

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, February 17, 2006/Magha 28, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have given notice to suspend the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, may I have your cooperation? Would you please hear the Speaker for a minute?

11.01 hrs.

REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

Re: Felicitations to Indian Cricket Team

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am sure all of you will join me in conveying our heartiest congratulations to the skipper and the members of the Indian Cricket Team for their glorious performance. We wish them further successes which will inspire other athletes and sports-persons in our country to strive for greater achievements which will bring glory to our country.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): I have given notice to suspend the Question Hour. A conspiracy is being hatched to disintegrate the country by counting the heads of Muslims in the three wings of the forces. It is most unfortunate for the country. All the three chiefs of the Navy, Airforce and the Army have raised their voice against it. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have given notice to suspend the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything. Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, may I earnestly request you to take your seat. I am making a request to you. Please listen to me for a minute. I will allow you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you an opportunity after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Let the Prime Minister withdraw it. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have already said that I would give you an opportunity after the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the thing which was never done by either Nehruji or Rajiv ji is being done by this Government under the leadership of Sonia ji. The Government under the leadership of Soniaji is holding a counting of Muslims. *...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mukherjee, I do not know if they will hear you. You can say if you want. Hon. Members, the Leader of the House wants to say something.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is a matter of great sorrow.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, I will make a Statement.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, I will allow you to raise that. Please sit down now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Immediately after the Question Hour, I will allow you to raise that.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Let the Question Hour be suspended. Let them clarify the position.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

Let us begin this first, thereafter we will listen to them. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: If the hon. Members resume their seats, I will make a Statement. If they want a Statement right now, I can make it. If the Statement is to be made on Monday, I will make the Statement accordingly. I will clarify the position. There is nothing to be agitated on it. Why are they unnecessarily agitated about it? ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is making a Statement. Please hear the statement.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have given a notice. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. Do not record anything.

...(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

11.06 hrs.

[At this stage, Shri Srichand Kriplani and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.]

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The whole country is seeing us. I do not know what benefit you are getting. I will allow you all matters to be raised. Even then you are not prepared.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, go on.

...(Interruptions)

11.07 hrs.

[At this stage, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.]

...(Interruptions)

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur): Sir, we have given an Adjournment Motion on Assam issue.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you shouting? Why are you doing now? Nothing can be done.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Why have you come here?

...(Interruptions)

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: We have given notice, Sir. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: How can I allow you?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. It is a shameful behaviour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is a shameful behaviour. If you do like this, you should be ashamed of yourself.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL (Dibrugarh): The killing of innocent villagers by the Indian Army in Assam should be discussed. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: How can you say anything here? When can you say?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: This is a very serious issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are shouting. This is not the way to behave.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Very well! Carry on, if you like.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is going on? Please sit down. Please go to your seats. I will allow you to raise it. Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that I will allow you to raise it. How can you raise it now?

How can you raise it now? Go to your seat, I will allow you.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: How disrupting the proceedings would help you?

...(Interruptions)

11.11 hrs.

[At this stage, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.]

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have told your leaders that this is an important matter and so I will allow them to raise it. At 12 o'clock I will call the Leader of the Opposition to mention it. Maybe you are not keen to see that the House run. You have come ready to disturb the House. Very well. Go on. I will not adjourn the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Leader of the House wants to make a Statement. Listen to him. He has said he wants to make a Statement. Listen to him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Defence Minister wants to make a Statement on this issue. Don't you want to hear him?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Ramdas Athawale, please go to your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting you all again and again. I will allow the matter to be raised after 45 minutes.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you talking? You raise this issue in the House. I will give you a chance to raise it in the House. I have committed it to your leader. You can raise this issue at 12 o'clock in the noon. I have

*Not recorded.

consented to it. I have asked the Leader of the Opposition to raise this issue at 12 o'clock. If I refuse then you can tell me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister wants to make a statement. Listen to him.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let the Government withdraw the Draconian Law and we will go back to our seats. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not in my hands.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I have given notice to suspend the Question Hour. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You come and sit here.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Any hon. Member can come here, sit here and run the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let the entire country see!

[Translation]

If you continue to behave like this in the House then what will I do? When I have agreed to call the Leader of the Opposition at 12 o'clock and allow him to raise this issue, even then you do not listen to me, then what can I do?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO (Jamshedpur): Mr. Speaker, just see what the Government of Orissa has done to the tribals there? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not do that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this going on?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not do this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not do all this. Leave it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to all the hon. Members to go to your seats please. It is now 11.20 a.m., at 12 o'clock, I will allow your leader to make a statement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 11.30 a.m.

11.22 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past Eleven of the Clock.

11.31 hrs.

The Lok Sabha reassembled at Thirty One Minutes past Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, we had asked to Suspend the Question Hour. You want the Question Hour to go on, but our demand is that the Government must withdraw it after the submission by our leader at 12 o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. I will give you a chance to speak at 12 o'clock.

[English]

Thank you very much for your kind cooperation.

Now, we will take up Question No. 1.

Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil—not present.

Shri Sunil Kumar Mahato—not present.

Question No. 2—Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh—not present.

Shri Sugrib Singh—not present.

Question No. 3—Shri Hiten Barman—not present.

Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai Madam.

Drinking Water Supply to Rural areas

*3. ⁺SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rural habitations which have been covered, partially covered and not covered with drinking water supply facilities under various programmes during each of the last three years and current year in each district of the country, State-wise and Union Territory-wise; and

(b) the future plan of the Government during the Tenth Plan period for achieving full coverage of rural habitations with drinking water supply facilities in the country?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The status of coverage during the last three years and the current year, State/Union Territory-wise, under various programmes for rural drinking water supply is enclosed as Annexure. District-wise data is not maintained at the Central level.

(b) Rural drinking water is one of the components of Bharat Nirman, which has been conceived as a plan to build rural infrastructure in a 4 year period—2005-06 to 2008-09, which covers the last two years of the Tenth Plan. The plan of the Government under Bharat Nirman for rural drinking water supply is to fully cover 55,067 uncovered habitations. In addition, all habitations which have slipped back from full coverage to partial coverage due to failure of source and habitations which have water quality problems will also be covered. For this purpose, the Central budget for rural water supply schemes has been increased from Rs. 2900 crores in 2004-05 to Rs. 4050 crores in 2005-06. Also, a decision has been taken to strengthen the Sub-Mission for water quality and allocate upto 20% of the funds of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) for focused funding for water quality problems during the remaining period of the Tenth Plan.

Annexure

Sl.No.	State/UT	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05			2005-06 (till 31.12.2005)							
											Uncovered habitations			Slipped back habitations			Quality affected habitations	Total
		NC	PC	Total	NC	PC	Total	NC	PC	Total	NC	PC	Total	NC	PC	Total		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	3224	3224	0	12067	12067	0	4129	4129				18	675	693	159	852
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	28	86	114	48	121	169	92	162	254	22	20	42	0	0	0	0	42
3.	Assam	160	3631	3791	71	4463	4534	67	4488	4555	50	1670	1720	0	0	0	0	1720
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	5	15				71	50	121	3	124
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	2678	1119	3797				1893	1746	3639	1	5640
6.	Goa	4	10	14	0	8	8	3	22	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
7.	Gujarat	67	564	631	28	1155	1183	56	874	930		4	4	7	321	328	249	581
8.	Haryana	0	48	48	0	0	0	0	473	473					123	123	0	123
9.	Himachal Pradesh	500	1375	1875	574	1077	1651	0	1770	1770		940	940	0	0	0		940
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	724	707	1431	208	95	303	117	223	340	61	173	234	0	0	0	0	234
11.	Jharkhand	200	28	228	105	21	126	578	1572	2150				220	309	529	0	529
12.	Karnataka	1	6136	6137	0	6002	6002	0	6030	6030		1265	1265	31	1077	1108	878	3251
13.	Kerala	555	20	575	228	220	448	0	1083	1083		1146	1146	0	0	0	0	1146
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	5287	5385	10672				3168	6624	9792	45	9837
15.	Maharashtra	157	1285	1442	133	2147	2280	95	2150	2245	20	440	460	0	0	0	127	587
16.	Manipur	15	100	115	0	100	100	17	53	70				20	24	44	0	44
17.	Meghalaya	159	216	375	171	198	369	211	180	391	0	5	5	45	3	48	0	53
18.	Mizoram	0	180	180	0	164	164	12	162	174		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	277	29	306	31	70	101	7	39	46	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	0	0	0	0	0	0	5528	0	5528				3222	1372	4594	256	4850
21.	Punjab	321	389	710	262	484	746	306	320	626	288	231	519	117	105	222	22	763
22.	Rajasthan	1156	8434	10590	1986	0	1986	674	10559	11233	207		207	0	8821	8821	96	9124
23.	Sikkim	0	130	130	0	120	120	0	120	120		22	22	0	0	0	0	22
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0	3013	3507	6520				1867	1353	3220	270	3490
25.	Tripura	0	332	332	0	0	0	0	247	247				0	52	52	0	52
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	92	0	92				1152	1694	2846	48	2894
27.	Uttaranchal	56	351	407	18	256	274	194	199	393	4	28	32	117	193	310		342
28.	West Bengal	0	6539	6539	0	6752	6752	2693	2906	5599				180	2078	2258	26	2284
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	10	10	0	9	9	0	0	0								
30.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	8	5	13	11	202	213	1	58	59	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
31.	Daman & Diu																	
32.	Delhi																	
33.	Lakshadweep	0	10	10	0	10	10	0	2	2		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Pondicherry	0	23	23	40	81	121	0	71	71		14	14	0	7	7	0	21
35.	Chandigarh																	
Total		4388	34862	39250	3914	35822	39736	21731	47908	68639	653	5958	6611	12128	26627	38755	2180	47546

NC: Not Covered

PC: Partially Covered

FC: Fully Covered

SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister has given the status of rural drinking water supply here, however pure drinking water is not available in most of the villages today. People are compelled to consume impure water. This spread diseases and infections. What steps are likely to be taken by the Union Government to make pure drinking water available to the people?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member rightly said that the consumption of impure drinking water leads to the spread of diseases. He also said that people are compelled to drink impure water, to which I disagree. I have received information of impure drinking water in approximately 2 crore 17 thousand habitations across the country. For this purpose, we have recently released an amount to the tune of Rs. 57 crore so a mandatory inspection of all the sources of drinking water at all places be it Government's or private source, a private well or private handpumps, could be conducted. For this purpose, an arrangement has been made to train at least 5 people in every Panchayat so that they can be informed of the procedure to test the quality of water. In addition to providing them such training they will be given some kits, test tubes and chemicals etc. This will allow the testing of quality of water in all the Panchayats, 6 lakh villages across the countries wherever there are impurities in water. The Government has prepared a plan to make pure drinking water available at places and habitations where there is shortage of water and in not covered and partially covered areas under Bharat Nirman.

Last year, the budget provision was of Rs. 2900 crore, this year the budget has been increased to Rs. 4 thousand 50 crore and next year it is likely to be increased approximately by one and a half time. So we are fully resolved to extend our full cooperation to the State Governments. We are making full arrangements with the cooperation of Panchayati Raj institutions and State Governments so that the poor and the rural inhabitants are not compelled to drink impure water, and they get pure drinking water in adequate quantity. Efforts are being made for this purpose.

SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Rural Development has said that arrangements are being made for drinking water, however, my district where Dwarkadheesh Temple is

situated is facing drought like situation for the last one year. Due to non availability of drinking water, last year several people fell ill, many were admitted to Hospitals and out of them three people died. It is all due to drinking of impure water. I have myself filed a triple murder case against the officers there under section 302, which is subjudice. As per the habitations of 2001 the State Government does not provide water which should be made available at the time of drought. Where 25 tankers should be made available, only 12 tankers are supplied. Owing to this the people buy impure water from the market which spreads diseases and results in deaths. The Central Government provides funds but the State Government does not use them properly, does not make drinking water available to the poor—what action is likely to be taken by the Minister of Rural Development in this regard?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, the report is received by the State from villages and districts. Whenever assistance is sought by the States we provide it but as submitted by the hon. Member the State Government has not utilised the assistance or did not pay attention. As soon as we get information of this kind we correspond with the State Government or discuss the modalities as to how to solve that problem.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now it has been stated with much fanfare that an allocation of Rs. 4050 crore has been made for the rural water supply which is really good but there are many such States which have not been given any funds in the third phase of Swajal Dhara Yojana. Madhya Pradesh is one of those States. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Swajal Dhara Yojana has been discontinued. If not, then what is the reason that he has not made any allocation to these States? And if he intends to make any, the time by which it is likely to be made?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, Swajal Dhara Yojana has not been discontinued rather steps are being taken to strengthen it. Allocation has been made for Madhya Pradesh and other States. ...(*Interruptions*) Allocation has neither been reduced nor discontinued. Funds have not been released to the States which have not fulfilled the conditions or have not sent the projects. It would be correct to state. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Madhya Pradesh has sent a proposal. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The speech of any hon. Member intervening without my permission will not be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not give the reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister is disseminating false information.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have a chance in this. You can make an amendment in it and bring a privilege motion.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded except the speech of Shrimati Paramjit Kaur Gulshan.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

**SHRIMATI PARAMJIT KAUR GULSHAN: Thank you for the opportunity to raise this supplementary. Sir, although on paper, we have solved several problems pertaining to drinking water, the ground reality is different. It is assuming an alarming proportion in Punjab. It is all the more serious in the Malwa belt, especially in my constituency Bathinda and Mansa. The water-works over there have shut down due to poor maintenance. Sometimes, only one water works system supplies drinking water to three or four villages. As a result, there is no pressure in the water supply line. So, my area is suffering from a severe water crisis. Carcinogenic substances are found in the drinking water. A lot of people are dying of cancer in Bathinda and Mansa districts due to this reason. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has evolved any special policy for such

*Not recorded.

**English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

areas so that people could be saved from the scourge of cancer due to contaminated drinking-water?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: A conference of the Ministers of Drinking water across the country was organized on the 31st of the last month and the 1st which was inaugurated by the Hon. Prime Minister. All the problems relating to the drinking water in all the States including their solutions were deliberated upon in detail. Many problems of Punjab also figured in. All the modalities relating to preparing a plan by the State Governments in regard to diseases spread by impure drinking water were discussed in which the Central Government is prepared to extend its full cooperation. It is the role of the State Government to prepare a plan in regard to areas where there are problems or acute shortage of water or polluted water. The Union Government can only provide technological and financial assistance in this matter. The State Government may prepare a plan in regard to the issue raised by the Hon. Member, we are ready to extend them our support.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: The hon. Minister is concerned that the people should get the minimum requirement of pure drinking water in the villages across the country and it is also the commitment of the Government. There are several districts of Bihar where large traces of arsenic elements have been found in water in certain areas. Alongwith this iron and fluoride is also present in drinking water in large quantities. He has the figures of Bihar. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he has any scheme to provide pure drinking water on priority basis in such districts? Whether the Government propose to provide any special package for this purpose?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: So far we have received complaints of the presence of fluoride and arsenic in 35 habitations each in Bihar. The water is either polluted or contaminated with arsenic in the villages near the banks of river Ganga and in approximately 74 divisions of eight districts of West Bengal. We have received some information from the district of the hon. Member, Ojhatola of Maner. Complaints of presence of fluoride in certain areas of Bhojpur and Gaya have been received. This year the State Government of Bihar has received one and a half time the fund it used to get earlier. Amount to the tune of Rs. 500 crore have been deducted from the share of the State due to it in the last four-five years, so drinking water could not be provided. It has been regularized from the last year and the amount

has been released from this year but we have not received any information regarding expenditure. We have asked the State Government to submit the account of expenditure and taking the second instalment. There is budget provision for the areas with problem of either shortage of water or contaminated water.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: The hon. Minister wants to make provisions for drinking water in the rural areas. The provisions of water is made in various ways under the rural water supply scheme of the Government. Pure drinking water is made available to the people either by way of constructing water tanks at certain places or Chapakal in the other. Funds are provided under this scheme by the State Government and by the Rural Development Department even through several voluntary organisations. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has fixed any norm that one tank would be constructed per how much population and one Chapakal per how much population would be constructed?

Whether there is any provision for monitoring the funds provided through voluntary organizations. We constantly get this information that funds provided through the voluntary organizations are misappropriated and not utilized for drinking water. In such a situation whether he proposes to monitor the funds given by the Centre to the voluntary organizations for Chapakal etc.?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, per capita availability of drinking water should be 40 litres and in view of this it is the responsibility of the State Government to supply drinking water either through tank or hand-pumps. The scheme whichever is to be implemented by the State Government, the Centre only provides assistance. Hon. Member has referred to the NGOs. I would like to tell him that the Central Government does not provide any fund to the NGOs under the drinking water head. I understand the confusion since earlier an NGO used to get drinking water through CAPART. I discontinued it as soon as I took over. Now the other schemes of the Government like ARSWSP and Swajaldhara Schemes are not required to be run by CAPART through NGOs. Now NGOs do not get funds however, N.G.Os. were proposed to be engaged under Swajaldhara for sectoral reforms. Schemes under Swajaldhara are formulated by Panchayati Raj then expenditure is incurred. The State Government here and there takes help from N.G.Os.

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: The Minister has said that the Government is committed to deliver adequate safe drinking water to the people of our country. On the one hand, there is inadequacy of drinking water in the remotest corners of our country and that is the reality. On the other hand, to ensure safe drinking water, pure water, pollution of drinking water has to be averted. My pointed question to the Minister is whether the Government has any programme to tap alternative sources of water other than groundwater, particularly rainwater. I would like to know whether the Government has planned any project in this regard. This is part 'a' of my question.

The part 'b' of my supplementary is that to ensure safe drinking water, one important thing which is necessary to be done before tapping water is to do technical testing of water. I would like to know whether the Government is committed to set up district-wise testing laboratories or not.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Is this done by the Central Government?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member has enquired about the alternative sources. I would like to inform him that for this purpose there are arrangements in place. Irrespective of the cost factor, State Government can avail any alternative sources for drinking water. Now-a-days there is a provision for spending 20% of the amount of the ARWS scheme on the quality of water; therefore, if the State Governments want to grant approval for any such scheme involving the use of any alternative sources like surface water or river water, a helping hand is lent for that also. In the earlier Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission Scheme there were programmes formulated under the sub-mission in which the thrust was on making the quality of water better. The said scheme was scrapped by the NDA Government, now we have revived that scheme. We have revived that scheme with a view to improving the quality of water. 20% of the amount will be spent only for improving the quality of water. So, if in order to address the problems regarding the quality of water, any State Government formulates any such schemes, adequate assistance will be provided to them. We want to ensure that at any cost villagers are not compelled to drink contaminated water. According to the medical science also, more than half of

the diseases are borne out of contaminated water. Therefore, if provisions are made for the supply of clean drinking water for the poor, they would not be affected by the disease anymore. Only the rich will fall prey to the diseases.

MR. SPEAKER: Then we can even do without the doctors. Dr. Rewati Raman Singh, now please put forth your views.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Everything is going on smoothly, why are you disturbing? This matter has great significance.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this year the plains of North India are going to reel under a severe summer. The paucity of electricity and water will further worsen the situation. In the month of February, in some areas of the Himalayas and Uttaranchal the mercury touched an all time high. The glacier also.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want the Minister to take note of the gravity of the matter. The glacier is shrinking by 10-15 meters per year and Gangotri is also receding by 23 meters every year. Taking into account the severity of the summer, I would like to know from you about the 4200 crore rupees.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This question should be directed at the Minister, not at me.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, out of the 4200 crore rupees allocated by the Minister, specify the State-wise break up of the amount distributed. Will the details be provided by the Minister in this regard? Whether the hon'ble Minister will make such arrangements. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The said amount has been distributed.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, even after 58 years of independence of our country, clean drinking water is not available in villages. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether he will make any provisions to make available the same.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will provide the hon'ble Member with details of 2-3 years of State wise allocation under the Swajaldhara Scheme of the ARWSP. The hon'ble Member has stated that the lowering of the groundwater level is the root cause of the difficulty. In order to overcome this problem, a special scheme is being launched for large scale rainwater harvesting, water conservation and watershed management which will help in countrywide water conservation. Rainwater harvesting, water conservation and watershed management prevent the lowering of ground water level and this is being done. Top priority has been accorded to rainwater harvesting, water conservation and watershed management related tasks in the employment guarantee scheme rules which is primarily a rural area scheme. We are hopeful that the hon'ble Members would create such an atmosphere and would adopt similar plans and also would give top priority to rainwater harvesting, water conservation and watershed management thereby dispelling the apprehensions of a water crisis in the coming days enabling us to face the challenges in this regard. For this purpose, top priority has been accorded to water conservation, watershed management and other things in the wasteland development programme. I request the hon'ble Members that they should co-operate in this task with complete vigil so that we could not face the water crisis in the coming days.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a Bodo tribal village named Bangfar in the Morigaon district of Assam. This village is adjacent to Jagirot near the Hindustan Paper Mills. People of that village are suffering from a dangerous disease due to lack of clean drinking water. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has answered that.

[Translation]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: I want to know from the hon'ble Minister whether any steps are being taken by the Government to save those people from the disease.

[English]

Have you received any request from the State Government of Assam asking you to take this very serious

matter into account? The Bodo people living in Banglar region have been badly affected by serious ailments.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Member, you have put your question, let the Minister answer.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, under the direction and guidelines of the A.R.W.S.P. which is an Accelerated Rural Water Supply Project, it has been duly prescribed that 25% of the amount should be expended on such areas where SCs and STs are residing. On that account, the Bodo tribal area about which the hon'ble Member has mentioned, will not face a shortage of Funds. After gathering information from the hon'ble member about that specific village, we will contact the State Government and will make such arrangements so as to save the tribal people from being forced to consume contaminated water and also to save them from diseases.

Irregularities in IPO

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*4. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has noticed any scam/irregularities in the issue of Initial Public Offer (IPO) of shares in recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken/being taken by the Government against the guilty banks/financial institutions/individuals; and

(f) the preventive steps taken/proposed to be taken to avoid such scams/irregularities in future?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (f) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) SEBI has noticed certain irregularities in the issue of Initial Public Offering (IPO) shares in the recent past while examining the dealings in shares relating to the IPOs of the Yes Bank Ltd. and IDFC. The enquiries and investigations made so far by RBI and SEBI seem to indicate that a few entities opened thousands of demat accounts with Depository Participants (DPs) and bank account with Banks in the names of fictitious/benami individuals. They applied for shares in IPOs from these benami fictitious accounts in sizes permissible for retail individual investors (RIIs) and obtained allotment. As a result, the genuine RIIs failed to get allotment or got allotment of fewer shares than they would have otherwise got.

(c) and (d) The enquiries and investigation made so far by RBI and SEBI seem to indicate that the bank accounts with Banks and demat accounts with depositories participants (DPs) were opened without adherence to prescribed procedures. Some Banks extended IPO finance and facilitated movement of funds in violation of the guidelines.

(e) and (f) The penal actions taken by SEBI include: debarring concerned entities from dealing in securities market/dealing in IPO; directing the concerned DPs participants not to open fresh demat accounts till further directions directing the depositories to enhance their surveillance system, and ordering inspection of the concerned Registrar to Issue and Merchant Bankers. In order to prevent recurrence of the irregularities, the measures taken by SEBI include: directing the depositories to advise their respective DPs to verify the genuineness of the demat account-holders where 20 or more demat account-holders have a common address; advising them to identify all the other IPOs during 2004 and 2005 wherein the same modus operandi had been adopted by the identified entities; directing them to form a co-ordination committee to co-ordinate with the surveillance department of SEBI for monitoring abnormal transactions in demat accounts; and advising them that in case of IPOs they should activate the Indian Securities Numbering System (ISIN) only on the date of commencement of trading on the stock exchanges.

The penal actions taken by RBI include imposition of penalties ranging from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh against 7 Banks taking into account the extent and enormity of the violation of the RBI guidelines. Other measures include: advising all scheduled commercial banks, excluding RRBs, to conduct a review of IPO financing

and related matters, like opening of multiple accounts, adherence to KYC/AML guidelines and RBI instructions on IPO financing, advances against shares, etc.; prohibiting the Banks from crediting 'account payee' cheques to account of any person other than the payee named therein; and taking up an examination of the internal control systems and processes in the banks to assess the areas of weakness with regard to KYC, IPO finance, advances against shares and internal controls etc.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in July 2005, IDFC made a public issue offer of shares and some people opened bank accounts by denoting same address and they submitted about more than 6000 applications for the shares. The Government, in their reply have accepted all these facts and SEBI has conducted an enquiry into this matter. From the Government's reply, three facts catch our attention. The first is that even after the passage of such a long time, the enquiry has not been completed, it is still going on. The second fact is that, though the Government have stated that action was taken against the banks who were party to this, yet no effort has been made till date to identify the persons who were involved in this. The third fact is that the Government in their reply have stated that penal action has been taken against various banks and penalties ranging from Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh were imposed on them, I am of the opinion that this is not sufficient because within these banks there are some people who instigate such types of activities. We would like to know from the Government when they are going to complete their enquiry in this whole matter and identify the guilty to take action against them.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the guilty persons, I believe, have been identified. Maybe, there are some others who have colluded with them. They will be identified. We have identified the applicants. We have identified the bank managers and the managers of the bank branches. We have identified the brokers; we have identified the depository participants. We have fixed responsibility on these persons. Perhaps, there are more. They will be identified. Every agency of the Government has been activated—that includes the SEBI, the RBI, the Central Board of Direct Taxes and the CBI. Let there be

not doubt in any one's mind that the severest action will be taken against any one found guilty. Interim action has been taken. But I do not think it is right to conclude that this is a final action. More action will be taken and every law that they have violated will be invoked and they will be punished.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has stated that more action may be taken against them and I also feel that the same would happen. But the beginning of similar incidents can be traced to the Harshad Mehta episode which occurred 16 years ago. Our present Prime Minister was the then Finance Minister. At that time also he said that system failure was the reason behind it. For the last 16 years similar types of incidents have been taking place continuously. Recently, after this IDFC irregularity there was a statement of the Finance Minister in a newspaper that this happened due to system failure. Even after 16 years, irregularities are going on without any obstructions and if we attribute it to system failure, then it serves no purpose. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister when the time will come when he will declare that the system is foolproof now and there is no scope for failure anymore. How much will this country require to wait to see the dawn of such a day?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the IDFC is not the first issue in which multiple accounts were opened. We have information that the same set of persons applied and obtained multiple accounts, although in a much smaller number, dating back to May, 2003. There are several issues since May, 2003 where they opened multiple accounts in much smaller numbers. I think, they were emboldened by the fact that these multiple accounts were not discovered and these multiple accounts increased over a period time. In the IDFC and 'Yes' bank issues, these multiple accounts were detected. It is a system failure, but the context in which I made the statement is important. What I said is, I do not accept a system which cannot detect multiple accounts in the same address. I said, this is so fundamental to an IPO allocation that how is it that the system does not detect multiple accounts in the same address. Obviously, there were glitches in the software but this dates back to 2003 and that software is being set right now.

12.00 hrs.

I believe one of the depositories has put in place software which can catch the multiple accounts. The other depository is in the process of putting in place the software. But I can never say that there will not be any other abuses. We take one step forward to plug a loophole, the crooks take two steps forward to find another loophole. The point is, we are determined to plug the loophole and I am determined to punish every guilty person. You will find more actions taken in the next few days.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: In the answer, it is said that seven banks are involved and they were imposed penalty from Rs. 5 to Rs. 20 lakhs depending on their enormity of violations of these guidelines. I would like to know from the hon. Minister which are those seven banks. Secondly, what is the enormity of the crime committed in terms of money? What is the volume of monetary involvement of them?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: The main offence which they committed was allowing multiple accounts to be opened by the same person in fictitious names. These banks are—Bharat Overseas Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Vijaya Bank, Citi Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, ING-Vysya Bank and IDBI Limited. Now, fines have been imposed upon them. Show-cause notices have been issued in three cases for additional fines. Therefore, as and when the show-cause notices are finalised, if they are found guilty, they will be imposed greater fines. There was an exposure. But from the reports that we have got, no bank has made a loss. Once the culprits sold the shares, they repaid the loan that they took from the bank. The bank has not suffered a loss in that sense. The bank's guilt or the bank manager's offence is in allowing multiple accounts to be opened by the same person in fictitious names.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

(English)

Telephone Facility in Villages

- *1. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

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

(a) the number of villages in the country where telephone facility has been provided during the last three years till date, State-wise and district-wise;

(b) the number of villages which are not having this facility;

(c) the details of the waiting list of the applicants for the various services of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited such as Mobile, WLL, Landline etc. State-wise and district-wise;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any time-bound programme to provide telephone connections to its waitlisted subscribers;

(e) if so, the time by which these waitlisted subscribers will be provided telephone connections; and

(f) the period by which all the villages of the country are likely to be provided with telephone facility?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) All the eligible villages in the country except 66,822 villages were provided Village Public Telephones (VPTs) by November 2004. This excluded villages having less than 100 population, villages lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested area etc.

In November 2004, Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) entered into agreement with BSNL to provide VPTs in these remaining 66,822 villages by November 2007. State-wise list of these 66,822 villages is given in the Statement-I enclosed.

As on 31.12.2005, 17,182 villages out of remaining 66,822 villages have been provided VPTs. Details are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(c) The details of the waiting list of the applicants for the various services of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(d) and (e) The existing wait list subscribers are likely to be provided telephone connections in the current year.

(f) The remaining eligible uncovered villages are to be provided telephone facilities by November 2007 as per the agreement between USOF and BSNL.

*Statement I**Status of Provision of Telephone Facility in 66,822 Uncovered Villages* in the Country as on 31st December, 2005*

Sl.No.	Name of the Service Area	No. of uncovered villages under the Agreement	On Satellite media	On any other media	VPTs provided upto 31.12.2005	Balance remaining uncovered
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,074	115	959	237	837
2.	Assam	8,931	279	8,652	2,366	6,565
3.	Jharkhand	1,694	1,694	0	30	1,664
4.	Gujarat	4,144	0	4,144	1,965	2,179
5.	Himachal Pradesh	1,002	275	727	234	768
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	1,755	465	1,290	222	1,533
7.	Madhya Pradesh	11,894	443	11,451	4,402	7,492
8.	Chhattisgarh	5,043	88	4,955	892	4,151
9.	Maharashtra	6,441	496	5,945	2,189	4,252
10.	North East-I	2,128	578	1,550	77	2,051
11.	North East-II	1,550	1,289	261	30	1,520
12.	Orissa	4,899	4,899	0	0	4,899
13.	Rajasthan	12,366	18	12,368	4,332	8,054
14.	Uttaranchal	3,881	3,544	337	206	3,675
15.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Bihar	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Karnataka	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Punjab	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	0	0	0	0	0
23.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	0	0	0	0	0
24.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0
Total		66,822	14,183	52,639	17,182	49,640

*Details of these 66,822 villages are available at DoT's website (<http://www.dot.gov.in/bv/statedata.htm>)

Statement II**Circle Wise Waiting List As on 31.12.2005**

Sl.No.	Name of Circle	Basic Service (Combined Waiting list of Landline and WLL)	Cellular Mobile
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	327	9,315
2.	Andhra Pradesh	36,971	0
3.	Assam	22,180	28,704
4.	Bihar*	94,745	0
5.	Chhattisgarh*	5,983	124,667
6.	Gujarat	51,898	0
7.	Haryana	71,427	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	39,021	0
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	72,700	0
10.	Jharkhand*	12,571	15,591
11.	Karnataka	99,094	0
12.	Kerala	296,081	0
13.	Madhya Pradesh	13,016	263,508
14.	Maharashtra*	191,298	250,719
15.	North East-I	3,569	0
16.	North East-II	3,871	39,632
17.	Orissa	44,469	124,186
18.	Punjab	40,554	0
19.	Rajasthan	121,136	44,130
20.	Tamil Nadu*	116,986	129,754
21.	Uttaranchal	4,939	0
22.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	109,000	71,890
23.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	42,760	0
24.	West Bengal	152,181	3,000
25.	Kolkata	5,349	0
26.	Chennai	10,847	0
Total		1,662,953	1,105,096

*The waiting list details are as on 31.01.2006.

SSA/District wise details of waiting list for various States is given in succeeding pages. Wherever waiting list is indicated as 'zero', it implies that the connections are available on demand in the areas covered for that particular service.

SSA/District wise Waiting List in States

Sl.No.	Name of SSA/ District	Basic Services	Cellular Mobile
1	2	3	4
Andaman & Nicobar			
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	327	9,315
Andhra Pradesh as on 31.12.2005			
1.	Adilabad	1,362	
2.	Anantapur	1,663	
3.	Chittoor	1,242	
4.	Cuddapah	538	
5.	East Godavari	1,194	
6.	Guntur	1,376	
7.	Hyd. Telecom Dist.	5,464	
8.	Karimnagar	5,857	
9.	Khammam	569	
10.	Krishna	808	
11.	Kurnool	1,059	
12.	Mahbubnagar	1,885	
13.	Medak	2,795	
14.	Nalgonda	2,585	
15.	Nellore	733	
16.	Nizamabad	386	
17.	Prakasham	877	
18.	Srikakulam	1,773	
19.	Visakhapatnam	347	
20.	Vizianagaram	101	

1	2	3	4
21.	Warangal	1,706	
22.	West Godavari	2,651	
	Total	36,971	0

Assam as on 31.12.2005

1.	Bongaigaon	7,114	0
2.	Dibrugarh	882	0
3.	Jorhat	1,182	0
4.	Kamrup	1,285	0
5.	Nagaon	4,727	0
6.	Silchar	5,359	12,277
7.	Tezpur	1,631	16,427
	Total	22,180	28,704

Bihar as on 31.01.2006

1.	Bhojpur	2,163	
2.	Buxar	2,031	
3.	Bhagalpur	1,037	
4.	Banka	179	
5.	West Champaran	4,752	
6.	Begusarai	3,118	
7.	Saran	4,482	
8.	Siwan	6,976	
9.	Gopalganj	2,424	
10.	Darbhanga	7,033	
11.	Gaya	4,896	
12.	Arwal	1,422	
13.	Nawadah	3,442	
14.	Aurangabad	1,448	
15.	Jehanabad	4,264	
16.	Vaishali	4,579	

1	2	3	4
17.	Katihar	490	
18.	Purnia	402	
19.	Araria	260	
20.	Khagaria	2,833	
21.	Kishanganj	1,027	
22.	Munger	1,594	
23.	Sheikpura	336	
24.	Jammui	434	
25.	Lakhisarai	290	
26.	Muzaffarpur	7,093	
27.	Sitamarhi	2,062	
28.	East Champaran	4,058	
29.	Samastipur	4,256	
30.	Rohtas	2,714	
31.	Bhabua	728	
32.	Saharsa	1,169	
33.	Supaul	885	
34.	Madhepura	743	
35.	Madhubani	5,121	
36.	Sheohar	745	
37.	Patna	1,984	
38.	Nalanda	1,275	
	Total	94,745	0

Chhattisgarh as on 31.01.2006

1.	Bilaspur	579	25,623
2.	Durg	1,038	26,061
3.	Raipur	1,833	31,565
4.	Bastar	580	21,461
5.	Raigarh	344	10,233

1	2	3	4
6.	Surguja	1,589	9,724
	Total	5,963	124,867

Gujarat as on 31.12.2005

1.	Ahemdabad	2,772	
2.	Amreli	374	
3.	Bharuch	703	
4.	Bhavnagar	4,038	
5.	Bhuj	3,577	
6.	Godhra	1,857	
7.	Himmatnagar	786	
8.	Jamnagar	3,385	
9.	Junagarh	7,344	
10.	Mehsana	4,350	
11.	Nadiad	3,990	
12.	Palanpur	6,126	
13.	Rajkot	6,309	
14.	Surat	1,930	
15.	Surendranagar	2,469	
16.	Vadodara	625	
17.	Valsad	1,263	
	Total	51,898	

Haryana as on 31.12.2005

1.	Ambala	5,991	
2.	Faridabad	1,751	
3.	Gurgaon	5,391	
4.	Hisar	13,917	
5.	Jind	1,383	
6.	Karnal	10,022	
7.	Rewari	10,274	
8.	Rohtak	19,109	

1	2	3	4
9.	Sonepat	3,589	
	Total	71,427	0

Himachal Pradesh as on 31.12.2005

1.	Bilaspur	4,610	
2.	Chamba	1,547	
3.	Hamirpur	4,841	
4.	Kangra	13,604	
5.	Kinnour	842	
6.	Kullu	980	
7.	Lahaul Spiti	215	
8.	Mandi	4,587	
9.	Shimla	1,912	
10.	Simour	1,496	
11.	Solan	744	
12.	Una	3,643	
	Total	39,021	0

Jammu & Kashmir as on 31.01.2006

1.	Jammu	17,144	
2.	Udhampur	3,420	
3.	Leh	1,330	
4.	Rajouri	5,109	
5.	Srinagar	45,697	
	Total	72,700	0

Jharkhand as on 31.01.2006

1.	Bokaro	1,489	0
2.	Dhanbad	2,103	0
3.	Dumka	84	0
4.	Pakur	0	0
5.	Godda	203	0

1	2	3	4
6.	Jamtara	72	0
7.	Sahebganj	151	0
8.	Deoghar	1,063	0
9.	Chatra	163	0
10.	Hazaribag	3,582	8,134
11.	Kodarma	317	2,076
12.	Giridih	777	3,493
13.	Garwa	126	192
14.	Palamu	343	1,550
15.	Latehar	2	146
16.	Ranchi	856	0
17.	Lohardaga	29	0
18.	Gumla	144	0
19.	Simdega	173	0
20.	E. Singhbhum	756	0
21.	W. Singhbhum	10	0
22.	Saraikela	148	0
Total		12,571	15,591
Karnataka as on 31.12.2005			
1.	Bangalore TD-rural	13,740	
2.	Bangalore TD-urban	5,030	
3.	Belgaum	6,109	
4.	Bellary	465	
5.	Bidar	103	
6.	Bijapur	4,849	
7.	Chickmagalur	2,077	
8.	Dakshina Kannada	25,100	
9.	Chitradurga	1,916	
10.	Gulbarga	1,495	

1	2	3	4
11.	Hassan	4,559	
12.	Hubli	2,565	
13.	Kodagu	3,579	
14.	Kolar	6,161	
15.	Mandya	2,779	
16.	Mysore	4,125	
17.	Raichur	3,558	
18.	Shimoga	6,506	
19.	Tumkur	4,352	
20.	Uttara Kannada	6	
Total		99,094	0
Kerala as on 31.12.2005			
1.	Alleppey	19,465	
2.	Calicut	24,190	
3.	Cannanore	10,936	
4.	Emakulam	22,213	
5.	Idukki	15,418	
6.	Kasaragod	9,299	
7.	Kottayam	16,567	
8.	Malappuram	54,606	
9.	Palghat	32,068	
10.	Pathanamthitta	12,234	
11.	Quilon	36,175	
12.	Trichur	14,578	
13.	Trivandrum	20,593	
14.	Wynad	7,705	
15.	U/T of Lakshadweep	17	
16.	U/T of Pondicherry (Mahe)	17	
Total		296,081	0

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh Circle as on 31.12.2005			
1.	Balaghat	0	4,064
2.	Betul	144	6,193
3.	Bhopal	62	21,394
4.	Chhatarpur	96	18,678
5.	Chhindwara	89	6,722
6.	Damoh	32	2,731
7.	Dewas	89	1,963
8.	Dhar	0	7,856
9.	Guna	80	8,160
10.	Gwalior	820	17,937
11.	Hoshangabad	0	8,710
12.	Indore	1,131	18,070
13.	Jabalpur	767	20,489
14.	Jhabua	0	7,832
15.	Khandwa	171	5,263
16.	Khargone	0	9,928
17.	Mandla	149	8,262
18.	Mandsaur	4,419	7,305
19.	Morena	503	9,469
20.	Narsinghpur	347	4,560
21.	Panna	147	2,155
22.	Raisen	34	3,856
23.	Rajgarh	405	2,248
24.	Ratlam	547	6,186
25.	Rewa	34	6,126
26.	Sagar	499	3,449
27.	Satna	704	5,172
28.	Seoni	0	3,952
29.	Shahadol	69	6,645
30.	Shajapur	0	4,196

1	2	3	4
31.	Shivpur	243	6,215
32.	Sidhi	167	7,396
33.	Ujjain	1,169	7,684
34.	Vidisha	99	2,634
	Total	13,016	263,508
Maharashtra as on 31.12.2005			
1.	Ahmednagar	19,338	6,634
2.	Akola	5,525	5,770
3.	Amravati	0	9,975
4.	Aurangabad	5,717	22,795
5.	Beed	6,974	4,727
6.	Bhandara	4,343	8,350
7.	Buldhana	4,477	5,671
8.	Chandrapur	2,253	9,052
9.	Dhule	3,804	14,396
10.	Gadchiroli	779	2,730
11.	Goa	4,547	6,600
12.	Jalgaon	7,448	10,207
13.	Jalna	5,765	14,738
14.	Kalyan	15,944	12,773
15.	Kolhapur	4,465	9,390
16.	Latur	1,941	15,280
17.	Nagpur	4,422	13,131
18.	Nanded	1,852	9,790
19.	Nasik	17,059	5,000
20.	Osmanabad	3,527	5,432
21.	Parbhani	2,210	7,199
22.	Pune	22,244	7,951
23.	Raigadh	3,507	13,515

1	2	3	4
24.	Ratnagiri	7,528	7,899
25.	Sangli	3,615	0
26.	Satara	12,999	3,950
27.	Sindhudurg	6,959	7,470
28.	Solapur	8,795	0
29.	Wardha	3,261	2,643
30.	Yavatmal	0	7,851
	Total	191,298	250,719

NE-I Circle as on 31.12.2005

1.	Meghalaya	162	
2.	Mizoram	533	
3.	Tripura	2,874	
	Total	3,569	0

NE-II Circle as on 31.12.2005

1.	Arunachal Pradesh	487	0
2.	Manipur	3,033	29,871
3.	Nagaland	351	9,761
	Total	3,871	39,632

Orissa Circle as on 31.12.2005

1.	Balasore	8,430	2,265
2.	Baripada	1,418	12,883
3.	Berhampur	3,640	8,260
4.	Bhawanipatna	734	6,746
5.	Bhubaneswar	10,259	15,703
6.	Bolangir	1,206	8,000
7.	Cuttack	13,687	22,044
8.	Dhenkanal	2,509	11,785
9.	Keonjhar	581	9,000
10.	Koraput	143	9,883

1	2	3	4
11.	Phulbani	93	2,150
12.	Rourkela	1,292	8,141
13.	Sambalpur	477	7,326
	Total	44,469	124,186

Punjab Circle as on 31.12.2005

1.	Amritsar	6,182	
2.	Bhatinda	1,100	
3.	Chandigarh	2	
4.	Ferozepur	7,904	
5.	Hoshiarpur	6,757	
6.	Jalandhar	800	
7.	Ludhiana	5,438	
8.	Pathankot	7,475	
9.	Patiala	3,807	
10.	Ropar	1,072	
11.	Sangrur	17	
	Total	40,554	0

Rajasthan Circle as on 31.12.2005

1.	Ajmer	4,614	2,397
2.	Alwar	8,773	0
3.	Banswara	3,281	3,308
4.	Barmer	7,843	10,042
5.	Bharatpur	4,926	0
6.	Bhilwara	2,901	0
7.	Bikaner	465	1,157
8.	Bundi	346	0
9.	Chittorgarh	1,743	0
10.	Churu	6,458	395
11.	Jaipur	16,033	0

1	2	3	4
12.	Jaisalmer	393	2,267
13.	Jhalawar	380	0
14.	Jhunjhunu	7,833	0
15.	Jodhpur	6,686	5,937
16.	Kota	2,922	9,469
17.	Nagaur	7,563	2,972
18.	Pali	5,097	0
19.	Sawaimadhopur	3,075	5,076
20.	Sikar	14,680	0
21.	Sirohi	2,541	0
22.	Sriganganagar	2,413	0
23.	Tonk	1,473	0
24.	Udaipur	8,697	1,110
	Total	121,136	44,130

Tamil Nadu Circle as on 31.01.2006

1.	Coimbatore	8,905
2.	Cuddalore	4,987
3.	Dharmapuri	3,559
4.	Dindigul	2,688
5.	Erode	7,081
6.	Kanyakumari	6,830
7.	Karur	3,268
8.	Krishnagiri	3,798
9.	Madurai	1,117
10.	Nagapattinam	6,574
11.	Namakkal	3,491
12.	Perambalur	6,108
13.	Pudukottai	5,798
14.	Ramanathapuram	2,417

1	2	3	4
15.	Salem	4,942	
16.	Sivaganga	3,482	
17.	Thanjavur	3,519	
18.	The Nilgiris	0	
19.	Theni	122	
20.	Thiruvarur	4,785	
21.	Tirunelveli	4,044	
22.	Tiruvannamalai	3,221	
23.	Trichy	4,749	
24.	Tuticorin	3,048	
25.	Vellore	6,040	
26.	Villupuram	9,941	
27.	Virudhunagar	2,362	
28.	Pondicherry U/T	110	

Total 116,986 12,9754

Uttaranchal Circle as on 31.12.2005

1.	Almora	1,034	
2.	Dehradun	696	
3.	Haridwar	1,771	
4.	Nainital	469	
5.	Shrinagar (Garhwal)	865	
6.	New Tehri	104	
	Total	4,939	0

UP (East) as on 31.12.2005

1.	Allahabad	6,944
2.	Kaushambi	573
3.	Azamgarh	7,106
4.	Barabanki	3,264
5.	Ballia	2,459

1	2	3	4
6.	Banda	365	
7.	Chitrakoot	257	
8.	Bahraich	1,352	
9.	Shrawasti	190	
10.	Basti	1,615	
11.	Sant Kabir Nagar	441	
12.	Siddharth Nagar	535	
13.	Deoria	6,673	
14.	Kushi Nagar	3,926	
15.	Auraiya	816	
16.	Etawah	1,261	
17.	Farrukhabad	1,427	
18.	Kannauj	1,376	
19.	Fatehpur	2,325	
20.	Ambedkar Nagar	2,905	
21.	Faizabad	2,438	
22.	Balrampur	529	
23.	Gonda	1,573	
24.	Gorakhpur	3,254	
25.	Maharajganj	574	
26.	Ghazipur	3,806	
27.	Hardoi	4,946	
28.	Hamirpur	197	
29.	Mahoba	345	
30.	Jhansi	246	
31.	Lalitpur	7	
32.	Jaunpur	9,656	
33.	Kanpur	1,048	

1	2	3	4
34.	Kanpur Dehat	1,564	
35.	Lakhimpur	1,250	
36.	Lucknow	2,730	
37.	Mau	776	
38.	Mainpuri	2,489	
39.	Mirzapur	1,265	
40.	Sonebhadra	1,478	
41.	Jalaun	1,737	
42.	Pratapgarh	1,421	
43.	Raebareli	3,890	
44.	Shahjahanpur	2,131	
45.	Sitapur	2,555	
46.	Sultanpur	4,942	
47.	Unnao	1,494	
48.	Chandauli	1,650	
49.	Sant Ravidas Nagar	1,302	
50.	Varanasi	1,877	
	Total	109,000	71,890
UP (West) as on 31.12.2005			
1.	Agra	3,766	
2.	Aligarh	2,710	
3.	Bareilly	227	
4.	Bijnore	1,089	
5.	Bulandshahar	7,436	
6.	Ghaziabad	4,060	
7.	Mathura	3,019	
8.	Meerut	6,022	
9.	Moradabad	1,770	
10.	Muzaffarnagar	5,073	

1	2	3	4
11.	Noida	215	
12.	Saharanpur	3,686	
13.	Badaun	0	
14.	Etah	3,009	
15.	Pilibhit	678	
16.	Rampur	0	
	Total	42,760	0
West Bengal Circle as on 31.12.2005			
1.	Asansol	17,256	0
2.	Berhampore	12,877	0
3.	Bankura	10,096	0
4.	Calcutta	50,232	0
5.	Cooch Bihar	4,768	0
6.	Jalpaiguri	1,483	0
7.	Kharagpur	25,941	0
8.	Krishnagar	5,705	0
9.	Malda	6,326	0
10.	Purulia	3,951	3,000
11.	Raiganj	1,602	0
12.	Siliguri	3,277	0
13.	Suri	8,643	0
14.	Gangtok	24	0
	Total	152,181	3,000
Chennai Telecom District as on 31.12.2005			
1.	Chennai	0	0
2.	Chenglepattu	10,847	0
	Total	10,847	0
Kolkata Telecom District as on 31.12.2005			
	Kolkata	5,349	0

State Funding of Elections

*2. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sought the advice of the Election Commission on State funding of elections;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is also considering the recommendations of earlier Commissions and also the Tarkunde Committee's recommendations in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Central Government considered the various recommendations/proposals relating to State funding of elections received by it. With a view to building consensus among the recognized political parties, it has decided to request the Election Commission of India for its consideration certain recommendations. Accordingly, on the 2nd January, 2006, the Government requested the Election Commission of India to recommend, in consultation with the recognized political parties, the quantities of the following items to be provided to the recognized political parties or to the candidates set up by them taking into consideration the geographical features and means of communication available:—

“(a) For recognized political parties:

(i) Suitable rent-free accommodation for its headquarters.

(ii) One rent-free telephone, with Subscriber Trunk Dialling facility with a specified number of telephone calls over and above the free calls permitted to any subscriber.

(iii) The amount of time to be distributed on private cable television network and electronic media.

(b) For Candidates of recognized Parties:

- (i) Specified quantity of petrol/diesel.
- (ii) Specified quantity of paper for printing.
- (iii) Postal stamps of a certain specified amount.
- (iv) For an assembly election, one set of loudspeakers and for a parliamentary election, one set of loudspeakers for every assembly segment, subject to a maximum of six such sets.
- (v) For an assembly election, one telephone with a specified number of free calls, and for a parliamentary election, at the rate of one telephone for every assembly segment, subject to a maximum of six telephones.
- (vi) On the day of poll, some minimum arrangements may be made for the candidates' camps at each polling station.
- (vii) Supply of refreshments and food packets to the counting agents inside the counting hall."

A reply from the Election Commission is awaited.

The Government also decided that the Central and the State Governments both must share in the funding.

The scheme of distribution of the above-mentioned items would be worked out after receipt of the recommendations of the Election Commission.

**Popularisation of Mobile Phone Services
Provided by PSUs**

*5. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Garuda and Dolphin Mobile services provided by the public sector undertakings have not been popular as compared to their counterparts in the private sector in the present competitive scenario;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has recently undertaken any study on their slow growth;

(d) if so, the outcome of the study; and

(e) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to make the mobile services offered by the public sector undertakings more attractive, competitive and popular in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) Both Garuda (Limited mobile services) and Dolphin (Fully mobile service) of MTNL are postpaid services. It is a common practice that demand of prepaid services is much more than postpaid services. As on 31.01.2006, out of all mobile services in MTNL, 71% connections were in the prepaid segment as against 23% in postpaid segment.

There is no service corresponding to Garuda (Limited Mobility) being given by private operators. MTNL mobile services are in line with the post paid services of private operators.

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

(e) Steps taken by MTNL and BSNL to make mobile services more attractive and competitive are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

***Steps Taken by MTNL & BSNL to Popularise their
Mobile Services***

1. Both MTNL & BSNL have launched 'One India plan' with effect from 01.03.2006 with reduction in call rates so as to make the services including GSM and WLL services more popular.
2. Both the PSUs are having various schemes to make the mobile services (both GSM & WLL) more popular in different segments of the society. BSNL has schemes like Student Power 99 Plan and Government employees plans launched in recent times.
3. MTNL is providing a large number of value added services to its cellular mobile subscriber like call forwarding, call waiting, CLI, Voice Mail Service (VMS), Short Message Service (SMS), itemized bill/detail bill, all India roaming, international roaming, PSTN bill viewing on SMS, Closed User Group (CUG) service etc.

4. MTNL has commissioned additional 6 lac lines each of New GSM system with GPRS and MMS software in the core area, which provides high-speed data and sending of message with video & audio. This capacity has been nearly consumed.
5. MTNL is adding another 2 lakhs lines each in Delhi/Mumbai by March 2006 to meet the ever-increasing demand. Further, MTNL plans to procure 2 million lines each for Delhi/Mumbai i/c 3G GSM Network to be commissioned in 2006-07 in line with the emerging trends.
6. GSM network at Delhi/Mumbai is being optimised continuously to improve the coverage and capacity.
7. MTNL shall be adding additional 96 BTS by 3/06 in Delhi/Mumbai to further improve the coverage & capacity of GSM subscribers.
8. MTNL has commissioned a new billing solution for the cellular mobile subscribers to address the various options of the subscriber in respect of their bills.
9. 400K lines of CDMA 2000 1X type network which will provide voice, data at 140 Kbps, SMS and supporting value added services is being commissioned each at Mumbai and Delhi.
10. BSNL has built up extensive network of franchisees in addition to its customer service centres so that the mobile services and other products can be made available to the customers in the vicinity of their offices/homes.
11. BSNL is trying to provide all value added services to its customers which are offered by competitors.
12. BSNL has covered all major rail routes and highway routes and is in the process of covering all highways and localities having population of more 5000. This will enable customers to enjoy unmatched coverage and connectivity.

Losses Incurred by BSNL

- *6. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) whether Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) incurred losses due to the poor quality of the equipment purchased from certain foreign suppliers as reported in the *Statesman* dated January 23, 2006;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government against the suppliers for the inferior quality of the equipment supplied;

(d) the action taken against the officers responsible for the negligence or otherwise; and

(e) the steps taken to check recurrence of such cases and to ensure quality of the network?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. While the equipment supplied is not of inferior quality, certain inter-working problems were experienced while integrating with the existing network, which is generally experienced in a multi-vendor environment.

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

(e) BSNL has stringent quality control mechanism already in place to ensure that only quality equipments are inducted in the network, which includes quality test of indigenous equipment in the factory premises, validating the imported equipments in field and acceptance testing of all the elements which are inducted in the network.

[Translation]

Banks in Rural Areas

*7. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches opened in rural areas by leading nationalized banks of the country during the last two years alongwith the names of those banks, State-wise;

(b) whether the Ministry of Finance and Reserve Bank of India had issued instructions to all the nationalized and non-nationalised Banks for opening new branches in rural areas, small and medium towns and municipal areas; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The bank-wise and State-wise details of rural branches opened by the Public Sector Banks during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05 are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively.

(b) and (c) In terms of the current Branch Authorisation Policy announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on September 8, 2005, banks are encouraged to open branches in underbanked centres. While banks have the freedom to select centres for opening of new branches, RBI while granting approvals ensures that sanctions include centres in rural areas also.

In respect of New Private Sector Banks, a condition is stipulated by the RBI while issuing a licence under Section 22 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 that 25% of the branches should be in semi-urban and rural centres.

As on 30th September 2005, more than 40% of the branches of Public Sector Banks were in the rural areas.

Statement I

Bank-wise Number of Rural Branches of Public Sector Banks Opened during the Financial Years 2003-04 and 2004-05

Bank Name	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3
State Bank of India	7	8
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	—	2
State Bank of Hyderabad	—	1
State Bank of Mysore	2	2
State Bank of Indore	—	1
Bank of Baroda	1	6
Allahabad Bank	1	—
Bank of India	4	—
Canara Bank	1	1
Indian Overseas Bank	2	—
Central Bank of India	2	1
Union Bank of India	1	2

1	2	3
Punjab National Bank	1	8
United Bank of India	—	2
UCO Bank	1	1
Syndicate Bank	3	1
Andhra Bank	—	4
Corporation Bank	1	3
Oriental Bank of Commerce	1	9
Vijaya Bank	2	—
Total	30	52

Statement II

State-wise Number of Rural Branches of Public Sector Banks opened during the Financial Years 2003-04 and 2004-05

State Name	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3
Assam	—	1
Bihar	1	2
West Bengal	1	1
Orissa	3	2
Sikkim	—	1
Uttar Pradesh	2	—
Uttaranchal	—	1
Punjab	—	2
Haryana	—	2
Jammu and Kashmir	1	1
Himachal Pradesh	1	4
Rajasthan	1	3
Gujarat	3	7
Maharashtra	1	4

1	2	3
Goa	1	1
Madhya Pradesh	—	2
Chhattisgarh	1	—
Andhra Pradesh	2	9
Karnataka	7	6
Tamil Nadu	5	2
Kerala	—	1
All-India:	30	52

[English]

Implementation of NREGA

*8. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the detailed methodology and technology adopted or likely to be adopted for implementation and monitoring of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 (NREGA);

(b) whether the Government has announced implementation of the much awaited NREGA;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has requested the States to make advance preparations on a massive scale for the implementation the NREGA;

(e) if so, the response of the States thereon;

(f) the name of the districts selected for implementation of NREGA, State-wise;

(g) the funds allocated to each State;

(h) the reasons for not implementing NREGA in all districts in the country; and

(i) the time by which the NREGA is likely to be implemented all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) For implementation and monitoring of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, detailed operational guidelines have been prepared by Ministry of Rural Development. Copies of the guidelines have been provided to all States where the Act has been made operational. The social audit of the work shall be done by the Gram Sabha as given in Chapter 11 of the operational guidelines.

(b) and (c) 200 districts have been identified for implementation of the NREG Act in the first phase. Notification for implementation of the Act with effect from 2nd February 2006 has been issued in respect of 183 districts. The remaining 17 districts include 3 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, 2 districts of Meghalaya and 12 districts from Maharashtra. The Act does not apply to Jammu & Kashmir in terms of Section 1(2) and the State Government has initiated action for extending the Act to the State of Jammu & Kashmir. In Meghalaya, due to the applicability of Model code of conduct in view of the bye-election to Tura Parliamentary Constituency held on 16th February, the Act would be made applicable after completion of election process. Maharashtra State has its own Employment Guarantee Act for the entire State since 1972. The State Government has decided to amend its own Act so that the entitlements of the workers under the Central Act are ensured in the State Scheme. The Central Government will share the expenditure in 12 identified districts of Maharashtra as per NREG Act.

(d) and (e) For effective implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, States had been requested to make advance preparations. Letters had been sent to the Chief Ministers of the States by Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development in this connection. Secretaries concerned of the respective States were also requested to give instructions to districts to initiate necessary preparatory work so that the Act could be implemented with effect from 2nd February, 2006. The preparations have been done by the States and they are taking further action as necessary under the Act.

(f) List of districts selected for implementation of NREGA in its first phase is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(g) The funds released under National Food for Work Programme in 150 districts where NFFWP was in force are to be utilized for NREGA in the current financial

year. In addition, Rs. 5.35 crores have been released to each of the newly identified 50 districts for NREGA. The total funds released to each State including the NFFWP funds are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(h) and (i) It has been decided to launch NREGA in 200 selected identified districts in the country. The NREG Act will be implemented in the entire country within a period of five years.

Statement I

List of Districts identified for implementation of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in first Phase

State	Identified districts in the States
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	Adilabad
	Anantpur
	Chittoor
	Cudappah
	Karimnagar
	Khammam
	Mahbubnagar
	Medak
	Nalgonda
	Nizamabad
	Rangareddy
	Vizianagaram
	Warangal
Arunachal Pradesh	Upper Subansiri
Assam	Bongaigaon
	Dhemaji
	Goalpara
	Karbi Anglong
	Kokrajhar

1	2
Bihar	North Cachar Hills
	North Lakhimpur (Laksha)
	Araria
	Aurangabad
	Bhojpur
	Darbhanga
	Gaya
	Jamui
	Jehanabad
	Kaimur (Bhabua)
	Katihar
	Kishanganj
	Lakhisarai
	Madhubani
	Munger
	Muzaffarpur
	Nalanda
	Nawadah
	Patna
Chhattisgarh	Purnia
	Rohtas
	Samastipur
	Sheohar
	Supaul
	Vaishali
	Bastar
	Bilaspur
	Dantewada
	Dhamtari

1	2
	Jashpur
	Kanker
	Kawardha
	Koriya
	Raigarh
	Rajnandgaon
	Sarguja
Gujarat	Banaskantha
	Dangs
	Dohad
	Narmada
	Panch Mahals
	Sabarkantha
Haryana	Mohindergarh
	Sirsa
Himachal Pradesh	Chamba
	Sirmaur
Jammu and Kashmir	Doda
	Kupwara
	Poonch
Jharkhand	Bokaro
	Chatra
	Dhanbad
	Dumka
	Garhwa
	Girdih
	Godda
	Gumla
	Hazaribagh
	Jamtara

1	2
	Kodarma
	Latehar
	Lohardagga
	Pakaur
	Palamu
	Ranchi
	Sahibganj
	Saralkela
	Simdega
	Pachhim Singhbhum
Karnataka	Bidar
	Chitradurga
	Davanagere
	Gulbarga
	Raichur
Kerala	Palakkad
	Waynad
Madhya Pradesh	Balaghat
	Barwani
	Betul
	Chattarpur
	Dhar
	Dindori
	Jhabua
	Khandwa (East Nimar)
	Mandla
	Satna
	Seoni
	Shahdol
	Sheopur
	Shivpuri

1	2
	Siddhi
	Tikamgarh
	Umaria
	West Nimar (Khargone)
Maharashtra	Ahmednagar
	Amravati
	Aurangabad
	Bhandara
	Chandrapur
	Dhule
	Gadchiroli
	Gondya
	Hingoli
	Nanded
	Nandurbar
	Yawatmal
Manipur	Tamenlong
Meghalaya	South Garo Hills
	West Garo Hills
Mizoram	Lawngtlai
	Saiha
Nagaland	Mon
Orissa	Bolangir
	Boudh
	Debagarh
	Dhenkanal
	Gajapati
	Ganjam
	Jharsuguda
	Kalahandi

1	2
	Keonjhar
	Koraput
	Malkangiri
	Mayurbhanj
	Nabarangpur
	Nuapada
	Phulbani
	Rayagada
	Sambalpur
	Sonepur
	Sundargarh
Punjab	Hoshiarpur
Rajasthan	Banswara
	Dungarpur
	Jhalawar
	Karauli
	Sirohi
	Udaipur
Sikkim	North Sikkim
Tripura	Dhalai
Tamil Nadu	Dindigul
	Nagapattinam
	Sivagangai
	South Arcot/Cuddalore
	Tiruvannamalai
	Villupuram
Uttaranchal	Chamoli
	Champawat
	Tehri Garhwal
Uttar Pradesh	Azamgarh

1	2
	Banda
	Barabanki
	Chandauli
	Chitrakoot
	Fatehpur
	Gorakhpur
	Hamirpur
	Hardoi
	Jalaun
	Jaunpur
	Kaushambi
	Kushinagar
	Lakhimpur Kheri
	Lalitpur
	Mahoba
	Mirzapur
	Pratapgarh
	Raebareli
	Sitapur
	Sonebhadra
	Unnao
West Bengal	South 24 Parganas
	Bankura
	Birbhum
	Jaipalguri
	Malda
	Murshidabad
	Purulia
	Dakshin Dinajpur
	Midnapur West
	Uttar Dinajpur

*Statement II**Funds Released Under NREGA (Including NFFWP Funds)*

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Total Release (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24099.78
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	450.26
3.	Assam	13292.65
4.	Bihar	41411.75
5.	Chhattisgarh	23966.35
6.	Gujarat	6026.85
7.	Haryana	1030.72
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1236.75
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	1410.46
10.	Jharkhand	44983.7
11.	Karnataka	6030.67
12.	Kerala	864.59
13.	Madhya Pradesh	44676.77
14.	Maharashtra	18985.16
15.	Manipur	914.78
16.	Meghalaya	1469.12
17.	Mizoram	772.89
18.	Nagaland	532.86
19.	Orissa	49265.3
20.	Punjab	1221.32
21.	Rajasthan	11026.58
22.	Sikkim	552.78
23.	Tamil Nadu	9272.59
24.	Tripura	2604.92
25.	Uttaranchal	1595.8
26.	Uttar Pradesh	23670.61
27.	West Bengal	22120.2
	Total	353486.21

Modernisation of Public Sector Banks

*9. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to simplify certain cumbersome procedures and also modernise the Public Sector Banks in the country to face the stiff competition from private and foreign banks;

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

(c) whether RBI has issued instructions/guidelines in this regard; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The intense competitive banking scenario, largely propelled by the new players—foreign banks and new generation private sector banks—has brought with it latest technology, improved methods, practices and processes, innovations in products, services and delivery systems. Indian Banking system is now at the threshold of major structural and business transformations. To reposition them as globally competitive banks, Government has granted managerial autonomy to their Boards in many operational areas inducing them to take strategic initiatives.

As a part of modernization, all the Public Sector Banks have been computerizing their operations in a phased manner and have commenced offering computerized services, like Internet Banking, to their customers.

Banks have been advised, through guidelines contained in various RBI circulars, to adopt Information System Audit Policy appropriate to their level of computerization, formulate necessary risks associated with computer and telecommunication systems, draw up a policy outline on business continuity in case of a contingency and ensure that adequate systems are implemented and tested to meet the broad policy objectives laid down in this regard.

Discontent Amongst Officers of MTNL and BSNL

*10. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:

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

(a) whether there is a discontent amongst the officers of BSNL and MTNL belonging to Indian Telecom Services (ITS);

(b) If so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the discontent is resulting in gradual deterioration in telecom services provided by these public sector undertakings and many initiatives planned earlier could not be taken; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to resolve the problems of these officers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (d) Officers of the Department of Telecommunications, mainly those belonging to the Indian Telecom Services, have raised certain issues relating to their absorption in BSNL and MTNL. The officers have individually and collectively filed several cases in Courts of Law and the matter is currently subjudice.

With a view to finding an amicable solution Government have, including at the Minister's level, held discussions with the ITS Officers' Association but certain issues remain unresolved.

It is not true to say that the services provided by BSNL and MTNL are adversely affected owing to the above issue.

Pending Rural Development Projects

*11. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects and schemes pertaining to rural development submitted by various States during each of the last three years and current year; State-wise;

(b) out of them the number of projects cleared/sanctioned and pending for clearance as on date, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for pendency, if any; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Rural Development implements through the State Governments a number of schemes for improving the living standards of the rural poor. The State Governments submit project proposals to the Ministry for release of funds of the Central Allocation under some of the schemes, namely, the Special Project component of the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY), the Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), the Desert Development Programme (DDP), the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) and the Swajaldhara.

The proposals under the Special Project component of the SGSY received from the State Governments after examination, are placed before two inter-Ministerial Committees for approval. Thus, appraisal and approval of special projects is a continuous process. A Statement-I showing the State-wise projects received (cumulative) and sanctioned during the years 2002-03 to 2004-05 and the current year is enclosed.

Under IWDP, list of prioritised districts for sanctioning of new projects are invited from the State Governments for sanction during the financial year in consultation with the State Government representatives in the Project Sanctioning Committee (PSC). Those proposals which are

not sanctioned can be considered for sanction during the next PSC meeting, if again included in the priority list by the State Governments. In the case of DPAP and DDP, new projects are sanctioned suo-moto for the identified blocks in the country by the Ministry. As such, pendency of proposals under Watershed Development Programmes from various States does not arise. A Statement-II showing the State-wise projects sanctioned during the last three years 2002-03 to 2004-05 and the current year is enclosed.

Under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), 540 projects have been sanctioned in the country and there is no project pending till date. A Statement-III showing the State-wise projects sanctioned during the last three years 2002-03 to 2004-05 and the current year is enclosed.

Projects were sanctioned also under Swajaldhara Scheme prior to June, 2003. The details of these projects sanctioned during 2002-03 are given in Statement-IV enclosed. After June 2003, approval is given by the District Water and Sanitation Committees.

The Ministry of Rural Development regularly monitors the proposals received from the State Governments and UT Administrations for their examination and submission before the Project Sanctioning Committees of the concerned programme for early sanction of the projects.

Statement-I

Details of Special Projects under SGSY pending/sanctioned from the year 2002-03 onwards

Sl.No.	States	Total Project Proposals Received	Returned or Rejected	Sanctioned in 2002-2003	Sanctioned in 2003-2004	Sanctioned in 2004-05	Sanctioned During Current Year (2005-06)	Total Projects Sanctioned in Last 4 Years
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	44	26	5	4	3	1	13
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10	5	0	0	1	0	1
3.	Assam	22	15	3	1	0	0	4
4.	Bihar	27	17	2	2	4	0	8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
5.	Chhattisgarh	16	8	0	1	1	0	2
6.	Goa	4	3	0	1	0	0	1
7.	Gujarat	17	7	1	4	3	0	8
8.	Haryana	8	7	1	0	0	0	1
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10	2	2	0	0	0	2
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	11	7	2	2	0	0	4
11.	Jharkhand	8	4	2	0	0	0	2
12.	Karnataka	43	28	2	1	2	0	5
13.	Kerala	16	5	2	2	1	2	7
14.	Maharashtra	25	7	2	2	3	0	7
15.	Madhya Pradesh	41	19	6	3	0	2	11
16.	Manipur	29	23	0	2	0	0	2
17.	Meghalaya	8	4	0	1	0	0	1
18.	Mizoram	15	7	4	0	1	0	5
19.	Nagaland	24	15	0	1	1	2	4
20.	Orissa	9	8	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Punjab	3	2	0	0	0	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	39	24	5	4	2	1	12
23.	Sikkim	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	29	20	1	3	0	2	6
25.	Tripura	15	11	3	1	0	0	4
26.	Uttar Pradesh	22	14	1	2	0	0	3
27.	Uttaranchal	17	7	2	1	2	1	6
28.	West Bengal	12	5	2	1	1	1	5
	Multistate	4	0	0	0	1	2	3
Total		529	301	48	39	26	14	127

Statement II

Number of projects sanctioned during the last three years and the current year under Area Development Programmes of the Department of Land Resources

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
4.	Meghalaya		7	7	7	21											21
5.	Mizoram	5	5	5	17	32											32
6.	Nagaland	7	5	5	5	22											22
7.	Sikkim		3	4	4	11											11
8.	Tripura			7	5	12											12
	Total of NE	41	49	81	91	262											262
	Grand Total	49	190	221	340	800	2478	2535	2550	3000	10563	1602	1582	1600	2000	6764	18127

Statement III

Sanction of the projects under Total Sanitation Campaign during the last three years and the current year

Sl.No.	State	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	4	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	10
3.	Assam	0	3	1	5
4.	Bihar	6	0	0	9
5.	Chhattisgarh	3	2	1	3
6.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	0	0	0
7.	Goa	0	1	0	0
8.	Gujarat	2	0	20	0
9.	Haryana	3	12	0	0
10.	Himachal Pradesh	5	0	0	5
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	2	10	0	0
12.	Jharkhand	2	0	16	0
13.	Karnataka	0	0	15	9
14.	Kerala	7	0	0	1
15.	Madhya Pradesh	9	30	0	0
16.	Maharashtra	11	13	0	0
17.	Manipur	3	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Meghalaya	0	2	0	1
19.	Mizoram	1	1	0	6
20.	Nagaland	1	0	0	0
21.	Orissa	10	0	15	0
22.	Pondicherry	0	0	0	0
23.	Punjab	2	9	0	2
24.	Rajasthan	5	0	11	11
25.	Sikkim	0	0	0	0
26.	Tamil Nadu	12	6	1	0
27.	Tripura	0	0	0	0
28.	Uttar Pradesh	13	29	0	0
29.	Uttaranchal	5	7	0	0
30.	West Bengal	5	3	0	0
Total		116	132	80	62

Statement IV***Details of Swajaldhara Schemes/Projects sanctioned during 2002-03***

Sl.No.	States	No. of Schemes approved by Centre and taken up by States
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1620
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0
3.	Assam	53
4.	Bihar	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	102
6.	Goa	0
7.	Gujarat	30
8.	Haryana	2

1	2	3
9.	Himachal Pradesh	439
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0
11.	Jharkhand	0
12.	Karnataka	55
13.	Kerala	114
14.	Maharashtra	782
15.	Madhya Pradesh	87
16.	Manipur	0
17.	Meghalaya	0
18.	Mizoram	0
19.	Nagaland	0
20.	Orissa	287
21.	Punjab	0
22.	Rajasthan	35

1	2	3
23.	Sikkim	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	389
25.	Tripura	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	548
27.	Uttaranchal	0
28.	West Bengal	8
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1
Total		4552

Amount Spent on Collection of IT

*12. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- the cost of collection of income tax of rupee one;
- whether the amount collected commensurate with the expenditure incurred;
- if not, the reasons therefor and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard;
- the quantum of Income Tax collected during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 till date;
- the amount of money spent on collection of income tax during each of the last three years;
- the target vis-à-vis collection of revenue during each of the last three years alongwith the reasons for shortfall, if any; and
- the steps taken/proposed to be taken to meet the targets sets forth in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The cost of collection of income tax (all direct taxes) for the year 2004-05 was 0.86 paise per rupee of income tax collected.

(b) The amounts of direct taxes collected in various years have been commensurate with the expenditure incurred on collection.

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

(d) The amounts of income tax (all direct taxes) collected during the period under reference are as under:

Financial Year	Amount Collected
2005-06 (upto January 2006)	Rs. 1,09,831 crore
2004-05	Rs. 1,32,771 crore
2003-04	Rs. 1,05,088 crore

(e) The amount of expenditure for collection of direct taxes during the period under reference is as under:

Financial Year	Expenditure on Collection
2004-05	Rs. 1,138 crore
2003-04	Rs. 1,050 crore
2002-03	Rs. 984 crore

(f) The target (Budget Estimates) vis-à-vis collection of direct taxes during the period under reference is as under:

Financial Year	Target (Budget Estimates)	Actual Collections
2004-05	Rs. 1,39,510 crore	Rs. 1,32,771 crore
2003-04	Rs. 95,714 crore	Rs. 1,05,088 crore
2002-03	Rs. 91,585 crore	Rs. 83,088 crore

Budget Estimates of direct tax collections are fixed on the basis of certain macro-economic assumptions. Some deviation from the targets is likely when the assumptions of economic growth, market conditions, growth in real estate, growth in manufacturing sector, income-levels, price-levels, interest rates, etc. do not come true to the extent anticipated.

(g) The Government has been taking several measures to minimize the gap between target and actual collections of direct taxes including:—

- Fixation of realistic Budget Estimates of taxes and allocation of target amongst the field units on equitable basis.

- Maximization of direct tax collections through various steps including:—

- Monitoring of payments under advance tax and TDS.
- Augmentation of recovery from arrears of taxes.
- Detection of tax evasion through scrutiny, survey and search operations.
- Encouragement to voluntary compliance of tax through better taxpayers service and launching of advertisement and publicity campaigns.
- Creation of database of high-value financial transactions to detect tax-evasion and non-filers.
- Comprehensive computerization of the Income Tax Department for stronger tax-administration and better taxpayers service.
- Earmarking of one percent of the incremental revenue earned beyond the budget target for next year's expenditure budget for infrastructure and organizational efficiency.

Cooperative Credit

*13. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vaidyanathan Committee on cooperative credit has submitted its second report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations and decisions of the Government thereon;

(c) whether a new package has been announced by the Government for the revival of cooperative banks;

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken to implement the new package;

(e) whether the Union Government has asked the State Governments to sign an MoU to implement cooperative revival package as suggested by Vaidyanathan Committee; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Task Force is yet to finalise its Report on the Long Term Cooperative Credit Structure.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. After consulting the States on the recommendations of the Task Force on Short Term Co-operative Credit Structure, a revival package has been approved and sent to the State Governments for acceptance. The revival package includes financial restructuring estimated at Rs. 13,596 crore and envisages several legal and institutional reforms.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. State Governments desiring to implement the revival package for Short Term Credit Cooperatives need to agree, through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or Exchange of Letters with Government of India, to implement the recommended legal and institutional reforms and share the financial package.

Growth In I.T. Sector

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

(a) whether Indian IT and its enabled services are expected to register higher growth rates;

(b) if so, the growth rate expected during 2005-2006 and the extent to which it is higher in comparison to last three years; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) and (b) The total value of IT Software & Services and IT Enabled Services (ITES) (exports and domestic markets) during the last three years and the growth rate as compared to previous years is as follows:

Year	US\$ billion	Rs. in Crore	Growth % (as compared to previous year)
2002-03	12.6	59,500	25.6
2003-04	16.7	74,490	25.2
2004-05	22.0	97,860	31.4
2005-06 (Estimated)	29.5	127,860 (approx)	30.7

As per National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), the growth rate expected during 2005-06 is around 30-32% as compared to 2004-05.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to boost the IT Software are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Steps Taken by the Department to Promote Growth of IT and IT Enabled Services

1. Department of IT set up Software Technology Parks of India with an objective to implement the STP/EHTP scheme, setup and manage infrastructure facilities and provide other services like technology assessment, providing high speed data communication facilities for 100% Software Export Oriented Units. There are 46 STPI centres have been established at various locations. STPI acts as 'single-window' in providing services to the software exporters and incubation infrastructure to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).
2. Government is committed to bring about total transparency in administration and make government functioning more citizen centric. E-Governance has immense potential in realizing these objectives and in improving efficiency, responsiveness and convenience for end users of Government services. A National e-Governance Plan has been drawn which seeks to implement 25 Mission Mode Projects for the present at the Centre, State and integrated device levels.
3. Community Information Centres are being set up by DIT in the hilly, far-flung and rural areas of the country to bring the benefits of ICT for socio-economic development of these areas by providing broadband connectivity. So far around 480 CICs have been set up in northern States and 135 CICs are being set up in Jammu and Kashmir.
4. DIT is addressing the issues relating to linguistic data resource, content creation, language processing tools, and such technologies as optical character recognition, text-to-speech, speech recognition, cross lingual information retrieval, and machine translation in multi-lingual environment.
5. The Department has identified increase of PC penetration and internet utilization/coverage in the country; and growth of domestic software market as the thrust areas for action during next 2-3 years.

6. Information Security is assuming vital importance with the wide spread of IT applications in commercial, strategic and other sectors in the country. Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) was made operational with regular issuance of Advisories, Alerts and Vulnerability Notes.

7. Information Technology Act 2000 dealing with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects is in place to encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.

8. The following are policy measures taken for the export of Software:—

1. Approvals for all foreign direct investment proposals relating to the Information Technology Sector, with the exception of Business-to-consumer (B2C) e-commerce are under the automatic route.
2. Peak rate of customs duty is 15%. Customs duty on Computers and Peripherals is zero %. Excise duty on computers is zero %. Microprocessors, Hard Disc Drives, Floppy Disc Drives and CD ROM Drives are exempted from excise duty.
3. Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme (EPCG) allows capital goods on payment of 5% customs duty. The Export Obligation under the scheme is linked to the duty saved and is 8 times the duty saved on capital goods imported, to be fulfilled over a period of 8 years.
4. 100% depreciation is available to computers and computer peripherals over a period of 5 years for units under Export Oriented units (EOU)/ Software Technology Park (STP)/Special Economic Zone (SEZ) schemes.
5. Information Technology Software is exempted from Customs and Excise Duty.
6. EOU/STP units are eligible for Income Tax exemption on export profits, upto 2010, in terms of Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act. 100% Income Tax exemption on export profits available to SEZ units for 5 years, 50% for next 5 years and 50% of ploughed back profit for 5 years thereafter.

7. Income by way of dividends or long-term capital gains of a Venture Capital Fund (VCF) of Venture Capital company from investment made by way of equity shares in a Venture Capital Undertaking, which has been expanded to include the Software and IT sectors, will henceforth not be included in computing the total income. To give thrust to Venture Capital finance, SEBI has been made the single point nodal agency for registration and regulation of both domestic and overseas venture capital funds.

Energising Land Line Telephones

*15. CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to shortage of electricity supply to energise the telephone lines in exchanges, the services of BSNL are badly affected in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the areas where such problems are being encountered by BSNL;

(c) whether BSNL is serious in countering such problems to provide better facilities to its subscribers; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to counter such problems?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI

MARAN): (a) No, Sir. However in few States where the electric power availability is very poor or erratic especially in rural areas, performance of some rural exchanges gets affected.

(b) The position of power supply is especially deficient in rural areas of some of the Telecom circles like Bihar, UP (E), North East II comprising of Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh etc., adversely affecting several telephone exchanges. A summary of such areas is given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Some of the measures taken by BSNL to counter the problems caused by poor supply are as follows:

- (i) Adequate capacity power plant and battery sets are provided in all the Telephone exchanges.
- (ii) Engine alternators of sufficient capacity are provided.
- (iii) Provisioning of solar power systems is being done in some places where the power supply is almost nil.
- (iv) Provisioning of good phase selector/phase balancer for small exchanges (SBMs/RLUs/RSUs) having 3 phase power supply is being done on experimental basis in Rajasthan.
- (v) Automatic voltage regulators are being provided in rural areas where available power supply is of low voltage and high fluctuation.
- (vi) Surge protection devices and auto cut off against low voltage is being inducted in power plants.

Statement

Summary of the Areas Having Problems due to Inadequate Electric Power Supply

Sl.No.	Name of Telecom Circle	Total No. of telephone exchanges	Electric power supply position in telephone exchanges	
			Not Available	Available for less than 4 Hrs per day
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Bihar	1159	744	190
2.	Jharkhand	450	35	25

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	362	37	9
4.	Madhya Pradesh	2788	4	34
5.	NE-II	217	5	33
6.	UP (E)	2242	222	422
7.	UP (W)	978	75	48

[Translation]

M RTP Commission

*16. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) has received a number of complaints about malpractices by Drug companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof pertaining to the last three years; and

(c) the details of Drug companies involved therein alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

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

Statement

The names of the companies against whom the complaints have been received in restrictive and unfair trade practices, issues raised, details of products and stages of action taken in each case for the last three years (i.e. 2003 to 2005)

Sl.No.	Case No.	Title	Issues raised	Details of Products	Present Status
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	RTPE No. 28/2002	Bindal Medicine Traders Vs. Glaxo Smithkline Pharmaceutical	Restrictive Clauses In the agreements.	Manufacturing, selling & distribution of pharmaceutical and medical preparations	Disposed on 12.08.2004
2.	RTPE No. 11/2004	Batra Associates Vs. Johnson & Johnson Limited, Delhi	Non-supply of stock	Manufacturing and distribution of baby care products	Listed on 18.04.2006 for farming of issues
3.	UTPE No. 96/2005	HRA Agencies, Allahabad Vs. Dabur India Ltd.	Termination of stockistship and refusal to deal.	Manufacturing and selling of Ayurvedic medicines	The matter is referred to the DG for investigation and submission of Preliminary Investigation

1	2	3	4	5	6
					Report (PIR). Listed on 18.4.2006 for consideration of PIR.
4.	UTPE No. 78/2005	Mathew Memmon Vs. Devo Laboratories Ltd.	False advertisements	Manufacturing and selling of Ayurvedic medicines	Listed on 3.3.2006 for consideration.
5.	RTPE No. 9/2005	Tamilnadu Pharmaceuticals Distributors Association Vs. Tamilnadu Chemists and Druggists Association and 6 others	Non-supply of pharmaceutical products to the members of the complainant Association by the respondents	Manufacturing, Supplying and distribution of pharmaceutical products	Listed on 28.2.2006 for consideration.
6.	RTPE No. 6/2005	Suresh Agencies Vs. Novartis India Ltd. & 2 others	Discriminatory/ arbitrary dealings, creation of artificial shortage of supplies and resale price maintenance	Manufacturing, selling distribution of drugs and pharmaceutical goods	Listed on 10.4.2006 for consideration of 12A application and issuance of Notice of Enquiry
7.	UTPE No. 80/2005	Hindustan Lever Ltd. Vs. Grey Worldwide India Pvt. Ltd.	False misleading deceptive and disparaging advertisement/ claims of the respondent of its products- Panatene Pro-V Shampoo	Manufacturing and distribution of Cosmetics	Disposed as withdrawn
8.	UTPE No. 56/2005	Sony Agencies Vs. Pharmaceuticals Works Limited & Anr.	Alleged non- disbursal of gifts on achieving sales targets as per the respondent's advertisements	Manufacturing and distribution of Ayurvedic Medicines	Listed on 26.05.2006 for consideration

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	RTPE No. 2/2005	Kripa Medicare Vs Pfizer India Limited	Non-supply of products discriminatory dealing by the respondent	Manufacturing and distribution of Health care products	Listed on 21.2.2006 for issuance of Notice of Enquiry

Being a quasi-judicial body, the MRTTP Commission would dispose of the above cases after completion of proceedings and Government has no decision/action to take in these cases.

[English]

Cotton Production

*17. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cotton Advisory Board lowered the country's cotton crop for the current season 2005-06 (Oct.-Sept.) against the previous season's estimated crop;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the main reasons for the same;

(c) the names of the cotton producing States according to Cotton advisory Board which will have less cotton output; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to increase the cotton output in cotton producing States?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) No. please. The Cotton Advisory Board in its first meeting held on 7.12.2005 for the cotton season 2005-06 has estimated the cotton production at 242.50 lakh bales (inclusive of 12.0 lakh bales of loose cotton) which is almost the same to that of estimate of 243.00 lakh bales of previous year 2004-05.

(c) The cotton production in the States of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Haryana is some what affected during the current cotton season 2005-06 as compared to the previous year 2004-05 as the area has also decreased in the these States.

(d) The Government of India has consistently been adopting several measures for improving the quality, productivity and production of cotton in the country as listed below:

(i) Centrally sponsored Intensive Cotton Development Programme

(ii) Research & Developmental activities through various State Departments of Agriculture and State Agricultural Universities etc.

(iii) Technology Mission on Cotton—to improve the quality of cotton, increase the per hectare productivity, increase the income of cotton growers by reducing the cost of cultivation.

(iv) Integrated Cotton Cultivation

(v) Introduction of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) Cotton.

Development of Clusters under PURA

*18. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop 100 clusters in different States under the "Provision of Urban Amenities in Rural Areas" (PURA) scheme;

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

(c) the details of these clusters;

(d) whether there is any proposal to involve private participation in implementation of PURA, particularly in Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (e) The scheme

of PURA was announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in his speech on 15th August 2003 on the concept promoted by the Hon'ble President of India to bridge the rural-urban divide and achieving balanced socio-economic development. The Planning Commission moved a Note on PURA before the Cabinet on 14th January 2004. The Cabinet considered the Note submitted by Planning Commission in its meeting held on 20th January 2004 and approved the PURA Scheme in principle.

Ministry of Rural Development in consultation with Planning Commission decided to launch a pilot phase for implementation of PURA in seven States selecting one cluster of 10 to 15 villages in each State. The details of States, districts and clusters selected for implementation of Scheme in pilot phase along with the position of funds sanctioned during 2004-05 and approved in 2005-06 is tabulated below:

(In Rs. lakh)

Sl.No.	State	District	Cluster Selected	Amount sanctioned in 2004-05	Amount approved in 2005-06
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Anantpur	Rayadurg	150.00	45.20
2.	Assam	Sonitpur	Gohpur	150.00	90.00
3.	Bihar	Muzzafarpur	Motipur	150.00	150.00
4.	Maharashtra	Hingoli	Basmath	100.00	109.38
5.	Orissa	Jagat Singhpur	Kujanga	150.00	200.00
6.	Rajasthan	Bhilwara	Shahpura	150.00	100.00
7.	Uttar Pradesh	Etawah	Bharthana	150.00	107.90
Total:				1000.00	802.48

Meeting have been convened with Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) with a view to involve them for implementing PURA. CII agreed to engage themselves in implementing PURA. The States selected for the purpose include Maharashtra. Ministry of Rural Development has also written to the concerned State Governments to progress the matter with CII.

Establishment of Water Testing Laboratories

*19. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has started the water quality monitoring and surveillance programme for testing the quality of all drinking water sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is providing any assistance for establishment of stationary as well as

mobile water testing laboratories in all district headquarters;

(d) if so, the details of such laboratories established in the country along with the funds provided by the Government during the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(e) the guidelines issued by the Government to the States for routine analysis of water samples for their physiochemical and microbial quality?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Drinking water supply is a State subject. The Government of India renders financial and technical assistance to the States in this endeavour through a centrally sponsored programme, namely, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Under this umbrella

programme, the water quality monitoring and surveillance programme was started in the year 1988 to develop an integrated system by setting up of district level laboratories for water quality testing, reporting and generating awareness among rural masses about the importance of water quality and its relation to health. Over time, a need was felt to institutionalise community based water quality monitoring and surveillance systems in the country. Therefore, Government of India has introduced the National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance Programme in February 2006 to be implemented at three levels. At the first level by involving Gram Panchayats, Village Water and Sanitation Committees (VWSC) and Grass root level workers like Anganwadi workers, Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) of National Rural Health Mission, School teachers, Primary Health Centres, laboratories of schools, educational and technical institutions etc. At the second level district level water quality testing laboratories/ Polytechnics/Health Department Laboratories will do the monitoring and surveillance of drinking water sources in close coordination with gram panchayats and village water and sanitation committees. The nodal unit at the State level would be State Referral Institute/State Laboratory. The National Institute of Communicable Diseases, New Delhi has been identified as the National Referral Institute to act as consultants for Water Quality Monitoring and Surveillance programme. An MoU has been entered into with them for this purpose. Activities relating to preliminary water testing etc. is to be carried out by the Gram Panchayat/VWSCs by user-friendly field testing kits and positively tested samples may be referred to district level laboratories, intermediary units and/or the State level laboratory. The State Water and Sanitation Mission/District Water and Sanitation Mission would be supervising and facilitating awareness creation and capacity building of

the Gram Panchayats/VWSCs etc. 100% funding, as per the approved norms, is being provided to the States for strengthening water quality monitoring facilities. These include funds for Information, Education and Communication (IEC), Human Resource Development (HRD) and Monitoring and Surveillance Activities like field testing kits. Health Department officials at all levels are to be increasingly involved in the surveillance activity.

(c) For establishing stationary district level water quality testing laboratory, wherever, the facility was not available, assistance to the tune of Rs 1,86,500 per laboratory was provided to the State Governments prior to 1993-94. After 1993-94, this unit cost was revised to Rs. 4 lakh per unit (Rs. 1 lakh for laboratory building and Rs. 3 lakh for equipments, chemicals and glassware). This funding pattern is still continuing. During the period 1988-1993, 23 mobile laboratories were sanctioned. However, the sanction of mobile laboratories was discontinued in 1993-94.

(d) Details of laboratories sanctioned and established, State-wise are given in the Statement-I enclosed. The funds released during the last 3 years and current year State-wise are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(e) Government of India had issued Executive guidelines for Implementation of Water Quality Testing Laboratories for routine analysis of water samples for their physiochemical and microbial quality, in May 1990. This is available at our website www.ddws.govt.in. Guidelines for National Rural Drinking Water Quality Monitoring & Surveillance Programme envisaging water quality testing at the grass root level by user-friendly field testing kits have also been issued and the same are also available on the Departmental web site.

Statement I

Setting up of District Level Water Quality Laboratory

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	No. of Districts	Status Stationary Laboratories			Total Established	Mobile laboratories	
			By centre		By State Established		Sanctioned	Delivered
			Sanctioned	Established				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23	14	14	37	51	—	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	15	13	1	0	1	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.	Assam	23	21	21	2	23	—	—
4.	Bihar	37	35	2	2	4	1	1
5.	Chandigarh (UT)	1	0	0		0	—	—
6.	Chhattisgarh	16	16	6	2	8	—	—
7.	Goa	2	1	1	1	2	—	—
8.	Gujarat	25	13	5	4	9	1	1
9.	Haryana	19	18	18	1	19	—	—
10.	Himachal Pradesh	12	10	10	5	15	1	1
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	9	6	2	8	3	3
12.	Jharkhand	22	16	6		6	—	—
13.	Karnataka	27	21	9	0	9	—	—
14.	Kerala	14	4	4	10	14	—	—
15.	Madhya Pradesh	48	48	48	14	62	1	1
16.	Maharashtra	35	3	3	27	30	1	1
17.	Manipur	9	8	3	0	3	1	1
18.	Meghalaya	7	7	7	0	7	1	1
19.	Mizoram	8	4	4	0	4	1	1
20.	Nagaland	8	6	2	0	2	1	1
21.	Orissa	30	30	29	0	29	1	1
22.	Punjab	17	12	4	0	4	—	—
23.	Rajasthan	32	23	23	10	33	1	1
24.	Sikkim	4	3	2	0	2	1	1
25.	Tamil Nadu	30	24	24	6	30	1	1
26.	Tripura	4	3	3	3	6	1	1
27.	Uttar Pradesh	70	67	8	1	9	1	1
28.	Uttaranchal	13		3	0	3	—	—
29.	West Bengal	18	17	13	6	19	1	1
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2	1	1	0	1	—	—
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1	1	1	0	1	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
32.	Daman and Diu	2	2	2	0	2	—	—
33.	Delhi	9	0	0	6	6	1	1
34.	Lakshadweep	1	7	2	7	9	—	—
35.	Pondicherry	4	2	2	2	4	—	—
36.	DI. Jodhpur						1	1
37.	ITRC, Lucknow						1	1
38.	AIIPH & PH, Calcutta						1	1
All India		602	459	287	148	435	23	23

Note: *67 district water quality testing laboratories approved for erstwhile Uttar Pradesh, which included Uttaranchal also.

Statement II

Year-wise and State-wise funds released during the last 3 years and the current year for setting up of district level water quality testing laboratories

Sl.No.	State	Funds released in Rs. lakh			
		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	6.00	0.00
2.	Mizoram	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Orissa	0.00	0.00	36.00	0.00
4.	West Bengal	14.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Bihar	0.00	66.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
Total		22.00	86.00	42.00	0.00

[Translation]

Quality of Rural Roads

*20. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any objections have been raised by National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA) on

the quality of rural roads constructed with the funds raised through diesel cess under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) as reported in '*Rashtriya Sahara*' dated January 20, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of States where quality of roads has been inquired into indicating the names of the States where the quality of roads has not been found upto the desired level; and

(d) the total amount spent till the end of the year out of diesel cess during 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) 'Rural Roads' being a State subject, the State Governments are primarily responsible for ensuring proper implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). According to the extant Guidelines, the State Quality Coordinator/Head of PIU is responsible for receiving and enquiring into complaints/representations about quality of works.

(c) The PMGSY aims to construct high quality rural roads in accordance with the technical standards prescribed in the Rural Roads Manual of the IRC (IRC: SP20: 2002) and (where applicable), the Hill Roads

Manual (IRC: SP: 48). A three-tier Quality Control mechanism has been prescribed to ensure quality at works level. The State Government, as the executing agency, is responsible for the first two tiers, at the works and at the State levels. A third tier of quality monitoring is enforced at the Central level through National Quality Monitors (NQMs), who are senior retired engineers with road construction experience. They inspect the works systematically on randomised basis and advise the executing machinery on all technical aspects of the programme. The inspection reports of the NQMs are provided to the States for appropriate action. State-wise abstract of inspections carried by the National Quality Monitors upto October, 2005 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) An amount of Rs. 2142.27 crore, out of the diesel cess, was released during 2004-05.

Statement

State-wise Abstract of Inspections Carried by National Quality Monitors Upto October, 2005

Sl.No.	State	No. of Inspections	Grading			
			Complete		Incomplete	
			Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2473	1088	240	788	357
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	153	37	48	15	53
3.	Assam	476	138	32	183	123
4.	Bihar	737	79	122	304	232
5.	Chhattisgarh	1353	357	42	667	287
6.	Gujarat	1685	585	103	691	308
7.	Goa	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Haryana	218	42	12	134	30
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1056	236	19	556	245
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	180	6	3	93	78
11.	Jharkhand	824	112	73	309	330
12.	Karnataka	2028	694	88	750	496
13.	Kerala	616	152	46	352	66

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2868	819	120	1391	538
15.	Maharashtra	2392	607	95	1252	438
16.	Manipur	94	8	30	7	49
17.	Meghalaya	162	19	10	44	89
18.	Mizoram	112	10	19	47	36
19.	Nagaland	134	26	24	27	57
20.	Orissa	1953	823	85	550	495
21.	Punjab	769	320	16	335	98
22.	Rajasthan	3216	1400	188	1253	375
23.	Sikkim	144	14	10	69	51
24.	Tamil Nadu	2500	1290	191	694	325
25.	Tripura	121	31	18	30	42
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3930	1628	150	1577	575
27.	Uttaranchal	674	84	11	371	208
28.	West Bengal	1119	336	65	512	206
Total		31987	10941	1860	13001	6185

*[English]***Telecommunication and Postal Network Facilities**

1. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide the telecommunication and postal network facilities to the remote, under-developed hilly regions of West Bengal;

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

(c) the number of villages in districts Cooch Bihar and Jalpaiguri which have been provided these facilities, district-wise;

(d) whether the existing telecommunication facilities in the small towns and villages of these districts are non-functional; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken by the Government to make them functional?

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

Reply pertaining to Department of Telecommunications:

(a) Village Public Telephones have been provided in all eligible villages of remote and hilly areas of West Bengal. This excludes villages having less than 100 population, villages lying in thick forest area/naxalite infested areas etc.

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

(c) District-wise number of villages provided with telecommunication facilities is as under:

Cooch Bihar District = 1170 villages

Jalpaiguri District = 703 villages

(d) and (e) 53 villages in Cooch Bihar District where telecommunication facilities were extended by Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) technology are non-functional due to defective MARR technology. Action has already been initiated for replacement of the defective telephones on MARR technology by Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) or Landline telephones and the replacement work is expected to be completed by June, 2006.

Reply pertaining to Department of Posts

(a) and (b) Postal network facilities are provided to all areas, including remote, under developed and hilly regions. No plan targets are being allotted for opening of new Post Offices since the year 2004-05, in consonance with the policy directives of the X Five Year Plan. However, justified Post Offices are opened in all areas including remote, under developed and hilly regions of West Bengal by relocating those post offices which do not comply with the norms prescribed by the Department. In West Bengal Postal Circle, Nayarhat Bazar in Cooch Bihar District and Khirkuri in Uttar Dinajpur District have been identified for opening of Post Offices by relocation.

(c) Out of 1,139 villages in District Cooch Bihar and 734 villages in District Jalpaiguri, Post offices are located in 327 villages and 255 villages respectively.

Telephone Services in Jammu & Kashmir

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

(a) whether the Government is facing any problem in providing land-line and mobile phones services in Gruez, Keran, Rambal/Rajwar and Rafiabab in Baramulla district of Jammu & Kashmir;

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

(c) whether inspite of OFC being laid upto Uri many important exchanges have not been enabled to connect more areas due to default of contractors;

(d) if so, whether the pending works shall be completed during current financial year; 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) Yes, Sir. There are

problems in providing land-line and mobile phones services in Gruez, Keran, Rambal/Rajwar and Rafiabab in Baramulla district of Jammu and Kashmir. All these places are very remote and have difficult terrain, low power supply, severe weather conditions where adequate skilled manpower are not available which create problems in provision of telecom services.

(c) Underground cabling has not yet been completed. However, Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) Base Transceiver Station (BTS) has been proposed at Uri and Fatehgarh to cover most of the areas of Uri and Fatehgarh.

(d) and (e) As provisioning of land-line telephone connections is dependent on tender finalization of underground cable laying, however, WLL BTS is likely to be provided during the current financial year.

PCO Connections at Panchayat Level

3. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the difficulty being faced in getting a PCO connection at Panchayat level in the rural areas of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and remedial measures taken in this regard;

(c) whether irregularities are being committed in the quality of telephone instrument while providing a new connection; and

(d) if so, 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. All the villages in Karnataka have already been provided with Village Public Telephone facility. These exclude villages having less than 100 population/lying in thick forest area or naxalite infested areas etc.

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

(c) No, Sir.

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

Scheme for Handloom Weavers

4. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa has requested the Union Government to release pending funds under Thrift Deposit of Handloom Weavers Savings and Security Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of funds pending with the Union Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The State Government of Orissa requested the Union Government for release of pending funds of Rs. 34.86 lakh under Thrift Fund Scheme for the years 1997-98 to 1999-2000.

(c) The Government of India has released a sum of Rs. 24.87 lakh to the State Government of Orissa during the current financial year 2005-06.

Waiting List for Telephone Connections

5. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications pending for new telephone connections in Holalkere, Jagalur, Harihar, Honnali, Channagiri, Chitradurga and Davangere Taluks of Karnataka and since when;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to provide telephone connections to all the applicants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, the total number of applications pending with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for new telephone connections in Holalkere, Jagalur, Harihar, Honnali, Channagiri, Chitradurga and Davangere taluks of Karnataka are given below:

Sl.No.	Taluku	Waiting List	Date of oldest registration for new Telephone connection
1.	Holalkere	238	06/11/1999
2.	Jagalur	130	05/10/2005
3.	Harihar	96	18/04/1999
4.	Honnalli	493	01/04/2005
5.	Channagiri	599	02/01/2005
6.	Chitradurga	280	03/11/1999
7.	Davangere	406	20/02/2002

(b) All the above applications are pending being technically not feasible to provide telephone connections at the required locations.

(c) Main Switching Centre (MSC) based Wireless in Local Loop (WLL system) is commissioned at Harihar and Chitradurga. Code Division Multiple Access (CDMA) based WLL is working at Holalkere, Jagalur and Davangere.

*[Translation]***Delay in Construction of Roads under PMGSY**

6. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of roads constructed under the Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana in the country as on date and the number of roads not constructed as per schedule, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government has held any officials responsible for not completing the construction works as per schedule; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against them indicating the nature of action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) 'Rural Roads' is a State subject. Accordingly, the road works under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) are implemented by the State Governments. The reports received from States/Union Territories up to December 2005 indicate that a total of 29564 road works and 82792 Kms of road length have been completed under PMGSY so far. Total expenditure of Rs. 12100.48 crore has also been reported.

The time period prescribed for completion of road works is 12-15 months from the date of approval by the Ministry of Rural Development. Against 37493 road works approved by the Ministry of Rural Development up to March 2005, the States/Union Territories have so far reported completion of 29564 road works.

(b) and (c) Since the PMGSY road works are executed by the State Governments, it is for them to fix responsibility for delays and take appropriate action in the matter.

[English]

Primary Weavers Cooperative Societies

7. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of primary weavers co-operative societies in the country particularly in Madhya Pradesh at present, State-wise;

(b) the details of the handloom goods manufactured by these societies during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether any stocks have been accumulated with these societies and also with Apex Body; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) Based on the information received from the various State Governments, a statement is enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	State	(a) Number of primary weavers co-operative societies in the State at present	(b) Details of the handloom goods manufactured by these societies during the last three years, State-wise	(c) Whether any stocks have been accumulated with these Societies and also with Apex Body	(d) If so, details thereof
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	810	Dhoties, Cotton & Silk Sarees, Towels, Polyester Shirting, Bedsheets, Dress Materials, Furnishings etc.	Yes	Rs. 97.87 crores
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	40	Traditional local Dresses, Furnishing items, household items etc.	No	Does not arise
3.	Chhattisgarh	115	Tussur Sarees, Cotton Sarees & Dress Material, Bedsheets, Polyester Suiting etc.	No	Does not arise
4.	Delhi	399	Bedsheets, Bedcover, Furnishing Cloth, Blanket, Khes, Durry, Duster, Exportable Item etc.	Yes	Rs. 8.26 crores
5.	Jammu and Kashmir	462	Pashmina, Kani Jamawar & Raffal Shawls, Lois, Woollen Blankets, Tweed, Mufflers, Stoles etc.	Yes	Rs. 24.12 crores

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Karnataka	405	Silk/Cotton Sarees, Dhoties, Bedsheets, Dress Materials etc.	Yes	(i) Primary Weavers Co-operative Societies-Rs. 4.41 crores (ii) Apex Bodies-Rs. 23.25 crores
7.	Kerala	750	Sarees, Set Mundu, Dress Materials, Shirts, Dhoties, Table Mats, Bedspreads, Towels, Curtains etc.	Yes	Apex Bodies is Rs. 20.00 crores
8.	Madhya Pradesh	670	Silk & Cotton Sarees, Dress Materials, Polyester Suiting, Cotton Shirting, Bedsheets, Gauze bandage etc.	Yes	Rs. 7.81 crores (approx.)
9.	Maharashtra	680	Tussar Saree, Tussar Dress Material, Duster Cloth, Furnishing Material, Cotton-Polyester mixed Shirting, Durry, Palthani Sarees etc.	Yes	The stock of Rs. 20.03 crores was subsequently disposed of
10.	Nagaland	1450	Shawls, Mekheias, Bedsheet, T.V. Cover, School Bags, Uniforms, Table Mats, Scarfs, Jackets, Curtains etc.	No	Does not arise
11.	Orissa	1273	Cotton—Dhoti, Sarees, Napkin, Bedsheets, Dress Materials Silk—Sarees, Dhoti (Joda), thans, Chadar, Furnishing items etc.	Yes	(i) Primary Weavers Co-operative Societies-Rs. 33.29 crores (ii) Apex Bodies-Rs. 12.47 crores
12.	Punjab	942	Durries, Khesses, Bedsheets, Towels, Blankets, Shawls etc.	Yes	(i) Primary Weavers Co-operative Societies-Rs. 0.40 crores (approx.) (ii) Apex Bodies-Rs. 1.00 crores (approx.)
13.	Sikkim	Nil	Does not arise	No	Does not arise
14.	Tamil Nadu	1247	Bedsheets, Bedspreads, Silk Sarees, Dhoties, Lungies etc.	Yes	(i) Primary Weavers Co-operative Societies-Rs. 164.80 crores (ii) Apex Bodies-Rs. 65.47 crores
15.	Tripura	29	Furnishing cloth, Sarees, Dhoti, Acrylic products, Napkin, Gauze & Bandage etc.	Yes	(i) Primary Co-operative Societies-Rs. 0.41 crores (ii) Apex Societies—Rs. 34.00 crores
16.	Uttar Pradesh	1547	Silk Sarees, Suiting, Shirting, Durry, Bedsheets, Lungi, Towels, Dress Material etc.	Yes	Rs. 81.52 crores

More Power to IRDA

8. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has given more powers to Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir. Duties, powers and functions of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) have been defined in Section 14 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) Act, 1999.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Schemes for Environmental Conditions In Cities

9. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has initiated any scheme to improve the environmental conditions in various cities of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the work is yet to be commenced despite the approval given to some of the Projects; and

(d) if so, the names of those cities where the work has not been commenced yet and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) The Government has launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3.12.2005 comprising two sub-missions for (i) Urban infrastructure and governance and (ii) Basic services for the urban poor along with two omnibus schemes namely (i) Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small & Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) and (ii) Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme. The admissible components under JNNURM include urban renewal, water supply, sewerage, solid waste management, urban transport, etc. 63 cities have been selected on the basis of population

criteria as per 2001 census and religious/historic and touristic importance for coverage under the Mission. Out of these 63 cities, Hyderabad, Vijayawada and Vishakapatnam in Andhra Pradesh are covered under JNNURM. However, City Development Plans and Detailed Project Reports which are prerequisites for accessing central assistance under JNNURM are awaited from these cities. The cities/towns not covered under JNNURM will be covered under UIDSSMT. If the urban local bodies in the cities/towns/State governments take up infrastructure projects under the Mission on priority basis, the environmental conditions in various cities/towns including those of Andhra Pradesh will improve. In addition, Central Sector Scheme for Solid Waste Management & Drainage in 10 Selected IAF Air Filed Towns is also in operation to address the problem of bird hits to defence aircrafts. Dundigal (Andhra Pradesh) is one of the towns covered under this scheme. The scheme will improve the environment in and around Dundigal through efficient solid waste management.

[English]

Externally Aided Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation Schemes

10. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the works being carried out under the different ongoing externally aided schemes for rural development and poverty alleviation on cost-sharing basis between the State Government and the Union Government, State-wise;

(b) the scheme-wise funds allocated during the last three years and current year, State-wise; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Union Government for initiating new schemes in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Andhra Pradesh Water Sector Improvement Project

11. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted a project proposal *viz* Andhra Pradesh Water Sector Improvement Project (APWIP) at an estimated cost of about 300 crores to be implemented in a period of 5-6 years with the World Bank assistance; and

(b) if so, the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Andhra Pradesh is a debt stressed State. Before the proposal is considered for World Bank assistance the following conditions need to be addressed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh:

- (i) State Government undertakes to stand committed to the targets of fiscal correction path (i.e. to eliminate revenue deficit and reduce fiscal deficit to 3% of GSDP by the end of 2008-09), and
- (ii) Substitute an agreed source of borrowings within the borrowing ceiling fixed for the State.

[Translation]

Internet Facility in Rural Areas

12. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the computer and internet facility has been provided in the rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (c) the names of the schemes launched by the Government so far to implement such programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL), a public sector under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), provides Internet Service throughout the country on local call basis. In order to promote proliferation of Internet in Rural areas, BSNL under its 'Internet Dhabas' scheme, provides one free Internet Access Connection along with 25% discount on the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN) access charges to the franchisees of Internet Dhabas in each of rural Block Head Quarters. As on December 31, 2005, a total of 4175 Internet Dhabas have been set up through franchisees in various States in the country.

In addition, the Department of Information Technology (DIT) has provided computer and Internet facility through its various programmes:

- National Information Centre (NIC) has established 487 Community Information Centres (CICs) at block level in the North Eastern States with the objective of providing Internet access, e-mail, training and basic e-Governance services. NIC has also established CICs in 116 blocks in Jammu & Kashmir.
- NIC, in collaboration with Maharashtra State Government has provided computers and Internet facility at 70 villages under Warana project in Kolhapur and Sangli districts.
- Under Vidya Vahini pilot project 140 Government /Government aided schools in the 7 districts across 6 States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Maharashtra have been provided computer with internet connection.
- Another e-Governance scheme for development of Core infrastructure entitled "State Wide Area Network" (SWAN) was approved by the Government in March, 2005 with an estimated outlay of Rs. 3334 crore for the entire country out of which estimated expenditure of Rs. 2005 crore would be provided as Grant-in-Aid, to be expended over 5 years. This scheme would provide broadband connectivity to 6000 Blocks, Tahsil and District Headquarters which would facilitate creation of ICT based Common Services Centres in the villages within a radius of 10-15 kms. around the Block Hqrs. Under the Scheme, project proposals of 20 States were sanctioned and are now under various stages of implementation.

[English]

Duplication of "Kota Doria Sarees"

13. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the crisis created by the duplication of the famous "Kota Doria Sarees" produced to Kota, Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to check the production of duplicate sarees;

(d) whether the Government has prepared any action plan to give special incentive and protection of "Kota Doria Sarees";

(e) If so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of the present market status of "Kota Doria Sarees"?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) No such report has been received.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) The Government of Rajasthan has informed that it has announced a scheme to develop Kota Doria Clusters in Kaithun. For development of Common Facility Centre Rs. 176.44 lakh proposal has been sanctioned to RUDA in which designing, development, research and development, dyeing and washing facilities etc. will be developed. For implementing the aforesaid schemes RUDA has already posted a project manager at DIC Kota to look after this scheme in toto.

(f) The Government of Rajasthan has informed that Local manufacturing hubs of Kota Doria Sarees are also the important marketing centres. It is also sold at various fairs and exhibitions within and outside Rajasthan.

[*Translation*]

Action for Recovery of Loan

14. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the banks are required to take legal action against defaulters for non-repayment of loan taken from nationalised banks;

(b) If so, the names of the banks that have taken such action alongwith the details thereof for the last three years, bank-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for speedy recovery of loan and early settlement of court cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The banks are required to take action for recovery of dues in accordance with their recovery policies and instructions of Reserve Bank of India/Government.

(b) The bank-wise details of number of cases filed in various DRTs and notices issued under SARFAESI Act, 2002 together with recovery made by nationalised banks during the last three years are given in the enclosed Statement I and II respectively.

(c) Government of India and Reserve Bank of India have stipulated certain steps for recovery of loans, which, *inter-alia*, include evolving and implementing a recovery policy by banks, filing of suits in civil courts/DRTs, issue of notices under SARFAESI Act, 2002, compromise settlement and monitoring and follow up of NPAs at various levels. The public sector banks have been advised to take effective measures for expeditious recovery of dues from the borrowers in NPA accounts.

Statement I

Cases Decided by DRTs During the Last Three Years

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05		
		Cases filed	Cases decided	Amount recovered	Cases filed	Cases decided	Amount recovered	Cases filed	Cases decided	Amount recovered
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Allahabad Bank	1383	556	148.56	1735	628	195.49	1532	656	237.99
2.	Andhra Bank	840	401	85.10	959	544	115.51	1039	666	155.53
3.	Bank of Baroda	3018	863	265.70	3267	1146	306.34	3465	1385	380.49

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
4.	Bank of India	2994	1359	226.69	3218	1560	339.63	3495	2067	537.85
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	1182	590	108.18	1251	777	137.08	1362	914	191.72
6.	Canara Bank	3631	1375	263.36	3918	1790	348.39	4220	2160	512.85
7.	Central Bank of India	3548	864	162.78	4011	1029	233.52	4604	1243	300.78
8.	Corporation Bank	468	197	17.81	563	268	30.84	616	333	48.85
9.	Dena Bank	1014	336	38.60	1138	435	48.45	1166	569	70.09
10.	Indian Bank	3965	1174	1112.02	4043	1894	1242.15	4092	1940	1361.46
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	1593	426	74.87	1733	482	85.24	1287	568	110.78
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	1297	600	101.79	1449	701	191.67	1807	892	340.46
13.	Punjab National Bank	3743	803	271.86	3889	1169	349.77	4085	1492	445.54
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	1148	468	104.17	1217	542	141.38	1383	646	182.15
15.	Syndicate Bank	1706	896	163.10	1813	1157	199.70	1895	1243	266.29
16.	Union Bank of India	2193	908	211.89	2647	1307	234.16	2910	1630	364.97
17.	United Bank of India	904	296	84.62	944	353	131.34	990	403	165.40
18.	UCO Bank	1053	464	49.76	1094	550	91.21	1134	637	112.94
19.	Vijaya Bank	721	203	51.01	773	297	53.05	779	297	53.25

Statement II*Recoveries by Nationalised Banks Under SARFAESI Act, 2002*

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the Bank	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05		
		Notices issued	Amount involved	Amount recovered	Notices issued	Amount involved	Amount recovered	Notices issued	Amount involved	Amount recovered
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Allahabad Bank	1435	456.73	15.82	1910	594.28	47.17	2752	756.04	93.05
2.	Andhra Bank	345	74.18	8.5	899	173.07	30.15	2156	254.50	92.65
3.	Bank of Baroda	106	367.84	3.54	162	326.79	14.77	1108	660.05	34.53
4.	Bank of India	1110	310.48	23.99	3540	1677.89	184.93	5463	2850.67	466.99
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	317	48.09	1.05	560	104.12	8.21	1028	159.66	28.47

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6.	Canara Bank	877	280.88	19.63	1623	481.74	101.85	3212	863.57	237.10
7.	Central Bank of India	2119	1037.17	15.57	3318	1471.26	85.68	4452	1841.54	140.46
8.	Corporation Bank	175	94.66	17.19	604	186.14	34.61	1183	241.86	76.07
9.	Dena Bank	312	357.18	17.84	369	407.07	45.80	633	583.47	92.55
10.	Indian Bank	764	304.89	14.12	1030	431.35	55.17	2082	819.52	122.90
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	1830	499.92	23.74	2354	560.09	75.12	3698	650.45	155.66
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	1866	339.61	30.83	3219	546.77	117.49	3906	1954.75	251.94
13.	Punjab National Bank	2226	428.70	31.61	6836	1649.64	152.62	9627	2172.66	463.95
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	802	453.78	9.02	1376	620.14	60.41	2903	1118.67	126.67
15.	Syndicate Bank	1191	152.60	12.70	1832	457.86	47.91	2767	824.67	103.86
16.	Union Bank of India	1452	496.22	10.97	2627	1132.71	102.87	3847	1499.85	247.88
17.	United Bank of India	139	13.93	1.77	162	14.52	2.08	244	20.92	4.34
18.	UCO Bank	1125	86.24	4.13	1688	202.35	21.72	2761	419.16	60.42
19.	Vijaya Bank	1889	210.06	15.76	2583	332.75	62.75	2733	311.97	93.52

*[English]***Institute of Chartered Accountants of India**

15. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether irregularities in the functioning of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and the alleged manipulation in the declaration of the results of the examination conducted by the Institute were reported to the Government by the ICAI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the alleged irregularities were criminal in nature and amounted to misuse of the position;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken against the guilty officers; and

(f) the steps taken to bring transparency in the functioning of Institute?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (e) No report has been received from the Institute indicating any irregularities in the functioning of the Institute or in conduct of its examinations. However, as a general practice, issues, if any, raised in respect of the functioning of the Institute from any quarter are looked into by the Government and the Institute to ascertain facts and to take action as warranted under the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.

(f) The Government has moved proposals through the Chartered Accountants (Amendment) Bill, 2005, for amendments to the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949 with a view to further improve the functioning of the Institute. The Bill is awaiting approval of the Parliament.

*[Translation]***Cases of Corruption in CBDT and CBEC**

16. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of corruption registered in the Departments of Income Tax, Customs and Central Excise during the last 3 years as on date;

(b) the number of cases disposed of out of them and the number of officers against whom action has been taken;

(c) whether the officers against whom action has been taken are still in service; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The number of cases of corruption registered in CBEC during the last three years are as follows:

2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (upto 10.2.2006)
153	117	98

The number of cases of corruption registered in CBDT during the years 2003, 2004 and 2005 are given below:

2003	2004	2005
46	75	85

(b) The number of cases disposed of the number of officers against whom action has been taken by CBEC are as follows:

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06 (upto 10.2.2006)
Number of cases disposed of	25	27	9
Number of officers against whom action has been taken	42	36	59

As regards CBDT, sanction for prosecution of the officers have been given in 14 cases. Another 14 cases have reached finality which includes major penalty being imposed in 3 cases, minor penalty in 5 cases and in the remaining 6 cases, the charges were either dropped or the cases were closed after investigation.

(c) and (d) 6 officers have been dismissed/removed from service by the CBEC and the rest are still in service.

As regards CBDT, 2 officers have been dismissed from service and 39 officers have been placed under suspension.

[English]

Model Education Loan Scheme

17. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has undertaken 'model education loan scheme' through Nationalized Banks for economically backward and deserving students in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of students provided loan under this scheme during each of the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) A 'New Education Loan Scheme' has been formulated by Indian Banks Association (IBA) in consultation with the Government and circulated by Reserve Bank of India to all scheduled commercial banks including Nationalized Banks for implementation. The main features of the scheme are as under:

1. Loans upto Rs. 7.50 lakh for studies in India and upto Rs. 15 lakh for studies abroad. It covers courses in schools and colleges in India and abroad.
2. No collateral or margin required for loans upto Rs. 4 lakh. For loans of above Rs. 4 lakh and upto Rs. 7.50 lakh, a suitable 3rd party guarantee is required to be provided.
3. Interest not to exceed PLR for loans upto Rs. 4 lakh and PLR+1% for loans above Rs. 4 lakh.
4. Repayable over a period of 5-7 years after commencement of repayment of 1st instalment (no repayment during the course period).

(c) As reported by RBI, the number of students provided education loans under the scheme during the years 2003-04 and 2004-05, State-wise is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement*The number of students provided Education Loans during 2003-04 and 2004-05*

(Rs. in 000's)

Name of the State/ Union Territories	2003-2004		2004-2005	
	No. of A/Cs	Amount outstanding	No. of A/Cs	Amount outstanding
1	2	3	4	5
Haryana	5088	790875	7250	1205843
Himachal Pradesh	1009	147294	1735	254752
Jammu and Kashmir	847	142178	1370	224534
Punjab	5623	1018059	9105	1699436
Rajasthan	11539	895560	9933	1279185
Chandigarh	1440	236626	2113	436805
Delhi	14314	2121913	13721	3382972
Assam	1124	166670	1319	243790
Manipur	28	9307	124	23690
Meghalaya	133	25557	240	36065
Nagaland	2	491	27	5930
Tripura	77	10726	189	37707
Arunachal Pradesh	30	10157	25	2618
Mizoram	41	8606	38	10659
Sikkim	20	4928	154	39441
Bihar	9977	695009	6248	931302
Jharkhand	3548	400933	5187	735264
Orissa	7428	647104	9762	1180071
West Bengal	8868	1390760	15008	2081355
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	22	4091	70	6476
Madhya Pradesh	16793	1592994	21053	2385941
Chhattisgarh	2593	321204	2846	365084
Uttar Pradesh	32097	2632056	25456	3326970

1	2	3	4	5
Uttaranchal	7457	323792	3825	535292
Gujarat	6771	1424956	16248	3696349
Maharashtra	28820	4385413	41181	5763658
Daman and Diu	4	677	8	2364
Goa	1186	109147	1305	189445
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	9	1478
Andhra Pradesh	65530	8807087	88014	13523213
Karnataka	33651	4030333	46273	5518371
Kerala	38487	4694537	68583	7570622
Tamil Nadu	55786	6770263	88707	10014120
Pondicherry	1151	109458	2318	232358
Lakshadweep	36	7205	1	163
All India	361520	43933966	489445	66943323

Diversion of Funds by Gram Panchayats

18. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the funds earmarked for the construction of pavement, drains, cleanliness and setting up of hand pumps are spent on the prescribed purposes by Gram Panchayats in West Bengal and Bihar;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken against the persons responsible for it;

(c) whether any audit is being conducted by the authorities concerned in these States;

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

(e) whether the Government proposes to utilize these funds through D.Ms on the line of M.P.L.A.D.S.; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and

(b) Yes, Sir. We have not received any reports of diversion of funds under Total Sanitation Campaign and Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme by Gram Panchayats in West Bengal and Bihar.

(c) and (d) Respective State Governments take necessary steps for conducting audit from time to time.

(e) and (f) There is no such proposal at present.

[Translation]

Amendments to Delhi Master Plan

19. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Legislative Assembly has passed a resolution and public representatives have also made requests to the effect that necessary amendments be carried out in the Delhi Master Plan, 2021; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and

(b) The draft Master Plan for Delhi (MPD) 2021 has not been finalised. The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) had issued public notice on 8.4.2005 inviting objections/suggestions to the Draft Master Plan for Delhi 2021. The responses received in this regard have been placed before a Board of Enquiry and Hearing for recommending further necessary action in accordance with the provisions of the Delhi Development Act.

The Delhi Legislative Assembly Secretariat had sent a motion passed by the Assembly on 27.7.2004 in which it was resolved to strongly recommend to the Central Government that the Master Plan for Delhi be amended or a Fresh Master Plan be formulated and released at the earliest to declare all the areas with more than 70% industrial units as industrial areas to avoid the sense of panic among people attached with such units, save employment and provide them relief. An amendment to MPD-2001 has been notified on 31.5.2005 incorporating a provision permitting redevelopment of clusters with concentration of Industries in non-conforming areas, subject to certain terms and conditions.

Suggestions have also been received from public representatives with respect to various provisions in the draft Master Plan for Delhi-2021. These have been referred to DDA for appropriate action in accordance with the statutory provisions.

[English]

Telephone Lines in Assam

20. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BSNL telephone lines in Assam are not working properly;

(b) if so, whether the department has formulated any programme to rectify the telephone lines in Assam; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. In general, BSNL telephone lines in Assam are working satisfactorily.

(b) and (c) Rectification of faults is being monitored at various levels on regular basis. Introduction of centralized fault repair system (FRS) at Short Distance Charging Centre (SDCC) is also being done for better monitoring of fault booking and rectification. In addition, various steps such as creation of pole less network have also been taken to reduce the incidence of faults.

Setting up of Microsoft Company

21. SHRI M. APPADURAI:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

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

(a) whether 'Microsoft' Founder Chairman during his recent visit to New Delhi in December, 2005 discussed with him (Minister of IT) various areas of cooperation, to create an enabling environment for adoption of Information Technology across the entire country;

(b) if so, the areas of cooperation thus identified and the terms of cooperation agreed upon; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) During his recent visit to New Delhi in December 2005 Founder Chairman of Microsoft held discussion with Minister of Communications and IT on the following areas:

(i) Launch of Windows XP Starter Edition for India (ii) IT enabled Education (iii) Support for establishment of Rural Kiosks (iv) Steps to accelerate PC and Broadband penetration in India (v) Language Computing Initiatives (vi) E-Governance Investment Fund and Innovation Centre (vii) Security Cooperation.

(c) A agreement has been signed in the area of "Security Cooperation" by Cert-IN of DIT with Microsoft. For the "E-Governance Investment Fund and Innovation Centre" NISG, a Section 25, not-for-profit Company, promoted by government jointly with the private sector has entered into the agreement.

Modernisation of NTC Mills

22. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's proposal to modernize National Textile Corporation Mills (NTC) has taken off;

(b) if so, the details of those textile mills which have been modernized as on date alongwith the expenditure incurred on each mill;

(c) whether the production in these mills have since started alongwith the target of production and achievement; and

(d) the time by which rest of the textile mills are likely to be modernised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) to (d) Government has decided to modernize 22 mills of NTC to operate by itself using the resources generated by sale of land and surplus assets of closed mills. All these mills are working presently with 90% capacity utilization. The preliminary work for modernisation has been initiated, and modernisation is likely to be completed by the end of the Financial Year 2007-08.

Abolition of Posts

23. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance has issued orders to all Ministries to abolish the posts remaining vacant for more than six months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance has imposed a ban on creation of new posts;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether there are arrangements for creation of posts for certain situations;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details of posts created during each of the last three years, Department-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) This has been done for fiscal prudence and economy.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Unavoidable proposals for creation of posts based on "new organisation" and accompanied by matching savings from existing related establishment can be referred to Department of Expenditure for approval.

(g) These details are not maintained in this Department.

Land Line and WLL Connections in Assam

24. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the installed capacity of Mobile, Land line and WLL connections in Assam indicating the capacities being enhanced as well as expansion programme in hand during 10th and 11th Plans, location-wise;

(b) the total demand and expansion programme proposed for 2006-07; and

(c) the additional facilities being created for ensuring commercial availability of internet service as well as remote connectivity of the inaccessible areas like river islands in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, details of the installed capacity in Assam of Mobile, Landline and WLL connections of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) as on 31.01.2006, capacity expansion during 10th Five Year Plan, and plan for 2006-07 are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

BSNL finalizes Annual Plan on year to year basis and as such expansion programme beyond 2006-07 is not yet finalized.

(b) Waiting list as on 31.12.2005 is as follows:

Landline	=	22,180
WLL	=	2,584
CMTS	=	28,704

Statement-I (B), Statement-(C) and Expansion programme of Mobile BTS in Statement-I (D).

Capacity (Lines) enhanced during 10th five year plan (from 31/03/2002 to 31/01/2006):

Expansion programme for 2006-07 is as follows:

Landline capacity expansion	=	5,000	Land Line	:	150465
WLL capacity expansion	=	36,000	WLL	:	68250
CMTS capacity expansion	=	4,00,000	CMTS		359500

Capacity (lines) Expansion programme in hand for 10th five year plan (targeted by 31/03/2006):

(c) The additional facilities being created for ensuring commercial availability of internet service as well as remote connectivity of the inaccessible areas like river island in Assam are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Land Line 5000 (Two New Tele Xges with other ANRAX conversion)

WLL : 42000

CMTS 104050

Statement I

Installed capacity (lines) as on 31/01/2006 is as follows:

Land Line	697996
WLL	69250
CMTS	359500

Plan for 2006-07:

Land Line capacity (lines) addition	:	5000
WLL capacity (lines) addition	:	36,000
New WLL BTS	:	48 Nos.
CMTS capacity (lines) addition	:	4,00,000

Location-wise details of installed capacity of Land line/WLL/CMTS are furnished in Statement-I (A)

Statement (A)

Status of Land-Line Capacity as on 31.01.2006

Sl.No.	Exch. Name	District	SDCA	Equiped Capacity (Lines)	DELS (Nos.)	Waiting List
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
No. Division: Bongaigaon						
1.	Agra	Dhubri	GLPRA	496	296	74
2.	Ambari	Goalpara	GLPRA	248	111	53
3.	Agomomi	Dhubri	DHUBRI	496	302	29
4.	Alamganj	Dhubri	DHUBRI	496	246	30
5.	Baghmara	Barpeta	BPT RD	248	162	35
6.	Boitamari	Bongaigaon	BGN	496	214	60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	Balajan	Kokrajhar	KRJHR	248	140	9
8.	Barama	Nalbari	NLB	496	320	112
9.	Basugaon	Chirang	KRJHR	496	374	10
10.	Basantipur	Kokrajhar	GSSGN	248	151	120
11.	Belsore	Nalbari	NLB	496	283	177
12.	Bengtol	Kokrajhar	KRJHR	496	136	12
13.	Bhowraguri	Kokrajhar	KRJHR	248	147	34
14.	Bilashipara	Dhubri	BLSPRA	2000	1646	40
15.	Boribari	Dhubri	BLSPRA	1000	376	52
16.	Bongaigaon	Bongaigaon	BGN	4000	3767	472
17.	Bongaigaon	Bongaigaon	BGN	4000	3534	0
18.	BGN-BIJNI	Chirang	BIJNI	1000	781	63
19.	BGN-Abhayapuri	Bongaigaon	BGN	1628	1411	40
20.	BGN-Dhaligaon	Chirang	BGN	3000	2477	56
21.	BGN-S. BGN	Bongaigaon	BGN	1500	825	170
22.	BGN-Jogighopa	Bongaigaon	BGN	1000	485	52
23.	Borobazar	Bongaigaon	BGN	248	32	19
24.	Borbori	Nalbari	NLB	248	127	5
25.	Barpeta Rd.	Barpeta	BPT RD	4000	3986	195
26.	BPRD-Barpeta TWN	Barpeta	BPT TWN	3500	2926	286
27.	BPRD-Howly	Barpeta	BPT RD	2000	1153	247
28.	BPRD-Sorbhog	Barpeta	BPT RD	1000	912	57
29.	BPRD-Pathsala	Barpeta	BPT RD	2000	1546	210
30.	BPRD-Sarupeta	Barpeta	BPT RD	1000	517	247
31.	Chithlla	Kokrajhar	GSSGN	248	67	35'
32.	Chandkuchi	Nalbari	NLB	248	209	99
33.	Chagolia	Dhubri	DHUBRI	496	307	14
34.	Darranga	Nalbari	NLB	248	200	35
35.	Damra	Goalpara	GLPRA	248	110	29
36.	Dhamdhama	Nalbari	NLB	248	150	15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
37.	Dolgoma	Goalpara	GLPRA	248	136	24
38.	Dhubri	Dhubri	DHUBRI	5000	4239	179
39.	Dhbri-Chapar	Dhubri	BGN	1000	395	45
40.	Dhbri-Gauripur	Dhubri	DHUBRI	2000	1510	61
41.	Dhupdhara	Goalpara	GLPRA	248	140	55
42.	Dotma	Kokrajhar	KRJHR	248	119	16
43.	Fakiragram	Kokrajhar	KRJHR	496	308	12
44.	Guruphela	Kokrajhar	GSSGN	248	50	30
45.	Ghogharapar	Nalbari	NLB	248	163	61
46.	Golakganj	Dhubri	DHUBRI	496	341	142
47.	Goalpara	Goalpara	GLPRA	3400	3344	39
48.	Glpra-Nayapara**	Goalpara	GLPRA	1000	315	13
49.	Glpra-Dudhnoi	Goalpara	GLPRA	1000	769	63
50.	Goalpara (Nalbari)	Nalbari	NLB	248	186	56
51.	Gobradol	Nalbari	NLB	248	155	0
52.	Halakura	Dhubri	DHUBRI	248	131	40
53.	Hatsinghimari	Dhubri	DHUBRI	496	299	140
54.	Jalah-Ghat	Barpeta	BPT RD	248	145	59
55.	Kachugaon	Kokrajhar	GSSGN	248	81	15
56.	Kachakhana	Dhubri	DHUBRI	248	31	40
57.	Kalgachia	Barpeta	BPT RD	248	159	65
58.	Kayakuchi	Barpeta	BPT TWN	248	157	61
59.	Khandekarpara	Barpeta	BPT RD	248	153	96
60.	Kokrajhar	Kokrajhar	KRJHR	4000	3410	342
61.	KKJ-Gossaigaon	Kokrajhar	GSSGN	1128	1055	15
62.	Krishnai	Goalpara	GLPRA	496	320	117
63.	Kumrikata	Nalbari	NLB	248	155	51
64.	Lakhiganj	Dhubri	BLSPRA	248	143	1
65.	Lakhipur	Goalpara	GLPRA	496	297	94
66.	Mondia	Barpeta	BPT RD.	496	291	35

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
67.	Manikpur	Bongaigaon	BGN	496	291	22
68.	Mankachar	Dhubri	DHUBRI	488	434	97
69.	Mushalpur	Baska	NLB	248	166	20
70.	Momoi	Goalpara	GLPRA	248	146	21
71.	Majgaon	Barpeta	BPT RD	248	132	16
72.	Morwa	Nalbari	NLB	496	333	62
73.	Mukalmua	Nalbari	NLB	248	156	56
74.	Nalbari	Nalbari	NLB	4500	4350	250
75.	NLB-Kalag	Nalbari	NLB	940	346	152
76.	NLB-Chamata	Nalbari	NLB	1000	582	100
77.	NLB-Tihu	Nalbari	NLB	1000	792	17
78.	Nityananda	Barpeta	BPT RD	248	161	100
79.	Patgaon	Kokrajhar	KRJHR	248	80	9
80.	Patacharkuchi	Barpeta	BPT RD	496	307	216
81.	Raniganj	Dhubri	BLSPRA	248	143	30
82.	Rampur	Nalbari	NLB	248	115	30
83.	Rangjuli	Goalpara	GLPRA	248	140	118
84.	Saderi	Barpeta	BPT RD	248	151	10
85.	Salakati	Kokrajhar	KRJHR	496	272	14
86.	Salbari	Barpeta	BPT RD	248	155	37
87.	Salkocha	Dhubri	BLSPRA	248	143	24
88.	Sapatgram	Dhubri	BLSPRA	744	447	15
89.	Sarthebari	Barpeta	BPT TWN	496	272	149
90.	Satrasal	Dhubri	DHUBRI	248	136	15
91.	Serfunguri	Kokrajhar	GSSGN	248	117	15
92.	Srirampur	Kokrajhar	GSSGN	496	276	60
93.	Simlabazar	Barpeta	BPT RD	248	152	59
94.	Tamarhat	Dhubri	DHUBRI	248	161	2
95.	Tamulpur	Nalbari	NLB	248	156	20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
96.	Tarabarihat	Bapeta	BPT TWN	1128	419	89
97.	Vella	Barpeta	BPT TWN	496	316	129
Total				83028	61230	7114

Division: Dibrugarh

1.	Bamunbari	Dibrugarh	MORAN	400	266	30
2.	Baghjan	Tinsukia	DMDMA	248	158	0
3.	Barbarua	Dibrugarh	DBR	496	380	73
4.	Dhaman	Dibrugarh	TSK	152	76	16
5.	Digboi	Tinsukia	MGRITA	5000	4847	0
6.	DGB-Kalibari	Tinsukia	MGRITA	1000	585	0
7.	Dikam	Dibrugarh	DBR	496	420	6
8.	Doomdooma	Tinsukia	DMDMA	4000	3167	10
9.	DM-Chapakhowa	Tinsukia	CHPKWA	1000	645	0
10.	DM-Kakopathar	Tinsukia	DMDMA	500	493	5
11.	DM-Borhajan	Tinsukia	DMDMA	1000	590	0
12.	DM-Talap	Tinsukia	DMDMA	1000	502	4
13.	DR-Khaliamari	Dibrugarh	DBR	10000	9824	7
14.	DR-Chabua	Dibrugarh	DBR	1500	1256	8
15.	DR-Dinjan	Dibrugarh	TSK	1000	554	24
16.	DR-Milannagar	Dibrugarh	DBR	1000	745	0
17.	DR-DR University	Dibrugarh	DBR	2000	984	0
18.	DR-Grahambazar	Dibrugarh	DBR	3128	3123	17
19.	DR-JP Nagar	Dibrugarh	DBR	4000	3571	0
20.	DR-Lahoal	Dibrugarh	DBR	1000	705	6
21.	DR-Mohanbari	Dibrugarh	DBR	1000	614	5
22.	DR-Tengakhata	Dibrugarh	DBR	1000	886	6
23.	Duliajan	Dibrugarh	TSK	6000	5195	0
24.	DJN-Neepco	Tinsukia	TSK	1000	591	0
25.	DJN-Anandapara	Dibrugarh	TSK	500	195	0
26.	Ghoramara	Dibrugarh	DBR	496	385	5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
27.	Guiljan	Tinsukia	TSK	496	307	0
28.	Hoogrijan	Tinsukia	TSK	640	504	6
29.	Jagun	Tinsukia	MGRITA	496	297	5
30.	Jamira	Dibrugarh	DBR	248	122	33
31.	Jokai	Dibrugarh	DBR	248	166	0
32.	Joypur	Dibrugarh	TSK	496	253	2
33.	Kakojan	Dibrugarh	DMDMA	152	63	9
34.	Kathalguri	Dibrugarh	TSK	496	333	1
35.	Ketatong	Tinsukia	TSK	152	36	21
36.	Khowang	Dibrugarh	MORAN	496	395	27
37.	Kutuha	Dibrugarh	MORAN	400	176	16
38.	Lengeri	Dibrugarh	MORAN	248	116	18
39.	Lezai	Tinsukia	MORAN	248	131	16
40.	Margherita	Tinsukia	MGRITA	3000	2726	9
41.	Mght-Ledo	Tinsukia	MGRITA	1000	969	12
42.	Mghta-Lekhapani	Tinsukia	TSK	1000	486	35
43.	Mghta-Segunbari	Tinsukia	MGRITA	1000	182	0
44.	Moran	Dibrugarh	MORAN	4400	3273	7
45.	MRN-Rajgarh	Dibrugarh	MORAN	1000	513	29
46.	MRN-Khatkhati	Tinsukia	MORAN	1000	394	2
47.	Naholia	Tinsukia	TSK	496	294	0
48.	Namrup	Dibrugarh	TSK	4000	3249	4
49.	NRP-Naharkatia	Dibrugarh	TSK	2528	2021	7
50.	Panitola	Tinsukia	TSK	496	310	15
51.	Pengricharali	Tinsukia	TSK	304	240	5
52.	Phillobari	Tinsukia	DMDMA	336	221	1
53.	Pithaguti	Dibrugarh	MORAN	400	213	33
54.	Rangchali	Dibrugarh	MORAN	248	120	3
55.	Saikhowaghat	Tinsukia	DMDMA	496	348	0
56.	Sasoni	Dibrugarh	TSK	400	171	18

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
57.	Sepon	Dibrugarh	MORAN	248	176	102
58.	Sensuapukhuri	Dibrugarh	MORAN	152	20	47
59.	Shantipur	Dibrugarh	TSK	248	188	2
60.	Tiloi	Dibrugarh	DBR	248	83	82
61.	Ting Khong	Dibrugarh	TSK	336	334	82
62.	Tingribazar	Tinsukia	MGRITA	496	265	6
63.	Tinsukia	Tinsukia	TSK	1872	1514	0
64.	TSK-Ghilapukhuri	Tinsukia	TSK	2000	821	0
65.	TSK-Makum	Tinsukia	TSK	1000	998	0
66.	TSK-Makum Road	Tinsukia	TSK	1000	215	0
67.	TSK-Tinsukia	Tinsukia	TSK	13000	12204	4
68.	TSK-Hijuguri	Tinsukia	TSK	2000	327	0
69.	Ushapur	Dibrugarh	TSK	248	152	1
	DLC Dibrugarh (GB)	Tinsukia	TSK	480		
	DLC Tinsukia (I)	Tinsukia	TSK	480		
	DLC Tinsukia (II)	Tinsukia	TSK	480		
	Total			100124	76683	882
Division: Jorhat						
1.	Borhat	Sibsagar	SBS	248	135	104
2.	Bihubor	Sibsagar	SBS	496	158	15
3.	Bokakhat	Golaghat	BKHT	2000	1782	0
4.	BKT-Badulipar	Goalghat	BKHT	1000	317	0
5.	BKT-NRL Colony	Goalghat	BKHT	1000	574	0
6.	Bokial TE	Golaghat	GLGHT	248	83	0
7.	Bongaon	Jorhat	MAJULI	304	155	1
8.	Borholla	Jorhat	MARIANI	376	358	4
9.	Charaibahi	Jorhat	JRT	496	267	4
10.	Chinatoli	Golaghat	GLGHT	496	222	6
11.	Chungi	Jorhat	JRT	496	282	0
12.	Daflating	Jorhat	MARIANI	248	179	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	Daigurung	Golaghat	GLGHT	496	293	0
14.	Dikhowmukh	Sibsagar	SBS	152	19	0
15.	Diring Charali	Golaghat	BKHT	248	147	0
16.	Dolowjan	Golaghat	GLGHT	248	138	0
17.	Garmur	Jorhat	MAJULI	496	282	3
18.	Geleky	Sibsagar	SBS	496	345	6
19.	GLT (Jonakinagar)	Golaghat	GLGHT	2000	1425	53
20.	GLT-Borjan	Golaghat	GLGHT	1000	548	13
21.	GLT-Borpathar	Golaghat	GLGHT	1000	572	3
22.	GLT-Arengapara	Golaghat	GLGHT	1000	434	49
23.	GLT-Sarupathar	Golaghat	GLGHT	1000	855	2
24.	GLT-Chandmari	Golaghat	GLGHT	3500	3240	0
25.	GLT-Dhekial	Golaghat	GLGHT	1000	386	42
26.	GLT-Furkating	Golaghat	GLGHT	1000	561	3
27.	GLGHT-NRL	Golaghat	BKHT	448	357	0
28.	Gowalgaon	Jorhat	MAJULI	216	104	0
29.	Gomariguri	Golaghat	GLGHT	248	174	63
30.	Holowating	Sibsagar	SBS	248	164	6
31.	Hatigarh	Jorhat	JRT	496	368	11
32.	J. Jamuguri	Sibsagar	SBS	248	180	13
33.	Jajoli	Sibsagar	JRT	152	77	12
34.	Jalukani	Jorhat	JRT	248	189	0
35.	Jengraimukh	Jorhat	MAJULI	152	121	2
36.	JRT-Malowali	Jorhat	JRT	4000	2780	0
37.	JRT-Molowali	Jorhat	JRT	11000	9199	0
38.	JRT-JEC	Jorhat	JRT	512	492	0
39.	JRT-Chinnamara	Jorhat	JRT	2000	1645	0
40.	JRT-Dergaon	Golaghat	JRT	2500	2069	0
41.	JRT-Bahana	Jorhat	JRT	1000	557	0
42.	JRT-Kenduguri	Jorhat	JRT	2000	1957	24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
43.	JRT-Lichubari	Jorhat	JRT	5000	3386	3
44.	JRT-Pulibor	Jorhat	JRT	3000	2502	0
45.	JRT-Tilikium	Jorhat	JRT	1000	544	0
46.	JRT-Kakojan	Jorhat	JRT	1000	608	24
47.	JRT-Teok	Jorhat	JRT	1000	989	23
48.	Kakodonga	Golaghat	GLGHT	248	125	23
49.	Kamargaon	Golaghat	BKHT	496	326	0
50.	Kaziranga	Golaghat	BKHT	496	232	0
51.	Khanikargaon	Sibsagar	SBS	496	242	25
52.	Khonamukh	Sibsagar	SBS	248	142	9
53.	Khumtai	Golaghat	GLGHT	496	135	6
54.	Konwarpur	Jorhat	SBS	496	241	8
55.	Kujibali	Jorhat	SBS	248	163	7
56.	Lahing	Jorhat	JRT	216	145	0
57.	Lakwa	Sibsagar	SBS	496	257	26
58.	Madhabpur	Sibsagar	SBS	248	183	0
59.	Maibella	Sibsagar	SBS	496	356	31
60.	Mechagarh	Sibsagar	SBS	496	292	0
61.	Missamari	Golaghat	GLGHT	496	295	4
62.	Mariani	Jorhat	MARIANI	2500	2143	2
63.	MRI-Kamalabari	Jorhat	MAJULI	1000	550	10
64.	MRI-Titabor	Jorhat	MARIANI	1400	1123	2
65.	MRI-Nagajanka	Jorhat	MARIANI	1000	278	0
66.	MRI-Nakachari	Jorhat	MARIANI	1000	726	2
67.	Mudolgaon	Golaghat	JRT	248	82	0
68.	Murphuloni	Golaghat	GLGHT	248	119	0
69.	NA-Ali Dhekiajuli	Jorhat	JRT	496	391	0
70.	Naharani	Golaghat	GLGHT	496	278	36
71.	Naharjan	Golaghat	BKHT	248	119	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
72.	Namti	Sibsagar	SBS	496	232	16
73.	Naojan	Golaghat	GLGHT	248	150	2
74.	Nayabazar	Golaghat	GLGHT	152	29	56
75.	Nazira	Sibsagar	SBS	2400	1766	50
76.	Nemuguri	Sibsagar	SBS	248	187	3
77.	Nimonagarh	Sibsagar	SBS	496	183	33
78.	Nitalpukhuri	Sibsagar	SBS	248	186	9
79.	Numaligarh	Golaghat	BKHT	496	303	0
80.	Phuloni	Jorhat	MAJULU	152	153	6
81.	Rangajan-I	Golaghat	GLGHT	248	163	0
82.	Rangajan-II	Jorhat	MARIANI	248	167	0
83.	Shantipur	Golaghat	GLGHT	248	156	0
84.	Salikhat	Golaghat	GLGHT	248	114	25
85.	Sibsagar	Sibsagar	SBS	8000	7618	65
86.	SBS-Sapekhati	Sibsagar	SBS	1000	634	5
87.	SBS-Amguri	Sibsagar	SBS	1500	1000	6
88.	SBS-Laxminagar	Sibsagar	SBS	1000	518	15
89.	SBS-Kalugaon	Sibsagar	SBS	1000	336	26
90.	SBS-Gaurisagar	Sibsagar	SBS	1000	535	17
91.	SBS-Demow	Sibsagar	SBS	1000	817	4
92.	SBS-Joinagar	Sibsagar	SBS	1000	880	10
93.	Shakolatting	Jorhat	JRT	248	147	0
94.	Silenjan	Golaghat	GLGHT	248	157	0
95.	Sonari	Sibsagar	SBS	2000	1506	39
96.	Sukampuluri	Sibsagar	SBS	496	229	15
97.	Tengepukhuri	Sibsagar	SBS	248	24	100
98.	Urianghat	Golaghat	GLGHT	248	142	0
	JEC Road	Jorhat	JRT	480	76	0
Total				97216	69570	1182

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Division: Kamrup						
1.	Bamundi	Kamrup	GHY	496	310	60
2.	Bezera	Kamrup	RANGIA	496	424	50
3.	Bijoynagar	Kamrup	BJNGR	2000	1483	13
4.	Bijngr-Mirza	Kamrup	BJNGR	1400	1302	40
5.	Bijngr-Chaygaon	Kamrup	BJNGR	1024	685	10
6.	Bijngr-Boko	Kamrup	BJNGR	704	651	102
7.	Borihat	Kamrup	BJNGR	496	384	30
8.	Chandrapur	Kamrup	GHY	248	140	0
9.	Damdama	Kamrup	GHY	496	280	255
10.	Dimou	Kamrup	RANGIA	496	372	90
11.	Dispur	Kamrup	GHY	14000	10436	0
12.	DSP-Basletha	Kamrup	GHY	5250	3850	0
13.	DSP-Hatigarh	Kamrup	GHY	3000	1561	0
14.	DSP-Jorabat	Kamrup	GHY	1250	810	0
15.	DSP-Kahilpara	Kamrup	GHY	3000	1856	0
16.	DSP-Jayanagar	Kamrup	GHY	1000	670	0
17.	DSP-Panjabari	Kamrup	GHY	4500	3363	0
18.	DSP-Gorchok	Kamrup	GHY	1000	670	0
19.	DSP-Zoo Road	Kamrup	GHY	4750	3420	0
20.	DSP-Christanbasti	Kamrup	GHY	2500	2000	0
21.	DSP-Hengrabari	Kamrup	GHY	1000	670	0
22.	GH-Panbazar	Kamrup	GHY	15000	13274	0
23.	GH-Satmile	Kamrup	GHY	10000	10735	0
24.	GH-Satmile	Kamrup	GHY	1000	545	0
25.	GH-Adabari	Kamrup	GHY	5250	4444	0
26.	GH-Adabari	Kamrup	GHY	5000	3000	0
27.	GH-Amingaon	Kamrup	GHY	1000	800	67
28.	GH-Baihata	Kamrup	RANGIA	1000	950	35
29.	GH-Borjhar	Kamrup	GHY	2750	2100	40

1.	2	3	4	5	6	7
30.	GH-Kalapahar	Kamrup	GHY	9000	8403	0
31.	GH-Kumarpara	Kamrup	GHY	2500	1492	0
32.	GH-N-Guwahati	Kamrup	GHY	1250	779	8
33.	GH-Noonmati (OCB)	Kamrup	GHY	5000	4341	0
34.	GH-Noonmati (E10-B)	Kamrup	GHY	5000	2455	0
35.	GH-Satgaon	Kamrup	GHY	3250	2388	0
36.	GH-Silpukuri	Kamrup	GHY	5750	4905	0
37.	GH-Ulubari (OCB)	Kamrup	GHY	9500	9370	0
38.	GH-Ulubari (E10-B)	Kamrup	GHY	6000	3624	0
39.	GH-Dadara	Kamrup	GHY	1000	793	14
40.	GH-Kamalpur	Kamrup	RANGIA	1000	444	85
41.	DSP-Khetri	Kamrup	GHY	1000	493	0
42.	GH-Hajo	Kamrup	GHY	1000	747	142
43.	Koya	Kamrup	RANGIA	248	116	13
44.	Muktapur	Kamrup	RANGIA	496	252	40
45.	Nagarbera	Kamrup	BJNGR	248	151	8
46.	Panikheti	Kamrup	GHY	248	101	0
47.	Rampur	Kamrup	BJNGR	496	337	10
48.	Rangiya	Kamrup	RANGIA	3000	2531	54
49.	RNY-RNY Market	Kamrup	RANGIA	1000	487	0
50.	RNY-Goreswar	Kamrup	RANGIA	1000	489	69
51.	Rani	Kamrup	GHY	248	180	4
52.	Singra	Kamrup	BJNGR	248	104	7
53.	DSP-Sonapur	Kamrup	GHY	1400	1088	3
54.	GH-Sulakuchi	Kamrup	GHY	1356	1343	27
	DLC (Beharbar)	Kamrup	GHY	480	54	0
	DLC (Nothboma)	Kamrup	GHY	480	145	0
	DLC (Ulubari)	Kamrup	GHY	480	170	0
	DLC (Amingaon)	Kamrup	GHY	480	38	0
	DLC (Noonmati)	Kamrup	GHY	480	117	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	DLC (IIT)	Kamrup	GHY	480	36	0
	DLC (Kharguli)	Kamrup	GHY	960	58	0
	(Capital Complex)	Kamrup	GHY	480	35	0
	DLC (Lokhara)	Kamrup	GHY	480	136	0
	SBI Dispur	Kamrup	GHY	480	106	0
	NF Railway	Kamrup	GHY	480	106	0
	Total			165104	119869	1285

Division: Nagaon

1.	Ahatguri	Morigaon	MRGN	496	188	50
2.	Alitangani	Nagaon	NGG	248	155	30
3.	Ambagan	Nagaon	NGG	496	351	53
4.	Amsoi	Morigaon	MRGN	248	63	21
5.	Amlighat	Morigaon	MRGN	248	131	24
6.	Baglajan	Nagaon	NGG	248	161	67
7.	Baithalangu	K. Anglong	HAMREN	248	176	17
8.	Bakulia	K. Anglong	HWRGHT	496	349	53
9.	Balipathar	K. Anglong	BKJN	248	140	25
10.	Barapujia	Nagaon	MRGN	496	369	100
11.	Batadrava	Nagaon	NGG	496	284	24
12.	Bhuragaon	Morigaon	MRGN	496	335	30
13.	Bhurbandha	Morigaon	MRGN	496	312	38
14.	Boha	Morigaon	MRGN	248	48	62
15.	Borbari	Nagaon	NGG	248	133	10
16.	Borkula	Nagaon	NGG	496	360	36
17.	Chapanala	Nagaon	NGG	248	122	6
18.	Chaparmukh	Nagaon	NGG	496	173	88
19.	Charaibhai	Morigaon	MRGN	496	414	41
20.	Choudhury Bazar	Nagaon	HOJAI	496	255	25
21.	Dhalpukhuri	Nagaon	HOJAI	496	203	37
22.	Dharamtul	Morigaon	MRGN	248	123	35

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
23.	Dillai Parbat	K. Anglong	DIPHU	248	84	33
24.	Diphu	K. Anglong	DIPHU	3500	2983	160
25.	Diphu-Bokajan	K. Anglong	BKJN	1000	821	54
26.	Doboka	Nagaon	NGG	496	369	91
27.	Dokmoka	K. Anglong	HWRGHT	248	138	26
28.	Donkamokam	K. Anglong	HAMREN	248	183	33
29.	Doomdomia	Nagaon	NGG	248	154	75
30.	Hawaipur	Nagaon	HOJAI	248	166	47
31.	Hamren	K. Anglong	HAMREN	248	182	6
32.	Hojai	Nagaon	HOJAI	4416	4010	127
33.	Hojai-Nilbagan	Nagaon	HOJAI	1000	400	43
34.	Hojai-Jugijan	Nagaon	HOJAI	1000	381	42
35.	Hojai-Murajhar	Nagaon	HOJAI	1000	314	65
36.	Hojai-Lanka	Nagaon	NGG	2000	1524	172
37.	Hojai- Howraghat	K. Anglong	HWRGHT	1000	332	29
38.	Jalughuti	Morigaon	MRGN	248	193	29
39.	Jajori	Nagaon	NGG	1000	420	158
40.	Jamunamukh	Nagaon	HOJAI	496	349	22
41.	Jagiroad	Morigaon	MRGN	40	0	0
42.	Jajibhakatgaon	Morigaon	MRGN	496	347	28
43.	Juria	Nagaon	NGG	496	358	182
44.	Kachua	Nagaon	NGG	248	182	40
45.	Kaki-I	Nagaon	HOJAI	248	186	25
46.	Kaki-II	Nagaon	HOJAI	248	106	22
47.	Karikhana	Nagaon	HOJAI	248	170	18
48.	Khat Khati	K. Anglong	BKJN	496	186	44
49.	Kheroni	K. Anglong	HAMREN	248	184	20
50.	Korchung	Nagaon	NGG	496	362	64
51.	Kothiatoli	Nagaon	NGG	496	387	64
52.	Kumurakata	Nagaon	HOJAI	248	114	13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
53.	Kuthori	Nagaon	NGG	248	174	6
54.	Lahori Ghat	Morigaon	MRGN	248	232	32
55.	Langhing	K. Anglong	NGG	496	279	86
56.	Lumding	Nagaon	HQJAI	3000	2782	365
57.	Manja	K. Anglong	DIPHU	248	210	40
58.	Missa	Nagaon	NGG	496	330	67
59.	Monoha	Nagaon	NGG	248	19	59
60.	Mowamari	Nagaon	NGG	64	32	3
61.	Morigaon	Morigaon	MRGN	2000	1998	122
62.	Mrign-Moirabari	Morigaon	MRGN	1000	588	48
63.	Mrign-Jagiroad	Morigaon	MRGN	2000	1514	191
64.	Mrign-HPC Jagi RD	Morigaon	MRGN	1000	529	15
65.	Nagaon	Nagaon	NGG	5000	4951	0
66.	Nagaon	Nagaon	NGG	4000	3518	0
67.	NGG-Halbargaon	Nagaon	NGG	5512	5205	12
68.	NGG-Pathori	Nagaon	NGG	1000	756	34
69.	NGG-Dhing	Nagaon	NGG	1000	624	37
70.	NGG-Jakhalabandha	Nagaon	NGG	1000	875	23
71.	NGG-Kuwartol	Nagaon	NGG	1000	557	65
72.	NGN-Kampur	Nagaon	NGG	1000	589	87
73.	NGG-Puranigudam	Nagaon	NGG	1000	858	30
74.	NGG-Uriagaon	Nagaon	NGG	1000	816	43
75.	NGG-Bebelja	Nagaon	NGG	1000	716	77
76.	NGG-Samaguri	Nagaon	NGG	1000	610	39
77.	NGG-Raha	Nagaon	NGG	1000	825	30
78.	Nelle	Morigaon	MRGN	496	219	15
79.	Nonoi	Nagaon	NGG	248	198	57
80.	Palasoni	Nagaon	NGG	248	219	8
81.	Parakhowa	Nagaon	HWRGHT	248	200	22
82.	Phuloguri	Nagaon	NGG	248	203	71

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
83.	Rajadubi	K. Anglong	HAMREN	248	150	16
84.	Rajagaon	Nagaon	HOJAI	248	199	6
85.	Rajamayong	Morigaon	MRGN	248	151	35
86.	Rangaloo	K. Anglong	NGG	248	149	10
87.	Rupahi	Nagaon	NGG	496	492	95
88.	S. Dev Nagar	Nagaon	HOJAI	496	293	61
89.	Salona	Nagaon	NGG	248	132	10
90.	Sagmoota	Nagaon	NGG	64	48	6
91.	Sarihajan	K. Anglong	BKJN	248	114	10
92.	Silghat	Nagaon	NGG	248	195	12
93.	Sivasthan	Nagaon	NGG	64	46	11
94.	Sulung	Nagaon	NGG	64	0	13
95.	Tempreng	K. Anglong	HAMREN	248	168	37
96.	Tuktuki	Nagaon	NGG	248	135	58
97.	Tulsimukh	Nagaon	NGG	248	176	30
98.	Udali	Nagaon	HOJAI	248	154	17
99.	Vellowguri	Nagaon	HOJAI	248	134	12
	Shantipur	Under Jorhat		0	12	0
Total				72292	53824	4727
Division: Silchar						
1.	Anipur	Karimganj	KRMGNJ	496	258	17
2.	Badarpur	Karimganj	KRMGANJ	4000	2391	15
3.	BDP-Kalain	Chachar	SC	1000	474	8
4.	BDP-Panchgram	Karimganj	HLKNDI	2000	814	12
5.	Bagpur	Chachar	UDRBND	248	149	59
6.	Bantarapur	Chachar	SC.	496	321	175
7.	Bazarghat	Karimganj	KRMGNJ	496	230	7
8.	Bazaricherra	Karimganj	KRMGNJ	496	274	85
9.	Beharabazar	Chachar	SC	488	313	80
10.	Borjatrapur	Chachar	SC	160	148	28

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11.	Borkhola	Chachar	SC	496	228	19
12.	Chargola	Karimganj	KRMGNJ	248	183	1
13.	Dalu	Chachar	UDRBND	496	265	49
14.	Dargakona	Chachar	SC	496	346	16
15.	Dewan	Chachar	UDRBND	496	212	81
16.	Dualia	Karimganj	KRMGNJ	248	49	2
17.	KRM-Dullavcherra	Karimganj	KRMGNJ	1000	550	25
18.	Dwarband Basti	Chachar	SC	248	129	9
19.	Dwarbond	Chachar	SC	248	201	30
20.	Fakirabazar	Karimganj	KRMGNJ	496	427	4
21.	Ganirgram	Chachar	SC	152	115	9
22.	Gharmura	Hailakandi	HLKNDI	248	166	7
23.	Gumrah	Chachar	SC	344	245	52
24.	Haflong	N.C. Hills	HFLNG	4024	3108	8
25.	Hailakandi	Hailakandi	HLKNDI	4000	3630	54
26.	HLkndi-Algapur	Hailakandi	HLKNDI	1000	463	28
27.	HLkndi-Lala	Hailakandi	HLKNDI	1144	1106	19
28.	Harengajao	N.C. Hills	HFLNG	352	326	0
29.	Harinagar	Chachar	UDRBND	248	139	96
30.	Haticherra	Chachar	UDRBND	248	47	2
31.	Hawaithang	Chachar	SC	248	156	158
32.	Jalaipur	Chachar	SC	184	138	13
33.	Jankibazar	Hailakandi	HLKNDI	248	168	12
34.	Jarail Tala	Chachar	SC	248	190	15
35.	Jatinga	N.C. Hills	HFLNG	248	80	0
36.	Jirighat	Chachar	UDRBND	248	176	179
37.	Kalacherra	Hailakandi	HLKNDI	248	170	16
38.	Kalibari Bazar	Karimganj	KRMGNJ	248	133	31
39.	Kaliganj Bazar	Karimganj	KRMGNJ	496	343	6
40.	Kalinagar	Hailakandi	HLKNDI	248	159	10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
41.	Kaptanpur	Chachar	SC	248	158	117
42.	Katakhal	Chachar	SC	496	285	156
43.	Katamonibazar	Karimganj	KRMGNJ	248	104	3
44.	Katlicherra	Hailakandi	HLKNDI	496	441	29
45.	Karimganj	Karimganj	KRMGNJ	7400	6515	91
46.	KRM-Nilambazar	Karimganj	KRMGNJ	1400	714	14
47.	KRM-Bhangabazar	Karimganj	KRMGNJ	2000	796	9
48.	KRM-Begarsangam	Karimganj	KRMGNJ	1000	383	4
49.	KRM-Baraigram	Karimganj	KRMGNJ	1000	550	50
50.	KRM-Settlement	Karimganj	KRMGNJ	2000	1458	20
51.	KRM-R. K. Nagar	Karimganj	KRMGNJ	1000	592	51
52.	Kumbha	Chachar	UDRBND	256	216	12
53.	Lakhipur	Chachar	UDRBND	1400	998	89
54.	Lungting	N.C. Hills	HFLNG	152	31	0
55.	Lalacherra	Hailakandi	HLKNDI	248	57	19
56.	Madhuramukh	Chachar	UDRBND	248	156	47
57.	Marjatkandi	Karimganj	KRMGNJ	248	129	4
58.	Mahur	N.C. Hills	HFLNG	344	202	0
59.	Maibong	N.C. Hills	HFLNG	496	396	0
60.	Matijuri	Hailakandi	HLKNDI	248	135	12
61.	Mohisasan	Karimganj	KRMGNJ	248	168	4
62.	Monacherra	Hailakandi	HLKNDI	496	229	8
63.	Monipurbagan	Hailakandi	HLKNDI	496	273	6
64.	Motinagar	Chachar	SC	248	148	142
65.	North Narayanpur	Hailakandi	HLKNDI	248	114	26
66.	Patharkandi	Karimganj	KRMGNJ	2000	1092	58
67.	Polanghat	Chachar	SC	248	185	90
68.	Rajabazar	Chachar	UDRBND	496	282	149
69.	Rajnagar	Chachar	SC	248	146	8
70.	Rajatilla	Chachar	SC	248	62	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
71.	Salchapara	Chachar	SC	312	249	9
72.	SC-Sadarghat	Chachar	SC	13500	8897	0
73.	SC-Sadarghat	Chachar	SC	2744	2017	0
74.	SC-Srikona	Chachar	SC	512	323	10
75.	SC-Ambicapatty	Chachar	SC	4012	3821	0
76.	SC-Meherpur	Chachar	SC	4000	3357	0
77.	SC-Rongpur	Chachar	SC	1000	814	0
78.	Nutanbazar	Chachar	SC	744	507	528
79.	SC-Dholaibazar	Chachar	SC	1000	465	482
80.	SC-Arunachal	Chachar	SC	2000	795	16
81.	SC-Donai Road	Chachar	SC	2500	2330	0
82.	SC-N.S. Avenue	Chachar	SC	2000	1466	0
83.	SC-Tarapur	Chachar	SC	2000	1644	0
84.	SC-Sonaimukh	Chachar	SC	1400	878	381
85.	Silpur	Chachar	SC	248	150	139
86.	Silcorie	Chachar	SC	248	147	13
87.	Singerbond	Chachar	UDRBND	496	296	161
88.	Sonabarighat	Chachar	SC	496	327	342
89.	Srigouri	Karimganj	KRMGNJ	496	176	8
90.	Suprakandi	Karimganj	KRMGNJ	248	151	1
91.	Swadhin Bazar	Chachar	SC	248	161	155
92.	Tantoo	Hailakandi	HLKNDI	248	152	19
93.	Udarband	Chachar	UDRBND	2000	1097	82
94.	UDB-Baskandi	Chachar	UDRBND	1000	651	71
95.	UDB-Kashipur	Chachar	UDRBND	1000	404	70
96.	UDB-Salganga	Chachar	UDRBND	1000	170	63
97.	UDB-Pailapool	Chachar	UDRBND	1000	443	152
98.	Umrangshu	N.C. Hills	UMRNSU	1000	877	0
	Kumbhirgram	Chachar	SC	480	191	1
	Das Colony	Chachar	SC	480	396	0
Total				102092	69391	5359

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Division: Tezpur						
1.	Aulachawka	Darrang	MLD	496	250	2
2.	Bechimari	Darrang	MLD	248	156	1
3.	Bangalmara	Lakhimpur	LKHMPR	496	315	11
4.	BCLI-Nilpur	Sonitpur	BCLI	2000	1546	4
5.	BCLI-Jamuguri	Sonitpur	BCLI	1000	910	40
6.	BCLI-Santipur	Sonitpur	BCLI	2000	1953	3
7.	BCLI-Sootia	Sonitpur	BCLI	1000	1000	33
8.	BCLI-Gahigaon	Sonitpur	BCLI	1000	806	45
9.	BCLI-Gohpur	Sonitpur	BCLI	1000	802	148
10.	Bediti	Sonitpur	BCLI	496	175	5
11.	Bhakatpara	Darrang	MLD	248	192	5
12.	Bihaguri	Sonitpur	TZ	248	216	110
13.	Borbeli	Lakhimpur	LKHMPR	248	50	124
14.	Boginadi	Dhemaji	LKHMPR	248	208	2
15.	Bordoloni	Dhemaji	LKHMPR	248	207	5
16.	Borgong	Sonitpur	BCLI	248	248	0
17.	Borsola	Sonitpur	TZ	248	190	15
18.	Dalgaon	Darrang	MLD	496	347	2
19.	Deomomoi	Darrang	MLD	248	152	10
20.	Dhalaibil	Sonitpur	BCLI	496	341	8
21.	Dhalpur	Lakhimpur	LKHMPR	248	172	10
22.	Dhemaji	Dhemaji	DHMJI	2000	1995	156
23.	DHMJ-Silapathar	Dhemaji	DHMJI	1000	973	150
24.	Dhula	Darrang	MLD	496	228	0
25.	Dimakuchi	Darrang	ULDGURI	248	207	5
26.	Dimakuchi	Darrang	MLD	496	348	1
27.	Duni	Darrang	MLD	496	250	5
28.	Ghilamara	Lakhimpur	LKHMPR	248	179	13
29.	Harisinga	Darrang	UDLGURI	248	194	5

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30.	Harmoti	Lakhimpur	LKHMPR	248	218	19
31.	Hatigarh	Sonitpur	UDLGURI	248	204	2
32.	Itakhola	Sonitpur	BCLI	496	306	10
33.	Jinjia	Sonitpur	BCLI	248	168	0
34.	Jonai	Dhemaji	JONAI	1000	552	25
35.	Kalabari	Sonitpur	BCLI	496	213	83
36.	Kalaigaon	Darrang	MLD	336	336	3
37.	Khanamukh	Sonitpur	RNGPRA	248	197	12
38.	Khairabari	Darrang	UDLGURI	496	182	14
39.	Lakhimpur	Lakhimpur	LKHMPR	6000	5524	20
40.	LK-Dhakuakhana	Lakhimpur	LKHMPR	1000	958	11
41.	LKMR-Gogamukh	Lakhimpur	LKHMPR	1000	620	5
42.	LKMR-Dikrong	Lakhimpur	LKHMPR	1000	707	18
43.	LKMR-Khelmati	Lakhimpur	LAKMPR	1000	877	4
44.	LKMR-Laluk	Lakhimpur	LKHMPR	1000	856	12
45.	LKMR-Japisujia	Lakhimpur	LKHMPR	1000	828	0
46.	LKM-Bihupuria	Lakhimpur	LKHMPR	1500	1061	3
47.	LKMR-Lilabari	Lakhimpur	LKHMPR	1000	388	6
48.	Machkhowa	Dhemaji	DHMJI	248	186	5
49.	Mangaldoi	Darrang	MLD	3700	3580	2
50.	MLD-Bhebarghat	Darrang	MLD	1000	991	12
51.	MLD-Sipajhar	Darrang	MLD	2000	1051	1
52.	MLD-Kharupetia	Darrang	MLD	1000	978	27
53.	Missamari	Sonitpur	RNGPRA	496	494	13
54.	Mazbat	Darrang	UDLGURI	496	307	15
55.	Monabag	Sonitpur	TZ	248	175	3
56.	Moridhal	Dhemaji	DHMJI	248	205	4
57.	Nowboicha	Lakhimpur	LKHMPR	248	192	13
58.	Orang	Darrang	UDLGURI	248	246	10
59.	Paneri	Darrang	UDLGURI	248	194	5
60.	Panigaon	Lakhimpur	LKHMPR	496	281	24

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
61.	Pavoi	Sonitpur	BCLI	496	277	0
62.	Rangachakua	Sonitpur	BCLI	248	218	2
63.	Sarabari	Darrang	MLD	248	182	1
64.	Singri	Sonitpur	TZ	496	325	10
65.	Sirajuli	Sonitpur	TZ	496	307	18
66.	Sisiborgaon	Dhemaji	DHMJI	248	222	12
67.	Subansiri	Lakhimpur	DHMJI	248	211	1
68.	Thelemara	Sonitpur	TZ	496	331	25
69.	TZ-Joymotipathar	Sonitpur	TZ	8000	7776	20
70.	TZZ-Rangapara	Sonitpur	RNGPRA	1500	1081	29
71.	TZ-Balipara	Sonitpur	RNGPRA	1000	939	8
72.	TZ-Dolabari	Sonitpur	TZ	3000	2392	13
73.	TZ-Dhekiajuli	Sonitpur	TZ	2500	1961	84
74.	TZ-Napam	Sonitpur	TZ	1000	495	0
75.	TZ-Goroimari	Sonitpur	TZ	2000	2000	20
76.	TZ-Mission Charali	Sonitpur	TZ	3000	2460	12
77.	TZ-Parvatnagar	Sonitpur	TZ	1000	518	0
78.	Udalguri	Darrang	UDLGURI	2000	1411	52
79.	UDL-Tangla	Darrang	UDLGURI	1500	1138	15
80.	UDGL-Rowta	Darrang	UDLGURI	1000	622	10
	D.L.C. (Dolabari)	Tezpur	TZ	480	255	0
Total				78140	62806	1631

Sl.No.	Name of SSA	Equip Capacity (Lines)	DELs (Nos.)	Waiting List
1.	Bongaigaon	83028	613230	7114
2.	Dibrugarh	100124	76683	882
3.	Jorhat	97216	69570	1182
4.	Kamrup	165104	119869	1285
5.	Nagaon	72292	53824	4727
6.	Silchar	102092	68391	5359
7.	Tezpur	78140	62806	1631
Total		697996	513373	22180

*Statement I (B)**Status of CDMA WLL BTS as on 31st January, 2006*

Sl.No.	District	Existing BTS	SSA Name	SDCA	Capacity (Lines)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bongaigaon	Abhayapuri	Bongaigaon	Bongaigaon	750
2.	Goalpara	Rangjuli	Bongaigaon	Goalpara	750
3.	Goalpara	Lakhipur	Bongaigaon	Goalpara	750
4.	Barpeta	Kalgala	Bongaigaon	Barpeta Road	750
5.	Barpeta	Pathsala	Bongaigaon	Barpeta Road	750
6.	Barpeta	Barpeta Town	Bongaigaon	Barpeta Town	750
7.	Bongaigaon	Bongaigaon	Bongaigaon	Bongaigaon	1000
8.	Goalpara	Goalpara	Bongaigaon	Goalpara	1000
9.	Dhubri	Dhubri	Bongaigaon	Dhubri	1000
10.	Nalbari	Nalbari	Bongaigaon	Nalbari	1000
11.	Kokrajhar	Kokrajhar	Bongaigaon	Kokrajhar	1000
12.	Barpeta	Barpeta Road	Bongaigaon	Barpeta Road	1000
13.	Dhubri	Blasipara	Bongaigaon	Blasipara	1000
14.	Bongaigaon	Bijni	Bongaigaon	Bijni	1000
15.	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	750
16.	Dibrugarh	Namrup	Dibrugarh	Tinsukia	750
17.	Tinsukia	Tinsukia	Dibrugarh	Tinsukia	750
18.	Tinsukia	Doomdooma	Dibrugarh	Doomdooma	750
19.	Dibrugarh	Moran	Dibrugarh	Moran	750
20.	Tinsukia	Margherita	Dibrugarh	Margherita	750
21.	Tinsukia	Chapakhowa	Dibrugarh	Chapakhowa	750
22.	Kamrup	Bijay Nagar	Kamrup	Bijay Nagar	750
23.	Kamrup	Boko	Kamrup	Gijay Nagar	750
24.	Kamrup	Sonapur	Kamrup	Guwahati	750
25.	Kamrup	Rangia	Kamrup	Rangia	750
26.	Jorhat	Jorhat	Jorhat	Jorhat	750
27.	Jorhat	Mariani	Jorhat	Mariani	750

1	2	3	4	5	6
28.	Golaghat	Bokakhat	Jorhat	Bokakhat	750
29.	Golaghat	Golaghat	Jorhat	Golaghat	750
30.	Golaghat	Sarupathar	Jorhat	Golaghat	750
31.	Sibsagar	Sibsagar	Jorhat	Sibsagar	750
32.	Sibsagar	Nazira	Jorhat	Sibsagar	750
33.	Sibsagar	Sonari	Jorhat	Sibsagar	750
34.	Karbi Anglong	Samilangshu	Nagaon	Howraghat	750
35.	Karbi Anglong	Hamren	Nagaon	Hamren	750
36.	Nagaon	Kuwaritol	Nagaon	Nagaon	750
37.	Karbi Anglong	Rajadubi	Nagaon	Hamren	750
38.	Nagaon	Nagaon	Nagaon	Nagaon	1000
39.	Nagaon	Hojai	Nagaon	Hojai	1000
40.	Karbi Anglong	Howraghat	Nagaon	Howraghat	1000
41.	Morigaon	Morigaon	Nagaon	Morigaon	1000
42.	Karbi Anglong	Diphu	Nagaon	Diphu	1000
43.	Karbi Anglong	Bokajan	Nagaon	Bokajan	1000
44.	Cachar	Silchar	Silchar	Silchar	750
45.	Karimganj	Karmganj	Silchar	Karmganj	750
46.	N.C. Hills	Haflong	Silchar	Haflong	750
47.	Karmganj	Patharkandi	Silchar	Karimganj	750
48.	Hailakandi	Hailakandi	Silchar	Hailakandi	750
49.	Cachar	Baskandi	Silchar	Silchar	750
50.	Cachar	Dholabazar	Silchar	Silchar	750
51.	Udalguri	Tangla	Tezpur	Udalguri	750
52.	Sonitpur	Rangapara	Tezpur	Rangapara	750
53.	Dhemaji	Jonai	Tezpur	Jonai	750
54.	N. Lakhimpur	N. Lakhimpur	Tezpur	N. Lakhimpur	1000
55.	Dhemaji	Gogamukh	Tezpur	N. Lakhimpur	1000
56.	Darrang	Mangaldoi	Tezpur	Mangaldoi	1000
57.	Sonitpur	B. Charali	Tezpur	B. Charali	1000

1	2	3	4	5	6
58.	Sonitpur	Gohpur	Tezpur	B. Charali	1000
59.	Udaiguri	Udaiguri	Tezpur	Udaiguri	1000
60.	Sonitpur	Dhekiajuli	Tezpur	Dhekiajuli	1000
61.	Tezpur	Napam	Tezpur	Tezpur	1000
62.	N. Lakhimpur	Bihpuria	Tezpur	N. Lakhimpur	1000
63.	N. Lakhimpur	Dhakuakhana	Tezpur	N. Lakhimpur	1000
64.	Dhemaji	Dhemaji	Tezpur	Dhemaji	1000
65.	Dhemaji	Silapathar	Tezpur	Dhemaji	1000
66.	Guwahati	Guwahati	Kamrup	Kamrup	1000

Status of Cordect WLL BTS as on 31.01.2006

1.	Kamrup	Kamrup	Guwahati	Noonmati	400
2.		Kamrup	Guwahati	Dispur	200
3.		Kamrup	Guwahati	Gorchuk	200
		Kamrup	Guwahati	North Guwahati	200
4.		Kamrup	Guwahati	Chandmari Hills	
5.		Kamrup	Rangiya	Rangiya	400
6.		Kamrup	Rangiya	Balisatra	200
7.		Kamrup	Rangiya	Goreswar	200
8.		Kamrup	Rangiya	Baihata	200
9.		Chirrang	Rangiya	Naokata	
10.		Kamrup	Rangiya	Sajee	
11.	Silchar	Karimganj	Karimganj	Badarpur	400
12.		Karimganj	Karimganj	Nilambazar	200
13.		Cachar	Karimganj	Bihara	200
14.		Cachar	Karimganj	Gumrah	
15.		Karimganj	Karimganj	Sonibari	200
16.		Cachar	Karimganj	Mohanpur	
17.	Bongaigaon	Nalbari	Nalbari	Nalbari	400
18.		Baska	Nalbari	Tamulpur	200
19.		Nalbari	Nalbari	Barnaddi	200
20.		Baska	Nalbari	Nagrijiuli	200

1	2	3	4	5	6
21.		Nalbari	Nalbari	Borajai	
22.		Nalbari	Nalbari	Narpara	
23.		Nalbari	Nalbari	Tihu	400
24.		Baska	Nalbari	Nikashi	200
25.		Baska	Nalbari	Nijnamati	200
26.		Baska	Nalbari	Dumni	200
27.		Nalbari	Nalbari	Gobradal (2Nos)	
28.		Nalbari	Nalbari	Makhibaha	
29.		Dhubri	Dhubri	Dhubri	400
30.		Dhubri	Dhubri	Mancachar	200
31.		Dhubri	Dhubri	Hastingimari	200
32.		Dhubri	Dhubri	Golokanj	200
33.		Dhubri	Dhubri	Kalapani	
34.		Dhubri	Dhubri	Busbari	
35.	Nagaon	Nagaon	Nagaon	Nagaon	400
36.		Nagaon	Nagaon	Dhing	200
37.		Nagaon	Nagaon	Rupahi	200
38.		Nagaon	Nagaon	Kampur	200
39.		Marigaon	Nagaon	Garajan	
40.		Nagaon	Nagaon	Simalguri	
41.		Marigaon	Marigaon	Marigaon	400
42.		Marigaon	Marigaon	Dharamtul	200
43.		Nagaon	Marigaon	Barapujia	200
44.		Marigaon	Marigaon	Rajamayang	200
45.		Marigaon	Marigaon	Jargaon	
46.		Nagaon	Marigaon	Bechamari	
47.		Nagaon	Marigaon	Bhalukmari	
48.		Nagaon	Hojai	Doboka	400
49.		Karbianglong	Hojai	Bakulia	200
50.		Nagaon	Hojai	Lanka	200
51.		Nagaon	Hojai	Lumding	200

1	2	3	4	5	6
52.		Karbianglong	Hojai	Rajapathar	
53.		Nagaon	Hojai	Ambari	
54.		Nagaon	Hojai	Naukhuti	
55.	Tezpur	Sonitpur	Tezpur	Tezpur	400
56.		Sonitpur	Tezpur	M/W Tower	
57.		Sonitpur	Tezpur	Mission Chariali	200
58.		Sonitpur	Tezpur	Dhalaibli	200
59.		Sonitpur	Tezpur	Borgong	200
60.		Sonitpur	Tezpur	Rangachakua	
61.		Sonitpur	Tezpur	Bihaguri	
62.		Sonitpur	Tezpur	Behali	
63.		Darrang	Mangaldoi	Mangaldoi	400
64.		Darrang	Mangaldoi	Sipajhar	200
65.		Darrang	Mangaldoi	Kharupetha	200
66.		Darrang	Mangaldoi	Duni	200
67.		Darrang	Mangaldoi	Hazarikapara	
68.		Darrang	Mangaldoi	Lowjan	
69.		Darrang	Mangaldoi	Outala	
70.	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	Moran	Moran	400
71.		Dibrugarh	Moran	Sepon	200
72.		Dibrugarh	Moran	Rajgarh	200
73.		Dibrugarh	Moran	Khowang	200
74.		Dibrugarh	Moran	Bamunbari	
75.		Dibrugarh	Moran	Sensuapukhuri	
76.		Dibrugarh	Moran	Rangchali	
77.	Jorhat	Sibsagar	Sibsagar	Joy Sagar	400
78.		Sibsagar	Sibsagar	Nazira	200
79.		Sibsagar	Sibsagar	Nemuguri	200
80.		Sibsagar	Sibsagar	Borhat	200
81.		Sibsagar	Sibsagar	Jajoli	
82.		Sibsagar	Sibsagar	Bhubore	
83.		Sibsagar	Sibsagar	Khanikar	

Statement I (C)

*Cellular Mobile Capacity added during expansion programme of
Phase I, II, III & IV (upto 31.01.2006)*

Sl.No.	SSA	Name of the City	BTS Location	City/Hwy	Commissioned in Phase I, II, III, IV
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bongaigon	Barpeta	Barpeta TE	City	Phase I,II,II
2.	Bongaigon	Barpeta Road	BPR001	City	Phase I,II,II
3.	Bongaigon	Bongaigon	Main TE	City	Phase I,II,II
4.	Bongaigon	Bongaigon	Dhalgaon TE	City	Phase I,II,II
5.	Bongaigon	Bongaigon	Chapagori Rd North BGG	City	Phase I,II,II
6.	Bongaigon	Bongaigon	Balipara	City	Phase I,II,II
7.	Bongaigon	Bongaigon	Dangtol	City	Phase I,II,II
8.	Bongaigon	Bongaigaon	Gm Office	City	Phase I,II,II
9.	Bongaigon	Golapara	Nayapara RSU	City	Phase I,II,II
10.	Bongaigon	Goalpara	BOC Petrol Pump	City	Phase I,II,II
11.	Bongaigon	Bilasipara	Bilasipara 1	City	Phase I,II,II
12.	Bongaigon	Abhayapuri (T)	Abhayapuri (T)	Highway	Phase I,II,II
13.	Bongaigon	Balthamari	Balthamari	Highway	Phase I,II,II
14.	Bongaigon	Salkocha	Salkocha	Highway	Phase I,II,II
15.	Bongaigon	Bagaribari	Bagaribari	Highway	Phase I,II,II
16.	Bongaigon	Jogighopa	Jogighopa	Highway	Phase I,II,II
17.	Bongaigon	Gouripur	Gouripur	Highway	Phase I,II,II
18.	Bongaigon	Agomani	Agomani	Highway	Phase I,II,II
19.	Bongaigon	Bijni (T)	Bijni (T)	Highway	Phase I,II,II
20.	Bongaigon	Tarabarihat (T)	Tarabarihat (T)	Highway	Phase I,II,II
21.	Bongaigon	Howli	Howli	Highway	Phase I,II,II
22.	Bongaigon	Sorbhog (T)	Sorbhog (T)	Highway	Phase I,II,II
23.	Bongaigon	Pathsala	Pathsala	Highway	Phase I,II,II

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Bongaigon	Gossaigaon (T)	Gossaigaon (T)	Highway	Phase I,II,II
25.	Bongaigon	Rungiuli	Rungiuli	Highway	Phase I,II,II
26.	Bongaigon	Basugaon	Basugaon	Highway	Phase I,II,II
27.	Bongaigon	Barama	Barama	Highway	Phase I,II,II
28.	Bongaigon	Serfanguri	Serfanguri	Highway	Phase I,II,II
29.	Bongaigon	Fakiragram	Fakiragram	Highway	Phase I,II,II
30.	Bongaigon	Dudhonoi (T)	Dudhnol (T)	Highway	Phase I,II,II
31.	Bongaigon	Dhubri	New MBM Electronic TE	City	Phase I,II,II
32.	Bongaigon	Dhubri	C-DOT TE	City	Phase I,II,II
33.	Bongaigon	Kokhrajar	Old TE	City	Phase I,II,II
34.	Bongaigon	Nalbari	MBM TE	City	Phase I,II,II
35.	Bongaigon	Nalbari	Milan Chowk (Gopal Bazar)	City	Phase I,II,II
36.	Bongaigon	Barpeta	Assam sarbashiksha abhijan (Jania Chowk)	City	Phase IV
37.	Bongaigon	Barpeta Road	Union Bank	City	Phase IV
38.	Bongaigon	Barpeta Road	Syndicate Bank	City	Phase IV
39.	Bongaigon	Bongaigon	Central Bank	City	Phase IV
40.	Bongaigon	Bongaigon	SBI New BQ	City	Phase IV
41.	Bongaigon	Goalpara	SDOT Office	City	Phase IV
42.	Bongaigon	Bilasipara	Puran Bazar	City	Phase IV
43.	Bongaigon	Sapatgram	Sapatgram	Highway	Phase IV
44.	Bongaigon	Ghagrapar	Ghagrapar	Highway	Phase IV
45.	Bongaigon	Sarupeta	Sarupeta	Highway	Phase IV
46.	Bongaigon	Tamolpur (T)	Tamolpur (T)	City	Phase IV
47.	Bongaigon	Mukalmua (T)	Mukalmua (T)	City	Phase IV
48.	Bongaigon	Sarthebari	Sarthebari	City	Phase IV

1	2	3	4	5	6
49.	Bongaigon	Machalpur	Machalpur	City	Phase IV
50.	Bongaigon	Tihu	Tihu	City	Phase IV
51.	Bongaigon	Lakhimpur (T)	Lakhimpur (T)	City	Phase IV
52.	Bongaigon	Krishnai	Krishnai	Highway	Phase IV
53.	Bongaigon	Momoi	Momoi	Highway	Phase IV
54.	Bongaigon	Salakati	Salakati	Highway	Phase IV
55.	Bongaigon	Basantipur	Basantipur	Highway	Phase IV
56.	Bongaigon	Dhubri	Bidyapara	City	Phase IV
57.	Bongaigaon	Dhubri	Nuniapatty	City	Phase IV
58.	Bongaigon	Kokhrajar	Shanti Nagar	City	Phase IV
59.	Bongaigon	Nalbari	Chowk Bazar	City	Phase IV
60.	Bongaigon	Nalbari	Khatabari	City	Phase IV
61.	Bongaigon	Kumarikatta	Kumarikatta		Phase IV
62.	Bongaigon	Dhupdhara	Dhupdhara	Highway	Phase IV
63.	Bongaigon	Simla Bazar	Simla Bazar		Phase IV
64.	Dibrugarh	Panitola	Panitola	Highway	Phase IV
65.	Dibrugarh	Doomdooma	Doomdooma	Highway	Phase IV
66.	Dibrugarh	Dikam	Dikam	Highway	Phase IV
67.	Dibrugarh	Ledo	Ledo	Highway	Phase IV
68.	Dibrugarh	Digboi	DIG001	City	Phase IV
69.	Dibrugarh	Namrup	Namrup	City	Phase IV
70.	Dibrugarh	Naharkatia	Naharkatia	Highway	Phase IV
71.	Dibrugarh	Moran	Moran Te	City	Phase IV
72.	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	Kalihabari M/W	City	Phase IV
73.	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	Airport	City	Phase IV
74.	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	Chiringchapori	City	Phase IV
75.	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	Rajutodi	City	Phase IV

1	2	3	4	5	6
76.	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	P&T Colony Jallan Nagar	City	Phase IV
77.	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	Graham Bazar	City	Phase IV
78.	Dibrugarh	Tinsukia	Bhimpara Road	City	Phase IV
79.	Dibrugarh	Tinsukia	Hizuguri TE	City	Phase IV
80.	Dibrugarh	Tinsukia	Wide Band	City	Phase IV
81.	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	Aditya Hospital, Jallan Nagar	City	Phase IV
82.	Dibrugarh	Tinsukia	E-10B Main TE, Khageshwar	City	Phase IV
83.	Dibrugarh	Tinsukia	Makum Rd	City	Phase IV
84.	Dibrugarh	Duliajan	Anandpura	City	Phase IV
85.	Dibrugarh	Margharita	Margharita	City	Phase IV
86.	Dibrugarh	Duliajan	Oil Colony	City	Phase IV
87.	Dibrugarh	Digboi	Mutiabari	City	Phase IV
88.	Dibrugarh	Duliajan (Neepco)	Duliajan (Neepco)	City	Phase IV
89.	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	Kumar Rani TE (University)	City	Phase IV
90.	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	Naliapool	City	Phase IV
91.	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	AMC Site	City	Phase IV
92.	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	J.K. Tower	City	Phase IV
93.	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	P.N. Road	City	Phase IV
94.	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	Molokhubaca	City	Phase IV
95.	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	Lachit Nagar	City	Phase IV
96.	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	Belpaity	City	Phase IV
97.	Dibrugarh	Tinsukia	DM Lohia	City	Phase IV
98.	Dibrugarh	Tinsukia	Tinkonia	City	Phase IV
99.	Dibrugarh	Tinsukia	Nau-Pukhuri	City	Phase IV
100.	Dibrugarh	Lahoal	Lahoal	Highway	Phase IV

1	2	3	4	5	6
101.	Dibrugarh	Tengaghat	Tengaghat	City	Phase IV
102.	Dibrugarh	Makum	Makum	City	Phase IV
103.	Dibrugarh	Chabua (T)	Chabua (T)	City	Phase IV
104.	Dibrugarh	Doomdooma	Post Office TE	City	Phase IV
105.	Dibrugarh	Kakopathar	Kakopathar	Highway	Phase IV
106.	Dibrugarh	Kutuha	Kutuha	Highway	Phase IV
107.	Dibrugarh	Dinjan	Dinjan	City	Phase IV
108.	Jorhat	Jorhat	Narrow Band TE	City	Phase I,II,II
109.	Jorhat	Jorhat	Kendugari RSU	City	Phase I,II,II
110.	Jorhat	Jorhat	Lohubari BSNL Colony	City	Phase I,II,II
111.	Jorhat	Jorhat	E-10B Building	City	Phase I,II,II
112.	Jorhat	Jorhat	Jail Road	City	Phase I,II,II
113.	Jorhat	Jorhat	Pullibor TE	City	Phase I,II,II
114.	Jorhat	Jorhat	Marwaripatti	City	Phase I,II,II
115.	Jorhat	Jorhat	Cinamara	City	Phase I,II,II
116.	Jorhat	Sonari	Sonari	City	Phase I,II,II
117.	Jorhat	Mariani	Mariani	City	Phase I,II,II
118.	Jorhat	Lakwa	Lakwa	Highway	Phase I,II,II
119.	Jorhat	Sapekhati	Sapekhati	Highway	Phase I,II,II
120.	Jorhat	Bokakhat	Bokakhat	Highway	Phase I,II,II
121.	Jorhat	Numaligarh Colony	Numaligarh Colony	Highway	Phase I,II,II
122.	Jorhat	Kaziranga	Kaziranga	Highway	Phase I,II,II
123.	Jorhat	Titabar (T)	Titabar (T)	Highway	Phase I,II,II
124.	Jorhat	Kamalbari	Kamalbari	Highway	Phase I,II,II
125.	Jorhat	Sarupathar	Sarupathar	Highway	Phase I,II,II
126.	Jorhat	NRL Refinery	NRL Refinery	Highway	Phase I,II,II

1	2	3	4	5	6
127.	Jorhat	Silonijan	Silonijan	Highway	Phase I,II,II
128.	Jorhat	Rangajan	Rangajan	Highway	Phase I,II,II
129.	Jorhat	Badulipur	Badulipur	Highway	Phase I,II,II
130.	Jorhat	Sockalating	Sockalating	Highway	Phase I,II,II
131.	Jorhat	Gaurisagar	Gaurisagar	City	Phase I,II,II
132.	Jorhat	Demow	Demow	City	Phase I,II,II
133.	Jorhat	Dergaon	Dergaon	City	Phase I,II,II
134.	Jorhat	Kakojan	Kakojan	Highway	Phase I,II,II
135.	Jorhat	Golaghat	Ward No. 8 RSU	City	Phase I,II,II
136.	Jorhat	Golaghat	Golaghat	City	Phase I,II,II
137.	Jorhat	Nazira	ONGC Colony	City	Phase I,II,II
138.	Jorhat	Sibsagar	Joy Sagar RBM TE	City	Phase I,II,II
139.	Jorhat	Sibsagar	Old TE Charali	City	Phase I,II,II
140.	Jorhat	Sibsagar	MBM TE	City	Phase I,II,II
141.	Jorhat	Sibsagar	Laxmi Ngr RSU	City	Phase I,II,II
142.	Jorhat	Jorhat	Hero Honda Kakoti Pukhuri	City	Phase IV
143.	Jorhat	Jorhat	AT Road Tarajan	City	Phase IV
144.	Jorhat	Jorhat	Bangal Pukhuri, Teenali	City	Phase IV
145.	Jorhat	Jorhat	Gattani Bldg.	City	Phase IV
146.	Jorhat	Jorhat	Hotel GK Palace	City	Phase IV
147.	Jorhat	Jorhat	Asian Agencies, AT Road	City	Phase IV
148.	Jorhat	Jorhat	BSNI REs. Qtr, Atilagaon Rd	City	Phase IV
149.	Jorhat	Jorhat	Shring Mension, Garali	City	Phase IV
150.	Jorhat	Jorhat	Macharhat, FASI ALI	City	Phase IV

1	2	3	4	5	6
151.	Jorhat	Amguri	Amguri	City	Phase IV
152.	Jorhat	Geleki	Geleki	Highway	Phase IV
153.	Jorhat	Borhola	Borhola	City	Phase IV
154.	Jorhat	Nakachari	Nakachari	Highway	Phase IV
155.	Jorhat	Borjan	Borjan	City	Phase IV
156.	Jorhat	Merapani (Goma guri)	Merapani (Gomariguri)	City	Phase IV
157.	Jorhat	NRL TE (Tenali)	NRL TE (Tenali)	Highway	Phase IV
158.	Jorhat	Dhekial	Dhekial	Highway	Phase IV
159.	Jorhat	Dafalating	Dafalating	Highway	Phase IV
160.	Jorhat	Furkating	Furkating	City	Phase IV
161.	Jorhat	Nimanagarh	Nimanagarh	Highway	Phase IV
162.	Jorhat	Majuli	Majuli (Gormur)	City	Phase IV
163.	Jorhat	Teok	Teok	City	Phase IV
164.	Jorhat	Bahana	Bahana	City	Phase IV
165.	Jorhat	Tilikum	Tilikum	Highway	Phase IV
166.	Jorhat	Simaluguri	Simaluguri	City	Phase IV
167.	Jorhat	Borhat	Borhat	Highway	Phase IV
168.	Jorhat	Golaghat	Arangapar TE	City	Phase IV
169.	Jorhat	Golaghat	Bengana Khua	City	Phase IV
170.	Jorhat	Golaghat	Kachari ghat Chintoltygaon	City	Phase IV
171.	Jorhat	Nazira	Nazira College, Teenali	City	Phase IV
172.	Jorhat	Sibsagar	Marwaripatti	City	Phase IV
173.	Jorhat	Sibsagar	Hotel Brindavan	City	Phase IV
174.	Jorhat	Sibsagar	Near Sky Chef	City	Phase IV
175.	Jorhat	Sibsagar	Pollution Control Board/Mela Chakkar	City	Phase IV

1	2	3	4	5	6
176.	Jorhat	Sibsagar	SBI Building	City	Phase IV
177.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Pan Bazar	City	Phase I,II,II
178.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Adabari	City	Phase I,II,II
179.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Borjhar	City	Phase I,II,II
180.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Noonmali	City	Phase I,II,II
181.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Christian Basti	City	Phase I,II,II
182.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Ulubari 1	City	Phase I,II,II
183.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Satgaon	City	Phase I,II,II
184.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Dispur	City	Phase I,II,II
185.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Kamarpara RSU	City	Phase I,II,II
186.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Rehabari	City	Phase I,II,II
187.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Vasishtha	City	Phase I,II,II
188.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Fancy Bazar	City	Phase I,II,II
189.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Zoo Road	City	Phase I,II,II
190.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Silpukhuri	City	Phase I,II,II
191.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Hotel Raj Mahal	City	Phase I,II,II
192.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Hengrabari	City	Phase I,II,II
193.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Joy Nagar	City	Phase I,II,II
194.	Kamrup	Guwahati	North Guwahati	City	Phase I,II,II
195.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Ambari	City	Phase I,II,II
196.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Ulubari 2	City	Phase I,II,II
197.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Maligaon 1	City	Phase I,II,II
198.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Fatashil	City	Phase I,II,II
199.	Kamrup	Guwahati	East Point Tower	City	Phase I,II,II
200.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Uzan Bazar	City	Phase I,II,II
201.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Ulubari 3	City	Phase I,II,II
202.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Dynasty Hotel	City	Phase I,II,II

1	2	3	4	5	6
203.	Kamrup	Guwahati	CRPF	Highway	Phase I,II,II
204.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Vasishtha Nagar	City	Phase I,II,II
205.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Orion Palace	City	Phase I,II,II
206.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Janta Bhavan	City	Phase I,II,II
207.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Kala Pahar	City	Phase I,II,II
208.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Six Mile	City	Phase I,II,II
209.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Hatigarh	City	Phase I,II,II
210.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Kahilpara	City	Phase I,II,II
211.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Athgaon	City	Phase I,II,II
212.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Shoppers Point	City	Phase I,II,II
213.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Forst Gate	City	Phase I,II,II
214.	Kamrup	Guwahati	RGB Road	City	Phase I,II,II
215.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Bangagarh	City	Phase I,II,II
216.	Kamrup	Guwahati	CTTC	City	Phase I,II,II
217.	Kamrup	Guwahati	AT Bridge	City	Phase I,II,II
218.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Gorchuk	Highway	Phase I,II,II
219.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Dharapur	Highway	Phase I,II,II
220.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Jorbat	Highway	Phase I,II,II
221.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Amar Enclave	City	Phase I,II,II
222.	Kamrup	Bijaynagar	Bijaynagar	Highway	Phase I,II,II
223.	Kamrup	Sualkuchi	Sualkuchi	Highway	Phase I,II,II
224.	Kamrup	Rangia	Rangia	Highway	Phase I,II,II
225.	Kamrup	Baihata	Baihata	Highway	Phase I,II,II
226.	Kamrup	Boko	Boko	Highway	Phase I,II,II
227.	Kamrup	Hajo	Hajo	Highway	Phase I,II,II
228.	Kamrup	Goreswar	Goreswar	Highway	Phase I,II,II
229.	Kamrup	Dadara	Dadara	City	Phase IV
230.	Kamrup	Guwahati	North Saraniya	City	Phase IV

1	2	3	4	5	6
231.	Kamrup	Guwahati	South Saraniya	City	Phase IV
232.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Boragap	City	Phase IV
233.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Ganesh Guri	City	Phase IV
234.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Amin Gaon	City	Phase IV
235.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Satmile	City	Phase IV
236.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Hotel Brahmaputra	City	Phase IV
237.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Kalakehtra/Panjaban	City	Phase IV
238.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Rukhmanigaon	City	Phase IV
239.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Khanapara	City	Phase IV
240.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Hatigaon Chariail	City	Phase IV
241.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Bell Tala	City	Phase IV
242.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Lokhra	City	Phase IV
243.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Lalganesh	City	Phase IV
244.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Paltan Bazar 2	City	Phase IV
245.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Hatigaon 2	City	Phase IV
246.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Kalapahar 2	City	Phase IV
247.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Chandmari	City	Phase IV
248.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Nabin Nagar	City	Phase IV
249.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Satpukhri	City	Phase IV
250.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Ambikagiri Nagar	City	Phase IV
251.	Kamrup	Guwahati	VIP Express Road	City	Phase IV
252.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Gopinath Nagar	City	Phase IV
253.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Babunimaidan	City	Phase IV
254.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Anandpur	City	Phase IV
255.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Pan Bazar 1	City	Phase IV
256.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Tokobari Satra	City	Phase IV
257.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Pan Bazar 2	City	Phase IV

1	2	3	4	5	6
258.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Paltan Bazar 1	City	Phase IV
259.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Silpukhri	City	Phase IV
260.	Kamrup	Guwahati	SC Road	City	Phase IV
261.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Rajgarh Road	City	Phase IV
262.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Beltala 2	City	Phase IV
263.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Rup Nagar	City	Phase IV
264.	Kamrup	Mirza	Mirza	City	Phase IV
265.	Kamrup	Sonapur	Sonapur	City	Phase IV
266.	Kamrup	Rangia	Rangia 2	City	Phase IV
267.	Kamrup	Khetri	Khetri	City	Phase IV
268.	Kamrup	Bamundi	Bamundi	City	Phase IV
269.	Kamrup	Dimou	Dimou	Highway	Phase IV
270.	Nagaon	Nagaon	Office of TDM TE	City	Phase I,II,III
271.	Nagaon	Nagaon	Nagaon M/W	City	Phase I,II,III
272.	Nagaon	Nagaon	Haibargaon TE	City	Phase I,II,III
273.	Nagaon	Nagaon	Amiapatty	City	Phase I,II,III
274.	Nagaon	Roha (T)	Roha (T)	Highway	Phase I,II,III
275.	Nagaon	Nagaon	Natraj Hotel	City	Phase I,II,III
276.	Nagaon	Morigaon	Morigaon	City	Phase I,II,III
277.	Nagaon	Kampur(T)	Kampur(T)	Highway	Phase I,II,III
278.	Nagaon	Puranigodam	Puranigodam	Highway	Phase I,II,III
279.	Nagaon	Mairabari	Mairabari	Highway	Phase I,II,III
280.	Nagaon	Mahadevgaon	Mahadevgaon	Highway	Phase I,II,III
281.	Nagaon	Dabaka	Dabaka	Highway	Phase I,II,III
282.	Nagaon	Hojai	Hojai	City	Phase I,II,III
283.	Nagaon	Hojai	Hojai	City	Phase I,II,III
284.	Nagaon	Lumding	Lumding	City	Phase I,II,III

1	2	3	4	5	6
285.	Nagaon	Howraghal	Howraghal	Highway	Phase I,II,III
286.	Nagaon	Lanka (T)	Lanka (T)	Highway	Phase I,II,III
287.	Nagaon	Diphu	Diphu	City	Phase I,II,III
288.	Nagaon	Jakhalabandha	Jakhalabandha	Highway	Phase I,II,III
289.	Nagaon	Bokajan	Bokajan	Highway	Phase I,II,III
290.	Nagaon	Khatkhati	Khatkhati	Highway	Phase I,II,III
291.	Nagaon	Missa	Missa	Highway	Phase I,II,III
292.	Nagaon	Bolipathar	Bolipathar	Highway	Phase I,II,III
293.	Nagaon	Quarital	Quarital	Highway	Phase I,II,III
294.	Nagaon	Hamren	Hamren	Highway	Phase I,II,III
295.	Nagaon	Nakhola HPC	Nakhola HPC	Highway	Phase I,II,III
296.	Nagaon	Jagiroad	Jagiroad Main	City	Phase I,II,II
297.	Nagaon	Dharamtul	Dharamtul	Highway	Phase I,II,II
298.	Nagaon	Nagaon	Ameenputti	City	Phase IV
299.	Nagaon	Nagaon	Bengaliypatty	City	Phase IV
300.	Nagaon	Nagaon	AT Road Old TE	City	Phase IV
301.	Nagaon	Nagaon	ITI SM RD	City	Phase IV
302.	Nagaon	Nagaon	Barabazar	City	Phase IV
303.	Nagaon	Nagaon	Khuti Khatia	City	Phase IV
304.	Nagaon	Nagaon	Dhing Road	City	Phase IV
305.	Nagaon	Morigaon	Morigaon Town	City	Phase IV
306.	Nagaon	Jagiroad	Jagiroad	City	Phase IV
307.	Nagaon	Hojai	Sarada Guest House, GNB Road	City	Phase IV
308.	Nagaon	Hojai	Hojai Main	City	Phase IV
309.	Nagaon	Lumding	Masjid Road	City	Phase IV
310.	Nagaon	Lumding	Railway Hospital	City	Phase IV
311.	Nagaon	Diphu	Dharmnala	City	Phase IV

1	2	3	4	5	6
312.	Nagaon	Diphu	ARTC	City	Phase IV
313.	Nagaon	Jamunamukh (T)	Jamunamukh (T)	City	Phase IV
314.	Nagaon	Nibagan	Nibagan	City	Phase IV
315.	Nagaon	Begejia	Bebejia	City	Phase IV
316.	Nagaon	Dhing (T)	Dhing (T)	City	Phase IV
317.	Nagaon	Jajori	Jajori	Highway	Phase IV
318.	Nagaon	Kothiatoli	Kothiatoli	City	Phase IV
319.	Nagaon	Murajhar (T)	Murajhar (T)	City	Phase IV
320.	Nagaon	Samguri (T)	Samguri (T)	City	Phase IV
321.	Nagaon	Rupohi	Rupohi	Highway	Phase IV
322.	Nagaon	Balthalangu (T)	Balthalangu (T)	Highway	Phase IV
323.	Nagaon	Barapujia	Barapujia	Highway	Phase IV
324.	Nagaon	Barkula	Barkula	Highway	Phase IV
325.	Nagaon	Jaluguti	Jaluguti	Highway	Phase IV
326.	Nagaon	Ambagan	Ambagan	City	Phase IV
327.	Nagaon	Bakulia	Bakulia	Highway	Phase IV
328.	Nagaon	GI Resort	GL Resort	Highway	Phase IV
329.	Silchar	Silchar	M/W Bldg.	City	Phase I,II,II
330.	Silchar	Silchar	Sonai RSU	City	Phase I,II,II
331.	Silchar	Silchar	NS Rd. RSU	City	Phase I,II,II
332.	Silchar	Silchar	PO Complex	City	Phase I,II,II
333.	Silchar	Silchar	Tel. Complex NH	City	Phase I,II,II
334.	Silchar	Silchar	Dargahkona TE	City	Phase I,II,II
335.	Silchar	Sadarghat TE	Sadarghat TE	City	Phase I,II,II
336.	Silchar	Silchar	REC	City	Phase I,II,II
337.	Silchar	Silchar	Lakhipur	City	Phase I,II,II
338.	Silchar	Silchar	Nahatt	City	Phase I,II,II

1	2	3	4	5	6
339.	Silchar	Silchar	Ram Nagar	City	Phase I,II,II
340.	Silchar	Karimgunj	Karimgunj TE	City	Phase I,II,II
341.	Silchar	Karimgunj	Raj Hotel	City	Phase I,II,II
342.	Silchar	Lala	Lala TE	City	Phase I,II,II
343.	Silchar	Hailakandi	Hailakandi TE	City	Phase I,II,II
344.	Silchar	Haflong	Haflong TE	City	Phase I,II,II
345.	Silchar	Udarbond	Udarbond	Highway	Phase I,II,II
346.	Silchar	Badarpur	Badarpur	Highway	Phase I,II,II
347.	Silchar	Patharkhandi	Patharkhandi	City	Phase I,II,II
348.	Silchar	Bazarichera	Bazarichera	Highway	Phase I,II,II
349.	Silchar	Panchgram	Panchgram	Highway	Phase I,II,II
350.	Silchar	Algapur	Algapur	Highway	Phase I,II,II
351.	Silchar	Salchapra	Salchapra	Highway	Phase I,II,II
352.	Silchar	Nutan Bazar	Nutan Bazar	Highway	Phase I,II,II
353.	Silchar	Dholabazar	Dholabazar	Highway	Phase I,II,II
354.	Silchar	Pallapul	Pallapul	Highway	Phase I,II,II
355.	Silchar	Airport	Kalachera	City	Phase I,II,II
356.	Silchar	Silchar	Rangpur	City	Phase IV
357.	Silchar	Silchar	Ambikapatti	City	Phase IV
358.	Silchar	Silchar	Cachar Gramin TE	City	Phase IV
359.	Silchar	Karimgunj	Karimgunj (Settlement Rd)	City	Phase IV
360.	Silchar	Hailakandi	Telegraph office	City	Phase IV
361.	Silchar	Hailakandi	R K Nagar	City	Phase IV
362.	Silchar	Rajabazar	Rajabazar	Highway	Phase IV
363.	Silchar	Borakhola (T)	Borakhola (T)	Highway	Phase IV
364.	Silchar	Baskhandi	Baskhandi	Highway	Phase IV

1	2	3	4	5	6
365.	Silchar	Arunachal	Arunachal	City	Phase IV
366.	Silchar	Salganga	Salganga	Highway	Phase IV
367.	Silchar	Manipurbagan	Manipurbagan	Highway	Phase IV
368.	Silchar	Kallichera	Kallichera	City	Phase IV
369.	Silchar	Durlavcherra	Durlavcherra	City	Phase IV
370.	Silchar	Kalain	Kalain	City	Phase IV
371.	Silchar	Silkuri	Silchoorie	Highway	Phase IV
372.	Silchar	Monachera	Monachera	City	Phase IV
373.	Silchar	Beherabazar	Beherabazar	Highway	Phase IV
374.	Silchar	Singerbond	Singerbond	Highway	Phase IV
375.	Silchar	Meherpur	Meherpur	City	Phase IV
376.	Silchar	Bhangabazar	Bhangabazar	Highway	Phase IV
377.	Tezpur	Junai	Junai	Highway	28-Jan-06
378.	Tezpur	North Lakhimpur	NL TE	City	Phase I,II,II
379.	Tezpur	North Lakhimpur	Japsuijiya, M/W	City	Phase I,II,II
380.	Tezpur	Tezpur	E-10B TE	City	Phase I,II,II
381.	Tezpur	Tezpur	Veggie Food, NC Rd	City	Phase I,II,II
382.	Tezpur	Tezpur	M/W Station	City	Phase I,II,II
383.	Tezpur	Tezpur	Mission Charali	City	Phase I,II,II
384.	Tezpur	Tezpur	Mahabhairav Mandir	City	Phase I,II,II
385.	Tezpur	Mangaldoi	Sumitra Complex, LNB Rd	City	Phase I,II,II
386.	Tezpur	Mangaldoi	Mangaldoi 2	City	Phase I,II,II
387.	Tezpur	Udalguri	Udalguri	City	Phase I,II,II
388.	Tezpur	Rangapara	Rangapara	City	Phase I,II,II
389.	Tezpur	Dhemaji	Dhemaji	City	Phase I,II,II
390.	Tezpur	Dhekiajuli (T)	Dhekiajuli (T)	Highway	Phase I,II,II
391.	Tezpur	Boginodi	Boginodi	Highway	Phase I,II,II

1	2	3	4	5	6
392.	Tezpur	Balipara	Balipara	Highway	Phase I,II,II
393.	Tezpur	Biswanath Chariali	Biswanath Chariali	City	Phase I,II,II
394.	Tezpur	Gerukamukh	Gerukamukh	Highway	Phase I,II,II
395.	Tezpur	Ghahigaon	Ghahigaon	Highway	Phase I,II,II
396.	Tezpur	Borgong	Borgong	Highway	Phase I,II,II
397.	Tezpur	Gohpur	Gohpur	Highway	Phase I,II,II
398.	Tezpur	Sootia	Sootia	Highway	Phase I,II,II
399.	Tezpur	Silapathar	Silapathar	Highway	Phase I,II,II
400.	Tezpur	Rowta	Rowta	Highway	Phase I,II,II
401.	Tezpur	Kharupatia	Kharupatia	Highway	Phase I,II,II
402.	Tezpur	Sipajhar	Sipajhar	Highway	Phase I,II,II
403.	Tezpur	Dholaibil	Dholaibil	Highway	Phase I,II,II
404.	Tezpur	Bihpuria	Bihpuria	Highway	Phase I,II,II
405.	Tezpur	Dikrong	Dikrong	Highway	Phase I,II,II
406.	Tezpur	Gogamukh	Gogamukh	Highway	Phase I,II,II
407.	Tezpur	Laluk	Laluk	Highway	Phase I,II,II
408.	Tezpur	North Lakhimpur	Khelmati	City	Phase IV
409.	Tezpur	Tezpur	Parvati Nagar TE	City	Phase IV
410.	Tezpur	Tezpur	Tezpur University	City	Phase IV
411.	Tezpur	Orang (T/P)	Orang (T/P)	Highway	Phase IV
412.	Tezpur	Bihaguri	Bihaguri	City	Phase IV
413.	Tezpur	Hatigarh	Hatigarh	Highway	Phase IV
414.	Tezpur	Dhakuakhana (T)	Dhakuakhana (T)	City	Phase IV
415.	Tezpur	Tangla	Tangla	City	Phase IV
416.	Tezpur	Mazbat	Mazbat	Highway	Phase IV
417.	Tezpur	Duni	Duni	City	Phase IV

Statement 1 (D)*Cellular BTS to be Commissioned by March, 2006*

Sl.No.	SSA	Name of the City	BTS Location	Existing/New	City/Hwy
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bongaigon	Barpeta	Pathbauchai Road	New	City
2.	Bongaigon	Barpeta Road	Mission Road	New	City
3.	Bongaigon	Bongaigon	Near LIC Bldg.	New	City
4.	Bongaigon	Bongaigon	Loknath Mandir	New	City
5.	Bongaigon	Bongaigon	Oil India	New	City
6.	Bongaigon	Goalpara	Bhalukdubi TE	New	City
7.	Bongaigon	Chapar	Chapar	New	City
8.	Bongaigon	Patacharkuchi (T)	Patacharkuchi (T)	New	City
9.	Bongaigon	Kajalgaon	Kajalgaon	New	Highway
10.	Bongaigon	Chamata	Chamata	New	City
11.	Bongaigon	Kokhrajar	JD Road	New	City
12.	Bongaigon	Kokhrajar	Balajan	New	Highway
13.	Bongaigon	Kokhrajar	Narabari	New	City
14.	Bongaigon	Kachugaon	Kachugaon	New	City
15.	Bongaigon	Rampur	Rampur	New	Highway
16.	Bongaigon	Nagaon Tinali	Nagaon Tinali	New	Highway
17.	Bongaigon	North Salmara	North Salmara	New	Highway
18.	Bongaigon	Srijangram	Srijangram	New	Highway
19.	Bongaigon	Ambari	Ambari	New	Highway
20.	Dibrugarh	Digboi	LP School/DPS School	New	City
21.	Dibrugarh	Duliajan	Tipling Tinali	New	City
22.	Dibrugarh	Duliajan	Tinali Road	New	City
23.	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	Jyotinagar	New	City
24.	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	Head Post Office	New	City
25.	Dibrugarh	Dibrugarh	Minan Nagar	New	City
26.	Dibrugarh	Tinsukia	Chiwrapatty	New	City
27.	Dibrugarh	Namrup	Namrup 2	New	City
28.	Dibrugarh	Tinsukia	Gelapukhuri	New	City

1	2	3	4	5	6
29.	Dibrugarh	Hugrijan	Hugrijan	New	City
30.	Dibrugarh	Chapakhowa (T)	Chapakhowa (T)	New	Highway
31.	Dibrugarh	Moran	Moran	New	City
32.	Dibrugarh	Sepon	Sepon	New	Highway
33.	Dibrugarh		Saikhowaghat	New	Highway
34.	Jorhat	Borpathar	Borpathar	New	City
35.	Jorhat	Na-ali-Dheklajuli	Na-ali-Dheklajuli	New	City
36.	Jorhat	Majuli	Majuli (Phulani)	New	City
37.	Jorhat	Jorhat		New	City
38.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Law College	New	City
39.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Maskhua	New	City
40.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Bhetapara	New	City
41.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Maskhua 2	New	City
42.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Near ABC	New	City
43.	Kamrup	Guwahati	SS Rd	New	City
44.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Kacharibasti	New	City
45.	Kamrup	Chandrapur	Chandrapur	New	Highway
46.	Kamrup	Chaygaon	Chaygaon	New	City
47.	Kamrup	Azara	Azara	New	City
48.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Panbazar (Near Cotton College)	New	City
49.	Kamrup	Guwahati	Rani/Borihat	New	Highway
50.	Nagaon	Monja	Monja	New	Highway
51.	Nagaon	Dhansiri	Dhansiri	New	Highway
52.	Nagaon	Kuthari	Kuthari	New	Highway
53.	Nagaon	Juria	Juria	New	Highway
54.	Nagaon	Bhuragaon	Bhuragaon	New	Highway
55.	Nagaon	Parokhowa	Parokhowa	New	Highway
56.	Nagaon	Lumghing	Lumghing	New	City
57.	Nagaon	Dhilai Parvat	Dhilai Parvat	New	City
58.	Silchar	Silchar	GMC Hotel	New	City
59.	Silchar	Lala	Lala	New	City
60.	Silchar	Haflong	Upper Hill, Civil Hospital	New	City

1	2	3	4	5	6
61.	Silchar	Sonaimukh (T)	Sonaimukh (T)	New	City
62.	Silchar	Anipur	Anipur	New	Highway
63.	Silchar	Umrangshu	Umrangshu	New	City
64.	Silchar	Maibong (T)	Maibong (T)	New	City
65.	Silchar	Mahur	Mahur	New	Highway
66.	Silchar	Bantarapur	Bantarapur	New	Highway
67.	Silchar	Palonghat	Palonghat	New	Highway
68.	Silchar	Dewan	Dewan	New	Highway
69.	Silchar	Madhumukh	Madhumukh	New	Highway
70.	Silchar	Jirighat	Jirighat	New	Highway
71.	Silchar	North Narainpur	North Narainpur	New	Highway
72.	Silchar	Gumrah	Gumrah	New	Highway
73.	Tezpur	North Lakhimpur	Ahnchari gaon	New	City
74.	Tezpur	Tezpur	Dadhara/Mazgaon	New	City
75.	Tezpur	Tezpur	Dharwa Nagar TE	New	City
76.	Tezpur	Mangaldoi	Mangaldoi 3	New	City
77.	Tezpur	Udaiguri	Udaiguri 2	New	City
78.	Tezpur	Dhemaji	Gas Agency	New	City
79.	Tezpur	Dhemai	Tinali	New	City
80.	Tezpur	Monabag	Monabag	New	Highway
81.	Tezpur	Panigaon	Panigaon	New	Highway
82.	Tezpur	Dimakuchi	Dimakuchi	New	Highway
83.	Tezpur	Harisingha	Harisingha	New	City
84.	Tezpur	Machkova	Machkoa	New	City
85.	Tezpur	Thelamara	Thelamara	New	Highway
86.	Tezpur	Biswanath Chariali	Biswanath Chariali	New	City
87.	Tezpur	Jamugurihat (T/P)	Jamugurihat (T/P)	New	City
88.	Tezpur	Itakhola	Itakhola	New	City
89.	Tezpur	Gohpur	Gohpur	New	City
90.	Tezpur	Missamari	Missamari	New	City
91.	Tezpur	Khairabari	Khairabari	New	Highway
92.	Tezpur	Dalgaon	Dalgaon	New	City
93.	Tezpur	Kalaigaon	Kalaigaon	New	City

1	2	3	4	5	6
94.	Tezpur	Ghilamara	Ghilamara	New	Highway
95.	Tezpur	Bordoloni	Bordoloni	New	Highway
96.	Tezpur	Deomomai	Deomomai	New	Highway
97.	Tezpur	Monabari	Monabari	New	City
98.	Tezpur	Borsola	Borsola	New	City
99.	Tezpur	Kalabari	Kalabari	New	Highway
100.	Tezpur	Sipajhar 2	Sipajhar 2	New	City
101.	Tezpur	Bhogpur Chariati	Bhogpur Chariati	New	Highway
102.	Tezpur	Bhakata Para	Bhakata Para	New	Highway
103.	Tezpur	Jinjia	Jinjia	New	Highway
104.	Tezpur	Bedeti	Bedeti	New	Highway
105.	Tezpur	Pavai	Pavai	New	Highway
106.	Tezpur	Dumnichowki	Dumnichowki	New	Highway

*Statement II**Coverage plan for remote and inaccessible river islands in Assam*

Assembly segment	River island/ inaccessible area	Remarks
1	2	3
Majuli	Majuli	Telephone facility including internet services available with 7 (seven) numbers of telephone exchanges, 2 (two) GSM BTS (Kamalabari & Gormur). GSM BTS at Phuloni & Jengraimukh and WLL BTS at Kamalabari & Bongaon are planned during 2005-06. Presently uncovered area of Dhudang and Dakshin Ahatguri are to be covered by proposed WLL BTS at Dergaon by June 2006.
Lakhimpur	Luit-Khaboloo, Joyhing, Khoga, Paschim Telahi and Pub Telahi	Coverage from existing WLL BTS at Japisujia is available.
Nowboicha	Islampur, Yuvanagar, Phulbari & Bedetighat	New WLL BTS at Laluk planned Target July 2006 Coverage to Bedetighat would be provided from Bihupuria WLL BTS.
Dhemaji	Machkhowa, Laipulia, Nalbari, Raha and Sonarighat	Telephone facility available at Machkhowa & Sonarighat. For others radio survey is under progress.
Jonai	Kobuchapori, Simenchapori, Mesaki & Majorbari	Telephone facility available at Kobuchapori, Majorbari. New BTS planned at Simenchapori by July 2006

1	2	3
Doomdooma	Kordoigun, Kakojan, & Dighal Tarang.	WLL BTS planned at Dighal Tarang in 2006-07, which will cover Kordoiguri & Kakojan also.
Chabua	Laika/Dibru Saikhuwa Reserve, Rohmorla & Guijanghai	WLL BTS planned at Dighal Tarang in 2006-07, radio survey is being carried out to finalise the coverage area.
Sadiya	Amarpur River Island & Tangona	WLL BS planned at Saikhoraghat 2006-07, radio survey is being carried out to finalise the coverage area.
Dhakuakhana	Bhimpara, Basudeusthan, Kotorichapori & Beel much	Telephone facility is available at Basudeosthan & Beel Mukh. For other area radio survey is in progress

Note: All new WLL BTSs are of CDMA 2000-1X version which support internet access

Investment in Infrastructure

25. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has directed all the State and Union Territory Government to take benefit of the various economic assistance schemes earmarked for the purpose and also to take steps to encourage investment for infrastructure in their respective States/UTs;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of States/Union Territories thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A scheme for setting up of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for providing long term debt for Infrastructure projects has been notified and India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL), a Non-Banking Finance Company, has been incorporated. Besides debt, the need for meeting the viability gap for infrastructure projects has been recognized for some time. A detailed scheme for Viability Gap Funding (VGF) has, accordingly, been formulated. This scheme will focus on the core infrastructure sectors including highways, airports, ports, power, urban infrastructure, tourism projects. The above schemes were circulated to all the States and Union Territories seeking proposals.

(c) Chief Ministers of different States and Administrators of Union Territories have welcomed the above initiatives and assured co-operation for promoting infrastructure development and for utilization under the schemes proposed by the Union Government.

Sixth Pay Commission

26. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI M. SHIVANNA:
DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various trade unions have been demanding constitution of the Sixth Pay Commission;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to set up a Committee of Secretaries to examine the necessity of setting up the new Pay Commission;

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

(e) the time by which the new Pay Commission is likely to be constituted; and

(f) the likely impact on various sectors of the Union Government and the State Governments as a result of constitution and implementation of the 6th Pay Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Representations have been received from various quarters for constituting the Sixth Pay Commission and conceding some other demands.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The question does not arise in view of reply to part (c) of the question.

(e) No time frame has been finalized.

(f) The impact will be duly considered as and when VI Central Pay Commission is constituted and duly submits its report.

Cost Audit of MNCs

27. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has kept Chocolates produced by Multinational Companies out of purview of Cost Audit;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to bring Chocolates and other consumer items producing companies under purview of Cost Audit?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) Cost Audit is applied to companies in exercise of powers under section 233B of the Companies Act, 1956. No discrimination is made between domestic and multinational companies producing, processing or manufacturing various items for the purpose of issue of cost audit orders.

(c) The Central Government examines the application of provisions relating to Cost Audit under the Companies Act, 1956 to companies producing different kinds of items depending upon need and issues appropriate orders from time to time.

[Translation]

Prime Lending Rate

28. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether interest rate has been fixed arbitrarily by the banks during 2004-05;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the prevailing rules governing Prime Lending Rate have been changed by the Reserve Bank of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) and (d) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has deregulated lending rates since October 1994 and banks are free to determine their own lending rates for credit limits over Rs. 2 lakh.

Pursuant to the announcement made in the Reserve Bank's mid-term Review of November 2003, the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) advised its member banks to announce a benchmark prime lending rate (BPLR) with the approval of their Boards, taking into account (i) actual cost of funds, (ii) operating expenses, and (iii) a minimum margin to cover regulatory requirement of provisioning/capital charge and profit margin keeping in view the operational requirements.

[English]

Expert Group on IT Law

29. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Group constituted by the Union Government to propose a draft for revised and simplified income tax law has submitted its report;

(b) if so, complete details of the report;

(c) whether the Group has recommended protection of interests of donors in their report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Expert Group constituted to re-write the Income Tax Law is required to submit its report by 30.04.2006.

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

[Translation]

Life Time Validity of Mobile Telephone

30. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
SHRI RUPCHAND PAL:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

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

(a) whether the Government has looked into the issue of recently announced life-time validity schemes by many mobile operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has expressed its reservations on the schemes; and

(d) if so, the details therefor alongwith the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Several mobile operators have implemented tariff schemes under the name and style of lifetime validity. Telecom Regulatory

Authority of India (TRAI) has issued a Consultation Paper highlighting various issues/concerns and sought views of the stakeholders on various aspects of the schemes.

The issues raised in the Consultation Paper are as follows:

- Long-term viability and sustainability of tariff schemes with lifetime validity.
- The concept of lifetime validity.
- Change in traffic patterns and Interconnect Usage Charge (IUC) Regime.
- Protection against hike in tariff.
- Implications for the orderly growth of the telecom sector.
- Exit option.
- Asymmetric Regulation.

[English]

New Textile Industry in A.P.

31. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new Textile Units set up in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years in various sectors year-wise; and

(b) the efforts made by the Government to assist in setting up these textile units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) The number of cotton/man made fibre textile (Non SSI) mills & Powerloom units enlisted in the state of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years is as below:

(in numbers)

Sector	Calendar Year 2003	Calendar Year 2004	Calendar Year 2005	Total during Three years
(i) Cotton/man made fibre textile spinning mills (Non SSI)	2	4	1	7
(ii) Cotton/man made fibre textile spinning mills (SSI)	2	9	Nil	11
Powerloom units	17	54	60	131

(b) Government creates conducive policy environment to encourage setting up of the textile units. The important measures taken by the Government from time to time to help the textile sector of the country including those in the State of Andhra Pradesh are as below:—

- Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) to improve productivity and quality of cotton for manufacture and export of competitive downstream textile products;
- Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the textile industry both in the organised and unorganized sector.
- Credit linked capital subsidy @ 10% under TUFS, in addition to the existing 5% interest reimbursement for textile processing sector;
- In order to facilitate modernisation of the Powerloom Sector, Schemes such as High-tech Weaving Parks, Modernisation and Strengthening of Powerloom Service Centres, Group Workshed Scheme and Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme @ 20% have been introduced.
- To provide the textile industry with world-class infrastructure facilities the "Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)" has been introduced in July 2005.
- In 2004-05 Budget, the entire textile sector, except for man-made fibre and filament yarn was provided optional exemption from excise duty.
- In 2005-06 Budget, Central Value-aided Tax (CENVAT) on Polyester Filament Yarn has been reduced from 24% to 16%.
- Reduction in customs duty on import of textile machinery in 2005-06 Budget to facilitate import of state of the art machinery to make our products internationally competitive;
- Launching of the Debt Restructuring Scheme w.e.f. Sept., 2003 with the principal objective to permit banks to lend to the textile sector at 8-9% rate of interest.
- Government has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment in the textile sector under automatic route.

- Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from SSI sector so that large scale investments may be encouraged in these sectors.
- National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has been set up to provide the leadership role in sensitising the industry to the concept of value addition by inducting trained professionals to manage the industry.

[Translation]

Facilities Provided by Foreign Banks

32. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision to provide facilities by foreign banks to the common people and the people living below the poverty line in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The banking facilities offered by foreign banks viz. deposit accounts, issue of drafts/bankers' cheques, grant of consumer loans, housing loans etc are available to the common people also in accordance with RBI guidelines. Further, foreign banks are required to lend a minimum of 32% of net bank credit to the priority sector i.e. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Export Credit, and Weaker Sections.

[English]

Panchayat Sanchar Kendra

33. SHRI RANEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been made mandatory for Panchayat Sanchar Kendras (PSKs) to do business of Rs. 1500 per week and Rs. 6000 per month;

(b) if so, whether any concession has been given in this regard to the hilly and tribal areas of the country;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government is aware that the said volume of business is not possible in the hilly areas;

(e) if so, whether directions are being issued for closure of such PSKs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However in pursuance of the Government of India (Ministry of Finance) Directives, for preparing an 'outcome budget', for various Plan activities, including the Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana, some achievable and differential parameters, for normal rural and hilly and tribal areas were fixed. Based on these parameters, Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) in normal rural areas are expected to earn a minimum revenue of Rs. 1850/- per month while those in hilly and tribal areas are only expected to earn a minimum revenue of Rs. 800/- per month.

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

(d) Since Government is aware of the circumstances in hilly and tribal areas, differential parameters have been adopted as indicated in the reply to (a) & (b) above.

(e) No, Sir.

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

Carrier Access Code

34. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether telephone subscribers have the option to choose their STD/ISD operator through Carrier Access Code (CAC);

(b) if so, whether telecom operators have not extended this facility of CAC to subscribers despite directive from TRAI in 2002;

(c) if so, the reasons furnished by the telecom operators for not providing CAC facility and response of the Government thereto;

(d) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to ensure that telecom operators extend the CAC facility to their subscribers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) At present telephone subscribers do not have facility to choose their STD/ISD operator through Carrier Access Code (CAC).

(b) to (f) The TRAI had issued direction regarding the implementation of Call by Call and Carrier-Pre selection. But keeping level playing field consideration in view, it was not correct for the TRAI to force Carrier Selection Implementation by all others with the exception of BSNL.

The licence agreement provides that the network resources including the cost of upgrading/modifying interconnecting networks to meet the service requirements of Service will be provided by the service provided seeking interconnection. However, mutually negotiated sharing arrangements for cost of upgrading/modifying interconnecting networks between the service providers shall be permitted.

Further, system modification in the Switches of Access Providers is required to enable them to implement Carrier Selection for National Long Distance (NLD) and International Long Distance (ILD) Services in their networks. The setup cost required for the upgradation of switches needs to be contributed by NLD operators and ILD operators. Since this upgradation cost was on higher side, NLD/ILD operators did not come forward towards the payment of their contribution of upgradation costs when some of the Access Providers demanded set up cost payments.

[Translation]

Projects with the help of World Bank

35. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects being run with World Bank aid and other assistance in the country, State-wise particularly in Uttar Pradesh as on date;

(b) the names of the States which have sent proposals to launch some more projects with the assistance of World Bank during the last three years and as on date;

(c) the number of projects pending for approval by the Union Government, State-wise;

(d) the reasons for delay thereof; and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The State-wise number of projects being run with World Bank aid and other assistance is given in the Statement-I enclosed. Further details of the projects are available in the Ministry of Finance website: http://finmin.nic.in/the_ministry/dept_eco_affairs/aids_accounts_audit/caaa/mainframe.html. The details of the projects being run with World Bank and other assistance in Uttar Pradesh as on date are given in the Statement II enclosed.

(b) and (c) Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Punjab, Assam, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Uttaranchal have sent proposals to launch more projects with the assistance of World Bank. One project each from the State Governments of Jharkhand, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh and Uttaranchal is pending for approval of Ministry of Finance.

(d) and (e) Project proposals are routed through the Central Line Ministries to the Department of Economic Affairs after ensuring Plan priorities, Administrative clearances, including clearances from the Planning Commission. The debt sustainability of the concerned State and overall current lending program of the World Bank are also taken into consideration. There is no definite time frame within which proposals for external assistance can be cleared. Once the project is proposed to the External Agency it goes through the cycle of pre-appraisal, preparation of project concept document, appraisal, negotiation and final approval. This process takes at least a year or more, depending on how well the project is prepared and the overall commitments of the external agencies in terms of their resources.

Statement I

Projects with the help of World Bank

State-wise number of externally aided projects

Sl.No.	States/UTs	No. of ongoing projects
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0

1	2	3
3.	Assam	3
4.	Bihar	1
5.	Chattisgarh	2
6.	Delhi	0
7.	Goa	0
8.	Gujarat	16
9.	Haryana	8
10.	Himachal Pradesh	4
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	1
12.	Jharkhand	2
13.	Karnataka	25
14.	Kerala	9
15.	Madhya Pradesh	13
16.	Maharashtra	18
17.	Manipur	2
18.	Meghalaya	2
19.	Mizoram	1
20.	Nagaland	0
21.	Orissa	20
22.	Punjab	3
23.	Rajasthan	22
24.	Tamil Nadu	13
25.	Tripura	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	10
27.	Uttaranchal	1
28.	West Bengal	22
29.	Central Sector	188
30.	Multi-State	20
Total		434

Statement II**Projects with the help of World Bank**

Development partner	Name of the Project	Cost (Donor currency in Million)	Amount received (Rs. in Crore)		
			2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
France	SGPGI Supply & Implementation of Medical Equipment	Euro 4.604	0.45	0.00	0.54
IBRD	UP Power Sector Restructuring Project	US\$140.303	136.96	48.54	-22.1
IBRD	UP State Road Project	US\$ 488	162.54	155.87	139.68
IDA	Uttar Pradesh Sodic Land Reclamation Project II	US\$ 194.10	161.64	144.75	128.9
IDA	Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project	US\$149.20	10.34	51.85	29.84
IDA	Uttar Pradesh Health Systems Development Project	US\$110.00	130.64	107.01	90.57
EEC	Ravine Stabilization in UP	Euro 7.9	3.88	12.21	0.00
Netherlands	Bundel Khand Integrated Water	Euro 1.27	1.79	0.00	0.00
Netherlands	Ganga Action Plan Support	Euro 24.12	6.73	3.96	0.00
UK	Western India Rainfed Farming Project	\$15.09	6.1	15.63	10.31

*[English]***Debt Burden of India**

36. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned, "India's debt burden truly rural" appearing in the *Statesman* dated 30 December, 2005;

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

(c) the efforts made by the Government to reduce the debt burden in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Sample Survey Organisation has conducted a survey on "Household Indebtedness in India as on 30th June, 2002" as part of the All India Debt and Investment survey in the 59th round (January-December 2003). The findings were released in 2005. The importance findings of the survey are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Certain measures were announced on June 18, 2004 for doubling the flow of credit to agriculture in three years and to provide relief to farmers. The announcement envisaged debt restructuring for farmers in distress/arrears, one time settlement for small and marginal farmers and extension of loans to farmers indebted to informal sources. Further, in order to offer small borrowers an opportunity to settle their NPA accounts with banks and become eligible for fresh finance, all scheduled commercial banks (including Regional Rural Banks and Local Area Banks) have been advised to provide a simplified mechanism for

one time settlement of loans where the principal amount is equal to or less than Rs. 25000 which have become doubtful and loss assets as on September 30, 2005. In case of loans granted under government sponsored schemes, banks have been advised to frame separate guidelines following a state-specific approach to be

evolved by the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC). This mechanism will not, however, cover cases of fraud and malfeasance. The borrowers whose accounts are settled under this mechanism will be fully eligible for fresh loans.

Statement

Household indebtedness in India as on 30.6.2002 All India Debt and Investment Survey NSS Fifty-Ninth round January-December 2003—National Sample Survey Organisation—Important Findings

1. The aggregate debt per family belonging to rural household is Rs. 5749 and that of urban household is Rs. 11,771 as on 30th June 2002 as may be seen from the following table:

Amount of Cash Dues of Households as on 30th June 2002

(All India)

Estimates	Rural	Urban	Total
No. of Households (in 00,000)	1,479	555	2,034
Percentage of Households	73	27	100
Total Amount of Debt (in 00,00,000)	1,11,468	65,327	1,76,795
Percentage of Share of Debt	63	37	100
Incidence of Indebtedness (%)	26.5	17.8	24.1
Average outstanding Debt	7,539	11,771	8,694

2. In the Rural Sector, *Cultivator* Households, which were estimated to be nearly 60 per cent of all rural households, shared about 73 per cent of the household debt. The non-cultivator households shared the remaining amount of rural debt. The urban *Self Employed* households accounted for the major share of household debt—their share being 37 per cent of urban debt.

3. About 13.4 per cent of the rural households were indebted to Institutional Agencies and 15.5 per cent were indebted to Non-Institutional Agencies. In the urban sector, the corresponding percentages were 9.3 and 9.4.

4. Indebtedness was reported to be more widespread in the rural areas of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka (the value of Incidence of Indebtedness (IOI) exceeded 30 per

cent). In the urban, IOI is found to be highest in Kerala—with 37 per cent of its urban households reporting indebted. The other states that followed Kerala were Andhra Pradesh (29.8 per cent), Tamil Nadu (25.5 per cent), Gujarat (21.4 per cent) and Orissa (19.2 per cent).

5. In rural Bihar and Urban Jammu & Kashmir, only 25 to 26 per cent of the cash debt was for less than a year duration. At least 10 per cent of the rural debt in Bihar and West Bengal were contracted for a period of 10 years & above.

[*Translation*]

Deduction of Funds under IAY

37. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has deducted an amount of Rs. 33 crores from the funds allotted to Madhya Pradesh under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) during the financial year 2005-2006;

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

(c) whether the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested not to deduct the said amount; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) In order to address the problem of rural housing shortage more directly the criteria for fund allocation to a State under the Indira Awaas Yojana was modified in the current year i.e. 2005-06 to assign 75% weightage to housing shortage and 25% weightage to poverty ratio as against the earlier criteria of 50 : 50 weightage given to both the parameters. Pending the finalization of the modified proposal, the allocation of funds to the States during the current financial year, was initially made on a provisional basis as per the earlier criteria. The allocation was subsequently revised after approval of the revised criteria. As a result, the allocation of funds to all the States underwent a change. In respect of Madhya Pradesh, the revised allocation came down to 7504.14 lakh as against the provisional allocation of Rs. 10,833.12 lakh.

(c) and (d) A request was received from the State Government of Madhya Pradesh for taking the provisional

allocation as final, during the current financial year, to which a reply was sent explaining the above position.

Mega City Schemes

38. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cities selected and sanctioned for the megacity scheme, State-wise;

(b) the total cost estimation of sanctioned projects;

(c) the total amount spent on the ongoing projects during the year 2004-05; and

(d) the number of projects in which amount is yet to be spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MALKEN): (a) Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Infrastructural Development in Mega Cities apply to the following five cities:

State	City Covered
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
Karnataka	Bangalore
Maharashtra	Mumbai
Tamil Nadu	Chennai
West Bengal	Kolkata

(b) to (d) The requisite information is as under:

Name of Mega City	Total cost of projects (Rs. in crore)	Amount Spent in 2004-05 (Rs. in crore)	No. of projects in which amount is yet to be spent
Bangalore	1412.32	34.76	24
Chennai	2153.41	66.10	29
Hyderabad	1762.08	258.98	66
Mumbai	1777.84	102.11	21
Kolkata	1267.35	93.08	3

Fare in Delhi Metro Rail

39. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that due to high fare in Delhi Metro Rail, it is out of reach of common people;

(b) if so, the reasons for high fare of Delhi Metro Rail; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to make it within the reach of common person?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) Under the Delhi Metro Railway (Operation & Maintenance) Act 2002, passenger fares of Delhi Metro are fixed as per recommendations of a Fare Fixation Committee headed by a serving or retired High Court Judge. The Committee, after considering all aspects, has recommended a fare structure and the fares have been fixed by the Metro Railway Administration accordingly.

[English]

Setting up of Post Offices

40. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RANGE
PATIL:

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the Government have received several proposals to open new post-offices from various quarters;

(b) if so, the details thereon during each of the last three years, State-wise and place-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government to open post-offices in these locations;

(d) the reasons for not giving sanction till date;

(e) whether the Government proposes to modernize/upgrade some post-offices in the country during Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(f) 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.

(e) and (f) The Department has undertaken several schemes to modernize/upgrade Post Offices during the Tenth Five Year Plan. Activity wise details are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement***Details of Tenth Plan Targets for Modernization/Upgradation of Post Offices***

Sl.No.	Particulars	Tenth Plan targets
1	2	3
1.	Computerisation and Networking of POs	
	(a) Computerization of Post Offices	7706
2.	Upgradation of customer care centers	
	(a) Upgradation of customer care centers	886

1	2	3
3.	Modernisation of operative/working system (Improving ergonomics)	
	(a) Modernisation (improving ergonomics) of post offices	1500
	(b) Mechanical equipment	1600
	(c) Modernisation of Speed Post Centres	350
4.	Modernisation/Upgradation of premium products	
	(a) Business Expansion (Speed post)	500
	(b) Upgradation of Track & Trace (Speed Net)	350
	(c) Computerisation of Speed Post delivery/booking offices	709

Action Plan on Desalination Unit

41. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has unveiled a 7 point action plan on desalination unit in some States proposed to be implemented during the next 12 months;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also creating an autonomous board of science and engineering research, which will create a pool of 1,000 scientific positions for young researchers in India and abroad; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the modalities worked out so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is a proposal for creating an autonomous Board for Science and Engineering Research. A separate proposal for 1000 scientific research positions is in the initial stages of preparation.

The Board is expected to promote research in frontier areas of science and engineering with necessary autonomy and flexibilities in operation of funding mechanisms.

The Government, in the meantime, has already instituted Ramanujam Fellowships which are meant for

brilliant scientists and engineers from all over the world to take up scientific research positions in India. The duration of the fellowship will be initially for 5 years. The Ramanujam Fellows shall received Rs. 50,000 p.m. as fellowships for the first 3 years and Rs. 60,000 p.m. during the last two years. Each fellow shall also receive an annual contingency grant of Rs. 5 lakh per year.

Disinvestment of Power Finance Corporation

42. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to divest 5% of its equity holdings in Power Finance Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is opposition to this move in certain quarters;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to disinvest 5% out of its equity shareholding in Power Finance Corporation (PFC) through 'Offer for Sale' in the domestic market. The disinvestment by the Government would be through piggy-back on the public issue being done by PFC.

(c) to (e) Some Political parties and trade unions are, as a matter of policy, opposed to disinvestment.

Government will abide by the policy articulated in the National Common Minimum Programme.

[*Translation*]

BTS In Maharashtra

43. SHRI D.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether BTS basic telephone system equipment would be installed in the rural/naxalite affected/advansi hilly region of Maharashtra having population between 5000 and 10,000; and

(b) if so, the details alongwith the target fixed for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) Base Trans-receiver Stations (BTS) are proposed to be installed to provide telephone connections primarily in rural areas.

(b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) already has 341 BTSs with a capacity of 2,89,000 in Maharashtra and 181 BTSs with a capacity of 1,35,750 are planned for which purchase order has been placed and equipment is likely to be installed by 2006.

Closure of PCOs

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

(a) whether two lakh sixty nine thousand PCO (Public Call Office) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. have been closed during the last two years in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has caused losses to both the PSUs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of closed PCOs, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, a total number of 2,31,584 Public Call Offices (PCOs) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Nigam Limited (MTNL) have been closed during the last two years i.e. 2003-04 and 2004-05.

(c) There is no quantifiable net loss of revenue which can be solely attributed to the closure of PCOs, as the loss of revenue gets compensated due to opening of new PCOs. Also the traffic gets diverted to other PCOs in the vicinity as well as to the new PCOs.

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

(d) Details of PCOs closed during the last two years State-wise are given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Number of PCOs closed during 2003-04 and 2004-05

Sl.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Total Nos. of PCOs closed
1	2	3
(A) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.		
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	9
2.	Andhra Pradesh	27230
3.	Assam	1364
4.	Bihar	3534
5.	Chhattisgarh	1688
6.	Gujarat	14870
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	122
8.	Daman and Diu	114
9.	Haryana	5996
10.	Himachal Pradesh	478
11.	Jammu and Kashmir	663
12.	Jharkhand	574
13.	Karnataka	18558
14.	Kerala	5077

1	2	3
15.	Lakshadweep	0
16.	Madhya Pradesh	7421
17.	Maharashtra	23752
18.	Goa	1069
19.	Meghalaya	116
20.	Mizoram	85
21.	Tripura	110
22.	Nagaland	423
23.	Manipur	187
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	71
25.	Orissa	2119
26.	Punjab including Chandigarh	9977
27.	Rajasthan	7279
28.	Tamil Nadu	30174
29.	Pondicherry	304
30.	Uttar Pradesh	12608
31.	Uttaranchal	682
32.	West Bengal	16696
33.	Sikkim	22
Total		193372
(B) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL)		
34.	MTNL Delhi	28848
35.	MTNL Mumbai	9364
Total		38212
Grand Total (A+B)		231584

*[English]***BTS in West Bengal**

45. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) why the Basic Telephone System has not been launched at Malaria exchange in the district of Bankura, West Bengal;

(b) whether this system is already launched in Bankura district of West Bengal; and

(c) whether any system is likely to be launched to control the irregularities of Billing system of BSNL and MTNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, 1000 lines Basic Telephone System (CDOT RSU) of BSNL is working at Malaria in the district of Bankura. However, one Base Trans-receiver Stations (BTS) of BSNL for mobile service is planned in the financial year 2006-07.

(b) Exchanges and BTSs of BSNL working in the Bankura district of West Bengal are as under:

Sl.No.	Exchanges/BTS	No. of Exchanges/BTS
(i)	Electronic exchanges	73
(ii)	BTS of Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM system)	45
(iii)	BTS of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL system)	06

(c) There is no irregularity in the present billing system of BSNL. The billing complaints in MTNL are generally within prescribed limits. A prescribed procedure is followed to settle the billing disputes. A new billing solution has been commissioned recently for GSM mobile subscribers. Further, MTNL has planned to commission a State of the Art convergent billing solution in both Delhi and Mumbai to further streamline the billing problems for the entire network.

Funds for Computer Literacy

46. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allotted for computer literacy in rural areas of the country during the last three years and till date, State-wise;

(b) whether funds allocated for the purpose are not being utilised by the concerned departments;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government is satisfied with the progress of the computer literacy programme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Department of Secondary and Higher

Education has launched the Information and Communication Technology @ Schools Scheme in December, 2004 for promoting Computer Literacy in Government & Government Aided Secondary & Senior Secondary Schools in the country. Under the scheme no specific allocation of funds are being made for computer literacy in rural areas. However, details of funds allocated under the scheme to the States/UTs during the last three years are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) to (f) No report of non-utilisation of funds released under the ICT & Schools Scheme has been received. Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Department of Secondary & Higher Education is hopeful that the ICT & Schools Scheme will lead to progress in promotion of Computer Literacy in the country.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the States/UTs	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
1.	Karnataka		3,89,52,500	12,00,00,000
2.	Andhra Pradesh		5,27,59,375	
3.	Nagaland			31,96,000
4.	Goa			2,92,50,000
5.	Sikkim			2,70,00,000
6.	Daman and Diu	No financial assistance was released to the States/UTs during this year as the scheme was under revision.		25,00,000
7.	Rajasthan			53,36,000
8.	Bihar			2,25,00,000
9.	Jammu and Kashmir			90,00,000
10.	Madhya Pradesh			5,75,00,000
11.	Orissa			5,00,00,000
12.	Punjab			5,00,00,000
13.	Arunachal Pradesh			4,48,81,000
14.	Mizoram			1,50,00,000
15.	Kerala			3,12,50,000
16.	Uttaranchal			75,00,000
17.	Haryana			2,30,50,000
18.	Tamil Nadu			2,10,000
Total			9,17,11,875	49,77,63,000

Growth of Textile Sector

47. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is fast emerging as a textile hub for the European Union and the United States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Indian Government to utilise these opportunities available in textile sector in the above countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) According to various studies, India will carve out a larger share of European Union and the United States markets in the post quota regime. During January-September 2005, textile and clothing imports by the United States from India increased by 25.17% as compared to the corresponding period of previous year. Similarly, during January-September 2005, textile and clothing imports by the European Union from India increased by 19.91% as compared to the corresponding period of previous year.

(c) Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time to support the indigenous textile industry to utilise opportunities available in textile sector. Some of the important initiative taken are:

- (i) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textile sector under the automatic route.
- (ii) The Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.
- (iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been in operation since 1999 to facilitate the modernization and technological upgradation of the sector.
- (iv) To augment the availability of quantity raw material at a competitive price, the Government launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). Incentives are provided for better farm practices, quality seeds, improvement in market infrastructure and modernisation of ginning & pressing sector.

(v) With the objectives of imparting a focused thrust to set up apparel units of international standards and upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, the Government had launched the Apparel Park for Exports Scheme (APES), and Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS). Under these two schemes 30 projects have been sanctioned with an estimated support from Government of India of Rs. 462.50 crore. However, after reviewing the implementation of these two schemes, a new scheme, namely, Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks has been launched by merging the two schemes. This scheme is based on Public-Private Partnership (PPP), and would equip the industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units to meet international environmental and social standards. Government of India's support under the scheme by way of grant or equity shall be limited to 40% of the project cost, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 40 crore.

(vi) The fiscal duty structure has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition within the country. Except for mandatory excise duty on man-made filament yarns and man-made staple fibres, the whole value addition chain has been given excise exemption option.

(vii) The imports of specified textiles and garment machinery items has been allowed at concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.

(viii) Nations Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT) and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(ix) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

World Bank Assistance

48. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the official incharge of Urban Development and Water Supply of various States have held a meeting with the World Bank officers with a view to extend loan assistance to Indian States for the Urban Development and Water Supply and Sanitation Schemes;

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

(c) whether the World Bank Officials have putforth some conditions for extending in loan assistance for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken/being taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

National Building Code

49. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to implement National Building Code in the country;

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

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (c) The National Building Code of India (NBC) is a detailed technical prescriptive document prepared by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) laying down standards for civil construction. As civil construction licensing is the prerogative of local planning authorities, the adherence to the Standards prescribed by the NBC needs to be adopted and enshrined in the by-laws of local authorities. The BIS has intimated all State Governments to urge local bodies and authorities to incorporate the NBC in their Building by-laws.

Computerisation of Post Offices in Maharashtra

50. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

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

(a) the number of post offices computerized in Maharashtra; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for the computerization of all the post offices in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) 846 Post Offices have been provided with computers in Maharashtra till date.

(b) In the Tenth Plan the Government has approved computerization of all large Post Offices across the country including those located in Maharashtra. This process is still going on. There is no approval for computerization of all Post Offices in Maharashtra.

Violation of Guidelines of RBI

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain nationalised and foreign banks have violated the guidelines of RBI;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the nature of violations;

(c) whether these violations led to laundering of money inside and outside the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken/being taken by the Government against these banks; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to plug the loopholes and make the banks accountable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a), (b) and (e) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in exercise of powers vested in it under the provision of section 47 (A) (1) (b) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 imposed penalties on ING Vyasa bank, State Bank of Indore, Bharat Overseas Bank, Indian Overseas Bank, Vijaya Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank Ltd., Citibank & Standard Chartered Bank for violation of RBI guidelines relating to financing promoter contribution, offering interest concession to the borrowers, availing insurance products, non-adherence of Know Your Customer (KYC) norms or for breach of prudent banking practices etc. during the year 2005-06.

(c) and (d) No instance of violations leading to laundering of money inside or outside has come to the notice of RBI.

(f) As and when any loophole is observed in the procedure or system, RBI is advised to take appropriate action and issue necessary instructions to the banks.

World Bank Loan to Andhra Pradesh

52. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently cleared the decks for World Bank loan to the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the payment position of World Bank loans taken earlier by Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India has recently posed the proposal of the Government of Andhra Pradesh for a Structural Adjustment Loan (SAL) of US \$200 million to the World Bank.

(c) The repayment position of the World Bank loans taken by Government of India for projects in Andhra Pradesh is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the Projects	Year of Agreement	Repayments made to the World Bank in Rs./Crore
1	2	3	4
1.	AP Agricultural Credit	1971	49.2
2.	Godavari Barrage Project	1975	72.2
3.	AP Fisheries Project	1978	13.5
4.	Ramagundam Thermal Power Project	1979	252.5
5.	Andhra Pradesh Agricultural Extension Project	1982	6.90
6.	Second Andhra Pradesh irrigation Project	1986	76.8
7.	Hyderabad Water supply & Sanitation Project	1990	55.6
8.	AP Cyclone emergency Reconstruction Project	1990	110.2
9.	Andhra Pradesh Forestry Project	1994	18.2

1	2	3	4
10.	AP Health System Project	1994	14.2
11.	Andhra Pradesh Hazard Mitigation	1997	22.9
12.	Andhra Pradesh State Highway Project	1997	250.6
13.	Andhra Pradesh Irrigation Project	1997	93.5
14.	AP Economic Restructuring Project	1999	119.2
15.	AP Power Restructuring Project	1999	50.3

Smuggling of Multi-Media Cards

53. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of a new trend of smuggling of multi-media card into the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken/propose to take any concrete steps to check such smuggling of multi-media cards; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) There is no trend of smuggling of multi-media cards into the country.

(b) to (d) Nil, in view of the reply to part (a).

[*Translation*]

Compensation by Metro Rail Corporation

54. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether required compensation has not been paid to all the persons whose land has been acquired by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for paying appropriate compensation to the concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) The full amount towards compensation has been paid to the respective Land Acquisition Collector through Secretary, Land & Building, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD). Actual disbursement to the land/property owners is to be done by the State Government.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Core Banking System

55. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the core banking system in the country;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the core banking system is mainly concentrating its attention on big customers leaving alone small customers; and

(d) if so, the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government is regularly reviewing the network connectivity and implementation of Core Banking Solution (CBS) with the representatives of Indian Banks'

Association/Public Sector Banks. The following two issues are hampering the large-scale usage of network based processing by banks:

- (i) Freedom to lease/hire leased line/Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) lines from more than one service provider as a part of the Closed User Group Network.
- (ii) Provision of leased line/ISDN connections to the branches of the banks at semi urban and rural areas of the country for extending the benefit of latest banking technology to the people of the area concerned.

No distinction is made between big and small customers in a Core Banking System.

External Commercial Borrowings

56. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allowed multi state cooperative societies in manufacturing sector to raise External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the guidelines laid down for such borrowings by these cooperatives regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The Government of India has allowed Multi-State Cooperative Societies engaged in manufacturing activities to access the External Commercial Borrowings (ECBs) under the Approval Route, provided the Cooperative Society:

- (i) is financially solvent,
- (ii) submits its up-to-date audited balance sheet, and
- (iii) the proposal complies with all other parameters of ECB guidelines such as recognized lender, permitted end use, average maturity period, all-in-cost ceiling etc. The circular issued by RBI in this regard is available at www.rbi.org.in.

Disinvestment of Profit Making & Navratna PSUs

57. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA":

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to divest Government equity in certain PSUs;

(b) if so, the details of such PSUs and the amount estimated to be raised through disinvestments;

(c) whether the disinvestments of Government equity in some PSUs has drawn opposition from certain quarters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Government has decided, in principle, to list large, profitable Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) on domestic stock exchanges and to selectively sell small portions of equity in listed, profitable CPSEs (other than the navratnas).

(b) The Government has recently decided to disinvest 5% out of its equity shareholding of 100 per cent in Power Finance Corporation Ltd. (PFC) and also to disinvest 15% out of its equity shareholding of 98.384% in National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC) through 'Offer for Sale' in the domestic market. The disinvestment by Government in PFC would be through piggy-back on the public issue being done by PFC.

The amount that would be raised would depend upon the market conditions and other relevant factors at the actual time of the sale.

(c) and (d) Some political parties and trade unions are, as a matter of policy, opposed to disinvestment. The Government will abide by the policy articulated in the National Common Minimum Programme.

Integrated Textile Park

58. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made under the newly introduced scheme "Schemes for Integrated Textile Parks" for increasing Textile export; and

(b) the number of such Textile Parks set up so far in each State under the above scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) The Project Approval Committee of the Scheme for Integrated Textile Park has so far approved 9 projects. State-wise breakup is as under:

Gujarat	2
Maharashtra	3
Rajasthan	1
Tamil Nadu	3

Auction of DDA Flats

59. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether DDA has any proposal to auction its flats at market rates which are lying vacant for the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether new housing schemes particularly for Government employees have not been announced for the last several years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which such schemes are likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has been allotting built up flats to provide affordable housing in Delhi. In order to overcome the speculations on account of difference between allotment price and the market price of DDA flats and auction of flats, fixation of realistic allotment price as well as policies for private participation in housing development are being deliberated. As further

reported by DDA, 12548 flats in various categories have been constructed which would become available for allotment on provision of basic amenities like water supply and electricity.

(c) to (e) During the period from 2001 till date, DDA has announced 17 new housing schemes, which include two housing schemes for retired/retiring Government employees.

Uniform STD Rates

60. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

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

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL's) much awaited plan to launch a country-wide uniform STD calling rate that would have reduced STD rates by up to 70 per cent was called off recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to re-introduce this plan;

(d) if so, by when;

(e) whether this plan is likely to be introduced by MTNL also;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. The STD Rates have been reduced from existing Rs. 2.40 to Rs. 1.00 per minute uniformly countrywise under BSNL One India tariff plan. One India tariff plan has been offered for Basic as well as Cellular Services with effect from 1.3.2006.

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

(e) and (f) On 10.2.2006, MTNL has announced an alternative tariff plan called "One India" plan effective from 1.3.2006 with a uniform calling rate of rupee one per minute for National Long Distance calls to any network.

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

Transfer of Unviable Textile Mills

61. DR. K. DHANARAJU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a potentially unviable Swadeshi Cotton Mill was transferred to Government of Pondicherry to run it and make viable;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status of the mill with reference to profit/loss; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure that the mill becomes viable and profit making unit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (c) Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Pondicherry identified as unviable based on a Techno Economic Viability Study done by South India Textile Research Association (SITRA), was transferred to Govt. of Pondicherry w.e.f. 1.4.2005 after offering Modified Voluntary Retirement Scheme (MVRS) to 206 employees, along with all assets and employees for a consideration amount of Rs. 22.61 crores.

The management of the mill since then is vested with the Govt. of Pondicherry which is taking appropriate steps to revive the mills.

[Translation]

Concession for Installation of Phones in Rural Areas

62. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has fixed any target for installing telephones in villages;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be achieved;

(c) whether the private companies have asked for any concession for installing telephones in villages;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to establish any Board to do away with the problems regarding rural telephones; and

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has signed agreements with M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), M/s Reliance Infocomm Limited (RIL), M/s Tata Teleservices Limited (TTL) and M/s Tata Teleservices Limited, Maharashtra [TTL(MH)] in March 2005 for provision of individual rural household Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) in the commercially unviable 1685 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) in the country. The share of SDCAs amongst M/s BSNL, M/s RIL, M/s TTL and M/s TTL (MH) is 1267, 203, 172 and 43 SDCAs respectively.

(b) As per the Agreement conditions, the Service Provider should provide at least 100 lines per Secondary Switching Area (SSA) within six months. Thereafter all the wait listed subscribers are to be provided with rural telephones within a period of three months in these SDCAs.

(c) and (d) While pointing out the problems faced for provision of Rural Direct Exchange Lines (RDELs) like non-availability of interconnection, treating Fixed Wireless Telephones (FWTs) as mobile connections etc., private operations have sought extension in time for implementing the roll out period as envisaged in the agreement signed with USOF Administration.

(e) and (f) There is no such proposal at this stage.

Facilities for Farm Houses

63. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the rules regarding the farm houses in Delhi;

(b) whether the Government provides the same facilities to farm houses as it provides to the farmers;

(c) if so, whether the purpose of establishing such farm houses has been defeated; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) According to Master Plan for Delhi (MPD)-2001, a farm house is defined as a dwelling house on a farm. These are permitted in the Rural Use Zone and could be developed for flowers, fruits, vegetable, poultry farms etc. The norms regarding dwelling units in the farm houses provide for single storeyed dwelling unit with maximum height of 6m and maximum floor area (including mezzanine floor) of 100 sqm. for farm size of 1 to 2 hectare and maximum floor area (including mezzanine floor) of 150 sqm. for farm size of 2 hectare and above. Action is taken by the concerned agencies under the relevant statutory provisions in cases of violation noticed by them.

[English]

Cotton Mills

64. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) The number of cotton mills set up in cooperative sector and Government owned in the country at present, State-wise and location-wise;

(b) the number of mills out of them which are operational, State-wise;

(c) the number of cotton mills closed, liquidated and auctioned;

(d) the loan amount and rate of interest in the form of equity given by NCDC/NABARD to the cotton mills through State Government or directly;

(e) the amount returned by the cotton mills and the steps taken to recover the remaining loan amount;

(f) whether the proposal for assistance in the form of equity or loan to new cotton mills is in continuation by NCDC/NABARD.

(g) whether the Government is working for revival package scheme for loss making cotton mills; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) to (h) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Vanished Companies

65. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:
SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total money of the public lost/held up due to vanishing companies upto December, 2005;

(b) the number of cases registered against the promoters of vanishing companies;

(c) the number of convictions awarded so far;

(d) the number of investors who have suffered due to the vanishing companies;

(e) whether the Government has taken any steps to reduce such instances of vanishing companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) Upto December, 2005, 114 companies stand identified as vanishing companies with issue size of approximately Rs. 799.31 crores.

(b) Prosecutions have been filed against 107 companies and their promoters/directors u/s 62/63, 68 and 628 of the Companies Act, 1956 and against 94 such companies for non-filing of statutory returns.

In addition, FIRs have also been filed against 100 companies and their Promoters/Directors for the offences punishable under Sections 420, 406, 403, 415, 418 & 424 of the Indian Penal Code.

(c) So far in 25 cases accused directors/promoters of vanishing companies have been convicted. Other cases are pending in the Courts. However, 21 directors were arrested in the State of Gujarat by the Police.

(d) A large number of investors have suffered due to the vanishing companies. The exact number of these investors is not ascertainable in view of frequent change by way of transfer of shares etc.

(e) and (f) A Central Coordination and Monitoring Committee, co-chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Company Affairs and Chairman, SEBI has been set up to look into issues relating to vanishing companies and their promoters and to monitor the progress of action against them.

Besides taking action against these companies and their promoters/directors under the Companies Act and the Indian Penal code, the Ministry is implementing an e-Governance project under which the identity of authorised directors and professionals is ensured in a secure manner.

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has also amended the SEBI (Disclosure and Investor Protection) Guidelines to enforce higher disclosure requirements pertaining to promoters of companies, besides taking punitive action in a number of cases. SEBI has also debarred 100 companies and 378 directors u/s 11B of the SEBI Act from raising money from the Capital Market in any form, for a period of five years.

SEBI has amended the existing Clause 49 of the Listing Agreement, which seeks to strengthen the disclosure requirement in particular pertaining to promoters and also providing for monitoring of utilisation of funds raised from the public.

Satellite Telephone System

66. SHRI G. KURUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has decided to install satellite telephone systems in inaccessible villages across India where even wireless telephone cannot reach;

(b) if so, the number of villages where satellite telephone systems is likely to be installed during 2006-07, State-wise;

(c) the details of villagers where this satellite system is in operation till December 31, 2005, State-wise; and

(d) the time by which this system is likely to be installed in the remote villages of the country and the

estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Universal Service Obligation (USO) Funds has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for installation of satellite telephone systems in 14,183 inaccessible villages across India where even wireless telephone cannot reach.

(b) A statement indicating State-wise number of villages where satellite telephone systems is likely to be installed during 2006-07 is enclosed.

(c) A statement indicating State-wise number of villages where satellite telephone systems are in operation till 31st December, 2005 is enclosed.

(d) As per the agreement of USOF with BSNL, these phones are to be installed by November 2007. However, efforts are on to install these phones by March, 2007. The estimated expenditure likely to be incurred thereon is about Rs. 226 crore.

Statement

State-wise Number of Villages to be Provided with Satellite Telephone System during 2006-07 and having satellite telephone system as on 31.12.2005

Sl. No.	Name of State	Digital Satellite Phone Terminals planned in Rural areas	No. of Villages provided telephone facility through satellite
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	—	5
2.	Andhra Pradesh	115	—
3.	Assam	279	18
4.	Bihar	0	—
5.	Jharkhand	1694	—
6.	Gujarat	0	—
7.	Himachal Pradesh	275	16
8.	Haryana	0	4
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	485	98

1	2	3	4
10.	Karnataka	0	23
11.	Kerala	0	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	443	—
13.	Chhattisgarh	88	7
14.	Maharashtra	483	—
15.	Goa	13	—
16.	Meghalaya	500	5
17.	Mizoram	20	3
18.	Tripura	58	3
19.	Nagaland	16	9
20.	Manipur	730	8
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	543	21
22.	Orissa	4899	—
23.	Punjab	0	—
24.	Rajasthan	18	1
25.	Tamil Nadu	0	33
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	—
27.	Uttaranchal	3544	18
28.	West Bengal	0	7
29.	Sikkim	0	—

Textile Exports

67. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the clampdown on Chinese Textile Exports by the US and EU has worked well in favour of India's exporters;

(b) if so, the steps Government proposes to take to give further boost in textile items; and

(c) the steps Government proposes to take to capture fully the US & EU textile market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) During January-December 2005, textile and clothing imports by the United States from India increased by 25.93% as compared to the corresponding period of previous year. Similarly, during January-September 2005, textile and clothing imports by the European Union from India increased by 19.89% as compared to the corresponding period of previous year.

(b) and (c) Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time to support the indigenous textile industry to utilise opportunities available in textile sector. Some of the important initiatives taken are:

- (i) 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed in the textile sector under the automatic route.
- (ii) The Government has de-reserved the readymade garments, hosiery and knitwear from the SSI sector.
- (iii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been in operation since 1999 to facilitate the modernization and technological upgradation of the sector.
- (iv) To augment the availability of equality raw material at a competitive price, the Government launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC). incentives are provided for better farm practices, quality seeds, improvement in market infrastructure and modernisation of ginning & pressing sector.
- (v) With the objectives of imparting a focused thrust to set up apparel units of international standards and upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, the Government had launched the Apparel Park for Exports Scheme (APES), and Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS). Under these two schemes 30 projects have been sanctioned with an estimated support from Government of India of Rs. 462.50 crore. however, after reviewing the implementation of these two schemes, a new scheme, namely, Scheme for Integrated Textile Parks has been launched by merging the two schemes. This scheme is based on Public-Private Partnership (PPP), and would equip the industry with world-class infrastructure facilities for setting up their textile units to meet

international environmental and social standards. Government of India's support under the scheme by way of grant or equity shall be limited to 40% of the project cost, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 40 crore.

- (vi) The fiscal duty structure has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition within the country. Except for mandatory excise duty on man-made filament yarns and man-made staple fibres, the whole value addition chain has been given excise exemption option.
- (vii) The imports of specified textiles and garment machinery items has been allowed at concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.
- (viii) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT) and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.
- (ix) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

Telecast of Science and Technology Programmes

68. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Science & Technology has tied up with National Geographic Channel to produce and telecast a range of programmes showing the achievement made in different disciplines of science & technology in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the length of films proposed to be produced;

(d) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(e) the time by which the said films are likely to be telecast?

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

(b) The basic purpose of the proposed year-long campaign is to educate and inform the general public about the great work done by national research and development institutes and laboratories across India by showcasing the most innovative and path-breaking trends in the field of science & technology.

(c) Film	No.	Duration	No. of Airings
Science Safari Film	01	45 min.	12 (Four in first month and one per month for next 8 months)
Science Safari Short Films	15	45 sec.	550
Science safari programming Stunt on Nat Geo	96	30 sec.	252
Nat Geo created vignettes highlighting Innovation Initiatives across India	03	30 sec.	150
Factoids on Indian Scientists	06	30 sec.	200

(d) Expenditure towards production of films: Rs. 1,14,15,570
Expenditure towards airing and promotion of films : Rs. 1,02,01,550

(e) The first film is expected to be aired by the end of May, 2006.

Textiles Parks in Karnataka

69. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State Governments particularly from the Government of Karnataka regarding setting up of Textile Parks in Davangere, Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which Textile Parks are likely to be set up; and

(d) the estimated cost of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAR): (a) No proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka for setting up of textile parks in Davangere, Karnataka under the scheme for Integrated Textile Park.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Assessment of Telecom Service in Rural Area

70. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment in regard to Public Telecom Scheme and Rural Community Telephone Service in rural areas;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the number of villages in which Public Telephone (BPT) is not available at present in the country; and

(d) the time by which this facility is likely to be made available in all the rural areas?

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) and (d) Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar

Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November, 2004 for providing Village Public Telephones (VPTs) facility to 86,822 uncovered villages. This excludes villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forest/naxalite infested areas. Out of this, 17,182 VPTs have been provided till 31.12.2005 and remaining VPTs are likely to be provided progressively by November, 2007.

BTS in Maharashtra

71. SHRI D.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of BTS Basic Telephone System working in the district Nanded in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, whether the consumers in that district are not satisfied by the mobile service provided by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of BTS likely to be installed in Nanded in Maharashtra;

(e) if so, whether every villages of Nanded district is likely to be connected with this mobile service of BSNL; and

(f) the number of prepaid cards provided in the Nanded district during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sir, presently 27 numbers of Global System for Mobile Communications (GSM) based Base Transceiver Station (BTS) of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) are working in Nanded District of Maharashtra;

(b) The GSM based cellular mobile service is working satisfactorily in the District in general. However, few requests have been received for issuance of SIM cards, installation of additional BTS and ring media connectivity for BTS etc.

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

(d) Additional 93 number of GSM based BTS have been planned to be installed in Nanded district of Maharashtra.

(e) Sir, every village of Nanded district is not likely to be covered with GSM based mobile service of BSNL. However, there are plans to cover 703 villages in total in Nanded district with the said service.

(f) A total number of 7691 BSNL pre-paid cellular mobile connections have been provided in Nanded district in the last two years till date.

[English]

Rural Lending

72. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has suggested that RBI should remove artificial caps on rural lending;

(b) if so, the important issues raised by World Bank;

(c) the reaction of the Government on the World Bank's suggestions on rural lending;

(d) whether the Government has accepted the suggestions of the World Bank in principle; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) World Bank has made certain observations in its report (December 2004) titled "Scaling up Access to Finance for India's Rural Poor". These relate to functioning of rural financial institutions in India and problems faced by rural poor relating to absence of flexible products and services, transaction costs, collaterals etc. Certain suggestions have been made, including those relating to 'caps' on rural lending rates and need for re-visiting of Government policy on priority sector lending.

(c) to (e) Government and RBI constantly monitor the credit needs of different sectors of the economy and undertake corrective measures, whenever required, to ensure that adequate funds flow to Agriculture, Small & Medium Enterprises and such other important sectors. RBI has set up an Internal Working Group to review the existing policy on priority sector lending. The interest rate on advances has already been deregulated in 1997. Credit flow to agriculture alone has increased by 43% from Rs. 86,981 crore in 2003-04 to Rs. 1,24,122 crore in

2004-05. The following steps taken, inter-alia, led to enhanced credit flow in rural areas:

- (i) The banks have been asked to simplify the procedure for sanction of loan.
- (ii) One page documentation has been circulated among banks for adoption.
- (iii) Reserve Bank of India has instructed banks not to insist on collateral or margin for loans upto Rs. 50000.
- (iv) Banks have been asked to issue Kisan Credit Cards to all eligible farmers.
- (v) Financing of Self Help Groups is being emphasised.
- (vi) A project has been initiated for lending by banks to joint liability groups of tenant farmers and oral lessees.

District Cheque Clearing System

73. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government, State Bank of India & other Banks propose to introduce district cheque clearing system in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said system is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have not introduced any concept of "district cheque clearing system" in the country. However, they have planned to open clearing houses at all centers with 5 or more banks. At present, as and when applications are received from the banks for opening clearing houses, permission is given by RBI immediately.

World Bank Assistance for Drinking Water

74. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take World Bank Assistance for drinking water projects in West Bengal, Rajasthan, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the latest position of these projects in all these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The World Bank has been asked to explore the possibility of new State Level Projects in Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Assam and Madhya Pradesh with focus on Water Quality issues. However, the project proposals from the State Governments are yet to be received for examination by Government of India. As regards Uttaranchal, the project is under final stages of preparation.

No request has been made for World Bank assistance for the States of West Bengal, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.

Watershed Development Programmes

75. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposed to bring all the watershed development programmes under single umbrella for the purpose of implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total degraded land area rehabilitated since implementation of these programmes till date;

(d) whether NABARD has also set up a special fund for watershed development programmes;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the progress made through utilization of this fund in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) and (b) The Department of Land Resources under the Ministry of Rural Development submitted a Cabinet Note on the unification of all land based programmes being implemented by Ministry of Agriculture, Planning

Commission and Ministry of Rural Development on 1.10.2003, which was listed for discussion on 7.1.2004. However, the agenda was deferred. A fresh Cabinet Note was again prepared by the Department for approval but it was not pursued further in view of setting up of an Inter-Ministerial Task Group under Planning Commission on the issue by the Government. The Task Group recognized the need to bring all watershed projects under one Ministry and implement them in a Mission mode. Alternatively, the Group recommended that a separate Mission under the Prime Minister might be created with mini missions under the Ministries of agriculture, Rural Development, Environment & Forests and Water Resources.

(c) land treated under the watershed development programmes of the Department of Land Resources in the Ministry of Rural Development and the schemes of the Ministry of Agriculture is about 268.10 lakh ha.

(d) and (e) A Watershed Development Fund (WDF) has been established at NABARD since 1999-2000 with a total corpus of Rs. 200 crores which includes Rs. 100 crores by NABARD and a matching contribution of Rs. 100 crores by the Department of Agriculture, Government of India, with the objective of integrated watershed development in 100 priority districts through participatory approach. The fund will be utilized to create the necessary framework conditions to replicate and consolidate the isolated success initiatives under different watershed development programmes in the government, the semi-government and the NGO sectors. Two-third of the allocation from the fund will be loans to the State Governments at an interest rate of 4.5% for watershed development and the remaining one-third will be for grant based activities covering promotional efforts and capacity building. The repayment period of the loan will be 9 years including grace period of 3 years. At present, 11 States are effectively participating in this process viz. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Chattisgarh, Orissa, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

(f) The achievements as on 31.12.2005 are given below:

- (i) sanctioning of 390 projects (44 grant and 346 loan component) under Capacity Building Phase (CBP) with a grant assistance of Rs. 1919.38 lakh covering an area of 33895.23 hectares.

- (ii) A total number of 201 projects (21 grant and 180 loan) were sanctioned involving a grant assistance of Rs. 188.56 lakh for preparation of Project Feasibility Report (FR).
- (iii) 116 projects have graduated into Full Implementing Phase (FIP) which include 92 loan projects with a loan assistance of Rs. 4310.5 lakh and 24 grant projects with a grant assistance of Rs. 1092.10 lakh.

Landline Telephone Connections

76. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

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

- (a) The number of land line telephone connection subscribers at present with MTNL and BSNL;
- (b) Whether there is a decrease in the number of landline connections with MTNL and BSNL;
- (c) If so, the exact number of landline connections surrendered during each of the last two years;
- (d) the relative increase in mobile connections during the above period; and
- (e) the efforts made by the Government to increase landline connections vis-a-vis mobile connections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The total number of landline connections in respect of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) as on 31.1.2006 is 396479.

The total number of landline connections in respect of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) as on 31.12.2005 is 35156504.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The number of landline connections surrendered during each of the last two years and the current year as on 31.1.2006 and 31.12.2005 in respect of MTNL and BSNL are as follows:

As on	MTNL	BSNL
2003-04	377242	3260135
2004-05	292438	3417052
31.1.2006	215479	—
31.12.2005	—	2943783

- (d) The relative increase in mobile connections (GSM+CDMA) are given below:

As on	MTNL	BSNL
2003-04	110270	2997829
2004-05	519006	4193240
2005-06 (31.1.2006)	688305	—
2005-06 (31.12.2005)	—	4847066

- (e) The efforts being made by MTNL and BSNL are given separately in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL)

MTNL is taking number of steps to retain the landline subscribers as well as to increase the connections:

- Landline network is being improved continuously to reduce faults and MTTR. The fault rate has been coming down gradually.
- Value added services like gaming, colour ring back tone, news etc. are proposed to be provided to landline customers in line with the merging trends shortly.
- MTNL has launched broadband services under the brand name of Triband for the landline customers. The services have become very popular. The service provides voice and high speed internet on landline connections. Broadcast TV and video on demand are proposed to be made available on the same telephone line shortly.
- MTNL is reversing its tariff of landline from time to time to meet the requirement of all segment of society.
- Various billing options are available for convenience of landline customers.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)

BSNL has already initiated action to motivate the subscribers has been making all efforts to retain its landline customer base. Some of the initiatives the BSNL has taken to reverse this trend include:

- Value added features are being offered to landline subscribers just like those in mobile services.
- BSNL has launched Broadband in January, 2005 and is offering these services to its landline customers also.

- (iii) BSNL has launched the One India plan with uniform STD rates throughout the country to be implemented from 1st March, 2006.
- (iv) BSNL has relaxed norms of laying of cable from 2.5 Kms to 5.0 Kms from the existing telephone exchange for provision of telephone connections where such demands exist.
- (v) The paper core cable is being gradually replaced by Jelly Filled Cable and the external plant is also being converted to poleless network.

Unified Metro Authority

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

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a unified metro authority for addressing the transport problem in major cities as in the case of Delhi Metro;

(b) if so, the names of cities earmarked;

(c) whether any project survey has been undertaken for these cities; and

(d) the estimated cost and timeframe for the implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) The draft national urban transport policy recommends setting up of unified Metropolitan Transport Authorities in all million plus cities, to facilitate more coordinated planning and implementation of urban transport projects and integrated management of urban transport systems. However, such "Authorities" are to be set up by the respective State Governments and not by the Central Government.

[Translation]

Linking of Metro Routes

78. SHRI SAJJAN KUMAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to link Inderlok Station on the Sahadara-Rithala metro route with Motinagar Station on the Dwarka Barakhamba metro route, a distance of only three kilometers for the benefit of common public of the South, Central and Eastern areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no plan to link Inderlok Station on Shahdara-Rithala line (Line-I) with Moti Nagar on Dwarka-Barakhamba line (Line-III), as this connection is considered unviable due to the short length of this link. Besides, there are frequent bus services between these two points.

[English]

World Economic Forum

79. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the approach taken by India in the World Economic Forum which recently met at Davos;

(b) whether India could organize a lobby against the developed countries to protect the interests of the developing countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The World Economic Forum (WEF) is an independent international organisation and does not have any official status. It aims to improve the state of the world by providing a platform for leaders in political, corporate and social spheres to interact in a relatively informal environment to forge partnerships to shape global, regional and industry agenda.

In the annual event of WEF, leaders from the Governments and the business world meet and exchange ideas. Such meetings focus on reforms in countries; macro economic issues and project strategies for improving economic well-being. During the course of various discussions at Davos, the achievements and potential of India was showcased to a global audience. This year there was focus on India, and the development of the Indian economy. A campaign "India Everywhere" was also organized at WEF by the Government of India and the Indian Industry. The campaign was designed to enhance global recognition for India.

Annual event of WEF is not intended to organize groups representing the interests of developing countries vis-a-vis developed countries.

Opening of New Branches

80. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether insurance companies are taking substantially long time to open a new branch after the approval from Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether IRDA has given specified time for opening of a new branch; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The opening of new offices by insurance companies required approval of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA). It was noticed that, in some cases, insurance companies were taking a long time to open new places of business after obtaining the approval of IRDA. IRDA had also not fixed any time limit for it. However, IRDA issued instructions on 20th January, 2006 to insurance companies, effective from 1st January, 2006, to open new places to business within one year of their approval. If an insurance company fails to start business from the approved new place within the time limit, it will have to apply afresh.

Irregularities Detected under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana

81. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that affluent persons of society are taking away the benefits meant for the poorest of the poor in rural areas under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor indicating the number of ineligible persons who have taken benefit under SGSY since its inception; and

(c) the steps taken to bring significant change in the guidelines of the Yojana and also to achieve the objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) A Concurrent Evaluation of Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) was carried out in 2002-03 for evaluating the performance of SGSY from the year 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 which has revealed that of the total sampled Swarozgaris across the country, 92.68% belonged to the BPL Category. Only 7.32% of the total Swarozgaris are found to be above the poverty line. Higher proportion of people above the poverty line are found to enjoy the benefits under SGSY in A&N Islands, Andhra Pradesh and Jharkhand States. State-wise position is given in the statement enclosed. These States have been advised to

take corrective action, wherever required, on the main findings of the report.

(c) The basic objective of the SGSY is to bring the assisted poor families (Swarozgaris) above the Poverty Line by providing them income-generating assets through a mix of bank credit and governmental subsidy. The programme aims at establishing a large number of micro enterprises in rural areas based on the ability of the poor and potential of each area. Changes in the guidelines whenever required, are being attempted by the Ministry. It is an on going process. In order to check mal-practices, the Ministry has evolved a comprehensive system of monitoring the execution of the Programmes through periodic Progress Reports received from the States/UTs, field visits by Area Officers of the Ministry and discussions with the State Secretaries and with the Project Directors of the District Rural Development Agencies/Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Parishads/Panchayats, monitoring by the District Level Monitoring agencies and National Level Monitors. The Ministry has adopted a four pronged strategy comprising (i) creation of awareness about the schemes (ii) transparency (iii) people's partnership and (iv) accountability which helps to reduce lapses in programme implementation.

Statement

BPL Family Members in SGSY Beneficiaries (Individual and Group)

Sl.No.	State	Members of BPL Family (%)
1	2	3
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	70.91
2.	Andhra Pradesh	73.79
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	99.18
4.	Assam	85.79
5.	Bihar	97.45
6.	Chattisgarh	97.30
7.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	100.00
8.	Daman and Diu	100.00
9.	Goa	88.40
10.	Gujarat	98.35
11.	Haryana	95.66
12.	Himachal Pradesh	96.20
13.	Jammu and Kashmir	93.83

1	2	3
14.	Jharkhand	77.78
15.	Karnataka	91.09
16.	Kerala	92.02
17.	Lakshadweep	94.12
18.	Madhya Pradesh	99.35
19.	Maharashtra	98.98
20.	Manipur	69.62
21.	Meghalaya	100.00
22.	Mizoram	95.99
23.	Nagaland	88.64
24.	Orissa	97.40
25.	Pondicherry	98.78
26.	Punjab	94.95
27.	Rajasthan	92.73
28.	Sikkim	93.10
29.	Tamil Nadu	88.94
30.	Tripura	100.00
31.	Uttar Pradesh	91.25
32.	Uttaranchal	92.14
33.	West Bengal	96.53
Total		92.68

**Loan to Farmers, Handicapped
and Poor Persons**

82. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any steps to provide loans to agriculturists, handicapped and poor persons belonging to below poverty line families from the banks/financial institutions;

(b) if so, the criteria fixed for giving loan to these persons; and

(c) the time by which these loans are likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of schemes have been launched and are being implemented by banks for the benefit of agriculturists including families below poverty line and handicapped persons. Some of the prominent centrally sponsored schemes are:

(i) Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY);

(ii) Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY);

(iii) Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY);

(iv) Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (SLRS); and

(v) Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme.

Under the SGSY Scheme loans are issued for individual swarozgaries and Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Fifty percent of loan is earmarked for SC/STs beneficiaries, forty percent for women and three percent for physically handicapped persons. In addition to the above, banks are also extending loans for purchase of land for agricultural/allied activities to small/marginal farmers, share croppers and tenant farmers. Bank finance is also available for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) based on their internal generated savings. Further, the Government had announced a package of relief measures on 18th June, 2004 which includes debt relief to farmers in distress/arrears, One-Time Settlement Scheme, etc.

The loans are extended to all eligible persons based on activities being undertaken/projects to be taken up by them under the specific programmes. As regards Below Poverty Line (BPL) families, the State agencies identify the families living below poverty line through Gram Sabhas as per definition given by Government. Crop loans are extended to agriculturists without collateral/margin money, for loan amount upto Rs. 50,000.

(c) The loans are being released by the banks on an ongoing basis, based on the cropping season/time of investment, targets fixed and applications sponsored by the concerned developmental agency of the State Government. In respect of Centrally Sponsored Schemes like SGSY, as per the guidelines issued by RBI, applications are to be disposed of within 15 days from the date of receipt. Similarly, applications under other schemes are also to be disposed of within the stipulated time frame and reasons are to be recorded for rejection of applications.

Modernisation of Telecom Services

83. SHRI SANATH KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

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

(a) whether the Government has initiated steps to modernize the telecom services in the country in the present scenario of growing competition from the private players; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith budgetary allocation made for such modernization/upgradation during the last three years, year-wise and circle-wise, particularly in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) have taken several steps to modernize their network and improve telecom services in the present scenario of growing competition from the private players.

(b) BSNL has taken up following Upgradation/Modernization plan in West Bengal:

- (i) Cellular Mobile service has been planned with additional capacity of 7 lakh lines in West Bengal Telecom Circle and 6.25 lakh lines in Kolkata Telecom District.
- (ii) Broadband services have been planned in important cities like Kolkata, Durgapur, Siliguri, Darjeeling, Haldia, Asansol, Kharagpur and Gangtok.
- (iii) Budgetary allocation in the last three years for developmental activities in West Bengal Telecom Circle and Kolkata Telecom district is given below:

Year	Funds Allocated (Amount Rs. in Crores)	
	West Bengal Telecom. Circle	Kolkata Telecom. District
2003-04	324.86	174.95
2004-05	435.25	267.89
2005-06	598.76	278.39

Revival of Closed Companies

84. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of registered companies in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of closed companies out of the registered companies, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for closer of registered companies; and

(d) the scheme formulated by Government for the revival of all the closed companies?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) The details are given in the Statement-I enclosed.

(b) The details are given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(c) the reasons for closure of registered companies may be all or any one of the following:

- (i) Inability to commence the business;
- (ii) Unwillingness to do the business.
- (iii) Changed circumstances of the business due to business policy, Government policies.
- (iv) Financial sickness.
- (v) Economic unviability etc.

(d) There is no specific scheme formulated by the Government for the revival of all the closed companies.

Statement I**Registration of New Companies : 2004-05**

Sl.No.	State	Number
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2790
2.	Assam	250

1	2	3
3.	Bihar	593
4.	Gujarat	1870
5.	Haryana	302
6.	Himachal Pradesh	116
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	107
8.	Karnataka	2220
9.	Kerala	1072
10.	Madhya Pradesh	968
11.	Maharashtra	8104
12.	Manipur	3
13.	Meghalaya	32
14.	Nagaland	8
15.	Orissa	537
16.	Punjab	702
17.	Rajasthan	1338
18.	Tamil Nadu	3570
19.	Tripura	11
20.	Uttar Pradesh	1253
21.	West Bengal	4304
22.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	8
24.	Chandigarh	386
25.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3
26.	Delhi	8922
27.	Goa	496
28.	Daman and Diu	9
29.	Lakshadweep	0
30.	Mizoram	1
31.	Pondicherry	84
Grand Total		40059

*Statement II**Closed Companies : 2004-05*

Sl.No.	State	Number
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0
2.	Assam	0
3.	Bihar	0
4.	Gujarat	3
5.	Haryana	3
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	7
8.	Karnataka	9
9.	Kerala	0
10.	Madhya Pradesh	0
11.	Maharashtra	9
12.	Manipur	0
13.	Meghalaya	0
14.	Nagaland	0
15.	Orissa	274
16.	Punjab	126
17.	Rajasthan	1
18.	Tamil Nadu	1240
19.	Tripura	0
20.	Uttar Pradesh	0
21.	West Bengal	4
22.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
24.	Chandigarh	1
25.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
26.	Delhi	26

1	2	3
27.	Goa	0
28.	Daman and Diu	0
29.	Lakshadweep	0
30.	Mizoram	0
31.	Pondicherry	72
Grand Total		1777

Expansion of Business of Banks

85. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to encourage public sector banks to dip into their investment fluctuation reserves and to take advantage of non-performing assets provisioning and use proceeds from the sale of bad loans to shore up their Tier-I capital to expand business;

(b) if so, the extent to which this move will help banks to raise additional capital to expand business;

(c) whether the Government has also decided to permit banks to issue subordinated bonds to bolster their Tier-II Capital;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government also considered for providing some additional support mechanism for weak public sector banks; and

(f) if so, whether the Government has agreed to provide such facilities to bank and the extent to which is will be helpful for banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) To encourage the banks for early compliance with the guidelines on maintenance of capital charge for market risks, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has permitted those banks, which have maintained Capital to Risk Weighted Asset Ratio (CRAR) of atleast 9% for credit and market risks in respect of securities Held for Trading (HFT) and Available for Sale (AFS) categories as on March 31, 2006, to treat the entire balance in the Investment Fluctuation Reserve (IFR) as Tier I capital. This would result in an increase of approx. Rs. 22,281 crore in Tier I capital of

the concerned banks, who would be able to further raise approx. Rs. 11,140 crore as Tier II capital. Any reduction in risk weighted assets, including through sale of band loans with capital funds remaining at the same level, results in improvement in CRAR position enabling the banks to expand their business. Further 'Floating Provisions' held by the banks which is general in nature and not made against any identified assets may be treated as a part of Tier II capital within the overall ceiling of 1.25 percent of total risk weighted assets, if such provisions are not reduced from gross NPA to arrive at the net NPA.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. RBI has, vide its circular dated 8th February, 1999, permitted banks to issue subordinated bonds to be included as Tier II capital.

(e) and (f) The banks are under constant regulatory and supervisory purview of RBI. As and when a request is received from a public sector bank for support, the same is considered by the Govt. in consultation with RBI.

Reduction in Telephone Rent

86. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

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

(a) whether BSNL has reduced 28% monthly rent on its landline telephones;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to reduce monthly rent on MTNL landline telephones;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to bring parity in the monthly rent of both State owned telecommunication companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. BSNL has reduced 28% monthly rental on its landline telephone for exchange system capacity of more than 1 lakh lines in General Package with effect from 1st January 2006.

(b) No, Sir. At present there is no such proposal in MTNL.

(c) MTNL tariffs are already very competitive.

(d) As per TRAI Act, 1997, the power to regulate tariffs for telecom services is mandated to Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. All services providers (including the PSUs), however, have the flexibility of formulation their tariff packages within the regime prescribed by TRAI. Therefore the question of Government taking any steps to bring parity in the monthly rents of MTNL and BSNL, which cater to mutually-exclusive Service Areas, does not arise.

Performance of Postal Services

87. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of private sector in postal services are better than the services of Department of Posts;

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

(c) whether this has affected the services of Department of Posts and the Union Government have suffered loss due to this; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to get a lead over private sector in this era of competition?

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) Post Offices have a wide range of services. There is a continuous growth in traffic and revenues earned from business of premium products like Speed Post, Business Post, Express Parcel and Retail Post. Revenue

and traffic figures of premium products during last three years are given in the enclosed statement-I.

Likewise, business both in Postal Life Insurance and Rural Postal Life Insurance has also shown an upward trend. Sum assured and premium income in PLI and RPLI during latest three years are given in the enclosed statement-II enclosed.

There is a general increase in Savings Bank and Savings Certificate business in post offices also as seen from the enclosed statement-III.

However, there is a decline in traditional mail over the years due to rapid development in alternative communication media, and the services being provided to the public by private couriers.

(d) Steps taken by the Government to get a lead – over private sector

The Department of Posts has comprehensively inducted technology to meet customer expectations, to manage different operations, to improve quality, enhance efficiency and to contain costs.

To give a business focus to the activities of the Department, the Business Development Directorate set up in 1996 was reorganized into Business Development and Marketing Directorate in the year 2004-05. A dedicated business development and marketing structure has also been created at Circle, Regional and Divisional levels. Department of Posts has introduced business products and services like Speed Post, Express Parcel Service, Business Post, Bill Mail Service, e-Post, Direct Post, Logistic Post, Retail Post, e-Bill Post etc. to meet the demands of India's rapidly growing economy, and especially of its service sector.

Statement I

(a) Revenue & Traffic figure of the premium products during the last three years

Products	Traffic (in crore) and Revenue (Rs. in crores)					
	2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Traffic	Revenue	Traffic	Revenue	Traffic	Revenue
Speed Post	6.34	243.01	8.27	298.35	9.60	354.16
Business Post	49.58	276.86	65.36	365.11	77.80	473.06
Express Parcel Post	0.58	26.10	0.67	31.45	0.66	37.70
Retail Post	1.15	7.87	4.64	33.65	8.15	50.50

Statement II*(b) Sum assured and premium income in PLI and RPLI during the last three years*

Year	PLI		RPLI	
	Sum assured (Rs. in crores)	Premium income (Rs. in crores)	Sum assured (Rs. in crores)	Premium income (Rs. in crores)
2002-03	2110.21	590.84	3347.94	171.35
2003-04	2846.66	698.17	5949.97	245.32
2004-05	3830.64	904.58	7207.96	380.87

Statement III*(c) Statement showing increase in SB & SC work in Post Offices during the last three years*

Year	Gross funds handled (Deposits & withdrawal) (Rs. in crores)	No. of saving accounts (all types) (Rs. in crores)	Saving certificate deposits (Rs. in crores)
2002-03	105128	14.91	33190
2003-04	139855	14.42	39166
2004-05	183801	16.15	33718

*[Translation]***Loan to Rural Families**

88. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Samples Survey Organisation (NSSO) has surveyed about the share of loan of rural families;

(b) if so, the number of rural people who have availed loans and the estimated total amount of the loan during the last three years;

(c) whether any assessment has been made about the average debt of families belonging to rural and urban areas during the said period;

(d) whether the difference in the number of indebted families has increased in rural and urban areas from the previous years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) National Sample Survey Organisation has conducted a survey on "Household Indebtedness in India as on 30th June, 2002" as part of the All India Debt and Investment survey in the 59th round (January-December 2003). The findings were released in 2005.

(b) and (c) The survey report shows as follows:

Amount of Cash Dues of Households as on 30th June 2002

(All India)

Estimates	Rural	Urban	Total
No. of Households (in 00,000)	1,479	555	2,034
Percentage of Households	73	27	100
Total Amount of Debt (in Rs. 00,00,000)	1,11,468	65,327	1,76,795
Percentage of Share of Debt	63	37	100
Incidence of Indebtedness (%)	26.5	17.8	24.1
Average outstanding Debt (Rs.)	7,539	11,771	8,694

As the survey is conducted on decennial basis, the report had not given the data regarding estimated loan availed during the last three years.

(d) and (e) The number of indebted families in rural and urban areas as shown in the report are as follows:

(In millions) (All India)

Estimates	Rural	Urban	Total
No. of Households in 1991	116	42	158
No. of Households in 2002	148	56	204

*[English]***Reduction in Telephone Rent**

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

(a) whether the BSNL has reduced the rentals and also increased the number of free calls due to large scale of surrender of fixed line phones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the MTNL also proposed to follow suit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir. BSNL has reduced the monthly rental for exchange system capacity of more than 1 lakh lines in General Package only and also revised alternative packages for Basic and WLL services with more free calls with effect from 1st January 2006.

(b) The details of reduction in rental for General Package and revised alternative packages are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) No, Sir. At present, there is no such proposal in MTNL.

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

(e) MTNL tariffs are already very competitive.

Statement**1. General Package**

The revised rental applicable for General Package is as under:

Monthly Rental Charges for B-fone/WLL(F)

Rental charges	Existing (General Plan)		Revised (General Plan)	
	Rural	Urban	Rural	Urban
<i>Exchange System Capacity</i>				
Less than 1000 lines	Rs. 50	Rs. 120	Rs. 50	Rs. 120
1000 lines to <30000 lines	Rs. 110	Rs. 120	Rs. 110	Rs. 120
30000 lines to <100000 lines	Rs. 150	Rs. 180	Rs. 150	Rs. 180
100000 lines & above	Rs. 210	Rs. 250	Rs. 150	Rs. 180
Free Calls	75	50	75	50

2. Alternative Package

In addition to the general package, revise/additional alternative packages for customers under B-fone/WLL (F)

Particulars	Sulabh	BSNL Economy	BSNL Special	BSNL Special Plus	BSNL Super	BSNL Premium
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Alternative Package prevalent prior to 1st January 2006

Plan Charges (Incl. Monthly rental) as per Exchange system capacity

Less than 30000 lines	Rs. 99	Rs. 350	Rs. 750	—	Rs. 1650	—
>30000 to <100000 lines	Rs. 120	Rs. 350	Rs. 750	—	Rs. 1650	—
>100000 lines	Rs. 160	Rs. 350	Rs. 750	—	Rs. 1650	—
Free Calls	0	200	600	—	1800	—
Unit Rate (beyond free calls)	1.20	1.20	1.10	—	1.00	—

Revised Alternative Packages with effect from 1st January 2006

Fixed monthly charges as per Ex. System capacity

Less than 30000 lines	Rs. 99	Rs. 300	Rs. 375	Rs. 975	Rs. 1450	Rs. 2450
>30000 to <100000 lines	Rs. 120	Rs. 300	Rs. 425	Rs. 975	Rs. 1450	Rs. 2450
>100000 lines	Rs. 160	Rs. 300	Rs. 475	Rs. 975	Rs. 1450	Rs. 2450
Free Calls (MCU)	0	200	400/450/500	1100	1800	3500
Unit Rate (beyond Free Calls)	1.20	1.20	1.10	1.00	0.90	0.80

Public Issue of SIDBI Shares

90. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government plan to make public issue of shares of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) At present Small Industries Development Bank of India is adequately capitalized for meeting its operational requirements for credit dispensation.

BSNL Services in Rural Areas

91. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

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

(a) whether the Government has received complaints about the poor quality of the services of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in the rural areas of the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has put in place any mechanism to assess the quality of the BSNL services in the rural areas of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to make improvements in the BSNL services in the rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Sir, in general, the

quality of services of BSNL in the rural areas is satisfactory. However, BSNL having a vast rural network, there are some complaints due to non-availability of reliable power supply.

(c) and (d) The quality of BSNL services is assessed on regular basis for rural as well as urban areas. However, there is no separate mechanism exclusively for rural areas. Fault rate, fault clearance, call completion ratio are some of the parameters of quality of service which are monitored. In addition, the exchange and media breakdown are also monitored regularly at various levels.

(e) Following steps are taken by BSNL to improve the services:

- (i) Connecting all exchanges on reliable digital media.
- (ii) Replacement of underground paper core cables by other systems in phased manner.
- (iii) Introduction of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) system to cover larger rural areas.
- (iv) Interactive Voice Response System (VRS) based centralized fault booking at Short Distance Charges Centre (SDCC).
- (v) Monitoring performance of telephone exchanges/media on daily basis.
- (vi) Conversion of SBM into RSUs.
- (vii) Conversion of C-DOT 256 Port exchanges into Access Network-Rural Automatic Exchanges (AN-RAXs).
- (viii) Provision of maintenance free battery sets and Engine Alternators for backup power supplies.
- (ix) Annual Maintenance Contract (AMC) entered for WLL equipments working in rural area including FWTs and provision for AMC in new supplies.
- (x) Provision of high capacity external maintenance free battery with FWT for providing larger talk time and standby time.
- (xi) Battery charger of FWT to operate in the voltage range of 90-300V.

Sale of DDA Flats

92. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI JYOTIRMOYEE SIKDAR:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether more than 8000 flats of DDA are ready for sale against registration;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, area-wise;
- (c) if so, the reasons for delay in allotment of these flats and loss of revenue on this account; and
- (d) the time by which these allotments are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) to (d) The DDA has informed that 9734 LIG flats have been constructed by DDA in the following areas:

Locality	No. of flats
Dwarka	980
Narela	2,420
Bakkarwala	5,496
Rohini	630
Paschim Vihar	208
Total	9,734

As per existing policy, allotment of flats would be taken up, on provision of basic amenities like water supply and electricity, in the next few months.

Economic Cooperation with Japan

93. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes for economic cooperation with Japan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Japanese Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The Prime Ministers of India and Japan, during the visit of the latter in April 2005 to India, signed a Joint Statement which inter alia entails comprehensive development of bilateral relations with a particular and urgent focus on strengthening economic ties through full utilization of the existing and potential complementarities in their economies.

Consequent to the above, an India-Japan Joint Study Group (JSG) has been established in June 2005, to study, identify and recommend areas of greater economic cooperation in trade, investment and other areas of economic relations between India and Japan.

(c) The Joint Statement of the Prime Ministers of India and Japan reflects the views of both the countries.

Fiscal Reforms for States

94. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has recently laid down certain guidelines on fiscal reforms for States and the Centre to achieve developmental goals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Indian States are among the most indebted in the World; and

(d) if so, the action plan of Union Government to reign in the States to help them to reduce their deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In a report "State Fiscal Reforms in India Progress and Prospects" published by the World Bank, it has been mentioned that India's states seem to be the most highly leveraged in the world. The report has recommended fiscal reforms to increase the development effectiveness of the State Governments.

(d) The Central Government has accepted the recommendations of the 12th Finance Commission (TFC) with respect to Debt Consolidation and Relief which, *inter alia*, requires States to enact their Fiscal Responsibility Legislation. State Governments are also required to draw their own fiscal correction path aimed at bringing their revenue deficit to zero and fiscal deficit to 3% of GSDP by 2008-09. States are expected to undertake fiscal reforms to augment their revenue and prioritize expenditure needs to compress non-plan revenue expenditure. Further, Government of India is also fixing borrowing ceiling of States to contain their fiscal deficits.

Tax Collection

95. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether tax collections for 2005-06 may fall short of the Budget estimates as reported in the *Business Standard* dated January 21, 2006;

(b) if so, the facts reported therein; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to meet this shortfall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) So far as indirect taxes are concerned, if the present over all growth rate of indirect tax revenue collection continues for the remaining period of the financial year, total Budget Estimates of indirect tax for 2005-06 are likely to be achieved. So far as direct taxes are concerned, the current trends of collections are suggestive of a shortfall in the collection of direct taxes vis-a-vis the Budget Estimates.

(b) The reasons for shortfall in direct tax collections include the following:

- Lower payment of advance tax by certain sectors of the industry which include petroleum sector, banking sector, insurance sector and telecom sector.
- Heavy rains and floods in various parts of country including big collection centres like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

Grant of exemption to small exporters in respect of profits on sale of Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme (DEPB) credits and deferment of taxes in cases of non-exempt exporters over five years.

(c) The following steps are being taken by the Government to minimize the shortfall of direct tax collections:

- Completion of assessment in large-demand cases and collection of demand.
- Persuasion of taxpayers to pay higher amounts under advance tax in cases where huge self-assessment tax has been paid.
- Monitoring of advance tax payments of the large taxpayers with a view to ensuring that there is no under-payment in the March 2006 instalment of advance tax.
- Giving effect to the favourable appeal orders and recovery of confirmed demand within the current financial year, etc.

12.01 hrs.

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Re : Expulsion of Members

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: As the hon. Members are aware, ten Members were expelled from Lok Sabha on 23rd December, 2005. I have to inform the House that writ petitions have been filed in the Delhi High Court (since transferred to hon. Supreme Court) by the expelled Members other than Shri Raja Ram Pal, who has filed a petition in the hon. Supreme Court challenging their expulsion. The High Court and the Supreme Court reportedly directed that notices be issued to the parties including the Speaker, Lok Sabha.

I decided that the Secretariat would not accept any such notice, far less respond to the same as in my view the issue was and is non-justiciable, as, *inter alia*, votes given by hon. Members cannot be questioned in any judicial proceedings. In this connection, I convened a meeting of the Leaders of Parties in Lok Sabha on 20th January, 2006 to discuss the issues relating to and arising out of the said proceedings. Two eminent lawyers of our country, Shri Fali S. Nariman and Shri T.R. Andhyarujina

[Mr. Speaker]

also attended the meeting on my invitation. The Leaders unanimously endorsed the position taken by me not to accept and respond to the notices issued by the High Court and the Supreme Court or to enter appearance in the Court. Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, hon. Deputy Leader of Bharatiya Janata Party, however, was of the further view that this position should be communicated to the Court through some lawyer appearing in the matter. I also called an Emergency Conference of Presiding Officers on 4th February, 2006, where the Presiding Officers unanimously adopted the following Resolution:

"The Presiding Officers of the Legislative Bodies in India, having assembled in their Emergency Conference in New Delhi on 4th February, 2006 and having deliberated on the issues arising out of and related to the proceedings initiated in Courts of Law challenging the expulsion of Members of Parliament, unanimously endorsed the decision taken by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha and the Speaker, Lok Sabha not to accept or respond to the notices issued by Courts of Law in the matter of expulsion of the Members of the two Houses."

As the hon. Members are aware, in the wake of News Bulletins telecast on Star News channel on 19th December, 2005, regarding the MPLAD Scheme, on 20th December, 2005, I constituted, after consultation with the Leaders of the Parties, a seven member Inquiry Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal to inquire into the alleged improper conduct of some Members of Lok Sabha in the matter of implementation of MPLAD Scheme.

The Committee was requested to present its report to me in the matter by 31st January, 2006. Shri Bansal has since resigned from the Office of the Chairman and the membership of the Committee, which has been accepted by me with effect from 27th January, 2006. On the same day, I have appointed Shri V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo as the new Chairman of the Committee. On 31st January, 2006, Shri V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo made a request to me seeking extension of time up to 17th March, 2006 for the Committee to present its report on the ground that the Committee needed some more time to consider the matter and it was not feasible for the Committee to give its report by 31st January, 2006. I have accordingly granted time up to 17th March, 2006 to the Committee to present its report.

Hon. Members may also recall that on 20th December, 2005 while announcing the constitution of the

Inquiry Committee, I requested the Members against whom allegations have been made, not to attend the Session of the House until the matter was looked into and a decision was taken. The issue as to whether the concerned Members may be requested not to attend the sittings of the House even during the extended period or not, was briefly deliberated upon at the meeting with the Leaders of Parties in Lok Sabha held on 15th February, 2006. The Inquiry Committee is having its next sitting today. Therefore, until a further decision is taken, I request the concerned Members in relation to whose conduct the enquiry is being held, not to attend the Session of the House or the meeting of any Committee.

12.06 HRS.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): On behalf of Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rajghat Samadhi Committee, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rajghat Samadhi Committee, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3673/06]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I beg to lay on the Table—

A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:—

- (i) The Equity Linked Savings (Amendment) Scheme, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 1755(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th December, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (ii) S.O. 1843(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum notifying the Ratnagiri Gas and Power Private Limited, New Delhi, for reconstruction or revival of a power generating plant.
- (iii) S.O. 89(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th January, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum notifying the Bombay Stock Exchange Limited, Mumbai and National Stock Exchange of India Limited, Mumbai as recognised Stock Exchanges for the purpose of section 43(5) of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3674/06]

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Cost Accounting Records (Electricity Industry) Amendment Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 709(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th December, 2005 under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3675/06]

- (2) A copy of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (Conditions of Service of Chairman and Members) Amendment Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 724(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th December, 2005 under sub-section (3) of section 67 of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3676/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-
 - (i) G.S.R. 37(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th January, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 39/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.

- (ii) G.S.R. 749(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th December, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 39/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.

- (iii) G.S.R. 17(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th January, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 4/99-Cus., dated the 8th January, 1999.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3677/06]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:—

- (i) G.S.R. 725(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the final anti-dumping duty on imports of Sodium Cyanide originating in, or exported from, United States of America and Korea RP, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

- (ii) G.S.R. 726(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on imports of Sodium Cyanide originating in, or exported from, the Chinese Taipei, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

- (iii) G.S.R. 12(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th January, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on imports of 1-Phenyl-3-Methyl-5-Pyrazolone originating in, or exported from, the China PR, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

- (iv) G.S.R. 18(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th January, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy anti-dumping duty on imports of Sodium Nitrite originating in, or exported from, China RP at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

- (v) G.S.R. 19(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th January, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the final anti-dumping duty imposed on imports of Sodium Nitrite originating in, or exported from, China RP.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3678/06]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:-

- (i) G.S.R. 752(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th December, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 6/2002-CE dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (ii) G.S.R. 757(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 6/2002-CE dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (iii) G.S.R. 758(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 33/2005-CE dated the 8th September, 2005.
- (iv) G.S.R. 36(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th January, 2006 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 64/95-CE dated the 16th March, 1995.
- (v) The Central Excise (Compounding of Offences) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 756(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT 3679/06]

12.07 hrs.

ASSENT TO BILLS

[*English*]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the following eight Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament

during the Sixth Session of Fourteenth Lok Sabha and assented to the President since a report was last made to the House on the 25th November, 2005;—

1. The Punjab General Sales Tax (As in force in the Union Territory of Chandigarh) Repeal Bill, 2005;
2. The Appropriation (Railways) No. 5 Bill, 2005;
3. The Disaster Management Bill, 2005;
4. The Manipur University Bill, 2005;
5. The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2005;
6. The Appropriation (No. 5) Bill, 2005;
7. The Criminal Law (Amendment) Bill, 2005; and
8. The Central Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2005.

I also lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, of the following six Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President:-

1. The National Tax Tribunal Bill, 2005;
2. The State Emblem of India (Prohibition of Improper Use) Bill, 2005;
3. The Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2005;
4. The Constitution (Ninety-Third Amendment) Bill, 2005;
5. The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council Bill, 2005; and
6. The Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Bill, 2005.

12.07¹/₂ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thirty-third Report

[*English*]

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): I beg to present a copy of the Thirty-third Report on the subject 'Widening of Tax Base and Evasion of Tax' (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance.

12.08 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re: Situation arising out of information reportedly sought by the Sachchar Committee about statistical break up of religious minorities of the personnel of the Defence and Para Military Forces in the country

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): I am grateful to you for permitting me to raise this particular matter. I am referring to the reported communal headcount ordered in respect of the Armed Forces. I am not referring to the other issues to which also I have exception like the appointment of the Justice Sachchar Committee itself.

Basically, I believe that poverty, backwardness, etc. are non-sectarian issues and they should not be brought in a sectarian manner. That apart, so far as the communal headcount in the Armed Forces is concerned, I am really surprised how this Government can even conceive of it.

After all, you can see the universal sense of outrage that has been evoked in the whole country, right from the Chiefs of the various Staff—Chief of Army Staff, Chief of Naval Staff, Air Marshall Shri Tyagi, everyone of them—right down to the commonest of the common man and right down to the entire Media in the country. What is the reaction?

Never in independent India has any Government ever thought of it. This UPA Government is the first Government—I do not know whether the allies are in agreement with it—to do it. But basically, it is something that should not be viewed as a prestige issue.

I would appeal to the Defence Minister, the Leader of the House, present here to view it objectively. What is sought to be achieved by this? I see that it is trying to create a database. Why this data base after 58 years? I have seen today, while the Government claims that it has got record but it will not give it to the Sachchar Committee, it has got the numbers and the counts but both the Air and Naval Chiefs have denied publicly today that they have not given it. The reaction of Gen. J.J. Singh was very vehement on the very day when the Report had appeared. He said very strongly, "The Army first declines saying this sends wrong signals to the troops who work together". Gen. J.J. Singh said, "It is not the

Army's philosophy to maintain such information as per religion. We do not bother where they come from, what their language is or what their religion is". This is the natural and spontaneous reaction. He did not have to think, did not have to consult anyone. I think he as well as the other two Chiefs have taken a bold and correct decision and given a bold and correct response. Therefore, to simply say that our Army is secular and there is no question of any such thing as is being apprehended is not correct.

May I point out that these days there have been books published in America which are pernicious? There is a book written by an American citizen and the thesis is what is the communal composition of the Army in India, because it is the largest coercive force. This is the thesis and he says that because of this kind of Army there is ethnic violence in India, suggesting that because the percentage of minority in the Army is small, therefore, there is anti minority climate in the country. This is the pernicious thesis. I was happy to note because a reference was made.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Could you mention the name of the book?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I will give it to you in a minute. The name of the book is, '*Khaki and Ethnic Violence in India*' and the summary if I were to quote is:

"India's military, paramilitary and the police constitute one of the largest security forces around the globe. Who constitute these forces? What is the ethnic and religious background of these troops? Does the composition of these forces mirror the diversity of Indian society? Have their composition undergone any change since Independence?"

This I regard as a very pernicious thesis and even though formally the Sachchar Committee has distanced itself from this American Scholar's book, it has allowed itself to be used as a conduit for such pernicious thesis. This is my charge and when I say this, I have with me an article written by an Ex-Serviceman, a former Colonel, Dr. Anil Athale based in Pune, who expresses concern about this.

He says:

"This all wise Sachchar Committee has initiated an exercise that is fraught with great danger as it hits at the very notion of fair play."

[Shri L.K. Advani]

After all, all our officers in the Army and all our Generals are proud of the fact that when we take people in the Army, we take them on merit.

Though it may be said that some areas have less representation, I belong to Gujarat and I have always pointed out to my friends in Gujarat that Gujarat has a very small percentage in the Army and in the Para-Military Forces also with which I dealt during my period as the Home Minister. I used to ask how many people are there from Gujarat. But that does not mean anything as if there is any discrimination against Gujarat or against States from which representation is small. That way, I would say that we have in the country organisations like say Wipro and Cipla and they may be owned by senior minority people. There may not be a representation of minorities for different reasons. Therefore, this attempt of head count in the Armed Forces is, as has been rightly said, fraught with dangerous implications. Not only that, this particular Army Officer has expressed this kind of misgiving or this kind of apprehension. I think it is a warning. He says:

"Many former and serving soldiers believe that the data collection is the thin end of the wedge of introducing religion or caste based reservations in the Armed Forces also."

Now this is something which disturbs me greatly. Therefore, I wish the Prime Minister were here because the Prime Minister has lent credibility to this communal head count by describing this Committee as the Prime Minister's high level committee for preparation of a report on the social, economic and educational conditions of the Muslim community in India.

As I said in the beginning, I have objection even to the formation of the Sachchar Committee. It should not have been formed. Never before has a Committee of this kind been formed. There is poverty in the country. There is no doubt about it. There is backwardness in the country. There is no doubt about it. All sections of the people must be taken forward and their welfare must be thought of but not in a sectarian manner. My charge against this Government and against the Ruling Party is that all this is being—I can name so many measures taken during the last one and half years—aimed merely at vote bank politics. Vote bank politics has done a lot of damage to the country but to bring in vote bank politics even in the matter of the Armed Forces is something disgraceful. It is something absolutely unacceptable.

Therefore, I would urge the Government to immediately pronounce and tell the Sachchar Committee that you should do nothing so far as far as the Armed Forces are concerned. This is my appeal.

MR. SPEAKER: I will try to give opportunity to each Party and those who have given notices. This is a very serious matter. I am not minimising its seriousness. I have allowed the hon. Leader of the Opposition. Now Shri Mahtab.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Sir, Justice Sachchar Committee is of the opinion that the Ministry is no different from any other Central Government organisation. This is the cause of disquiet. If that was the case, quotas in proportion to caste, backward classes and other marginalised elements of society would have been introduced in the Armed Forces decades ago. That it did not happen, more as a deliberate policy than by accident, is evidence of the sagacity of the earlier generations of our political leadership. If Justice Sachchar Committee interprets that policy as injustice and discrimination against Indian Muslims, its approach to the question of the place of Muslims in the Indian society is flawed. The presumption is insulting, to the ethical and moral principles every soldier adhere to.

The Indian Armed Forces are emphatically not, and cannot be presumed to be like any other Central Government organisation. Before 1947 the Muslims of undivided country formed 32 per cent of India's armed forces. In other words, 25 per cent of undivided India's population formed half of the Armed Forces during that period. But after 1947, even today, we have four regiments, namely, the Sikh regiment, the Kumaon regiment, the Dogra regiment and the Jat regiment and these are more or less named after their relevant communities. ...*(Interruptions)* But in the Army all citizens irrespective of any caste or creed or religion are eligible to be part of the Armed Forces. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This running commentary does not help things. It is not going on record.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, the minorities trust the Indian Army. The Indian Army has the reputation for being impartial during communal riots and enjoys the confidence of the Muslims. My request is that in the best interest of the country, the Armed Forces should not be politicised. Military is meant to fight and win wars in combat. In combat no soldier can, or should look to see if his partner

in the trench or in the foxhole is a co-religionist or not. They do not fight to defend religion, but they fight to defend their people and their national values. Therefore, I would request the Government, through you, not to play with such sentiments. I urge upon the Government not to play with fire.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Advaniji has put this question in a very effective manner. The survey being conducted in the Army on the basis of caste and religion is a very serious matter. We take pride on the Indian Army and each and every citizen of India feels proud of our Army. Whenever a crisis arises before us, thanks to the Indian Army we are introduced to the elements of unity in diversity. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We are all proud of our Indian Army.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I felt that in such a scenario, getting a survey done in Indian Army on the basis of caste and religion is a very sensitive issue and seeds of dispute are being sown into it. I doubt whether this is being done as the part of a larger conspiracy. Is it pointing towards some conspiracy by some foreign power with a view to endangering our unity and territorial integrity?

In this regard, I do not wish to make a lengthy speech. I would like to make only a request to Shri Pranab Mukherjee that. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is an important issue.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Pranab Mukherjee jee, this decision is wrong, it is not in the national interests. This will create badblood in the army on account of caste and religion. Whenever we needed it, be it against any incursion by the outsiders or to quell any internal strife, be it in the war ground or to counter any communal or castiest tension in any rural areas, whenever the army

was pressed into service it acted with utmost honesty and impartiality thereby presenting before us its impartial outlook. What message do the Government want to send out about such an organization by conducting a caste and religious based survey.

Do the Government want to send such signals that Army also be divided on the basis of caste and religion? Do the Government wish to convey the message that they want to spread mutual dispute among the army men? I want to request you to take back to the order of the survey. You please issue a statement today itself to take back this order and call off your statement due to Monday or Tuesday. This will enhance the honour of our Army and also will add sparkle to the prestige of our nation. We are hopeful that realizing the sensitiveness of the matter involved, you will take back that order.

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is an old saying which goes like this.

[English]

"Where there is a will, there is a way; where there, is no will, there is a survey".

[Translation]

If the Government intend to do justice to the minorities at every levels, then there is no need to conduct a survey with such fanfare. It is the misfortune of this country that whenever the matter of initiative comes up, to do justice to the minorities and to fulfil their requirements, it is given political colours and it is viewed from a communal angle. Thus the real issue goes to the backstage as the attention gets drawn to other matters. We object to this. Advaniji has dealt on this matter at length but he stated that he was not aware of any earlier existence of such a high power Committee similar to the recent high power Sachchar Committee. I would like to remind everyone that in 1980 when the late Smt. Indira Gandhiji came to power for the second time, Shri Gopal Singh committee was set up.

[English]

The Prime Minister appointed a High Power Committee headed by Shri Gopal Singh to find out the socio-economic conditions of the minorities and suggest remedial measures.

[Md. Salim]
[Translation]

That survey was carried out, report was also brought out but it has not been implemented till date. If the Government desire, they can implement it even today. When the Government headed by Shri V.P. Singh assumed power, again there was a talk of implementing that report. Surveys take place every time, but nothing comes out of it. If under this survey, a head count of the forces is being done only then I do not approve it. It is wrong because there is no need to organize a headcount. It is being termed a communal headcount. This is being done deliberately. You have rightly said that we are proud of our Indian Army. Whenever the minorities are driven to despair by some crises or whenever their life and property are endangered, then they pray for pressing army into service because they have no faith on the police or the Minister. Regarding Gujarat, we have a complaint that there the army was called up very late. Had the Army reached there in time, the magnitude of what happened in Gujarat would have been much less. Now there is no need to give the reference of America for the Indian Army. 100 crore people of this country are aware of our Army's impartiality and their patriotism.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Army had reached Gujarat within 24 hours.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

Sir, within 24 hours, the Army was there.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Md. Salim, please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MD. SALIM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the ruckus is being created because Bharathiya Janata Party has got a clear political motive. They are thinking that the lower classes, the OBC, other backward classes or the oppressed ones are likely to be provided with reservation on caste basis.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

Please listen to me.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Salim, please speak.

...(Interruptions)

MD. SALIM: They would say that they would want reservation on this ground. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded except what Md. Salim says.

...(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM: We do not want anything on the basis of religion. But it is the responsibility of the UPA Government to see that the minorities in the country get their legitimate right in education, employment and business. My submission is that the Government should not back track from its commitment as the Government had promised through its Common Minimum Programme that it would provide justice to the minorities.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Advani has raised very important issue. All of us are aware that real task of Indian Army is to protect our borders and our army has perfectly done it rising above caste and religious lines. Right from Brig. Usman to Abdul Hamid have proved it. Therefore, no one can point a finger at anybody's integrity be it from minority community or any other caste. However, the people of minority communities have not got due representation in case of recruitment in army or police. We may talk anything here, but people talk about it. Therefore, there is a need to encourage recruitment of minority communities in army and police. But the fact is otherwise, when a youth of any minority community goes for recruitment in police or army, the officers ill treat him.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, this is highly objectionable. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

It is quite wrong to say that they are not treated well. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are not bound by it. He is only giving his views.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Sir, that is why I would like him to change his opinion about Muslims.
...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He should not say that he is the only well-wisher of Muslims.
...(*Interruptions*) He is wrong to say that they are ill treated in army. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: It is happening.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: We should not do or say anything which will affect the performance of the Army. Of course, we are all proud of our Army.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Please do not blame Army.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: I am not blaming Army, I just want to say that they should be recruited.
...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All right. It is over now.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: They should be recruited. He cannot deny it. He knows well that during whose regime they were recruited in less number. Therefore, he should not have made a fun of it. Thus my submission is that the way minorities are being ignored in recruitment in Army, police or para-military forces, should not continue. The Government may make an assessment of it and ensure that justice is done to them.
...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, this issue is very sensitive and the way it is. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: We should always be circumspect in this matter. Considering the importance of the matter,

I am giving chance to almost all parties. Please make brief submissions.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: We all are proud of Indian Army. Some of the Members have raised the issue in a very nice way and I do agree with what Md. Salim has said that it should be done in a proper manner. Whenever, the issue of OBC, minorities or for creating social equality or recruitment in Army, police or para-military forces is raised, some Members feel very bad at it and this feeling is not going to strengthen our country, rather it would weaken the country. Can anyone raise a finger at Abdul Hamid's loyalty towards the country? ...(*Interruptions*) whereas, our Army is proud of him. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Only he is doing it, and nobody else.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: He is doing it. ...(*Interruptions*) Does he want the minorities to get justice? No, he does not want it. His attitude is quite clear before entire country. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, please take your seats.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Does he want to divide the army on religious lines.

[*English*]

SHRI UDAY SINGH (Purnea): Sir, this should not be allowed. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Army can never get divided on the lines of religions or the castes.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude it soon.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: His opinion is wrong about army. He should not talk such things.
...(*Interruptions*)

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Malhotraji, nobody can.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

*[Translation]*SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mere talks won't help out, one has to be open hearted. *...(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

[Translation]

Please sit down.

*...(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate. Very brief submission to be made.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If there is anything unparliamentary or improper, I shall certainly look into it.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude it soon. Do not interrupt me.

*...(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: No, I will not allow it.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: It was Abdul Hamid only, who destroyed Pakistani tanks and brought honour to Indian Army and raised its morale. *...(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Our armed forces donot work either on casteist or communal bases or on religious basis. However the way they are moulding the debate, politics smells out of it. They are adopting vote-bank tactics. *...(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Okay.

Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, take your seat. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Therefore, such sensitive issues should not be politicized. The minorities and the backward classes of the country should be considered on the basis of social balance and brought to the national mainstream.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: If necessary, a policy should be formulated to join minorities with the

mainstream of the nation so that they could get justice and their representation in every field is ensured. If this is done then this question will not arise.

MR. SPEAKER: O.K., now you may conclude.

[English]

Do not enlarge this scope.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: In our country census is also conducted on the basis of caste. Data regarding all the religious groups and classes are also collected during census. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Uday Singh, I expect from you an exemplary behaviour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, I will see, if anything is unparliamentary. I cannot even listen. You just go on making running commentary.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: If any effort is being made to collect data about the minorities then it should not be propagated.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing more.

Now, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: We should not forget those people of the minority community who contributed a lot to the nation and fought not only our freedom struggle but also war against Pakistan.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Mr. Speaker, Sir. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I will call you one by one. Just now I gave a chance to your leader.

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': I had given a notice today at 8 o'clock in the morning.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: it is very unfortunate. You have no patience.

[Translation]

We could have utilised the time, which has been wasted, by giving chance to everyone. If you waste time even now and want to speak also.

[English]

Give the opportunity to conduct the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I never forbid anyone from speaking. I will call those people one by one who have given notices.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not in favour of any method which gives rise to a suspicion that there is an attempt to induct communal environment in the glorious Indian Army. We are not in favour of it. While saying so, I must compliment my senior friend, Mr. Advaniji because he has found time to speak on communalism. I compliment him because he finds that the communalism is a danger in the country. I also compliment Mr. Advaniji because he is taking exception to a book published in his very dear country, that is America. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: That is not an issue.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: This is an important fact. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, it is very important. It is good that you have become anti-American. It is very good that we find anti-American friends across the House. It is very good.

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: For us India is supreme and not any other country. ...*(Interruptions)* We are neither Anti-Russia nor anti-China. We are one and for us interest of country is paramount. ...*(Interruptions)* Whether he supports Iran, Russia and China. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Even after Russia and China supports Iran, we oppose this. We will be opposing it in our response to it. ...*(Interruptions)* As I said, we will be opposing it. Do not worry about it. My point is very simple. Minorities should have more representation in different branches of Indian Administration, in Police, in Military and everywhere. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI UDAY SINGH (Pune): Why? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening to you?

[Translation]

If you do like this on the first day itself then how will we conduct the proceedings of the House. Have some patience. You are so articulate.

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: But headcount is unnecessary because there is service record. In Military, in Administration and everywhere, there is a service record for every individual who is there in the Administration. Therefore, to have a Committee and to go for a survey is absolutely wrong. I feel the purpose of a glorious cause cannot be met by an inglorious method. The method is absolutely wrong. We do not accept it. While upholding the glorious role of the Army, we feel nothing should be done outside, in this House from this side or that side, which affects the morale of the glorious Indian Army.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of Shiv Sena,

I rise to speak against the proposed survey of Muslims in the security forces in the name of minorities. Hon'ble Advaniji has spoken on this issue in a proper manner. I support him. The UPA Government wants to bring the issue of survey through reservation which we strongly oppose. We pay great respect to Abdul Hameedji, who fought bravely against the enemy. Shri Balasaheb Thakreji had honoured him in Mumbai on behalf of Shiv Sena. We respect his view. We are worried that such a survey is being conducted and we strongly oppose this and request U.P.A. Government to withdraw its decision regarding conducting a survey of Muslims in the security forces. Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now he has said that we will oppose reservation. I would like to know as to why he will oppose? Today, nobody has said anything about the Sikh Community. Amongst minorities, the people of Sikh community opt for security forces on a large scale. They have sacrificed a lot for the country, however, no one has mentioned about that. If intentionally a survey is conducted about Muslims then we will strongly oppose it. Through you, I request the Union Government to withdraw its decision of conducting survey and they should not encourage communalism in the country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. M. Jagannath—not here. Ms. Mehbooba Mufti.

[Translation]

MS. MEHBOOBA MUFTI (Anantnag): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I belong to a State which is called as Mini India. You will find that our chief secretary is a Kashmiri Pandit, our D.G., I.G. and other officers are all non-Muslims but despite this there is a Muslim majority.

[English]

Look at the whole country.

I feel you know very well that it is not a matter of the army alone. The representation of the Minorities in the entire country is only one or two percent. There is no doubt that our army fought many wars and always emerged victorious. You will find that in the entire world the challenges are not external.

[English]

The violence and the terrorism is eating into the vitals of the whole world.

[*Translation*]

At present, America, which is considered as a powerful country, is more insecure due to Osama Bin Laden.

[*English*]

If you go at the root of the problem;

[*Translation*]

you will find that people like Osama Bin Laden are the creation of injustice. Unfortunately he is a Muslim.

[*English*]

I would say 'unfortunately'.

[*Translation*]

The reason being that at present our country is facing problems like insurgency, violence, naxalism and problems of north east and Jammu Kashmir. These problems are not external. May be somewhere there would be external dimensions also.

[*English*]

Basically it is a problem of injustice. I would congratulate the UPA Government. They have hit the nail on the head. They have started from somewhere. The information which we will receive that information itself will justify, why we are doing that. Why they are so scared of the information? Let the information come.

[*Translation*]

The injustice which has been done and at present there is a global war against violence. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What she is saying is wrong. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: She has not said that.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Basically, she is condemning our army. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: She has given her party's view. It is not binding on anybody.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MS. MEHBOOBA MUFTI: If we want peace and prosperity in our country, we should give representation to every section and every religious group.

[*English*]

We have to give them a part to play. We have to give them their share.

[*Translation*]

Advani is saying correctly that it is too late.

[*English*]

We are already too late. What has not been done in 58 years,

[*Translation*]

now needs to be done. If we want to control violence in the entire world.

[*English*]

let our country take the lead. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bir Singh Mahato, please be very brief.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Sir, this is a very sensitive issue. The Indian Army has enjoyed confidence of all sections of the people. Armed Forces should not be communalised in any form. Hence, we are proud of the Armed Forces and there should not be any reservation on the basis of language, region, caste and creed. Gujarat was controlled due to the timely intervention of the Armed Forces. Therefore, Sir, communal head count should be stopped. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Jagannath. You should have been here in time.

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kumool): I am sorry, Sir.

It is unfortunate that in our country the employment opportunities or recruitment provided to the minority communities are not adequate. Whatever may be the reason, this practice of not recruiting the minority communities into the Army or paramilitary services is not correct. Steps should be taken that their sentiments are respected. They should be part and parcel of this country. Adequate measures should be taken to see that they get adequate number of their people in the recruitment.

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue which we are discussing is very simple. No one has the intention of creating differences in the Army. Only intention is considered in the work, which we do. And the intention is that justice should be provided to those communities of society with whom injustice is being done for thousands of years or for the last 60 years.
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are not bound by his statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: I am ready for a full fledged discussion. You listen to me. You have the courage to listen to my speech.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody can affect the Indian Army.

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: You have no courage to listen. I would like to say that equal representation should be given to all communities and sections of society identified for thousands of years or for the last 40 years in proportion to their population in every field. I am not talking about reservation but they should get representation. However, it is essential to identify the community or the State who have been discriminated against and subjected to injustice. There is nothing to hide about it and if head counting is done you will find that there are not more than 1 or 1½% Muslims in the army as against their 13% population in India. This survey

should be conducted in order to prove it. Some people with communal bent of mind want that the minorities should always be suppressed. It is a fascist approach and they want to give shape to it by labelling it as nationalism.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am only making an exception in favour of Maj. Gen. Khanduri because of his background, but I request him to be very brief.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have requested a favour from you and I am speaking here as an Ex-Army person, not as a politician.

MR. SPEAKER: That is why I have called you.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, I want to convey to the House my immense pain and personal hurt feelings on this whole issue that is going on in the country.

Sir, I have spent 38 years in the Army and some of the remarks that have been passed here are very much amazing and damaging. The only reason I can think of is that such people and such politicians have no clue about what happens in the Armed Forces. They have no idea as to how they live. They have no idea as to how they stay together there. They are passing remarks that there is not fair treatment in recruitment. Casting that sort of aspersion on the Army is not correct. The three Chiefs are themselves saying that this is not correct. Are they politicians? Have the three Chiefs got any political agenda? Are they communalists? When they are saying something, please listen to them at least.

Sir, Members are making irresponsible statements here. The whole world is seeing us because we have got a 24-hours Lok Sabha television channel now and so everybody is listening to us. I plead to all of you not to get into this sort of politics. It is not good. It is not even good for those who are making such statements.

Sir, people in the Army know what is happening, Muslims or other communities in the Army know what is happening. If you have no faith, you should have listened to Maj. Gen. Asif Karim who came on television and said that what we are trying to say here today, is not correct. He is not a politician. He is not from the majority community, but he is saying this and please listen to

him. It is hurting and it is causing immense damage to the Army. I would suggest to such people that before they make such statements, they should, at least, check up with some of their relatives if they are in the Armed Forces. The trouble is that most of the people have no clue because they do not send their children to the Armed Forces. They just talk outside in thin air.

When I was the Commanding Officer at a very young age, I had a *Mandir*, *Masjid* and *Gurudwara* in one room. There was never any problem. They all used to go there and pray. But if it is left to us politicians, we will make them fight. It is not good. Please don't do it. You are damaging the morale of the Army.

As far as the present issue is concerned, the hon. Defence Minister has said that they are not going to send it to Sachchar Committee. But I would like to submit to him that sometimes the end may be alright, but the means also matter and this time, I think, the means are not correct and please don't do it. Some things are unknown to them, but now you are trying to poke that thing and make them alive about this issue which is not good.

My last point is that if he has any doubt that we are trying to make politics here, I would request him to call all the officers and men who served in the Armed Forces and who are in his party now. Even in Parliament there are some persons. Let him call them together and listen to them. Are they talking on political lines? I do not think anybody is talking like that. Therefore, my humble request as a soldier, as an Ex-Serviceman is, kindly don't let this get out of control any more.

Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset, I would like to express my gratitude to the hon. Members who have made their observations. Without any exception everybody has appreciated the role which the Indian Army has played since its inception, but we are particularly concerned with its role since Independence. The Indian Army is basically professional, apolitical, secular and the most disciplined force that we have today. It is not only the second largest in number, but even in its long tradition of saga and sacrifice, it is second to none.

Sir, three issues have emerged from the observations of various hon. Members and I do appreciate that most

of the hon. Members have pointed out that this secular, apolitical, professional character of the Indian Armed Forces should not be compromised. I can assure them that there is no question of compromising the character of the Indian Armed Forces. At the same time, let us not be carried by emotions.

A particular phrase has been chosen, that is, 'Communal Head Count'. I do not know from where this phrase has come. I have the entire terms of reference of the Sachchar Committee and I do not find this particular phrase anywhere in the terms of reference. What is the terms of reference of Sachchar Committee?

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Is it included in the terms of reference of the Sachchar Committee. ...*(Interruptions)* Whether the survey is being conducted or not. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let him reply.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, most respectfully, I would like to submit to Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra that he is too senior to indulge in these types of frivolities. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, the Sachchar Committee reference is not there. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I have just started. I would request Shri Malhotra to have patience. What I am trying to point out is that Shri Advani raised the issue, 'why this committee'. I, on behalf of the Government, owe an explanation to him, to the Leader of the Opposition, to the Leaders of the whole House on the issue of 'why this Committee'.

This Committee was set up because we are fully aware of the number of Muslim population and the state of affairs. What was the reason for setting up of a committee? There is a lack of authentic, comprehensive and updated information about the economic, educational status of the Muslim community of India. Therefore, it was suggested that the committee which was set up on 9th March 2005 under the Chairmanship of Shri Rajender Sachchar, Retired Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, should also look into this. What was its job? What was

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its mandate? It was mandated to obtain relevant information from Departments and agencies of the Central Government, State Governments and also conduct an intensive literature survey to identify, publish data, articles, research on relative social, economic and educational status of the Muslims of India at the State, regional and district levels to address to the reasons of backwardness and to formulate appropriate policy to intervene as and when it is necessary. Is something wrong there?

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, only asking for Muslim community and not others. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He did not interrupt anybody. Please take your seat.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, I am sorry, I cannot be dictated in speaking the terms of Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra. Please allow me to speak on my own terms. ...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM: He must not.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Therefore, the committee has a very broad, wide spectrum of the entire administration.

13.00 hrs.

They have sent questionnaires to a large number of Government Departments and Ministries. Now, the question comes as to what would be the response. I do not know why the Leader of the Opposition was so agitated. He read the statement of the Chief of the Army Staff. Most respectfully I would submit that as senior Parliamentarians they should know that we should refer the official designation but we never mention the name. Prof. Malhotra in his anxiety went to the extent of suggesting that they ..."

MR. SPEAKER: No reference can be made to the President.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: It is not fair. It is discourtesy to the highest person in the Government. Please do not indulge in that.

MR. SPEAKER: I have deleted that already.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: You have deleted it, it is fine. It is not proper. We also supported him. He was the unanimous choice of the nation. Therefore, it should not be brought in.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): This portion also should be deleted.

MR. SPEAKER: That has already been deleted.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: It should not be brought in. Do not indulge in these things. The point which I am trying to drive at is this. The Chief of the Army Staff has been quoted and the Chief of the Air Staff has been quoted. Then you could have shared the same information without naming them. This is the normal parliamentary practice. What have we stated? What the Chief of the Army Staff has state and what as the Defence Minister I have stated? I have stated that Indian Army does not maintain these types of statistics. There was some information available in the Navy and Air Force that has been given to them. Indian Army has stated that they do not have this type of information available and nobody has asked them that they do this or do that.

Let me explain what is the process of recruitment. The process of recruitment is to ensure that we do not indulge the recruitment on the basis of religion, caste, sex and region. Therefore, a formula has been evolved. Maj. Gen. B.C. Khanduri is well-versed with this procedure. He could have spoken to his colleagues. The formula has been evolved on the basis of the overall requirement in a year and the overall male population of the country. On the basis of that, a formula is being evolved by making the divisions and multiples, and the State is given quota. When the recruitment takes place, recruitment rally takes place, there we do not ask in what language they speak and what religion they practise. There are certain standard prescribed qualifications. If they satisfy those prescribed qualifications depending on the number, we recruit them. We keep in view that there should be more and more representations from different areas. If we find that in certain areas adequate number of people are not coming, sometimes we have the special recruitment drive to ensure that more and more people come. On the floor of this House I have shared that information. Keeping in view the requirement of certain areas, not only in the Army but also in other special paramilitary forces, special security forces, sometimes we raise battalions. For instance, seven battalions have been raised in Territorial Army, one exclusively for Jammu and Kashmir, one exclusively for Assam and one exclusively for Manipur keeping in view their status. Since 1950, not today, the nomenclature in terms of region or in terms of race has been completely avoided. Many a times it is asked: "You are a Defence Minister from Bengal. Why

the Bengal Regiment of 1768 cannot be revived? Maratha Light Infantry is there." Maj. Gen. Khanduri must be knowing the Bengal Lancer as to why it cannot be raised. It was there from the historic days.

MR. SPEAKER: Then why can it not be raised?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: From 1950, we have completely stopped this practice to retain the All-India character of the Armed Forces.

That all India character is this. Many of you may be aware of that. I share that piece of information. In my room I have kept the bough of a soldier. What is the soldier saying? He says, "I am a soldier. I have one commitment and that commitment is to my country. I have only one prayer to God and that prayer to God is that I can fulfil my commitment. I can lay down my life for the cause of my country." There is no question of religion, there is no question of caste and there is no question of any other community. Surely nobody is fool enough to go and disturb this glorious tradition. We are proud of it and we are retaining it. But at the same time, you will have to keep in mind that such a Commission has been appointed to make a socio-economic survey, to help a large chunk of population because various legislations have been made to address different sectors, and in certain areas it will have to be addressed and it will have to be looked into. Without adequate data, without adequate data base and without adequate information, how could you have that?

Shri Advani has referred to some American thesis. It is not longer very unfamiliar to us. Many a times it has come. Very recently we have seen a debate on certain writings by some European writers. Some wanted to have a debate in Parliament also. The House had a debate on the writing of Monahan. But, I think, we are mature enough not to take this type of writing so seriously and we should ignore it because it deserves nothing but ignorance with some sort of impunity. It is not a fact if somebody comes with the thesis that the Indian Armed Forces are the biggest coercive forces. I totally refute that type of observations, that type of definition. The Indian Armed Forces have established all over the world that they are the biggest humanitarian forces. At the time of natural disasters, whether it is Tsunami, whether it is avalanche or whether it is floods or earthquake, you will find first the person from the Indian Armed Forces, whether it is the Navy person or whether it is the Air Force person or whether it is the Army person to rescue

the people. Therefore, that is not a coercive force. That is not the character of Indian Army. We will like to retain that character of the Forces. I can assure you that this is the position which we have stated. I have stated this outside the House because the House started from yesterday. I have stated before *camera*. And what Chief of the Army Staff, Chief of the Air Staff and Chief of the Naval Staff have stated, there is no contradiction in that. We are one and our approaches are the same. The apolitical, secular and professional character of the Indian Armed Forces will be retained. This is an object of our pride. Thank you, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He must categorically say whether the headcount of Muslims in the Army is being called or not. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I have stated that there is no system of head counting on the basis of race, caste or religion. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: They have already asked for it. Then, you say so. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He has said that. He has agreed with the observations of the Chief. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: How many times I will say, Prof. Malhotra? ...(*Interruptions*) I have stated the character. ...(*Interruptions*) Please do not put words in my mouth. I have stated it and I am repeating that the character of the Indian Armed Forces as it is today will be retained. ...(*Interruptions*) You are indulging in politics, you are communalising politics. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, as I said in the beginning, I regard. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I object to the formation of the Sachchar Committee itself and I regard it as pursuance of vote bank politics. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: You are doing vote bank politics. We are not doing vote bank politics. Mr. Advani, you are doing vote bank politics. Starting from Ram Shila to the demolition of the mosque, you are

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responsible for bringing vote bank politics in this country. ...*(Interruptions)* If any Party is responsible for vote bank politics, it is the Party of BJP, it is the Party of Shri L.K. Advani, which is responsible. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let us hear him just one minute more.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? You please take your seat.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The Sachchar Committee has been asked to assess the economic and social conditions of the Muslim community, and in pursuance of that, they have put questions to various Departments of the Government of India. I would be happy if the Committee is scrapped itself but, at least, so far as the Army is concerned, these questions should not be addressed to the Army at all. This is my submission.

Even now if you withdraw all the questions and then let the Sachchar Committee do what it wants about the rest of the Government, I would not put it in this manner. But you must respect the sentiments of the entire *fauji* community. You must respect the views of the entire country.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: *Fauji* community is with the Defence Minister and not with the Leader of the Opposition.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Therefore, the Chief of Army Staff and others protested against it. We also protest against the Government and, therefore, we walk out.

13.09 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri L.K. Advani and some other hon. Members left the House.)

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.15 p.m.

13.10 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.20 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up item no. 9, statement by Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 20th of February, 2006 till consist of:

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper
2. Discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address
3. Consideration and passing of the Khadi and Village Industries (Commission) Amendment Bill, 2005.
4. Consideration and passing of the Cess Laws (Repealing and Amending) Bill, 2005.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the submissions to be made by hon. Members. Shri Ramdas Athawale—not present.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. At present there are two broad gauge tracks between Ahmedabad and Mumbai. The existing capacity of Ahmedabad-Mumbai Railway line has been over-utilised. This is creating a serious bottleneck to the traffic and hence capacity upgradation is urgently required. Konkan Railway line is already operational and its traffic potential adds to the traffic between Mumbai and Ahmedabad and, therefore, it fully justifies further augmentation of its capacity by provision of

additional third and fast track. I urge upon the Government for taking up of this project with adequate budgetary provision for early completion.

2. The section of N.H.-8 between Vadodara and Surat carries probably the heaviest traffic in the country. As a result of repeated requests by Government of Gujarat, six-laning and strengthening of the above stretch has been taken up by National Highway Authority of India on B.O.T. basis. Tenders have been also received. Immediate starting of the work on the project is requested.

[*Translation*]

SHRI TEK LAL MAHATO (Giridih): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda-

1. Rs. 18 crore of Swang Colliery and Rs. 2 crore of Kudpania Colliery No. 4 falling under district Bokaro situated in Jharkhand State, are deposited with the Forest-Department of Jharkhand. But since these two collieries fall within the forest area of the Forest Department, the coal production has come to a standstill. Hence, I request that these two collieries may be declared outside the forest area and production work may be started at the earliest.
2. Land of thousands of farmers has been acquired by Bokaro Thermal Plant and Chandrapura Thermal Plant of Bokaro district under Jharkhand State as a result of which many villages have been displaced and lakhs of people have been affected due to polluted air of the thermal plant. However, they are not being given any facility or priority in employment or other contract works.

Through you, I request the Government to give priority to those local displaced people in getting employment, contract or other means of livelihood and proper arrangements for drinking water and health service should also be made.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda-

1. Need to provide 2 minutes stoppage of Superfast Ashram Express (9105/9106) in Byawar, the famous industrial and trade city having population of more than one lakh.

2. Need to provide special package to Rajasthan on the pattern of other States, in the form of economic assistance to remove its economic backwardness considering its specific geographical natural and bordering situation and crisis arising out of famine and drought for the last several years.

[*English*]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. The age of superannuation of the employees of B.O.G.L. is 60 years. A decision was taken by the Board of Directors of the company long back on 16.7.2003 to reduce the same to 58 years, which however, was not implemented and the employees were allowed to superannuate at the age of 60 years till date. The company has now all of a sudden decided to implement the said decision of 16.7.2003 with effect from 1.4.2005. This has naturally evoked widespread resentment amongst the 188 existing employees of the company. An unimplemented decision of 2003 is quite unjustified.
2. The farming community and the retired people from various sectors deposit their money in MIS, but the Government has withdrawn 10 per cent bonus from MIS within four years. The Government has also cut down interest rate for various schemes like MIS, NSC and EPF. Keeping in view the interests of the retired people, Government should immediately roll back 10 per cent bonus from MIS.

[*Translation*]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain)*: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Effective measures should be taken to conserve adequate stock of sources of drinking water in rural and urban areas and make them pollution-free and provide financial grant and assistance to local bodies to set up effective Mechanism to make river water pollution-free.

*Hindi translation of the speech originally delivered in Sanskrit.

[Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya]

2. There is need to expand microwave Telecommunication services in villages and remote areas of the country. Rural and remote areas of Madhya Pradesh are deprived of telecommunication facilities. Therefore, I request the Union Government to ensure proper telecommunication services in rural areas.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Either guarantee for employment or unemployment allowances should be ensured for educated unemployed (youths, students) in the country.
2. A mini stadium should be constructed for sports at block level in the country.

14.30 hrs.

CONTEMPT OF COURTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up legislative business, item No. 10. I will request Shri H.R. Bhardwaj to move the Bill for consideration. The Business Advisory Committee has allotted two hours time for the discussion.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, be taken into consideration."

Sir, as the hon. Members know that the existing provisions of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, have been interpreted by various courts and the judicial decisions are to the effect that truth cannot be pleaded as a defence to the charge of contempt of court. Therefore, there was a demand that the existing provisions contained in the Act are not entirely satisfactory. There has been debate as well as there have been articles appearing in various newspapers from eminent jurists demanding that this matter should be reviewed.

I am happy to inform that the previous Government gave this task to the National Commission to Review the

Working of the Constitution. That Constitution Review Committee in its Report *inter alia* recommended that in matters of contempt, it shall be open to the court to permit a defence of justification by truth. The Government has been advised that the amendments to the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, to provide for the above provision would introduce fairness in the procedures and meet the requirement of article 21 of the Constitution. Section 13 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, provides certain circumstances under which contempt is not punishable. It is, therefore, proposed to substitute the said section by an amendment.

The Bill was referred to the Department-related Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice and has been examined there. The Committee submitted its Report to both Houses of Parliament on 29th August, 2005. The Government have gone into the Report. The hon. Committee suggested the following amendments to the Bill.

1. To delete the words "in public interest" from clause (b) of the proposed amendment of section 13; and
2. Place the proposed amendment for defence of truth in section 8 of the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 and not in section 13.

Sir, these two recommendations have been received and thereafter, they were examined. As I submitted in my opening remarks, this matter has been examined by Justice Venkatachalaiah Committee appointed by the previous NDA Government. I agree that the issue of contempt of court is a very sensitive matter and that whatever the Committee had recommended, we should go by it. The Government has examined, therefore, these two recommendations and it is of the view that the Bill as introduced on December 1, 2004, by the earlier Government and as suggested by the Review Committee may be accepted for the time being.

In public interest, two things are being done. Earlier, the contemner has no defence to whatsoever in the matter of contempt and truth even could not be said to be a defence. Everybody in this House knows that our culture proclaims: "*Satyameva Jayate*" and there can be no limitation on truth because truth is synonymous to God in our culture. Therefore, it is a good beginning that at least we should allow truth to prevail. Therefore, the very fact that truth will be the defence should be welcomed by the House. I think, this House will support this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Contempt of Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2004 presented before the House by the hon'ble Minister. All of us are aware that often people do not comply with the good rulings given by the court. Under these circumstances, a case of contempt of court is filed. Though this is a small bill yet it is very important. Following section would replace section 13 of the Contempt of Court Act, 1971. This bill was brought in 2003, but at that time Lok Sabha was dissolved, therefore it could not be passed. The then Government had sent this bill to the Standing Committee of Ministry of Home Affairs for consideration. The Standing Committee of the Ministry of Home Affairs considered it threadbare and gave some recommendations, on the basis of which it was to be presented in the House. But at that time, the Thirteenth Lok Sabha got dissolved, as a result of which this bill got lapsed in the year 2003. Now, the said bill is being re-introduced with some changes. This was a very good effort made by the previous Government. Before that a Commission was constituted to review the constitution. The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (NCRWC) had also in its report, *inter alia*, recommended that in matters of Contempt of the Court, it shall be open to the Court to permit a defence of justification by truth, 'Satyamave Jayate' is written under our national emblem. Which means—truth alone wins, not lies. It has been said- 'Na Satyat Paro Dharama-' which means there is no religion greater than the truth. We have set human values for ourselves and truth occupies top position. Truth should prevail, therefore Section 13 has been substituted to address the shortcomings in the old legislation. With your permission, I would like to read out the changes made in the Section 13-

"no court shall impose a sentence under this Act for a Contempt of Court unless it is satisfied that contempt is of such a nature that it substantially interferes or trends substantially to interfere with the due course of justice."

Sometimes people approach court on petty issues and file cases of contempt of Court. But now serious

consideration would be paid in this regard. No Court shall impose a sentence under this Act for a contempt of Court unless it is satisfied that contempt is of such a nature that it substantially interferes or tends substantially to interfere with the due course of justice. Till it is confirmed that it tends substantially to interfere, the Court shall not interfere in it. This kind of provisions has been made in it.

Secondly, "The court may permit, in any proceeding for contempt of court, justification by truth as a valid defence if it is satisfied that it is in public interest and the request for involving the said defence is bonafide."

If it is in public interest and something has been rightly said in the interest of the public and the Court shall be able to examine. The appropriateness of invoking the defence and would be able to give ruling.

In this way, the Court will also give importance to truth. I hope that the Contempt of Courts (Amendment) Bill has been brought to protect our national human values, which have been earmarked in our national emblem and Indian culture has always given emphasis on the fact that the truth ranks paramount and truth should prevail in the society. I understand that all of us should support it. In future, linking of contempt of Court cases will definitely prove helpful for the Courts and truth will prevail in public interest. Alongwith it, the people who present distorted facts and give false witnesses in the court would be exposed and truth will win.

With these words I support this Amendment Bill and thank you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Parvatipuram): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the amendment to the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971. This amendment has been long overdue, in my opinion. In our Constitution, there is a framework which provides for the separation of powers between the three different wings—the legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. While this delicate balance has to be maintained, over the last few years, maybe, decades, we have been observing encroachment by one or the other wings for various reasons. Sir, the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 has severe constraints and restrictions on the people who wants to file the contempt of court case, even if it is based on truths and facts.

[Shri V. Kishore Chandra S. Deo]

The Standing Committee of this House has given a report. Legal luminaries like Justice Venkatachelliah and Justice Krishna Iyer have been a strong votary to an amendment to the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971. I think, very rightly, now the Government has brought in this amendment to ensure that courts also will have to be bound by truths and facts of the case.

In recent times, we have seen a new trend that has crept into the Judiciary. This trend has been termed as 'judicial activism'. I am not against 'judicial activism'. But there is a very thin line between 'judicial activism' and 'judicial despotism'. Judicial despotism can be the worst kind of despotism which can unleash on a civil society because there is no accountability. After all, I would like to firmly state that in a democracy, all of us are accountable to the people, including the Judiciary. So, if the Judiciary oversteps or if there is a situation where they are going against the will of the people or if there are certain facts and truths which warrant a case which involves the contempt of court or where the Judiciary has faulted, I do not see any reason why any private citizen of the country should not be allowed to take this case up or should be hauled up for the contempt of court if they were based on truths and facts. Certain events have taken place at that particular moment of time.

The Standing Committee had recommended that the words 'in public interest' should be deleted. I think, the National Commission had recommended that these words should be included in this amendment. I think, very rightly so, after all, whether it is truth or untruth—I mean, truth especially—it should concern 'public interest' also, especially, in cases where the courts today are taking upon themselves the job of legislation and execution. I think, when the Standing Committee took into consideration this particular aspect, this term 'public interest' probably did not exist.

Today's situation has become very-very important. This term 'in public interest' has to be a part of this particular amendment. Therefore, I congratulate the Law Minister for having brought this amendment. Though it is a small amendment, yet it will go a long way. This also goes to show that Courts are not above law or above the Constitution. For any misdemeanor or misconduct or for any other reason if the Court violates the mandate of the people or the Constitution, they shall be liable to answer to this entire country for such an act that they may have committed. Therefore, I support this Bill *in toto*

and I am sure that this House will be unanimous in approving this amendment.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I support the Bill in principle. We have our own experience in this House. We have passed the Right to Information Act. But its implementation is defective in many ways. Not, it has been termed as an asylum for the top retired bureaucrats. The purpose for which this Bill is passed is defeated.

Here also, we are now trying to amend a law which was in India for a very long time. The first Contempt of Court Act came into existence in 1926 during the British rule. At that time, our Constitution was not in existence. We were following the British practice. In 1952, we passed an amendment to the 1926 Act. We made certain changes as per the provisions contained in the Constitution. That also was not found fully practicable. Then we took a decision to amend the Contempt of Court Act in 1971 as per the recommendations of the Sanyal Commission. The Act of 1971 also did not rise to the occasion.

Now, I will submit about what is the inherent difficulty in the implementation of the Contempt of Court Act. It has given a blanket protection to the Judiciary, even curtailing the freedom of speech guaranteed under article 19(1) and 19(2) of the Constitution. That also is being curtailed in the context of the interpretation of the 1971 Contempt of Court Act. It is contradictory. I am not going into the details because it is a laborious task for me. After 1971 also, there has been a public demand not only from the public but even from the Press for an amendment of the Contempt of Court Act. That has not made a fair comment about a particular judgement by a court because any contempt law will be applicable and the person who is focussing his reason in public, will be put to task. This is the position. This is quite untenable in the context of the parliamentary democracy for curtailing the individual rights of the person for criticising certain things, which he believes, to be true. In all cases, we have the facts about the contempt cases. But, unfortunately, we have not provided any defence provision to the Contempt of Court Act. A man who is known to be guilty or accused is not given a right to defend himself by stating that what he says is true.

So, there is no justification for an accused in an offence under the Contempt of Courts Act. This is the position. Even a person who believes that it is true, he will not be able to make use of it as a defence. This is

quite alarming and quite extraordinary as well as untenable in the context of Fundamental Rights provided under the Constitution.

We will see that our Constitution had made some provisions regarding establishment of court of records. The contempt of court offences could be tried only by the Supreme Court or by the High Courts. 'Court of records' is a provision under the Constitution. So, the Supreme Court is the supreme authority in dealing with offences of contempt of Supreme Court or the High Courts, as the case may be. This is the position.

In that case, can we make an amendment by an ordinary Statute of this House? The 1971-Act was passed by this House. The Supreme Court as well as the High Courts come under the provisions of the Constitution, as court of records. That being the case, can we meet the situation by merely amending the Statute of this House, because there is a provision in the Constitution? Would it be possible to amend a law by merely passing a Statute passed by this House?

A National Review Commission was appointed by the Government; the functioning of the Constitution was looked into by them; eminent jurists were members of that Commission. They have strongly recommended that contempt of court will not be safeguarded and will not be protected from the Supreme Court, by merely making an amendment to the Contempt of Courts Act. They have strongly recommended that we must make an amendment to the Constitution itself. That is the clear position stated not by me, but by the Working Committee appointed by the Government which looked into the working of the Constitution. They have recommended that there must be a Constitutional Amendment for this provision.

Suppose we pass this amendment here, it will not stand in judicial scrutiny because the Supreme Court and the High Courts get powers under the provisions of the Constitution. Then, how can we make and how can we restrict their powers by merely passing a Statute here? The only remedy is that we must have a Constitutional Amendment passed by this House as per the provisions contained in the Constitution.

The argument advanced by the Government as well as by the Law Department is that this being a time consuming factor and a laborious task, requiring two-thirds majority and restrictions are there to get such an amendment passed as per the provisions of the Constitution,

we will amend the Statute passed by this House. So, the Government came out with a proposal saying that a mere amendment to Section 13 of Contempt of Courts Act would be sufficient. It hopes that the Supreme Court and the High Courts will take a fair attitude in these matters. It presumed that the Supreme Court and High Courts would take a position that an amendment to the Statute will be sufficient. How? It is only a pious hope; we are having a hope in the Judiciary, in fairness, that they would agree that an amendment to the Statute would be sufficient. I do not think, it is possible.

It is a matter concerning their personal interest. Both the Supreme Court and the High Courts are personally interested in this. Allegations may come up and in dealing those matters I do not think they will take a fair stand. It is a pious wish that they will take a stand that statutory amendment will be sufficient. I do not think it is possible. So, the best course left to the Government is to bring a constitutional amendment. Otherwise, it will become a futile exercise. Not only me even the Working Committee, the National Commission working on the Constitution has taken evidence and has come to the definite conclusion that this can be done only through a constitutional amendment. But the Government did not wait for that. It has come up with an amendment to the proviso to Section 13. That is very-very dangerous in many ways.

The Supreme Court, the Bar Association and the Bar Council of India have also suggested some amendments. Not only that, senior advocates of the Supreme Court of India have come before the Committee and suggested amendments. Now, two things have to be proved first. One is, while giving justification against the allegation he must prove that it is in public interest. The first thing for the defender or the accused will be to prove that he is making his allegations in public interest. That must be proved first. Secondly, he must prove to the satisfaction of the judge that it is made in good faith. These two things have to be proved first by a person making any allegation in a particular case against the Court. He has to prove these to the satisfaction of the particular judge as to why he is making this allegation.

14.58 hrs.

[*MR. SPEAKER in the Chair*]

He must prove first that he is making the allegation in public interest. The Supreme Court and the Bar Association have said that this will negative the purpose

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

for which this amendment is brought. The Bar Association of Delhi came to the conclusion that it will negative the purpose for which this amendment is brought. So, these two words 'good faith' and 'in public interest' must be deleted. The opinion of the Bar Council of India is to restrict these two things in the proposed amendment; good faith and in public interest. He has to prove the case first and then only he can proceed. He has to prove that he is making allegation in public interest. That is a laborious task for a defender. He is asked to prove his case first that he is making the allegation in public interest. Secondly, he will have to prove that he is making the allegation in good faith that too to the satisfaction of the hon. judge. Would he decide in his favour? A judge hearing the allegation would direct the accused to prove the case first that it is in public interest. So, this will negative the purpose for which this amendment is brought. I am opposing it because it is curtailing the purpose for which my hon. friend is bringing the amendment. It will not work. So, please delete those two words and give the opportunity to the accused to prove that he is defending his case by justification of truth. That alone is possible.

15.00 hrs.

Not only that, there is an inherent danger that this will be struck down by the Supreme Court on the plea that the Supreme Court and the High Courts are working as Courts of Records. Any amendment to their powers under the provisions of the Constitution will have to be achieved by another constitutional amendment. So, this is the position. Not only that, it will be better to bring the legislation, namely, Judicial Accountability first. After all, it is the corner stone of Parliamentary democracy. We have not passed that legislation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think, he has concluded as he has taken 15 minutes.

Now the hon. Prime Minister to make the Statement.

(English)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, before the Statement of the Prime Minister, please allow us to make a submission.

MR. SPEAKER: How is it possible? There is no such procedure.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, please allow me for one minute. We have submitted our notices and we discussed it also.

(Translation)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday the hon. President addressed both the Houses. President's Address is a reflection of the Government's intentions. ...*(Interruptions)*

(English)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, today the hon. Prime Minister is making the Statement on a very important matter regarding voting on Iran and referring it to the Security Council. What we wanted is that immediately after the Statement, there should be a discussion on this.

MR. SPEAKER: It could be, subject to availability of time.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He is making a Statement. Then, it will be taken up after one week. It is an important issue. Sir, in the meeting convened by you all the political parties said that there should be immediate discussion on this.

MR. SPEAKER: There should be a structured discussion. I have accepted your notice for a discussion on this.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We want to express our views and the nation also wants to know the views of this House.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, I am on a different view. My point is that the hon. Prime Minister is using his right to make a Statement. He can do so any time he likes because he is heading the Government. That is not the point with me. The point is that we are a supporting Party. This is not a one-Party Government. It is clear to the Government and more so to the Prime Minister that as supporting Parties, we have serious differences. He is aware of our serious differences. Therefore, the system should have been that as and when the Prime Minister speaks, immediately the discussion begins. Why should it begin? It is because the House will be seized of the view of the Prime Minister but our views will not be known to the House. With all

humility to Dr. Singh, I am saying that this is not a very nice parliamentary system and nice parliamentary tradition.

MR. SPEAKER: No. I think ordinarily we should welcome the Government's views on an important matter.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We did not object to that. But we want an immediate discussion.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: We never objected to that.

MR. SPEAKER: You know that there is no possibility because of this Session.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, heavens would not have fallen if the hon. Prime Minister agreed.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I did not know that you have faith in heavens.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, the hon. Prime Minister is making a *suo motu* statement. But we want to have a full discussion in this House.

MR. SPEAKER: I have committed that you will have a discussion. I am sure all the hon. Members will make good contribution in the debate. We shall have a full discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: The hon. Prime Minister may make his statement, nobody can stop him, but it would have been better, if opinion of all parties was solicited. I understand it would made the Prime Minister's statement more relevant.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We are developing a new system. Before the Prime Minister's speech, we are discussing whether he should speak or not.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You also feel the same way.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the meeting held with you, it was decided that. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You too said it.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The hon'ble Prime Minister may make his statement whenever he wants, but no other discussion can be held before the discussion on the hon'ble President's Address, that was opposed, If the hon'ble Prime Minister make his statement on 24th and discussion is held on 27th, it hardly matter. He has every right to make his statement but it is inappropriate that 5-6 days should have elapsed.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: May I make my position very clear?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, we welcome the fact that the hon. Prime Minister has come to this House to explain as to what had happened at the IAEA. But a substantial section of this House has a different view on this issue. What would happen after the hon. Prime Minister has made his statement? The country would know only about the views of the Government on this issue. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You may agree with the view of the Government after you have heard the statement of the hon. Prime Minister.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, we have asked for a structured debate on this issue. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that this is an important issue and should be discussed on the floor of the House. There is a demand for a structured debate and I have said, 'yes'. But we have to start with the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. *Rashtrapati* had been kind enough to deliver his address to the nation in the Parliament. As soon as that discussion is over and as soon as the Budget is presented, we shall take up the discussion on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it would be better if the hon'ble Prime Minister makes

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

his statement after taking the opinion of the Members.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate. This is very unfortunate. I can only say that this is very unfortunate. You are entitled to make your comments both inside and outside Parliament. But now please listen to the Statement to be made by the hon. Prime Minister with the respect he deserves.

15.09 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

India's vote on the Iran Nuclear Issue of Iran's Nuclear Programme

*THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH):
Mr. Speaker, Sir and hon. Members taking into account the concerns that have been raised about India's vote on the Iran nuclear issue at the meeting of the Governing Board of the International Atomic Energy in Vienna, on February 5, 2006, I rise to apprise this august House of the facts of this matter.

Let me begin by affirming that India's vote on the IAEA resolution does not, in any way, detract from the traditionally close and friendly relations we are privileged to enjoy with Iran. Indeed, India-Iran ties, as we have repeatedly emphasized, are civilizational in nature. We intend to further strengthen and expand our multifaceted ties with Iran to mutual benefit.

Let me also state the importance of India's relations with Iran is not limited to any single issue or aspect. This relationship is important across a wide expanse of co-operation, both bilateral and multilateral. We also co-operate on regional issues. We value this relationship and intend to do what we can to nurture our bilateral ties. Let me reiterate in this context that we are committed to the proposed Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline. The economics of this project is currently under professional investigation by internationally reputed consultants. This is a necessary step in taking the pipeline project forward.

On the specific issue of Iran's nuclear programme, let me reiterate what I have said publicly on several occasions. As a signatory to the NPT, Iran has the legal right to develop peaceful uses of nuclear energy consistent with its international commitments and obligations. It is incumbent upon Iran to exercise these rights in the context of safeguards that it has voluntarily accepted upon its nuclear programme under the IAEA.

These rights and obligations must also be seen in the context of developments since 2003, when the International Atomic Energy Agency began seeking answers to a number of questions arising from Iran's nuclear activities, some of which were undeclared to the International Atomic Energy Agency in previous years. Subsequently, in the context of these demands, Iran did extent cooperation to the International Atomic Energy Agency in investigations of its some of these activities.

In November 2004, Iran agreed with the European Union-3 (France, Germany and the UK) to voluntarily suspend all enrichment and reprocessing activities until questions relating to its past nuclear activities were clarified by the International Atomic Energy Agency. However, since August last year, Iran has renewed production of uranium hexafluoride and thereafter, has also resumed uranium enrichment.

Successive reports of the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency have noted that while Iran's cooperation has resulted in clarifying a number of questions, there remain many unresolved questions on key issues. Sir, these include the use of centrifuges imported from third countries and designs relating to fabrication of metallic hemispheres. Hon. Members are aware that the source of such clandestine proliferation of sensitive technologies lies in our own neighbourhood, details of which have emerged from successive International Atomic Energy Agency reports. This august House, Sir, I believe, will agree that India cannot afford to turn a blind eye to security implications of such proliferation activities.

The objectives of upholding Iran's rights and obligations and our security concerns arising from proliferation activities in our extended neighbourhood have shaped our position. Therefore, Sir, our approach has been consistently in 'favour of promoting all efforts to find a solution, based on acceptable mutual compromises, in which Iran's interests and the concerns of the international community would be addressed. We have consistently worked to promote a consensus in the International Atomic Energy Agency towards this end. This has been the logic

of our stand at the IAEA Board of Governors Meetings both in September, 2005 and earlier this month.

Sir, I might remind hon. Members that it is only on these two occasions that the Resolution that resulted has not been a consensus one, and a vote has been necessary. Despite that, in the latest vote this month, the Resolution not only had the support of all P-5 countries including Russia and China, but also of important NAM and developing countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, Ghana, Singapore, Yemen and Sri Lanka.

The resolutions passed in September last year and earlier this month underlined the need for time to be given for diplomatic efforts to continue. The recent resolution of February 5 asks the Director General of International Atomic Energy Agency to inform the UN Security Council of the status of negotiations with Iran, and the steps that Iran needs to take to address these questions. It calls for continued diplomatic efforts including through exploration of the option provided by Russia, which we have supported. Hon. Members are aware that Russia had offered to locate a joint venture project on Russian soil to address Iranian needs for enriched uranium, provided Iran suspends its enrichment programme to increase international confidence regarding the unresolved questions of the last two decades. Russia and Iran are currently in discussions on the subject, and we remain hopeful of a positive outcome. It is our hope and belief that the issues that have arisen can still be resolved through discussion and dialogue.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have set out the background in which we have taken a position at the International Atomic Energy Agency Board. I would like to reiterate our unshakeable conviction that such a sensitive issue, which concerns the rights and international obligations of a sovereign nation and a proud people can only be addressed through calm, reasoned diplomacy and the willingness on all sides to eschew confrontation and seek acceptable compromise solutions. We are, therefore, deeply concerned by escalating rhetoric and growing tensions and the possibility of a confrontation over this issue. This is a matter of concern for us as tensions in this region—where our vital political, economic and security interests are involved—affect us directly. The region hosts 3.5 million Indian citizens whose welfare is a major concern of our Government.

We, therefore, call upon all concerned to exercise restraint, demonstrate flexibility and continue with dialogue,

to reach an amicable solution. As I mentioned, there will be another meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency Board in March this year at which a full and regular report will be presented by the International Atomic Energy Agency Director-General. In the days to come, we will support diplomatic efforts in this regard, drawing upon our friendly relations with all the key countries involved.

The Government is conscious of the need to balance several important considerations in this regard. We have a strong and valuable relationship with Iran which we would like to take forward in a manner that is mutually beneficial. We have great respect and admiration for the Iranian people with whom our fraternal ties go back to several millennia. We have every intention of ensuring that no shadow is cast on these bonds.

In the overall context that I have outlined in detail, I am confident that this august House will agree that the stance taken by this Government has been consistent and in keeping with our own well considered and independent judgement of our national interests. I am confident that this policy will receive the support of this august House and our nation. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister's statement has concealed more than it has revealed. It has not mentioned anything about the pressures being mounted and about the public statement made by important people of the US Administration on this issue.

15.19 hrs.

CONTEMPT OF COURTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004—*contd.*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we will take up item no. 10, discussion on Contempt of Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2004.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I have been dealing with the difficulties involved in getting the Bill passed. Our attempt is to have some kind of judicial accountability. Here, it may be pointed out that the former Chief Justice of Supreme Court himself has said that thirty per cent of the judiciary is corrupt. If this

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

amendment is found to be successful, it will go a long way in dealing with the corruption in the judiciary.

Corrupt practices are prevalent in many ways and that would not be checked and no allegation can be made against any corrupt judge in the present set-up. So, we want to change the situation. As I have already mentioned, judicial accountability is the cornerstone of parliamentary democracy. So far, we have not succeeded in bringing out a legislation for judicial accountability. So far, we have not succeeded in bringing out a legislation for judicial accountability. Of course, for impeachment, there is some provision in the Constitution. We have our bitter experience in Ramaswami's case. But now, we have come to a stage that we must have a definite say in these matters. We must have a statute dealing with judicial accountability. That is one of the cornerstones of our public life. Not only that, legislative accountability also is a matter of concern. We have allegations against some MPs. Even yesterday, in the Supreme Court, it was discussed and the arguments were made for and on behalf of the MPLAD Fund utilization. The conduct of MPs was a matter of discussion before the Supreme Court. It is a matter of shame for me because our conduct is being discussed in the highest judiciary because of these corrupt practices being prevalent in our system. So, we have to pass this Lok Pal Bill. Why are you getting anxious who should be exempted and who should not be? It is a matter of detail. But let us have a law in this matter so that the MPs and MLAs can be accountable for their criminal acts, for their squandering public money. In all these matters, we want a clear-cut policy and a clear-cut stand in the legal forum. That is why, I am asking for a legislation on legislative accountability also. In that matter, passing of Lok Pal Bill is another platform in our parliamentary democracy. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: When we speak of judicial accountability, we must be ready with legislative accountability also. I want to draw the attention of the Government towards these two important issues. We have done a good thing by passing the Right to Information Act. Though there are many defects in the implementation of this Act, it is a good legislation; it is a historic legislation. We should also have a historic legislation in the matter of judicial accountability and the legislative accountability. This Bill is directly connected with judicial accountability. That is why, I am speaking all these things. If we fail in our attempt, that will be a black mark for our

judicial accountability statute. Judicial accountability is very much connected with this justification by the Contempt of Courts Act. For these reasons, we must be doubly cautious to see that the Bill is successfully passed and implemented. If it goes, the Supreme Court takes the other view because they have a pious wish that the Supreme Court will be generous and fair enough to see that a mere amendment in section 13 of the Contempt of Courts Bill is enough. If that is the stand, I have no objection. The rest is for the Government. ...*(Interruptions)* The Standing Committee did not agree with the Government. We do not agree with the Government. In that case, they would be having a mere amendment to the statute, of the simple statute, that is of Contempt of Courts Act of 1971. You are bringing an amendment, a simple amendment, to section 13 as proviso. Would it be sufficient? If it is sufficient, that is fine. But I apprehend that the Supreme Court will not take such a pious wish because it concerns their conduct and approach. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have been a member of the Committee. You should not have spoken.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: This is for the Government to take a decision. The risk is with the Government to take. When these inherent dangers are there, I would request the Government to consider all these aspects and do all that is possible so that judicial accountability is passed without delay. This Bill, even if it goes, judicial accountability act will be there.

With these words, I include. I support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my gratitude to you for giving me permission to speak on the Contempt of Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2004. Judiciary is the fountain head of faith in a democracy. The people of all classes of society, whether they are of upper class, middle class or lower class, want to have access to inexpensive, accessible and speedy justice.

A provision has been made in this bill that the Contempt of Court proceedings should be enforced only in case when court's orders are being defied or any interference is being caused in the course of justice. As far as hearing of Contempt of Court cases is concerned, all people, which comprises retired Chief Justices of High

Courts are of the view that only High Court or Supreme Court should be given the right to ponder over this issue. We should also pay consideration towards protecting the dignity of the judiciary. Shri Vajpayee's Government had recommended the setting up of a National Judiciary Commission. Six years have elapsed, but till now the Commission has not been set up. From time to time cases of corruption in judiciary come to light, the discussion in this regard was also held in the House and the House expressed its concern on it.

15.26 hrs.

As far as the issue of raising matters related to common citizens and administrative corruption are concerned, the judiciary is bound to look into the cases. It has been seen that most of the time false complaints are registered in courts. Besides that, Public Interest Litigations are also filed. It is good but complaints in regard to misuse of Public Interest Litigations have also been made. We should also pay serious consideration to it. It has been seen that High Courts or Supreme Court have earned a bad name due to corruption prevailing in some lower courts and all our State Governments have been compelled to forcibly retire the judges on the grounds of incompetence, immoral conduct and use of drug. 28 judges have been awarded compulsory retirement in Uttar Pradesh. similar complaints had been received from Madhya Pradesh also and action had been taken against 18 judges. From time to time concern over this issue has been expressed in the House.

Through this bill, I would like to say that accountability of judiciary to people should be ensured. While supporting this Bill, I conclude my speech.

[*English*]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a small legislation but this has serious impact all over. The Contempt of Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2004 seeks to further amend the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971. This is intended to make that a contempt is not to be punishable if it is satisfied that it is done in public interest. Further, this is also intended to introduce fairness in the procedure and to meet the requirement of Article 21 of the Constitution.

This is a very sentimental matter. We should consider it in that way. There is separation of powers and jurisdiction of the different wings and institutions of

democracy outlined in our Constitution. This is the power of the court to punish. When a court gives some verdict, it is the Executive which is to implement the order of the court because the judiciary has no other wing or no power just to implement the order of the court. So, it is the Executive which has to implement the order of the court. Now, we are encroaching upon the power of the judiciary. We are now minimising the contempt punishment of court. If some executives go against the order of the court, if they fail to implement the order of the court, naturally the court proceeds with contempt proceedings. That is the only power available with the judiciary. Being afraid of it, the Executive is bound to implement the order of the court. Now, we are minimising this thing. So, a serious implication is there. Not only we are encroaching upon the power of the judiciary but also we are giving advantage to those defaulter Executives, who are liable to and who are constitutionally bound to implement the order of the court.

So, now, when we are minimising this thing with this amendment. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, I will take one or two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Would you like to finish it in one minute?

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: I will take only one or two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Now, we will take up Private Members' Legislative Business. You will continue on Monday.

15.31 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS—*Introduced*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First we will take up Item No. 11.

Shri Hansraj Gangaramji Ahir Not present.

Shri Subodh Mohite : Not present.

Now, we will take up Item No. 17. Shri Mohan Singhji.

(I) Pre-Examination Coaching Centres Regulatory Authority Bill, 2005*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of Regulatory Authority for regulation of Pre-Examination Coaching Centres and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of Regulatory Authority for regulation of Pre-Examination Coaching Centres and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.31½ hrs.

(II) Constituent Assembly Bill, 2005*

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Sir, I move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Constituent Assembly of India.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Constituent Assembly of India."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I introduce** the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 17.2.2006.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

15.32½ hrs.

(III) Education Bank of India Bill, 2005*

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Sir, I move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for setting up of a Bank for the purpose of advancing loans to the students for pursuing higher studies.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for setting up of a Bank for the purpose of advancing loans to the students for pursuing higher studies."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I introduce** the Bill.

15.33 hrs.

(IV) Council for Environment Protection Bill, 2005*

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Sir, I move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Council at the Centre and in each State and Union Territory for the protection of environment and ecology.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Council at the Centre and in each State and Union territory for the protection of environment and ecology."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I introduce** the Bill.

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**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No. 21.

Shri Chengara Surendran : Not present.

Now, we will take up Item No. 23. Shri Abdullakuttyji.

15.34 hrs.

(v) National Commission for Ex-Defence Personnel Bill, 2005*

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY (Cannanore): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for setting up of a National Commission for ex-defence personnel in the country and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for setting up of a National Commission for ex-defence personnel in the country and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.34½ hrs.

(vi) Television Programmes (Regulation) Bill, 2005**[English]*

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY (Cannanore): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate the programmes telecast on television channels and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The questions is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate the programmes telecast in television channels and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 17.2.2006.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

15.35 hrs.

(vii) Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2006* (Amendment of paragraph 3)*[English]*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA (Trichur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

(viii) Prevention of Cruelty to Cows Bill, 2006**[Translation]*

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): I move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for effective measures for the prevention of cruelty to Cows and for matters incidental thereto."

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for effective measures for the prevention of cruelty to Cows and for matters incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.**[Translation]*

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I introduce the Bill.

15.37 hrs.

(ix) Coir Factory Workers (Welfare) Bill, 2006**[English]*

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for certain welfare measures for coir factory workers and for matters connected therewith.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 17.2.2006.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for certain welfare measures for coir factory workers and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.38 hrs.

(x) Farmers (Welfare) Bill, 2006*

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA (Trichur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide special facilities for farmers to improve their life, enhance their dignity and benefit the country through higher agricultural production by way of improving farm practices, techniques and allied occupations and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The questions is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide special facilities for farmers to improve their life, enhance their dignity and benefit the country through higher agricultural production by way of improving farm practices, techniques and allied occupations and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri P. Karunakaran—Not present.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 17.2.2006.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

15.39 hrs.

**(xi) Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 2006
(Amendment of the First Schedule)***

[English]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.39½ hrs.

**(xii) Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2006*
(Amendment of Section 2 etc.)***

[English]

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL (Buldhana): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 17.2.2006.

15.40 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL—*Withdrawn*

Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2004
(Insertion for new article 47A)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up Item No. 32. Shri Hasnraj G. Ahir to continue. He is not present.

The hon. Minister of Health to reply now.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): Thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to reply to the Private Member's Bill moved by hon. Member, Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy. I would like to say that I have been literally waiting for six to seven months to reply to this.

I would like to thank the hon. Member first for putting up this very important issue to the House. I have heard the views of the entire spectrum of this august House. It was unanimous that the services in the rural areas need to be upgraded. I would like to share my concern with them and I also accept the feelings, the emotions of the entire House on this issue.

Sir, we have come a long way, 58 years after Independence and 73 per cent of our population lives in rural areas and villages; like the Father of our nation, Mahatma Gandhi said India lives in villages, rightly Sir. But all these years, have we provided the right infrastructure in the health sector? Frankly speaking, we need to do a lot more. Our aim, our goal, our mission, the UPA Government's mission, even though it may be far fetched, is to provide health care facilities to everyone. As the hon. President of India has said that 'equal health care facilities should go out to rural areas, to the people who live in the villages, to the last person living in the last village. On those lines, we are charting out a huge programme to fill up this gap in the rural areas in the health care sector.

Sir, we have been having a national Health Policy 2000 and a National Population Policy 2001 on which we are putting up this huge infrastructure down these years in the villages, in the rural areas.

Today, we have approximately 145,000 sub-centres and each sub-centre caters to a population of about 3,000 in the hill areas and 5,000 in the plain areas. We have approximately 23,000 primary health centres, which cater to a population of about 20,000 in the hill areas and 40,000 in the plain areas. We have approximately 3,222 community health centres which cater to a population of about 80,000 in the hill areas and 120,000 in the plain areas. Adding to this, we have an entire spectrum of colleges. We have approximately 242 medical colleges in this country. But unfortunately, out of 242 medical colleges, 152 are only in six States, almost the Southern States, including Maharashtra and Gujarat. So, we have a lot of need there in the rural areas and all this infrastructure, all these years has been only about 18 per cent to 20 per cent.

It is very unfortunate and I accept and I concur to the entire House that we need more facilities, more infrastructure. When we say that, the entire gamut of sub-centres, primary health centres, community health centres and all these figures put together comprise of only 20 per cent of the public health infrastructure in the country. We definitely need more. That is why, the UPA Government, under our hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, has promised that. Madam Sonia Gandhi, through the Common Minimum Programme of UPA has also said that.

Today's meagre investment in the public health infrastructure is only 0.9 per cent of the total GDP. We have promised that we will increase it to minimum two per cent in the next three to four years. Rightly so, we are trying to do our best and in fact, we have an unprecedented 32 per cent increase in the health budget over the last year's health budget. We are going on those lines.

But then, again coming back to the issue of rural areas where there is not much facilities today and rightly so I will be replying individually to what the hon. Members have said. I would like to again say that today the second highest cause of concern is spending on health. The highest cause is spending on agriculture. So, we are in the knowledge of things. But since it is nearly 20 months that we have taken over, we are trying to do our best. A very big programme, in fact, I would like to say that the biggest programme, in the health sector in the post-Independence period, is National Rural Health Mission, which again I will be coming to when I come to other parts of the reply.

[Dr. Ambumani Ramadoss]

In fact, in the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) we are concentrating on the North-East where it has been neglected all these years. In fact, I have been a very frequent visitor to the North-Eastern areas. I see very loving people there where there are not much facilities. That is why we are trying to provide more and concentrate more on the North-East where there are a lot of people who require lot of infrastructural facilities and they have to come all the way. Some of them go to Chennai, some go to Calcutta, some go to Mumbai and some go to Hyderabad for treatment. So we said that not even one individual there in the North-East should move out of the North-East for treatment. Everything we will be providing completely to the North-East. We are concentrating on those lines also.

Of course, now we have own system called the Indian system of medicine. We have Ayurveda, we have Siddha and we have Yoga. In fact, we have Unani and the traditional system of Homoeopathy. So, we are trying to use this system, the cost-effective system, which has been followed for centuries, literally since time immemorial. The system of Siddha is as old as Tamil language. So, we are trying to take the system and put it into the mainstream. We are trying to incorporate both the Indian system as well as the modern system whereby some hospitals and some doctors will be there in the Primary Health Centres and we are trying to provide medicines.

We are also trying to have the second Programme of the RPH that is Reproductive Health Programme (RPH) Part II. In fact, we are trying to literally spend approximately Rs. 40 crore in the next five years only on this Programme and this comes under the National Rural Health Mission which I will be explaining. Once again, I would like to share the concerns of all the Members and individually I will try to go into the queries put up by the hon. Members. In fact, once again, I would like to thank Shri S. Sudhakar Reddy for having brought out this Constitution (Amendment) Bill. He has queried about the budget not there for the Common Minimum Programme. Budget is not a constraint. Our Prime Minister has promised me in health sector that we have a commitment of increasing it from 0.9 per cent to a minimum of 2 per cent. Budget is not a constraint at all. The only problem is that 'Health' is a State Subject. We do the policies, the implementation is there by the State Governments. Some States do well and some States do not. We all know that. We know which are the States which are

doing well and we also know which are the States which are not doing well all these years. That is why, budget is not a problem, it is only the absorption capacity and the functioning. We give a quantum of money to the States, but then we do not get the utilisation certificate. So, there are a lot of problems with that and there are a lot of administrative problems in some States which we are trying to rectify. I am going personally to all the States coming under the National Rural Health Mission; I am talking with the Chief Ministers and coordinating with the officers. In fact, I had visited Bihar two days ago just to meet the Chief Minister. I was there only for two hours. I met the Chief Minister, discussed the health issues and said that we are going to provide them what they wanted. That is why we are trying to go there and have a lot of things done in the health sector.

Of course, my good friend, Shri S. Sudhakar Reddy said that we need more infrastructure. Government can build infrastructure. That is not a problem. But, then where is the manpower? Who mans it? Where are the technical personnel? Where are the doctors? Where are the nurses? Where is the para-medical staff? We need to train them. We need more of them. India has been producing quite some of them but that is not enough. It is not enough to build infrastructure.

My good friend says that each village should have one Primary Health Centre. To maintain, to build up Primary Health Centre, it costs anywhere between Rs. 25 lakh and Rs. 50 lakh, and to maintain it for one year, it costs anywhere Health Centre in each and every village—we have literally six lakh villages in the country—is a rational approach. Logically also, I do not think we could have built up Primary Health Centres in every village. The thing that we are trying to do is firstly to improve the existing facilities, improve and modernise the existing Primary Health Centres, have blood storage capacity, make some of these Primary Health Centres run for 24 hours, and make some of them First referral (FR) units. That is what we are trying to do in the National Rural Health Mission.

I would like to elaborate some more points about the National Rural Health Mission. This is a very big programme which, as I said, was inaugurated by the hon. Prime Minister on 12th April last year. The entire country comes under the gamut of this National Rural Health Programme. We are trying to focus on 18 States which have very low infrastructure and which have low

parameters on health indices like the highest infant mortality, highest maternal mortality, high population, highest crude death rate, highest disease burden and all these issues. So, we have taken 18 States of the lowest strata and we have identified them. We are focussing more on these States.

These States are UP, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, three newly formed States—Uttaranchal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, the entire North Eastern States, Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh. In fact, in the first phase we are putting out ASHA called Accredited Social Health Activist. Every single village with a population of 500 or 1000 will be given ASHA. ASHA will be selected for each village. ASHA will live in that village. So, ASHA cannot work in any other village. So, ASHA has to compulsorily live in that village. We are giving training to ASHA for a period ranging from 28 days to one year. The training comprises courses like immunization. In the morning ASHA gets up and see how many children are there in that village and she has to know all the children by heart and immunize the children according the date schedule. Every woman will be screened. Every pregnant woman will be taken for anti-natal check up. Every pregnant woman will be compulsorily taken for institutional delivery. That is the mandate of ASHA. That is one of the most important works. We are giving her some corpus money for her emergency travel. So, she will be taking the pregnant woman to the nearest recognized centre to conduct a delivery. That centre could even be a private hospital. So, we are not differentiating between a private hospital and a public hospital. We are going to pay money through *Janani Suraksha Yojana*. It is a new programme, which we have put out through the Government of India. Of course, ASHA's other work is post-natal check up. She has to take any eligible couple for sterilization. We are trying to make it more accessible. Not one individual is going to be coerced in any of these procedures. In fact, ASHA will be given condoms to keep with her. ASHA will be trained in such a way that she will guide the village women to build household latrine in every house. We are going to give money through the Ministry of Rural Development. ASHA will be trained and also she will be given medicines so that she can treat patients with common ailments like headache or diarrhoea or vomiting. Earlier there were no medicines in the village and everybody had to go to a sub-centre, which is eight or 10 kilometres away. Now, ASHA will be living in the village, she will trained and will be given medicines to treat common ailments. I am sure, a lot of problems of

the village people could be solved now. For each Centre we will be giving Rs. 10,000 as corpus money every year to replenish their resources, to upgrade their facilities and to have all the essential medicines that they want or any other commodity which the village wants. ASHA will be selected by village headman, Anganwadi worker and Self-Help Group. They come together and select ASHA. ASHA is not going to be paid money as a salary. She is going to be paid money according to the work she does. If she does immunization, she is going to be paid certain money; if she does anti-natal check up, she is going to be paid certain money; and for conducting a delivery, some quantum of money is going to be given to her. That is why, the more work she does the more money she is going to be paid.

As regards the Sub-centres, they are going to be provided with medicines. We are going to modernize the Primary Health Centres. We are going to upgrade them. We are going to spend a lot of money for modernizing the existing facilities first in all these Primary Health Centres and then we will be going on to take up newer facilities as and when they are necessary. Today we have a lot of problems with regard to the existing facilities. Some of them are dilapidated. There is no water, there is no power, there is no electricity, there are no quarters, and there are no medicines. Nothing is there. So, we are trying to first improve the existing infrastructure and then we will be going in for providing the new infrastructure.

Coming to the Community Health Centres, Block Hospitals and Taluk Headquarters Hospitals, we are trying to upgrade them. Every year we are trying to upgrade two Community Health Centres in one district. We are going to spend anywhere between ten lakhs of rupees and one crore of rupees depending on the requirement. We are modernizing the operation theatres in all these Community Health Centres. Modern labour rooms are going to be put up in all these Community Health Centres. Blood storage capacity has to be provided. Ultra sound machines are going to be provided. We are going to build quarters in each Community Health Centre whereby the doctors, nurses and employees could stay so that they need not move out of the campus and we have a holistic health care. We try to follow the Indian public health standard whereby there will be an anesthetist, a gynaecologist and a surgeon in these Centres. We are trying to increase the umbrella. We are also giving a medical mobile unit in each district initially. In each block we want to have a medical mobile unit and in due course

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of time we will be giving it. Initially we are trying to provide this in each district. So, we will try to take the patient to the Community Health Centre which we are trying to refurbish and modernize so that it can have all the facilities.

That is our aim and we are trying to do it at that point of time.

As I said, we are trying to integrate the Indian system of medicine as well as the modern system. We have doctors prevalent in both the systems, and on these lines, each district is going to have a District Health Society chaired by the Collector, and, of course, co-chaired by the District Chairman, the Panchayat representative because in our entire gamut of network, the PR, Panchayati Raj representative will be an essential part of that. They will plan what they want for the village or for their town or for their region. It is not like we are going to plan for them. They will plan for us. There is going to be a Village Health Society and a District Health Society. They will plan and send it to us and we will put the money.

Also, we are going to have Chartered Accountants in each district. They are going to monitor the programme, implement the programme and, of course, try to guide the entire network as to how the programme could be implemented. They will act both the ways. They will be informing us as well as guiding them.

At the State level also, the State Steering Mission will be chaired by the hon. Chief Minister and the Health Minister will be part of the Mission. At the Central Level, the Health Minister is chairing this Mission. We are having a lot of Steering Mission meetings. A lot of discussions are going on. For this programme, the National Rural Health Mission, you give me a little more time because it has taken 10 months to conceptualise. Day and night we are working out. We have our officers. Earlier we had a lot of health programmes but I do not see much success in these programmes. I will definitely say that it will take one-and-a-half years just to implement this programme. I am not promising you that the heaven and earth results are going to come in the next one or two years. For me, it will take one-and-a-half years just to implement this programme.

In the next three years we are going to see some results trickling in. In the next five years, we are going to have a lot of results. In the next seven years, I could

see that all the infant mortality coming down dramatically. Maternal mortality will come down. There will be population stabilisation and other improvements because this programme is not only a health programme but this is also going to be a holistic programme of health, sanitation, drinking water and nutrition. So, all the Ministries are involved, namely the Panchayati Raj Ministry, the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Water Resources. All are involved in this programme which we are trying to do.

Today, out of 250,000 ASHAs to be envisaged in 250,000 villages in 18 States, literally about 110,000 ASHAs are being put into place. We have been giving the training module and we are going all out to train them. Training is the most essential part of it. We are going on those lines.

Coming back to his query about the problems of HIV, I would like to say this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Has Punjab also been included in those 18 States?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Punjab will be included in the next phase because we are taking the States which have a lower parameter. This NRHM comprises the entire country. But more focus is on 18 States. The entire country is going to come in the network. We are going to modernize the PHCs. We are going to modernize the CHCs in all the States but then focus is on these 18 States because these States represent 60 percent of India's population but if you see the infant mortality and maternal mortality they are very, very backward in health statistics.

Of course, I would very proudly say that yesterday we had the first meeting of the National Council on HIV/AIDS. I would proudly say that India is the first country in the world where the Prime Minister chairs the National Council on HIV/AIDS. No other country in the world does it. India does it.

Also, another issue is that in this Council, all my Cabinet colleagues are members. We have about four to five Chief Ministers who are members. The Health Ministers are also members of this Council. We have civil societies and NGOs. We have a whole gamut of network, and a lot of people are there as members in that. We had the first meeting. We had sorted out a lot of issues. We are trying our very best to eradicate this

huge menace of HIV/AIDS in this country and we are taking it very seriously. We are concentrating more on prevention. Regarding caring support, in fact, we are trying to support 100,000 people free of cost through minimum 100 hospitals. But today we are doing about 26,000 people. We are supporting them but there is no limit. If there are more people, then they will be involved in to the system of treating them.

Coming back to malaria in Andhra Pradesh, it has been very rampant. The hon. Member is from Andhra Pradesh. In fact, there are seven tribal districts. There have been a lot of issues in these districts. They are mostly tribal districts of Andhra Pradesh. I have asked my officers to go there and co-ordinate. In fact, the Government of Andhra Pradesh have been doing well in supplying and giving mosquito nets or spraying insecticides, and they are taking care of the treatment course. When they get malaria, they are trying to take care of this.

16.00 hrs.

Another issue he has raised is about heart diseases. I would concur with him. This morning we had a conference in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. There, the WHO representative had come from Geneva and he was also saying that India is going to face a huge problem in the next 40 to 50 years in cardio-vascular diseases, diabetes and strokes and we are trying to chalk out the entire future on these programmes.

Today, we are moving from a phase of communicable diseases to a phase of non-communicable diseases like in the case of tuberculosis, it is coming down and likewise in the case of leprosy. We have eliminated leprosy. We have not eradicated it but we have eliminated it and these sorts of things are coming down.

On the other side, India has become a diabetic capital of the world. Cardio-vascular disease problems are there. In the coming financial year, we are having a new programme called 'the Integrated Programme on Diabetes Cardio-vascular Diseases and Strokes.' There, we are trying to have a massive awareness programme, massive awareness campaign amongst the different strata of the society especially in the rural areas. There is going to be screening campaign as to how we could prevent the lifestyles. Today we are in the age of globalisation, junk food and sedentary life styles. There is no mobility. People sit in front of TV and see mega serials literally the whole

day. So, there are a lot of issues in that. We are trying to educate people in that.

Coming back to what the hon. Member, Shri K.S. Rao, has said about the health care insurance, 'yes', it is a good suggestion. Today, the State and the Central Governments are spending on health. This is just one-third of what the individuals spend. Putting the State and the Central Government together, the quantum of money which the State and the Central Government spends, what the individuals spend is to be seen collectively. All the individuals in India spend about two-thirds of what the Government spends. So, the only way is health insurance. That is the only way where we could avoid health-spending by individuals and we are trying to have a very comprehensive programme on health insurance. We have had programmes earlier. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara): Is Baba Ram Dev also helping you out in this cause? *...(Interruptions)*

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Can I finish? Why do you want to interrupt me? I am talking on health insurance. Can I finish on health insurance? This is a very important topic. Why do you want to go to Baba Ram Dev issue now? *...(Interruptions)*

Health insurance is the only way. In fact, we are trying to have a comprehensive health policy. We have had health insurance schemes earlier. But these were not successful. I also acknowledge that. Even the Government has the universal health insurance policy where we are trying to induct about one million people who are below the poverty line. But I do not see the programme going. There is the point of reimbursement. I do not see a poor man spending money during emergency and getting his reimbursement. So, all these issues we are trying to sort out and we are trying to have a comprehensive policy, having a private-public participation in both the insurance sectors and insurance providing and health care providing also. Of course, there are two sectors—organised and unorganised sectors in the health insurance which we are trying to do.

Of course, my good friend, Shri K.S. Rao, has said also of use of Ayurveda and Siddha. I have already mentioned that we are trying to integrate because this is our own system, founded by our forefathers. It is our duty to propagate this system and this system is not only propagated in India but also worldwide.

[Dr. Ambumani Ramadoss]

Sir, in the last year and a half, literally, about six to seven Ministers of different countries had met me personally, coming here in India. They said that they want to propagate it in their own country, right from Chilly to Hungary to South Africa. We have been getting a lot of queries and we are trying to do it within our own country first and then we are trying to do it worldwide. We are also having a lot of issues on this.

Another issue which was raised was about the Diploma of Medicine. They call them barefoot doctors. In the early 60s, there was a concept of barefoot doctors. They were doing short training in medicine and they were asked to go to the villages and take care. Then, they have become full-fledged so-called 'quake' doctors in the later half. So, we had a huge issue on that. We do not recognise this system at all. Of course, on the condition of MBBS doctors for rural posting, we are trying to bring in a comprehensive policy. We are going to make it mandatory for Internship for medical students who have finished their House Surgeon course, that they will mandatarily work for one year in the rural areas after finishing their Internship. That is what we are trying to bring in and after that compulsory one-year rural posting, he will be given his permanent registration so that he could go out and practise.

The hon. Member had asked about the incentives for nursing homes in rural areas. We are trying for it. In fact, the hon. Minister of Finance last year had announced that for anybody having a 100-bedded hospital in rural areas, there will be some tax exemption and there will be a lot of sops in the taxation network also.

16.05 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

Hon. Member Shri Bachi Singh Rawat raised an issue about the problems of posts. He said machines are there in the hospitals. Rightly, in some hospitals there are machines, there are beds; but there are no posts. We need to do more of this. In fact, I depend on the State Governments. We try to request them, we try to cajole them, I go there and I talk to them and that is the only thing I could do with the State Governments. Some are responding well and some are not. Again, I cannot penalise the States which do not respond because if I penalise them, by not giving any funds etc. it will be more worse. So, the only way for me is to ask them and

request them to put up more workers. In fact, for the Auxiliary Nurse Midwives, ANMs, in the sub-centres the Central Government is paying their salaries. We are trying to do a lot more on these issues.

Of course, there was this issue about mobile health centres. Through the Rural Health Mission we are trying to have one mobile medical unit in each district in the first phase which will go around the entire area. In fact, he has queried about encouraging herbal cultivation. It is a very valid point. We are trying to do it. We have a National Medicinal Plant Board established. India has got a very right tropical climatic conditions and good environment to cultivate these medicinal plants. My experts say that in the next 40 years these medicinal plants will be a trillion dollar industry and all our farmers could take it up. There is no need of much water or pesticide and, in fact, we are trying to propagate it. In fact, today evening at 5.30 p.m. we have a discussion with the Minister of State for Commerce at my office only on this issue of how we could still propagate it and have more zones etc.

Shri Ramji Lal Suman mentioned about doctor-patient ratio and asked are there enough doctors in this country. No, Sir. They are not enough. We have both the Indian system and the modern system doctors. In the Indian system doctors, we have approximately 7,00,000 doctors and in the modern system we have about 6,90,000 doctors. These doctors put together, the doctor-patient ratio comes to about 700 people per one doctor. But then if you take only the modern system, it comes to about 1,700. We need more doctors. Unfortunately, these medical colleges are concentrated only in most of the Southern States. I have been asking the State Governments to start more medical colleges. When I went to Bihar I asked the Chief Minister to start ten more colleges. We need more colleges in the Government sector and not exactly in the private sector. The Government should invest more money and produce more doctors; and not only doctors but nurses also. They have to start the nursing schools also and along with that, schools for paramedicals also. That is what we are trying to do.

Of course, population is one of the biggest problems for this. I could say that this is one of the very important problems for us. We have to stabilise the population. We are trying to do it without any coercion or forcing anybody to do anything; but we are trying to do it through the NRHM also.

On the point of spending by the State Government, earlier, as I said, ten years ago, the State Governments were literally spending about 7.5 to 8 per cent of their total budget on health. But now it has come down to just 5.5 per cent on an average and some States just spend three per cent of their total budget on health. We are trying to ask them to increase its spending. I have been talking to the Planning Commission also to ask and request the States to spend more.

Hon. Member Shri Mahtab was mentioning about the issues in Orissa. Orissa has pretty bad figures in the health sector. I could say Orissa could be compared with Bihar. The crude birth rate, crude death rate and the infant mortality is very high in that region. We need to do more. Through NRHM, I am sure, we are going to do it.

He was asking that like the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* can we have a *Sarva Swasthya Abhiyan*. It is a good suggestion. I have suggested this to the hon. Minister of Finance. I hope he takes the suggestion and gives us the two per cent health cess and we can call it whatever he wants later on.

He was querying about Medical Council of India and Orissa medical colleges. We have been having lot of issues. Only in Orissa State, earlier if I am not wrong, there were 600 medical seats. But today, I think, there are only 350 seats.

So, it has come down in Orissa because the infrastructure and the doctors are not there. When the Council go and inspect, they have to have certain parameters. So, they have reduced it for them. We are trying to help them out and we are trying our best to see that the Government sector gets more seats in that because Orissa is a State which requires badly a lot of doctors, a lot of infrastructure and a lot of inputs into the health system.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): All are Government colleges.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Yes, they are all Government colleges. That is why, I am trying to help the Government. Last year, they wanted to close one more college, but I said 'No. Nothing doing.' When I visited there, I talked to the Chief Minister and told him to employ more doctors and more paramedics, nurses etc. For these things, we are co-ordinating and trying to help them out.

Another issue of brain drain was put up. In fact, after taking over, I had put up a Committee under the Chairmanship of former Health Secretary, Mr. Ranjit Roy Chaudhary, and they have given the recommendations just ten days ago on how we could prevent brain drain because lot of doctors and specialists leave the country and go to greener pastures like UK and USA. We want to stop them going and we are trying to do it.

Shri Appadurai was raising issues in Tamil. Can I reply in my mother tongue because he said it in Tamil? I want to reply in Tamil. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: You can do so if we get interpretation.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I have not informed about interpretation. Okay, he is not there.

He was generally querying about sub-centres and primary health centres. His general query was about lack of attention in the rural areas. Of course, we are trying to do it under NRHM.

Shri Jai Prakash said that the norms about doctors should comprise of work in rural areas, which I have already answered. We are trying to bring in a legislation whereby they have to have one-year compulsory posting in rural areas. Of course, Government is not employing health workers. We have abundant amount of health workers in this country. We have about 1.2 million health workers in this country doing lot of health activities from immunisation to DOTS providers like TB medicines, and going house to house surveying people. There are lot of issues and we are trying to look into them. All these years, the training module was not good. So, now we are concentrating on what is the quantum of training, what is the quality of training, the module that we need to do. In America, you could see that a nurse is an 80 per cent doctor. After a patient comes and stabilises, then a nurse can take care of him, but here, they do not and they cannot. That is why, we need to increase our training modules and increase our curriculum.

Then, Shri Jai Prakash has said that the health workers are not living in villages. Absolutely, and that is why, in NRHM, we have said that ASHA has to live in village and she cannot live in any other village. The first criterion for her selection is that she has to live in that specific village and she cannot move out of the village.

[Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss]

Then, the issue of adulteration and spurious drugs was raised, which time and again I have addressed in this august House and told what steps the Government is taking. We are trying to bring in a very stringent legislation which is with the Standing Committee on Health.

Of course, Shri Hanumanthappa had said about infant mortality and MMR. Today India has about 60 per thousand live births of infant mortality and approximately 400 per thousand live births of maternal mortality, which is definitely on the higher side and we are definitely trying to take steps to reduce it. That is why, in NRHM, we have brought out saying that the main three rates—IMR, MMR and TFR—will be brought down after this NRHM is fully implemented and goes through the entire gamut of seven years.

He raised another issue of diploma in health and medicine. You cannot have a diploma in medicine. That is literally like a barefoot doctor after a three-year course. Some States like Assam and Chhattisgarh have a three-year medicine course, but the Central Government is not going to recognise these courses. We have a national pattern and these persons, who are doing these courses in Chhattisgarh and Assam, could work only in those States because the State Government recognises it. We do not have any problem on that. If some States want to have, they can go ahead and have it provided that they will not be recognised nationally. Any of these people cannot join post-graduate national-oriented courses also.

Shri Karunakara Reddy from Bellary said about no information available about NRHM. I would say that we have all the information on the website and I would even personally give more information to the hon. Member about the complete NRHM.

He was saying that an ASHA is not qualified. We should make an ASHA qualified. We have to make her trained and we are training ASHAs. So far as the criteria of selecting an ASHA is concerned, she should be at least Eighth standard or Tenth standard. That is the basic qualification. The success depends on the quantum of training, the module of training we do.

He referred to six new AIIMS-like institutions, which all the Members of the august House have been querying time and again. We are bringing it. In fact, it has been now put up back to the Cabinet. The Committee of Secretaries had gone through that. They have

recommended the inclusion of some more States. Some States were left out. We are adding some more States like Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat. These States have been added on. We are now trying to bring it. In the next few months, we will be announcing that. We will be starting these works in all these six new AIIMS and also upgrading other structures in other States.

Of course, Mr. Ram Kripal Yadav talked about anaemia in women and that they have been suffering in the rural areas. I accept, Sir, this has been the fall out of malnutrition. It is a basic factor that there has been a lot of malnutrition. Of course, women, particularly pregnant women in this country have been severely affected, and the statistics literally show that about 75 per cent to 90 per cent of the pregnant women have some sort of anaemia. Anaemia could be categorised like moderate, severe and mild anaemia. Women are suffering. We have a lot of programmes on those lines, like in all the ANMs, they go to the women and do anti-natal check ups. They do three anti-natal check ups where they are giving 100 iron tablets to each one of them. If they have severe anemia, they will give 200 tablets. They are also giving iron and folic acid tablets to prevent anaemia and they have to take one each. We guide them on these lines.

Of course, he was mentioning about some Government doctors doing private practice. Individual States take up individual policies on this. The Central Government policy is that no Central Government doctor should do private practice. However, Sir, some States do allow private practice for their doctors. On one side, we have issues of brain drain, doctors going out of the country. These doctors get a salary of about Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 40,000 per month. If they go to the private sector, they will earn about Rs. 5 lakh to Rs. 6 lakh a month easily. We have to give them some more recognise their services and also try to give more incentives to them. At the same time, those doctors who are erring on the wrong side, who are usurping the patients coming to the Government hospitals by asking them to come to the private clinics, should be severely punished. definitely, we will punish them, if we know who are these people.

Shrimati Paramjit Kaur Gulshan said that there was no quality in Government hospitals. Some of them have. In the Government sector, we have a whole lot of patients coming. Take for example, Safdarjung Hospital. We have literally 6,000 OPD patients coming to the Hospital every day, and it is a very big number. We are trying to have more cleanliness, and we are trying to have more

sanitation. However, when you take into account the load of patients coming to the hospital, the doctors are not able to take care of these 6,000 patients. Some Government hospitals might have witnessed a decline in quality. However, there is our commitment that where all there has been a problem, we are supporting them, we are complementing them, and we are trying to modernise the entire infrastructure. We have a very ambitious plan of modernising the complete Safdarjung Hospital as an entity. Safdarjung Hospital buildings, during the British period, were used as barracks. Still, some of those barracks are being used to run this Hospital. We are now having a Mega-Plan for Safdarjung Hospital. We are trying to raze all the old structures in a phased manner, build new hospitals and build new structures, modernise them and give them to the public.

She was also complaining that there were no medicines and no doctors in Punjab. Definitely, I will look into this issue. Maybe, if she brings any specific issue to my notice, I will be happy to help them out. In fact, he was saying that in Malwa region, the prevalence of cancer is on the increase. We will definitely look into that issue to find out as to why cancer is prevalent in Malwa region and we will also look into other issues.

Of course, Shri Sandeep Dikshit had put out very valuable points and he had also articulated all his concerns. In fact, Shri Sandeep has been very right in saying that we do not need an amendment, that it is the fundamental duty of the Government to provide them and that it is the fundamental duty of the public to demand proper quality healthcare. On one side, he says, the country has been making progress. Yes, Sir, absolutely, on one side, we are making progress. On the economic front, there is 7.5 per cent to 8 per cent growth. Ours is the second fastest growing economy in the world.

On the other hand, I accept what he says that our rank in the Human Development Indices of the United Nations Development Project is 127 out of 177 countries. We have to definitely think over this. We have to think of economy on the one side and the social parameters on the other side. My Prime Minister in the last two years has been working to close the gap between the growth of economy and the social sector. He is trying to address the problems of health, education, agriculture, employment, drinking water, etc. They are the main areas of his concentration.

The hon. Member said that there are differences among the States as far as health care facilities are

concerned. He is absolutely right when he says that different States have different levels of health care indices. Kerala's health care indices are compared to some of the developed countries in the world. At the same time we have certain States, which I do not want to mention in this august House, where we have some of the worst health indices in the world. So, we have huge disparities. Most of the southern States are doing well in health care. This is directly linked to literacy rate. Why Kerala does well is because of its literacy rate. Women's literacy rate is very high in Kerala. That is why there is more awareness created there. That is what the Government is trying to do. The Government is trying to go into preventive mode.

Life expectancy is increasing in the country and rightly so. Life expectancy is 63 years today and it is expected to go up to 75 years in the next 15 to 20 years because of availability of better health care, more infrastructure and more facilities out there. The hon. Member referred to the attention that is needed to be given to primary health care by bringing more personnel and more money into the system. We are doing that through NRHM. He talked about the money into the system. We are doing that through NRHM. He talked about the health insurance scheme and advised us not to emulate the American system of health insurance. We would definitely not do that because that is not the system we are looking at. We are looking at an Indianised system, a rural-oriented system, a cashless system of health insurance. We do not want the farmer to go from pillar to post in getting reimbursement of money. We want a cashless system wherein a farmer just goes and gives his health card or insurance card and then gets the medicines and treatment. That is the system that we want and that is what we are trying to do.

The hon. Member said that he could not cite any example of a world class public hospital in India like Apollo. I would like to deny that. We have wonderful public hospitals in the country like AIIMS, PGI Chandigarh, JIPMER, NIMHANS, etc. We have some of the world class public hospitals in the country. Some of the magazines have categorised the AIIMS as number one hospital in the country. This is a world class hospital. Most of the countries in the world want to have tie-ups with the AIIMS. I do acknowledge that it is not enough and we need more of them to come up in the country.

Shri Shallendra Kumar talked about doctors not being available in rural areas. I said what we are trying to do

[Dr. Ambumani Ramadoss]

for that, he referred to population explosion. I have already stated what we are trying to do in that regard. He said that a lot of nurses in Uttar Pradesh are from Kerala. I would like to congratulate the nurses from Kerala for going out not only to Uttar Pradesh but to different places in the entire world. They are doing a great service. They are very bold sisters. You have to have social orientation; you have to have service orientation. That is what they are doing. The nursing job is a thankless job because you do all the hard work and all the dirty work. That is why I would like to congratulate the nurses and sisters from Kerala who are going out to different parts of the country.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to ask Shri Shailendra Kumar to urge upon his leaders to start more medical and nursing colleges in Uttar Pradesh. We need a lot more doctors and nurses in National Rural Health Mission and I mentioned this to him. He had promised that he would look into this and start more colleges.

The hon. Member talked about vaccination for the Japanese Encephalitis. We would be vaccinating most of the children in Uttar Pradesh before this season. This year we will be preventing Japanese Encephalitis deaths. Shri Shailendra Kumar talked about providing clean water for drinking in rural areas. The objective of the NRHM is that we should have drinking water, sanitation, nutrition, etc., in the rural areas and we are trying to do it.

Shri A.K.S. Vijayan has mentioned about doctors not being available in the villages. Shri Vijayakrishnan has mentioned about facilities not available in the rural areas, which I have already addressed. There is a demand for one hospital in each village. Yes, everybody wants good, functioning and quality hospital in a village. But for the Government to implement it, it has to maintain and build a hospital and to have more personnel and infrastructure. That is why we are trying to improve the existing facility. According to the National Population Policy criteria, one Primary Health Centre should be provided to a certain thousand people.

Shri T.K. Hamza from Kerala expressed worry about PHCs in block levels. In fact, Kerala Government is already doing well in the health sector. Steps under the NRHM should be taken to fill up these infrastructure vacuum. Shri Panda from Orissa mentioned about no facilities in tribal and interior parts. I accept that there are no facilities in Orissa, especially in tribal and interior parts. That is why the National Rural Health Mission is

going to concentrate a lot in Orissa, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Of course, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan also need attention. But we are going to concentrate tremendously in Orissa, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh because when I travelled to these States, I could see that not much facilities are available in these States. In Orissa, we need more mobile facilities also. These States have a lot of problems. Hence, we would increase the number of medical mobile units in these States. We would like to provide a medical mobile unit in each district all over the country. But in these difficult States, we may even think of having two or even three medical mobile units so that they could go around different corners of the villages and States.

Of course, there is a need for maternal care. Yes, there is no maternal care. That is why, I would say that once ASHA is fully implemented, ASHA would be taking responsibility in the case of delivery and ante-natal care which would bring down maternal mortality. If there is no facility in a village, ASHA could take the lady to a private doctor and extend all help in delivery and would pay the private doctor whatever be the charges. We are trying to implement *Janani Suraksha Yojana* also. I have already talked about the issue of private practice of doctors which concerns both the doctors and the public.

About giving special attention to Orissa, I would like to tell that we would give very special attention to Orissa. We have to definitely improve the national figures and the national average, which are trying to do. Shri Manoranjan Bhakta has mentioned about health centres. We are trying to improve. He had also mentioned about medicines supplied through CGHS and the quality of such medicines is not good. That is different issue, which again we would try to improve. We already have a good formulary and medicines are being made available now.

There is a query about the National Illness Fund and the same has to be increased. We are trying to work out on this. There are some issues and complaints about the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and that not many people are accessing that. We are trying to take up the issue with the hon. Prime Minister's Office and we are trying to access this Fund. This needs equal participation from the State Governments also. As State Governments increase their share, we would also increase. Of course, he had advised to hold the meeting of the Health Ministers and to have a new Health Policy. I think, this suggestion is well taken. We would consider that also. About new Insurance Policy, they say that if we spend on health

care, spending on individual's health could be avoided. There was a mention about specialists in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. During my visit, I have not seen many specialists in hospitals. Specialists are not going to Andaman & Nicobar Islands. We need them in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. We are trying to work out the ways and means to get them. In this connection, I have been talking to the different Ministries to start a medical college in Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The DG of Armed Forces Medical College had met me and informed me that he would convey this to the different ministries. There is a G.B. Pant hospital in Andaman Islands with 300-beds. They could start a medical college there. If they start, there will be more Specialists. We are trying to solve the issue in Andaman & Nicobar Islands also.

Of course, Punnu Lal Mohale has mentioned about non-availability of doctors in villages and Shri C.K. Chandrappan has given interesting statistics—he has mentioned about 94 per cent doctors in the urban areas; 68.5 per cent hospital in urban areas; and 60.5 per cent are not getting any type of facilities; and the spending on health care is about 0.9 per cent. He has also mentioned about the CMP. We have already addressed these issues. To address these issues, under the National Rural Health Mission, we are starting schemes in the rural areas.

He has said that all panchayats in Kerala have PHCs. It depends on the size of the panchayat. We are going with a population ratio. Every 20,000 to 40,000 population will have a PHC.

Dr. Koya from Lakshadweep, himself is a doctor. He has drawn the attention to the Indian Systems of Medicine. We are trying to do it at the highest level. He had a query about the manpower for running the health services. In UK, about 35 to 40 per cent of the doctors in the National Health Services are from Asia and mostly from India. I have also brought this to the attention of the British High Commissioner asking him to leave the specialists, as we need them here. I think, that has proved a little positive. Now, we have less number of doctors going there. We cannot prevent them totally. He was talking about the five-star hospitals. India today is going to have the concept of health tourism where we have hundreds of thousands of patients coming to India for treatment. But my entire focus is going to be on rural areas. Health tourism is going on by itself. Private Sector is trying to involve in this. We will be very-very careful to

see that this health tourism does not rub on the rural people. People in the rural areas should not suffer. There should not be any price hike due to health tourism.

Prof. Ramadass talked about the preventive aspect. The main focus of the UPA Government in health sector is going to be on promoting preventive mode. We do not have money to cure more than a billion population. The only thing we can do is to focus on the preventive aspects, the basic public health issues like hygiene, sanitation, cleanliness, environmental protection and so on. He has said that the success of Kerala should be emulated elsewhere in this country. That is absolutely true. We are trying to do it. We do not see much in Kerala as far as infrastructure is concerned. Infrastructure is better in Tamil Nadu than in Kerala. But Kerala is much better in terms of health parameters, like, awareness, education, women's awareness and so on.

Health is not an individual subject. It has a social implication. Where the literacy is high, health is high and health care is high. That is what we are trying to do. My good friends and colleagues in this august House have raised very serious issues. I acknowledge this. I would like to say that I am on their side on this issue because I also feel that there is not much infrastructure, not much care available in the rural areas. Infrastructure needs to be improved tremendously for more than a billion population on a war-footing. We are trying to do it under the National Rural Health Mission. I ask you to give me a time for another one or two years, I will improve the health parameters, like the infrastructure, providing doctors with rural postings, increasing the number of nursing colleges and to start more medical colleges in the underprivileged States. Once we do that, I am sure, we would address the needs of the entire country and especially of the rural areas.

As I said earlier, we have got 600,000 villages in the country. We would need Rs. 25 lakh to Rs. 50 lakh for starting a primary health centre and we would need another Rs. 15 lakh for running it. Therefore, the money that we would need to start these centres is very high. With these words, I would like my friend Shri Sudhakar Reddy to withdraw his Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister, there are a number of primary health centres in every State. These Centres get closed by 1.00 p.m. Nobody is available after that. Is there any remedy?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: We are trying to have 24-hour functional PHCs under the NRHM.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to know why no medical aid is available in the afternoon.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Under the NRHM, we are envisaging to have 24-hour functional PHCs and CHCs. Once we have mobile medical unit, this will not be a problem. Today, every village has a telephone. Every village has a cell phone. My colleague Dr. Maran has now made 'one rupee one call'. We are going to provide one telephone to each unit. We are going to take up the task of modernising the block hospitals.

We are trying to concentrate on block hospitals where we are going to have specialists. Specialists would not be in PHCs. They can be three where there are facilities.

With these words, I would say that the Private Member's Bill moved by my good friend might be withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Sudhakar Reddy. You are fortunate in having a very exhaustive reply which is unusual. He has made a very exhaustive reply.

DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (Bhubaneswar): Sir, I want to put one question, through you.

Last time, the hon. Minister had committed before the House saying that he would accord sanction for one AIIMS sort of a hospital at Bhubaneswar because most of the people from Orissa were coming to Delhi for treatment, spending a lot of money. He had already accorded sanction and already the work of AIIMS had started at Bhubaneswar. But we need some more money to be allotted in this year's budget. I would like to remind him about the commitment he made last time.

The second question is relating to private health sector. We are grateful to him that he had already given concurrence to a hi-tec tirupati Panigrahi Medical College Hospital; the work had already started there. Another thing he had committed is for Achuta Samanta's Medical College Hospital of KITTs, which has been delayed. It has already complied with all the facilities and appended doctors and full-fledged equipment are there. So, I appeal that it must also be accorded permission immediately. This is my appeal.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Sir, I compliment the hon. Minister, Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss for giving a very elaborate reply to all the questions that have been raised during the debate.

I proposed an amendment to the Constitution of India, inserting a new article 45A so that there is a right for the rural India to have one Primary Health Centre in every village with all basic facilities.

During the debate, cutting across political barriers, all the Members have supported this. I am thankful to all the hon. Members who supported the amendment. Three hon. Members who felt that is no necessity of an amendment have supported the spirit of the amendment. All the other speakers have totally supported the amendment.

The hon. Minister has also agreed that the rural area is unfortunately denied the basic medical facilities. It is true that the National Rural Health Mission is advancing very well and I compliment the present Government for taking initiatives to start this, for the first time, taking into consideration, the inadequacies and the discrimination shown towards rural India.

But inspite of the elaborate reply, I feel that the National Rural Health Mission is not going to solve all the problems. Still, there are several problems which could not be totally explained. The hon. Minister said that there is no problem of money, and that in the next seven years, it is planned to spend about Rs. 40,000 crore. But during the last year, an amount of Rs. 2,000 crore only has been given additionally. In this way, I believe that even after a century, these facilities cannot be provided to them.

Sir, I may be allowed to make a few points which the hon. Minister has explained. In the recent period, it is true that with all the facilities, we were able to control some very important diseases like polio, leprosy and even TB, to some extent.

At the same time, some of the old problems like Malaria are coming up in a very big scale. A number of our friends from Orissa have explained the problems in tribal areas. In my parliamentary constituency Malaria is a very serious problem. In Chintapalli, in Visakhapatnam district about 1000 tribal people died in a single year because the Government did not provide even the basic medicines.

In these circumstances I felt that the rural areas should have the primary health centres. The Government is doing contrary to it. It is true that on the one side more Budgetary allocation is made and on the other side privatisation is being encouraged. Nowadays, new words, 'health industry' are being used. Health is being commercialised. It is very unfortunate. The hon. Minister has rightly said that there is a necessity to have infrastructure, money and manpower. As far as manpower is concerned, there is definitely a dearth of manpower because of lack of medical college. A large number of private medical colleges are being allowed and the Government is escaping from its responsibility. It is becoming so costly for an ordinary person to get admission to a medical college. Only rich and super rich can now become doctors. It is the most unfortunate thing. In these circumstances when about Rs. 25-40 lakh is being paid for getting admission in the medical colleges, you cannot expect doctors to work in Primary Health Centres. So, the Government should take into consideration all these things. It is the primary responsibility of the Government of India to provide medicines, basic health care to its citizens. That is why I feel that not as a reward or as a relief but as a right under the Constitution the rural areas should have Primary Health Centres. Of course, private doctors will always have some limitation.

I cannot insist on this but it would have been better if the hon. Minister would have said that he would initiate a proposal to bring an amendment to the Constitution. In that case I would have happily withdrawn my Bill. I would like to know from Dr. Ramadoss whether the Government is prepared or is he in a position to initiate such a proposal if not now, maybe after the next Budget. If the hon. Minister is prepared to initiate such a proposal then I would happily withdraw my proposal. My purpose of bringing this Bill was to bring it to the notice of the nation, through Parliament, bring it to the notice of the Government and that purpose is solved. At the same time, I would like an assurance from the Minister that the Government itself would introduce such an amendment.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: What the hon. Member has said, the entire House including me accepts the general feelings of the hon. Members. Nobody has said that the facility is not there but they said that it is lacking and it needs improvement. It is the fundamental right of the individual to demand good health care. It is the fundamental duty of the Government to do so and that

is what we are trying to do by bringing a lot of programmes under Rural Health Mission. I have given an extensive reply and I am sure in the days to come we are going to spend more money. This year we have spent about Rs. 7000 crore under the NRHM and next year it is going to be minimum Rs. 10,000 crore. We are going to increase it every year. We just cannot build infrastructure. Today, there are complaints. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a lot of unemployment among the doctor.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: It is a specialised subject. Unemployment is a general problem. Any doctor is either self-employed or Government-employed. It is the either way.

Either he can self-employ himself and practice or he can work in the Government sector. That is a different issue. But then we are trying to provide the infrastructure. We are trying to improve the manpower. My good friend has mentioned private medical colleges. We are not allowing private medical colleges. According to the requirement, the State Governments want them. They give the essential certificate. So, they are the ones who want more colleges and doctors. But again I am insisting that the State Governments should start more colleges rather than the private sector starting them. That is what I have been saying to the Chief Ministers in my meeting with them. We are saying that you should invest money into your own infrastructure, have more colleges and produce more doctors. That is why, I am for the Government sector. I want to have more Government colleges. That is my premier focus and that is what we are going to do. We are providing this infrastructure. The UPA Government has its own commitment. As per the CMP, it is for 0.9 per cent in the public sector. We are trying to provide a minimum of 0.2 per cent and in the four years 0.2 per cent is going to be a huge amount of money. We are trying to do it. My good friend will also accept the Governments serious commitment on the health sector.

With these words, I would kindly request him to withdraw the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you withdrawing?

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: I do not insist. There are very less friends from the Opposition side also.

I hope that the hon. Minister will take into consideration all the views that have been given including the proposal for compulsory service in the rural areas for the medical graduates.

With these words, I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Constitution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Sir, I withdraw the Bill.

16.48 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILL—
Under Consideration

Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2004
(Insertion of New Article 45A)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House shall take up Item No. 33. Shri Sudhakar Reddy to move the Bill.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I propose an amendment 45A for insertion after article 45 that the State shall endeavour to provide free nutritious food to all children being provided with free and compulsory education by the State.

It is for quite some time that the matter regarding compulsory primary education has been in discussion in our country, through this has not been implemented in spite of the constitutional obligation for a long time. In the recent period, this has been taken seriously. In this connection, National Programme for Nutritional Support

to Primary Education or the Mid-Day Meal Scheme was started by the Government. But in 1995, this responsibility was given to the States that Mid-Day Meal Programme should be implemented so that the poor children and the needy children could get some nutritious food in the primary schools. That would also increase the enrolment more than what it used to be earlier. Some States did introduce it. Unfortunately, after a few years, several States wound the up as it became costly. Education is a concurrent subject. Both the State and the Union Government have this responsibility.

But now the Government of India has taken the initiative for starting a Mid-day Meal Scheme throughout the country and the Centre also is financing the scheme on a big scale. This programme has been implemented now. But I think, though the Mid-day Meal Scheme is successful, yet it is not enough for a country like India where about 300 million to 400 million people are living under poverty line. There are different scales to measure poverty. I believe, even the official statistics would put this figure between 250 million and 280 million. We believe, it is somewhere around 400 million. School going children mostly in the rural areas belonging to tribal communities and *dalit* communities are not going to school because of utter poverty of their families.

Now, under the Mid-day Meal Scheme food containing minimum of 300 calories are supposed to be provided to children. But according to various surveys conducted by different States, I also have a Survey report conducted by a economic and political weekly in Madhya Pradesh, it has been found that the food given to children under this Scheme is of less calorific value and is inadequate. But at the same time it has also been found that 70 per cent of parents of these children and even a bigger percentage of teachers and students feels that this is a good scheme and that it should be continued.

Several problems have come to the fore. There are many schools with a single teacher and most of the time the teacher remains busy in preparing food in the kitchen and distributing them. There are several thousand school where there is no kitchen and there is no proper arrangement for cooks. These types of problems are being faced. But in spite of this there is a feeling that there has been a 30 per cent to 40 per cent increase in the enrolment of students in the schools, particularly from the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes community. This is a very good sign. But to have a healthy child it is necessary to supply food to children

that is high in calorie content and providing just one time meal also is not going to be enough. The food so given should also be nutritious. This aspect of providing clean drinking water, nutritious food with sufficient calorie content should be given due consideration.

In India with such development strides we should be in a position to spare a substantial sum of money for this purpose. The future of India lies in the rural areas. From amongst these children in the rural areas we have to produce the future citizens of this country. To have nutritious food should be the right of every children and therefore, I have proposed this piece of legislation that it should be inserted as an article in the Constitution as a right for school going children to have meals three times a day. There are sections of society in our country where the children are not getting three meals a day. It is found more amongst people belonging to the *dalit* families and tribal families. A child cannot survive with just one meal a day. I would like to urge the Government in general and the Department of Education in particular to make their own surveys in this regard.

The pass percentage also will definitely improve after the implementation of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme. If with one single meal it is possible to improve the situation, then with the provision of nutritious food thrice to the children, it is going to be of a much bigger help and it is going to be a big leap in overcoming illiteracy in this country. I am not proposing food to be given to all the poor people in the country. I am proposing food to be given only for the school going children at the elementary level where we are having the Mid-Day Meal Scheme now. This is the extension of what is provided by the Government of India now. There are other types of problems which we are facing today in the Mid-Day Meal Scheme. They also have to be set right because there are some places where it is not being properly used. Unfortunately, some caste problems also have come up. At some places, it is said that parents of some children did not allow their children to eat food alongwith the dalits and other caste people. There are villages in Andhra Pradesh where dalit women are not allowed to cook food for other children and the students are forced to avoid eating the food prepared by the dalit women. This is a natural problem in country like India. We will be facing such problems where we have caste discrimination. We have to set right these things. But, at the same time, we should see to it that the money that is being spent by the Government should reach the children. Though the present Mid-Day Meal Scheme provides enough food of

nutritious value, it should be added with certain other nutritious value food items like the soyabean meals and boiled eggs. This also will definitely help the children to improve their health. This is being proposed in some States. I do not know whether it is being introduced in all the States or not. But it is very much necessary for young children to have healthy and nutritious food. Some friends in Parliament were asking whether it is possible to give food thrice. These types of questions were raised when the Mid-Day Meal Scheme was proposed. I think it is possible to do it. We need money and more than that, we need the political will of the Government for this purpose. If we feel that there is a necessity, and if we feel that it will be useful to have food of nutritious value being given to elementary children, then our aim of fulfilling compulsory primary education to all the school going children will be totally successful. Otherwise, in spite of all types of lectures we are giving to rural people, poor people will not be in a position to send their children to schools. Unfortunately, from the age of five, a young boy is made to feed himself by doing some small type of work. This should not be allowed to happen. It is a very serious problem in a very large number of places in our country and this scheme should be definitely introduced at different levels. It should be started in tribal areas and backward areas followed by other places where there is a necessity. But I think we have a responsibility towards the children of our country and it will be fulfilled only by giving total education and eradicating illiteracy, and at the same time, by giving nutritious food, we will have an opportunity to make young children healthy who will become healthy citizens of our country tomorrow.

17.00 hrs.

I hope the Government will consider this proposal seriously and implement it. I would like to suggest that the problems that are being faced during the course of implementation of mid-day meal scheme should be taken into consideration. Cooks should be provided with salary. The Government, in a phased manner, should grant some money for the construction of kitchen and dining halls in all the schools. In their absence, in most of the places, children are made to eat in the streets or outside the schools. Drinking water facility should also be arranged to them. These are some of the most basic necessities which they should be provided with.

There is a necessity to give insurance to all the children. In recent times, in some States school children are being insured. I think it is a necessity. This should

[Shri Suravaram Sudhakhar Reddy]

be extended to all the States. The Government of India should share some part of the responsibility so that children could get proper medical aid. They should be provided with not only life insurance but also with health insurance. Then only there will be proper health care arrangement for the children, particularly those who belonging to the rural areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Sir, I will not make a speech, but would like to give two-three suggestions. I would like to express my gratitude to Sudhakharji for moving a very good Bill. He has made a mention of Madhya Pradesh. Besides Madhya Pradesh, there are many other states, where the system is not working as desired. Earlier also similar situation was prevailing there and no improvement has been recorded over there. The reason is that legislations are enacted, fund are released, materials are made available, but corruption continues to prevail over there. There is only one method to check the corruption that distribution work should be handed over to the Women's Self-Help groups, have been set up in villages, nobody can do the job of cooking food and looking after the kids better than the women. I would like to suggest that we should necessarily construct kitchen for preparing foods, but work of distribution should be given to Self-Help Groups. By this way, we would be able to check corruption. The funds released by the Government are used to some extent, but mostly they are misused.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): District Vigilance Committee monitors it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: The Government should make it mandatory for the State Governments. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Its meetings are held. Meetings are held where Members take interest, where Members do not show any interest meetings are not held. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Members will not be able to do anything in this regard. The Government should

make it mandatory for the State Governments so that this work should be assigned to Self-Help Groups and nobody else should be assigned this job.

SHRI SANDEEP DIKSHIT (East Delhi): I would like to thank Shri Sudhakhar Reddy, who has moved this Bill. I am fortunate that earlier also I got an opportunity to speak on the bill presented by him. Sudhakhar ji raise the issues of public interest through Private Member's Bills. I hope that he may get a chance to sit in the treasury benches and be able to formulate a programme or bill and should be able to present it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, he has tried to raise two issues thorough this amendment, one is free and compulsory education and other is, nutritious food.

He has clearly defined the expression 'nutritious food', according to him when he talks about nutritious food, he means meals three times a day. The Mid-Day Meal Scheme, which is running at present is a revolutionary step. Meals three times a day emerge in another form. I will take this issue later on, but firstly I would like to say something about Mid-Day Meal Scheme. At the end of the decade of 1960's, perhaps the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Shri M.C. Ramachandran had taken initiative in regard to Mid-Day meal.

I will narrate a small story. The private secretary of Shri Ramchandran, who was an IAS officer told me that when a discussion among Cabinet Ministers or some officers was going on and at that time the Chief Minister made a mention of Mid-day Meal. Some people project objected that it will require lots of funds. Shri Ramchandran interfered and said he had experienced hunger during his childhood days. He said he had 5-6 siblings. Once his mother distributed a banana among all the siblings. He said, he had experienced hunger during his lifetime. If the Government resolve to provide meals to hungry children, and gives sympathetic face to this programme it would be greatest realistic effort in our democracy and it was proved. The revolutionary outcome has emerged out of the programme running in Tamil Nadu for the last 30-40 years. There are a few people who while remaining in Tamil Nadu talk of development and leave aside Mid-Day Meal terming it as a social programme. It is not so. It has given boost to the education programmes over there. Children has now not only started going to the schools, but their drop-out rate has also come down. The children of all classes have started going to the school. The level of education

continues to improve due to it because when maximum number of children start going to the school, then education not only remains a social or economic issue, but also takes a political turn and the Government gets compelled to improve the quality of education. This was achieved in Tamil Nadu. It left its mark on the education of women. When they were girls they used to get food in one school or the other. It gave proper nourishment to their body. Till they were 18-20 years their body gradually became more developed owing to which the next generation not only was healthier but grew up into more healthy and developed women. Since they were more healthy, their offsprings were more healthy. That is why, the infant mortality rate, as pointed out by the Hon. Minister of Health, started falling down. When infant mortality rate plummeted, the people naturally became more inclined towards having lesser number of children. The fertility rate also came down in the State. The revolutionary outcome of this scheme in Tamil Nadu is that the fertility rate is less than 2.1, which means that Tamil Nadu has already achieved 'Population Stabilisation' which was due in 7-8 years. The population of the State may also register a fall in the next few years. That state obtained revolutionary results through revolutionary steps through a scheme. Impressed by the said scheme Shri Reddy has stated in his speech that this work was given on impetus. Probably, due to some reasons it got stalled, however, with the cooperation of the Government of India and observations made by the hon. Supreme Court of India, it is going on smoothly across the country. However, despite all these programmes poverty has assumed ominous proportions in the country.

Some time back Laxman ji referred to Madhya Pradesh. Sudhakar Reddy ji referred to it. I am referring to their states. I once visited a tribal dominated village near Kaimoor Plateau in Rewa district. I found several small girls playing in that village. It was around 9.30 a.m. Those girls were from tribal families and were in their traditional outfits. I went near them. Their age was such as may attract a person naturally towards them. They were six to seven years of age and were playing with each other. Well I was shocked to see them when I went near them. Even today there are such girls in certain villages of the country whose coarse hair is clumsily locked in dirt and dust and has lost its beauty. Their eyes were still exerting optical effluents. Their faces should show signs of starvation and penury, which perhaps was visible in the fifties or sixties. Their nails were outgrown and full of dirt, which clearly indicated that they were never cleared or trimmed. I asked them if they went to school, they

mockingly replied that there was no school in their area. Now going to school was out of question. Even today there are many such villages in the country where such girls are living. Today, the kind of Bill necessitated by Shri Sudhakar Reddy ji is very meaningful. Similarly I would like to refer to Geedam which lies in Bastar district. This district is in Chhattisgarh State. I visited that village approximately two years back for some work. The villages there are like hamlets as in Rajasthan. An area consists of ten-twenty houses. Today, the forests are not like the ones on which the tribals once used to be dependent. They used to earn their livelihood from there. Today, those people do not get one or two square meals per day. A person was accompanying me there. He cited me an example of a family he had resided with. The members of the family make liquor during the day, which is called 'Labani' in Bihar. Therefore, they go to market in order to sell it. That man told me that once he visited the family at night and he was served something to eat by their son. Thereafter, he himself went to sleep. When he woke up at midnight he saw that two elder members of the family returned from the market and telling their children something put them to sleep. That night nobody dined in their family. The only reason being that the liquor produced by them could not be sold in the market. Lakhs of families are living under such compulsions and in such circumstances. Such is their financial state that they are not able to feed their children.

The kind of amendments Shri Sudhakar Reddy ji wants to bring about in the Constitution will not only boost education in the country today but will attract more children to schools and would make them spend more time there. I agree that the kind of development which has taken place in our country has minimised the magnitude of starvation which used to be here 30-40 years back. Despite that the children do not get the kind of food they should in the modern progressive country like India. In this context this Bill may prove beneficial. My submission to Shri Sudhakar Reddy ji is that he is in favour of three meals. I do not want to associate it with viable or unviable terms like money resources because he has rightly said that if it is necessary then funds and resources should be provided. If we really feel that it should be done then it becomes our duty to support it irrespective of our position as a ruling member of the opposition.

I would like to draw your attention to some practical aspects. First, whether giving them three square meals a day would fulfil the needs of the family? I believe that

[Shri Sandeep Dikshit]

Instead of giving them mid day meal once a day if we give them two meals per day then it will prove more useful. Besides, the management would be easier. Secondly, if there is paucity of funds then it can be ignored initially and at least it should be made mandatory for girls.

It is a countrywide experience that barring a few tribal areas or families or certain States like Kerala where women or girls are generally given equal right to study, food, love or affection, the Indian households give more importance and provide more assistance in the form of food or education to boys rating the girls a bit low. We should make it mandatory for girls, who come to school that they should be given at least two square meals per day. Our hon. Ministers present in the House may be knowing better how to translate these words into action by making a provision in the Constitution. The Hon. Minister of H.R.D. is sitting here and she has herself been discussing this issue and is pretty sensitive and gets excited on this issue several times as to how to implement it. So she would be able to understand it better. But we can implement it in the form of a programme not through a programme since it is not very effective through a programme as through an amendment in the constitution. Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy has pointed out several lacunae in the mid-day meal programme that corruption is rampant and at several places food is not properly available and several lacunae are being found in the management thereof. This fact is evident in each and every area of India. It is also a fact that may be the children of higher castes do not sit with the children of lower castes or backward classes. I am aware of all these things and the government as well as the employees are also aware of this. All these institutions try to correct this practice in their own way by making some alterations in their programmes. But if we try to bring this matter into the ambit of constitution then its effect will be altogether different. By bringing it into constitution it will become a fundamental right and will expedite its implementation. Only then the officers, leaders and departments at the grass root level be they at Panchayat-level or B.D.O.s, will make them realize that neglecting the implementation of this scheme may have adverse impact on their A.C.R.s but it will definitely make them responsible for violation of the fundamental rights of the people of India, which will encourage them for its implementation and help in changing their out-look towards it.

17.18 hrs.

[SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG *in the Chair*]

In this regard my humble submission to the Government is that they should understand its importance to bring it into the ambit of constitution? Similarly, the government is providing mid-day meal throughout India; this proposal is to make it two or may be if you like three meals in a day.

As far as the matter of three meals is concerned I would like to request Sudhakar ji to have a look into this Amendment. For providing three meals to the people, the government have to come in close contact of their lives and culture. It is often said about that its venture into any sphere brings losses. But I am of the opinion that it is not a thoroughly correct observation. Our government is improving its image but it should not try to interfere into our private lives and homes. ...*(Interruptions)* When you are in power or may be tomorrow we will come to power the role of government remains same. Most of the Government are like that. Therefore, we seek democratic system of governance so that people like us who have been elected to the House, could raise the issues of public by laying on the table of the House or by other devices and thus propel the Government for working into right direction.

The inherent danger in the proposed three-meal scheme is that it may give the opportunity to the Government to interfere into encroach upon any family or private life. There is an apprehension that the children enjoying their evening time either through playing or spending leisurely hours with their grandparents, could be coerced into having meals by the teachers or the officials. As far as the scheme of mid day meal is concerned it is fine as it works both as an incentive to attract them to attend school as well as to provide them necessary nutrition which eventually help them in becoming good citizens. But one thing is missing here, whenever we talk about mid-day meal, we talk in terms of school going children but in the mean time we tend to forget the children in the age group of 0 to 6 years. We are aware that 80 to 85 percent mental growth of a child takes place upto the age of 6 years. Besides, maximum physical growth of the child also takes place during this period. In which his muscles, skeleton and circulatory system gets strengthened. Therefore, the growing child is prone to malnutrition in this age. Though, providing mid-day meal we are ensuring nutritional support

to children above the age of 5 to 6 years only but we are unable to offset any adverse effects of the malnutrition the child had been facing since birth. If I am not mistaken the data of low birth weight are horrifying in this country. I think 70 to 80 percent children suffer from low birth weight at the time of their birth and they are unable to overcome it upto the age of 5 to 7 years age.

The kind of food pregnant women take not only goes a long way determining the health and survival rate of the infant at the time of birth but also its bearing throughout his life. There are many such diseases or changes which take place in the body of child which can be traced by us, the nutrition being provided to pregnant women also needs monitoring. Through these programmes we are unable to ensure the health of unborn child and its mother. I know that folic acid is given, iron tablets are being provided at many places but the complete nutritious food needed by a pregnant women is something we are unable to provide through these schemes. I would like to request the government that if around 50-100 children are being provided nutritious under existing scheme within the periphery of a village or hamlet then they can include another 15-20 children in the age group of 0 to 6 years along with 15 to 20 pregnant women. Hon'ble Lakshman Singh ji has given a very good suggestion that it should be connected with self-help groups. If this suggestion has been implemented then it will provide nutritious food to pregnant women and children from 0 to 6 years of age. Right now this scheme works for bringing children to schools, by implementing this scheme schools will become the areas of social and cultural activities. You can make out that when you connect women and young children to school then it will become lively place, free from the fear of teacher and eventually will develop like an institution. I would like to see the sensitive face of mid-day meal scheme. This will give momentum to all the development schemes in India. Thus we can associate ourselves in the development of school going children or the children below the age group of school going children.

17.24 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

Before concluding I would like to request the government to ponder upon all the suggestions given. You are already considering to include it into the constitution whether the explanation was given about nutritious food or about giving three meals in a day it is the discretion of the government but you should consider

to include young children and pregnant women to this mid-day meal scheme. I think this will prove an important step on part of a democratic government in fulfilling the expectations of common man.

Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to welcome and strongly support the Constitution Amendment Bill, 2004 introduced by our colleague Shri S. Sudhakar Reddy and associate myself with what my colleagues have said in its support. Article 45 of the Constitution of India provides that the State shall strive for making provisions to ensure the well being and education of the children till they attain the age of 6 years. The proposed amendment seeks to insert clause 45 (a) in the said article which seeks to provide that state shall provide free nutritious food to the children who are being imparted free and compulsory education. The children attaining the age of 6 years are given admission in primary schools. NDA Government deserves credit for including the right to education as a fundamental rights. Even though the concept of universal and compulsory education had been talked about for quite a while, it was the NDA Government which gave it a practical shape during its regime. The provision for providing free and compulsory education for the children of the age group of 6 to 14 years alongwith providing free mid day meal to them was implemented during its regime. It's the duty of a welfare state to provide nutritious food for the poor children in schools and a sound mind can dwell in a sound body only and of the children get healthy food only then the children would enjoy their studies. Several parents can not send their wards to schools due to poverty as they fail to provide food to them on time and this become amply clear from the slogan of 'Roti, Kapda aur Makam Mang Raha Hai Hindustan' which has been in India for years demonstrating that we as a nation lack even in basic and bare necessities like bread for food, cloth to wear and house for shelter. A follow up of the constitutional provision making it obligatory for the state to ensure the well being of the children till 6 years of age and the one providing for education as the fundamental right, more and more children have started to come to schools. Right now, my colleague was saying that there should be a provision for the children below 6 years of age, perhaps is not aware that the provision for providing food for the children below 6 years and the pregnant women of poor section of society are entitled to get nutritious food through

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

various Aanganwadi centres under the integrated child development Programme. However so far we have not met our target of ensuring that all children join schools. The figure varies from state to state and it is 61, 56 or 75 and only Kerala and Pondicherry have attained the target of 100 percent. Rest of the states lag far behind in it. Not even the children between the age group of 6 to 11 have been mobilized to go to school.

Therefore, as a measure of incentive, the provision for mid day meal ought to be introduced for the children getting free and compulsory education is a matter of fundamental right even though they are getting books free of cost. In principle, it is a very commendable step and I support it. It talks about providing nutritious food three times. Right now, it is given only once. Hon. Supreme Court has also directed all the states to compulsorily provide for and rectify the existing lacunae in the mid day meal scheme. If the meal is nutritious as well as tasty, it would be a big achievement. Once the scheme of providing mid day meal is successfully implemented only then new scheme envisaging the food for children thrice in a day can fructify but there is a need to strengthen the ongoing scheme for achieving the said target. This scheme has recently been implemented in the villages. Initially distribution of Gurari was done in primary schools and it was the responsibility of the teacher to ensure the distribution of food which in turn left very little time for teachers to undertake the teaching. Even children did not get nutritious food. Not the Government have modified the scheme and the Union Government have accepted giving additional grants for it, which allowed spending for other provisions like preparation of food and purchasing utensils etc. Consequently, the cooks are being deployed in schools and now the children are getting nutritious food. Now it has added more variety to food and dishes like the 'Halwa' and 'lalsi' are prepared which are liked by children. There is no need to stick to one item under the scheme. The children could be given biscuit, fruit, dalia or milk products from time to time. This will ensure more nutritious food for children which is the primary focus of the mid day meal scheme besides fulfilling the calorie need of the children. There is an old adage that child is the father of man. Morning shows the day, child shows the man which means that a child shows man on what path to proceed like the morning decides about the fate of the day. One can learn a lot from a child. He also gives a fair idea as to what kind of a person and citizen he would make in future. The foundation of a good citizen are laid during childhood

itself. There are primary schools everywhere whether it be slums, shuggies or settlements of the poor. There are government as well as private schools in which poor children study but these schools lack proper infrastructure. Therefore, there is need to provide mid day meals without discriminating between government and private schools and to ensure that it is given to them on right time, in right quantity and level of nutrition and taste so that it may act as an incentive for the parents to send their wards to schools. The good food would work as an incentive to draw the children to school and concentrate on their studies. I am of the opinion that this is a very good scheme and we should support it.

Hon. Minister of Rural Development is sitting. I hope he would get my point. The ministers of Women and Child Development is also sitting here. I would like them to ensure that the food being sent to be distributed as mid days meal through various officials of the department of education to schools, is full in quantity and there is a need to streamline this distribution system to ensure that the bags are intact and the rodents don't contaminate the foodstuffs. There is a need to pay attention to these finer points. Similarly the transportation cost of the food is reimbursed as claims and there always remains a possibility of pilferage and the foodgrains like wheat etc. often get pilfered during such transportation. There should be a mechanism to ensure that the foodgrain reach to the destined place well intact and in full quantity. There is also a need to ensure that the substandard and rotten foodgrains from FCI godown is not sent under the scheme that may cause food poisoning to children. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: If the teachers are engaged in cooking of food, it would result in loss of studies. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I am not saying about giving food three times, I am talking about providing at once let the system of providing food once be implemented effectively. The Government have made arrangements in this regard. Now some NGO's have volunteered to provide cooked food. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURENDER PRAKASH GOYAL (Hapur): The teachers are not the kitchen masters, they have been appointed for teaching. There is a suggestion to make alternate arrangement for it. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Hon. Member is not aware that the Government of Rajasthan, after the directions from the Union Government in pursuance of

the decision of the hon. Supreme Court, have made provisions for the appointment of separate staff for cooking. Initially, it was the responsibility of the teachers which resulted in the loss of studies as well as distribution of uncooked or not properly cooked food. However, this system has been changed now and the allocations under the scheme have been increased providing for separate arrangements for cooking including the cost of cylinders and gas stoves etc. besides ensuring the nutritious element for food. Perhaps the hon. Member does not have full information in this regard. I know about it as I have been in villages. The children are given nutritious food in villages which is very popular among them.

Through you, I would like to say that the foodgrains that are provided to the district education department or the Zila Parishad or Panchayat Samiti from the EOI godowns get pilfered and reaches them in reduced quantity due to its pilferage during transportation. It would be better if the stream transportation is streamlined.

Sir, I would also like to suggest that the foodstuff being provided under the scheme should be varied and should not result in monotony in taste. The menu should keep on changing with inclusion of items like biscuits, 'dalia', 'lalsi' and 'halwa' etc. on rotation basis. As I have mentioned that some NGO's have come forward in this regard and it has been decided that they would supply prepared food to 4 thousand centres so that the food is supplied to the children in a more simple and effective manner. I am of the opinion that there is a need to promote such NGO's so that the children could get balanced and nutritious diet. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. This motion of hon. Sudhakarji is really commendable. Though the step of providing food three four times can also be implemented but in my opinion it would be more useful if the measure of providing a mid day meal is implemented more effectively.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2004, presented in the House by hon. Sudhakar Reddy ji. Right now, several Members of both the opposition as well as the ruling coalition expressed their views. I am of the view that the children are the future of our country. It is these children who would play role in the development of the country after they grow up and assume charge as officers on various capacities. We have been expressing our views and concern to about them even though some of our hon. colleagues have left the House after expressing their views.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have come to know that even the Government of U.K. is ready to provide its assistance to our country for the implementation of the scheme and it has expressed its intention to provide Rs. 1555 crore in four years for educating 30 lakh children. His Excellency hon. President have also stated that there is a need to fix a time limit for achieving the target of allowing literacy and education only then we would be able to achieve it. We have been discussing about the children in the age of 6 to 14 years being provided education under the *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan*. A provision of Rs. 9077 crore was made in the previous budget for it. Reddyji, through his Amendment has demanded to increase the allocation to upto at least 1000 crore under which 1.37 lakh new schools are prepared to be opened and 6.8 lakh teachers are proposed to be appointed. In my opinion it is an ambitious target and if it is really achieved we could be able to attain the target of attaining 100 percent literacy in true sense. As the hon. Member had mentioned that a large number of children drop out of schools and a majority of them do so between class I and class VIII. Such children comprise 53 percent of the total drop out cases. We need to ponder over this problem. The UPA Government has envisioned giving primary education and retaining all of the students by stopping the drop out rates of children from schools on priority basis. The Government will have to make arrangements to attain its objective in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the girl education is particularly a grey area in our country and the hon. House has also discussed the issue in the past also. We have to impart special focus on the girl's education. Besides, mention is also made about setting up of 'Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalyas'. This is a commendable step. I would urge upon the Government to open such schools at the block level and there should be a provision for the education upto intermediate level in such schools. Though we have been talking about assuring education upto eighth standard but in rural area the parents are hardly able to provide education for their children even upto this level. They send their wards to schools for the sake of formality only whether it is at primary level or high schools level. Children work in fields and houses in villages and their time is spent in taking care of their livestock like buffalo, cows and goats etc. We have to devise ways to engage the children in education. The children usually take to domestic chores and drop out from school either after primary level or middle level. The people in rural areas marry their daughters after they pass middle school and

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

majority of such marriages are child marriages. I am of the opinion that there is a need to control this thing and that is why I was saying that the Government need to open the schools envisioned under the Kasturba Gandhi Girl School at the block level and ensure that the education is provided upto intermediate level in them.

As far evaluating the achievement of National Literacy Mission is concerned, so far 118.20 million people have been provided literacy under it. This is the assessment made by hon. Minister. In my opinion we should not stick to formality of enabling a person to write his/her name alone and shirk from responsibility of making them literate in true sense of the word. We have to ensure that the people covered under the said scheme whether he is a slum dweller, is enabled to get working knowledge and could read newspapers and understand them. There is a target to achieve 75 percent literacy till 2007 which is a praiseworthy step. The situation is even more pathetic in the Hindi land states as the medium of education in such states is Hindi even though in metropolitans there are convent schools. Today, we are in a phase of cultural transition and the urban and metro culture is fast spreading its wings. The people are migrating to cities from rural areas and the main reason behind this is that the middle class families in rural areas have been shifting to urban areas in anticipation of providing good education to their children as the quality of primary education in rural areas, as has been mentioned about by several hon. Members, is very poor which on turn is leading to the migration of people from rural to urban areas. In some places where there are 250 children, there are only one or two teachers and in some other places where there is only one or two children, there are two sometimes even three teachers are available. These imbalances in educational system have to be rectified, then only we can prevent the exodus of students from the villages to the cities for the purpose of education. The disparity among educated youth is getting wider day-by-day, there is little harmony among them, and something is missing in their qualifications. The growing imbalance in the field of education is becoming an impediment in country's development about which also we have to make some serious contemplations.

Sir, the Prime Minister has mooted the idea of National Legal Literacy Mission. This is a move in the right direction that people living in the rural areas be provided with at least legal education so as to enable them to earn their livelihood in a better way or help

them to make progress in their lives. The issue of mid-day-meal was also taken up here. Reddy Sir was advocating for giving them food atleast three times that means they should be given breakfast in the morning, lunch at noon and again refreshments in the evening then only this system can be implemented but I am of the opinion that ensuring proper arrangements for giving them good food once a day will be more effective a measure. It is a fact that during our visits to the villages many a time we come across such incidents where parents say that their child has gone to attend the classes in school. But they are not confident of his presence in the school. Many schools do not have drinking water facility. Sometimes after taking permission from the teacher to go out of the class to drink water, many of the students straight away return to their homes. If he is fond of learning, then after drinking water he goes back to his class otherwise he returns to his home and no one raises an objection to it i.e. he is granted leave. Today it is very essential to provide at least drinking water facility in Primary or Junior Schools. Lakshman Singh ji, often we tour rural areas and see that even though there are hand-pumps, they are not in working conditions. No maintenance work is carried out there. The school buildings are not surrounded by boundary walls. Majority of the schools do not have any boundary wall. What happens is that children while attending the classes slip away to the corners of the school premises intentionally or unintentionally, from there they escape out of school premises. Boundary walls will compel them to stay inside which will also help the teacher to supervise the students in a better way. We have to think about implementing such a system.

Chairman, Sir, the mention about nutritious food was also made. In my constituency I have sent that the teachers of the schools in the rural areas were busy in preparing food for children while the children whiled away their time by aimlessly roaming about playing games. They were not learning anything. They were of the view that they are not getting the fruits of education, but at least they are not getting the fruits of education, but at least they will get the food which is being prepared by their teachers. For them, education has taken a backstep as it is sidelined by their interest for food. Their entire focus shifts to the food during the process of it getting prepared. So a suggestion has come before the Government that Kitchen should be set up separately in schools. there should be a separate room, a separate store room for keeping the provisions, fire-place also

should be set up separately and food also should be cooked separately. If *Ayah* (Female attendant), servant or the teacher is engaged in preparing food, then I think the purpose of the education will not be served by it. It is a fact that SC, Backward Class and tribal areas have to face the problem of getting food more often, hence there is a need to pay more attention towards such areas. This problem of not getting two square meals is not confined to the dalits or tribal area but there are a lot of people belonging to higher castes who have been facing the problem. There is a need to pay attention towards the education of such people also. The hon'ble Minister is present here. Under the department child development nutrition scheme is being run which is a welcome move. As Shri Lakshman Singh ji has said not only food, but 'Daliya', bread etc. also should be given. Then it will be better.

Chairman Sir, it has come to our notice that it takes a lot of time to prepare pulses, rice-pulse mixture or vegetables. It takes so much time that it becomes difficult to give undivided attention to studies. Therefore, I endorse my full support to the amendment moved by Shri Reddy ji and I urge the Government to do justice to all the rights provided by the Constitution under the fundamental rights regarding education and health.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

(English)

DR. P.P. KOYA (Lakshadweep): Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. I am very glad that hon. Member Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy, who is known for bringing up legislative suggestions which go into the aspects of socio-economic development, has brought this Bill here. Shri Reddy is so lucky that the hon. Minister was replying to his earlier Private Member's Bill regarding health and the next area of importance is education which is also a Bill from Shri Reddy. Now, hon. Member Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy has come out with a noble suggestion of a legislative proposal which suggests to incorporate the mid-day meal and going further three-meals a day. It is good in one way from the nutritional aspect and secondly to improve the education.

We are all proud that India is growing fast and it is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. We may be the second in population; we may have so many other indices by which Indians are proud and we think that we are going forward. But I would like to state here

on the floor of the House that India is progressing, but only 20 per cent of India is getting the benefit and the 80 per cent is remaining. They are the poor rural population, those below the poverty line. That is why one of my previous speakers said that we are still at 127th place out of 180 nations.

Where is our progress? If we say we are at second place in the rate of growth, but we are at 127th place in the other indices of progress. It is very bad and unfortunate.

So, this great country has to concentrate on and prioritise certain things. One such thing is education. India is definitely a billion-population country. The task is not very easy. This is a divergent country. The connectivity is the biggest problem. There are schools, there are teachers and there are students, but very often, they do not reach their schools. If the students reach, the teacher is not reaching; if the students and teacher are reaching, the one who prepares the mid-day meal is not reaching; and if all of them reach, they do not have the material because there is no mode of transportation. This aspect has to be taken care of even while wholeheartedly supporting Shri Sudhakar Reddy's Bill.

He should have come out with clear suggestions, what are the drawbacks, why we are not able to implement effectively even one day-meal. I support Shri Reddy for suggesting three meals. Somebody was asking how to give three meals. It is not at all difficult because the moment the child walks in, we give the breakfast, we give one meal during mid-day and while he is going home, we can give a parcel which he will take for evening diet. If we can once assure these three meals, I am sure that the whole school will be full. You need not have any other motivation. An experienced Prof. Rawat was telling that pre-natal and post-natal mothers, that is, pregnant women and post-delivery women, get some nutritional support in Anganwadis and in villages, these schemes are quite popular and people throng the Anganwadis to get that benefit. From that, we can one hundred per cent say that children in the age group of 0-5 years are taken care of by Special Nutrition Programme or Child Development Scheme. If you can take care of child in the age group of 6-10 years by way of mid-day meal and if it can be further extended to 12 or 14 years, then all these problems of child labour and child marriage and other defects in the society can be overcome. If we can keep children in the school up to 14 or 15 years, on the one side, we are improving their health and on the other,

[Dr. P.P. Koya]

so many social evils like child marriage and child labour can be curtailed. Moreover, they will be the useful citizens of this great country.

Shri Sandeep Dixit was quoting Tamil Nadu and Kerala. It was started not only in Tamil Nadu by Shri M.G. Ramachandran, even earlier Kerala used to have a healthy mid-day meal scheme and all the students have come up well. Now in the educational field, it has come out at first place. Somebody was going to the extent of suggesting to concentrate more on lesser privileged, lesser educated or lesser progressed States. While doing so, my request is not to forget about Kerala. They have done well because they have amalgamated the private sector and the public sector in a very good manner. There are several private schools which are running their shows very well. Even missionaries' schools are doing very well. Even those private schools, when the Government make provision for the mid-day meal, receive it and give very good nutritious diet. Even our Government schools may not be able to—I do not blame them altogether—prepare and serve them good food, but once the private schools are getting grant from the Government, they are doing very good work. That is our field experience. As many of my previous speakers said, when we go to the constituencies and travel into deep rural villages, we see the reality in the field.

What we plan in the AC rooms in Delhi may not be suitable and practicable in the deep rural reality, but definitely if the meal is supplied, if the nutritious diet is given, we will have the healthy citizens. The malnutrition, the marasmus, the kwashiorkor and every such thing will disappear, especially in the younger age group, once they are made available and given access to the nutritious food.

18.00 hrs.

Ours is such a vast country...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you concluding now, or would you like to continue next time? I will leave it to you.

DR. P.P. KOYA: I think, for the time being, I will stop. Next time, I may take it up or I may not take it up.

Having said so, I support Mr. Reddy for bringing such a wonderful piece of legislation, which has a social impact on the public at large. I am sure, the Government pay real attention to this suggestion and take serious note of it and do the needful in this regard.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a matter of urgent public importance, which I had raised during the Winter Session of Parliament. Since no action was taken by the Government, I am forced to raise it again.

Jupiter-6, an Indian Salvage Motor Tug, was missing together with its thirteen crew members of which ten crew members are Indian citizens. The incident occurred on 21st August, 2005 while this Tug was sailing Valvis Bay for India via Port Louis, Mauritius. Jupiter-6 was towing a decommissioned bulk carrier to an Indian scrap yard. But after leaving Wavlis Bay at the end of August, the Tug with its 13 crew members disappeared. The bulk carrier was found drifting in the Indian Ocean at the end of September. On 30th November, 2005, this issue was raised by me on the floor of this august House during 'Zero Hour'. However, it is seen that no serious attempt had been made by the Ministry concerned to find out the crew members, the Tug and the crew members are in the custody of the American Navy in Kenya. The family members of Jose Mathew is very anxious to know the truth. His mother aged 78 years and his wife and two children are in a pitiful condition after Jose went missing.

So, I urge upon the Government to intervene in this case and urgent action may be taken for a detailed inquiry in this regard to find out the vessel and the crew members immediately.

DR. P.P. KOYA (Lakshadweep): Sir, I associate myself with what he has stated.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the natural sources of water in Rajasthan have dried up. Depleted ground water level has rendered the tube-wells useless. There are no rivers in Rajasthan and the people of Ramgarh have to travel to the cities for fetching water. The people of Ramgarh are in a miserable condition. The lives of the people of Bilashpur have become arduous due to the water crunch. Water is supplied to them only once in a day and that too with very low pressure. People are trying to collect water by installing a tube in a deep pit dugged below the platform. Even after making such arrangements, the pressure of water supply is still very low. Drinking water is not available even for the animals. In summer, it is desirable

to take bath 2 or 3 times a day; but due to the paucity of water people have been unable to bath even once. In Jaipur city the water situation is getting worsened day-by-day, therefore, I request the Government that all the drinking water schemes which are pending now, should immediately be completed. I would like to convey my regards to Ms. Vasundhara Raje ji for the efforts being taken by the State Government of Rajasthan to overcome this water crisis.

Chairman Sir, finally, through you I request that an economic package be granted to State Government of Rajasthan by the Central Government for solving this drinking water crisis and supplying drinking water.

Chairman Sir, yesterday and the issue of drinking water would also be solved. This is a national level issue. Funds should be allocated for this purpose and all the pending schemes should be completed quickly. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House now stands adjourned till 11 a.m. on Monday, February 20, 2006.

18.05 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Monday, February 20, 2006/Phalgun 1, 1927 (*Saka*)*

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