Janeshwar lishra in 1996-97 had announced to set up a refinery ıere. All the work has been completed there. It has ɔme to know just now that the refinery is being shifted om there. The land has been acquired there. Land has een allotted there for construction of staff quarters. Land as been reserved for Bharat Petroleum Corporation also. or making water available to the refinery land has been rovided to Bharat Petroleum adjacent to Kamla Nehru 'ump for installation of there own water pump. Land has een acquired in Jorhat Village for disposal of used ɜfinery water. Sir, I would like to say that Samajwadi 'arty is supporting the UPA Government. I don't want ıat there should be any type of poaching between the wo. The refinery is very essential for Allahabad. It has ıeen decided to set up a refinery at Lograbara Tehsil ınd if it is shifted to some other place, I would like to emind UPA Chairperson, Smt. Sonia Gandhi who is sitting ıere that her forefathers were also from Allahabad, and ıhe might also be knowing that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru vas elected as the MP for the first time from this Parliamentary Constituency only.

Sir, I don't want that the refinery is not set up there. People of Allahabad are getting agitated due to non-nstallation of refinery there. It may invoke a mass movement also. I would like that Smt. Sonia Gandhi should herself declare here that the refinery will be set up in Allahabad itself. *...(Interruptions)*

English]

MR. SPEAKER: She has no right to respond. You ɔan not ask her to respond. *...(Interruptions)*

Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker Sir, *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can associate if you so wish.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a period of eight years has already elapsed. What is the reason that the process of setting up of refinery has not been completed as yet. I would like to request you that. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You all are senior Members. I am asking for guidance from you. Do not mislead me. There are rules and I am allowing the Members to speak according to the rule. You know very well that you are not entitled to speak even then you are trying to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice on the same issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Your name has also been associated on the same issue and your name will also be published and appeared on the television screen also.

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO (Giridih): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, through you, would like to draw attention of the Government to a burning problem that 738 acres land of the farmers of Khairabera Village was acquired many years ago by C.C.L. for setting up of the Project Karma in Kuju area of district Hazaribag under the Jharkhand State. Coal mining is being carried out there, but the affected farmers have not yet been provided with compensation and jobs. The people there are very agitated due to this. It can create law and order problem there at anytime. So, I urge upon the Government to immediately provide jobs and compensation to the farmers whose land has been acquired for the above project.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Bilhaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I, through you would like to submit that struggle for freedom of this country was fought and even great movements were also organized in the name of "Swadeshi". But

unfortunately, now after independence those politicking in the name of "Swadeshi" are globalizing this country by inviting full the foreign companies. Lacs of factories and plants including NTC mills in the country have closed down completely. The various mills in the city like Kanpur, once known as the Manchester of Asia because of concentration of mills employing lacs of workers, have now closed down completely. After declaring lockout in J.K. Cotton Mill on 15th May, 1989, the management have yet not given to its workers the facilities to be provided under the Employees State Insurance Scheme. The workers there are agitating at a large scale due to it and the workers from all over the country are gathering in Kanpur. I, through you, demand from the Government of India that whether they purpose to recommission the Mills located in Kanpur by providing some special package for modifying indigenous industries and sustaining cottage industries with a view to promote indigenousness and to take care of the interests of the workers and the staff.

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): With your kind permission I would like to raise an import health related problem. Sir, looking after the health conditions of persons suffering from Hemophilia in our country—though is not a major problem—but it is un-cared for. As per WHO standards, the incident rate is one per 10,000 persons. In this backdrop, at least 1,25,000 persons are suffering from Hemophilia disease, but till today only approximately 10,000 persons have been identified as suffering from this disease. Out of these 10,000 patients 7,500 have been identified by non-Governmental organisations like Hemophilia Federation of India.

Sir, the huge difference in the number of identified *versus* total estimated is because of lack of diagnostic facilities in our country. The issues related to this problem are many. Many persons with hemophilia also suffer from HIV/AIDS and critical viral disorders. It leads to permanent disability if the treatment is not provided in the childhood. A medicine called Anti-Hemophia Factor is the remedy for this this disease. The disease is not caused by any organism or metabolism. It is totally a genetically inherited disease. It continues for life long. So, only Anti Hemophilia Factor is the remedy. With this drug, the patients can maintain their normal life. Sir, I know that you are also concerned about this problem as you have told us about this disease.

So far as the treatment is concerned, the recommended minimum dosage of Anti Hemophilia Factor as per WHO guidelines is 20,000 units per person per annum. In our country, the average consumption is pathetically low at 1,500 units only. This is because most of the persons with hemophilia fall under the poorest of the poor category in our country and they cannot afford the expensive medicine. So because of the terrible lack of access to affordable medicines, they are becoming HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis-B and Hepatitis-C virus positive. They are also becoming disabled.

Therefore, action is very much required in this respect. The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare needs to intervene and provide adequate funds for procurement of Anti-Hemophilia Factor at the Central level. It should also include Hemophilia Care in the National Health Programme. This would prevent spread of HIV/AIDS and disability amongst persons with hemophilia.

Another part of this relates to the social justice. The persons suffering with hemophilia should be covered under the Persons with Disability Act. The national amendment committee has already recommended this in the year 1998 but this has not yet been covered under the Persons with Disability Act, 1995. So I urge upon the Government to take urgent steps.

MR. SPEAKER: This is a matter which should be looked into.

SHRI GURJEET SINGH RANA (Jalandhar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Indian farmers are affected by natural calamities every now and then. Either the crops are washed away by floods or they are damaged due to drought resulting in very less yield or no yield at all.

A recent survey conducted in Punjab shows that the production of wheat has come down by 10 million metric tonnes owing to natural calamities which amounts to a Loss of Rs. 640 crore to the farmers. It is quite evident from the fact that reduced yields certainly affect the profit margin of the small farmers who cannot afford to tackle the problem created by such calamities. Such farmers are, in turn, debt-ridden and are unable to survive.

[Shri Gurjeet Singh Rana]

Keeping in view the above problem, the Central Government should give special grant to the Punjab Government for distribution among the farmers. apart from this grant of Rs. 640 crore, the special concessions such as seeds, fertilisers at subsidised rates, and loans to the farmers in the cooperatives and others should be at par with the industries. This is a serious problem and this loss of Rs. 640 crore which has occurred to the farmers because of heavy rains in winter should also be given. I would request the Government to please grant Rs. 640 crore to Punjab.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you are aware that it has been decided and announced in the House that 15 hon. Members will be allowed and they will be informed. After that, if there is any time left, I will give opportunity to others. So please follow that. It is a decision taken by the House.

DR. K. DHANARAJU (Tindivanam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to make a mention about dangerous natural disasters. India is suffering from many natural calamities. Lightning thunder from clouds to earth is one of the worst disasters. Lightning followed by the thunder is so strong and sharp that wherever it strikes, it burns everything. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to read your entire letter. Just mention briefly what do you want to say. Two-page letter cannot be read.

DR. K. DHANARAJU: Objects can be directly struck and this impact may result in an explosion, burn, or total destruction. A couple of weeks before four people had died in my district, Villupuram in Tamil Nadu. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You send your letter to the Home Minister. You please just mention the purpose.

DR. K. DHANARAJU: I want to mention only one point. This must be taken care of. I want to make a mention of what happened in my constituency. I have used MPLAD Scheme to erect at least ten towers of lighting arresters. I urge upon the Union Government to take necessary steps to save our people.

SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (Mukundapuram): I rise to bring to the notice of the House a matter regarding the grievances of the 'ex-servicemen non-pensioners' who were discharged or released from the Indian Army or Navy or Air Force for various reasons, such as expirty of initial engagement, on compassionate ground for domestic reasons or on medical grounds. Thousands of ex-servicemen and their families have been going through many difficulties and miseries.

As per the respective pension regulations governing all the three Services, the minimum service required for pension is fifteen years. These pension rules were framed by the British Government, which is continuing even after 58 years of our Independence. The minimum service requirements to become eligible for pension have been changed and re-regulated in almost all State and Central Government Departments for the benefit of employees. MPs and MLAs are eligible for pension irrespective of their service. But this category of ex-servicemen are denied pension on the ground that they are not eligible without a total service of fifteen years. Therefore, the denial of minimum pension is discriminatory and is in violation of articles 14 and 16 of the Constitution of India. Therefore, I would request the Government to consider and grant pension and pensioners' benefits to all ex-servicemen without insisting on 15 years of service.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madan Lal Sharma, you can associate with what he said.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: All are associating. You are making it very cheap. It is becoming a flippancy.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu): My point differs a little bit from him. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government the issue of ex-servicemen who during their service have kept vigil on deserts, snowy mountains, land, sea and even the skies and ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a proper time for making a lecture.

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: They have sacrificed the golden time of their life safeguarding the borders of this country. There is a great difference in the pensions of those who fought the wars of 1962, 1965 and 1971 and those who are retiring now. Therefore, the Defence, the Finance people and ex-servicemen league also have recommended that the issue of one rank one pension should be solved. I would like to request the Hon. Prime Minister that equalizing the pensions of the ex servicemen, who have served this country a lot, will be taken great respect and honour for them.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Tarit Baran Topdar. No. I cannot allow this long statement. Do not read that long statement. It is not permitted. Just mention what you want to say. I will send it to the Planning Minister.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): The point is regarding the present state of affairs in the Planning Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: It has almost become a debate.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Yesterday only, we had passed the Right to Information Bill. *...(Interruptions)* The Lok Sabha passed it. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am saying that I am not allowing that.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): No. It is under consideration *...(Interruptions)* I think it will be passed today. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All right, I will help you more than you can do it. I will ask my office to send it to the Planning Minister.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Finally, I want to submit at least an example of violation of the existing practices and norms. After attaining the age of superannuation. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No. This will not be done. Do not mention a particular officer. You cannot mention an officer which is against rules.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Therefore, if the Government intends to continue with this casual attitude regarding the functioning of the Planning Commission and keeping the organisation in such a way, what will happen? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You bring it to me. I will help you. Nothing more is allowed. I will send it to the hon. Minister.

Now, Shri Govinda to speak. This is his maiden intervention. Let us hear him.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: These are the most important matters. They should have been discussed.

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, I am sending it to the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI GOVINDA (Mumbai-North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to seek your permission for expressing my views in an elaborate manner, because if I am unable to present the reality, I would not be able to present the required modifications in it. First, I pay my regards to my parents, my teachers, the hon. Speaker and seniors. Secondly, I pay my regards to Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and thank her for giving an opportunity to a person who was born in a poor locality and who is presenting the case of the poor. I am thankful to the Almighty for making me successful in the field of entertainment and for providing me the opportunity to wipe out the tears of the masses.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the population of Mumbai—North is about 35 lac and it is spread in about 114 kilometres. Even today 10 to 12 lac people live in slums in this area. The miseries and helplessness of the people are a slur on the face of the humanity. Their condition is deteriorating day by day. Hon. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi ji protected the poor of this area from being homeless by keeping the issue of humanity at a high pedestal and by honouring the promises of Congress.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I compliment you on your maiden intervention.

[Translation]

SHRI GOVINDA: Shrimati Sonia Gandhi got all the blessings of the poor because of that bold decision. She does her duty without any fanfare and she enjoys the blessings of these poor people. I request the Government and especially Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad Saheb to provide mega city fund and city development fund to Mumbai—North, Mumbai, Vasi, Thane, Although Navi Mumbai has been developed but Mumbai-North has not been developed till date. There is the problem of water, slums and trains. The fishermen, the poor people, the labourers, the tribals and the unemployed are facing problems. Funds are required to solve all these problems. I would like to say that Mumbai contributes up to 50-60 thousand crore rupees as taxes to the national exchequer. Even if such a big amount is not provided to it, it at least deserves some facilities. In this area. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record that.

*...(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Govinda, please conclude. I have allowed you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You do not have to reply them. Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GOVINDA: I express my views in brief. *...(Interruptions)* The existing SRA Scheme should be amended to pave way for the development of that area. The builders are not interested in making dwelling units in that area because it is a suburban area. The poor should get houses and the builders should not suffer any losses in their endeavour. The Central Government should formulate some Act to control it so that business combined with social responsibility is promoted. Big schools and hospitals should be constructed there. Keeping time constraint in mind, I shall express my views in brief. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. Please conclude. You do not have to answer anybody. Please conclude. You do not have to respond.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have mentioned your point very well. I compliment you on your maiden speech.

[Translation]

SHRI GOVINDA: I am thankful to you and would like to say that attention should be paid to all the issues concerning slums. Attention should also be paid to the madarsas in that area; SNDT college should be set up for the proper education of the girls belonging to minorities. There is a big coastal stretch (Kinar patti) in that area. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please, I am helping you. I appreciate your point. I compliment you. I am sure the people in your area will be benefited by your intervention. They have a worthy representative.

12.51 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day are treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(i) Need to construct over-bridges at Gangadhar and Virpur railway crossings on National Highway No. 6 in Gujarat

DR. TUSHAR A. CHAUDHARY (Mandvi): I want to draw the attention of the Government towards construction of over-bridges at Gangadhara and Virpur railway crossings on National Highway No. 6 in Gujarat. This

*Not recorded.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

Highway goes to Dhuliya from Surat connecting Gujarat State with Maharashtra. As it is a well known fact that Surat city as big business centre in Gujarat and a number of people go from Surat to other cities in Maharashtra on daily basis in connection with their business activities and travel by road using this Highway. In the same way the farmers of Maharashtra bring their agricultural produce to Surat on daily basis. A large number people of Mandvi constituency who deal in diamond and textiles industry go daily to Surat through this route.

On the way to Dhuliya from Surat there are two railway crossing at Gangadhara and Virpur. Due to heavy rush on the road there is always traffic jam on these railway crossings which causes wastage of time and harassment to the public using this road. Long queues of vehicles specially of trucks and busses can always be seen on these two railway crossings.

Sir, I request the Government to construct the over-bridges on Gangadhara and Virpur railway crossing immediately.

(ii) Need to persuade the Government to Jharkhand for installation of gates at the dams on North Koel and Batane rivers

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): I invite the attention of the Minister of Water Resources towards the state of irrigation facility in my constituency Aurangabad in south Bihar. For a large part it has a fairly good network of canals, feeders and distributaries but they are all rainfed. It lacks a suitable system to supply water for irrigation if and when monsoon fails. It failed last year leading to severe drought there causing great distress all around and to the farmers in particular. North Koel and Batane rivers, that originate in the Chotanagpur plateau in Jharkhand, feed the network of canals. Both lack an arrangement to store water in reservoirs. No gate exists at the dam on North Koel to help store water. The existing gate at the dam on the Batane river has been made non-functional by the local people. Despite the utter essentiality of construction of these two gates, there has been a long-standing dispute between Bihar and Jharkhand governments over the modalities of their construction.

The Minister of Water Resources deserves our compliments for finally ending this dispute by bringing about an agreement between the two states about installation of gates at these dams which would have been a permanent guarantee against drought. But the Jharkhand government has now backtracked.

The Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources is requested to again take the initiative to persuade the Government of Jharkhand to cooperate in the installation of these gates.

(iii) Need to improve the working of landline and mobile telephone services network in Junagarh district, Gujarat

[Translation]

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD (Junagarh): Sir, there are ten taluka areas in Junagarh district of Gujarat. The residents of this area deposited the amount long ago, fixed by the department for getting the facility of landline telephone. The department gives the answer that cable has been laid for that purpose. But, these consumers, despite being eligible for that, are not getting telephone facility because of scarcity of machinery and requisite instruments for landline and W.L.L. telephones.

In the same way, due to shortage of B.S.N.L. (G.S.M.) mobile towers and their network capacity, the mobile consumers face a lot of difficulties in getting services. Sanction has been granted for installation of new mobile towers but work has been stopped due to shortage of machinery and other essential equipments.

I request the Central Government to provide cable, machinery and other essential equipments to the department for providing landline and W.L.L. telephone facility to the consumers.

The network capacity of B.S.N.L. (G.S.M.) mobile towers should be increased for proper functioning of mobile facility and consumers should be provided better facility by installing new towers sanctioned for that purpose.

(iv) Need to take steps for revival of Tundu Unit of Hindustan Zinc Limited with a view to safeguard the interests of workers of the company

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY (Dhanbad): Sir, Blade Smelter Tundu, Dhanbad, an important and profit-making unit of the Hindustan Zinc Limited was established

[Shri Chandra Shekhar Dubey]

in 1942 to produce lead, an important material for defence needs. Many other units emerged through Lead Smelter, Tundu Unit in India. The Government of India sold 26 per cent of its share in this unit to Saarlite Opportunities and Venture Limited along with giving managerial charge on 11.4.2002. The Government of India still possess more than 30 per cent share of this unit but Tundu unit was closed without any Government direction/order and prior intimation on 23.2.2004 and the workers of this unit have been deprived of all the pay and other essential facilities. One of the workers of this unit has died due to lack of proper treatment and many other workers are seriously ill. Labour Commissioner, Government of Jharkhand has also declared the lock out since 23.2.2004 as illegal. It is noteworty that the workers have exceeded production target despite decrease in their numbers due to V.R.S. Their number has decreased from 742 to 292.

So, I demand that the Central Government should take prompt action for making the above mentioned factory functional without any further delay.

(v) Need to sanction laying of pipeline across National Highway at Tirunelveli with a view to provide drinking water in three town panchayats at Kayatar, Kalugumalai, Ettayapuram, Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN (Tirunelveli): The Project Director NHAI Tirunelveli/Utility 2004-/575 dt. 25.10.2004 has recommended the TWAD proposal to lay pipe line on the other side of road, where the existing pipe line is available. It will not affect the four laning of road. Nearly 1 lakh population and 161 habitations and three Town Panchayats will be getting water if the pipe line is laid. So kindly give permission to lay pipe line from Km. 70 to 121/400.

From 25th October, 2004 this matter has been pending with NHAI and the TWAD is not able to lay the pipe line which will give drinking water facility to 3 Town Panchayats *viz.* Kayatar, Kalugumalai, Ettayapuran and the 161 wayside habitations/villages where people are not getting even ground water.

The sanctioning Authority of NHAI (Chief General Manager Office) did not give the accord for the last nine months.

I request the Minister of Road Transport and Highways to instruct the concerned official to clear the proposal made by the TWAPD at the earliest and help the 3 Town Panchayats and 161 Villages to get the drinking water facility soon.

(vi) Need to declare Kali Temple at Pathraul in Deoghar, Jharkhand as a tourist Centre and provide civic amenities for pilgrims

[Translation]

SHRI FURKAN ANSARI (Godda): Sir, there is a very ancient Kali Temple at Pathraul (Madhupur), District—Deoghar in Jharkhand district. Thousands of devotees from all over the country, especially from West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Assam, Madhya Pradesh visit this temple every year. Due to large number of pilgrims there is scarcity of drinking water and accommodations. Many times, questions have been raised in Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha for according recognition of this 200 year old temple as tourist spot, but it has not been declared as a tourist spot even when announcement in this regard has been made by the then Minister of Tourism.

So, I want to request the Central Government to take immediate decision regarding declaration of Kali Temple at Pathraul, Madhupur as a tourist center of the country and provide all the modern facilities in view of the problems faced by the devotees.

(vii) Need to provide immediate Central assistance to the Government of Karnataka for tackling severe drought situation in the State

[English]

SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK (Raichur): The State Government of Karnataka had submitted a memorandum seeking Central assistance for drought. The State is facing its forth consecutive year of severe drought. There is no drinking water in many districts of the State particularly in the northern districts. If this is the condition in the month of April, Mr. Speaker Sir, you can imagine the entire situation in the coming months of June and July. Fodder is not available and agricultural labourers have already migrated to the neighbouring State of Andhra Pradesh.

The State had sought Rs. 1147.71 crore and 4.53 metric tonnes of foodgrains for providing relief to the

drought affected people. Centre had also deputed a study team. Ministry of Agriculture has recommended for sanction of Rs. 1.14 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains and Rs. 83 crore under NCCF Home Minister has informed that Rs. 49.14 crore will be released from NCCF after adjusting Rs. 34.53 crore available under CRF so far, 1.14 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains and Rs. 9 crore have been released. This meagre amount has created lot of problems to the people of Karnataka.

I, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture to release at least Rs. 100 crores immediately to tackle the severe drought situation and to save the suffering people of Karnataka.

(viii) Need to provide special economic package for overall development of the small Islands in Alappuzha Parliamentary Constituency, Kerala

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): There are many small Islands in Alappuzha Parliamentary Constituency, Kerala. Infrastructure facilities in those islands are very meagre. These islands lack in educational, health, transportation and safe drinking water facilities. There are islands even without a public building to function as polling station during elections. I urge upon the Government to formulate a special package for the overall development of these small islands which are devoid of any facilities. Of which Perumbalam is a larger island with more than one lakh population. I request the Government to construct to connect the island to the mainland at the narrowest part of Vembanad lake.

(ix) Need to take up Delhi-Chennai Freight Corridor for implementation with a view to encourage investment in the region

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): The Hon'ble Minister for Railways, had announced in the Lok Sabha that a separate Freight Corridor will be set up to connect all the four metropolitan cities to ease traffic congestion.

To have a freight corridor only between Delhi and Mumbai and between Delhi and Kolkata was announced in the joint declaration signed between India and Japan during Japanese Prime Minister's visit earlier this month. According to my information Japan will fund the project between these three cities alone in the first phase. Accordingly to my information a sum of Rs. 10 thousand crores will be provided for the freight corridor between Mumbai and Delhi and Rs. 12,000 crores for the project between Delhi and Kolkata.

There is an imperative need to give an impetus to the traditional Delhi-Chennai Corridor considering the industrial growth in southern districts of Tamil Nadu with Koondakulam atomic power project to become operative soon. The commencement of Sedhu Samuthiram Project will also pep up trade and commerce activities generating employment opportunities thereby increasing production of goods. Apart from IT parks in Noida, Bangalore, Hyderabad, tidal part in Chennai, the upcoming Nanguneri Free Economic zone with a tidal park will all need a dedicated and modernized freight movement by Railways.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Railway Ministry to include Delhi-Chennai corridor to begin with before taking up Chennai-Tuticorin corridor which is a must in the near future with the ongoing modernisation of container terminals at Tuticorin Ports.

(x) Need to declare Uttarpara Joykrishna Public Library in Hooghly district, West Bengal as an institute of national importance

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore): Uttarpara Joykrishna Public Library situated in the district of Hooghly, West Bengal holds in its racks chunks of historical testimonials to secularise and modernise thought. Founded in the year 1859 by Baboo Joy Krishna Mukherjee, a benevolent Zamindar of Bengal, this library is unique in the annals library movement in our country with its rich and priceless collections of 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

Considering its importance, the West Bengal Govt. have approached the Govt. of India to declare this age old institution as an Institute of National Importance. The decision is pending for a long time.

I would request the Hon'ble Minister of Culture to look into the matter and pave the way for declaration of this library as an Institute of National Importance in no time.

(xi) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for development of Charkhari lake in Mahoba district with a view to promote eco-tourism

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, H.P.): Sir letter No. 5339/6-1-104 dated 3.8.2004 containing proposal

[Shri Rajnarayan Budholia]

to prioritise the sanctioning of schemes worth Rs. 909.02 lac for the development of eco-tourism in Uttar Pradesh has been sent to the Ministry of tourism, Government of India. Under the said proposal, the schemes pertaining to the development of Charkhari lake at a cost of Rs. 35 lacs in my Parliamentary Constituency, district Mahoba, development of Kalinjer Fort at a cost of Rs. 20 lacs in district Banda and the construction of traveller shed at a cost of Rs. 104.11 lacs at Safai festival site respectively have been covered.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to accord sanction of Rs. 909.02 lacs for the development of eco-tourism in Uttar Pradesh.

(xii) Need to provide small shops to unemployed youths by Urban Development Agencies throughout the country with a view to solving unemployment problem

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH (Allahabad): Sir, since the attainment of independence, there has been a serious problem of unemployment in the country. With regard to providing employment, the Union Government as well as most of the State Governments do not possess so good record. The effort made with regard to opening of very small shops in Burma Bazaar years ago in a city like Chennai seems to be some-what appreciable initiative. It would be better if the Union Government helped the unemployed by providing some assistance to the State Governments for constructing such type of small shops. What to speak of such initiative, the squads of municipal corporations leave no stone unturned in treating very harshly with the hawkers selling their wares in baskets as well as on the footpaths. These squads pick up their articles leaving them in the lurch. This practice is the order of the day in Delhi. It can be seen almost everywhere in Delhi—be it in the vicinity of India Gate and NDMC area or old Delhi markets on one hand and on the other, be it vegetable sellers or hawkers selling their wares in baskets on the footpath outside the Daryaganj Mandi or trans-Yamuna area like Madhu Vihar. it is almost everywhere.

After more than 50 years of independence, the Union Government as well as State Governments should have at least done away with these squads. Recently it was published in the newspapers that some steps are being taken to keep watch on the police. I would like Delhi Police as well as police of other cities to keep a watch on such officers through cameras. besides, it would be better if the bodies like Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and State Urban Development Boards, help in creating employment opportunities by constructing very small shops in line with Burma Bazaar of Chennai for those who sell their wares on the footpaths.

(xiii) Need to run local train between Patna Junction and City Ghat for the benefit of local people

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, keeping in view the convenience of the general public of Patna and to meet the demand thereof, the local train which presently runs between R-Block and Digha Ghat, should be extended from Patna Junction to city Ghat. The Hon. Minister also had made an announcement earlier in this regard. Nevertheless, nothing has been done in this regard. The general public there would be highly benefited by this local train. Also, it would improve the traffic system of Patna. This area is thickly populated. It would be beneficial for the poor labourers, farmers and officials in particular.

Therefore, through the House, I would like to draw the Hon. Minister of Railways' attention to it and request him to kindly arrange to run local train between Patna Junction and City Ghat without any delay keeping in view the convenience of the general public of Patna.

(xiv) Need to provide financial assistance for boulder pitching and repair of dam on Budhi Gandak, Bagmati and Kharsath rivers in Bihar with a view to strengthening the river embankments

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to sharply occurring erosion being caused by the rivers flowing in Bihar and the dangers emerging out of breaking of embankments. I would also like to inform that the erosion has reached the embankments of Jatmalpur and Kharsath situated on the bank of Bagmati river in Samastipur District. Similarly, the erosion is also continuously occurring at specific points in Hariharpur and Samastipur which are situated on the bank of Burhi Gandak river. In Samastipur city, dam nearly upto 14 kms. on the river Burhi Gandak is in a feeble and worn out condition. The flood is likely to occur within two months.

So, I demand that the Government should carry out the work pertaining to boulder pitching on the points of erosion as well as work pertaining to repair and increasing height of the 14 km. long dam at the earliest by providing additional Central assistance.

(xv) Need to ensure proper functioning of sub-telephone exchanges in rural areas of Bilhaur Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Bilhaur): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government as well as the Hon. Minister of Communications and Information Technology in particular to my Parliamentary Constituency, Bilhaur, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh and say that all the rural sub-telephone exchanges falling under Bilhaur, Sarsaul, Kalyanpur, Chaubepur and Sarvankhera remain constantly interrupted due to which the local people are not able to avail the facility of their telephone service.

So, I would like to demand from the Union Government and the Minister of Communications and Information Technology to take necessary action for smooth functioning of all the rural sub-telephone exchanges falling under Bilhaur, Sirsoul, Kalyanpur, Chaubepur and Sarvankhera.

(xvi) Need to provide better road connectivity and basic amenities at Kalyani Devi Temple and Periyar in Unnao, Uttar Pradesh with a view to promote tourism in the area

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): Sir, there are two religious spots, Kalyani Devi temple, and a very popular place of religious interest in its nearly area Periyar in the district headquarters Unnao under the Parliamentary Constituency Unnao, Uttar Pradesh. Large number of pilgrims not only from all over the country but also from other countries of the world visit this place. Importance of both of these religious places is mentioned even in the Puranas. It is said that Lava and Kush had lived in Periyar. In this way, both of these religious places assume unique importance. But pilgrims have to face a lot of difficulties at both these religious places due to severe lack of necessary basic amenities there.

Hence, through the House, I would like to request the Union Government to take proper steps to develop this area as a place of tourism interest by establishing there an international bus terminal and connecting both these religious places with the capital Delhi through some express train. Government should also provide road connectivity of these places to the national highway along with necessary basic amenities therein.

(xvii) Need to provide relief and compensation to the farmers whose crops were damaged due to heavy rains in November, 2004 in Chidambaram Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY (Chidambaram): There was a heavy rain in the state of Tamil Nadu during the rainy season last year in October-November, 2004 resulting in the flood in my constituency, Chidambaram, causing irrepairable loss to standing paddy crops in thousand hectares of land. Before district Administration came to the grips of reality of loss by floods, a totally unprecedented natural calamity, Tsunami, hit the whole of Tamil Nadu particularly, the districts of Nagapattinam, Cuddalore, Kanyakumari and other coastal districts of Tamil Nadu. Farmers at Cuddalore and Chidambaram have lost hectares of crops and the land became saline and barren. The District Administration have considered the claims of fishermen-folk but have not recognised woes and worries of farmers who have lost every bit of land which has become unsuitable for cultivation. I have appealed to the Government of Tamil Nadu and District Administration to take into account the lost of crops of farmers both at the time of floods and tsunami.

I request the Central Government to expedite the relief measures to the flood and tsunami hit farmers.

(xviii) Need to review the decision to observe Winter/Summer Vacations in courts

[Translation]

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool): Sir, it is a matter of concern that more than two and a half crores cases are lying pending with the courts of our country and the country is going far away from the ideal of speedy, accessible and cost effective justice. The question is raised as to what is the justification of observing summer and winter vacations, when the number of pending cases runs into crores even today.

On the basis of study, it is learnt that due to several types of vacations the courts of our country can work on

[Dr. M. Jagannath]

an average of 190 days per year only. Thus, the pending cases are increasing day by day and the objective of justice has failed.

India is a poor country. The people here want speedy, accessible and affordable justice. I would like to request the Government to consider doing away with observing summer and winter vacations in the courts. Where, on the one hand, it will lead to a decrease in the number of the pending cases, on the other, the Government's objective of speedy, accessible and low cost justice would also be fulfilled.

(xix) Need to consolidate river embankments in Jharkhand with a view to check recurring floods in the region

[Translation]

SHRI HEMLAL MURMU (Jhargram): Sir, five lakh people get affected by flood and soil erosion every year in the Rajmahal, Sahebganj, Udhwa, Barharwa and Pakur regions of Jharkhand. Because of silting at the bottom of Farrakha Dam, the water gets spread everywhere causing flood which results the loss of crores of rupees. Due to flood the flow of water doesn't stop because of the shallowness of the surface of the Ganga. The residents of these regions are also unable to avail themselves of the facility of accommodations under the Indira Awas Yojana because the erosion of the Ganga river continues due to flood and hence the land is also not available. Recently, the Union Government has sanctioned a project worth crores of rupees, however the work has not been started so far. The protection from flood is also there in the agenda of the Government.

Hence, an early action may please be ensured to construct the river embankments in order to protect the said regions from the flood and the accommodations for the affected people as well as other provision of relief to the flood affected people should also be ensured.

(xx) Need to extend reservation benefits to SC's and ST's in private sector also

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, the amount of scholarship given to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be related to the Price Index so that the amount of scholarship keeps on increasing automatically with the increase in Price Index because the amount of scholarship being received by the students of this community presently is very nominal. Besides, one such Navodaya Vidhyalaya should be set up in every state of the country in which the students of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes only are given admissions for technical education.

The Indira Awas Yojana was launched exclusively for the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes however, now the people from all categories have been included therein, because of which there is no progress in solving the accommodation problem of the above communities. Therefore, an action plan should be chalked out with the Indira Awas Yojna under which accommodation be made available to the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes category within five years positively.

No quota has been fixed for those castes in the Rajya Sabha and the legislative councils of the States so far. This quota should be fixed on the basis of population taking the year 2000 as a base year because the population of these communities has reached the level of 25 percent at least and the other new castes are also being included in the list. Moreover, the reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should be ensured in those Government companies or private companies where the Government has some shares and the reserved vacancies must be kept vacant instead of allotting them to the backward categories in case of the non-availability of the candidates of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

12.52 hrs.

RIGHT TO INFORMATION BILL, 2004—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We come to Item No. 19—further consideration of the motion regarding Right to Information Bill, 2004.

Now, the hon. Prime Minister will intervene.

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Speaker Sir, I am very grateful to you for granting

me permission to intervene on a very important and critical Bill, which is before this august House.

Sir, all modern societies or complex societies, require strong and purposeful Government to steer them. In our own country, Government expenditure, both at the Central level and at the level of States and local bodies, accounts for nearly 33 per cent of our Gross National Product. At the same time, the social and economic imperatives require our Government to intervene extensively in economic and social affairs. Therefore, the efficiency and effectiveness of Governmental processes, are critical variables, which will determine how our Government functions and to what extent it is able to discharge the responsibilities entrusted to us by the electorate.

I have always believed all power is a sacred societal trust; that you cannot sit on power—you have to spend it, but you must spend it taking into account the good of the largest number of people. Therefore, it becomes obligatory that in addition to processes, we have to determine that expenditure confirm with the canons of efficiency and effectiveness. We all know that there are widespread complaints in our country about wastefulness of expenditure, about corruption, and matter which have relations with the functioning of our Government. Therefore, it is very important that we must explore new effective mechanisms to ensure that our Government will effectively, purposefully and efficiently discharge the responsibilities entrusted to it. This is the guiding spirit behind this new momentous measure that is now before this august House, that is, the Right to Information Bill.

Sir, the key to the successful functioning of any democratic polity is the ability of a citizen to observe and evaluate the functioning of elected representative and make an informed judgement of their performance. This evaluation is predicated on the easy availability of the necessary information for a citizen to arrive at an assessment. Further, our founding fathers have established an elaborate system of rights and obligations, a system of checks and balances, a system with clear division of powers at different levels of Government. This complex web, further translated into practice by our laws, procedures, policies and programmes, is the foundation of our rich, varied, vibrant polity which has earned the respect of the whole world for our ability to harmoniously match the goals of economic development and a pluralistic democratic society.

Sir, at the centre of this intricate web is the common man, the *'aam aadmi'*, whose prosperity and welfare is the core concern of our Constitution. It is this common man or common woman who is the fulcrum of our democratic system, as an observer, as the seeker of information, as the one who asks relevant questions, as the analyst and as the final judge of our performance.

The UPA Government has made a commitment, not only to work for the welfare of the common man, but also to strengthen his or her role as the arbiter of our destiny. It is in this background that our Government has introduced the Right to Information Bill, and the subsequent amendments in this august House.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, efficient and effective institutions are the key to rapid economic and social development, institutions which can translate promises into policies and actionable programmes with the least possible cost and with the maximum possible efficiency; institutions which can deliver on the promises made and covert, as the hon. Finance Minister pointed out a few days ago while presenting the Budget, "outlays into outcomes". For institutions to be efficient and effective, they must function in a transparent, responsive and accountable manner. This is dependent not only on processes internal to the institutions but also on the ability of citizens and external agents to enforce their rights, vis-a-vis these very institutions. The Right to Information Bill, Sir, will bring into force another right which will empower the citizen in this regard and ensure that our institutions and their functionaries discharge their duties in the desired manner. It will bring into effect a critical right for enforcing other rights and fill a vital gap in a citizen's framework of rights.

Sir, while there is an existing Freedom of Information Act, the Bill now under consideration is more far-reaching and effective and I am very grateful to the National Advisory Council presided over by Shrimati Sonia Gandhi for having played a very important role in bringing into focus what are the major drawbacks in the previous legislation. The Bill that we have presented has the widest possible reach, covering the Central and the State Governments, Panchayati Raj institutions, local bodies as well as recipients of Government grants. Access to information under this Bill is extensive with minimum exemptions, which too can be over-ridden on the basis of a public benefit test, namely when the benefit of release

[Dr. Manmohan Singh]

of information outweights the harm caused by disclosure of information.

13.00 hrs.

However, I think that we should also consider exempting such information, the disclosure of which may result in breach of privilege of Parliament or a State Legislature. Even security and intelligence agencies, which are otherwise exempt, are subject to disclosure in cases of allegations of corruption or violation of human rights.

The Bill lays down an architecture for accessing information, which is simple, easy, time-bound and inexpensive. It has stringent penalties for failing to provide information or affecting information flow in any way. In fact, it imposes obligations on agencies to disclose information *suo motu*, thus reducing the cost of access.

Sir, an important feature is the independent appeal mechanism proposed through the appointment of Central and State Information Commissioners. This independent appeal mechanism, coupled with extensive disclosure obligations and stringent penalties, gives teeth to the right, making the right a potent instrument for good governance.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, many hon. Members have, during the discussion on the Bill, raised many concerns and questions. They will be answered by the Minister of State, Shri Suresh Pachauri. I would only like to see that everyone, particularly our civil servants, should see the Bill in a positive spirit; not as a draconian law for paralysing Government, but as an instrument for improving Government-citizen interface resulting in a friendly, caring and effective Government functioning for the good of our people. Sir, it is with this in mind that we have removed the penalty of imprisonment through this Amendment. However, erring officials would still be subject to departmental proceedings. I appeal all civil servants to see this Bill in the right spirit and hope they will only be spurred towards better performance. After all, we, the elected representatives of people, bow to the wishes of people and have come to no harm. So will it be with honest, hard working civil servants.

I would like State Governments to take the initiative and establish State Information Commissions. The bulk of our citizens' interface is with agencies under State Governments and hence the success of this Bill depends on their determination and their commitment to implement and generate awareness in the country at large.

Sir, our work will not end with the passage of this Bill. This is an innovative Bill, where there will be scope to review its functioning as we gain experience. Therefore, this is a piece of legislation, whose working will be kept under constant reviews. We will need to have a sustained effort to establish institutions and systems envisaged under the Bill, to build the capacity of our civil servants to discharge their obligations and above all, inform our citizens about the new rights conferred on them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe that passage of this Bill will see the dawn of a new era in our processes of governance, an era of performance and efficiency, an era which will ensure that benefits of growth flow to all sections of our people, an era which will eliminate the scourge of corruption, an era which will bring the common man's concern to the heart of all processes of governance, an era which will truly fulfilt he hopes of the founding fathers of our republic.

MR. SPEAKER: Can we dispense with the luncheon recess?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister, Shri Suresh Pachauri to reply.

[Translation]

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): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, first of all I am sincerely grateful to all hon'ble Members who participated in the discussion over an important Bill like Right to Information Bill and those who gave their valuable and useful suggestions while supporting the Bill. I would like to cover the suggestions made by the hon'ble Members.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I would like to quote a shloka from the 'Mahabharata':

"Tatha Sampreshiyet Rashtra Rashtriyam Twa Dasgtet
Anen Vyavharen Drishtavyasheha Prajah Sada"

It means that the policies and decisions taken by the Government with general consensus must be presented before the people. That means people should

have the right to know about whatever the Government does and the steps it takes. The Right to Information Bill reflects exactly the same transparent spirit. We are happy to inform that it is an important step in the direction of fulfilling the promises made by the U.P.A. Government under the able stewardship of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the Chairperson of the National Advisory Council and leadership of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to the people of the country through the Common Minimum Programme.

Yesterday, we had initiated discussion on this Right to Information Bill and today, we are going to pass it. We have received important and invaluable suggestions from the National Advisory Council, the Standing Committee and the Group of Ministers to give concrete and final shape to this Bill. The hon'ble Members have informed that approximately 150 Amendments have been presented but the main reason behind this has been that the Standing Committee, which also had my friend Shri Radhakrishnan ji as its Member, has given important suggestions to modify 21 clauses out of 28 which we have accepted. It is the first such Bill where suggestions made by the Standing Committee have been given serious consideration. Subsequently after the Cabinet decision a Group of Ministers was constituted under the direction of the Prime Minister. The Group of Ministers while approving the recommendations of the Standing Committee felt that there were 15 clauses which required modifications. About 34 amendments have been suggested by the National Advisory Council and we have given serious consideration to almost all of the above.

I would like to submit that the Right to Information Bill is a part of the U.P.A. Government. It finds mention in the Common Minimum Programme too. As the hon'ble Prime Minister has just stated that it is very essential to have a transparent, accountable and honest administration in the country. All the above resolutions are going to be fulfilled through this Bill. It is a historic step on the part of the U.P.A. Government. It will go a long way to protect the larger interests of the general public.

I have no hesitation to say that a new era full of accountability and responsibility is going to begin. We shall realize after passing the Right to Information Bill that the long cherished hopes and aspirations of every Indian citizen to have the moral right to seek all sorts of information will be fulfilled. Article 19 of our Constitution also envisages this right. it has also been propounded by the Supreme Court of India. It would be clearly evident to us.

Hon'ble Sir, the U.P.A. Government intends to handover the keys of democracy to the people. We do not want to hide any information from the people which is in the national interest. Therefore, the hon'ble Prime Minister stated that he was in favour of transparency in the administration. We are committed to make information accessible in a smooth and effective manner to the people. The Right to Information is enshrined in the article 19 of the Constitution. Going by this we have stated that right to information is a fundamental right of the people. Enforcement of this Bill will bring about a revolutionary change and it will make us think that an unexpected change has taken place in the functioning of the official work after the introduction of new methodology.

Our late respected leader Rajiv ji had dreamt that there should be a transparent administration wherein every citizen should have the right to information. While introducing this Bill we, of course, miss him as he wished a full transparency between Government and the people. There should be a sense of mutual confidence between them and a clean administrative atmosphere should prevail in the country. He was greatly in favour of this. It was his earnest desire to make the fundamental rights which have been enshrined in the Constitution accessible to the weakest person of the society as he felt it necessary. In view of his opinion a provision has been made in clause 7 of the Right to Information Bill that persons living Below Poverty Line will be provided information free of cost. Some hon'ble Members have referred to various information Bills enacted in many States. Mention has been made of Information Bill of Maharashtra. I would like to humbly point out that there is no provision of free of cost availability of information to the persons living below poverty line in any of the Bills brought by the States. Therefore, the Bill is worth emulation and appreciation and it honours the sentiments of late Rajiv ji who wanted that information be provided free of cost to the persons living below poverty line. When this Act was passed by the NDA Government in the year 2002, it's name was Freedom of Expression Act. I cited the Article 19 of the Indian Constitution and keeping in view of that we named it Right to Information Bill which shows that right to information is the right of every citizen.

[Shri Suresh Pachauri],

I would like to commence my speech with the mention of Hon. Radhakrishnaji who has contributed immensely in bringing this Bill in its present shape. Many of his important suggestions have been incorporated in this bill. He had raised a point that in some of the states these are already provisions pertaining to the Information Act and had raised a question that with the enactment of this Bill, what will be the situation over there? I would like to submit very politely that right to information to the citizens by the Union Government, State Governments and the local bodies has been provided by the sub-clause 2 of clause 2 of this Bill.

If a person residing in any state solicits information under the Act already in force in that state, it would be available to him as per that Act and if he wants it under the provisions enshrined under the Central Act, he could get it thereunder as well. The Union Government sought the opinion of the present learned Attorney General in this matter. His opinion was very clear in this regard that the state Acts would exist after the enforcement of the Central Act and as such there should not be any apprehension in this regard. While giving his suggestion, he has classified that the Parliament is empowered to make such laws for the whole of the country.

The second point had been put forth by our other hon. Members. They mentioned about a selection committee. Shri Owaisi and Shri Naidu mentioned about the selection committee constituted for the selection of Central Information commissioner. Their implication was that how the name of the Hon. Chief Justice of India is being omitted therefrom? I would like to politely submit that the issue of the appointment of the Members of the Information Commission should be viewed as an executive function. Traditionally, in such administration positions of such committees, generally the Chief Justice can not be included. You may ask which is such a committee? I want to remind you that in the selection committee for the Central Vigilance Commission, the Chief Justice of India is not included. He is not included in the appointment process of the Comptroller and Auditor General. While selecting the Members of the Election Commission or the Union Public Service Commission, the Government conveys their recommendation to the President who accepts it. Though we have full faith on our Chief Justice but since this matter pertains to the executive function, we decided that the Prime Minister be made a part of it. With a view to maintaining a sound convention. We decided to incorporate the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha in this process and the third member is to be a Member of the cabinet nominated by the hon. Prime Minister.

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): I will agree with the hon. Minister. But instead of the Chief Justice of India, the Chief Justice of the High Court and the Union Minister nominated by the President, it is better to keep the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not add to the pressure. Sufficient pressure is there.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

Shri Sachin Pilotji had raised an important issue. He cited the clause 8 (c) of the Right to Information Bill providing for the issuance of information. He contended that providing such an information would transgress upon the privilege of the Parliament and the state legislatures. As such, the Govt. should reconsider over this. I would like to make this clear with the permission of the Hon. Prime Minister that the Government would meaningfully consider over this matter which had been, though, moved as an amendment by Shri Pawan Bansalji. At this occasion, I would like to submit this much.

The matters of confidentiality out of the enactment of this Act, which had been raised by our another Hon. Member Asaduddinjee, pertained to the violation of secrecy or the Official Secret Act. However, this is not the case. This point has been made clear by us and by the provision of the bill that any information, not prohibited under the provisions of this Bill, could be provided and this would not violate the oath of secrecy. In the scope of the Bill, state Governments should also be incorporated—this point has been put forth by one Hon. Member. I have made it clear that the provision we have now a made in the clause—two, clearly makes such provision.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, energetic Member, Shri Milind Deora put forth the point that the third party should be omitted from the Act. I want to submit that in the clause 11 of the Bill, it is provided that the third party should also be informed. Alongwith it, I want to make it clear that with regard to the information pertaining to the third party or to be given by the third party, if application is received for receiving appropriate information, opportunity will be given to the third party by the public information officer to put forth his point on that matter within ten days. The public information officer will have freedom to take his decision in this matter within forty days.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other Hon. Member asked another point about the measures incorporated in the Right to Information Bill to protect the interest of the common man. It has been provided in the clause 6 of the Bill that such a complete right to information without any cost will be available to the proletariat, poor classes and to those living below the poverty line.

Shri Ashok Mehtaji has. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what will be its nature? You will provide informations to the poor free of cost. You have not thrown light upon its nature.

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, read thoroughly the clause 6. It is mentioned therein. I want to politely submit before you that rules will be framed for this purpose, wherein clear and correct picture will be given with all these matters being spelt out.

Mr. Speaker, the provision pertaining to the right to impose penalty has been given to the court. This point was mentioned by the Hon. Member Shri Ramji Lal Suman. But no such provision is incorporated in this Bill. Now, such rights have been made available to the Information Commissioner.

Another important suggestion had been given by Shri Milind Deora that the matter of the right to information should be viewed in association with the field of education and should be got incorporated in the courses for the secondary schools so that the students could avail the benefit of it. This is a very good, useful and meaningful suggestion. We would deliberate in this regard with the Ministry of Human Resource Development as to what needs to be added to this Bill to make it useful. With regard to the desire of Shri Milind Deora in this matter, I would like to inform that in the provisions of the clause 23 of the Bill, these issues have been extensively dealt with.

Another important point that the Hon. Members have tried to know pertains to the difference between this Bill and the Act passed in the year 2002. I am not making it clear from any other view point as the Hon. Members were eager to know as to how this Bill will came into existence? Today we come across such things and I would like to say that the Freedom of Information Act, 2002 was passed during the regime of the NDA Government. The decision of that Government should have come into force in toto but unfortunately it could not be so. But it has been provided here that some of those provisions would be enforced instantly and rest of the provisions would come into force within 120 days if it is passed by this house, the Rajya Sabha and it gets assent from the President our intention are clear. It would show that our Hon'ble young Members said that this is the difference between the UPA Govt. and the NDA Govt. and we have no difference between saying and doing.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is matter of scope of coverage and the then provisions and the present provisions of Clause 2 have been mentioned here.

So far as the matter of fee is concerned, there was no provision to provide free information for the poor at that time, but such a provision has been made in this Bill. So there is difference between the then Bill and today's Bill. Exemption has been discussed here. There are such items of information which are important and it should be provided in a few years. Time schedule of years has been fixed for that purpose. Time schedule of twenty five years had been fixed in the Freedom of Information Act, 2002 but this period has been reduced to twenty five years had been fixed in the Freedom of Information Act, 2002 but this period has been reduced to twenty years in this Bill. The Honourable Prime Minister has referred to the penal provision. The then NDA Government had made a Penal provision in the Freedom of Information Act, 2002 but we want an accountable, responsible and transparent administration. We want such a system of administration by which the public get full co-operation. If there is any dereliction of duty committed by someone, at any level then accountability must be fixed. In view of this matter, we have mentioned the penal provision in clause-17 of the Bill.

[Shri Suresh Pachauri]

Mr. Speaker Sir, securities and intelligence agencies had been totally exempted in Freedom of Information Act, 2002. But in this Bill, if there is any matter related to corruption or violation of human rights, then that information will be available to the common citizens after going through a process. We have mentioned it in this Bill. In view of these things, I would like to say that we people were feeling the necessity of cardinal reforms after passing this Bill and its process will be initiated. Whenever we initiate any new and good thing must probably we may detect some fault in it. It may happen that Honourable Member may advise some important and useful suggestion to make it better but I would like to tell all Members very humbly that let the work be started. In view of their co-operation and important suggestions we want to initiate the process of work. In course of time during the discussion whenever they wish to give some pieces of advice, we will accommodate them accordingly.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sir a number of honourable Members have said about exemption and penal provision here. Before I conclude, I would like to say categorically that India is the only country in the world where panel provision is hard. After the passing of the Right to Information Bill, there are fifty five countries of the world where Right to Information Bill has been named in different ways. If we look into the clauses 18 and 21 of the Bill then advanced countries of the world like the USA, the U.K. Australia, France, Ireland, New Zealand, the Netherlands and Canada have made the provisions of more exemptions than our country have done. But we have reduced the number of such exemptions. The reasons behind it is that our intentions are good and clear and there is clear cut action plan before us. We have a sense of discharging our duty and honourable Prime Minister has quoted it. We have promised to the people of the country and we want to move ahead to fulfill those promises. I would like to conclude by saying couplet composed by a great poet;

"kamale bujdili hai, past hona abhi ankho mein
agar thodi si himmat ho to phir kya ho nahi sakta"

With strong determination and indomitable will power, our honourable Prime Minister and UPA's Chairperson Smt. Sonia Gandhi have taken initiatives to make the nature and draft of the Right to Information Bill. Today considering this as we are going to fulfill the important promises of our Common Minimum Programme with your co-operation and support.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to request the honourable Members that they should pass this important and useful Bill with proper amendments.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for setting out the practical regime of right to information for people to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority, the constitution of a Central Information Commission and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2

Definition

Amendments made:

Page 1, *for* lines 9-11, *substitute*—

'(a) "appropriate Government" means in relation to a public authority which is established, constituted, owned, controlled or substantially financed by funds provided directly or indirectly—

(i) by the Central Government or the Union territory administration, the Central Government;

(ii) by the State Government, the State Government;

(b) "Central Information Commission" means the Central Information Commission constituted under sub-section (1) of section 12;

(c) "Central Public Information Officer" means the Central Public Information Officer designated under sub-section (1) and includes a Central Assistant Public Information Officer designated as such under sub-section (2) of section 5;

(d) "Chief Information Commissioner" and "Information Commissioner" mean the Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioner appointed under sub-section (3) of section 12;

(e) "competent authority" means– (5)

Page 1, *for* lines 13 and 14, *substitute* "Assembly of a State or a Union territory having such Assembly and the Chairman in the case of the Council of States or a Legislative Council of States"; (6)

Page 2, *for* lines 2 to 5, *substitute*—

"(iii) the Chief Justice of the High Court in the case of a High Court;

(iv) the President or the Governor, as the case may be, in the case of other authorities established or constituted by or under the Constitution" (7)

Page 2, *omit* lines 7 to 10; (8)

Page 2, line 11 *for* "(d)", *substitute* "(f)" (9)

Page 2, *omit* lines 16 to 18 (10)

Page 2, *line 19,* for "(f)", *substitute* "(g)" (11)

Page 2, in line 20, *for* "Government", *substitute* "appropriate Government" (12)

Page 2, *for* lines 21 to 25, *substitute*—

(h) "public authority" means any authority or body or institution of self government established or constituted,—

(a) by or under the Constitution;

(b) by any other law made by Parliament;

(c) by any other law made by State Legislature;

(d) by notification issued or order made by the appropriate Government;

and includes any—

(i) body owned, controlled or substantially, financed;

(ii) non-Government organisation substantially financed,

directly or indirectly by funds provided by the appropriate Government;' (13)

Page 2, *omit* lines 26 to 28; (14)

Page 2, *after* line 43, *insert*—

'(k) "State Information Commission" means the State Information Commission constituted under sub-section (1) of section 14A;

(l) "State Chief Information Commissioner" and "State Information Commissioner" mean the State Chief Information Commissioner and the State Information Commissioner appointed under sub-section (3) of section 14A;

(m) "State Public Information Officer" means the State Public Information Officer designated under sub-section (1) and includes an State Assistant Public Information Officer designated as such under sub-section (2) of section 5;' (15)

Page 2, in line 44,—

(i) *for* "(k), *substitute* "(n)"

(ii) for "person making", substitute "citizen making" (16)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4

Obligation of Public Authorities

Amendments made:

Page 3, *for* line 10, *substitute* "(b) publish within one hundred and twenty days from the enactment of this Act," (17)

Page 3, line 35, *for* "particulars of concessions", substitute "particulars of recipients of concessions" (18)

Page 3, lines 44 and 45, *for* "within such intervals in each year as may be prescribed", *substitute* "every year"; (19)

Page 4, *omit* lines 5 to 9 (20)

Page 4, line 12, *for* "communications", *substitute* "communications, including internet," (21)

Page 4, Line 15, omit "and comprehensible" (22)

Page 4, line 19, *for* "Public Information Officer", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be," (23)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 5

Designation of Public Information Officers

Amendments made:

Page 4, line 26, *for* "Public Information Officers", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officers or State Public Information Officers, as the case may be," (24)

Page 4, line 31, *for* "an Assistant Public Information Officer", "*substitute* "a Central Assistant Public Information Officer or a State Assistant Public Information Officer, as the case may be," (25)

Page 4, line 33, *for* "it or the Government", *substitute* "the Central Public Information Officer or the State Public Information Officer or senior officer specified under sub-section (1) of section 16 or the Central Information Commission or the State Information Commission, as the case may be." (26)

Page 4, lines 34 to 35, *for* "an Assistant Public Information Officer", *substitute* "a Central Assistant Public Information Officer or a State Assistant Public Information Officer, as the case may be,". (27)

Page 4, line 37, *for* "Public Information Officer", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be," (28)

Page 4, line 39, *for* "Public Information Officer", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be," (29)

Page 4, line 42, *for* "Public Information Officer", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be," (30)

Page 4, line 44, *for* "Public Information Officer", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be." (31)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 6

Request for Obtaining Information

Amendments made:

Page 4, line 46, *for* "English", *substitute* "English or Hindi" (32)

Page 4, line 49, for "Public Information Officer", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be," (33)

Page 5, line, 1 *for* "Assistant Public Information Officers", *substitute* "Central Assistant Public Information Officer or State Assistant Public Information Officer, as the case may be," (34)

Page 5, lines 3 and 4 *for* "Public Information Officer", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be," (35)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 7

Disposal of Request

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, on this I have given one suggestion to the hon. Minister on the constitution of the Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: He has replied to that.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, he has not given reply.

MR. SPEAKER: It is still open for you to go on persuading him, but not always inside the House. It can be outside also. You have raised a very pertinent point.

Amendments made:

Page 5, line 20, *for* "Public Information Officer", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be," (36)

Page 5, line 26, *for* "Public Information Officer", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be," (37)

Page 5, line 27, *for* "Public Information Officer", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be," (38)

Page 5, line 30, *for* "Public Information Officer", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be," (39)

Page 5, lines 42 and 43, *for* "Public authority", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be," (40)

Page 5, *after* lines 46, *insert*—

"Provided that the fee prescribed under sub-section (1) of section 6 and sub-sections (1) and (5) of section 7 shall be reasonable and no such fee shall be charged from the persons who are of below poverty line as may be determined by the appropriate Government." (41)

Page 6, line 1, *for* "Public Information Officer", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be," (42)

Page 6, lines 3 and 4, *for* "deemed to be rejected under sub-section (2), the Public Information Officer", *substitute* "rejected under sub-section (1), the Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be," (43)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 7, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 8

Exemption from disclosure of Information

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 6, *for* lines 12 to 48. *substitute*—

"8. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, there shall be no obligation to give any citizen.—

(a) information, disclosure of which would prejudicially affect the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the State, relation with foreign State or lead to incitement of an offence;

(b) information which has been expressly forbidden to be published by any court of law or tribunal or the disclosure of which may constitute contempt of court;

(c) information, the disclosure of which would cause a breach of privilege of Parliament or the State Legislature;

(d) information including commercial confidence, trade secrets or intellectual property, the disclosure of which would harm the competitive position of a third party, unless the competent authority is satisfied that larger public interest warrants the disclosure of such information;

(e) information available to a person in his fiduciary relationship, unless the competent authority is satisfied that the larger public interest warrants the disclosure of such information;

(f) information received in confidence from foreign government:

(g) information, the disclosure of which would endanger the life or physical safety of any person or identify the source of information or assistance given in confidence for law enforcement or security purposes;

(h) information which would impede the process of investigation or apprehension or prosecution of offenders;

(i) cabinet papers including records of deliberations of the Council of Ministers. Secretaries and other officers:

Provided that the decisions of Council of Ministers, the reasons thereof, and the material on the basis of which the decisions were taken shall be made public after the decision has been taken, and the matter is complete, or over:

Provided further that those matters which come under the exemptions specified in this section shall not be disclosed;

(j) information which relates to personal information the disclosure of which has not relationship to any public activity or interest, or which would cause unwarranted invasion of the privacy of the individual unless the Central Public Information Officer or the State Public Information Officer or the appellate authority, as the case may be, is satisfied that the larger public interest justifies the disclosure of such information:

Provided that the information, which cannot be denied to the Parliament or a State Legislature shall not be denied to any person.

(2) Notwithstanding anything in the Official Secrets Act, 1923 nor any of the exemptions permissible in accordance with sub-section (1), a public authority may allow access to information, if public interest in disclosure outweighs the harm to the protected interests.

(3) Subject to the provisions of clauses (a) and (i) of sub-section (1), any information relating to any occurrence, even or matter which has taken place, occurred or happened twenty years before the date on which any request is made under section 6 shall be provided to any person making a request under that section:

Provided that where any question arises as to the date from which the said period of twenty years has to be computed, the decision of the Central Government shall be final, subject to the usual appeals provided for in this Act"; (44)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, do you move your amendment?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Prime Minister as also the hon. Minister for referring to the parliamentary privileges. It is precisely in this context only that this amendment has been moved which is necessary to reflect the sentiments of both the hon. Prime Minister and also the hon. Minister. So, I would request the hon. Minister to accept this amendment and adopt it.

I beg to move:

"That in the amendment proposed by Shri Suresh Pachauri and printed as Sl. No. 44 in List No. 1 of Amendments,—

for "(3) Subject to the provisions of clauses (a) and (i) of sub-section (1),"

substitute "(3) Subject to the provisions of clauses (a), (c) and (i) of sub-section (1),"

(150)

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: Sir, I accept the amendment moved by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal for which Shri Sachin Pilot also strongly advocated.

MR. SPEAKER: He has got greater credit; I think both equally.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

'That in the amendment proposed by Shri Suresh Pachauri and printed as Sl. No. 44 in List no. 1 of Amendments,—

for "(3) Subject to the provisions of clauses (a) and (i) of sub-section (1),"

substitute "(3) Subject to the provisions of clauses (a), (c) and (i) of sub-section (1)," '(150)

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I shall put amendment No. 44 moved by Shri Suresh Pachauri to clause 8, to the vote of the House.

The question is:

Page 6, *for* lines 12 to 48, *substitute*—

"8. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, there shall be no obligation to give any citizen.—

(a) information, disclosure of which would prejudicially affect the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the State, relation with foreign State or lead to incitement of an offence;

(b) information which has been expressly forbidden to be published by any court of law or tribunal or the disclosure of which may constitute contempt of court;

(c) information, the disclosure of which would cause a breach of privilege of Parliament or the State Legislature;

(d) information including commercial confidence, trade secrets or intellectual property, the disclosure of which would harm the competitive position of a third party, unless the competent authority is satisfied that larger public interest warrants the disclosure of such information;

(e) information available to a person in his fiduciary relationship, unless the competent authority is satisfied that the larger public interest warrants the disclosure of such information;

(f) information received in confidence from foreign government:

(g) information, the disclosure of which would endanger the life or physical safety of any person or identify the source of information or assistance given in confidence for law enforcement or security purposes;

(h) information which would impede the process of investigation or apprehension or prosecution of offenders;

(i) cabinet papers including records of deliberations of the Council of Ministers. Secretaries and other officers:

Provided that the decisions of Council of Ministers, the reasons thereof, and the material on the basis of which the decisions were taken shall be made public after the decision has been taken, and the matter is complete, or over:

Provided further that those matters which come under the exemptions specified in this section shall not be disclosed;

(j) information which relates to personal information the disclosure of which has not relationship to any public activity or interest, or which would cause unwarranted invasion of the privacy of the individual unless the Central Public Information Officer or the State Public Information Officer or the appellate authority, as the case may be, is satisfied that the larger public interest justifies the disclosure of such information:

Provided that the information, which cannot be denied to the Parliament or a State Legislature shall not be denied to any person.

(2) Notwithstanding anything in the Official Secrets Act, 1923 nor any of the exemptions permissible in accordance with sub-section (1), a public authority may allow access to information, if public interest in disclosure outweighs the harm to the protected interests.

(3) Subject to the provisions of clauses (a) and (i) of sub-section (1), any information relating to any occurrence, even or matter which has taken place, occurred or happened twenty years before the date on which any request is made under section 6 shall be provided to any person making a request under that section:

Provided that where any question arises as to the date from which the said period of twenty years has to be computed, the decision of the Central Government shall be final, subject to the usual appeals provided for in this Act"; (44)

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, the hon. Minister has given you the credit. Otherwise, generally once it is accepted, it becomes a Government amendment. I appreciate the gesture of the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: At least, not to the Speaker.

The Ministry may now move amendment No. 45.

Amendment made:

Page 7, *omit* lines 1 to 14; (45)

(Shri Suresh Pachuari)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 9

Grounds for rejection to access in certain cases

Amendment made:

Page 7, line 15, *for* "Public Information Officer", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be," (46)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 9, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 10

Severability

Amendment made:

Page 7, lines 23 and 24, *for* "Public Information Officer", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be," (47)

Page 7, line 30, *for* "determined", *substitute* "calculated" (48)

Page 7, in lines 34 and 35, *for* "appellate authority, time limit, process and any other forms", *substitute* "senior officer specified under sub-section (1) of section 16 or the Central Information Commission or the State Information Commission, as the case may be, time limit, process and any other form of access." (49)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 10, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 10, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 11

Third Party Information

Amendments made:

Page 7, line 36, *for* "public authority", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or the State Public Information Officer, as the case may be." (50)

Page 7, line 38, *for* "Public Information Officer", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be." (51)

Page 7, line 40, *for* "Public Authority", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be." (52)

Page 7, line 47, *for* "Public Information Officer", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be." (53)

Page 8, line 1, *for* "Public Information Officer", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be." (54)

(Shri Suresh Pachuari)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 11, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 11, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 12

Constitution of Central Information Commission

Amendments made:

Page 8, line 14, *for* "Commission", *substitute* "Central Information Commission". (55)

Page 8, line 15, *for* "Information Commissioner", *substitute* "Chief Information Commission". (56)

Page 8, line 16, *for* "Deputy Information Commissioners", *substitute* "Central Information Commissioners". (57)

Page 8, line 18, *for* "Information Commissioner and the Deputy Information Commissioners", *substitute* "Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners". (58)

Page 8, *for* line 22, *substitute* "(iii) a Union Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Prime Minister". (59)

Page 8, *for* lines 28 to 30, *substitute* "Central Information Commission shall vest in the Chief Information Commissioner who shall be assisted by the Information Commissioners and may exercise all such powers and do all such acts and things which may be exercised or done by the Central Information Commission autonomously without being." (60)

Page 8, *for* lines 32 to 35, *substitute* "(5) The Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners shall be persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance.

(6) The Chief Information Commissioner or an Information Commissioner shall not be" (61)

Page 8, line 39, *for* "Commission shall be at Delhi and the Commission", *substitute* "Central Information Commission shall be at Delhi and the Central Information Commission" (62)

Page 8, *omit* lines 42 and 43. (63)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 12, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 12, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 13

Term of Office and Condition of service

Amendments made:

Page 8 line 44, *for* "Information Commissioner", *substitute* "Chief Information Commissioner"; (64)

Page 8 *omit* lines 46 and 47 (65)

Page 8 line 48, *for* "Provided further that no Information Commissioner", *substitute* "Provided that no Chief Information Commissioner" (66)

Page 9 *for* lines 1 to 9, *substitute* "(2) Every Information Commissioner shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office or till he attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier, and shall not be eligible for reappointment as such Information Commissioner:

Provided that every Information Commissioner shall, on vacating his office under this sub-section be eligible for appointment as the Chief Information Commissioner in the manner specified in sub-section (3) of section 12:

Provided further that where the Information Commissioner is appointed as the Chief Information Commissioner, his term of office shall not be more than five years in aggregate as the Information Commissioner and the Chief Information Commissioner." (67)

Page 9, line 10,—*for* "Information Commissioner or a Deputy Information Commissioner", *substitute* "Chief Information Commissioner or an Information Commissioner". (68)

Page 9, line 14,—*for* "Information Commissioner or a Deputy Information Commissioner", *substitute* "Chief Information Commissioner or an Information Commissioner". (69)

Page 9, line 16,—*for* "Information Commissioner or a Deputy Information Commissioner", *substitute* "Chief Information Commissioner or an Information Commissioner". (70)

Page 9, *omit* lines 18 to 24; (71)

Page 9, line 25, *for* "(6)", *substitute* "(5)" (72)

Page 9, lines 27 to 30, *substitute*

"(a) the Chief Information Commissioner shall be the same as that of the Chief Election Commissioner;

(b) an Information Commissioner shall be the same as that of an Election Commissioner," (73)

Page 9, line 31,—*for* "Information Commissioner or a Deputy Information Commissioner" *substitute* "Chief Information Commissioner or an Information Commissioner" (74)

Page 9, lines 34 and 35, *for* "Information Commissioner or a Deputy Information Commissioner" *substitute* "Chief Information Commissioner or an Information Commissioner" (75)

Page 9, lines 38 and 39, *for* "Information Commissioner or a Deputy Information Commissioner" *substitute* "Chief Information Commissioner or an Information Commissioner" (76)

Page 9, lines 42 and 43, *for* "Information Commissioner or a Deputy Information Commissioner" *substitute* "Chief Information Commissioner or an Information Commissioner" (77)

Page 9, line 46, *for* "Information Commissioner and the Deputy Information Commissioners" *substitute* "Chief Information Commissioner and the Information Commissioners" (78)

Page 9, line 48, *for* "(7)", *substitute* "(6)" (79)

Page 9, lines 48 and 49, *for* "Information Commissioner and the Deputy Information Commissioners", *substitute* "Chief Information Commissioner and the Information Commissioners" (80)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 13, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 13, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 14

Removal of Information Commissioner or Deputy Information Commissioner

Amendments made:

Page 10, lines 4 and 5, *for* "Information Commissioner or any Deputy Information Commissioner" *substitute* "Chief Information Commissioner or any Information Commissioner" (81)

Page 10, lines 7 and 8, *for* "Information Commissioner or any Deputy Information Commissioner" *substitute* "Chief Information Commissioner or any Information Commissioner" (82)

Page 10, lines 11 and 12, *for* "Information Commissioner or Deputy Information Commissioner" *substitute* "Chief Information Commissioner or Information Commissioner" (83)

Page 10, lines 16 and 17, *for* "Information Commissioner or any Deputy Information Commissioner" *substitute* "Chief Information Commissioner or any Information Commissioner" (84)

Page 10, line 27, *for* "Information Commissioner or a Deputy Information Commissioner" *substitute* "Chief Information Commissioner or a Information Commissioner". (85)

Page 10, line 28, *for* "Information Commissioner or any Deputy Information Commissioner" *substitute* "Chief Information Commissioner or any Information Commissioner" (86)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 14, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 14, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Motion re: Suspension of rule 80(i)

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of Rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 87 to the Right to Information Bill, 2004 and that this amendment may be allowed to moved."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of Rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 87 to the Right to Information Bill, 2004 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 14A

Constitution of State Information Commission

Amendment made:

Page 10,—*after* line 33, *insert*—

"CHAPTER IV

THE STATE INFORMATION COMMISSION

14A. (1) Every State Government shall, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute a body to be known as the ..... (name of the State) Information Commission to exercise the powers conferred on, and to perform the functions assigned to, it under this Act.

(2) The State Information Commissioner shall consist of—

(a) the State Chief Information Commissioner; and

(b) such number of State Information Commissioners, not exceeding ten, as may be deemed necessary.

(3) The State Chief Information Commissioner and the State Information Commissioners shall be appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of a committee consisting of—

(i) the Chief Minister, who shall be the Chairperson of the committee;

(ii) the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly; and

(iii) a Cabinet Minister to be nominated by the Chief Minister.

Explanation.—For the purposes of removal of doubts, it is hereby declared that where the Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Assembly has not been recognised as such, the Leader of the single largest group in opposition of the Government in the Legislative Assembly shall be deemed to be the Leader of the Opposition.

(4) The general superintendence, direction and management of the affairs of the State Information Commission shall vest in the State Chief Information Commissioner who shall be assisted by the State Information Commissioners and may exercise all

such powers and do all such acts and things which may be exercised or done by the State Information Commissioner autonomously without being subjected to directions by any other authority under this Act.

(5) The State Chief Information Commissioner and the State Information Commissioners shall be persons of eminence in public life with wide knowledge and experience in law, science and technology, social service, management, journalism, mass media or administration and governance.

(6) The State Chief Information Commissioner or a State Information Commissioner shall not be a Member of Parliament or Member of the Legislature of any State or Union territory, as the case may be, or hold any other office of profit or connected with any political party or carrying on any business or pursuing any profession.

(7) The headquarters of the State Information Commission shall be at such place in the State as the State Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify and the State Information Commission may, with the previous approval of the State Government, establish offices at other places in the State. (87)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 14A be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 14A was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of rule 80(i)

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of Rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 88 to the Right to Information Bill, 2004 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of Rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 88 to the Right to Information Bill, 2004 and that this amendment may be allowed to moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 14B

Term of Office and Condition of Service

Amendment made:

Page 10, *after* line 33, *insert*—

14B. (1) The State Chief Information Commissioner shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office and shall not be eligible for reappointment.

Provided that no State Chief Information Commissioner shall hold office as such after he has attained the age of sixty-five years.

(2) Every State Information Commissioner shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office or till he attains the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier, and shall not be eligible for reappointment as such State Information Commissioner:

Provided that every State Information Commissioner shall, on vacating his office under this sub-section, be eligible for appointment as the State Chief Information Commissioner in the manner specified in sub-section (3) of section 14A:

Provided further that where the State Information Commissioner is appointed as the State Chief Information Commissioner, his term of office shall not be more than five years in aggregate as the State Information Commissioner and the State Chief Information Commissioner.

(3) The State Chief Information Commissioner or a State Information Commissioner, shall before he

enters upon his office make and subscribe before the Governor or some other person appointed by him in that behalf, an oath or affirmation according to the form set out for the purpose in the First Schedule.

(4) The State Chief Information Commissioner or a State Information Commissioner may, at any time, by writing under his hand addressed to the Governor, resign from his office:

Provided that the State Chief Information Commissioner or a State Information Commissioner may be removed in the manner specified under section 14C.

(5) The salaries and allowances payable to and other terms and conditions of service of—

(a) the State Chief Information Commissioner shall be the same as that of an Election Commissioner;

(b) the State Information Commissioner shall be the same as that of the Chief Secretary to the State Government:

Provided that if the State Chief Information Commissioner or a State Information Commissioner, at the time of his appointment is, in receipt of a pension (other than a disability or wound pension) in respect of any previous service under the Government of India or under the Government of a State, his salary in respect of the service as the State Chief Information Commissioner or a State Information Commissioner shall be reduced by the amount of that pension including any portion of pension which was commuted and pension equivalent of other forms of retirement benefits excluding pension equivalent of retirement gratuity:

Provided further that where the State Chief Information Commissioner or a State Information Commissioner if, at the time of his appointment is, in receipt of retirement benefits in respect of any previous service rendered in a Corporation established by or under any Central Act or State Act or a Government company owned or controlled by the Central Government or the State Government, his salary in respect of the service as the State Chief Information Commissioner or the State Information Commissioner shall be reduced by the amount of pension equivalent to the retirement benefits:

Provided also that the salaries, allowances and other conditions of service of the State Chief Information Commissioner and the State Information Commissioners shall not be varied to their disadvantage after their appointment.

(6) The State Government shall provide the State Chief Information Commissioner and the State Information Commissioners with such officers and employees as may be necessary for the efficient performance of their functions under this Act, and the salaries and allowances payable to and the terms and conditions of service of the officers and other employees appointed for the purpose of this Act shall be such as may be prescribed. (88)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is

"That new clause 14B be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 14B was added to the Bill.

Motion Re: Suspension of rule 80(i)

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of Rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 89 to the Right to Information Bill, 2004 and that this amendment may be allowed be moved."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (i) of Rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill

and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 89 to the Right to Information Bill, 2004 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 14C

Removal of State Chief Information Commissioner or State Information Commissioner

Amendment made:

Page 10, *after* line 33, *insert*—

14C. (1) Subject to the provisions of sub-section (3), the State Chief Information Commissioner or any State Information Commissioner shall be removed from his office only by order of the Governor on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity after the Supreme Court, on a reference made to it by the Governor, has on inquiry, reported that the State Chief Information Commissioner or any State Information Commissioner, as the case may be, ought on such ground be removed.

(2) The Governor may suspend from office, and if deem necessary prohibit also from attending the office during inquiry, the State Chief Information Commissioner or State Information Commissioner in respect of whom a reference has been made to the Supreme Court under sub-section (1) until the Governor has passed orders on receipt of the report of the Supreme Court on such reference.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the Governor may by order remove from office the State Chief Information Commissioner or any State Information Commissioner if the State Chief Information Commissioner or a State Information Commissioner, as the case may be,—

(a) is adjudged an insolvent; or

(b) has been convicted of an offence which, in the opinion of the Governor, involves moral turpitude; or

(c) engages during his term of office in any paid employment outside the duties of his office; or

(d) is, in the opinion of the Governor, unfit to continue in office by reason of infirmity of mind or body; or

(e) has acquired such financial or other interest as is likely to affect prejudicially his functions as the State Chief Information Commissioner or a State Information Commissioner.

(4) If the State Chief Information Commissioner or any State Information Commissioner in any way, concerned or interested in any contract or agreement made by or on behalf of the Government of the State or participates in any way in the profit thereof or in any benefit or emoluments arising therefrom otherwise than as a member and in common with the other members of an incorporated company, he shall, for the purposes of sub-section (1), be deemed to be guilty of misbehaviour.

CHAPTER V

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE INFORMATION COMMISSIONS, APPEAL AND PENALTIES"

(89)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That new clause 14C be added to the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

New clause 14C was added to the Bill.

Clause 15

Powers and Functions of Commissioner

Amendments made:

Page 10, line 34,—

for "Commission", *substitute* "Central Information Commission or State Information Commission, as the case may be."; (90)

Page 10, line 36, *for* "Public Information Officer", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be,"; (91)

Page 10, line 38, *for* "Assistant Public Information Officer", *substitute* "Central Assistant Public Information Officer or State Assistant Public Information Officer, as the case may be,"; (92)

Page 10, *for* line 39, *substitute,* "for information or appeal under this Act for forwarding the same to the Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, or senior officer specified in sub-section (1) of section 16 or the Central Information Commission or the State Information Commission, as the case may be,"; (93)

Page 11, line 1,—*for* "Commission", *substitute,* "Central Information Commission or State Information Commission, as the case may be,"; (94)

Page 11, line 3,—*for* "Commission", *substitute,* "Central Information Commission or State Information Commission, as the case may be,"; (95)

Page 11, line 13, *for* "Act of Parliament", *substitute* "Act of Parliament or State Legislature, as the case may be,"; (96)

Page 11, line 14, *for* "Commission", *substitute* "Central Information Commission or the State Information Commission, as the case may be,"; (97)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 15, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 15, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 16

Appeal

Amendments made:

Page 11, line 19, *for* "Public Information Officer", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be,"; (98)

Page 11, lines 20 and 21,—*for* "Public Information Officer", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be,"; (99)

Page 11, *for* lines 25—33, *substitute* "(2) Where an appeal is preferred against an order made by a Central Public Information Officer or a State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, under section 11 to disclose third party information, the appeal by the concerned third party shall be made within thirty days from the date of the order.

(3) A second appeal against the decision under sub-section (1) shall lie within ninety days from the date on which the decision should have been made or was actually received, with the Central Information Commission or the State Information Commission:

Provided that the Central Information Commission or the State Information Commission, as the case may be, may admit the appeal after the expiry of the period of ninety days if it is satisfied that the appellant was prevented by sufficient cause from filing the appeal in time."; (100)

Page 11, line 34, *for* "Public Information Officer", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be,"; (101)

Page 11, line 35, *for* "Commission", *substitute* "Central Information Commission or State Information Commission, as the case may be,"; (102)

Page 11, line 38, *for* "public authority which", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, who"; (103)

Page 11, line 43,—*for* "Commission", *substitute* "Central Information Commission or State Information Commission, as the case may be,"; (104)

Page 11, line 44,—*for* "Commission", *substitute* "Central Information Commission or State Information Commission, as the case may be,"; (105)

Page 12, line 1, *for* "Public Information Officer", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be,"; (106)

Page 12, line 13,—*for* "Commission", *substitute* "Central Information Commission or State Information Commission, as the case may be,"; (107)

Page 12, line 15,—*for* "Commission", *substitute* "Central Information Commission or State Information Commission, as the case may be,"; (108)

Page 12, *omit* lines 17-18; (109)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 16, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 17

Penalties

Amendment made:

110. Page 12, *for* lines 19 to 27, *substitute*—

"17. (1) Where the Central Information Commission or the State Information Commission, as the case may be, at the time of deciding any complaint or appeal is of the opinion that the Central Public Information Officer or the State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, has, without any reasonable cause, refused to receive an application for information or has not furnished information within the time specified under sub-section (1) of section 7 or malafidely denied the request for information or knowingly given incorrect, incomplete or misleading information or destroyed information which was the subject of the request or obstructed in any manner in furnishing the information, it shall impose a penalty of two hundred and fifty rupees each day till application in received or information is furnished, so however, the total amount of such penalty shall not exceed twenty-five thousand rupees:

Provided that the Central Public Information Officer or the State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, shall be given a reasonable opportunity of being heard before any penalty is imposed on him:

Provided further that the burden of proving that he acted reasonably and diligently shall be on the Central Public Information Officer or the State Public Information Officer, as the case may be.

(2) Where the Central Information Commission or the State Information Commission, as the case may be, at the time of deciding any complaint or appeal is of the opinion that the Central Public Information Officer or the State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, has, without any reasonable cause and persistently, failed to receive an application for information or has not furnished information within the time specified under sub-section (1) of section 7 or malafidely denied the request for information or knowingly given incorrect, incomplete or misleading information or destroyed information which was the subject of the request or obstructed in any manner in furnishing the information, it shall recommend for disciplinary action against the Central Public Information Officer or the State Public Information Officer, as the case may be, under the service rules applicable to him.

(110)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 17, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 17, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 18 to 20 were added to the Bill.

Clause 21

Amendments made:

Act not to apply to certain organisation

Page 12, line 42, *for* "corruption", *substitute* "corruption and human rights violations" (111)

Page 12, *after* line 43, *insert*—

"Provided further that in the case of information sought for is in respect of allegations of violation of human rights, the information shall only be provided after the approval of the Central Information Commission, and notwithstanding anything contained in Section 7, such information shall be provided within forty-five days from the date of the receipt of request"; (112)

Page 13, *after* line 4, *insert*—

"(4) Nothing contained in this Act shall apply to such intelligence and security organisation, being

organisations established by the State Government, as that Government may, from time to time, by notification in the Official Gazette, specify :

Provided that the information pertaining to the allegations of corruption shall not be excluded under this sub-section:

Provided further that in the case of information sought for is in respect of allegations of violation of human rights, the information shall only be provided after the approval of the State Information Commission and, notwithstanding anything contained in Section 7, such information shall be provided within forty-five days from the date of the receipt of request.

(5) Every notification issued under sub-section (4) shall be laid before the State Legislature"; (113)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 21, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 21, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 22

Monitoring and Reporting

Amendments made:

Page 13, line 5,—

for "Commission", *substitute* "Central Information Commission or State Information Commission, as the case may be,"; (114)

Page 13, in line 7 *for* "Central Government", *substitute* "appropriate Government"; (115)

Page 13, line 9, *for* "Commission" *substitute* "Central Information Commission or State Information Commission, as the case may be,"; (116)

Page 13, line 17, *for* "Commission" *substitute* "Central Information Commission or State Information Commission, as the case may be,"; (117)

Page 13, line 28, *for* "the Central Government", *substitute* "the Central Government or the State Government, as the case may be,"; (118)

Page 13, *for* lines 29-30, *substitute* "cause a copy of the report of the Central Information Commission or the State Information Commission, as the case may be, before each House of Parliament or, as the case may be, before each House of the State Legislature, where there are two Houses, and where there is one House of the State Legislature before that House."; (119)

Page 13, line 31, *for* "Commission", *substitute* "Central Information Commission or State Information Commission, as the case may be,"; (120)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 22, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 22, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 23

Central Government to prepare programme

Amendments made:

Page 13, line 35,—

for "Central Government", *substitute* "appropriate Government"; (121)

Page 13, line 45, *for* "Information Officers", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officers or State Public Information Officers, as the case may be,"; (122)

Page 13, line 47, *for* "Government", *substitute* "appropriate Government"; (123)

Page 14, line 3, *for* "Government", "appropriate Government"; (124)

Page 14, line 8, *for* "Public Information Officer", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be,"; (125)

Page 14, line 11, *for* "Public authority", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or the State Public Information Officer, as the case may be,"; (126)

Page 14, line 12, *for* "Public Information Officers", *substitute* "Central Public Information Officer or State Public Information Officer, as the case may be,"; (127)

Page 14, line 14, *for* "Commission", *substitute* "Central Information Commission or State Information Commission, as the case may be,"; (128)

Page 14, line 24, *for* "Government", *substitute* "appropriate Government"; (129)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 23, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 23, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 24

Power to make rules by Central Government

Amendment made:

Page 14, line 26,—

for "Central Government", *substitute* "appropriate government"; (130)

Page 14, *Omit* lines 30-31; (131)

Page 14, line 32, *for* "(b)", *substitute* "(a)" (132)

Page 14, line 34, *for* "(c)", *substitute* "(b)" (133)

Page 14, line 35, *for* "(d)", *substitute* "(c)" (134)

Page 14, line 36, *for* "(e)", *substitute* "(d)" (135)

Page 14, line 37, *after* "13", *insert* "and sub-section (6) of section 143"; (136)

Page 14, line 38,—

(i) *for* "(f)", *substitute* "(e)";

(ii) *for* "Commission", *substitute* "Central Information Commission or State Information Commission, as the case may be,"; (137)

Page 14, line 40, *for* "(g)", *substitute* "(f)"; (138)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 24, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 24, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 25

Power to make rules by Competent authority

Amendment made:

Page 14, *omit* lines 45-46; (139)

Page 14, line 47, *for* "(ii)", *substitute* "(i)"; (140)

Page 14, line 49, *for* "(iii)", *substitute* "(ii)"; (141)

Page 15, line 1, *for* "(iv)", *substitute* "(iii)"; (142)

Page 15, line 2, *for* "(v)", *substitute* "(iv)"; (143)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 25, as amended, stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 25, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 26

Laying of Rules

Amendment made:

Page 15, *after* line 11, *insert*—

"(2) Every rule made under this Act by a State Government shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is notified, before the State Legislature."; (144)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 26, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 26, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 27 and 28 were added to the Bill.

First Schedule

Amendments made:

Page 16, lines 3 and 4, *for* "Information Commissioner or the Deputy Information Commissioner", *substitute* "Chief Information Commissioner, the Information Commissioner, the State Chief Information Commissioner or the State Information Commissioner"; (145)

Page 16, lines 5 and 6, *for* "Information Commissioner/Deputy Information Commissioner", *substitute* "Chief Information Commissioner/ Information Commissioner/State Chief Information Commissioner/State Information Commissioner"; (146)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the First Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The First Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Second Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1

Short title, extent and commencement

Amendments made:

Page 1, iine 5, *for* "2004", *substitute* "2005" (3)

Page 1, *for* line 7, *substitute* "(3) The provisions of sub-section (1) of section 4, sub-sections (1)' and (2) of section 5, sections 12, 13, 14A, 14B, 21, 24 and 25 shall come into force at once, and the remaining provisions of this Act shall come into force on the one hundred and twentieth day of its enactment."; (4)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made:

Page 1, line 1, *for* "Fifty-fifth", *substitute* "Fifty-sixth" (2)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Title

Amendment made:

Page 1, for long title, *substitute*—

"A

Bill

To provide for setting out the practical regime of right to information for citizens to secure access to information under the control of public authorities, in order to promote transparency and accountability in the working of every public authority, the constitution of a Central Information Commission and State Information Commissions and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

WHEREAS the Constitution of India has established democratic Republic;

AND WHEREAS democracy requires an informed citizenry and transparency of information which are vital to its functioning and also to contain corruption and to hold Governments and their instrumentalities accountable to the governed;

AND WHEREAS revelation of information in actual practice is likely to conflict with other public interests including efficient operations of the Governments, optimum use of limited fiscal resources and the preservation of confidentiality of sensitive information;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary to harmonise these conflicting interests while preserving the paramountcy of the democratic ideal;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is expedient to provide for furnishing certain information to citizens who desire to have it;"; (1)

(Shri Suresh Pachauri)

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Title, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Title, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Minister may move that the Bill, as amended, be passed.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, I would like to make an observation.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yerrannaidu, you are a very senior Member. Let the Minister move his motion first.

SHRI SURESH PACHAURI: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

Shri Yerrannaidu, do you want to say anything? This is without any notice.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I would like to make a suggestion to the Government. The Standing Committee proposed these amendments and the Government accepted all the amendments. It shows the poor quality of drafting of the Bill. That is why, the Government should take care of this in future. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: No, no *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: What is the meaning of making about 150 amendments? I never saw such a thing. I was a Member in the State Legislative Assembly and I am a Member of Parliament also. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, he should rather be appreciative of it. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a third reading matter.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: This is just my suggestion. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, do you wish to respond to that?

Everybody should draft Bills accordingly. That is the purpose for which Standing Committee are there.

The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Not a good word about the Speaker!

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: This is a historic day!

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.45 p.m.

13.53 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till forty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.50 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at fifty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

BIHAR VALUE ADDED TAX BILL, 2005

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall take up Item Number 20. Shri Chidambaram to speak.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to move:

> "That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to levy of tax on sales or purchases of goods in the State of Bihar and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the Bihar Value Added Tax Bill, 2005 seeks to consolidate and amend the law relating to levy of tax on sale or purchase of goods in the State of Bihar and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. This is a State level Value Added Tax, which would replace the State Sales Tax being levied earlier under the Bihar Finance Act, 1981.

In fact, tax on sale or purchase of goods is a State subject under Entry 54 of the State List in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. As part of the tax reform process at the State level, it was decided in the Conference of Chief Ministers held in November 1999, to introduce VAT, replacing the earlier Sales Tax Systems. An Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers was also constituted on the recommendation of Chief Ministers in July 2000, *inter alia*, to monitor the process of introduction of VAT.

In the meeting of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers held on 18th June, 2004, there was broad consensus to implement State level VAT with effect from 1st April, 2005. In fact, 23 States and UTs have already introduced State level VAT and the remaining States and UTs are expected to introduce VAT shortly.

In line with the decision of the Empowered Committee on the introduction of VAT on all-India basis, the Governor of Bihar promulgated Bihar Value Added Tax Ordinance, 2005 on 4th March, 2005, since the State Legislature was not in session at that time. Accordingly, VAT has been introduced in the State of Bihar with effect from 1st April, 2005. VAT is a modern, simple and transparent tax system, which has been found beneficial throughout the world.

As per provisions of article 213 of the Constitution of India, an Ordinance promulgated by the Governor during recess of State Legislature has to be laid before the Legislature of the State concerned and the same ceases to operate at the expiration of six weeks from the re-assembly of the State Legislature. On 7th March, 2005, the State of Bihar came under President's Rule under article 356 of the Constitution of India. As per article 356 of the Constitution of India, powers of the State Legislature of Bihar shall be exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament. Therefore, the Bihar Value Added Tax Ordinance promulgated by the Governor of Bihar has to be replaced by an Act to be passed by the Parliament.

This Bill seeks to achieve the above object. I commend and seek the support of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to levy of tax on sales or purchases of goods in the State of Bihar and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR (Aurangabad, Bihar): Sir, I rise to support the Bihar VAT Bill which seeks to replace the Ordinance that was promulgated in Bihar in March this year.

Sir, let me go through a bit of a history about the VAT. It was way back, some time in 1994, that this idea first germinated and even became the subject of some debate. It was then, in 1999 at the Conference of State Chief Ministers decided that serious action should be taken to introduce and then implement the VAT. The very next year, I think it was in June or July, 2000, an Empowered Committee of the State Finance Ministers was set up to monitor the progress in this regard. It is now nearly 11 years after the idea was first mooted that

[Shri Nikhil Kumar]

we are seeing the Bill being tabled. When I say "the Bill being tabled", I am not confusing it with any Bill at the Central level but it is for the State of Bihar. But, it gives us a chance to recollect all that has happened in the past.

There are some obvious benefits of VAT. First of all, as of now, tax is levied from the stage of production of any article to the stage where it goes to the wholesaler and then from the wholesaler to the retailer. There are three stages. In this, a lot of, I would say, unsavoury actions take place, because of which there is a good deal of tax evasion. There is not much maintenance of records. It is because of this that it is likely to lead to tax evasion. Also, at present, the system is such that there are multiple taxes all over the country—different States have a variety of taxes. We even see the unusual spectacle of taxes being taxed. So, by introducing VAT, we hope that the whole system will be simplified and we will be doing what has been internationally accepted. It is a progressive system. it will also lead to, we hope, uniformatisation of prices all over the country. It will prevent a situation wherein prices vary from State to State—in some States prices may be higher than that in other State sand again leading to possibilities of unsavoury practices. But once it becomes a uniform policy throughout the country, it will be possible to have a national market. Once there is a national market in India, it will be easy to relate ourselves to the global market. Introduction of VAT is an important step towards globalising India. It is in this context that we should see the Bill that has been introduced here to introduce VAT in the State of Bihar. We hope, it will lead to simplification of the tax structure in Bihar.

There may be a little misapprehension. There may be non-considerable misapprehension about this tax amongst traders and it is necessary to allay their fears. No doubt, they will be called upon to do a little more stocktaking and build a little more systematic record maintenance system. Since the entire world is now getting modernised and use is being made of advanced technology, I think that with the help of computers, it will be easier for traders to maintain their records even if they are not very big traders. As it is, the traders with an annual turnover of less than five lakh rupees are exempted from the VAT. So, only the traders having an annual turnover of more than five lakh rupees will be required to maintain these accounts. It is just proper that they do so. It will simplify matters. It will lead to prevention of tax evasion; it will lead to a more transparent system; and it will lead to uniformatisation of prices all over the country and make India a national market.

15.00 hrs.

We also expect that this system will lead to greater mobilisation of revenues and it will increase Bihar's revenues. I need hardly mention that Bihar is a backward State with perhaps the lowest per capita income in the country and whose GDP is something like one-third of the national average. Therefore, if Bihar's revenues are increased, it will all be to the good. It should be the first step towards modernising and developing Bihar and so, the introduction of VAT is an important step.

At present, there is a little problem about the movement and sale of goods from one State to another, without attracting any unsavoury attention. Once this system is introduced, it will be possible to sell goods anywhere in the country. Hence, there should be no problem. I have seen the draft Bill and the requirement of setting up of check posts at different places within Bihar. It is a good provision. It should lead to greater checking of transport of goods or movement of goods, not only within Bihar, but from Bihar to outside the State and from outside the State to within Bihar.

It will all be good as far as Bihar's finances are concerned. This Bill also provides for maintenance of accounts, to which I have referred a little while ago. This is an important pre-condition for the success of this system. I find that in the Bill, there is a provision for checking of these accounts that have been maintained by the traders; and the accompanying penal provisions are quite adequate.

So, I think, this is a very progressive step and it is sheer coincidence that Bihar happens to be under President's Rule currently. Therefore, we have, in the Parliament, to see that this provision is passed. Therefore, it has been brought here and I feel happy in supporting this Bill and expect that it will be passed soon and we will have it in Bihar.

SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTTY (Howrah): Sir, I rise here to support the Bihar VAT Bill, 2005.

The empowered Committee constituted in July 2000 gave its final recommendation on 18th June 2004 in which all the Finance Ministers of all the States were present. but unfortunately, now some of them have backed out because of a political decision on the part of a political party, that is, the BJP; and it has created a problem. It is because VAT is to be introduced throughout the country simultaneously. Otherwise, the benefit of VAT will not go to our countrymen properly.

This Bill, the passage of which was the duty of the Bihar Assembly has come to us because of the constitutional obligation which has been stated by the Finance Minister. I think, we should support of the Bill and all of us should support the Bill because it is for the benefit of the common people of Bihar and for the benefit of the common people of the country as a whole.

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the Bihar Value Added Tax Bill, 2005. Bihar is under the President's Rule. The Value-Added Tax Bill was brought on 18 June, 2004. This is a commendable effort towards establishing uniform tax system in the country in the commercial tax levied by the State Government on its Sale-purchase of the items of goods. It has been decided to implement the same in the year 2005 itself. This is a multi-point tax system in which tax is levied on the difference of selling price and cost price of various stages in the marketing system. The earlier commercial system has been 40-45 year old. However, it was brought to implement it fully under the Value-added Tax Bill to bring about uniformity in the tax system all over the country. So far as I have the information, a high powered Committee was constituted headed by the Finance Minister of West Bengal Hon'ble Mr. Asim Das Gupta for the same. Several meetings were held to remove the anomalies. The task of implementing it in various states by the respective states in their own way was undertaken, however the anomalies still persist. I would like to welcome the steps taken by the Hon'ble Finance Minister will put a check on the unequal commercial competitors and put an end to the Inspector Raj.

VAT has already been implemented in 130 countries of the world and it is showing the good results. We hope that with the implementation of this system the backward and neglected states like Bihar will be able to match its performance with other States in this countries. The high-powered committee issued a white paper on 17th January. Drawing the attention of the Hon'ble Minister towards the White Paper, I would like to say that the States have not made their legislation on the basis of the White-Paper. I understand that the Government should issue a model draft so that on the basis of it there emerges uniformity in the legislation in all the states and the anomalies are removed accordingly. Today, the scheme of levying the Value-added Tax seems to be drifting away from its objectives because of the anomalies. Today's business class, be they small or big, and the members of our opposition party, who are not present in the House, all of them are under the wrong impression because of these anomalies to some extent and to some other extent, because of some political reasons. They are in a state of dilemma and not ready to accept it. However, we want to say that its basic objective is in the right direction and we hope to remove these anomalies. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: Sir, I shall conclude it within two minutes. Since this Bill pertains to Bihar, therefore, I would like to say a few words and give examples that there is a flat tax rate on the sale below Rs. 40 lakhs in this system. According to this flat tax rate, the tax rate in Bihar will be 1%, whereas in West Bengal it is 0.25 per cent rate. On account of the implementation of VAT in November, 2004, there was a consensus to compensate the states for the likely loss of revenue and the Finance Minister promised the States to compensate them for three years. We hope that in case of Bihar, steps will be taken in this direction accordingly. A High-Powered Committee was constituted on 25-26 April, 2005 in which decision was taken by all the States to issue a notification with regard to removing the anomalies by 30th April, 2005. However, the notification has not been issued till today because of which these anomalies will remain in future also. Therefore we would like the directions to be issued on our part to all the States in this regard and there is a need to take strict decision in this regard by the High Powered Committee.

[Shri Alok Kumar Mehta]

Sir, I would also like to say that the documentation process in case of VAT is very lengthy and complicated. Until it is computerized and documented, the small traders cannot be included therein. Therefore, I would like to request you to streamline the documentation process, only then it will become easy to include the small traders and the tax span can be increased.

With these words, I welcome and support the bill and conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I request the hon. Minister Shri P. Chidambaram to reply to the debate.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members Shri Nikhil Kumar, Shri Chakraborty and Shri Alok Kumar for extending their support to this Bill.

I am grateful to Shri Nikhil Kumar who explained the concept of VAT and took the House through the provisions of the Bill. I do not think I could have done better. I think he has clearly explained the philosophy behind VAT and what this Bill intends to achieve.

VAT is a modern tax system. It is not new to India. We have today excise duty, which is, in effect, a tax on value addition. It is on manufacture. When excise duty is levied in successive stages, the duty paid is MODVATed against the duty payable. So, if in the first stage a manufacturer pays a duty of, say, hundred rupees and in the second stage, after value addition, the duty that is calculated turns out to be Rs. 200, he will take credit for the hundred rupees he has paid and then pay the hundred rupees. In fact, the same principle is being applied to sales tax.

The drawback or deficiency in the current sales tax system is that it is a cascading tax. Since inputs suffer tax, the components made out of the inputs suffer sales tax, then finished goods made of components suffer sales tax, the tax gets cascaded. Therefore, the consumer has to bear a much heavier burden of duty by way of sales tax. The world over, by one reckoning, something like 130 countries have a tax which is either a Value Added Tax or a GST.

A lot of people in this country today travel to England and Europe. In every European country, there is VAT. Nobody even thinks twice about it. Nobody even asks what this animal called VAT is. You pay VAT. Then, if your purchases have gone beyond a certain limit, you come back to the airport three hours earlier and ask for the refund of your VAT. It is because you are taking it out of the country. VAT is a well-established tax. Nobody blinks when he is asked to pay VAT in any European country. When VAT was introduced in this country, unfortunately, because of lack of understanding, because of some genuine apprehensions there was a lot of protest. I must compliment the Chief Ministers of States who in a Conference resolved that VAT would be introduced. I must compliment the very bold decision they took to appoint an Empowered Committee. I think this Empowered Committee is a very novel innovative mechanism and the success that this Empowered Committee has achieved in VAT, I believe it can be replicated in some other areas of administration. There are a number of areas where the Central Government and the State Government have concurrent jurisdiction or sometimes even overlapping jurisdiction. In these areas, in order to evolve a national consensus and a national plan of action, I think the mechanism of an Empowered Committee can be usefully adopted.

I wish to pay tribute to all the Finance Ministers of all the States who have laboured through seven years and held something like 82 meetings so far to arrive at a stage where India can proudly say, 23 States and Union Territories have introduced VAT on 1st April. I, especially, want to record my grateful appreciation for Dr. Asim Dasgupta, Finance Minister of West Bengal who tirelessly worked through the last seven years to guide the deliberations of the Empowered Committee. Sir, I would also like to thank Mr. Siddiqui, the then Finance Minister of Bihar who was very supportive of VAT and who extended tremendous support to us in Empowered Committee meetings while we had a dealing with VAT.

I think there are only one or two questions, which are to be answered. Will the States suffer a loss? No. In RE 2004-05, Bihar reported Sales Tax collection of Rs. 2,400 crore. In BE 2005-06, Bihar is estimating Rs. 2,700 crore through the VAT which is replacing Sales Tax. therefore, there is no loss of revenue.

Secondly, the question comes about compensation. The Cabinet has approved a compensation formula. In fact, this formula was recommended by the Empowered

Committee. The Central Government has accepted that compensation formula *in toto.* We will compensate 100 per cent of any loss in the first year, 75 per cent in the second year and 50 per cent in the third year. Let me assure you that it is most unlikely that there would be a loss. Haryana is reporting gain though VAT. I read a statement by the Finance Minister of Kerala—although one swallow does not make a summer—the Finance Minister of Kerala reported that in April, 2005, these VAT revenues are running higher than April, 2004 Sales Tax revenues.

Shri Alok Kumar Mehta spoke about a notification, which has not been issued. I am not sure what he had in mind. The Empowered Committee in its meeting on 26th April, 2005 decided to amend the earlier recommended VAT rate on certain items. It was decided that all the States would notify the revised rates by the end of April. This notification has not been issued in Bihar, presumably because this Bill is pending. As soon as this Bill is passed, I would advise the Bihar Government to issue that notification.

Sir, about compounding rate, the Empowered Committee's recommendation was that the compounding rate should not be more than four per cent. Now, Bihar has fixed it at one per cent. Most States have fixed it at one per cent. It is true that West Bengal has fixed it at 0.25 per cent. But frankly, the rate is so small that the apprehension of trade diversion is really misplaced. I would like to tell you why it is so. 'Compounding' is available for anyone above the threshold, that is, Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh. Anyone, who has a turnover above Rs. 5 lakh up to Rs. 50 lakh, is not a big trader; he is perhaps a smaller or medium level trader. He probably trades within the State. It is most unlikely that somebody from Bihar will shift his entire business to Bengal. Will he shift his business from Bihar to Bengal just because he will gain 0.75 per cent? Now, what is 0.75 per cent of Rs. 50 lakh. 0.75 per cent of Rs. 50 lakh will be about Rs. 35,000. Nobody is going to shift his business from a State where he grew up, where he established his business, where his family is and where his relatives are. He is not going to shift his business from Bihar to Bengal just because he is going to gain Rs. 30,000 or Rs. 35,000. I do not think anything really matters on that. The compounding rate has been left to the State Governments. The State Government of West Bengal has fixed it at 0.25 per cent. I am sure, in a few months, Dr. Asim Dasgupta will bring it up to 0.1 per cent. He also needs to collect revenue like any other Finance Minister. I do not think that is a major issue.

Sir, I just want to take one or two more minutes to allay some apprehensions of traders. Some trade organisations are still protesting against Valued-Added Tax (VAT). The protest, to some sort, has come down. Many trade organisations have recognised the utility of VAT. My appeal to these trade organisations is this. Now, 23 States have come on to VAT and there is pressure on other States from the industry, from trade to come to VAT. What is the purpose of continuing these protests? We have set up an Empowered Committee. It is chaired by the Finance Minister of a State. He himself is an economist. He has travelled throughout the length and breadth of this country meeting the traders' organisations. He is open to suggestions. The Empowered Committee is open to making necessary changes. It has made changes as recently as I said on 26 April, 2005. So, if any section of the traders has any genuine difficulty, they must meet with the Empowered Committee, they must meet with the Expert Committee, which is available to advise them and to try to resolve their differences.

I do not mind if somebody burns my effigy. That is not very material. But why do they burn the effigy of the Prime Minister also? What is the Central Government doing? The Central Government is facilitating. We are simply providing a place for the Empowered Committee to meet. I think, the Delhi Government is providing the lunch. That is all that we are doing. It is the Finance Ministers of the States who are deciding all these things. It is a major step in cooperative federalism. The Finance Ministers of the States, with the full support of the Central Government, are bringing about the single most important tax reform in independent India. Let me tell you, Sir, this is more important than direct tax reform; this is more important than indirect tax reform. This is the single biggest tax reform in India.

I would appeal to that section of the trader community, which is persisting with these protests, to please give up these protests, come and sit with the Empowered Committee, discuss with them, sit with the Finance Minister of their State and sort out these problems. After all, trade is the lifeline of any community. Without trade, there cannot be production. Without trade, there cannot be consumption. Trade is what keeps an

[Shri P. Chidambaram]
economy going. Traders should not go on strike; traders should not go on *hartal*. These are all rather outdated methods, especially when major policy decisions of such seminal importance are taken. Traders must see that there is a lot of merit in the law, lot of merit in the new tax, and they must learn to support it.

Sir, I once again, would appeal to traders, that section of the traders which is still continuing to protest to give up their protest and join the national mainstream which is now committed to implement VAT throughout the country. I am not disappointed that some States have not yet come on to the VAT system. If we have waited for 57 years, we can wait for one or two more months, but sooner the States come, the better. In this regard, I commend the then Government of Bihar which supported VAT. In fact, the then Government of Bihars showed greater foresight and greater understanding of the situation than some other State Governments. In particular, I would appeal to Rajasthan, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, which are important States, to come on to VAT system quickly and sooner they come, they will realise that they have benefited from a modern, simple and transparent tax system.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, like other States, the business community in Bihar is also opposing it. Several such laws are being enforced which have caused apprehensions and misunderstanding in the minds of the traders. I would like to request the Government to remove the doubts and apprehensions regarding getting punishment and problems from the minds of traders, particularly of Bihar by explaining to them that this is for their benefit and in the interest of the states and the nation. A large number of traders have not understood the VAT law. I would like to know whether the Government would take initiative to make them understand thoroughly? Would the Government like to talk to all those traders? The Government should remove the apprehensions from the minds of the traders of Bihar, so that they can accept it willingly.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I will answer that question. Please give me a minute.

The Empowered Committee has taken a decision that the punishment provisions in the Act would not be applied for about six months or so. Nobody is going to be penalised if he makes a mistake in the first few months. Therefore, let not the trading community be afraid that the VAT authority is going to come and throw them into jail. We are not going to invoke these penal provisions. This is a new tax and people must learn to apply this tax. There will be some mistakes. But I want to send this message very clearly that all the State Finance Ministers have told me and they told themselves that they would not invoke these penal provisions for at least six months. Therefore, there is no need to fear on that score. If they want to discuss, the Bihar trading community is most welcome to come and discuss this with the Bihar officers, with the Empowered Committee, with the Expert Committee, which I have set up, with the Secretary of the Empowered Committee, who is an expert on this, with my Advisor, who is an expert on VAT. Therefore, these are all people available round the clock and I am willing to send these people to Patna to meet with any section. Therefore, let there be no fear. Let them come and have an open and frank discussion on any of the genuine problems.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as has been pointed out, the Minister really don't have the time, you have empowered the Committee. If the traders want to talk to you on coming to Delhi, will you be able to give them the time?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Yes, they can come.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to levy of tax on sales or purchases of goods in the State of Bihar and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 100 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 100 were added to the Bill.

Schedules I to V were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.31 hrs.

UNIVERSITY OF ALLAHABAD BILL, 2005

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Item No. 21.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): I beg to move:

> "That the Bill to declare the University of Allahabad to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to acquaint the hon. House that the University of Allahabad is one of the premier universities of the country. There was a time when it was referred to as the Oxford of the East. Its eminence lay both in the fact that it caters to a very large area of the country which today comprises of the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and some other parts of the country. It is also a fact that this University was, in fact, nurtured by great leaders of our country and first among them being Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. His residence in Allahabad was hardly at a stone's throw from the University.

From earlier 1920s, Panditji was in close touch with the students, the alumnae and all those who held this University in high esteem. In fact, he frequently visited the University and addressed the gathering of students and teachers at the famed Vijayanagram Hall and the Students Union Hall. One of his most celebrated Addresses was at the Students Union Hall in 1938 under the auspices oft he Historical Society of the University of the effects of British Rule in India.

Gradually, the University acquired very eminent teachers and over a period of decades, it became practically to symbolise the new national awakening in the country. Some time later, it was unfortunate that the University—I would not say less celebrated—certainly did not live up to the level to which it had arisen. There has been a great demand from all corners of the country to restore the dignity and prestige of Allahabad University and make it a Central University. It is this objective which this Bill will achieve.

I may say that we are happy to report that a broad section of the people, who are old boys of this University, are people of eminence. It has been my proud privilege to consult all of them on what they feel should be the new nature of this University. With the broadest consultation and consensus, this Bill was introduced. Everyone—the teachers, various faculties and colleges—was given an opening and a right to express his opinion. It is this Bill which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha and passed two days ago. The same Bill I have brought to the Lok Sabha with the request that the House takes this igto consideration and turn it into a law.

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA (Varanasi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to congratulate a lot our Government and Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development. I rise to speak in support of Allahabad University Bill, 2005.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the demand for according Allahabad University the status of a Central University has been voiced strongly for last at least 25 to 30 years all over India from among the gatherings of academics and university students. We had heard during the tenure of the NDA Government that this University was being given the status of Central University. But they only said so and the present UPA Government have done it. So, I wish to congratulate both the Government and Hon. Minister a lot.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this university was set up in 1887. It is probably the oldest university not only in India but also in the world. Alumni of the University have

[Dr. Rajesh Mishra]

been working at various places all over the world as Scientists, academics or in other fields of the society. The University has produced researchers, great politicians and social workers and also the ex-Prime Ministers. In the same ratio it gave birth to great bureaucrats. Today I am happy to say that all over the country Alumni of this university will be pleased to know this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the brightest aspect of this Bill is that the University has incorporated 11 colleges. I would like to bring to the knowledge of Hon. Minister that as the people have told me, one college is not included in it but that is not certain yet. The college known as Kulbhaskar is 3-4 kms away from Allahabad. People guess that possibly this college was not included in this University. I don't know the real fact, I am just bringing it to your knowledge that Kamala Nehru Post Graduate Medical Institute and Govind Vallabh Pant Social Sciences Institute are there and they are not included in it. We find one thing doubtful in the suggestion of Hon. Minister. I have been elected from Varanasi where there is largest university of Asia, Banaras Hindu University. It has got the status of Central University and there is a medical institute also. I would like to mention here that this university is governed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Since that is a part of University it is financed by Ministry of HRD. But all other technical facilities are provided to it by the Medical Council of India. Thus its guidelines are governed by the guidelines of Medical Council of India also and it is under the Ministry of Human Resource Development. But the problem arises when Health Ministry wants to provide it all other facilities and in that situation we say that it is not under us so we cannot do anything about it. We want to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister the situation of dilemma that was created in other universities of late, and that the matters should be considered seriously and a solution should be sought.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, another provision is also there in various universities and it has been adopted in Allahabad University also. The provision of Court, Executive Council, Academic Council, Board of Faculties, Finance Committee and all other committees has also been made therein to reinstate its democratic form. During the previous years, during the tenure of the NDA Government in Centre another picture was seen in these universities, the Chancellors of all the democratic institutions there did not conduct election in these institutions revealing their dictatorial nature. Members were not elected in these institutions or they were dissolved. For instance, there is a university court in Kashi Hindu Vishwavidyalaya (BHU) and an executive council also as it is nominated by Central Government. But in court the members are elected from among the alumni. I think elections have not been conducted in these courts for last 30-40 years. It is necessary to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in other Universities also. Sometimes in universities after the nomination of Chancellors, the Government cannot directly interfere in that University since it is an autonomous body. So the Chancellor and other officers of the Universities work in a way that reveals their dictatorial nature. I would like to add to it that the students' union is a society elected by students through which students work for the interests of the students. But many Chancellors are such as that they have not conducted elections for unions like students' union, teachers' union, staff unions etc. for 10-15 years and dissolved them. The striking example to it is Kashi Hindu University and the condition is still unchanged. I would like to bring to the notice of Hon'ble Minister that the administration of universities should be transparent just as we or the UPA Government show themselves or try to show. And elections should regularly be held in such academic or democratic institutions.

Sir, before I conclude, I would like to congratulate the UPA Government and the HRD Ministry for fulfilling our 20-25 years old demand. I thank them for the same and conclude.

[English]

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN (Mathurapur): I thank you, Sir, for permitting me to take part in the discussion on the University of Allahabad Bill, 2005. I shall not be taking much time but let me put my point straight. Let me say that I support the Bill for its conversion into the University of Allahabad Act, 2005 to make the University an institution of national importance.

We may recall that the University of Allahabad, established in 1887, that is, 118 years ago from this date, is one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in the country and enjoys a national and international reputation as a premier institution of higher learning. A few minutes back, the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Arjun Singh, was saying that Pandit

Jawaharlal Nehru used to visit this campus. He had a very soft corner for this premier university. Now, regarding attainments, I shall not be going into the details. but, I should be allowed to refer at least to one point. We may remember, as an example, that one of its most brilliant faculty and one of our distinguished scientists, late Dr. Meghnad Saha, who happened to be a member of this august House in later years, did contribute immensely to advanced research in physics. While working as a professor of this University, his most outstanding contribution was in the realms of thermodynamics of ionisation of gas molecules in the upper atmosphere, leading to the foundation of today's Space Research in India and all over the world as well as in the field of atomic and nuclear science, which contributed towards our advancement in the production of nuclear power in the country today. I would like to say that credit for such monumental works goes to a large extent to the University of Allahabad.

The University of Allahabad, as I have said, was established as a Central University but as per provision of the Government of India Act, 1919, it became a provincial university in 1921, and presently, it is being governed by the Uttar Pradesh State University Act, 1973.

There have been demands for restoration of its Central University status ever since Independence. This move picked up momentum in 1990s and had the support of different Governments from time to time. In view of the persistent demands from various quarters for restoration of the Central University status, and keeping in view its glorious past, the excellence in academics and research demonstrated by it over the years, the Government felt it expedient to restore the Central University status of the University of Allahabad, and I support this move of the Government.

While supporting the Bill, I must appreciate the formulation of the objects of the University which, *inter alia,* states: I would be very brief, and I am not going to state all the objects—the object to provide instructional and research facilities in such branches of learning as it may deem fit; to make provisions for integrated courses in the Humanities, the Social Sciences, the Basic and Applied Science and Technology in the educational programmes of the University; to take appropriate measures for promoting innovations in teaching learning process, inter-disciplinary and professional studies and research, removal of gender disparities and the digital divide, the application of knowledge to social advancement, national progress and human welfare, and to educate and train human resource for the development of the country.

The powers of the University have been well-defined for fulfilling the objects as given in the Bill through the authorities like the Court, the Executive Council, the Finance Bill, the Academic Council etc. and by the officers of the University, namely, the Vice-Chancellor, the Pro Vice-Chancellor, the Deans of Faculties, the Registrar, the Finance Officer, and others under the guidance of the Chancellor and the overall supervision by the Visitor who is the President of India.

While supporting the Bill, I must not point out all the lacunae but I want to put on record one or two points. I shall be brief.

I would like to suggest that the Statute 9 on page 21 of the Bill may provide that all the five Deans of Faculties—arts, commerce, law, medicine and science—should be members of the Executive Council in lieu of only three Deans of Faculties to be selected by rotation as has been provided in the Bill. I am of the opinion that the presence of all the five Deans on the Executive Council would facilitate smooth running of the University administration. For example, in the first Executive Council, if the five Deans are not there, for two long years, the most important two faculties of Science and medicine would not be there on the Executive Council, and, in the next two years, Arts and Law faculties would be eliminated. So, my suggestion is to include all the Deans on the Executive Council so that the administration of the University could be run smoothly.

Lastly, I would also suggest that presence of nine members should constitute quorum of the Executive Council. There should be nine members forming quorum for a meeting of the Executive Council, in lieu of seven, as has been provided in the Bill.

With these words, I once again support this Bill and commend that the Bill may be passed.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving me

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

time to speak on the Allahabad University Bill, 2005. I congratulate Shri Arjun Singh ji for introducing this Bill in this House. I am fortunate that I am a resident of Allahabad and got an opportunity to study in Allahabad University. We had been waiting for long that this University would be accorded the status of Central University. But several Governments came and made big promises. Even though his University could not be granted the status of Central University. During the previous years, Respected Professor of that University. Joshiji himself made strenuous efforts for this when we had the N.D.A. Government at the Centre. These efforts were made at such a time when the Lok Sabha was about to be dissolved. But the strategy of taking political advantage out of this issue could not succeed, as the Bill was negatived with an overwhelming majority in the Rajya Sabha.

Sir, this University has its own history. It is known as the Oxford of the East. It has a 118 years old history. It has founded in 1887. In 1974, It got the status of State University under the law. But the people have always kept its glory in view. Many a great Indians have received education in this University. Our Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development has also studied in this University. It is a matter of great fortune that many more great personalities have been the product of this University particularly during the British rule. Britishers were awed by this University.

15.54 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

The talented youth who passed out of this University used to be very aggressive and the derived strength from the education received from it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring some points about this University to the notice of the hon'ble Minister. The Constitution procedures of this University Union should remain unchanged. It's constitution was changed four years ago. I request that the above be done away with.

Sir, the union of this University itself has so much importance that even the University teacher can become its member as per provision of the Union. It is the first University which is governed by the Board of Trustees. It comprises of four teachers, a president and existing president. It is itself a matter of pride that Attached Degree Colleges, Medical Colleges, Engineering Colleges have also been affiliated to it. On the one hand professional and Engineering colleges have been attached to it in this modern age, on the other I would request that more and more new courses should also be introduced in it. Since we have to move forwarded in this age of competition, other professional courses should also be introduced in it.

Sir, there should also be a provision in its constitution regarding election to the Member of Council of the University Court. I just showed the draft of this Bill to the Minister and pointed out that the name of the University mentioned in this draft was Motilal Nehru followed by a dash mark and further it was left blank. I request that instead of it, it should be named as Motilal Nehru Engineering College. It reads at column 4 page 34. Sir, there are a number of Colleges which have their own importance and they have had a glorious past. I demand that it would be better if they are affiliated to this university. There is B.S. Mehta College for Arts and Science, Bharwari situated in my Constituency in Koshambi district. That is a very old Degree College.

It is a very reputed college. I demand that the above College be affiliated to this University. Our Member from Varanasi had just demanded that the Kulbhashya Ashram Vishwavidyalaya, a degree College be affiliated to the University. In my view, it would be a great achievement. There is a triple I.T. at Chhalwa under my constituency. I would also like it to be affiliated to this University so as to enhance the glory and status of this Central University.

Sir, it appears after going through the Allahabad University Bill, 2005 that the colleges will not be able to get all the facilities from the University which they deserve. I would request the Minister to see that such a situation does not arise and such an arrangement be made whereby Degree Colleges can get maximum facilities from the university. I would therefore, request him to make his contribution in enhancing the glory of the University.

Sir, as far as maintaining dignity of the institutions of higher education is concerned, I fully agree with that and I also want that it should be maintained. All our Members have emphasissed on strengthening of the University administration, because till now it was merely a University

but now its administrative set up should further be strengthened after its becoming a Central university. Uncalled for interference of politicians in the affairs of this University should be stopped and separate classes should be organized after incorporating the curriculum of the Civil Services so that the students belonging to Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes appearing in this Examination can participate in them after having taken training and education through these special courses.

Sir, many Members have pointed out that elections of the student unions in most of the Degree Colleges have not taken place. I would like to submit that holding of elections of the student Unions are a must. The elections are necessary to kindle hope in the youth that they would be able to present their problems through student unions if they become misguided.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with these words, I strongly support this Bill, I conclude by congratulating Respected Shri Arjun Singh ji for giving Central University status to the Allahabad University and introducing the Allahabad University Bill, 2005.

16.00 hrs.

CHAUDHARY BIJENDRA SINGH (Aligarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Bill, 2005. First of all I would like to congratulate Hon. Minister not only because they have done a good job by introducing this Bill in the House, but also because the previous Government due to their political consideration did not allow to pass the bill with regard to conferring the status of a central university to the Allahabad University. Today, Hon. Human Resource Development Minister has done a commendable job by introducing this bill taking into his consideration the devotion for education as well as positive attitude of the Government. I, through you, wish to congratulate him for the introduction of this Bill. Allahabad University was set up in 1887 during the British rule when there was great need of education in the country. At that time why Allahabad was chosen for setting up this university has a long glorious history. Allahabad is a place where pious civilisation of this country emerges both the Ganges and the Yamuna meet here. A stream of pious mentality flows from there all over the country. From there emanates a stream of sacred mentality all over India. Alumni of Allahabad University gain fame all over the country and the world with their education under secular spirit and culture of sacred Allahabad Sangam. Its alumni have created history in the academic world exceeding one on the other. Many Prime Ministers have been the students of this University viz. Shri V.P. Singh, Shri Chandra Shekhar. The most painful aspects of this university is that Minister of Human Resource Development in the previous NDA Government. Shri Murli Manohar Joshi had also been its student and professor. He was lucky enough to be the Minister of Human Resource Development Minister but he did not recognize its importance though the University has already fulfilled all the prerequisites of a national university since a long time and even today fulfills all the terms and conditions required therefor.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to say that the foundation of students union was laid in this very university in 1938 and in a way their constitution also took form and it was invoked. If we want to convert Indian Politics into a good polity we will have to formulate a constitution for students unions also. Motivated by political animosity NDA Government did not pass this bill. In Allahabad there is High Court, head office of Public Service Commission and the sacred 'Sangam' of the Ganges and the Yamuna and the biggest industrial city Naini. Taking into account all these prerequisites and all the regional and geographical conditions which it fulfills I congratulate the Hon. Minister for doing this laudable job of introducing this bill.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to bring some points to the notice of the Hon. Minister. This demand was raised during the regime. NDA Government also. Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna had been a very social and political leader. A college by his name Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna Government College Naini is there in Allahabad. It is situated in the industrial city Naini which has a population of around 5 lacs. It is the only college in that area. This college is within 10 kms. of Allahabad university and is attached to Poorvanchal university. It was set up in 1996 and at that time, in Uttar Pradesh BJP Government was in power and Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi ji did not get this college affiliated to the university because of the college being in the name of Bahugunaji who was ex. congress leader and Chief Minister of the State. Hemvati Nandan Bahugana has been students union leader in Allahabad

[Chaudhary Bijendra Singh]

University. He went to jail many times since 1942. He did many commendable jobs as a Chief Minister like introducing UGC grade, and bringing about revolutionary changes in the salaries of teachers. This college, by his name, must be got affiliated to Allahabad University.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, affiliation of the Naini college will facilitate the students of the city seeking admission therein. hence it is essential to accord the status of national University to it. It should have been done long back but the then Governments lack of devotion for education and its political motivation had with-held the matter. Today breaking all those barriers Hon. Minister has made announcement of comprehensive ideology which makes us hopeful that all the colleges within the range of 10-16 kms of this university will be affiliated to it. A bill according Allahabad University a status of a national university will be passed.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Sir, I support the University of Allahabad Bill, 2005. This is to declare the University of Allahabad to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. This Allahabad University has a big tradition. Everybody said about it. I need not repeat it.

Sir, it was established in 1887 and it had undergone a big change in 1921 when it became a State University. Now, it is under the Uttar Pradesh Universities Act, 1972. Though belated, it is a very good decision the Government is taking to declare this University as a Central University, as an institution of national importance. But when I support this Bill, looking into the traditions of the University, I know that the hon. minister himself has stated that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was associated with the University he addressed the students and teachers of the University and all that. So, in regard to constitution of the court, I would submit that the representatives of the students are not elected. It is mentioned in para 8(1)(c) of the Schedule to the Bill that:

> "One student from each group of subjects assigned to the Faculties who, having secured the highest marks in that group of subject sat the preceding degree examination of the University, is pursuing a course of study for a post-graduate degree in the same group of subjects in the University or in a college or institution maintained by the University or admitted to the privileges of the University."

That means the students' representatives are selected to or nominated to the Court based on the marks they obtain in the examinations.

Sir, I am very sure that the hon. Minister will remember that it was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who inaugurated a students' organisation in this country, the All India Students Federation (AISF) in 1936 in Lucknow during the days of freedom struggle. He wanted the students to play a very important role in the freedom struggle. He wanted the students to play a very important role in the freedom struggle, in the reconstruction of the country, to develop a scientific outlook and all that, for which he thought that the All India Students' Federation was necessary and he inaugurated it. Now, when we are declaring the University of Allahabad as an institution of excellence or an institution of national importance, there is no mention whether there will be University unions. Many speakers before me told this House that elections to the union are abandoned in the University. I want to know whether in future, students' union will be there. If the students' union will be there, then it is better that this legislation includes "a representative of the students' union or the representatives of the students' union would represent the students in the court" and not the student who got the highest marks.

At this time when we are discussing this Bill, I understand that from the Consolidated Fund of India, a lot of money will be given to the University in future. The University will get Rs. 95 crore and Rs. 105 crore in the next two years. Also, the University will get more than Rs. 100 crore by way of Plan fund. All these are good things, but at the same time, I take this opportunity to remind the Minister that in the contest of globalisation, education in our country is commercialised and is becoming a luxury of the rich. It has become a luxury of the rich. It is no more accessible to the children of common people.

Will the Government take some steps in order to ensure that the children of the common people will be able to educate themselves in the institutions of higher learning? Of course, they can educate themselves provided they have a lot of money. I would like the Government to make a statement on this aspect also. What is the Government going to do about this issue in the future?

I support this Bill, and I congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing this Bill. But I would like the hon. minister to make a reference to the autonomy of the university; students' union; and students' representation in the University in future, while replying.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak on this momentous Bill. This Bill is associated with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Therefore, it would be very appropriate if I begin my comments on this Bill with the words of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the architect of modern India. He said that:

> "If all is well with the Universities, then all will be well with the nation."

He signified it by saying that the Universities will have to act as a catalyst in the nation's development, and in the nation's reconstruction. Today, the Universities are contributing to the human resource development by imparting knowledge and arranging for research facilities. The students coming out of such Universities enter into different walks of life, namely, in industry, in agriculture, in trade and commerce, and all sectors of the economy are benefited.

The Kothari Commission, in 1964 itself, very beautifully remarked that the destiny of India is shaped in our classrooms. Therefore, it is in this context that we will have to think of the use of the National Universities or the Central Universities, and it is in this context that this Bill, which has been presented by the hon. Human Resource Development Minister, deserves all our appreciation. We congratulate him for bringing this Bill. I am saying this because today a State University is being converted into a Central University. It is being converted into a University of national importance for the betterment of this country.

What is the nature of this University? This is one of the oldest Universities, and it was established in the year 1887. It is the pride of the nation because it has produced scholars and scientists; it has produced professors and pandits; it has produced technocrats; and it has produced politicians and national leaders. Today, such a University truly deserves the recognition of a National University.

There are two or three important merits of this Bill. The hon. Minister has said that the Bill has been prepared after due and larger consultation with the academicians in the Universities. It means that the University has to be transparent because it has to take into account all the views of the academicians working in the University.

The second important merit of this Bill is that it is very comprehensive, and it is on the lines of the actual statutes of the other Central Universities working in this country. The addition of this University has taken all the important aspects of the statutes of various Central Universities into account.

I would like to submit a point with regard to the objectives of a University to the kind notice of the hon. HRD Minister. A University performs three important functions, namely, teaching, research, and extension. Unfortunately, the objects of this Bill mention only two traditional functions of a University, namely, it confines itself to teaching and research, and it has left the function of extension to somebody else. This is not proper, and this is not appropriate. I am saying this because today one can do any kind of ivory tower research, but it has to be seen whether the research is useful or whether the research has any utility or not. The research has to be tested on the field.

Therefore, the fruits of research will have to be taken to the field where extension plays an important part. I hope the hon. Minister will take into account this component of the duties, objects or functions.

With regard to authorities of University, it very rightly says that there will be an Executive Council, there will be a Court, and there will be an Academic Council. These are policy-making bodies at the administrative as well as at the academic levels. One important lacuna in these Authorities of University, as in all other Acts of the Central Universities, is that it has not provided representation to State Governments in which the University is located.

I am coming from Pondicherry where there is a Central University. The Central University of Pondicherry has not provided representation to the State Government. The Central University cannot work in isolation. It will have to use the resources available with the State Government, and the State Government representatives must be there because the educational policies of the State Government will have to be taken care of.

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

Therefore, I would recommend that in the Syndicate or in the Executive Council of this University, the Secretary (Education) of Uttar Pradesh must find a place, and in the Academic Council or in the Court, the Director of Collegiate Education must find a place, and only then it will give a balanced composition.

Now, the third important comment is with regard to the courses that are going to be offered in the University. In my humble opinion, the courses that are suggested in the Bill are traditional in nature, non-utilitarian in nature. You have the same Faculty of Arts, you have the same Faculty of Law, you have the same Faculty of Science, and what is very painful is that the Department of Science does not include even computer science. Computer science today is offered everywhere, but this Central University, as a University which is going to be graded into a Central University, does not provide a Department of Computer Science. There is no Department of Telecommunication Technology, there is no Department of Information Technology, and there is not even a Department of Public Administration. They have not at all been included in the faculty of arts. There cannot be more harm than leaving these important sciences. Today, we are going in terms of Nano Technology. When we want to catch up with the West, we will have to introduce all these innovative courses. I do not find any innovative course in this course content. It is because of our offering traditional courses that we have a large number of students, who are coming out of the portals of these Universities, remaining unemployable. I do not want the Central University of Allahabad to produce unemployables in the country.

There is one more point and it is a matter of suggestion to the Government that today the community colleges are becoming very important everywhere. Community colleges only can produce the required manpower consistent with the process of liberalisation, globalisation and privatisation in the country. Today, a large number of skill-oriented manpower is required, whereas our Universities are turning out people who are not trained or who have not been imparted training in various skills and arts. Therefore, Sir, as a constituent college of this University, the Government should provide for the establishment of a community college.

It should also provide for Centres of Excellence. It is very agonising to note that the Central University of Allahabad will not have a Centre of Excellence, and there is not even a provision for qualitative improvement in the education. Today, as you know, NAAC has become an important institution. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council has become a very important institution for ensuring greater quality in the education that we offer. This Bill is very silent about quality education.

Finally, a word about the Unions. The hon. Member, Shri Chandrappan, said that this Bill does not provide representation to the students who are elected by the people. I would say that one of the salient features of this Bill is that it provides for representation to students, which is not there in other Central Universities Acts, but what is important is that representation should be given to those students who secure highest marks. That is the highest tradition of academic excellence. That must be maintained and it should not be diluted. Let us not bring politics into the campuses of Central Universities. Let the Central Universities work for national reconstruction, work for human resource development and contribute to the highest progress of this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Ramadass, I know that you have ample issues to discuss. But the Business Advisory Committee decided for one hour.

I now call Dr. Thokchom Meinya. You must conclude within three minutes. That is the time allotted.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): Sir, I rise to support the Bill intended to declare the Universities of Allahabad as an institution of national importance.

The Allahabad University, as all of us know, was a Central University at the time of its inception. However, when the province of Uttar Pradesh was formed, this was made a provincial university, that is, a State University. Demand for conversion of the status of Allahadad University to that of a Central University has been there for a long time. I would like to commend the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development and the present Government for translating this into action by taking this step to convert this University into a Central University.

We have been always hearing about this University. The Faculty of Law of Allahabad University was a very prestigious faculty. Faculties of Physics. Mathematics, and Political Science are the three other faculties which the

University of Allahabad has always been very proud of. We can perhaps try and recollect the good that has been done by this University in the past. The Allahabad University has got a peculiar nature because it has got 11 constituent colleges.

The University is being made a Central University but it is not like the other Central Universities. In almost all the Central Universities, we have seen that the Visitor is His Excellency the President of India and it is the Visitor who has to appoint a Chancellor from amongst the eminent academicians. I happen to be a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development. We discussed this in the Committee. Hon. Member Shri Burman also mentioned that. We have been thinking very closely on this. In all the Central Universities, the position of the Governor of the State is not given. In this particular Bill we have introduced the position of the Governor in the form of Chief Rector in Clause 11. This is a very good thing because we wish that the Governor is given the position due to him in the affairs of a University in his State. In many of the Central Universities the position is very awkward. Since you have said that there is a time constraint, I shall not take much time.

During the last NDA Government also we tried to make this University a Central University. Like that, we had also tried to make the University of Manipur a Central University when I was the Minister of Education there. We proposed it but it was rejected. I am very happy that a Bill is introduced in the Rajya Sabha in that regard. I will be happier if that Bill is also passed in this Session.

With these words, I once again join my friends in supporting this Bill.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to thank the Hon. Minister. I will not go in details. I would like to thank him because our friends therein affiliated colleges since a long time and you have made these ten colleges part of this university. Alongwith that three institutions and medical colleges have also become a part of it. You deserve to be congratulated for that. The description of the Allahabad University knows no sounds. I would like to tell one reminiscene.

[English]

Prof. A.B. Lal was the Vice-Chancellor of Allahabad University. He was a member of some Committee appointed by the Central Government. Once he went to Bhubaneshwar. When he landed at Bhubaneswar, every Divisional Commissioner of Orissa was there to receive him. Not because he was a member of an authorised or powerful committee but because all of them were his students.

[Translation]

Allahabad University was such a great university that has produced administrators, great political leaders and many scholars in various disciplines,

[English]

not a single university in the entire country has produced such persons.

[Translation]

We are thankful to you that after such a long period today you have accorded the status of central university to the Allahabad University. Particularly those who have special attachment to Allahabad are more thankful to you. I remember Shri Shailendra made a mention of the manner in which this bill was presented in the House exactly before the elections. At that time I was in Rajya Sabha when we opposed the Bill, the then HRD Minister had angrily said that they won't let them enter in Allahabad.

[English]

But unfortunately he was defeated by Allahabad people. That is a different thing but I do not want to take much time. I just want to say that I have been a student of physics and the mention of Allahabad University which gave the country great officers and administrators will remain incomplete if we do not remember Professor Meghnath Shah, a great personality produced by Allahabad University. So, I stand here to pay my tributes to him and to express my thanks to you. Besides, I request that funds should be sanctioned for the repairs and paints etc. of the building and the hostel etc. as now it has become central university.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, it is the turn of the hon'ble Minister to reply.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Chairman, no one has so far spoken on behalf of RJD. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to express my thanks to the Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only one hour was allotted. The time is over. It is not possible to call everybody. The Business Advisory Committee has allotted only one hour for this business.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Sir, please extend the House for fifteen minutes more with the leave of House.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nobody has given notice. All Members who had given notice, have been called.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No Member's name is here. No Member has given notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, please extend the time by fifteen minutes by taking the House in confidence. What is nitch in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. Your leader, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, has already spoken. It is very difficult as only one hour was allotted. Hon. Minister has to reply. Arguing with me is of no use.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Chairman Sir, please give us opportunity to express thanks on behalf of at least RJD. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, what do you say? If the Minister agrees, I have no objection. Now, let him say.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If he is agreeable, I have the names of one or two Member's before me.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: I have no objection whatsoever, if some more hon. Members are given opportunity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. I have no objection, if the Minister is agreeable. Only two minutes to each hon. Member. They must stick to the time. Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my thanks to the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development as well as UPA Government also, who have taken a very important step for granting the status of Central University to the Allahabad University. Allahabad is a historical place and the Allahabad University has also a historic importance. Many great personalities have emerged from there, who after getting education there, guided the country and the world and since long, there has been a demand to make Allahabad University, a Central University. By taking this nice step today, the Government have not only obliged the teachers, students of Allahabad University and Public of Allahabad and Uttar Pradesh but also the greatest personalities joining in the different fields after passing out from this university. You have tried to realize the dreams of those persons. You have taken a very good and appropriate step. I would like to thank you for this. Sir, it is also a matter of great fortune that hon. Minister himself has been a student of this University. Hon. Minister, Sir, you are serving the nation after passing out from this university. The great personality like you are also enough even to serve as the Prime Minister of this country. Allahabad has been a birth place of Shri Moti Lal Nehruji, Late Shri Jawahar Lal Nehruji and a lot of innumerable important personalities and a number of other persons have also made very valuable contribution to society by tabling motivation from them. Therefore, I would like to specifically thank you.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my view in brief as I have been allotted very less time to speak. The land of Allahabad is the confluence of the Yamuna and Ganga rivers and the river Saraswati is also flowing here. It is a land of the river Saraswati. The hon. Minister has fulfilled the desires of the people of Allahabad. But the people of Patna, the capital of Bihar residing on the bank of river Ganga which has been the land of Guru Govind Singhji, historical city of Pataliputra, the great emperor like Chandragupta and Ashoka and so many other great personalities—have been demanding for years that Patna University may be accorded the status of Central University. The hon. Minister, Sir, I remember that you had also given assistance to the people of that area when annual function of B.N. College was being celebrated.

We, through this Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and the other farmers have been raising the voice of the people of that area. My submission to you is that the way you have gifted the people of Allahabad and Uttar Pradesh, I believe that while replying, you will also award a gift to Bihar, the land of Pataliputra by giving the status of Central University to Patna University. I request you and I think that all Members sitting in the House will realize that as it was necessary to provide status of Central University to Allahabad University. Similarly, you will fulfil the desire of nine crores people of Bihar. Patna University has been an important university and it is a land of Nalanda, where people across the world used to come for getting education. I believe that you will take appropriate steps respectively the sentiments of people of Bihar. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also request your goodself to cooperate us in this regard. I believe that in view of sentiments of the people of Bihar, the historical land of Pataliputra which is my Lok Sabha constituency also, you will certainly take a decision to give status of Central University to Patna University. The way people of Uttar Pradesh have contributed in the nation's building, similarly, the people of Bihar and Patna University have also significantly contributed in nation's building.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are discussing the Allahabad University Bill and not the Patna University Bill. Please conclude.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I am concluding.

[Translation]

Sir, I would like to submit that you will also gift to the historical land of Bihar, which have produced so many great persons and Patna University, which have produced a number of engineers, doctors and scientists. It is my humble request to you that you will also gift to Patna University alike the Allahabad University. It will be a great obligation to the people of Bihar if you accord Central University status to Patna University too.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support central university status to the Allahabad University presented by Hon. Shri Arjun Singhji. It was being demanded for many years that Central University status should be granted to this university. So many times this demand was also made several times during the NDA Government's regime but they paid no attention to the demand of people of this important city, situated near the confluence of the river Ganga-Yamuna. After taking over by the UPA Government, Shri Arjun Singhji presented the Bill in this regard which is really a admirable step.

It has been mentioned in this Bill that the doors of this university for education will always remain open for all belonging to any caste or category. The concept of secularism has been accepted in the Constitution of India, according to which the persons belonging to any caste or category will get right to admission and education in this university.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of Shri Arjun Singhji to the fact that there are so many universities in India where persons belonging to the SC and the ST category are not getting admission despite having reservation facility legally. Like this there is backlog for these categories in many universities. So there is necessity to fill it up. As far as State Level NET examination is concerned, a lot of people feel inconvenience due to that. You should pay attention to abolish it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: SCs and STs will be duly considered. There is no doubt about it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, I will not take much time. I fully support this bill on behalf of my party. It is

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

expected that this university will perform in a better way. The students of this university should also be imparted education on integrity and to end communalism also. Such type of education should be provided to the students here, so that good people pass out from here and strengthen the integrity of country.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Bilhaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Allahabad University Bill, 2005. At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Human Resource Development, Shri Arjun Singhji, as he has fulfilled the long standing demand of the people of Uttar Pradesh and that of Allahabad. The Allahabad University has not only got a national importance, but also an international one. This University has produced a number of scientists, philosophers, patriots, officers and leaders. The hon. Minister has given this university—located at the confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna-Saraswati—a status of a Central University. This is a matter of honour for Uttar Pradesh.

I want to submit to the hon. Minister this much only that education is the foremost requirement of today. Therefore, the facility of reservation given to the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and the backward classes in admission should be complied with and that should be enforced completely. Now-a-days, it is being seen that a number of institutions are not doing so. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that the very objective of the setting up of this University will be fulfilled only if the people of all religious would get proportional participation. As such, you should ensure this. I support this Bill on behalf of the Bahujan-Samaj Party.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, this bill in a way is a bill to bring these universities in their ancient form. It has been welcomed all around, which is a proof of the fact that the educated class and the academic people within India are having full knowledge of the past of this University. They know its wider implications and what assumptions we have for the future. There can be no doubt about it that a university is a symbol to define the political and educational nature of any part of a country and the society thereof. This University is one of those Universities in the country which has cast equal impact on social, political or any other area besides the educational area and as much as the country expected from it.

16.43 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

In this regard, the hon. Member want to ensure that all resources and opportunities should be given to this University in accordance with its honour to develop it as a Central University.

So far as the question of autonomy is concerned, the resolution adopted for education by the Government expresses commitment towards autonomy in the field of higher education comprehending its importance. There is no reason as to why this University should not get full assistance which is the primary requirement of any university. Some doubts have been raised by the hon. Members, but I would not call them doubts. In their opinion, there are certain matters about which there is no provisions in this bill to which we may call activities in the filed of extension. I would like to request the hon. Members to go through article 7(iv) of this Bill which is at page four.

[English]

The University has been vested with the powers "to organize and to undertake extension services" among other things.

[Translation]

That has also been provided in the Bill. It has also been stated that Motilal Nehru Engineering College has not been mentioned herein. I would like to inform the hon. Member that Motilal Nehru Engineering College has already been converted into a National Institute of Technology and that is a deemed university as well. A mention has been made about the recently set up IIT, Allahabad which is a Central Institute beforehand.

So far as the democratic nature of this University is concerned, I would like to tell you that the Allahabad University has secured its place in the Indian history. We should not assume about this University, which gave a new recognition and definition to the freedom movement of the country that it did not keep intact its image. The status granted to this University, has been after consultations with the teacher working under its colleges so that it can be ensured that their interests are safeguarded in the University.

So far as the question of making provision of newer academic courses in the academic arena is concerned, this right has been given in its various sections. The Court and the academic council is empowered to take periodic decisions with regard to the newer courses and get them introduced because as per the present state of affairs, the spread of knowledge is so fast that while making decisions we cannot make provisions assuming for a very longer period. These provisions will have to be made from time to time as per the needs and with an eye on the priorities of the country. There are provisions empowering the academic and other officers of that University and they will do the needful.

One thing has been emphatically told about the student's union. The student's Union and student politics has got its importance in its specific context. Incidentally, I too have been a part of the students politics. I think that the students should perform their democratic role in any university or college and they should get opportunity to work. But the anomalies that have crept in have caused some hesitation among the people. I do not want to give any final verdict here in this regard. I would like that the University should have the power to develop within itself all those areas deserving attention. No other authority should have any say on the rights or powers to be delegated to anyone under any circumstances or vice-versa. This is also an important part of autonomy. Tomorrow, if such need is felt, the University could make such a provision.

I think that all the great personalities of our country working in the field of education, have discharged their duties carried out responsibilities towards he country through this University and in view of the standards set in the field of education, politics and social programmes, they will create new norms in future also through this university. This University will be capable of meeting our aspirations. The amount of money allocated for the progress and development of this university is only a token merely and I do not think that there will be any hindrance in availability of resources by any government of the country at any point of time. The contribution of our Government and the Parliament will certainly be there in setting the standards of the university in whatever way they desire for the development of this university. We all hope that it will have a better future. With these words, I would like to request the house to pass this Bill.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to request the Hon. Minister to include the D.S. Mehta, Degree College of Science located in my parliamentary constituency, Bharwari also. Besides, Kulbhaskar Ashram, Degree College of Agriculture also should be associated with it. Then in my opinion, it will add to the glory of central universities.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the University will be capable of taking any decision in this regard and it is not possible to decide about them today. I would like to request the Hon. Member to be confident by deciding whether their desire is justified or not. The issue of the university will be considered upon and there will be no hindrance in whatever is required to be done.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what will happen to the Patna University of Bihar?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as Bihar is concerned, the Patna University is a very important university of the country. Whatever has been stated about its history is true. It is a fact that we have to take into account the resources in our disposal and we can do work one by one accordingly. We can not do all the work at a stretch. I would like to request the Hon. Member that it should not be construed that there is any sort of hindrance in according a university in Bihar or any other part of the country the central university status. It is not so and action on such items of issues will be taken on the basis of their priorities.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to declare the University of Allahabad to be an institution of national importance and to provide for its incorporation and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"The clause 2 to 46 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 46 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the hon. Minister may move that the Bill be passed.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I consider it a moment of pride for me that this bill seeking to give Allahabad University the status of Central University has been brought to be passed in the House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.56 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Increasing population in the country—*contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Item No. 22. The time allotted was two hours. 22 minutes had already been taken. The balance with us in 1 hour and 38 minutes. Shri Prabodh Panda was on his legs when the house was adjourned. He has already spoken for 22 minutes. So, I request him to continue his speech and try to conclude his speech very soon.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, so far the National Population Policy is concerned for the year 2000, it is incapable of meeting the inherent demographic requirements of the new economic policy, though, it is observed that the voluntary family planning programme over the last five decades could make some sort of positive achievements.

If I got to the survey, independent surveys have shown that several States have achieved goals set for some aspect of the RCH programme during the Ninth Plan. Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, West Bengal and Maharashtra have shown substantial decline in birth rates and the latter three States are likely to achieve replacement level of fertility, ahead of the projects. Punjab has achieved couple protection rate and use of spacing methods far ahead of all other States. Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have achieved significant reduction in home deliveries. Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab and Tamil Nadu have improved immunisation coverage. Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have achieved improvement in coverage and quality of ante-natal care.

If I come, specially, to the case of West Bengal, according to official statistics, it stands as the most populated State in India. Though its annual growth rate is 1.8 per cent, 908 persons are living in every square kilometre, which is about three times of the national average. It is interesting to point out that this is a State where CBR, that is, Crude Birth Rate has come down to some extent by implementing various basic programmes like health programmes, literacy programmes etc. The density of population is becoming alarming not due to CBR but due to purely trans-border influx. This has caused a spiralling population trend, especially, in the border districts with three countries Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan facing the problems.

17.00 hrs.

Now, I would like to refer some of the border districts. The population growth in Malda is 2.5 per cent; in Murshidabad, it is 2.4 per cent; in Nadiya, it is 2 per cent; in Uttar and Dakshin Dinajpur, it is 2.2 per cent to 2.9 per cent; in North and South 24 Parganas, it is 2.1 per cent to 2.3 per cent; and in Darjeeling, it is 2.4 per cent. These districts are facing the problem of infiltration. I must say that all over the country, the achievement is remarkable. To check the population growth, China has given the slogan of *'one Parent One Child'*. On the other hand, our country has given the slogan of *'Humn Do Hamare Do'*. I am not in favour of a particular slogan.

I believe that socio-economic development, social awareness, upgradation of living standards, health awareness and education—all these are important ingredients to meet the problem of population growth. The family planning and the fertility control are yet to be declared as obligatory, and it should be done in a persuasive manner.

Sir, we are very much familiar with the Malthusian Theory. The British economist Malthus expounded the theory that whether or not a country was over-populated would be judged by its supply of food. Now, our country is not suffering from food crisis. It has now stopped importing food despite its population having touched the mark of 1.8 billion. On the contrary, it exports foodgrains. So, it cannot be said that ours is an over-populated country. Modern economists have not accepted the Malthusian Theory. On the contrary, they relate the population growth to the national income growth rate. The problem is not the population explosion but it is uneven distribution of the income of wealth. It is imperative that special efforts should be made during the next decade to break the vicious self-perpetuating cycle of poor performance, poor per capita income, poverty, low literacy and high birth rate, especially in the populous States so that further widening of disparities between the classes and States in terms of per capita income and quality of life can be prevented. These measures are accepted all over to control the population growth and regulate fertility. A study has been conducted by the Experts Committee set up by the National Commission on Minorities. In its Report, it is found that overall, the ideas of fertility regulation and small family size are being well accepted even by the Muslim community in India as has been the case in major Islamic countries like Indonesia, Iran, Egypt, Bangladesh, Libya and Malaysia. The analysis revealed that as high as 37 per cent of Muslim women were practising family planning measures. The opposition to family planning measures was not because of religious reasons, but due to the method adopted.

17.05 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

But most of the women who are opposed to family planning measures are not favourably inclined towards sterilisation. So, this aspect has to be taken into consideration.

Sir, I do not want to take the time of the House. Lastly, I would like to quote Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. He said:

> "I do not consider the rising population trend of India as an impediment in the path of our nation-building. To me, a man is born with immense potential and capability and the task of our nation is to harness that potential for the steady growth of our country."

If we have to seriously address the problem of increasing population in our country, then we should try to implement this particular idea which had been propounded by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. I thank you for giving me time to initiate this discussion. The hon. minister is present here. I hope he will pay proper attention to not only the issue of fertility control, but to all other related issues also so that we can address this problem properly.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA (Karimganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me a chance to participate in this discussion. I share the concern of the hon. Member which he expressed while initiating this discussion.

Sir, the demographers all over the world are worried that we are going to cross the Chinese population within the next three decades. We are already the second populous country in the world and are having the burden of population because we are unable to provide them with jobs and we are unable to utilise their services. When we cross the Chinese population within three decades, one can imagine very well what could be the condition at home.

During the last decade, the population of our country has increased from 250 million to 1,000 million. During this period, the world population has trebled whereas our population increased by almost four times. So, more people are now being added than at any other time in the human history. This is due to the fact that before the starting of the development process, both death rate and birth rate were same, though both were high and that is why the population growth was stable. Now, the birth rate has been reduced and the death rate has also been reduced. But the death rate has reduced at a faster rate than the birth rate. Now, three births are equal to one death and that is why population is increasing. The reason for that is because there is more food production, public health and sanitary facilities are available, medical science has improved and medical facilities are available to all the people now. Moreover, there is awareness created among the people due to expansion of education.

[Shri Lalit Mohan Suklabaidya]

Sir, the rapid population growth in India is the main obstacle to our economic development under the present system of democracy. We find sometimes, the functionaries in public business think that it is everybody's business. That is why it is nobody's business. Otherwise, we could also welcome the population growth as the orthodox people believe that child is the gift of God; so, it is the God who has to feed him, or the child is born not only with one mouth but also with two hands to work. The thing is that we are not in a position to provide work for them because the natural resources, the forest resources, the mineral resources are diminishing at a very fast rate. Unemployment remains unsolvable at the present rate of growth.

Sir, the economic phenomenon is known very well by all and the unproductive labour force eat up the development potential of the country. So, if we do not restrict our population and if we keep on increasing it at a very fast rate, then that will be a burden on our economy. This will create only an unproductive, uneducated, labour force, which will benefit only the rich people who can get the labour at a cheaper rate and also some politicians who can try to preserve a vote bank out of it.

The population is a human resource and Indian population is treated as quality human resource all over the world. But who are those people? We have exported our resources. Those people are very good managers, engineers and those who could participate in the productive process. They are all exported. These are the human resources, which are appreciated all over the world. But unproductive labour force cannot be treated as a human resource. This is a burden on the state.

Moreover, the pressure on land has been increasing at a very fast rate. In 1960 the per capita availability of agricultural land available to us was 0.21 hectare and in 1999, it is found that it is only 0.10 hectare.

Another point is very dangerous. The water tables are depleting and at twice the rate at which it is replenished. So, if this is the rate, after 40 years, when we cross the Chinese population, what will be our condition? A poor army of unemployed cannot be expected to tolerate its miseries forever and these are the seeds of growth of insurgency and delinquency.

We have to arrest the rate of population growth at a viable rate so that we can control our population and then we can look after the poor. Otherwise, their discontentment could manifest itself in unexpected and unpleasant ways. If we do not control our population and if we allow it to grow at this rate, we will move towards mobocracy.

The family planning in our country was started in 1952. It continued with a slogan, as the mover has pointed out, of '*Hum Do Hamare Do*'. But it suffered a set back when the Emergency was declared and after that we had almost no family planning and even educative and persuasive measures have been abandoned and population is rapidly growing mainly among poor and Agrarian sector. Now, we find that in our country there is almost no family planning. Only after the Cairo Consensus, there was some provision but this could develop only maternity, mother's health, etc. which could not do much for restricting the population.

Another point is that the family planning policy of 2000 also has no definite target.

It has continued without any target. In 2002, our NDA Government also presented a family planning programme. That was also unrealistic. If we have to stabilise our population, we must have family planning policy. In 1961, when we were students, at that time, we had to answer one question as to whether India was over-populated. At that time our population was 44 million only. This debate on over-population has continued. Now, with one billion population mark, we are asking the same question as to whether India is over-populated. In the present-day context, it is a very significant question.

Though our population has increased, yet there has been faster economic development. Paradoxically, we find that our miseries are also increasing. So, for this reason, we do not get any unambiguous reply whether we are over-populated or not. Three hundred million people are living below the poverty line in our country. Their income is less than one dollar, and a huge majority of them are working as porters, rickshaw pullers and casual workers. Their daily income is Rs. 82 or Rs. 100. On the other hand, we have got plantation workers who are earning only Rs. 40 plus some fringe benefits per day. Even in the organised sector, we have casual workers who get Rs. 900 per month. These people are maintaining a family of average six members. That means, their per capita

income is not more than Rs. 10. So, for these people, poverty, hunger and pavement dwelling are the common features. Government plans were there for these people, and I must say that Government did not feed them with empty hand.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI LALIT MOHAN SUKLABAIDYA: Sir, I will take only two minutes more.

It is because, huge amount of budget provision is there. But, development is something which is to be felt and experienced and which cannot be statistically measured. All the people are not feeling, or they do not experience, development because the expenditure incurred on development bears no fruit. Everybody remembers that our hon. late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi did his best for the upliftment of the poor. He was sad that poverty alleviation schemes and infrastructural development schemes, on which our country is spending huge amount of public money, were not yielding results, for 84 paise in a rupee of such huge amounts were siphoned off before reaching the deserving beneficiaries. Our ex-Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee also felt this, but unfortunately could not do anything. So, the initiator of the debate rightly expressed his concern over the rapid increase of population in our country. There is still time. We can overcome all the difficulties which may be associated with the growth of population. If we can eradicate corruption from all levels of the society and deliver the benefits to the deserving persons for alleviating their poverty. If we can spend for development 84 paise net out of one rupee; we can achieve development; and we can create awareness among the people. That will definitely raise the standard of living and it will definitely put a stop on the rapid rate of growth of population which is to be backed by a targeted population policy with incentives.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara): Thank you, Mr. Chairman Sir. I take this opportunity to extend my thanks to Shri Prabodh Panda who has raised this important issue before this august House. We are discussing this important issue in this House with a nominal participation of the representatives of the people.

We have now completed 10 years after the International Conference on Population and Development held at Cairo to which India was a signatory. The said Conference held at Cairo had concluded that coercive population policies based on disincentives should not be adopted. The experience of Kerala is a good example where without these coercive measures, population control could be achieved.

In the year 2000, our Parliament had also unanimously accepted a National Population Policy which had eschewed all coercive methods. But it is after these years that the State Governments belonging to the NDA, BJP and the Congress adopted the most anti-poor and anti-women population policies based on disincentives.

There are cases of denial of ration cards, benefits of Government schemes and denial of jobs to those who have more than two children. For example the Tamil Nadu Agricultural Workers Act denies insurance benefits to the people, to the workers who are having more than two children. In Maharashtra also, there is such an Act denying ground water facilities to the people who are having more than two children. So, such coercive methods are adopted by various State Governments in the name of population control.

What is going on in the name of population control also has to be looked into. In some States, mass sterilisation camps are being held without considering how it affects the health of the women. over 90 per cent of all the sterilisation operations are conducted on women. These camps are conducted without proper and adequate medical facilities.

The State Governments have no concern for the falling sex ratios and the fact that a two-child norm would only increase sex selective abortions. In a male-dominated society, the preference for son is there. Every bad effect of all the policies is put on the poor women.

The modern technological inventions like the amniocentesis are being utilised for sex determination. On the previous day, our hon. Health Minister also has admitted that there is a considerable reduction in the female sex ratio in our country. Even in rural areas of the country, there are unlicensed centres for conducting pre-natal diagnosis test. Female foeticide has now become a common phenomenon leading to diminishing rate of female sex ratio.

A study commissioned by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and reported in the year 2003, had

[Shrimati P. Satheedevi]
admitted the negative consequences of the imposition of the two-child norm for Panchayats. The study covering Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan found that 75 per cent of those persons disqualified from contesting elections to the Panchayati Raj institutions were from the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and other Backward Class communities.

The study has also found that there is an increase in the number of pre-natal diagnosis test centres followed by selective abortions. It also found increasing incidents of desertion, divorce and cases of donation of children in adoption.

Women, especially from the marginalised groups, suffered the consequences of the policies, from the causes beyond their control.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: The total fertility rate has declined in the last six years in States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. Sir, the need for safe and healthy contraceptives remains unmet and is also an important issue that needs to be addressed. The liberalisation policy has led to the use of Indians as guinea pigs for clinical trials conducted by the pharmaceutical companies. This will have a far-reaching impact on the health of the women in our country.

Sir, all the population control and family planning measures are women oriented. In the name of contraceptives, some banned medicines are used in our country. After the Quinacrine, doctors are experimenting with erythromycin. The Drug Controller appears to have no role. Harmful contraceptives and drugs like RV-486 Net-en, Depo-Provera are all available in the Indian market in the name of choice. Sir, dangerously many Government hospitals are also encouraging women to use these drugs and contraceptives without considering the fact that whether it adversely affects their health. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: I am concluding, Sir.

Sir, the two child norm punishes the poor for their poverty. Typically, it is in the poor families, especially in the Scheduled Caste sand the Scheduled Tribes who have more children.

The mortality rate of children below 5 years among these communities is also much higher than the national average of 62. Sir, it is 119 for Scheduled Castes and 126 for Scheduled Tribes compared to 82 for others. The infant mortality rate is similarly higher at 83 for Scheduled Castes and 84 for Scheduled Tribes. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Aram Bagh): She is the only woman who is speaking on this issue, and she is speaking about the male domination. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Anil Basu, four Members from your party have to speak on the same subject. Therefore, please conclude.

[English]

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI: I am concluding, Sir. The Population Control Policies also directly assault a constitutional right of the citizen to stand for elections. Shockingly, the Supreme Court is a most objectionable judgement upheld the two-child norm debarring the candidates who have more than two children. This was based on the Haryana Government's decision.

Now, Sir, it is necessary to reiterate the spirit of the National Policy so far as eschewing coercive disincentives based on target given policy is concerned, Parliament has to ensure that we do not adopt anti-poor population policies that have marred the country's population policies during the emergency.

There should be safe and healthy contraceptives and the right to make one's own decisions about the size of one's family. Sir, with proper campaigns and promotional methods, the population can be controlled.

I urge upon the Minister to consider these factors while looking into the population control methods.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman Sir, it is half an hour time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak for a minute, after that I will take half an hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak, one minute is still left.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, constant increase in the population is a burning problem for the whole world. This growth is so rapid that it has reached its explosive state. If this trend of rise in population continues to be there, the available resources needed for life will be exhausted and the human being will become man eaters. In this regard, according to Professor Carsonders, the population is growing by 10 per cent every year.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will continue next time. Please take your seat.

17.29 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I am taking Item No. 23, Half-an-Hour Discussion—Shri Ravi Prakash Verma.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we will require your support also, since this is a very important issue of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. This is a programme intended to change the fate of India.

Please be kind to allot some more time on this issue if the situation demands. *...(Interruptions)*

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): Sir, the issue of education is related to population growth, which is very important. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sumanji is speaking on population. This discussion will go on, however, right now is the time for half-an-hour discussion.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Sir, the starred question No. 261 was asked in Lok Sabha on 21 March, 2005 in which taking into account the importance of education you have allowed the half-an-hour discussion for which I would like to express my gratitude. Sir, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan was started in the year 2001. Since then, it is being implemented half-heartedly. It is reflected from the very fact that its first meeting was called under the chairmanship of Hon. Prime Minister on 21 Feb. 2005 after a period of four years. We are not able to make cent per cent enrolment on the basis of the enrolment and drop out. Today there are 50% drop outs in case of boys and 58% in case of girls and concerns have been raised over it. The UPA Government in its common minimum programme has shown its commitment toward the children and education and tried to comply with them to some extent like trying to spend six per cent of the country's GDP on education, imposing two per cent education cess. This will make a lot of difference. For this, I would like to appreciate the Government also. However, in the absence of political will, the bureaucracy of India has dominated Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. I fail to understand as to what is the point in extending an important agenda like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan without any defined action plan.

A regular action plan should have been made for that. It is such a programme in which large scale participation of the elected representatives and the public should have been ensured, but this chance is lost due to lack of transparency in the work. Education was given the status of fundamental right by making an amendment to the constitution through the Parliament in the year 2002, but till date, the Government have not been able to introduce any Bill to ensure compulsory education for all. That day I was hearing the hon. minister. During discussion, he had told that they were not going to introduce it. I think it is a matter of concern. After all, what prompt the Government to prevent it from introducing this Bill. It is clear that the will power is getting weak somewhere. The age group of 0 to 14 years constitutes our 44 per cent population. When the constitution was adopted in the year 1950, everyone was given the equal status therein. Children also get equal status as citizens of the country and they too have been provided with equal rights. But today, the situation is such as the Union Government spend only 2.33 percent of their annual budget on this 44 per cent population. Is it justified? The

[Shri Ravi Prakash Verma]

Union Government had framed a children Policy in the year 1974. In that Policy, children were accorded the most important status as national resource. Is it the way to treat our national resource? Presently, as per the available official data, nearly three and half crore children are unable to go to school. More than double this figure have to discontinue their studies. More than two thirds of this figure consist of female children. I think the actual number must be more than this. This is the condition of one of the most important resources of our country. As per the present situation, the number of schools is not adequate as per the requirement. There is a shortage of lacs of teachers and teachers who are in service are such as their qualifications and efficiency are also at askance. It is not certain whether their skill will be upgraded or not. The situation has come to such a pass that the children study in schools for five years, yet they fail to acquire their basic education.

Sir, I would like to say that residential schools should be opened in rural areas under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. You may do so at panchayat level also. I would like to tell that drop out cases are mostly in girls or minority people, dalits, linguistic minorities. I request you to make more and more recruitments out of these communities. I feel that the women should be provided most of the opportunities because they are very sincere in this matter.

I would like to tell about primary education. We all know that family is a basic institute where a person learns manners and acquires *sanskar*. Women have that instinct. They should get the share. Besides, attention should be paid towards filling up the lacs of vacancies of teachers so that the weaker sections continue to get reservation and they get plenty of opportunities.

It is embarrassing that we have not been able to provide basic infrastructure in our rural areas also. In this significant drive, the misuse of resources is being noticed. I was listening to the speech of the hon. Member of Parliament. He was telling that branded T.Vs (like Sony) have been placed in villages where there is no electricity and which lack basic infrastructure. This shows how the money is being recklessly spent. There is a need to seriously see to it as to whether the utilisation of money is proving fruitful or not. I think this programme needs to be implemented with the required sensitivity with utmost participation and transparency therein.

You have levied education cess. You deserve compliments for this. I have told you about this in my budget speech also. You had allocated nearly 5010 crore rupees in 2004-05 and have made a provision of Rs. 11,219 crore in the budget estimate for the year 2005-06. You deserve congratulation for that. But the greatest problem is that the Budget is released under the time-bound release mechanism adopted by the Government. The Budget should be made free from the shackles of this mechanism. The whole budget should be released in a lumpsum manner so that it could be utilised properly.

You should utilise the education cess imposed by the Govt. That cess is an additional fund you have received. You should continue to increase further the funds covered under your plan which you were getting conventionally. You need a lot of funds. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: The Tapas Mazoomdar Committee had recommended Rs. one lac 46 thousand crore. You have decided to provide school education to all the children upto 2010 and bring about gender parity in the country. Every child is to be made self-dependent. For this purpose, a lot of resources are required. The root cause of all the problems we discuss everyday, is illiteracy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Tapas Mazoomdar Committee had recommended Rs. one lac 46 thousand crore. You have decided to provide primary education to all children and bring about gender parity upto 2010. Every child is to be made self-dependent. It requires a lot of resources. We hold discussions on problems like increasing population and unemployment. Illiteracy is the rootcause of these problems. I think it is the biggest curse for India which we are carrying for long and have not been able to remove it. I hope we will achieve these goals under your leadership and would be able to achieve the most veluable goal of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

A very important question pertaining to child labour has not been addressed. The most important reason

behind the cases of drop-outs or those of avoiding to go to schools is the child labour. As per records, there are 12.6 millions i.e. nearly one crore twenty five lacs child labourers in India at present. The actual figures may perhaps be more than this. Sometimes, children are engaged irregularly or working without being paid. There is a need to pay attention towards it. If we address the issue of child labour attaching it to the entire Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, then only it would make a difference. Gender disparity is a very big reason. Even today, you see that the number of girl children getting enrolled is slightly more than half the number of boy children. It is a matter of concern. The number of girl children getting dropped out is two-thirds. I think that the issue of gender disparity is very big. In the Dakar Framework, in which India is a signatory, we have committed that we would complete it.

I would once again like to say that the enrolment of girls is going to exert its influence on the society, economy as well as politics a long way. So, it should be dealt with great sensitivity.

I had already said that the enrolment of girls is a big issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please come to your original question.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Regarding gender disparity, I would like to urge upon the Government that women should be taken care of atleast to some extent during future appointments of the teachers. I think those sections of the society whose wards are not availing schooling or leaving schools, should be taken care of in this programme. A very exemplary job has been done in Uttar Pradesh. The Government of Uttar Pradesh have made a provision of granting Rs. 20 thousand to those intermediate pass girls who belong to poor sections of the society. I myself have met those girls. It is for the first time that innocent girls belonging to the poor, backward and scheduled caste categories have got such an attractive and great incentive. I myself have met those girls. I observed that they are encouraged by it.

Besides, the future generation is mentally preparing itself to move forward in order to avail this incentive. This is an imitable example which we could take forward.

The fact is that the poor, helpless and destitute classes of our Hindustan have got an opportunity through education, to change their circumstances and they have showed their calibre to change it. This depends on us and on this Parliament that how we provide them the maximum opportunities. It depends on our ability to raise a complete network to motivate them to take them along with us. I hope that our Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is not only a campaign for universal literacy, but it is a campaign to change the fate of the country. It is a campaign to give India its second independence. I want to congratulate you for the good initiative you have taken.

Along with it, quality education is also a very big issue. Quality education does not mean merely condoning the fees of the students. They should get proper and useful education which may come in good stead in their lives. They should get quality education which could make them a good citizen and who could be readied for a meaningful role in the democratic system. This is our greatest misfortune that during the 55-56 years of our democracy, we could not become democratic till date from the core of our heart. We are carrying somewhere the obsolete feudal heritage. It seems to me that there have been shortcomings within our system. The scheme of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan will help us remove this mentality and to generate a right type of democracy which is bore out of our heart.

I want to urge upon you that when we are taking up education for all programme, it should be made a quality education for all programme. In this programme, efforts should be made to this effect that every child, be it girl or boy, should get quality education, a purpose to his life and a mentality to take himself or herself forward. I have read the programme of basic education of Gandhijee. It appears to me that keeping in view the rural circumstances of our Hindustan, we should reconsider that programme to determine how to link the basic education programme of Gandhiji with the primary education. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vermaji, now conclude your speech.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue is very important.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have been making a speech for 14-15 minutes. Other Hon'ble Members are yet to participate in this debate.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want your protection. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are certain rules in this regard. This is a half-an-hour discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding. A very big issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vermajee, do not diminish the importance of the topic. You have excellently put forth your points here.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: A major issue which I came across in your National Common Minimum Programme. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you continue your speech, it will diminish the importance of the topic.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: When we are advocating for an amendment in the Constitution, we had submitted a proposal that an education commission be set up at the national level to ensure quality and utility of education. The UPA Govt. and Hon. Sonia Gandhiji have included this in their Common Programme which we appreciate too much. We want that in the manner of the Human Rights Commission which is functioning independently, an education commission may be set up at the national level which could provide quality education across the whole country independently and could guarantee useful education envisaging education for personality development.

I would like to submit to you the most important point which has been reiterated earlier as well. Our Panchayati Raj institutions, the peoples' representatives should be incorporated therein. This is not the programme of any Govt. rather it is a programme meant for changing the destiny of Hindustan. It needs to be turned into a peoples' movement. For this purpose, I want to appeal my colleagues that they personally take the programme for primary education and that of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to their respective areas and constituencies. Now, you also get resources through the Parliament. If you spend money on them, I think it would be easier for you to achieve that target. I am pleased to inform you that I have worked having education on my agenda. I am pleased to inform that the people of my area have fully cooperated me in this regard. We are moving ahead in a big way. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vermaji, this is a very important topic. There are other Hon. Members yet to speak on this matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: I want to say this much that time is extremely valuable. The system of globalisation is being brought in force. The whole economy is going to be market driven and if we fail to convert every person in Hindustan into a human resource and fail to improve his productivity, then time would never condone us. Through this discussion, I want to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to look into the shortcomings left in our programme. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Other Hon. Members of the House have also to participate in such an important topic that has been raised by you. This will further enhance the importance of the topic.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Sir, I would conclude my speech with these two words. I have indicated towards the shortcomings that have been left in this programme and I have not only hope but full faith that the Hon. Minister would turn this very important programme into a peoples' movement.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kishanbhai V. Patel. You can put only questions or only one question. You may put a clarification either.

[Translation]

SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL (Bulsar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is lack of basic amenities in most of the schools under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. The main reason is lack of co-ordination at the district and Taluka level. The elected Members may be got included in the Committee meant for ensuring basic amenities and this managing

committee be got constituted by the Government. I want to know as to what the Govt. wants to do in this regard.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kharventhan. You put only question.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, for monitoring Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, SSA, certain institutes in all the States throughout the country were recognised and announced. In Tamil Nadu, we are having very important, valuable and age-old universities. In Tamil Nadu, Department of Education, Alagappa University is one such institute and IIM, Bangalore is included for monitoring. I would request that in all the States, universities available in the State should be recognised as monitoring agencies. In Tamil Nadu also, there are another universities. One such Tamil Nadu University which must be recognised for monitoring SSA in Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Minister is present in the House and I would like to make it clear that the goal of making people literate will not be achieved just by enabling people in writing their names but it has been mentioned in our Constitution that imparting primary education should be made essential. In this context, I would like to refer to the speech of our hon'ble Shri Ravi Prakash Verma ji in which he has said that Kanya Vidya Dhan Yojna is getting very good response from the public and because of the incentive of Rs. 20,000 being offered, the girls are trying to get educated upto B.A. and M.A. level. Recently, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has demanded a grant of Rs. 2195 crore, for primary education mid-day meal and scholarship. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister who is present in the House to release that amount immediately as the Government of Uttar Pradesh is making an expense of Rs. 500 crore per year. It has been mentioned that the Central Government would make available an amount of Rs. 1200 crore for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. I would like that the said amount be released immediately. According to the recommendation of Mazumdar Committee, the Central Government would bear all the additional monetary burden incurred on imparting free and compulsory education. So, I request the hon'ble Minister to pay special attention to this issue and get the said amount released immediately.

[English]

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati): Sir, our target year is 2010. We are giving some incentives to the poor people and more particularly mid-day meal. Eleven crore poor children are getting mid-day meal in primary schools. The food we are giving is 100 grams of rice or wheat. This is not sufficient for these poor children. At least 150 grams of rice or wheat should be given to them instead of 100 grams of rice or wheat. That goes to say that it comes to 4.5 kilograms of rice or wheat per child from three kilograms of rice or wheat per child. Is there any plan before the Government to increase the quantity of mid-day meal provide to these poor children?

The second thing is about uniform and free books tot he school children. We have got allocation of more than Rs. 5,000 for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Is there any proposal before the Government to help these poor children?

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Requests for granting time have been received from two or three hon. members, but their names have not been mentioned. So, I would grant permission only for clarification.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, my name is there. There were six Members who participated in the ballot.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I would not allow it. Why are you mentioning it now? You should have given your name earlier.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Sir, my name is there. We have also participated in the ballot.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name is in the ballet but not in the priority list. You should have given prior notice. Even then, Shri Sunil Khan is given time to speak as a

[Mr. Chairman]

case of special permission by relaxing the rules because the subject is very important. Please ask only a specific question.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Sir, I am not asking a question, I want to say something on this subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I cannot grant permission for that. We must follow the Rules of Business of the House. You may ask a question if you want to ask one, otherwise, I shall withdraw that permission and the same time will be given to another hon'ble Member.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a welcome step, but there are some lacunae in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sunil Khan, you can only ask a specific question on this issue.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) is a welcome step, but there are some lacunae in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please come to the point.

[English]

Please do not go into the background of the issue. I would only allow you to ask a specific question.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: If the lacunae are not removed, then the SSA would not be fulfilled by the year 2010. So, I would like to point out the lacunae in it. The students, who are of the age of five, would go to the schools, but if their parents are not going to the Continuing Education centres or the Literacy centres, which have already been stopped by the Literacy Mission, then the objective of the SSA would not be fulfilled. If the root of illiteracy is not removed, then the literacy movement will not be successful.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Basudeb Barman. Please conclude because I have already called the name of the next speaker.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: I would like to mention that the para teachers are engaged for an amount of Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 2,0000. In the same institute, other teachers are getting more. Therefore, I would like to state that if the SSA is to be fulfilled, then the teachers should get the same amount. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the question being asked by Prof. Basudeb Barman.

*...(Interruptions)**

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN (Mathurapur): Sir, thank you very much for permitting me to put a question. In the year 1998, the Central Government set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Professor Tapas Majumdar to estimate the possible expenditure to be incurred to universalise education up to the age of 14 years. The total estimated amount was Rs. 1,36,922 crore. This amount was suggested for a period of 10 years, that is, from 1998-1999 to 2007-2008, but definitely it will go now till the year 2010.

My question is whether the Government is contemplating or has contemplated any step for this amount of investment for universalization of primary and secondary education.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, the hon. Ministers is very much aware that the ICDS workers are involved in the SSA, and they are lakhs in number. They are engaged in the SSA, but they are not getting regularised. On the other hand, the ICDS officers and supervisors have been regularised. Lakhs and lakhs of ICDs workers are taking the responsibility of taking care of the children. Nearly 12 million ICDS workers are working for the children under the SSA, but they are not getting the minimum wages. Are the Union Government or the State Governments contemplating to bring out any programme to ensure that they get at least the minimum wages?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is a very important programme being run in the entire country to impart education to the children. But, there are still many States in the country where the population is very large but the level of education is too low. These five States are Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan which are collectively called as BIMARU States also. Do the

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*Not recorded.

Government propose to formulate any special scheme to increase the level of education and literacy? Dr. Chinta Mohan has just said that the Government of India provides for lunch for the children in entire country to encourage them. Crores of rupees are spent on this scheme. I would like to inform the hon'ble Minister that children spend upto two hours in taking lunch and the teachers also leave their schools when the children leave school after lunch. So, their study hour gets curtailed. So, this amount is not being spent properly. I would like to know whether the Government propose to make any change in this scheme so that the children go to school in time and use their school time in studies?

SHRI RAJARAM PAL (Bilhaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have also given a notice, so please allow me also to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, it is not so. You have not made any request. As a special case, I am allowing those hon'ble Members to speak whose names were not chosen through ballot.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir:

"Arjun Singh ji kas Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Isse Bharat desh kee badh jayegi shaan. Arjun Singh jee agar jyada denge dhyan, To har chhatra banega iskaa fain. NDA walon kaa nehin badehega gyan".

MR. CHAIRMAN: Just ask questions. This is Half-an-hour-discussion.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been launched by the UPA Government. It is a noble programme launched by the hon'ble Minister. It is the constitutional obligation of the Government to provide education to every child. So, there would not be privatization of education. It is being observed that taking capitation fee is the normal practice for admission to medical and engineering colleges. It is not a proper practice. The government should take some decision in this regard and frame such a policy that capitation fee and donations are banned. The hon'ble Minister should clarify it in his answer as to what stand is being taken by the Government in this regard. There should be a provision of a Central School for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in every Parliamentary Constituency on the pattern of other Central schools. Are the Government formulating any scheme in this regard?

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Sir, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is an important initiative being taken by the Government to provide basic education to all children. I would like to give some suggestions in this regard. Many schools are being run for child labourers under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ask questions only.

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Eighty to ninety per cent of the money provided for mid-day meal in schools and for adult education is being misused. The Central Government should expedite the Central grant to the most populous State; i.e. Uttar Pradesh meant for the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and Backward castes. There are 1565 schools in Uttar Pradesh which have no roofs. So, the Government should make provision for roofs in those schools.

18.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time of the House is over, so, if the House so desires, the time may be extended till the discussion on this item is completed.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS: It is all right.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ravichandran.

[English]

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI (Sivakasi): Sir, in Tamil Nadu, the name boards of SSA schools are written in Hindi. It is not easy for the public to read those name boards. I would request the Government to put up the name boards in Tamil translated version.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Sir, the Compulsory Education Bill has been enacted in this House for universalisation of education. However, one major lacuna was there in that Bill. The responsibility of zero to five years has been left out. Is the Government thinking of incorporating this segment of zero to five years for imparting compulsory pre-school education?

[Translation]

SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM (Jamnagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know whether the government want to do something for the bright future of

[Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai Madam]

the children, whose widow mothers manage somehow to finance their studies by working as housemaids, so that even those children are in a position to brighten their future and get jobs.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the importance of this issue for the future of our country can be gauged from the fact that almost all the hon'ble Members from every political party have expressed their concern on this issue. From this discusssion, I assume that the expression of their concern is proof of the fact that they want to extend their helping hand in making this scheme successful. They are not saying all this just to criticize it. There are some schemes like Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan which can not go declare as successful just on the basis of data unless there is an element of determination in it. It will not be complete merely by the fact that the Government employees alone have that element of determination. It is their duty and they are paid for it. The success of these programmes is doubtful unless that determination is widely reflected at social level. Monitoring is one aspect of it but it is not proper to deploy 5 persons to monitor the work done by 10 persons. The importance of monitoring is at rural level with the participation of officials from Gram Panchayat and people's representatives who have got the inclination of monitoring the weaker section of the society.

When you associate such people to this, you would certainly find bottlenecks and the way out to remove them. Neither I want to boast, nor I want to say that whatever should have been done has been done. The basic question is that there should be a will power to involve in it on a large scale and that should be in administrators, public representatives as well as in general public too. Such drives will be successful to that extent only when we, ourselves are interested in and associated to it. I give utmost importance to the suggestions given recently to make it a success and to simplify it. Presently, I may not be able to reply the respective questions along with dates, as desired by the hon. Members. But I would like to request that in your view, this drive is the most important and fully attached to the public interest.

As desired, the hon. public representatives should spare time to involve themselves in this drive to guide and discharge their responsibility. I made efforts and would also continue to do so further so that instead of mere an official campaign, it could become a mass movement. There was same objective behind the Mission Mode when a mention about it was made by Shri Rajiv ji. And we are experiencing the concrete outcomes thereof in the form of whatever was done under the Mission Mode. I would just like to say that there should be definite and clear criteria to spend the funds thus collected. Whatever be the outcomes thereof, efforts should sincerely be made to evaluate them, since we can't launch such a campaign by cheating ourselves or others. Whatever are the bottlenecks, are very clear. We all know the depth of the roots of prevailing corruption. Therefore, it would be wrong to say that this campaign has at all not been successful and there is no hope in it. But it would be more wrong to say that it has been cent per cent successful. We have made an evaluation in-between these two things. If the public representatives as well as the panchayats have full responsibility and participation therein, Committees constituted, I think that we will be successful to some extent in that and our imagination would come true. We have to take specific steps keeping in view the datas on girls child education. It is almost determined as to what are the things which could accelerate this? I would like to advocate the distribution of free text books to the girl students up to class eighth. There should be separate toilets for girl students in the schools and at least 50 per cent female teachers in schools.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: They should be more than it.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: We can think of increasing it even more than it, but keeping in view the present day's practicability, I think, it would be sufficient to achieve at least the desired percentage of 50. Special campuses should be constructed for educational purposes. As regards the setting up of Kasturba Gandhi girls schools. *...(Interruptions)* They should not be confined to block level only, rather these should also be set up at lower level. If these schools are not there at every Panchayat level, at least in backward areas these should be available. All these things will require resources. Presently, people think that their entire money is going in cess which is levied @2 per cent only. The data already supplied to you could neither be forgotten nor concealed. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly provide funds to Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the phrase of providing funds is very good, but there is limit to provide the funds. We very well know the present condition of the States. I welcome the initiatives taken by those States which are endeavouring and are able to do something in this regard in the circumstances prevailing there. Some extra decisions may have to be taken by holding group discussion on such issues. And the efforts to take such decisions have to be made by rising above the politics.

Now, the question is as to how the shortage of inputs in schools should be removed. Increase in enrollment and decrease in the number of drop outs has been registered. It has to be accepted as per the data. But the proportion of increase and decrease likely to be registered therein is not adequate. There has been an increase in the enrolment of girls as compared to the boys'. This has gone from 39 to 88 per cent at primary level and 18 to 78 per cent at upper primary level. These data are for the period from 1950-51 to 2002-03. The rate of drop outs in the case of girls has come down. It was 70.9 per cent in the year 1960-61 and has come down to 33 per cent in the year 2002-03 and the gender gap has eliminated. It is positive sign. And if there is little slackness in our efforts in these fields, then these datas would again reach the same level. One of the Member of Parliament has just said that public education is a drive. And I am very happy that the Members of Parliament give importance to it also. Mere big schemes can not contribute to developments of any Parliamentary Constituency. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had included this point in my agenda and I appeal to all of you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: So, I convey my thanks to you all. This is to be done by all of us. A single person would not be able to do so. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I associate myself to this.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: It's a matter of realisation. What is the level of our realisation. I think that 'Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan' is certainly a good concept but its success depends on public opinion and that too should be at least at the level of representatives. The elaborate discussions which are going on these days also nourish the belief that only the bureaucracy is not responsible to take up this issue. We too should participate in this. More we contribute to this direction, more would be the benefit to all of us. I would just like to assure the hon. Members that we should nourish this feeling to the level where we fully endeavour to utilize our capacity. As the datas in the form of our endeavours for this year would come before us, you would be convicted to find that we have left no stone unturned in our endeavours. We can't talk of success beforehand. I understand the clear expression of the issue by the hon. Members and the well-known targets too. I am to say that we have to find the further way out amidst your thoughts and concerns. Only then we will succeed. I would like to assure the hon. Members only this much.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: The situation in Bihar is like that of a sick person.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: But why do you call Bihar, a sick State?

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: It is a fact. There is a poverty and misery in Bihar. It is a backward State. The literacy rate is very less there. 35 per cent population of Bihar is such. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point, why are you going in its details?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: The state of being sick should be felt. But sickness in no distinction. It needs to be kept in mind.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned about the Compulsory Education Bill and the National Education Commission. He has made a mention of it in the NCMP. It is very important. I would like to request the hon. Minister to materialise the same at the earliest so that we all could get strength.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. The hon. Minister has given the reply.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: But what about the Para Teachers? Para teachers are those teachers who are engaged under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. You have already finished your speech.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: They are working as teachers. The other teachers are benefited more than the younger teachers. If the demands of those who work as Para Teachers are not fulfilled, they will not do their work properly. So, the objectives of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan will not be fulfilled.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister has already replied in details to the points raised by the hon. Members.

[English]

The House stands adjourned to meet at 11 a.m. on 12th May.

18.18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, May 12, 2005/Vaisakha 22, 1927 (Saka)

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