

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eighth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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”

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, July 26, 2006/Śravaṇa 4, 1928 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, at the outset I have to make an announcement.

On my own and on behalf of the hon. Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Gennady Vassilievich Novitsky, Chairman of the Republic of Belarus National Assembly Council of the Republic of the 3rd convocation and the members of the Parliamentary Delegation from the Republic of Belarus who are on a visit to India as our honoured guest.

They arrived in India yesterday morning. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the National Assembly, the Government and the friendly people of the Republic of Belarus.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will not take much time. The hon'ble Prime Minister is present in the House. The incidents of suicide by farmers of Vidarbha are increasing day by day. *...(Interruptions)* The farmers are not getting any benefit of the package announced, recently, by the Prime Minister for Vidarbha. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you an opportunity to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Prime Minister should give reply to this

question first. *...(Interruptions)* The hon'ble Prime Minister is sitting here. *...(Interruptions)* There are incidents of suicides by farmers not only in Vidarbha but also in the entire country. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate. Can we not wait for one hour? Can you wait for one hour or not?

[Translation]

You have got an hour's time for this. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Sir, we also feel that the hon. Prime Minister should respond to this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot dictate to any hon. Minister. What he will do at what time, it is for him. This is very unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 62 farmers have committed suicide there. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We are showing to the country that we are the most disciplined people.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

11.02 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Arjun Sethi, Q. No. 41.

Setting up of AIIMS Like Institutions

*41. SHRI ARJUN SETHI:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) whether the work for setting up of six AIIMS like institutions for providing health benefit to the people has begun in different States of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the progress made so far;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the proposal to upgrade eleven existing State Government Medical College Institutions to the level of AIIMS like institutions in various other States has since been finalized; and

(e) if so, the estimated expenditure involved therein and the allocation, if any, made so far, State-wise?

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

Statement

Under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), it has been decided to set up one AIIMS-like institution each in the States of Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal. These States were chosen as they are under served in terms of medical infrastructure, have high incidence of mortality and morbidity, inadequate facilities for super-speciality services etc. The Capital cost for setting up of each AIIMS like Institution is estimated at approximately Rs. 332 Crores.

In addition, it has also been decided to upgrade the following thirteen (13) existing Government medical college institutions:-

1. Government Medical College, Jammu (J&K)
2. Government Medical College, Srinagar (J&K)
3. Kolkatta Medical College, Kolkatta (W.B.)
4. Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow (U.P.)
5. Institute of Medical Sciences, BHU, Varanasi (U.P.)
6. Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad (A.P.)
7. Sri Venkateshwara Institute of Medical Sciences, Tirupati (A.P.) (50% cost of upgradation will be borne by the TTD Trust)

8. Government Medical College, Salem (T.N.)

9. Patliputra Medical College & Hospital, Dhanbad (Jharkhand)

10. B.J. Medical College, Ahmedabad (Gujarat)

11. Bangalore Medical College, Bangalore (Karnataka)

12. Grants Medical College & Sir J.J. Group of Hospitals, Mumbai (Maharashtra)

13. Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)

Upgradation of 13 existing Government medical institutions envisages an outlay of Rs. 120 Crores per institution, of which Rs. 100 Crores would be borne by the Central Government and the remaining Rs. 20 Crores by the respective State Government/Institution.

For the setting up of six AIIMS like institutions, various start up activities such as construction of boundary wall, pre-construction survey at the sites, selection of Project Consultant for providing comprehensive consultancy services; selection of architectural concepts/designs for all the six AIIMS like institutions etc. have been taken up. For upgradation of existing institutions, proposals have been invited from State Governments. The assessment reports and gap analysis for each of the identified institutions is also being carried out.

A sum of Rs. 17.07 Crores (approx.) has been spent so far in respect of various start up activities relating to setting up of six AIIMS like institutions. For the current year (2006-07), there is a provision of Rs. 75 Crores (BE stage) for the preliminary activities under PMSSY Scheme.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the last Session of this Lok Sabha while replying to a Calling Attention moved by hon. Member Kharabela Swain, the hon. Minister assured the House that the work of setting up six AIIMS-like institutions would start in the current year. But I find here that last year they have provided a meagre amount of Rs. 17.07 crore, and in this year's Budget only Rs. 75 crore were provided. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is serious at all in setting up this kind of institutions. These institutions are very much required. The Government had admitted to the fact while answering a Question that States like Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttaranchal need health services in order to decrease infant mortality rate as also incidence of

diseases. They need health services to decrease infant mortality, etc. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: I would like to specifically know from the Government as to how much amounts they have budgeted this year and last year to set up these institutions in the near future.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Firstly, I would like to state that the Government is very serious about setting up of these institutions. These institutions are being set up in the most under-served areas in the health sector under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana. There is a process in setting up of these institutions. We have gone through the entire process. In fact, in principle, these projects had been approved in 2003. EFC had been cleared in 2004. After a lot of deliberations, CCEA had approved it. Before that, we had to go through a lot of process and this was approved only in March this year. CCEA has approved the upgradation of the institutions in June this year. I would like to assure the House that definitely after the Detailed Project Report (DPR), the process will start later this year—October or November. The work would definitely start in five or six months after the DPR. This is a ritual, which includes tendering, etc.

Once again I would like to assure that the whole process would be complete by 2009 and the entire structure, the building infrastructure would be ready. As it is, we have envisaged a period of about two to two and a half years to complete the entire process from the initiation of the project. We are definitely very committed on this issue because these are the most under-served States in the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. Not one word would be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Swain, you are knowingly violating the rules. You are knowingly disturbing this House.

Second supplementary, please.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Sir, in the Budget Estimate, they have provided a sum of only Rs. 75 crore for the

current year. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the works the Ministry want to undertake as these institutions are located in different States. Have they earmarked the amount for different States? If yes, what are the details?

At the same time, I would like to request the hon. Chair that assurance made on the floor of the House should be honoured. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: That is what he has replied.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: He has made the assurance but assurances should be fulfilled. ...(*Interruptions*) Unless assurances are fulfilled, how can. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the time to enforce that. You know that we have a Committee on Assurances. I shall be very alert on that, provided the procedure is followed.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I have already said that the process has been initiated and the CCEA has given its approval in March this year. In fact, DPR would be coming out later this year. We have already earmarked a certain sum for the construction of boundary wall.

As regards the lands in Bihar, we have acquired it only recently. As regards Jodhpur, we have to rectify the problem there. Only after that, we would be starting construction.

As regard Bhubaneswar also, there is a little deviation of land and we are trying to work out other details. By mid-next year, actual construction would start. That is the reason why, this year, we have earmarked Rs. 75 crore. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: Senior Members are interrupting in this fashion!

...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the decision of the Government to set up AIIMS-like institutions is a welcome step. But remote areas in some States, particularly in my parliamentary constituency Ichalkaranji lack medical facilities. A number of incidence of death and disease take place in such areas. Through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what steps the Government are taking to provide AIIMS-like medical facilities in the remote rural areas in the States, particularly in Maharashtra. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I come from to Kolhapur district which is a rural area. Hence, I am demanding an AIIMS-like institution there. The cities like Mumbai are already having latest medical facilities. But provision of such facilities in rural areas like Kolhapur will not only benefit the local people but people from Goa and Karnataka States will also be able to get medical facilities.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Firstly, 'Health' is a State subject. The Central Government is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments. Under this programme, we are mostly focussing on the under-served areas in the health sector like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand, North-Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, etc. That is why, we are trying to have this programme of six new AIIMS like Institutions and the upgradation of other Medical Colleges in the entire country; literally and approximately, we have given one for each State.

Under the Rural Area Programme, we have the National Rural Health Mission where this is one of the biggest programmes in the health sector and we are improving the facilities like infrastructure, manpower, planning, medicine supply, etc. in the National Rural Health Mission. Definitely, the entire country is being covered by the National Rural Health Mission.

[Translation]

SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask hon. Minister whether the Government want to accord AIIMS-like status to RIMS hospital in tribal-dominated State of Jharkhand. If so, does it consider to provide all the medical facilities in RIMS at par with AIIMS after upgrading it as an AIIMS-like hospital.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: In fact, RIMS was initially approved for expanding or upgrading the infrastructure in the existing Medical Colleges. But then the State Government had said that they wanted it in the Pataliputra Medical College, since RIMS was being improved into a bigger institution by the State Government itself. That is why, since they had proposed, we are now taking up the Pataliputra Medical College in Jharkhand.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have got the names of 28 hon. Members who wish to put Supplementaries. Please appreciate that I cannot satisfy everybody and you have to accept by decision.

Shri Ram Chandra Dome.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you.

The project of the Government is an ambitious one—to have six AIIMS like Institutions and upgradation of another 13 State Hospitals. It is a good gesture and there is no doubt. But so far as the status or the progress of the work is concerned, in the form of budgetary allocation, it is very unsatisfactory, I must say.

I would like to say that in the entire North-East, that is the Seven Sister-States and the State of West Bengal, which is adjacent to the North-East—in this entire region—there is no AIIMS like Institution that has been developed; there is no project in this region. There is only the upgradation of Kolkata Medical College that has been taken up.

My question, through you, Sir, to the hon. Minister is this. Will the Government consider setting up of one AIIMS like Institution in the Eastern part of the country, particularly in Kolkata, not only to serve the people of West Bengal, but also the entire North-Eastern Region?

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. Now, Mr. Minister.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Sir, and, ...

MR. SPEAKER: No. I am sorry; there is no question of 'and'. One Supplementary means only one Supplementary.

Mr. Minister.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, for the North-Eastern region, the Government is setting up a very big institute in Shillong, Meghalaya, called as NEIGRIMS. This is about Rs. 422 crore project, which is nearing completion. By the end of this year, we will probably be having its inauguration. In the first phase, it has got the nursing college. This will take care of literally the entire North-Eastern region.

Coming back to Kolkata, I have said that these new institutions are being set up in the most under-served areas in health sector. Kolkata is doing a little better and that is why, like in other States, we are upgrading one institute in Kolkata, in the State of West Bengal.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: You are depriving Kolkata. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It need not be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Dome, it is not being recorded. Mr. Minister, you invite him to Meghalaya for the inaugural function.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. I expect discipline from you.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, this project of setting six AIIMS like institutions was sanctioned by the NDA Government. I had raised this issue in a Call Attention Motion in the Winter Session of 2004. We are now coming close to the Winter Session of 2006. In his reply, the hon. Minister had stated that certain funds would be allocated before 31st March, 2005 and a lot of work will be done during 2005-06. Now, the reply given by the Minister in Para (iv) says:

"For the setting up of six AIIMS like Institutions, various start up activities such as construction of boundary wall, pre-construction survey at the sites, selection of project consultants, etc. have been taken up."

I want to remind the hon. Minister that I had then stated, and I repeat, that in the case of Uttaranchal,

Rishikesh, the construction work had already started. You have mentioned about some difficulties in getting land at other places but here the land had already been allotted and based on that certain provisions were made. You may be having difficulties, for various reasons, in getting sanctions or various CCEA approvals but the fact on the ground is for two years nothing more has happened in Rishikesh. About Rs. 1 crore was sanctioned for it, which has already been utilised and after that *status quo* is being maintained. Today, you have again said that you will do it. Please tell us, when will the institute at Rishikesh be functional and what amount of money will the Government be allocating this year?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: In the last year's Budget about Rs. 250 crore were allocated for this project, pending sanction of CCEA. We have to go through a lot of processes. We have to consult the State Governments on some issues. The State Government was supposed to give 100 acre of land, water, electricity and basic infrastructure. In the first phase, we are building the compound wall. The compound walls are being built to demarcate the land. We have to go through the process of CCEA before which I do not think we could have gone through this process. We have now got the CCEA approval. I take the sentiments of the entire House. We will definitely expedite this project. I have allocated one Additional Secretary in my Ministry only for this project. He is addressing this issue 24 hours a day. We will definitely expedite this project. It is definitely my concern also that this project should come up in the under-served area of the State.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply hon'ble Minister has stated that it has been decided to set up 6 AIIMS-like institutions in various parts of the country under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana. The Government has also admitted that infrastructure such as construction of boundary walls etc. are in progress. But in Bihar, particularly in Patna city constructing an AIIMS-like institution has been lingering on for long, whereas, land is available, but the boundary wall construction has not been completed so far. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to when this institute will be got ready for public.

*Not recorded.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Regarding Patna, we got the entire stretch of nearly 100 acres of land in two parts across the road only recently. We have started the construction of wall. I assure you, as soon as it will be over, the whole project of DPR will be started in a few months and then only the construction of the entire building will take place.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Sir, the Nizam Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad, was long back declared as a University. The Devasthanam is bearing 50 per cent expenses for the Sri Venkateswara Institute at Tirupathi. So, nothing has been done for Andhra Pradesh. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has announced that the age old King George Hospital is to be converted into an AIIMS-like institute. He has also earmarked 200 acres of land for this purpose. May I know whether there is any proposal with the Government of India to consider this matter?

MR. SPEAKER: This is a specific matter. This is regarding a different hospital.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I would say that we are doing upgradation of literally one institute in each State. But in fact for Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, we are giving two.

In regard to Andhra Pradesh, the Devasthanam has said that they would bear 50 per cent cost, that is why we are taking up two institutes there.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the hon. Minister that. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb. I have called a member of your party. You give up this habit of disturbing the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: These institutes have been provided to under-served areas. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will go to the next question. You know me.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Everyone sitting in the House knows that Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala are not under-served States. But Uttar Pradesh, with a population of 17 crore, has been given funds for upgradation only. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the House. This is absolutely improper to go on talking while sitting without my permission.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Whereas, the population of Andhra Pradesh is only 3 crore. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is an hon. Member. He is putting a question but you are disturbing him.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: It has been provided a full fledged AIIMS. I would like to request that in view of the requirements of the population, will the hon. Minister revise his decision as in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Western Uttar Pradesh i.e. from Lucknow to Delhi, there is no such institute and on the other side, from Chandigarh to Saharanpur there is no such institute. Saharanpur is the central place for Uttaranchal, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh. Keeping this in mind will the hon. Minister revise his decision and provide an institute to our area?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Is there any city which does not want an AIIMS?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I share the concern of the hon. Member. Initially, when the plan was envisaged, there was only one institute to be upgraded in Uttar Pradesh. But then I took it up personally because Uttar Pradesh is the largest State in the country with the

largest population. That is why, we had added one more institute for upgradation in the State of Uttar Pradesh at the cost of literally Rs. 120 crore.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Sir, the Calicut Medical College caters to six districts of North Kerala starting from Kasaragod to Palakkad. Out of these six districts, two districts of Wayanad and Palakkad have been declared backward districts by the Government of India. Calicut Medical College is spread over 250 acres of land with all clinical facilities. Now 30 per cent of the people of these six districts have to go to Trivandrum for better medical facilities. In this regard, would the Government consider upgrading Calicut Medical College to the status of AIIMS because it is a backward area and Malabar is always neglected?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I do not think the Government could consider upgrading all the medical colleges in the country to the AIIMS-like institute because we are concentrating mostly on the under-served States. Kerala is one of the best States in the health sector. They have one of the best parameters in the health sector. In fact, we are upgrading the Trivandrum Medical College in the headquarters of Kerala. I do not think at this point we could consider the hon. Member's request.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, the question I wanted to ask is a question, which you may not approve of. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If you cooperate, *krupa* can be from both the sides.

[*Translation*]

Cooperation should be from both the sides. One sided cooperation does not do.

[*English*]

You would go on interrupting me and the House and you want favour from me.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, since the Minister has started his tenure, this question has been asked over four times in Parliament apart from the Calling Attention Motions. Each time he has given.

MR. SPEAKER: What did you say?

*Not recorded.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Sir, I said that every time he has given ...*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not use that word.

SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: He has given an assurance that it will be seen through. None of these assurances has come to light. In the meantime, the other assurance given by him regarding starting ASHA have also not come through. The single AIIMS that is there is also being sought to be destabilized. Could I know whether we are going to get any positive action from this Minister? ...*

MR. SPEAKER: That portion will not be recorded. I have already omitted that. You do not have to stand up for him. Please take your seat. The hon. Minister does not need any help from you. That part of the question has been omitted.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I have already explained to the House about the progress of these institutions. This Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana was not envisaged in the Tenth Plan. We had to get finances in the Tenth Plan and we had to arrange for more money and that is why it took us a little time to approve this project. In fact, the approval to this project has been given in the month of March this year. I have explained the position to the entire House about how we are going about this project. I would only say that this is one of the topmost priorities of the Government in the health sector.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, there are so many supplementaries on this Question.

MR. SPEAKER: So many Members are interested in this Question and therefore, I am giving them opportunities. This Question relates to health matters.

SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Sir, this Question is about setting up of AIIMS like institutions in the country. A mention about modernization of hospitals in Guwahati and Shillong to the status of AIIMS has also been made here. My question is this. Has the Government any proposal to upgrade the Guwahati and Silchar medical colleges to the status of AIIMS? If so, what is the latest position? If not, what are the reasons for that?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, regarding the Guwahati medical college, the Government has a proposal

*Not recorded.

to upgrade the medical college. We are going to have the EFCs for the project soon. In fact, the Government proposes to invest a sum of around Rs. 80 to 100 crore for this Guwahati Medical College.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to this question. The hon. Minister has stated that an AIIMS is being set up in Bihar and for that land has been allotted recently. Hon. Minister might be remembering that 50 acres of land were allocated for that three years ago and the foundation stone was also laid by the present Vice-President of India. The hon. Minister has said that an AIIMS will cost Rs. 332 crore and a provision of Rs. 75 crore has been made for seven AIIMS in the current Budget. But, if the inflation continues to rise with the present pace, even though you make a provision of Rs. one thousand crore, they will not be set up in the next ten years. Therefore, chalk out a time bound programme so that their construction work could be completed within a definite time-schedule.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, regarding Bihar I would like to say that 100 acre of land for this purpose was given only recently. Earlier we did not get the entire 100 acres of land. It was the responsibility of the State Government to give that entire 100 acres of land. Now we have got this land and work has started. I have already explained about this project to the august House.

MR. SPEAKER: The same question is being put time and again. I am allowing the last supplementary on this Question.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: The Government has taken a decision to upgrade some of the medical colleges in the country to the status of AIIMS. It is a good decision. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has fixed any stipulated period for completion of all these projects.

MR. SPEAKER: It is again the same question.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: The Government proposes to initiate the DPR of these projects from either October or November. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let us not be unfair to the hon. Minister.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: This would take around eight to nine months and after that it will take minimum two to two and a half years to complete the entire project. I have already assured this House about that.

MR. SPEAKER: If the hon. Members agree that a supplementary should be allowed to be put by Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, he may do so.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You will remember this only for a minute and then you will forget it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask a very small question to the hon. Minister. In the first place I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the hon'ble Minister who have made allocations of special funds. Nonetheless, the former Government had sanctioned it but funds could not be made available. You've provided the amount. Besides, it is your commitment too you've talked of setting up as many as 6 AIIMS all over the country of which Patna also figures in the proposed list. However, the pace of work is very slow. Shri Raghunath Jha has rightly remarked that the proposed work is not going to see the light of the day even upto 10 to 20 years with the present pace of progress. By which time you will initiate work on that. You've assured the House to complete it by the year 2009. Of course, it is a welcome step. At the same time, you admit that mortality rate is very high in the State of Bihar. Proper medical facility is not there nor is there any upgraded hospital. You've talked of upgrading 13 hospitals across the country.

Sir, Bihar deserves special attention. People there are poverty-ridden and patients' belonging to Bihar come to Delhi in large numbers. Many of them have their last breath much before approaching the Hospital. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government propose to allocate special funds for the upgradation of PMCH or the other hospitals located in Bihar to facilitate the people with proper healthcare and thus put a check on the mortality rate. Secondly, I would like to know the time by which AIIMS is to be put in place there.

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, regarding funds for this project, the hon. Prime Minister has assured that funds would not be a constraint for this project. At this point of time, we are going through the process and in fact, that process will take a little time. And already envisaged, as per the DPR, the project is at the construction stage. That is the only problem we have. The Government of India has assured that funds will not be a problem for this project. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 42. Except what Shri P.C. Thomas says, nothing else will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed 12 supplementaries to this Question.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please show some responsibility after putting 12 supplementaries. Do not think you are becoming very popular among your people.

Civilian Nuclear Energy Deal with US

*42. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India crossed the first hurdle of nuclear treaty with America when approval was received from the House International Relations Committee (HIRC) of the United States;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the benefits likely to be accrued in this regard;

(c) whether a three day official level talk was held between India and the US regarding nuclear co-operation recently;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the stage at which the bilateral civilian nuclear energy deal with the US stands at present?

*Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (e) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) A Bill titled the 'United States and India Nuclear Cooperation Promotion Act of 2006' was introduced in the US House of Representatives and voted upon by the House International Relations Committee on 27 June 2006. The Bill will now have to be voted upon by the full House and reconciled with its Senate counterpart version before it becomes law. This is an ongoing process.

(b) The Bill provides the US President with waiver authority to exempt India from certain provisions of the 1954 Atomic Energy Act of the United States for full civilian nuclear energy cooperation to take place between India and the US. Such cooperation is intended to benefit India's energy security, help the acceleration of our growth rate and lead to the dismantling of technology denial regimes.

(c) and (d) Official level talks were held from 12-14 June 2006 to discuss a bilateral civilian nuclear energy cooperation agreement between India and the US and made substantial progress.

(e) India has finalized its Separation Plan. The US side has to adjust US laws and policies, and work with its friends and allies to adjust international regimes to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation and trade with India.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: The hon. Prime Minister has repeatedly assured in this House and made known to the country that the deal with the US and the forthcoming laws which may come consequent thereto will give full access to the civilian nuclear technology, will also lift all sanctions for not signing the NPT and will also not, in any way, limit India's strategic nuclear programme. Now, it so happens that the present laws which are going to be enunciated are going to be passed in the US Congress and the Senate today.

Sir, it appears that the situation is not as rosy as it has been depicted in the reply. It appears that it contains provisions which clearly deviate from the understanding, which would tend to permanently lock India's foreign policy to the United States' requirements and subject our scientific and R&D capabilities to intrusive inspection of the IAEA and by the American inspectors.

MR. SPEAKER: Put a specific question.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: I would like to know the comments of the Prime Minister on this.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: As we have said in the statement, there are two Bills. One is before the House of Representatives. The Committee of the House has voted the Bill on the 27th June. Now, it will require to be voted by the full House, and reconciled with the Bill which is before the Senate. So, these are two different Bills. One is before the House of Representatives and the other is before the Senate. After the reconciliation, the President, USA, will be empowered with the waiver authority, to exempt India from certain provisions of 1954 Atomic Energy Act. Now, it will be only after that, a Bilateral Agreement will be signed between the United States of America and India.

Through you, I would like to assure the House that change of the US laws, by an amendment of the US Atomic Energy Act, is an on-going process as of now. It is part of the reciprocity, the mutual obligation which was undertaken in the July 18 Joint Statement between India and the United States of America. It is fulfilment of their commitment to change their laws.

As far as we are concerned, we are clear that whatever agreement is signed will be within the templates of the July 18 Statement. India is not willing to accept any fresh obligations or any new commitments. The House should be assured that there is nothing, which has happened, which demands adverse aspersions. There is no deviation from the assurance which the hon. Prime Minister had given in last July and on 11th March. The position remains the same.

I may add here that India will get access to full civilian nuclear energy cooperation. The denial of that for three decades, which we term as "Nuclear Apartheid" had hurt India's interests, it has denied India's access to the latest research and technology. It affected not only the nuclear programme but also India's energy security and economic growth.

If we have to pursue our rightful ambition to be a knowledge-based super power, it is important that India has access to full civilian nuclear energy cooperation. This is a step in that direction.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: We have full confidence in hon. Minister, Shri Anand Sharma. I think the House would expect an answer from the hon. Prime Minister on this very serious issue.

The learned Minister was referring to certain provisions. But I would like to point out one particular provision, which is Section 6. It prohibits exports of equipment, materials or technology related to enrichment of uranium, re-processing of spent nuclear fuel or the production of heavy water. The Senate version enunciates the need to further restrict such equipment and technologies to India. It means that the current sanctions on a host of technologies, which are considered as dual-use, would be still under an embargo. I would like the hon. Prime Minister to reply on this.

Is the hon. Prime Minister or the Minister concerned aware of such a Section? There are host of other Sections, which I cannot refer to in one question. But I am referring to only one particular Section, where India will have a real stake when the US law is passed or probably going to be passed today.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, as I have said earlier, both the House of Representatives and the Senate are considering their respective legislation. I had also made it clear in my reply earlier that there would be a process of reconciliation which will empower the US President with the waiver authority. ...*(Interruptions)* I am coming to the question. There is no final legislation which is there. We have to await the final version which comes out of the two Houses. As far as we are concerned, I would like to repeat that we are committed to Civilian Nuclear cooperation with the United States of America, and with other international partners within the defined templates of the July 18 Statement and also the Separation Plan and the statement which was made in this House on 11th March. When I use these words that "no fresh commitments and no fresh obligations India is prepared to accept" there should not be any misgiving on this part. This House should be fully rest assured. ...*(Interruptions)* There is no compromise and there is no agreement which has been signed. ...*(Interruptions)* So, it is premature to say. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has answered his earlier question.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the terms

and conditions that are not acceptable to India. The original treaty was aimed at forging an alliance for civil nuclear energy co-operation; however, many more provisions were added to it. There is Presidential form of Government in the USA. It doesn't want to append signature on any treaty without the Senate's approval, while the case is the opposite in India. It despite being a democratic state wants to sign all the treaties without taking Parliament into confidence. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister and the Government whether the terms and provisions concerned shall be reported to the Parliament and the public will be taken into confidence and the entire House will be taken into confidence as the most terrific aspect of the issue is that the US Administration will place an overall report of Indian nuclear programmes every year as if India were a province of the US. I would like to submit that it is a play on sovereignty of the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question. It's not the time to make a speech.

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Hon'ble Prime Minister is very much present in the House. I would like to know from him whether he will take the House into confidence and inform the House of those conditions.

MR. SPEAKER: You're repeating the same thing.

[*English*]

Repetition does not help.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: This is a very serious issue.

MR. SPEAKER: The serious issues are to be debated over, not to create a boisterous atmosphere.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Mr. Speaker Sir, the issue raised by the Hon'ble Member is not fair and is devoid of the facts. The treaty slated to be signed in the field of nuclear energy between India and the US is unique in itself and has not been effected earlier. Besides, I've made it clear that the proposed agreement shall be made well within the ambit of joint statement made on the 18th of July. As the hon. Member said India is a big country,

India prides itself upon its independence as well as on its free policy. I would like to submit that the Indo-US parleys are centred around Civil Nuclear Energy Co-operation only. It's quite different from the assurance given in 1998 in which the then Prime Minister of India assured the UNO to make unilateral moratorium de jure and the then Minister of External Affairs had also given assurances on CTBT. We are talking of Civilian Nuclear Energy Co-operation only. Our strategic programme is quite different from that one. There is no intervention into the last one. India has thoroughly protected its rights.

[*English*]

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether, at the time of the Joint Statement of July 18, 2005, there was an understanding between the Government of India and the US Government that this statement is linked to the foreign policy perspectives of the US, especially its war on Iran. Otherwise, why did the Government of India take a "U" turn and voted against Iran in the International Atomic Energy Agency? So, I would like to know whether we are linking our foreign policy to the US interests.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, the Joint Statement of July 18, 2005 is confined only to the civilian nuclear energy cooperation. The conditions and the reciprocal obligations have been very clearly defined there. Certain steps were to be taken by India and certain steps were to be taken by the United States of America. In the case of USA, the steps which they had to take included seeking of the agreement from the US Congress to adjust US laws and policies to achieve full civilian nuclear energy cooperation and also to work with its friends and allies to adjust international regimes. As far as we are concerned, our only commitments were identifying and separating the civilian and military nuclear facilities and filing a declaration regarding the civilian nuclear facilities with the IAEA and also negotiating an India-specific safeguards agreement. There was no reference implied or otherwise, no understanding with regard to India's independent foreign policy which is being pursued in conformity with our stated policy and there is no deviation.

Sir, the hon. Member has asked about Iran. Though that is a separate issue altogether, for the benefit of the hon. Member Shri Suresh Kurup, I would still like to make a statement that India has its clear position with regard to nuclear non-proliferation. India has, throughout, recognised Iran's right to have access to civilian nuclear

energy. At the same time, Iran, as a signatory to the NPT, has certain obligations. It also signed the Additional Protocol and the Safeguards Agreement. In September, 2005, India had engaged very constructively with EU-3 and other countries and because of India's efforts there were major amendments made in the original Resolution which was tabled before the IAEA and India voted along. In February, India did not vote alone. When there were certain questions raised and concerns expressed about the fulfilment of the safeguards in the IAEA, it was done by all the countries. There were China, Russia, India and they all voted along. But the Prime Minister had made it clear in the House and in the other House that India is for this issue to be resolved within the IAEA, India is against coercion and the Prime Minister had also said that diplomacy should be given a chance. India's efforts have been in that direction. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a fact that as per the Constitution of America, no agreement or treaty can be implemented without approval of the Senate. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your question has been replied to and thereafter, the question of one more hon'ble Member has been replied to.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I am sorry. Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: However, it is also true that there have been occasions when the treaty entered into by the President of America was either disapproved or amended by the American Congress. The American Congress had also not approved the treaty

under which the League of Nations had been set up after the first world war. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether in case any amendment is made to the Indo-US Nuclear Agreement by the American Congress, which is very likely and if that goes against the interests of India, whether the draft of the same would be brought before the Indian Parliament for its approval before being implemented.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, prior to this, I had clarified one thing in my reply time and again and had also assured the august House about the obvious commitment of the Government. The Government will enter into the agreement as per the conditions mentioned in the joint statement made on 18th July. India is not ready to accept any new conditions or any such thing which is beyond the purview of the joint statement made on 18th July and thereafter in March. The hon'ble Member stated about the Parliament and before that an hon'ble Member had stated on behalf of the opposition that it was required to take the Parliament into confidence. I would like to say that the hon'ble Prime Minister and the UPA Government have respected the Parliament and have taken it into confidence. This matter was discussed in both the Houses in July and also in March. It was discussed in both the Houses on Saturday, 11th March. Before this, it is necessary for the House to know that this subject has been in discussion continuously for the last one year. I would like to tell the hon'ble Member from opposition in reply to his question that the Parliament was not taken into confidence during their tenure. Parliament was not taken into confidence with regard to the talks held between the then Minister of External Affairs and Shri Straw Talbot. Prior to this, in September, 1998, the then Prime Minister Shri Vajpayeeji had assured the United Nations Organisation to convert the unilateral moratorium of the country into de-jure. When the Minister of External Affairs had assured Straw-Talbot with regard to the proposal on CTBT, it was alleged that the House was not taken into confidence. The House has been taken into confidence every time and it will be done in future also. I would like to assure you all that there will be no compromise with the interests of the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please give notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate that senior Members are doing like this. It has come as a question. I have not said that I would not allow a discussion. If you want a discussion, the process has to start. A notice has to come first and then I will permit. How can I take a notice now?

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sheer mention will not serve any purpose. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Your valued opinion will be remembered.

THE PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to assure the House that we would never compromise in a manner which is inconsistent with the provisions of the Joint Statement of 18th July, 2005. I had come to this House on more than one occasion, shared it with the House and it has been our effort to ensure utmost transparency with a view to promote overall accountability. Our Government is ready for a debate, if you so direct. I am willing to make a *suo motu* statement and let there be a discussion on this.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, today we are discussing a very important issue. I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that mere mentioning the name of America reminds the Indians of such a friend who has deceived us at every juncture. That country has never lived up to our expectations. History bears testimony to this fact. We are going to sign an agreement with that country at a time when we have no option and, at the same time, the Nuclear Energy Programme is such a programme on which development of our country depends. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether we are also making efforts to hold such talks with some other country for development of India.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said earlier that India is looking forward to enter into agreement with America and other countries in the field of nuclear energy. In other countries, the agreement is to be signed with France and Russia and at international level, ...

[English]

as far as international full civilian nuclear energy cooperation is concerned, in the case of USA, the amendment of its legislation for an India-specific waiver is a pre-condition.

If that is required even for the nuclear supply group and for us to reach a India-Specific Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA. I would like to once again assure this House that this perception that it is being done under any compulsion is not correct or that India is being forced entering into arrangements which are not serving its national interest is again not correct. Continuation of the *status quo* will hurt India's interest if our nuclear scientists are denied access to the latest cutting edge technologies and also the fuel that will be available to India.

As far as our atomic energy establishment and our scientists are concerned, there will be full access. India has already been invited to participate in the ITER project, in the future generation project. It will help India since centrality is the energy security. Centrality is also the economic development and also the environment and it will be in the overall interest of this country, its nuclear scientists and its economy.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, this issue has two aspects, one political and one economic because in the second part of the reply, the hon. Prime Minister has said such cooperation is intended to benefit India's energy security.

I am not on the political part of the question, I am on the economic part of the question. The hon. Prime Minister is an economist by his own right. But the atomic energy is high cost, atomic energy to be used for power generation is heavily high cost in comparison to generation of power with coal, with lignite, with oil and everything. So, comparatively, this source of power generation is heavily high cost.

Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister when there is enough coal in India, when there is abundant hydel power generation potential in the country, when there are large deposits of lignite in the country, why are we going in for high cost atomic power generation. Having a Pact with America, what is the economic response?

MR. SPEAKER: You have put your question.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, while saying so, I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister what will be our unit cost of power production with coal, with lignite and with atomic energy.

MR. SPEAKER: There is not much time left for the answer.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Sir, as I had said, access to nuclear energy would be available through the full nuclear energy cooperation. Energy security is a requirement of the country and when we talk of energy and the generation. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: That is what my question is. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Just wait and let him answer.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I am answering it. When we talk of energy and the generation, we have to talk of the energy mix or the fuel mix. It is true that we have coal reserves. But that does not mean that we should not have access to environment friendly and clean energy.

In case of nuclear energy, it is available. All developed countries have accessed nuclear energy and if we have to attain our targeted generation in the nuclear energy, we should be pushing full stream ahead for that. Otherwise, there will be dependence fossil fuels and also pressure on the hydro-carbon reserves. That is why, all those who are in the know of energy and also long-term energy needs and energy security will talk of a harmonious mix and nuclear energy is an important and integral component of that fuel mix.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: It is not the answer. He is hiding more than what he has said. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you are not satisfied, there are various methods.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not do that.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I have not given my permission.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the former Chairman of Atomic Energy, Shri Ayyangar has stated that there are some secrets in this agreement which have not been made public. I would like to know whether it is true. If it is true, then what are the clauses? *...(Interruptions)*

12.00 hrs.

The former Chairman of Atomic Energy Shri P.K. Ayyangar had stated that there are some secrets in this agreement which have not been made public. Is it true? If it is true, then what are those clauses? If we on nuclear. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over. Now, item 2, Papers to be Laid on the Table.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: I have not got reply to my question. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It will be sent to you in writing.

[English]

Mr. Sharma, you can send the reply in writing to Mr. Mohan Rawale.

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Yes, Sir.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Illegal Mobile Connections

*43. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:

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

(a) whether mobile connections have been provided throughout the country without any verification;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to check illegal mobile connections;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the companies violating the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) to (e) As per license conditions, the mobile telephone service providers are required to ensure adequate verification of each and every customer before enrolling him as subscriber. Instructions in this regard have been issued from time to time to all the service providers. This includes obtaining proof of identity and address from the subscribers.

It was brought to the notice of the Department of Telecom (DoT) that the mobile service providers are generally not complying with the requirement of subscriber verification. DoT carried out special drive to check this in the cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Hyderabad and the State of Haryana. It was observed that all the service providers in these places are not fully complying with the instructions on subscriber verification.

Notices have been issued to concerned service providers in the above areas to disconnect such connections that have been provided without proper verification and also to explain why action should not be taken against them for not complying with the terms and conditions of the Licence Agreement.

Coal Reserves

*44. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the company-wise and mine-wise reserves of coal in the country at present;

(b) whether the Government has made any assessment in regard to the likely demand of coal in the country by the end of the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(c) If so, the steps taken by the Government to meet the said demand;

(d) whether the Government has allotted coal to some companies under linkage scheme; and

(e) If so, the details thereof during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHIBU SOREN):

(a) Coal inventory is assessed by Geological Survey of India annually for different coalfields and not mine wise. A total of 2,53,302 Million tonnes of coal resources have been estimated in India upto 1200 m depth, as per the latest estimate of Geological Survey of India (as on 1.1.06). The company command area wise distribution of these coal resources is given below:

Company	Resources (Million Tonnes)
Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	44527
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	19430
Central Coalfields Ltd.	37916
Western Coalfields Ltd.	12005
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	46444
Northern Coalfields Ltd.	12890
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	61999
North Eastern Coalfields	945
Singareni Collieries Company Ltd.	17146

(b) The Planning Commission assesses the demand of coal in the country. The Working Group on Coal and Lignite set up by the Planning Commission for X Plan had assessed the demand of coal by the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan, i.e. 2011-12 as 620 Million Tonnes. A Sub Group constituted under the Working Group of Planning Commission for XI Plan is in the process of assessing and finalising demand projection in consultation with various ministries and user agencies.

(c) Some of the steps taken to meet the demand of coal during Eleventh Plan are:—

(i) Coal India Limited has been asked to increase production from existing mines and expedite production from new projects.

- (ii) Coal India Limited has proposed to take up 97 Projects during X Plan and 115 Projects in XI Plan with total incremental capacity of 231.90 million tonnes per year (Mty) and 260.79 Mty respectively.
- (iii) 16 projects have been identified by CIL to contribute 71.3 million tonnes under Emergency Coal Production Plan by 2012-13.
- (iv) Procedure for project approvals has been streamlined.
- (v) 97 coal blocks have been allotted/decided for allocation to different consumers and more are under process.
- (vi) State and Central Government companies are being allotted coal mining blocks without restrictions of captive mining.
- (vii) Exploration for new coal blocks has been expedited.

(d) and (e) Under the long-term linkage scheme, Standing Linkage Committee (Long-Term), an Inter Ministerial Committee, has allotted coal to various sectors of consumers as per details given below:-

Years	No. of Consumers granted long term coal linkage	Quantity Million Tonnes
2003-04	55	29.18
2004-05	75	12.96
2005-06	55	13.57

[English]

Committee on Functioning of AIIMS

*45. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:

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

(a) whether AIIMS is losing its credibility due to alleged interference in its autonomy;

(b) if so, whether the Government has set up a three member committee to look into the functioning of AIIMS and prescribe a remedy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the committee has been asked to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), is an autonomous institution constituted by All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956. The Institute was established with the objective of developing standards of teaching in undergraduate/postgraduate medical education so as to demonstrate high standard of medical education through all other institutions in the country. In order to achieve this objective, the Institute is engaged in Medical Education, Research and patient care services.

The Institute enjoys complete academic autonomy and there has been no interference in the functioning of AIIMS. However, the Institute is required to exercise due diligence in administrative and financial management of the Institute as AIIMS is provided budgetary support of the order of Rs. 500 Crores (2006-07) from Consolidated Fund of India. For this purpose, Institute Body/Governing Body and President of Institute were required to exercise the power as entrusted to it through statute. Such actions will not amount to infringement of autonomy of the Institute.

To further look into the functioning of AIIMS the Government has recently constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Valiathan, former Director of Sri Chitra Tirunal Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, Thiruvananthapuram. The other members of the Committee are Secretary (Health & Family Welfare), Dr. M.K. Bhan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology and Dr. R.K. Srivastava, Director General of Health Services.

The terms of reference of the Committee are as follows:

1. To examine the extent to which the purpose and objectives for which AIIMS has been established, have been achieved.
2. To make recommendations for developing AIIMS from an institution of national importance into a Centre of Excellence and a leader in the area of public health for the entire country.
3. To make recommendations to empower and position AIIMS to make full use of emerging global opportunities.

4. To make recommendations for enhancing and strengthening the autonomy of AIIMS in order to enable it to fulfil its stated objectives.
5. To make recommendations on the efficient utilization of manpower resources with respect to attracting the best talent, retention of faculty, provision of better opportunities for utilizing the talent available and optimization of scientific/technical/non-technical manpower.
6. To examine the issues of critical infrastructural gaps and to suggest way and means of bridging such gaps.
7. To recommend measures to deepen and expand the existing research base in the Institute.
8. To suggest any structural changes and amendments to the Act, Rules and Regulations that may be necessary to achieve the above objectives.

The Committee would submit its report in a period of three months.

There has been no interference in the affairs of All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, and the study on the functioning of AIIMS is only aimed to enhance and strengthen the AIIMS and to ensure that it fulfils its stated objectives.

[Translation]

Registering of Corruption Cases by CBI

*46. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of corruption cases taken over and registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) during the last three years;
- (b) the number of cases under process, State-wise;
- (c) whether the progress of these cases is slow; and
- (d) if so, the reaction of the Government including the remedial steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) The number of corruption cases registered by CBI during the last three years is as under:

Year	No. of cases registered
2003	680
2004	794
2005	866
2006 (up to 30.06.2006)	341

(b) As on 30.6.2006, 1052 corruption cases are under investigation. Being a central investigating agency, CBI does not maintain State-wise data separately.

(c) and (d) Government has taken various steps to ensure that investigations are completed expeditiously.

[English]

III Effects of Carbonated Soft Drinks

*47. DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any study to assess the ill effects on account of consumption of carbonated soft drinks on the health of the people and on youngsters in particular;
- (b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to set up any expert group to examine the whole matter;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to make public aware of ill effects of such drinks and ensure proper health care of children?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (f) As per information available, Government has not conducted any specific study with regard to ill effects of consumption of soft drinks on the health of the people.

A Committee of National experts has been constituted in January, 2005, under the Chairmanship of Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), to provide guidance about the presence and health risks of pesticide residues in sugar, a component of soft drinks. Three meetings in the Committee have been held so far.

Efforts are being made by Government to make people aware of nutritious and healthy foods and to avoid junk foods because of their harmful effects.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also prepared IEC materials advising avoidance of junk foods. The National Institute of Nutrition has developed dietary guidelines for Indians where it has been suggested that free sugar should be used sparingly.

Change in Central Government Health Scheme

*48. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration to introduce any change in the Central Government Health Scheme;

(b) if so, the outlines of this proposal; and

(c) the details of benefits likely to be achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, various reforms have been taken up recently for making the functioning of CGHS more user friendly. A major initiative taken up is the plan for computerising CGHS dispensaries in Delhi in the current financial year and thereafter in the remaining CGHS cities.

A pilot project for computerisation of CGHS dispensary, Lakshmi Nagar, Delhi, has been successfully operationalised. A trial run of dispensaries of North Avenue, South Avenue and Medical Centre at Parliament

House has also started. Digitalisation of index cards of CGHS beneficiaries of East Zone, Central Zone and South Zone of Delhi has been completed. Proposal for computerisation of remaining dispensaries at an estimated cost of Rs. 8.70 crores is under process.

Computerised processing of all Hospital bills and bills of local chemists has been outsourced on a pilot basis in respect of two dispensaries under CGHS Delhi to Third Party Administrators (TPA) recognised by the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority. The pilot project has already started for two dispensaries under CGHS East Zone, Delhi. The TPA has to do the following:-

- (a) Computerising the receipt, processing and sanction of all claims received by CGHS, Delhi, so as to ensure settlement of claims/bills within five working days.
- (b) Placing the entire processing movement on a web site.
- (c) Attending to all queries about bills/claims.
- (d) Enabling claimants to track the progress of their claim on the web.
- (e) Advising the claimants about the disposal of their claim and, if sanctioned, to confirm receipt of payment by them.
- (f) From the claims to capture data about disease profiles, course of treatment, drugs prescribed etc.
- (g) Create an appropriate MIS for future planning.

Computerisation will help in reducing waiting time of patients at dispensaries, fast delivery of indented medicines to the beneficiaries, processing of all records relating to reimbursements, indents reports will be handled efficiently and data for MIS would be generated for future planning.

Local Advisory Committees have been constituted in the dispensaries to address grievances of beneficiaries, with CMO-in-charge as Chairman and Members from Pensioners Welfare Associations, Residents Welfare Associations and Area Welfare Officers. Local chemists are also required to attend these meetings.

Empanelment of private hospitals/diagnostic centres has now been converted into a continuous process. No tenders are henceforth to be floated for empanelment. Hospitals/Diagnostic centres that fulfil CGHS norms for such empanelment can now apply anytime provided they are willing to accept the rates approved by CGHS. This will eliminate the periodicity in the empanelment process. The eligible Private Hospitals and Diagnostic centres can submit their applications electronically also.

[*Translation*]

Combating Fluorosis

*49. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:
SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:

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

(a) whether incidence of fluorosis is increasing in various States in the country including Maharashtra and Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported so far, State-wise;

(c) the causes for the spread of this disease;

(d) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to check the disease?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) Based on the UNICEF Report of 1999 on fluorine content of drinking water in the country, fluorosis is a problem in 19 States, which are Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Orissa, Punjab, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala, Assam, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh. It is estimated that population actually affected by fluorosis is 25 million and 66 million people are at risk of fluorosis due to fluoride content in drinking water. The data regarding number of cases of fluorosis, State-wise is not centrally maintained.

As per water quality survey, State Governments, as on March, 2005, have reported 29,070 habitations affected by excess fluoride in drinking water in rural areas. Out of these, 2748 and 6992 habitations are from Maharashtra and Rajasthan, respectively.

Fluorosis is combated by provision of safe drinking water. Provision of safe drinking water is a State subject. However, Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments/Union Territories by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Prime Minister's Gramodya Yojana (PMGY)—Rural Drinking Water for tackling quality related problems and sustainability issues in respect of rural drinking water supply. Department of Drinking Water Supply is involved in collecting data on fluorosis endemicity in the States. Along with the Department of Drinking Water Supply, UNICEF has supplied ion-meters to different States for estimation of fluoride in drinking water. National Institute of Communicable Diseases is providing training to Public Health Engineers and Medical professionals from various States/Union Territories to generate awareness about fluorosis and check the spread of fluorosis in the country.

[*English*]

Export of Grains through Ports

*50. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) the total volume of grains exported through ports during the last three years;

(b) whether there is any delay at ports in export of grains; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to make ports efficient in handling grains?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The details of the foodgrains exported through major ports during last three years are as under:-

(in thousand tonnes)

Name of the Port	Year 2003-2004	Year 2004-2005	Year 2005-2006
Kolkata	73	61	4
Paradip	—	—	—
Visakhapatnam	1384	685	484
Ennore	—	—	—
Chennai	124	85	58
Tuticorin	340	221	77
Cochin	—	—	—
New Mangalore	15	10	—
Mormugao	—	—	—
Jawaharlal Nehru	46	149	48
Mumbai	209	309	124
Kandla	4908	2691	1477
Total	7099	4211	2272

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Action Plan for Asian and Olympic Games**

*51. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action plan has been made by the Sports Authority of India for coaching/training of the sportspersons for the coming Olympic and Asian Games;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Sports Authority of India has focused on certain specific games;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the facilities being provided for imparting training to the sportspersons for Olympic and Asian Games?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The preparation/training of sportspersons for major international events, including the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and Olympics, is an on-going process which takes into account inputs provided by National Sports Federations. A systematic approach is adopted to select and train athletes and teams for participation in major international events by drawing up Long Term Development Programmes (LTDP) and putting into action four year roll-on Plans with reference to various important events, under which, *inter alia*, talented sportspersons, selected on the basis of their performance, are put through scientifically designed continuous training programmes.

(c) and (d) The SAI's determined by its infrastructure and staff support, is on Long Term Development Programmes. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) facilitates training for medals prospects in these identified sports disciplines/games and also makes available its infrastructure for coaching camps and for competitions.

(e) Under the scheme of assistance to National Sports Federations, the Ministry provides financial assistance to recognized National Sports Federations for coaching of sportspersons/teams under Indian and foreign coaches; training-cum-participation of Indian teams abroad; holding of international tournaments in India; holding of national championship in India; and for providing requisite technical and scientific back up. Apart from this, the Ministry also provides financial assistance of upto Rs. 5.00 lakh each to national champions and medal winners of Olympic/Asian/Commonwealth/Afro-Asian Games and World Championships for the purchase of equipment, scientific support and training & participation in sports events in India and abroad, under the scheme for Talent Search and Training.

The Ministry also provides financial assistance to eminent sportspersons and medalists of Olympic, Asian and Commonwealth Games for training abroad from the National Sports Development Fund.

[English]

India's Candidature for UNSG Post

*52. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has nominated any candidate for the post of the United Nations Secretary General;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons behind the above nomination;

(d) whether the Government is making any efforts to mobilise support from other countries for the purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the stage at which our efforts to acquire permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) India announced the candidature of Shri Shashi Tharoor, Under

Secretary General for Communications and Public Information at the United Nations, for the post of United Nations Secretary General on June 15, 2006.

(b) and (c) India strongly supports the principle of regional rotation under which the next Secretary General of the United Nations should be from Asia. We also believe that a prospective UN Secretary General should have impeccable credentials, be acceptable to the broadest possible membership of the UN and have a strong commitment to the reform of the UN and the interests of the developing countries. It is in this framework that India decided to announce Shri Tharoor's candidature. Shri Tharoor, an Indian national and a well known author, has served the UN in diverse capacities since 1978. During his long innings at the UN, he had held a number of key positions in various areas.

(d) and (e) The Government is actively engaged with other member states to mobilise support for Shri Tharoor's candidature. Besides the ongoing demarches by our Heads of Mission abroad, the Prime Minister has written to several Heads of Government/State. The Government is arranging Shri Tharoor's travel to some countries. Special Envoys are also being sent to some other countries to seek support. Shri Tharoor's presence at the African Union Summit in Banjul (The Gambia) from June 29-July 1, 2006 was received very positively and he had an opportunity to interact with the top political leadership of a large number of African countries. The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations, New York, has organised informal meetings for Shri Tharoor with various regional groups at the UN to enable him to put forward his vision of the UN and to seek support for his candidature.

(f) The reform and expansion of the UN Security Council, in both permanent and non-permanent categories, is central to the process of UN reform. There is a widespread and growing feeling among the member states that the democracy deficit in the governance of the UN must be rectified by reform of the UN Security Council. The representation of developing countries from Africa, Asia and other regions, as permanent members of the UN Security Council is essential, and in this context India is pursuing its candidature for permanent membership in the UN Security Council. There has been a steady accretion of support for India's candidature since it was announced in 1994.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance for Polio Eradication

*53. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether Japan has agreed to give assistance to India to eradicate Polio from the country;

(b) if so, the details of the amount likely to be provided;

(c) the number of States which will be benefited by the said assistance;

(d) the time by which the said assistance will be received and the programme implemented;

(e) the details of funds allocated by the Government for eradication of Polio during 2006-07 along with the number of eradication campaigns likely to be launched during the year;

(f) whether the World Health Organisation has also provided assistance in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) The Government of Japan has been supporting the Polio Eradication Campaign in India since 1996. This year, the Government of Japan has agreed to provide a grant assistance of Rs. 19 Crore (456 million yen) for the Intensified Pulse Polio Immunization (IPPI) campaign to eradicate poliomyelitis from India. The grant will be utilized for procurement of vaccine through UNICEF to be used during the Pulse Polio rounds for the State of West Bengal and the North Eastern States. The cumulative grant amount provided by Government of Japan including current year is Rs. 300 Crore (7.4 billion yen). The grant is paid directly to the UNICEF accounts of UNICEF-Copenhagen, for procurement of Oral polio vaccine.

(e) Government of India has allocated Rs. 1049 crores (Plan) for eradication of Polio during 2006-07 to carryout four National Immunization days and four sub National immunization days in the country in 2006-07.

(f) and (g) WHO provides technical assistance to the Government to eradicate polio from the country through the National Polio Surveillance Project. However, no financial assistance is being given by the WHO towards polio eradication programme.

Non-availability of Doctors in Rural Health Centres

*54. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) whether the World Health Organisation in its report on the National Rural Health Mission has stated that not even a single doctor is available in many of the health Centres in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the availability of doctors and midwives in Rural Health Centres;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken to appoint doctors/midwives in such Centres on the basis of the 2001 census?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) A bulletin of the World Health Organization, South East Asia Regional Health Forum, in its Volume No. 10, released on 11.7.2006 has published an article 'Human Resources for Health in India's National Rural Health Mission—Dimensions and Challenges'. The Article mentions that nearly 700 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) are currently without doctors. The existing Community Health Centres (CHCs) also have high shortfall of Specialist manpower, such as Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (56%), Pediatricians (67%), Surgeons (56%) and Medical Specialists (59%) with no sanctioned provisions of Anesthetists. As far as Auxiliary Nurse Mid-wives (ANMs) in Sub-centres are concerned, there is a shortfall of 11,190 ANMs (covering 7% of Sub-centres).

Under National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), outpatient services are proposed to be strengthened through postings/appointments of one more Medical Officer in addition to the Medical Officer posted at PHC (one

male, one female) and an AYUSH doctor for 24x7 services at PHCs. 2 more Nurse-midwives will also be provided at PHCs. CHCs would be strengthened by provision of three additional Specialists in place of four at present by inclusion of an Anesthetist, Public Health Programme Manager and an Ophthalmologist (1 for five CHCs).

The NRHM envisages the provision of an additional ANM at each Sub-centre. Taking into account the vacancy of ANMs as per 1991 population norm and about 21983 new Sub-centres needed to be established as per 2001 population norm in addition to provision of 142655 additional ANMs under NRHM, about 2 lakhs ANMs would be required for strengthening the Sub-centres.

A number of States have taken various initiatives to ensure the presence of doctors in rural areas such as:

- Compulsory rural/difficult area posting for admission to post-graduate courses and as a pre-requisite for promotion, foreign assignment or training abroad;
- Compulsory rotation of doctors on completion of prescribed tenure as per classification of locations;
- Contractual appointment of doctors;
- Option to forgo non-practicing allowance and undertake practice without compromising on assigned duties, as per the service rules; offering incentive in form of allowance etc.
- Manning of PHCs by NGOs/non Government Stakeholders.
- Involvement of Medical colleges.

[English]

Funds to Local Bodies

*55. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Grants to local bodies reach the latter in time;

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

(c) if not, the steps the Government proposes to take to ensure that the grants reach the local bodies in full and in time?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Funds are allocated to Panchayati Raj Institutions under the Sampurna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and Central Finance Commission grants, SGRY is implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development. The main objectives of the Scheme is to provide additional wage employment in the rural areas as also food security, along with the creation of durable community, social and economic infrastructure in the rural areas. SGRY is implemented through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) at District, Block and Village levels, in the ratio of 20:30:50.

Detailed guidelines have also been laid down for the allocation of resources and proper monitoring and evaluation of their utilization under the SGRY scheme. Central assistance is released every year directly to the DRDAs/Zilla Parishads in two instalments subject to fulfilment of certain conditions which include certificates from DRDAs/ZPs of the funds received, release of states' contribution and submission of audit reports of the previous year. The DRDAs/ZPs are required to distribute resources to Village Panchayats within 15 days of the receipt of funds by them from the Central or State Governments as the case may be. The State Governments must release their matching share to the DRDAs/ZPs within 15 days of release of Central Assistance. Diversion of resources from one District to another is not permitted. The proposal for release of second instalment by DRDAs/ZPs complete in all respects should be submitted by 31st December every year. Both physical and financial audits of schemes by local fund auditors or by Chartered Accountants listed in the panels of State Governments or AGs or C&AG are compulsory.

The Central Finance Commission is required to give directions on the measures needed to augment the Consolidated Fund of the States to supplement the resources of the Panchayats on the basis of the recommendations of the State Finance Commissions. The Eleventh Finance Commission recommended grants of Rs. 8000 crore for Panchayati Raj Institutions for the period 2000-2005. The 12th Finance Commission recommended a grant of Rs. 20,000 crore for the Panchayats for the period 2005-10.

The 12th Finance Commission has stipulated detailed guidelines for the time bound allocation and release of grants to Panchayats within 15 days of their release to the States, failing which the States will have to pay interest at the RBI rate to the Panchayats. The grants will be released in two equal instalments in July and January every year on receipt of certificates from the State Government regarding the allocation and release of funds to PRIs in a prescribed format. Each State Finance Secretary is required to provide a certificate every year of the percentage of grants spent on schemes of water supply and sanitation by the Panchayati Raj Institutions. The Government of India would withhold any amount short spent on the schemes of water supply and sanitation before the release of second instalment and the withheld amount would be subsequently reimbursed upon confirmation that the short spending has been made good in the subsequent period.

Each State is required to constitute a High Level Committee to ensure the proper utilization of funds as per the guidelines of the 12th Finance Commission. A

Committee for the Panchayati Raj Institutions has also been constituted by the Government of India in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, with Secretary (Panchayati Raj) as its Chairperson, to monitor the release of grants. The Panchayat accounts would also be audited by the C&AG.

A statement indicating release of instalments to States is enclosed. Instances have, come to the notice of the Government of India of Twelfth Finance Commission grants not reaching the local bodies in full and in time. In some cases, the instalments have not been secured by the State Governments as the requisite details about the allocation of grants to PRIs have not been provided to the Ministry of Finance. In all such cases, the matter is being taken up with the State Governments. All the State Governments are also being impressed upon to operationalise a fund transfer software developed by the NIC unit of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj by the use of which funds can be transferred to Gram Panchayats electronically through the banking and treasury channels without delay or diversion.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State	Total allocation	Amount of instalments (6 monthly)	2005-2006 Amount released		2006-07 Amount released
				1st instalment	2nd instalment	1st instalment
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	158700	15870	15870	15870	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6800	680	680	0	0
3.	Assam	52600	5260	5260	0	0
4.	Bihar	16240	16240	16240	16240	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	61500	6150	6150	6150	0
6.	Goa	1800	180	180	0	0
7.	Gujarat	93100	9310	9310	9310	0
8.	Haryana	38800	3880	3880	3880	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	14700	1470	1470	1470	1470
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	28100	2810	1762**	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
11.	Jharkhand	48200	4820	0	0	0
12.	Karnataka	88800	8880	8880	8880	0
13.	Kerala	98500	9850	9850	9850	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	166300	16630	16630	16630	0
15.	Maharashtra	198300	19830	19830	19830	0
16.	Manipur	4600	450	212*	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	5000	500	500	0	0
18.	Mizoram	2000	200	200	200	0
19.	Nagaland	4000	400	400	400	0
20.	Orissa	80300	8030	8030	8030	0
21.	Punjab	32400	3240	3240	0	0
22.	Rajasthan	123000	12300	12300	12300	0
23.	Sikkim	1300	130	130	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	87000	8700	8700	8700	0
25.	Tripura	5700	570	570	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	292800	29280	29280	29280	0
27.	Uttaranchal	16200	1620	1620	0	0
28.	West Bengal	127100	12710	12710	12710	0
Total		2000000	200000	193884	179730	1470
Grand Total		375084				

*Excluding share of PRI Grants pertaining to Hill areas amounting to Rs. 248.40 lacs.

**After deducting Rs. 1048.03 lakhs being share of PRIs where elections have not been held.

[Translation]

FAB Policy

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

(a) whether the Government is preparing an outline for FAB (Fabrication) policy for large scale investment in electronic manufacturing semi-conductor and LCD sector;

(b) if so, whether any official team visited Singapore and South Korea recently;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether certain companies of Korea expressed their interest to set up their own semi-conductor manufacturing units in India; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time by which the Government is likely to announce its FAB (Fabrication) Policy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI DAYANIDHI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) A delegation visited South Korea and Singapore during June 2006 to attract investment in the high tech areas. Some companies have expressed interest to set up manufacturing units in India.

The Government is committed to announce such a policy. However, it is pre-mature to indicate the precise time by which the FAB (fabrication) policy will be announced.

Ban on Smoking Scenes in Movies and Serials

*57. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organisation (WHO) has released any statement in June 2006 in Delhi on the occasion of World No Tobacco Day;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the above Organisation said in its statement that cigarette manufacturing companies are misleading the smokers throughout the world that their various brands of cigarette are not harmful;

(d) whether it is proposed to restrict or ban smoking scenes in movies and TV serials; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) On the occasion of the 'World No Tobacco Day' on 31st May, 2006, the WHO released the document titled 'Tobacco: Deadly in any form of disguise'. This document highlights the fact that all tobacco products are harmful and addictive and all can cause diseases and death. The report has revealed that tobacco product manufacturers are using all forms of deceptions and disguise to market their products, ranging from "mild and light" to improved health to whiter teeth, new high technology products etc. giving an illusion of relative safety in consuming such products.

This concern of WHO has already been addressed under 'The Cigarettes & other Tobacco products

(Prohibition of advertisement & Regulation of Trade & Commerce, production, Supply & Distribution) Act 2003, that provides for specified warning on all tobacco products packs. The Act also provides that no tobacco products package or label shall contain any information that is false, misleading or deceptive that is likely or intended to create an erroneous impression about the characteristics, health effects or health or other hazards of the tobacco products or its emission. The Government has recently notified Rules in this regard.

Rules have also been framed and notified under the aforesaid Act, to restrict the depiction of smoking scenes in movies and T.V. Serials, subject to certain exemptions. The date of implementation of the rules is subject to the outcome of the Delhi High Court decision in the matter of Mahesh Bhatt vs. Union of India.

[English]

Approach Paper on Eleventh Plan

*58. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has submitted the approach paper of the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) A draft approach to the 11th Five Year Plan has been prepared for consultations with the different stake holders, viz. the State Governments, various ministries/departments of Government of India, academicians/experts. It has also been placed in the web-site of the Planning Commission to invite comments from public at large. Following the consultations the revised Approach Paper will be put up for appropriate approvals.

Visit of Nepalese Prime Minister

*59. SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: YOGI ADITYA NATH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister of Nepal visited India recently and held talks with our Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held during the said visit;

(c) the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by both countries to resolve the various issues viz., Maoist insurgency, supply of arms etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) The Prime Minister of Nepal His Excellency Mr. G.P. Koirala paid an official visit to India from 6-9 June 2006 and held talks with our Prime Minister. The two Prime Ministers shared their views and assessments of the situation in both the countries. They agreed that the restoration of democracy in Nepal provided a historic opportunity for a qualitative enhancement of bilateral relations between the two countries. They also agreed that the success of democracy lay in creating an atmosphere free from violence and coercion, and respect for the rule of law.

Prime Minister offered India's full support to the Government of Seven Party Alliance under the leadership of His Excellency Mr. G.P. Koirala, Prime Minister of Nepal and to the people of Nepal in their quest to build a stable, peaceful, democratic and prosperous Nepal.

Prime Minister conveyed India's readiness to render all possible assistance to Nepal for accelerating economic rehabilitation and development. A copy of the Joint Press Statement issued upon the conclusion of the visit, which contains the out come of the visit, is enclosed as statement.

The Government of India and Government of Nepal are engaged in a dialogue at various levels to address the entire gamut of bilateral issues between them.

Statement

*Joint Press Statement, Official Visit of Rt. Hon'ble
Girija Prasad Koirala, Prime Minister of Nepal,
to India from 6-9 June 2006*

The Rt. Hon'ble Girija Prasad Koirala, Prime Minister of Nepal, paid an official visit to India from 6-9 June 2006 at the invitation of His Excellency Dr. Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India. The Prime Minister of

Nepal was accompanied by Hon'ble Mr. Gopal Man Shrestha, Minister for Physical Planning & Works, Hon'ble Mr. Mahantha Thakur, Minister for Agriculture and Cooperatives, Hon'ble Dr. Ram Saran Mahat, Minister for Finance, Hon'ble Mr. Rajendra Prasad Pande, Minister for Local Development, Hon'ble Ms. Urmila Aryal, Minister of State for Women, Children and Social Welfare and Adviser to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Dr. Suresh Chandra Chalise. The delegation also included senior officials of the Government of Nepal, a business delegation and a delegation of media representatives.

2. During his visit, the Prime Minister of Nepal visited Rajghat and paid homage to the memory of Mahatma Gandhi. The Prime Minister called on His Excellency the President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and on His Excellency the Vice President of India, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat, who hosted a dinner in his honour. The Prime Minister of Nepal had a meeting with the Prime Minister of India, which was followed by delegation-level talks, led by the two Prime Ministers, on issues of mutual interest and concern. The Prime Minister of India hosted a dinner in honour of the Prime Minister of Nepal. Minister of Defence Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of Home Shri Shivraj Patil, and the leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Shri L.K. Advani called on the Prime Minister of Nepal. The Prime Minister of Nepal had a meeting with the Chairperson of United Progressive Alliance (UPA) and the President of Indian National Congress, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi as well as former Prime Minister Shri Chandra Shekhar.

3. The talks were held in an atmosphere of utmost cordiality and warmth. The two Prime Ministers shared their views and assessments of the situation in both the countries. They agreed that the restoration of democracy in Nepal provided a historic opportunity for a qualitative enhancement of bilateral relations between the two countries, which rest on age-old social, economic and cultural ties; shared faith in democracy, freedom and the rule of law; and pursuit of peace, stability and prosperity. They reaffirmed their commitment to impart a new dimension and dynamism in their relations based on the principles of peaceful coexistence, sovereign equality, territorial integrity, mutual respect and understanding.

4. The Prime Minister of India extended a warm welcome to Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala as the leader of democratic forces and conveyed his best wishes for his good health and continued leadership, as he leads Nepal at an important juncture in its history. He described

the visit as being of great historical significance. He applauded the extraordinary courage and achievements of the people of Nepal in their successful struggle for restoration of multi-party democracy and commitment towards institutionalising it. The Prime Minister of India commended the recent initiatives taken by the Government of Nepal to bring about peace, stability and return to the path of economic recovery.

5. The Prime Minister of India reiterated that as a close friend and a neighbour, India wishes to see a stable, peaceful, democratic and prosperous Nepal. He offered India's full support to the Government of Seven Party Alliance under the leadership of Rt. Hon'ble G.P. Koirala, Prime Minister of Nepal, and to the people of Nepal in their quest to achieve these goals, and expressed confidence in their ability to overcome the challenges that lie ahead.

6. The Prime Minister of Nepal conveyed the appreciation of the people of Nepal to the people and the Government of India for the support extended to them in their peaceful struggle for restoration of democracy.

7. The Prime Minister of India appreciated the initiatives taken by the Prime Minister of Nepal to consolidate the achievements of the People's Movement by finding a peaceful solution to the armed conflict, restoring political stability and moving towards economic reconstruction for the welfare of the people of Nepal. The two Prime Ministers agreed that the success of democracy lay in creating an atmosphere free from violence and coercion, and respect for the rule of law.

8. The Prime Ministers acknowledged the vital importance of accelerating economic rehabilitation and development in Nepal. The Prime Minister of India conveyed India's readiness to render all possible assistance to Nepal in that direction, in accordance with the priorities and wishes of the Government of Nepal. The Prime Minister of Nepal expressed appreciation to the Government of India for their generous cooperation in the socio-economic development of Nepal.

9. In this context, the Prime Ministers agreed to enhance the India-Nepal development partnership for expanding rural and economic infrastructure, developing education and healthcare facilities, and building human resources in Nepal. The Prime Ministers agreed to revive bilateral initiatives and mechanisms existing between the two countries in the areas of socio-economic cooperation.

10. The Government of India expressed its readiness to:

- (a) Expedite progress on long-term mega infrastructure projects in the areas of roads, railway linkage, border infrastructure, water resources and construction of an oil pipeline, Special Economic Zone, airports upgradation, and other areas to be mutually agreed upon by the both governments.
- (b) Extend immediately a one-time grant of Rs. 100 crore to the budget of Government of Nepal.
- (c) Offer a soft credit line of US \$ 100 million for the execution of infrastructure development projects as prioritised by the Government of Nepal.
- (d) Enhance its 'Aid to Nepal' budget for the current financial year from Rs. 65 crore to Rs. 150 crore annually.
- (e) Waive the dues outstanding as on date owed by the Government of Nepal to the Government of India on account of defence purchases.
- (f) Arrange immediately supply of 25,000 metric tons of fertilizers to Nepal at subsidized prices.
- (g) Grant exemption to all exports of goods manufactured in Nepal into India from the 4% Additional Duty of Customs.
- (h) Accelerate the release of all funds to Nepal under the Duty Refund Procedure Scheme.
- (i) Double the number of scholarships provided by the Government of India for Nepalese students, including for girls.
- (j) The Indian Oil Corporation will work out with Nepal Oil Corporation modalities for rescheduling the dues owed to it on account of oil supplies.

11. The Prime Ministers agreed that there would be early follow up to implement the above decisions so as to ensure that the benefits reach the people of Nepal, and economic cooperation between India and Nepal is further strengthened for mutual benefit.

12. The Prime Minister of Nepal extended an invitation to the Prime Minister of India to pay an official visit to Nepal at an early date. The Prime Minister

accepted the invitation with pleasure. The visit will take place at a mutually convenient date.

New Delhi,
June 9, 2006

Failure of Launch of GSLV

*60. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the GSLV-F02 carrying INSAT-4C failed to achieve its mission and crashed;

(b) if so, whether the Government has conducted investigation to ascertain the reasons for the failure;

(c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(d) the total cost involved for the launch of GSLV-F-02;

(e) the corrective measures proposed to be taken in future programmes; and

(f) the time by which the next satellite is likely to be launched?

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

(b) and (c) A Failure Analysis Committee has been set up with experts from ISRO, academia and national research laboratory to ascertain the reasons of failure. The Committee is expected to submit its findings within one month.

(d) The cost of INSAT-4C satellite is Rs. 96 Crores and the cost of launch is Rs. 150 Crores making a total of Rs. 246 Crores.

(e) The corrective measures would be formulated after the Failure Analysis Committee submits its findings.

(f) The next launch of GSLV carrying the replacement satellite INSAT-4CR would take place within one year.

[Translation]

Cultivation of Medicinal Plants

232. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals sent by the Government of Chhattisgarh regarding cultivation of medicinal plants;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the time by which these proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) 32 proposals were received from Chhattisgarh during the year 2005-06 by National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB) for financial assistance under Contractual Farming Scheme for cultivation of medicinal plants. The proposals were considered and 10 out of these were approved for providing financial assistance amounting to total Rs. 20.62 lakhs. First instalment of assistance involving total expenditure of Rs. 10.31 lakhs has already been released. No proposal has been received so far during the current year.

[English]

CBI Awaiting Sanction for Investigation

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

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been awaiting sanction from several State Governments as well as Union Government for carrying out investigation and prosecution against public servants for violations under the Prevention of Corruption Act and the Indian Penal Code;

(b) if so, the details of cases in which the CBI is awaiting sanction from the appropriate authorities, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons for not according sanction in the respective cases so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) As on 30.06.2006, in 91 cases sanction for prosecution was awaited from various Ministries/ Departments of Central Government and State Governments.

As on 15.07.2006, in 8 cases approval for inquiry/ investigation under section 6A of Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 was awaited from various Ministries/Departments of Central Government.

(b) Statement-I and II showing number of cases pending for sanction of prosecution and investigation are enclosed.

(c) Each case is examined separately by the authorities concerned and decided on merits at the earliest possible.

Statement I

(As on 30.06.2006)

Sl.No.	Name of the Ministry/ Department of Central Government and State Governments	Total Cases
1	2	3
1.	Ministry of Atomic Energy	1
2.	Ministry of Coal	1
3.	Ministry of Commerce	1
4.	Ministry of Communication	6
5.	Ministry of Communication (Deptt. of Posts)	1
6.	Ministry of Consumer Affairs & Public Distribution	1
7.	Ministry of Defence	3
8.	Ministry of External Affairs	2
9.	Ministry of Finance (Banking)	12
10.	Ministry of Finance (Custom and Central Excise)	1
11.	Ministry of Finance (Income Tax)	6
12.	Ministry of Finance (Insurance)	4
13.	Ministry of Food	1
14.	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare	5
15.	Ministry of Home Affairs	7
16.	Ministry of Human Resource Development	1
17.	Ministry of Information & Broadcasting	3
18.	Ministry of Labour	3
19.	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions	3
20.	Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas	1

1	2	3
21.	Ministry of Railways	9
22.	Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh	1
23.	Govt. of Andhra Pradesh	1
24.	Govt. of Bihar	2
25.	Govt. of Delhi	3
26.	Municipal Corpn. of Delhi	7
27.	Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir	1
28.	Jammu and Kashmir High Court	1
29.	Govt. of Karnataka	1
30.	Govt. of Kerala	1
31.	Govt. of Punjab	1
32.	Govt. of Rajasthan	1
33.	Govt. of Tamil Nadu	2
34.	Govt. of Uttar Pradesh	2
35.	Union Territories	1
Total		97*

*A total of only 91 cases are pending for prosecution sanction as 6 cases are common to more than one Ministry/State Government etc.

Statement II

Ministry/Department-wise number of Cases Pending for Approval for Inquiry/Investigation under section 6A of Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946 As on 15.07.2006

Sl.No.	Name of the Ministry/Department of Central Government	Total Cases
1.	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways	1
2.	Ministry of Steel	1
3.	Ministry of Defence	1
4.	Ministry of Railways	2
5.	Ministry of Home Affairs	1
6.	Ministry of Finance	1
7.	Ministry of Telecommunication	1
Total		8

Coal Mines to Private Companies

(b) If so, the details of such mines and the names thereof, State-wise?

234. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

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

(a) whether the Government has allotted some coal mines to private companies; and

(b) The details of coal blocks, State-wise, allocated to private companies is given below:

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Name of coal block	Name of the allocate company
1	2	3	4
1.	Orissa	Talabira-I	M/s INDALCO
2.		Utkal-C	M/s Utkal Coal Ltd.
3.		Utkal-B2	M/s Monet Ispat Ltd.
4.		Utkal-B1	M/s Jindal Steel and Power Ltd.
5.		Jamkhani	M/s Bhushan Ltd.
6.		Bijhan	M/s Bhushan Ltd. & M/s Mahavir Ferro Ltd.
7.		Patrapara	M/s Bhushan Ltd., M/s. Adhunik Metaliks Ltd., M/s Deepak Steel & Power Ltd., M/s Adhunik Corp., M/s. Orissa Sponge Iron Ltd., M/s Sree Metaliks Ltd. and M/s Visa Steel Ltd.
8.		Radhikapur (East)	M/s Tata Sponge Iron Ltd., M/s Scaw Indus. Ltd. and M/s SPS Sponge Iron Ltd.
9.		Radhikapur (West)	M/s Rungta Mines Ltd., M/s OCL India Ltd. and M/s Ocean Ispat Ltd.
10.			
11.	Jharkhand	Dumri	M/s Neelachal Iron & Power and M/s Bajrang Ispat Pvt. Ltd.
12.		Bundu	M/s Rungta Mines Ltd.
13.		Tokisu (North)	M/s GVK Power Ltd.
14.		Lalgah (North)	M/s Domco Pvt. Ltd.
15.		Chitarpur	M/s Corporate Ispat Alloys Ltd.
16.		Kathutia	M/s Usha Martin Ltd.
17.		Moitra	M/s Jayaswas Neeco Ltd.
18.		Brinda	M/s Abhijeet Infrastructure Ltd.
19.		Sisai	M/s Abhijeet Infrastructure Ltd.
20.		Meral	M/s Abhijeet Infrastructure Ltd.
21.		Lohari	M/s Usha Martin Ltd.
22.		Kotre Basantpur	M/s TISCO

1	2	3	4
22.		Pachmo	M/s TISCO
23.		Parbatpur A	M/s Electro Steel Casting
24.		Parbatpur B	M/s Electro Steel Casting
25.		Parbatpur C	M/s Electro Steel Casting
26.		North Dhadu	M/s Adhunik Alloys, M/s Electro Steel Casting Ltd., M/s Jharkhand Ispat Pvt. Ltd. and M/s Pavanjay Steel & Power Ltd.
27.	Madhya Pradesh	Goitritoria (East)	M/s BLA Industries
28.		Goitritoria (West)	M/s BLA Industries
29.	Maharashtra	Bhandak (West)	M/s Shree Baidyanath Ayurved Bhawan Pvt. Ltd.
30.		Chinora	M/s Field Mining & Ispat Ltd.
31.		Warora (West)	M/s Field Mining & Ispat Ltd.
32.		Majra	M/s Gondwana Ispat Ltd.
33.		Belgaon	M/s Sunflag Iron & Steel Ltd.
34.		Marki Mangli-I	M/s B.S. Ispat Ltd.
35.		Marki Mangli-II	M/s Veerangana Steel Ltd.
36.		Marki Mangli-III	M/s Veerangana Steel Ltd.
37.		Marki Mangli-IV	M/s Veerangana Steel Ltd.
38.		Nerad Malegaon	M/s Gupta Metallicks and Power Ltd. and M/s Gupta Coalfields & Washeries Ltd.
39.	Chhattisgarh	Gare Pelma IV/1	M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.
40.		Gare Pelma IV/2	M/s Jindal Power Ltd.
41.		Gare Pelma IV/3	M/s Jindal Power Ltd.
42.		Gare Pelma IV/5	M/s Monet Ispat Ltd.
43.		Gare Pelma IV/7	M/s Raipur Alloys & Steel Ltd.
44.		West of Umeria	M/s Garuda Clays
45.		Chotia	M/s Prakash Inds. Ltd.
46.		Panchbhani	M/s Shree Radhey Inds.
47.		Madanpur South	M/s Hindustan Zinc Ltd., M/s Akshya Investment Pvt. Ltd., M/s Chhattisgarh Steel & Power Ltd., M/s MSP Steel & Power Ltd., (the consortium of the five companies)

1	2	3	4
48.	Nakia I	M/s Ispat Godavai Ltd., M/s Ind Agro Synergy, M/s Shri Nadoda Ispat.,	
49.	Nakia II	M/s Vandana Global Ltd., M/s Shri Bajrang Power Ltd. (the consortium of the five companies)	
50.	Gare Pelma IV/6	M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd. and M/s Nalwa Sponge Iron Ltd.	
51.	Gare Pelma IV/8	M/s Jayawal Neeco Ltd.	
52.	Madanpur (North)	M/s Ultratech Ltd. M/s Sunflag Iron & Steel Ltd., M/s Navbharat Coalfields Ltd., M/s Anjani Steel Ltd., M/s Prakash Industries, M/s Singhal Enterprises Ltd. and M/s Vandana Energy Ltd. (the consortium of five companies)	
53.	West Bengal	Saristoli	M/s RPG Industries/CESC Ltd.

Clearance of new Drug Applications

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

(a) whether a single window systems being created for clearing the new drug applications involving recombinant Technology and Genetic Engineering;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which this is likely to become operational alongwith the requirement for such a clearance?

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

Under the aegis of Ministry of Environment and Forests, a task force on recombinant pharma had been constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, DG, CSIR New Delhi, for streamlining the current regulatory framework on recombinant based therapeutic products which involved different agencies for clearance of these drugs. The recommendations of the committee have since been accepted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, therefore, product which do not contain Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) in the final product (indigenously manufactured as well as imported) are now required only to obtain clearance from the office of the Drug Controller India with effect from 1.4.2006.

Direct Bus Service to Dhaka

236. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tripura has demanded introduction of direct bus service between Agartala-Kolkata-via-Dhaka; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the frequency of bus services proposed?

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

(b) The proposal for starting a direct bus service between Agartala and Kolkata via Dhaka has been taken up with the Government of Bangladesh. Details of the project as well as frequency of bus services would be worked out by the bus operators of both the countries after the proposal is agreed to by the Government of Bangladesh.

Posting Information on the Net Under RTI Act, 2005

237. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether many Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and autonomous bodies created by or under the Central Law have not yet provided information on their websites as required under the RTI Act, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of such Ministries/Departments/Autonomous bodies;

(c) whether any directions have been issued by the Central Information Commission in this regard;

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

(e) the time by which information as required under the RTI Act would be posted by the Central Ministries/Departments and other autonomous bodies on their websites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (e) Section 4(2) of the RTI Act, 2005 provides that every public authority shall constantly endeavour to take steps to provide as much information suo-moto to the public at regular intervals through various means of communications, including internet so that the public have minimum resort to the use of this Act to obtain information. As and when any lapse comes to the notice of the Central Information Commission, suitable directions are given to the Central Public Information Officers/Appellate Authorities of the public authorities concerned for ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Act.

Increasing Cultural Relations with Pakistan

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

(a) whether Pakistan has amended its Censorship of Film Rules removing India specific restrictions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which this step is likely to increase cultural relations between the two countries;

(d) whether India also proposes to ease visa restrictions to Pakistani poets, musicians and actors; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the other steps taken or being taken by both the countries to increase cultural relations?

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

According to Pakistani media reports, on 5 June 2006 the Pakistan Ministry of Culture has amended the 1980 Film Rule Act which would reportedly allow Pakistani film-makers to cast Indian actors in their films.

(d) and (e) During talks in the framework of the Composite Dialogue, India has proposed to Pakistan that a liberal visa regime be established for cultural and literary personalities. India has been implementing such a liberal visa policy unilaterally.

In order to increase cultural relations between the two countries, India has proposed, *inter alia*, removal of the existing ban on Indian films, TV channels and media products by Pakistan, holding of a festival of Pakistani films in New Delhi and Mumbai, World Punjabi Festival in Pakistan and India and the setting up of a Joint Working Group to tackle piracy of Indian films and music in Pakistan.

Quality Check of Medical Devices

239. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any mechanism for quality check of medical devices being manufactured in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to bring quality check on medical devices under the purview of Drug Controller of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. In order to ensure quality check of medical devices manufactured in the country, a number of devices have been notified as 'drugs' under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. The devices manufactured in the country are required to be manufactured in conformance to the standards prescribed under the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, Bureau of Indian Standards or ISO. Ten more sterile medical devices have been recently declared as 'drugs' under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. It has also been provided that these devices would be licensed for manufacture for sale or distribution by the Central Licensing Approving Authority appointed by the Central Government i.e. Drugs Controller General (India).

*[Translation]***Bringing down Maternal Mortality Rate**

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

(a) whether the UNICEF has recently published data wherein it has been stated that in India, the percentage of death of women during childbirth is 20 per cent more than the global maternal mortality rate and death of 540 mothers on the birth of 1 lakh children has also been recorded;

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

(c) if so, the salient findings of the said survey;

(d) the percentage of maternal mortality rate (during pregnancy and childbirth) as per the survey conducted; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to bring down maternal mortality rate in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, UNICEF has published data in the year 2000 alongwith WHO. Based on the data published by them, it has been estimated that more than 20% of maternal deaths out of the total global deaths occur in India.

(b) to (d) Yes, two Surveys have been conducted by the Government of India in this regard.

As per Sample Registration System carried out by the Registrar General of India (1998), the maternal mortality rate is 407 per 10,000 live births.

National Family Health Survey 1998-99 (NFHS-II) estimated Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) as 540 per 100,000 live births.

(e) In the NPP-2000 and NHP-2002, the goal for reduction in maternal mortality rate has been kept as less than 100 per 100,000 live births. Government of India is actively pursuing this goal under the National Rural Health Mission (NHRM) in order to improve the availability of and access to quality health care including Services for Immunization and Safe Motherhood. The

mission seeks to provide effective health care to rural population throughout the country with special focus on 18 States, which have weak public health indicators and/or weak infrastructure. These States are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh. The Mission will operate over a period of seven years from 2005 to 2012. Under the NRHM, the services provided under the RCH Programme will be strengthened through:

- Implementation of the Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) under which cash incentives and services are provided to pregnant women belonging to families Below Poverty Line (BPL). In case of Institutional delivery, in the low performing States benefits under the scheme is available to Non-BPL Pregnant Women also. The age bar and number of birth criteria has also been removed in these States.
- Appointment of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) for every village with a population up to 1000. ASHA will facilitate in accessing health care services to the community and will have specific responsibility of mobilizing pregnant women for antenatal care, institutional delivery and post-natal checks and immunization to children.
- Operationalising 2000 Community Health Centres as First Referral Units (FRU) for providing Emergency Obstetric and Child Health services.
- Making 50% Primary Health Centres functional for providing 24-hours delivery services, over the next five years.
- Ensuring quality of services by implementing Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) for Primary Healthcare Facilities.
- Ensuring skilled attendance at every birth both in the community and the Institutions.

*[English]***Opening of RPOs in Tamil Nadu**

241. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open a sub-Regional Passport Office at Nagercoil to mitigate the hardships of large number of applicants;

(b) if so, whether the Government also proposes to open any RPOs in Tamil Nadu or to upgrade the existing passport cell at the District Collectorate;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether delay has been noticed in the issuance of passports by the RPO at Tiruchirapalli; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) There is a demand to open a Passport Office in Tamil Nadu. At present, there are Passport Offices in Chennai and Tiruchirapalli. The Government is studying the proposal for one more Passport Office in Tamil Nadu. However, the existing District Passport Cells cannot be upgraded to Passport Offices.

(d) and (e) There is presently some delay in issuance of passports by the RPO, Tiruchirapalli mainly due to a technical problem concerning the passport printers. Steps are being taken to overcome this problem at the earliest.

[Translation]

AIDS Control Centres

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

(a) whether AIDS Control Centres have been started in the country under an agreement reached between National AIDS Control Programme and the Trust of Bill Clinton;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the list of such centres, State-wise;

(c) whether the said Trust is likely to provide funds and training to India for AIDS control; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Government of India and the William J. Clinton Foundation have agreed to cooperate in the development and implementation for comprehensive plan for scaling up prevention of HIV/AIDS and care, support and treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS in India. Under this agreement, the Clinton Foundation has developed training manuals and trained laboratory technicians, undertaken training for 1.5 lakh general practitioners in the private sector, provided 13 ART Centres with CD4 machines and have agreed to provide drugs to treat children living with AIDS. The total outlay of assistance for the current financial year is Rs. 44 crores.

[English]

Performance of BSNL

243. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the profit of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has been on the decline during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to augment the profit and improve the functioning of BSNL?

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

As per the audited accounts, details of the net profits earned by BSNL during the year 2002-03 to 2004-05 is as follows:

(i) Financial Year 2002-03	Rs. 1444.44 crores
(ii) Financial Year 2003-04	Rs. 5976.52 crores
(iii) Financial Year 2004-05	Rs. 10183.29 crores

(c) BSNL is diversifying into new areas of business such as Broadband, ILD Business, Direct International Roaming and Turnkey contract for providing connectivity to the various enterprises. It has taken various measures towards providing customer friendly tariffs and services with the objective of increasing its turnover and profitability.

Per Capita Income

244. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

- (a) per capita income in the country at present;
- (b) whether the existing per capita income is low from the development point of view of the country; and
- (c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government for increasing the per capita income?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) The per capita income in the country during 2005-06, as per the Revised Estimates released on 31st May 2006, is estimated to be Rs. 25,825 at current prices.

(b) There is no norm from the development point of view to indicate whether the per capita income is low or high. However, as per the World Development Indicators 2005, the per capita Gross National Income of India for the year 2003 was US \$540 per annum and India ranked 159 in a list of 208 countries. In terms of purchasing power parity, the per capita income for India in 2003 was US \$2880 per annum and ranked 146 out of 208 countries.

(c) There are multi pronged strategies to raise growth rate of the economy and to increase the per capita income. The details of strategies and measures are listed in the Mid Term Appraisal of the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07), which has been placed in the Parliament Library.

SAARC Observers

245. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India has backed US as SAARC observer;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether certain other countries have also shown interest to become SAARC observers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) The decision to approve the request of US for grant of Observer Status with SAARC was taken by consensus, as per SAARC Rules of Procedure.

(b) to (e) The 13th SAARC Summit held in Dhaka in November, 2005 had welcomed and agreed in principle with the desire of the People's Republic of China and Japan to be associated as Observers. It had also decided that the SAARC Council of Ministers would decide the modalities in this regard at their 27th meeting, which is scheduled to be held in August 2006. Subsequently, Republic of Korea (ROK) and USA have also formally requested for Observer status with SAARC. The 5th Special Session of the SAARC Standing Committee, which met on April 11, 2006 to draw up the modalities for Observers also considered the requests from ROK and USA and recommended that the requests be approved. The SAARC Council of Ministers will further consider the issue in August 2006.

[Translation]

Reorganization of Department of Posts

246. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ): Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is preparing any plan to reorganise the Department of Posts;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government also plans to take the services of any national or international agency in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

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

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

[English]

Conversion of National Highway No. 17 Into Four Lane

247. SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to convert NH 117 into four lane;

(b) if so, the amount of money likely to be spent on the project; and

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) About 10 km existing substandard four-lane length of National Highway 117 starting from National Highway No. 6, as part of connectivity of Kolkata Port to National Highway Development Project, is proposed to be improved to four-lane National Highway Standards. National Highways Authority of India has already taken up preparation of Detailed Project Report for this work, which is targeted to be completed by December 2006. It is too early to indicate the amount of money likely to be spent and date of start/completion of the work.

Inclusion of BHMS Degree In HCCA 1973

248. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to include the BHMS degree awarded by Dibrugarh University in the Second Schedule of Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be included;

(c) whether students are suffering because of the lack of coordination between the concerned authorities in this regard;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for ensuring better coordination; and

(e) the details of existing deficiencies as well as future status of the three Homoeo Colleges in Jorhat, Nowgaon and Guwahati in so far as their infrastructure, faculty and recognition of the degree are concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Notification relating to the inclusion of the BHMS degree awarded by Dibrugarh University in the Second Schedule of the Homoeopathy Central Council Act 1973 has been sent to Government of India Press for publication.

(c) There does not appear to have been any lack of coordination between the concerned authorities.

(d) In view of the reply to (c) above, no such steps are required to be taken.

(e) The three Homoeopathy Colleges at Jorhat, Nowgaon and Guwahati have serious deficiencies with respect to faculty. The Government of Assam is considering the creation of posts in all these three Medical Colleges. As a stop gap measure, the Government of Assam is deputing teachers from the neighbouring Medical Colleges to these three Homoeopathic colleges for the purpose of teaching in the allied subjects.

None of these three Homoeopathic colleges has a functional hospital. The Government of Assam has attached hospital to these Homoeopathic Colleges for the purpose of imparting of instruction to the students.

Dr. J.K. Salkia, Govt. Homoeopathic Medical College, Jorhat is affiliated to Dibrugarh University. The Notification relating to the inclusion of the BHMS degree awarded by Dibrugarh University in the Second Schedule of the Homoeopathy Central Council Act 1973 has been sent to Government of India Press for publication. The BHMS medical qualification awarded by the Guwahati University, to which the Assam Govt. Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital, Nowgaon and Swahid Jadav Nath Govt. Homoeopathic Medical College, Guwahati are affiliated continues to be recognized under the Homoeopathic Central Council Act, 1973.

[Translation]

Demolition of Hindu Temple in Malaysia

249. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 60 year old Hindu temple in Malaysia has been demolished recently as reported in the Hindi daily *Navbharat Times* dated June 12, 2006;

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

(c) whether the Union Government has lodged any protests in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Malaysian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On June 8, 2006, the Municipal Corporation of Kuala Lumpur demolished a 60 year old Hindu temple. Notices had been given to the temple authorities to relocate the temple but the temple authorities had refused to accept the alternative plot of land offered for the temple. The Municipal authorities maintained that the temple stood on Malay reserved land and the land was needed for the future development in the area. The Malaysian Indian community has been actively pursuing the issue of demolition of this temple with the Malaysian Government.

(c) to (e) The Government is of the view that it is the duty of the Government of Malaysia to protect the rights of its citizens including those belonging to the minority communities.

[English]

Rehabilitation of Land Oustees

250. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether people displaced due to acquisition of land by Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd. has been rehabilitated;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which all cases are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) In Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), Project Affected Families (PAFs) are jointly identified by MCL and District Administration. They have identified 5947 PAFs for resettlement. Out of these 3097 have been given the resettlement benefits. Remaining 2850 PAFs are under process of resettlement.

(c) and (d) In MCL, acquisition of land is a continuous process and land oustees are not displaced until and unless they are suitably rehabilitated as per the Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy of Coal India Limited.

[Translation]

Sale of Banned Medicines

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

(a) whether the banned Indian medicines are illegally being sold through internet as pointed out in the latest report of the International Narcotics Control Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to check it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) In the year 2005, a case of misuse of internet for unauthorized distribution of pharmaceuticals containing narcotic drug and psychotropic substances was detected by the Narcotics Control Bureau in an international operation. The offenders were taking orders and payments for supply of painkillers and tranquilizers etc. on the internet and the medicines were sourced from India. In this case, 24 arrests were made in 8 countries. Six persons were arrested in India.

(c) Action taken by the Government to avoid and detect any such misuse of internet are as follows:-

- (1) Improved coordination between the various drug law enforcement agencies in order to impart greater cohesion to interdiction.
- (2) Strengthening of international liaison to improve the collection, analysis and dissemination of operational intelligence.
- (3) Increased international co-operation for exchange of information and investigative assistance in the case having international ramification.
- (4) Circulation of details of modus operandi among national and international drug law enforcement agencies.
- (5) Conducting training programmes for law enforcement officials for upgrading their skills to combat drug trafficking.

[English]

Appointment of Ombudsman

252. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to appoint an Ombudsman to settle grievances and disputes of telecom subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the likely jurisdiction and status of the Ombudsman; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) The Government does not have any proposal to appoint an Ombudsman to settle telecom subscribers grievances and disputes. However, the Industry has proactively announced that it intends to set up telecommunication sector Ombudsman, to address the subscriber grievances and disputes. No limit can be given by the Government for this Industry initiative.

Visit of Planning Commission Team to Kerala

253. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:
SHRI PANNIAN RAVINDRAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a team from Planning Commission had visited Kerala to study the agrarian crisis in the State driving hundreds of farmers to suicide;

(b) if so, the findings thereof including the recommendations made by it; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to solve the problems being faced by the farmers in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) Planning Commission has not sent any team to Kerala to study the agrarian crisis in the whole State. However, a Memorandum was submitted by Wayanad Karshaka Samara Samiti, Wayanad to the Hon'ble Prime Minister mentioning about agrarian crisis and suicide cases by

farmers in Wayanad district of Kerala. In pursuance of the directives of the Prime Minister's Office, a Planning Commission team along with some officials of Govt. of Kerala visited Wayanad district from 7th to 11th June, 2006 to study the problem in Wayanad district and suggest remedial measures. The team studied the situation in the district and has submitted its report to the Planning Commission which is being examined.

[Translation]

Condition of Radiotherapy Machines

254. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the patients suffering from cancer are facing great difficulties in getting radiotherapy treatment in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia and Safdarjung Hospitals as the radiotherapy machines have gone out of order;

(b) if so, whether these radiotherapy machines have become obsolete; and

(c) if so, the details of difficulties being faced by the Union Government in getting these machines repaired or purchasing new machines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Safdarjung Hospital has two Radiotherapy Cobalt Machines (one Theratron 780C and one Theratron Elite 80) which are in functional condition. In Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital there is on Radio Therapy Department.

[English]

National Policy on Voluntary Sector

255. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has finalised "National Policy on Voluntary Sector";

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the policy proposes to cover unregistered NGOs/VOs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Draft National Policy on Voluntary Sector has yet to be finalised.

(c) to (e) Does not arise.

Foreign Visits of PM and EAM

256. SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of visits by foreign dignitaries to India during the last two months till date;

(b) the issues on which deliberations were held between them;

(c) whether any bilateral agreements were signed with them;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of visits undertaken by the Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister during the above period;

(f) the details of discussions held and the outcome thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to further improve the relations with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (d) The details of foreign dignitaries who visited India during the last two months till date, issues on which deliberations were held with them, bilateral agreements signed and the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to further improve the relations with these countries are given below, country wise.

1. Nepal

H.E. Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala (GPK), Prime Minister of Nepal accompanied by a five-member Ministerial, media and business delegations paid an official visit to India from 6-9 June 2006 at the invitation of our Prime Minister. The two Prime Ministers shared their views and assessments of the situation in both the countries. They agreed that the restoration of democracy in Nepal provided a historic opportunity for a qualitative enhancement of bilateral relations between the two countries.

During the visit, it was agreed to enhance the India—Nepal development partnership and to revive bilateral initiatives and mechanisms in the areas of socio-economic cooperation. Government of India, *inter alia*, expressed its readiness to extend immediately a one-time grant of Rs. 100 crore to the budget of Government of Nepal, offered a soft credit loan of US\$ 100 million for the execution of infrastructure development projects, and enhance its 'Aid to Nepal' budget.

2. Sri Lanka

The Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Mangala Samaraveera visited India from May 6-9, 2006 and again from June 20-22, 2006 to brief the Indian leadership on latest developments pertaining to the situation in Sri Lanka. While reiterating India's abiding commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka, the Indian side emphasized the need to make all possible efforts to strengthen the ceasefire and to work towards the devolution package that would command consensus among the major political parties in Sri Lanka with a view to restore ethnic harmony.

India's engagement with Sri Lanka continues to remain wide-ranging and multi-faceted. The Government continues to pursue its efforts to strengthen mutual understanding with the country and to further strengthen cooperation in various spheres.

3. Afghanistan

Afghanistan's Foreign Minister Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta visited India on June 29-July, 2006. He called on Prime Minister and held discussions with Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Anand Sharma as well as Foreign Secretary. Issues related to India-Afghanistan bilateral relations and regional and international issues of mutual concern were discussed. Dr. Spanta also conveyed

his personal condolences on the recent attacks on Indians in Afghanistan. He also thanked Prime Minister for the supportive role played by India for Afghanistan's entry into SAARC. Dr. Spanta also briefed the Indian leadership on his recent visits with President Karzai to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and CICA Summits as well as on bilateral visit to Beijing and Dr. Condoleezza Rice's visit to Kabul. It was agreed that there would be regular Foreign Office consultations between India and Afghanistan.

4. Kuwait

His Highness Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jaber al-Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, paid a State visit to India from June 14-19, 2006. During the visit, His Highness the Amir held wide-ranging and very fruitful talks with the President and the Prime Minister. The two sides reviewed the existing bilateral relations, exchanged views on strengthening bilateral cooperation and stressed the need for consolidating this relationship to build a strong partnership for the 21st century. The two sides also discussed regional and global issues of mutual interest. It was also agreed that the India—Kuwait Joint Commission for Economic and Commercial Cooperation would hold its next session in the last quarter of 2006.

Agreements on Avoidance of Double Taxation (DTAA), Cooperation on Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS), and Cultural Exchange Programme (2006-08) were signed.

5. Mauritius

The Vice President of Mauritius, Mr. Abdoul Raouf Bundhun paid an official visit to India from May 7-16, 2006. During his visit Mr. Bundhun met President, Vice President and Prime Minister. MOS (AS) also called on him.

6. Ethiopia

Mr. Addisu Legesse, Deputy Prime Minister of Ethiopia (who is also the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development), visited India (Mumbai and Pune) from May 15-20, 2006. During his visit Mr. Legesse met Agriculture Minister in Mumbai on May 20 and discussed possibilities of cooperation with India in the field of agriculture.

7. Malawi

A multi-Ministerial delegation from Malawi led by Foreign Minister, Mr. Davies Katsonga visited India from May 9-12, 2006. During the visit, delegation level talks were held with MOS (AS). MOS (AS) proposed MoUs with Malawi for joint exploration and exploitation of mineral resources; cooperation in agriculture including irrigation technologies, seeds technology; MoU between Bureau of Indian Standards and Malawi Bureau of Standards; MoU for filling skill gaps and capacity building in public service; MoU on health and medicine and MoU with TCII on Pan-African Project, IT Training Centres, etc. Joint Working Groups on trade and investment; collaborative programmes for development of thermal and hydropower projects, assistance in rural electrification, resource assessment for Solar and Wind energy projects, training programmes in forest management institutes including exchange of experts for genetic and germ plasma conservation and for environmental studies, setting up of commercial fishing farms, collaborative programmes in the transport and infrastructure projects were also proposed.

The delegation also met Commerce and Industry Minister and the Finance Minister. They requested for extension of a Line of Credit of US \$ 30 m for irrigation projects, construction of silos for storing food grain and developing tobacco processing industry in Malawi. Follow up action on the discussions is being taken.

8. Democratic Republic of Congo

A delegation led by Mr. Ramzani Baya, Foreign Minister of Democratic Republic of Congo, visited India from May 2-7, 2006. Various issues of bilateral, regional and international interests were discussed.

In an effort to strengthen Indo—Congo overall bilateral relations, preparations are underway to reopen our Embassy in Democratic Republic of Congo in August 2006.

9. Gabon

Mr. El Hadj Omar Bongo Oudimba, President of Republic of Gabon alongwith a delegation of 80 members visited India from May 3-7, 2006. MOS (AS) called on the visiting President. The accompanying Ministers of Economy, Finance, Budget and Privatisation, the Minister of Mining, Energy, Oil and Water Resources and the Minister of Commerce and Industrial Development met

with their Indian counterparts. Various issues of bilateral, regional and international interests were discussed.

10. Angola

A delegation led by Mr. Joao Miranda, Foreign Minister of Republic of Angola visited India from May 10-13, 2006 and had a meeting with MOS (AS). The visiting Minister also had meetings with Minister of Commerce and Industry, and Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas. Various issues of bilateral, regional and international interests are discussed.

11. Nigeria

A delegation led by Mr. Oluyemi Adeniji, Foreign Minister of Nigeria visited India from May 19-20, 2006. The visiting Minister had a meeting with MOS (AS) and various issues of bilateral, regional and international interests were discussed.

12. Ghana

Mr. Nana Akufo-Addo, Foreign Minister of Ghana visited India on June 9, 2006 and had a meeting with MOS (AS) and various issues of bilateral, regional and international interests were discussed.

13. Benin

Madame Mariam Aladji Boni Diallo, Foreign Minister of Benin and her delegation visited India from June 26-27, 2006. The visiting Minister had a meeting with MOS (AS) and various issues of bilateral, regional and international interests were discussed.

14. Morocco

Mr. Mohammed Benaissa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Morocco, visited India from June 25-27, 2006. During the visit, discussions were held on bilateral relations, regional and multilateral issues. The visiting Minister called on the Prime Minister, Minister for Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, Food & PDS, Shri Sharad Pawar; Minister for Tourism and Culture, Smt. Ambika Soni; and Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E. Ahamed.

Discussions held with Minister of State for External Affairs focused on means to strengthen bilateral relations including soliciting Morocco's support for our candidature for UN Security Council and Secretary General of the UN General Assembly. Discussions with Minister for

Agriculture focused on strengthening cooperation in the agricultural sector by exchange of scientists in order to impart India's expertise in different aspects of agriculture. Possibilities for exports of agricultural machinery or setting up of joint ventures were also explored. Discussion with Minister for Tourism and Culture included opportunities provided by the Moroccan Government for setting up of hotel chain by Indian hoteliers, the desirability to expand cultural interactions by initiating translation of Indian classical books into Arabic, etc.

15. Spain

Prime Minister of Spain, Mr. Luis Zapatero visited India from July 2-4, 2006. He was accompanied by the Spanish Minister of External Affairs and Cooperation Mr. Miguel Angel Moratinos and the Minister of State for Commerce, Mr. Pedro Melja. The discussions covered a wide range of areas of bilateral cooperation including enhancing economic partnership and cooperation in the fight against terrorism. Multilateral issues relating to Alliance of civilizations were also discussed.

Two MoUs and a Treaty were signed during the visit. These include an MoU on Institutionalisation of Political Dialogue; Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty on Criminal matters and an MoU between Technology Development Board (TDB) and Centre for Development of Industrial Technology (CDTI).

The Government of India continues to take several steps to further improve the relations, including through closer political dialogue, enhancing trade and investment links, promoting cooperation in scientific, cultural and academic links and other areas of mutual interest.

16. Argentina

The Foreign Minister of Argentina Mr. Jorge E. Taiana visited India from July 4-6, 2006. Strengthening of bilateral relations and cooperation in multilateral issues of common interest were discussed with the visiting dignitary. The following Agreements were signed during the visit of the Foreign Minister Argentina:

- (i) MoU between Ministry of Agriculture of India and the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food of the Argentina Republic for cooperation of the field of agricultural research;
- (ii) MoU on Antarctic Cooperation between the Government of India and the Government of the Argentina Republic; and

- (iii) MoU between Indian Institute of Public Administration and Under Secretariat of Public Affairs of the Chief of Cabinet Office of the Argentine Republic.

The Government's initiatives to improve relations with Argentina include an invitation to the President of Argentina to visit India in December this year and promotion and facilitation of trade between the two countries in collaboration with the private sector and with the other Ministries of the Government of India.

17. Ecuador

The Foreign Minister of Ecuador, Mr. Francisco Carrion Men, visited India from July 17-19, 2006. Strengthening of bilateral relations and cooperation in multilateral issues of common interest were discussed with the visiting dignitary. The following Agreements were signed during the visit of the Foreign Minister of Ecuador:

- (i) MoU on Cooperation between the Diplomatic Academies of the two countries;
- (ii) Exchange Programme for Cooperation in Education;
- (iii) Agreement on Cultural Cooperation;
- (iv) Arrangement between the two countries for gainful employment of spouses of diplomatic/ consular missions; and
- (v) moU between ONGV Videsh Ltd. (OVL) and Petro Ecuador on Hydrocarbon Cooperation.

With regard to Ecuador, the Government is making efforts to strengthen relations through more dialogue and interaction. The Government is encouraging ONGC Videsh Ltd. to explore opportunities for acquisition of oilfields in Ecuador and the Government of Ecuador has been requested to facilitate this.

(e) to (g) The details of visits undertaken by the Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister during the above period; the details of discussions held and the outcome thereof; and the steps taken by the Government to further improve the relations with these countries are given below:

Russia

Prime Minister visited St. Petersburg from July 16-18, 2006. He shared with the G-8 and the Outreach

countries participating in the St. Petersburg Summit, our perspective on global energy security, education and the fight against infectious diseases, which were the main themes of the St. Petersburg Summit. In addition, views were also exchanged on international terrorism, other challenges to global security, world trade and regional and international issues.

The G-8, the Outreach countries participating in the St. Petersburg Summit and the Heads of International Organizations adopted a Statement on the terrorist acts in India on 11 July 2006. This Statement, *inter alia*, expresses readiness to undertake all necessary measures to bring to justice perpetrators, organizers, sponsors of these and other terrorist acts, and those who incited the perpetrators to commit them.

Installation of Defibrillator

257. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the cardiac deaths are caused by arrhythmia;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has any plan to install automatic external defibrillator at airports, railway stations and other public places across the country to prevent such fatalities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) According to Indian Council of Medical Research, Abnormal Heart Rhythm (Arrhythmia) is the ultimate cause of cardiac deaths. Most cardiac arrests are due to rapid and/or chaotic activity of the heart (ventricular tachycardia or fibrillation); some are due to extreme slowing of the heart (bradycardia). The main underlying conditions of arrhythmia are atherosclerotic vascular disease/blockage, hypertension and inflammatory or degenerative conditions. Addictive substances, especially alcohol, cigarettes and recreational drugs can provoke arrhythmias. Various cardiac medications can also provoke arrhythmias. Efforts for primary prevention of conditions that predispose to arrhythmia are control of risk factors like energy dense diet, tobacco use, physical inactivity etc.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Appraisal by District Collectors on Implementation of Central Scheme/MPLADS

258. SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNIAH: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to delegate powers to the Members of Parliament regarding appraisal of performance of Deputy Commissioners/District Collectors in respect of implementation of all MPLAD Schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) No Sir, there is no move by the Government to delegate powers to the Members of Parliament regarding appraisal of performance of Deputy Commissioners/District Collectors in respect of implementation of all MPLAD Schemes.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

National Disease Control Programme

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

(a) whether the National Disease Control Programme in respect of Blindness and Tuberculosis has met with limited success;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring down the rate of prevalence of Blindness and Tuberculosis and achievements made thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The National Programme for Control of Blindness was launched in the year 1976 as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme with the goal to reduce the prevalence of blindness from 1.4% to 0.3% by 2020. As per the Survey in 2001-02, prevalence of blindness is estimated to be 1.1%. Target

for the 10th Plan is to reduce prevalence of blindness to 0.8% by 2007 by taking following steps:

- (i) Setting up of State Blindness Control Societies and District Blindness Control Societies in States/UTs.
- (ii) Providing Eye care facilities to needy people at Primary, Secondary and Tertiary level through Primary Health Centres, District Hospitals, Medical Colleges and Regional Institutes of Ophthalmology.
- (iii) Strengthening of Eye Banks in Government/Voluntary Sectors.
- (iv) Financial support to NGOs for strengthening of their existing infrastructure for Eye Care.
- (v) Intensification of IEC activities etc.

National TB Control Programme (NTCP) was launched in the country in 1962, this could not achieve the desired results. Therefore, Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) widely known as DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short Course) which is a WHO recommended strategy was implemented as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme from 1997 in the country in a phased manner with the objective of achieving cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases. By March 2006, all the districts in the country are implementing RNTCP, allowing access of DOTS to all TB patients in the country. Under the Programme, diagnosis and treatment facilities including a supply of anti TB drugs are provided free of cost to all TB patients. For quality diagnosis, designated microscopy centres have been established for every one lac population in the normal area and for every 50,000 population in the tribal, hilly and difficult areas. A treatment success rate of more than 85% has been reported under the revised strategy which means that more than 8 out of every 10 patients out on treatment under the revised strategy are being successfully treated.

[Translation]

Metros under Local Telephone Network

260. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to bring all Metros under local telephone network;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also has any proposal to treat inter-state land line calls at local rates;

(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) No, Sir.

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

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

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

(e) Inter-state land line calls are Long Distance Calls and the tariff for the same is under forbearance.

[English]

Thermal Power Plant in Orissa

261. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in the implementation of 2000 MW Coal based Thermal Power Plant at IB Valley in Orissa under the joint venture of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC) and the Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) In the meeting of Chief Secretary, Government of Orissa with Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Neyveli Lignite Corporation on 27.5.2006, it was decided to identify the suitable land for setting up the project as the site earlier identified near Hirma village was allocated to private firms. Rengall Village, Sambalpur District has been identified as alternate site and collection of land details

is in progress. After firming up the project site MOU will be signed with Government of Orissa and the project will be taken up for implementation. The annual coal requirement for the project has been estimated to be about 11-12 million tonnes and Talabira II & III coal blocks have been allocated for joint mining by Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC), Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) & Hindalco for the purpose. Central Electricity Authority has made a tentative power allocation from this project to Western Region and State of Orissa. The tentative cost of the project is estimated as Rs. 9000 crore and the project is expected to generate power in the XI Plan period. Advance Action Plan for preparation of Feasibility Report, Environment Report, survey work etc. is under implementation.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections under Bharat Nirman Yojana

262. SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Madhya Pradesh where Public Telephone sets have been provided under the Bharat Nirman Yojana;

(b) the total expenditure incurred in this regard; and

(c) the number of telephone sets likely to be provided in future under this Yojana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Under Bharat Nirman Yojana, all remaining 66,822 unconnected villages in the country are to be provided Village Public Telephones (VPTs) by November, 2007. This excludes villages having less than 100 population and villages lying in naxalite infested areas etc. In Madhya Pradesh, 8,293 VPTs have been provided under this scheme so far.

(b) Total expenditure of Rs. 11.79 crore has been incurred on this scheme.

(c) Remaining 3,601 eligible unconnected villages of Madhya Pradesh will be provided VPTs by November, 2007.

*[English]***Establishment of Maritime University in Gujarat**

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received a proposal from the State Government of Gujarat for the establishment of Maritime University in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Government of India received requests from some States including that of Gujarat for setting up of Maritime Universities in their States. After taking into account various factors for locating a Maritime University, action for setting up an Indian Maritime University at Chennai with regional campuses at Kolkata, Mumbai and Visakhapatnam as announced by Hon'ble Finance Minister in his budget speech (2006-07) is under way.

Missile Test by North Korea

264. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether North Korea conducted missile test recently;

(b) if so, the details of likely political and security implications as a result of the said test; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) DPRK conducted missile tests on 5 July 2006. A number of countries have expressed their concern on these tests. The UN Security Council adopted by consensus a resolution on 15 July 2006 condemning the multiple tests done by DPRK. The resolution *inter alia* demands that DPRK suspend all activities related to its ballistic missile programme and re-establish its earlier commitments to a moratorium on missile testing; requires all member states to exercise vigilance and prevent transfer of missile or missile related items, materials and goods and technology to DPRK's missile or WMD programmes or procurement of such items from DPRK; calls for early resumption of six-party talks and strongly urges DPRK to return to these talks without pre-condition.

(c) The Government is concerned about the missile tests conducted by DPRK on 5 July 2006. The Government has expressed its concerns earlier about transfers of such missiles and assistance offered by other countries including DPRK to Pakistan's missile programme, which has affected the security environment in our region. India has supported all along efforts to bring about peace, stability, reconciliation and reunification on the Korean Peninsula through dialogue. The Government believes that the nuclear issue in the Korean Peninsula should be resolved peacefully through negotiations including under the aegis of six-party talks, which should be resumed at the earliest.

*[Translation]***Implementation of Reservation Policy in Vardhaman Medical College**

265. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of boy/girl students getting medical education in Vardhaman Medical College, Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi separately as on date;

(b) the number of boy/girl students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes separately;

(c) whether the number of students is as per the reservation norms;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Government has taken/proposed to take any steps to fill up the seats in the said medical college as per the norms of reservation policy; and

(g) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (g) Reservation Policy of the Government for reservation of seats for SC/ST categories is applicable to the Vardhaman Mahavir Medical College (VMMC) and out of 100 seats in the College, 15 are reserved for SCs and 7 for STs. At present the number of students (boys & girls separately) and number of SC/ST students studying in the college, batch-wise are given in the enclosed statement. Admissions to the MBBS course of VMMC are made through an entrance examination followed by counselling process conducted by the G.G.S. Indraprastha University, Delhi and the College administration has no role in the selection process for admission.

Statement

Number of Boys/girls students and number of SCs/STs getting Medical Education in Vardhaman Medical College, New Delhi

Year	Total		No. of SC/ST students			
	Boys	Girls	SC		ST	
			Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
2001-2002	48	41	09	03	02	05
2003-2004	54	28	04	02	03	02
2004-2005	70	28	02	04	01	0
2005-2006	66	33	11	05	06	0
Total	238	130	26	14	12	07

*[English]***Progress Under Bharat Nirman Programme**

266. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made under the Bharat Nirman Programme, State-wise till date;

(b) whether the funds for the programme for the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 have been released; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in releasing the said funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The component wise physical progress and financial allocation and releases made under the Bharat Nirman Programme during 2005-06 and the progress made during the first quarter of 2006-07 for some of the components are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively.

(c) The release of funds to States is linked to the provision of matching State share as required under various schemes and the furnishing of utilization certificates by the States for funds already released.

Statement I

Bharat Nirman - Rural Electrification Component Financial and Physical details 2005-06

Programme: Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidhyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY)

Budget Allocation 2005-06: Rs. 1100 crore

Physical Target: 10,366 villages to be covered

Allocation criteria: Demand Driven

Funding Pattern 90:10 (Central Grant: REC Loan)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Central Releases# upto Mar-06 Rs. crore	Number of villages to be covered in 2005-06	Number of villages covered upto Dec. 2005	Number of villages covered in 4th Quarter Jan-Mar 2006	Total villages covered in the year 2005-06 (upto March 06)	Total Rural Households covered (upto March 06)	Total BPL Households covered (upto March 06)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Bihar	381.976	1600	723	877	1600	10176	487
2.	Chhattisgarh*	6.5						
3.	Jharkhand*	3.5						

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
4.	Karnataka	55.704		0	47	47	17131	12268
5.	Orissa*	3.5						
6.	Rajasthan	56.531	124	0	230	230	505	NII
7.	Uttar Pradesh	812.609	7756	1027	6476	7503	4060	4060
8.	Uttaranchal	59.441	230	0	87	87	NII	NII
9.	West Bengal	115.421	656	30	322	352	1307	NII
	Total	1495.182						
	Others							
	BPL Claims	55.47						
	Enabling Activities @ 1%	10.4						
	Total	1561.052	10366	1780	8039	9819	33179	16815

*Fund released is for advance against DPR under formulation.

#The actual release in 2005-06 was Rs. 1100 crore and the remaining Rs. 461.05 crore is fund which was already available with REC from 2004-05 budget allocation.

Central release as % of Budget Allocation is 100%.

Bharat Nirman - Irrigation Component Financial details 2005-06

Programme : Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme

Budget Allocation Rs. 4500 crore out of which grant Rs. 1400 crore

Physical target: Creating 1.90 m.ha of Irrigation potential

Achievements will be known in the next fiscal 2006-07

*Fixing of ceiling: Based on the performance of the States in last three years
and their requirement in the current year*

Funding pattern: Special Category States 90: 10 (grant: loan)

Other states 30:70 (grant: loan)

(Rs. crore)

Sl.No.	State	Approved Ceiling	Grant	Loan	Grant Release upto Dec. 2005	Grant Release Jan-Mar 2006	Total grant release 2005-06	Grant Release as % of total grant
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1100	330	770	17.8890	293.4925	311.3815	94
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	20	18	2	0.000	18.0000	18.000	100
3.	Assam	35	31.5	3.5	14.9532	19.9800	34.9332	111
4.	Bihar	175	52.5	122.5	10.7640	5.4740	16.2380	31
5.	Chhattisgarh	100	30	70		7.6645	7.6645	26

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
6.	Goa	5	1.5	3.5		0.0000	0.000	0
7.	Gujarat	1000	300	700	162.000	177.6000	339.600	113
8.	Haryana	25	7.5	17.5	3.3405	2.6595	6.0000	80
9.	Himachal Pradesh	37.69	33.921	3.769	7.0110	23.0675	30.0785	89
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	40	36	4	16.6492	20.0386	36.6878	102
11.	Jharkhand	31	9.3	21.7		5.0370	5.037	54
12.	Karnataka	400	120	280	100.6845	40.0914	140.7759	117
13.	Kerala	50	15	35		9.3591	9.3591	62
14.	Madhya Pradesh	750	225	525	13.4457	154.6513	168.0970	75
15.	Maharashtra	1350	405	945	11.3317	156.0503	167.3820	41
16.	Manipur	86.78	78.102	8.678	3.1500	72.5535	75.7035	97
17.	Meghalaya	4	3.6	0.4		1.5750	1.575	44
18.	Mizoram	10	9	1	4.5000	4.8150	9.3150	104
19.	Nagaland	8	7.2	0.8	2.7000	5.2987	7.9987	111
20.	Orissa	330	99	231	71.1984	80.1756	151.3740	153
21.	Punjab	84.37	25.311	59.059	4.6965	21.6201	26.3166	104
22.	Rajasthan	400	120	280	33.2475	57.0477	90.2952	75
23.	Sikkim	1.5	1.35	0.15	0.3375	0.5738	0.9113	68
24.	Tamil Nadu	5	1.5	3.5		0.0000	0.000	0
25.	Tripura	35.55	31.995	3.555	6.4935	25.5015	31.9950	100
26.	Uttar Pradesh	429	128.7	300.3	59.8665	73.2615	133.1280	103
27.	Uttaranchal*	123	110.7	12.3	20.9520	59.4867	80.4387	73
28.	West Bengal	40	12	28		0.0287	0.02870	0.2
Total		6675.8900	2243.6790	4432.2110	585.2107	1335.1035	1900.3142	136

Note: The total grant component under AIBP is about Rs. 1400 crore only and % release is worked out in this basis.

Bharat Nirman Drinking Water Component details 2005-06
Programme : Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)
Financial Performance during 2005-06
2005-06 Budget Allocation Rs. 4060 crore

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Financial (Rs. crore)				
		ARWSP Normal		Normal release as % of allocation	Releases Under Swajaldhara	Total Releases
		Allocation	Release			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	210.32	250.80	119	38.32	289.12
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	90.60	106.75	118	0.00	106.75
3.	Assam	152.80	148.01	97	16.40	164.41
4.	Bihar	153.24	153.24	100	20.09	173.33
5.	Chhattisgarh	51.54	50.20	97	0.00	50.20
6.	Goa	1.93	1.82	94	0.00	1.82
7.	Gujarat	123.39	127.69	103	20.81	148.50
8.	Haryana	35.90	41.94	117	5.88	47.82
9.	Himachal Pradesh	106.05	118.95	112	19.96	138.91
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	200.73	236.72	118	26.11	262.83
11.	Jharkhand	55.29	63.07	114	9.26	72.33
12.	Karnataka	175.55	212.09	121	30.45	242.54
13.	Kerala	53.86	61.71	115	13.13	74.84
14.	Madhya Pradesh	151.01	150.40	100	27.18	177.58
15.	Maharashtra	275.91	332.36	120	68.28	400.64
16.	Manipur	31.10	27.14	87	2.87	30.01
17.	Meghalaya	35.83	31.90	89	3.30	35.20
18.	Mizoram	25.69	25.99	101	2.36	28.35
19.	Nagaland	26.37	26.48	100	3.83	30.31
20.	Orissa	124.05	138.81	112	26.44	165.25
21.	Punjab	36.42	41.35	114	5.15	46.50
22.	Rajasthan	440.34	491.35	112	55.85	547.20
23.	Sikkim	10.83	12.84	119	0.00	12.84

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24.	Tamil Nadu	118.75	120.54	102	22.89	143.23
25.	Tripura	31.78	32.00	101	3.30	35.30
26.	Uttar Pradesh	247.64	283.72	115	34.89	318.61
27.	Uttaranchal	57.25	65.59	115	10.42	76.01
28.	West Bengal	133.08	150.78	113	23.46	174.24
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.09	17.48	19422	0.00	17.48
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.06	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
31.	Delhi	0.05	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
32.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00
33.	Pondicherry	0.05	0.00	0	0.00	0.00
Total		3157.50	3521.72	112	490.43	4012.15
Mon & Eval., M&I Units, Sub-Missions, HRD/Training, IEC, MIS etc.			75.85			75.85
Grand Total		3157.50	3597.57	114	490.43	4088.00

Bharat Nirman Drinking Water Component details 2005-06
Programme: Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)
Physical Performance during 2005-06 (no. of habitations)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Target								Achievement (upto March 2006)							
		CAP 99			Slipped back habitations			QA habes	Grands Total	CAP 99			Slipped back habitations			QA habes	Grands 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
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	1528	743	2271	703	2974	—	—	—	347	2423	2770	524	3294
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	158	239	397	0	0	0	0	397	72	80	152	0	0	0	0	152
3.	Assam	140	1217	1357	0	0	0	514	1871	94	2334	2428	0	0	0	0	2428
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	702	406	1108	515	1623	—	—	—	1217	406	1622	3	1625
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	1792	1635	3427	573	4000	—	—	—	1893	1746	3639	1	3640
6.	Goa	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
7.	Gujarat	0	36	36	44	603	647	376	1059	—	36	36	34	550	584	414	1034
8.	Haryana	0	0	0	0	673	673	118	791	—	—	—	0	365	365	50	415

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	1336	1336	0	0	0	0	1336	—	1950	1950	0	0	0	—	1950
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	158	216	374	0	0	0	105	479	54	341	395	22	46	68	0	463
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	751	2088	2839	49	2888	—	—	—	663	1368	2051	0	2051
12.	Karnataka	0	3601	3601	48	321	369	820	4790	—	1383	1383	48	1502	1550	950	3883
13.	Kerala	0	650	650	0	0	0	181	831	—	1887	1887	0	0	0	26	1913
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	1349	1485	2844	508	3352	—	—	—	3168	6624	9792	132	9924
15.	Maharashtra	327	640	967	0	0	0	927	1894	20	440	480	0	0	0	127	587
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	100	3	103	30	133	—	—	—	39	41	80	0	80
17.	Meghalaya	12	178	190	59	39	98	60	348	5	112	117	154	174	328	27	472
18.	Mizoram	0	86	86	18	0	18	26	130	—	86	86	18	0	18	26	130
19.	Nagaland	0	4	4	0	0	0	60	64	6	39	45	0	0	0	0	45
20.	Orissa	0	0	0	1359	0	1359	817	2176	—	—	—	9763	1490	11253	256	11509
21.	Punjab	678	0	678	0	0	0	122	800	708	535	1241	90	325	415	45	1701
22.	Rajasthan	2033	0	2033	4599	2263	6862	1057	9952	352	—	352	38	11592	11630	96	12078
23.	Sikkim	0	71	71	0	0	0	0	17	—	74	74	0	46	46	0	120
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	791	6209	7000	500	7500	—	—	—	2021	5612	7633	705	8338
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	279	106	385	40	425	—	—	—	0	204	204	0	204
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	757	552	1309	900	2209	—	—	—	4416	9538	13954	412	14366
27.	Uttaranchal	4	61	65	385	0	385	0	450	4	34	38	150	246	396	—	434
28.	West Bengal	0	0	0	1807	769	2676	993	3689	—	—	—	200	2100	2300	645	2945
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	10	10	0	0	0	4	14	1	0	1	0	0	0	—	1
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	12	6	18	0	0	0	0	18	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
32.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
33.	Lakshadweep	0	10	10	0	0	0	0	10	—	—	—	0	0	0	—	0
34.	Pondicherry	0	13	13	0	0	0	2	15	—	51	51	0	7	7	0	58
35.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—	0	—	0	—	—	—	0
Total,		3522	8375	11897	16468	17905	34373	10000	56270	1314	9383	10697	24281	46424	70705	4439	85841

NC - Not Covered, PC - Partially Covered, QA habes - Quality Affected habitations.

Bharat Nirman - Rural Roads Component Financial Achievement 2005-06**Programme : Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana****Budget Allocation : Rs. 4235.00 crore****Physical Target: No of habitations 7034 New connectivity - 15,492.4 km Upgradation - 11394.4 km****Allocation criteria: (A) Cess of high speed diesel (Rs. 1/lt)***(i) 75% for need (share of unconnected habitations in the total unconnected habitations in the country)**(ii) 25% on coverage (share of connected habitations in the total unconnected habitations in the country)***(B) Additional cess on high speed diesel (50 paise/lt)***(i) Road length to be built under Bharat Nirman***Funding Pattern : 100% Centre**

Sl.No.	State	Financial (Rs. crore)		
		Central Allocation in 2005-06*	Central Releases upto Mar-06**	Central release as % of Allocation
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	100.00	187.69	188
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	52.00	52.82	104
3.	Assam	176.00	156.82	89
4.	Bihar	332.00	234.29	71
5.	Chhattisgarh	330.00	307.57	93
6.	Goa	5.00	0.00	0
7.	Gujarat	60.00	70.56	118
8.	Haryana	25.00	20.56	82
9.	Himachal Pradesh	132.00	171.27	130
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	60.00	70.35	117
11.	Jharkhand	195.00	152.70	78
12.	Karnataka	105.00	143.02	136
13.	Kerala	25.00	42.41	170
14.	Madhya Pradesh	535.00	376.29	70
15.	Maharashtra	140.00	141.92	101
16.	Manipur	28.00	6.33	23
17.	Meghalaya	40.00	7.50	19
18.	Mizoram	27.00	60.99	226
19.	Nagaland	25.00	56.03	224

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Orissa	268.00	305.29	114
21.	Punjab	30.00	48.90	163
22.	Rajasthan	286.00	434.82	152
23.	Sikkim	25.00	41.20	165
24.	Tamil Nadu	85.00	58.95	69
25.	Tripura	35.00	21.76	62
26.	Uttar Pradesh	445.00	644.69	145
27.	Uttaranchal	95.00	14.29	15
28.	West Bengal	221.00	355.58	161
Total		3882.00	4185.60	108

*for Cess Fund only.

**includes World Bank and ADB Funds.

Bharat Nirman : Rural Roads Component Physical Achievements 2005-06**Programme : Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana**

Sl.No.	State	Target 2005-06			Achievement upto Dec. 2005			Achievement Jan-Mar 2006			Achievement in 2005-06		
		Number of habitations	New Connectivity (in km)	Upgradation (in km)	Number of habitations	New Connectivity (in km)	Upgradation (in km)	Number of habitations	New Connectivity (in km)	Upgradation (in km)	Number of habitations	New Connectivity (in km)	Upgradation (in km)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0.000	1821.484	9	433.95	890.69	1	16.00	26.81	10	449.95	917.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	22	162.500	0.000	0	45.47	0	0	14.00	0.00	0	59.47	0.00
3.	Assam	421	605.852	0.000	9	283.896	0	0	155.41	0.00	9	439.30	0.00
4.	Bihar	896	1665.831	0.000	0	348.33	53.27	0	245.37	141.65	0	593.70	194.92
5.	Chhattisgarh	478	1501.365	0.000	266	1141.12	18.74	104	646.88	0.00	370	1788.00	18.74
6.	Goa	0	0.000	190.114	0	1.87	0	2	0.00	0.00	2	1.87	0.00
7.	Gujarat	230	402.955	0.000	107	289.53	32.47	105	193.68	0.60	212	483.21	33.07
8.	Haryana	0	0.000	229.358	0	0	243.26	0	0.00	35.65	0	0.00	278.91
9.	Himachal Pradesh	127	464.583	0.000	53	114.9	0	134	1101.00	0.00	187	1216.00	0.00
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	57	189.972	0.000	0	26.36	0	3	0.00	4.44	3	26.36	4.44
11.	Jharkhand	526	1051.779	0.000	86	181.187	16.41	15	223.17	11.42	101	404.36	27.83

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12.	Karnataka	0	0.000	2573.529	1	9.76	380.82	0	20.04	381.67	1	29.80	742.49
13.	Kerala	0	0.000	524.109	6	10.6	0.02	0	0.00	0.00	6	10.60	0.02
14.	Madhya Pradesh	768	2802.139	0.000	203	1616.33	0	779	1118.05	0.00	982	2734.38	0.00
15.	Maharashtra	0	0.000	4334.365	14	101.82	56.54	32	47.20	50.32	46	149.02	106.86
16.	Manipur	11	100.000	0.000	0	103.25	103.6	47	0.89	68.02	47	103.94	171.62
17.	Meghalaya	35	123.609	0.000	13	73.068	0	0	0.00	0.00	13	73.07	0.00
18.	Mizoram	12	82.746	0.000	1	129.32	0	6	26.94	0.00	7	156.26	0.00
19.	Nagaland	9	93.318	0.000	7	291.25	37.25	0	18.51	1.25	7	309.76	38.50
20.	Orissa	493	1055.950	0.000	123	793.733	32.728	192	254.00	12.44	315	1047.73	45.17
21.	Punjab	0	0.000	423.729	4	70.53	0	3	20.27	0.00	7	90.80	0.00
22.	Rajasthan	743	2153.615	0.000	305	2505.82	0	351	1225.88	0.00	656	3731.30	0.00
23.	Sikkim	22	75.031	0.000	35	9.8	12.23	0	4.00	13.96	35	13.80	26.19
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0.000	1297.710	41	436.955	0	5	107.60	0.00	46	544.56	0.00
25.	Tripura	66	94.774	0.000	6	15.8	0	0	0.00	0.00	6	15.80	0.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1236	1986.416	0.000	907	2028.89	246.58	497	124.58	3.50	1404	2153.47	250.08
27.	Uttaranchal	95	380.609	0.000	13	66.57	0	3	20.79	5.25	16	87.36	5.25
28.	West Bengal	787	739.378	0.000	814	725.24	0	156	360.79	0.00	970	1066.03	0.00
Total		7034	15492.422	11394.408	3023	11855.337	2124.608	2435	5944.55	736.96	5458	17799.867	2861.586

Please note: The period of physical progress reported by the states varies from upto Dec. 2005 and March 2006.

Bharat Nirman : Housing Component Financial and Physical details 2005-06

Programme : Indira Awas Yojana

Budget Allocation : Rs 2750.00 crore Physical Target : 14.41 lakh houses

Allocation criteria : 75% weightage for housing shortage and 25% weightage for poverty ratios prescribed by the Planning Commission.

Funding pattern : 75:25 (Centre: State)

Sl.No.	State	Financial (Rs. crore)			Physical			
		Central Allocation in 2005-06	Central Releases upto Marh-06	Central releases as % of allocation	Total number of houses to be constructed in 2005-06	Total number of houses constructed upto Dec.-06	Total number of houses constructed in 4th Qtr Jan-Mar 2006	Total number of houses constructed in Year 2005-06
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	243.99	246.10	101	130130	84504	48017	132521
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	9.49	7.12	75	4603	2192	3135	5327

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.	Assam	209.94	214.66	102	101790	80027	24326	104353
4.	Bihar	720.21	625.37	87	384111	208423	125228	331651
5.	Chhattisgarh	37.73	44.74	119	20124	4022	22556	26578
6.	Goa	1.50	1.37	91	801	408	207	615
7.	Gujarat	119.66	119.59	100	63819	29497	36105	65802
8.	Haryana	16.80	20.08	120	8960	5100	4643	9743
9.	Himachal Pradesh	5.93	7.56	127	2873	983	2048	3031
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	18.41	20.01	109	8924	1525	6706	8231
11.	Jharkhand	64.24	88.23	137	34261	52904	22499	75403
12.	Karnataka	94.00	96.39	103	50136	33774	23170	56944
13.	Kerala	52.28	51.69	99	27880	20696	15717	36413
14.	Madhya Pradesh	75.04	95.92	128	40022	26750	32870	59420
15.	Maharashtra	147.15	149.61	102	78478	38211	55843	94054
16.	Manipur	8.24	8.76	106	3696	3665	1297	4962
17.	Meghalaya	14.35	9.19	64	6959	3159	3519	6678
18.	Mizoram	3.06	3.31	106	1483	1338	844	2182
19.	Nagaland	9.50	9.28	98	4605	7306	641	7949
20.	Orissa	141.50	150.47	106	75465	37479	49591	87070
21.	Punjab	20.78	15.24	73	11061	5967	1901	7668
22.	Rajasthan	60.13	64.94	106	32070	20002	16469	36471
23.	Sikkim	1.82	1.97	106	881	790	506	1296
24.	Tamil Nadu	97.69	99.99	102	52101	28124	36310	66434
25.	Tripura	18.49	20.71	112	6967	1176	10726	11902
26.	Uttar Pradesh	323.49	354.70	110	172527	92306	93235	185541
27.	Uttaranchal	16.22	18.06	111	7863	12486	9234	21722
28.	West Bengal	195.18	193.56	99	104096	66588	32671	99259
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3.09	0.00	0	1238	55	35	90
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.52	0.26	50	206	83	0	83
31.	Daman and Diu	0.23	0.00	0	92	6	0	6
32.	Lakshadweep	0.20	0.33	185	80	19	29	48
33.	Pondicherry	1.54	0.00	0	617	125	113	238
Total		2732.40	2736.21	100	1441241	867694	683991	1551685

Please Note: For 2005-06 the period of reporting physical targets by states varies from Dec. 2005 to March 2006.

Bharat Nirman : Rural Telephony Component Financial and Physical details 2005-06
Programme : Providing Village Public Telephones Connectivity through Satellite Based and Other Technology
(Total cost Rs. 451 crore to cover eligible 66822 villages through Universal Service Obligation Fund)
Allocation for 2005-06 Rs. 47.35 crore
Allocation criteria : Demand Driven

Sl.No.	State/Service Area*	Financial (Rs. crore)		Physical			
		Central Releases upto Mar-06	Total villages to be provided with Telephone**	Number of villages to be covered in 2005-06	Villages covered upto December 2005	Villages covered in 4th Quarter	Total villages covered in the year 2005-06 (upto March 06)†
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.613	1074	179	29	198	227
2.	Assam	0.323	8931	1725	390	2489	2879
3.	Bihar	0.000	—	0	0	0	0
4.	Jharkhand	0.000	1694	326	0	-22	-22
5.	Gujarat (including Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli)	3.080	4144	603	308	771	1079
6.	Haryana	0.000	—	0	0	0	0
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.628	1002	200	0	234	234
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.264	1755	317	16	54	70
9.	Karnataka	0.000	—	0	0	0	0
10.	Kerala (including Lakshadweep)	0.000	—	0	0	0	0
11.	Madhya Pradesh	11.790	11894	1869	948	3980	4928
12.	Chhattisgarh	1.658	5043	975	217	1327	1544
13.	Maharashtra (including Goa)	4.230	6441	1001	345	1048	1393
14.	North East I (Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura)	0.089	2128	409	1	-38	-37
15.	North East II (Arunchal, Manipur, Nagaland)	0.000	1550	304	0	9	9
16.	Orissa	0.000	4899	980	0	0	0
17.	Punjab	0.000	—	0	0	0	—
18.	Rajasthan	11.549	12386	2283	1839	3001	4840
19.	Tamil Nadu (including Pondicherry)	0.000	—	0	0	0	0
20.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	0.000	—	0	0	0	0
21.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	0.000	—	0	0	0	0
22.	Uttaranchal	0.000	3881	754	11	237	248
23.	West Bengal (including Sikkim)	0.000	—	0	0	0	0
24.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.000	—	0	0	0	0
Total		34.204	66822	11905	4104	13288	17392

Central release as % of budget provision is 72%.

*Net Additional villages provided with VPT is only 17392 villages as 22 villages in Jharkhand and 37 villages in North East-I got uncovered in 2005-06.

**7295 VPTs were already provided in 2004-05.

Statement II

Bharat Nirman : Rural Electrification Component Financial and Physical details 2006-07 (As on 26.6.06)

Programme : Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidhyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY)

Budget Allocation 2006-07 : Rs. 3000 crore

Physical Target : 40000 villages to be covered

Allocation criteria : Demand Driven

Funding Pattern : 90:10 (Central Grant: REC Loan)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Cumulative Central Release upto Jun-06 Rs. crore	Number of villages to be covered in 2006-07	Cumulative number of villages covered upto Jun-06	Total Cumulative Rural Household covered upto June 2006	Total cumulative BPL Households covered upto June 2006
1.	Bihar	407.59	—	2076	11000	487
2.	Chhattisgarh*	6.50	—	—	—	—
3.	Gujarat	3.90	—	—	—	—
4.	Jharkhand*	3.50	—	—	—	—
5.	Karnataka	84.18	—	397	40000	12268
6.	Orissa*	3.50	—	—	—	—
7.	Rajasthan	87.05	—	230	505	0
8.	Uttar Pradesh	1127.19	—	9862	17969	13874
9.	Uttaranchal	74.50	—	100	1450	997
10.	West Bengal	156.11	—	457	3799	2941
	Total					
	Others					
	BPL Claims					
	Enabling Activities @ 1%	75.224				
	Total	2029.33	40000	13122	74723	30567

*Fund released is for advance against DPR under formulation.

Note: Financial and physical progress reported are cumulative since 2005-06.

Bharat Nirman: Irrigation Component Financial details 2006-07

Programme: Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme

Budget Allocation Rs. 7121 crore out of which grant Rs. 2350 crore

Physical target: Creating 2.40 m.ha of irrigation potential.

Achievements will be known in the next fiscal 2007-08

Fixing of ceiling: Based on the performance of the states in last three years and their requirement in the current year

Funding pattern: Special Category States 90 : 10 (grant: loan)

Other states 30:70 (grant:loan)

Sl.No.	State	Approved Ceiling	Grant	Loan	Grant Release upto June 2006
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1500.00	450.00	1050.00	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	30.00	27.00	3.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Assam	50.00	45.00	5.00	No grant release upto June 2006
4.	Bihar	250.00	75.00	175.00	
5.	Chhattisgarh	150.00	45.00	105.00	
6.	Goa	60.00	18.00	42.00	
7.	Gujarat	1100.49	330.15	770.34	
8.	Haryana	40.00	12.00	28.00	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	40.00	36.00	4.00	
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	60.00	54.00	6.00	
11.	Jharkhand	45.00	13.50	31.50	
12.	Karnataka	500.00	150.00	350.00	
13.	Kerala	60.00	18.00	42.00	
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1000.00	300.00	700.00	
15.	Maharashtra	1200.00	360.00	840.00	
16.	Manipur	1500.00	135.00	15.00	
17.	Meghalaya	5.00	4.50	0.50	
18.	Mizoram	25.00	22.50	2.50	
19.	Nagaland	20.00	18.00	2.00	
20.	Orissa	500.00	150.00	350.00	
21.	Punjab	100.00	30.00	70.00	
22.	Rajasthan	400.00	120.00	280.00	
23.	Sikkim	5.00	4.50	0.50	
24.	Tamil Nadu	10.00	3.00	7.00	
25.	Tripura	30.00	27.00	3.00	
26.	Uttar Pradesh	500.00	150.00	350.00	
27.	Uttaranchal	60.00	54.00	6.00	
28.	West Bengal	50.00	15.00	35.00	
Total		7940.49	2667.15	5273.34	0.00

Note : Approved ceilings are kept higher than the budget allocation.

Bharat Nirman Drinking Water Component details 2006-07
Programme: Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)
Financial Performance during 2006-07
2006-07 Budget Allocation Rs. 5200 crore

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Financial (Rs. crore)				
		ARWSP Normal Allocation	Normal Release Upto 6/2006	Normal release as % of allocation	Releases Under Swajaldhara	Total Releases
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	195.48	97.74	50		
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	98.43				
3.	Assam	166.01				
4.	Bihar	165.57	20.89	13		
5.	Chhattisgarh	58.39	29.20	50		
6.	Goa	2.26	1.13	50		
7.	Gujarat	125.03	62.52	50		
8.	Haryana	40.53	20.27	50		
9.	Himachal Pradesh	96.63	48.32	50		
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	233.26	116.63	50		
11.	Jharkhand	64.74	32.37	50		
12.	Karnataka	174.67	87.34	50		
13.	Kerala	62.16				
14.	Madhya Pradesh	167.59	83.80	50		
15.	Maharashtra	322.32	161.16	50		
16.	Manipur	33.79	16.90	50		
17.	Meghalaya	38.93	19.47	50		
18.	Mizoram	27.91	13.96	50		
19.	Nagaland	28.65				
20.	Orissa	92.12				
21.	Punjab	36.54	18.27	50		
22.	Rajasthan	264.25	132.13	50		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
23.	Sikkim	11.75	5.88	50		
24.	Tamil Nadu	120.57	60.29	50		
25.	Tripura	34.53	17.27	50		
26.	Uttar Pradesh	279.90	139.95	50		
27.	Uttaranchal	67.07				
28.	West Bengal	140.92	70.46	50		
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.33				
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.06				
31.	Daman and Diu	0.14				
32.	Delhi	0.00				
33.	Lakshadweep	0.04				
34.	Pondicherry	0.39				
35.	Chandigarh	0.05				
Total		3151.00	1255.95	40	0.00	1255.95
Mon & Eval., M&I Units, Sub-Missions, HRD/Training, IEC, MIS, Calamity, etc.		2049.00	4.19			4.19
Grand Total		5200.00	1260.14	24	0.00	1260.14

Bharat Nirman Drinking Water Component details 2006-07
Programme: Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)
Physical Performance during 2006-07 (no of habitations)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Target								Achievement upto 14th June 2006							
		CAP 99			Slipped back habitations			QA habes	Grand Total	CAP 99			Slipped back habitations			QA habes	Grand 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
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	457	3000	3457	500	3957	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	26	150	176	684	323	1007	88	1271	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	Assam	103	2500	2603	500	1544	2044	375	5022	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	52
4.	Bihar	0	0	0	2000	1000	3000	2116	5116	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
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	2000	1500	3500	400	3800	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6.	Goa	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Gujarat	0	36	36	43	1500	1543	750	2329	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8.	Haryana	0	0	0	150	186	336	50	386	0	0	0	0	16	16	0	16
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	3000	3000	0	0	0	0	3000	0	60	60	0	0	0	0	60
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	198	800	998	0	0	0	10	1008	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	3000	402	3402	400	3802	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Karnataka	0	2694	0	0	0	2639	5333	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Kerala	0	804	804	0	0	0	261	1085	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	2800	3000	5600	1363	6983	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.	Maharashtra	137	6000	6137	600	686	1286	250	7673	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16.	Manipur	0	0	0	100	3	103	20	123	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	5	60	65	500	105	605	30	700	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
18.	Mizoram	0	24	24	0	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	25	102	127	97	0	97	50	274	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20.	Orissa	0	0	0	2500	0	2500	1726	4226	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21.	Punjab	83	599	682	0	0	0	200	682	2	0	2	0	2	2	0	4
22.	Rajasthan	527	0	527	326	1000	1326	1000	2853	7	0	7	6	362	368	8	363
23.	Sikkim	0	66	66	0	72	72	246	164	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	2000	2000	350	2350	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
25.	Tripura	0	0	0	28	44	72	246	318	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	0	2800	3000	5800	922	6722	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27.	Uttaranchal	10	65	75	0	0	0	0	75	1	1	2	25	69	94	0	96
28.	West Bengal	0	0	0	0	2250	2250	1200	3450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	45	45	0	0	0	0	45	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6	10	16	0	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
32.	Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
33.	Lakshadweep	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
34.	Pondicherry	0	36	36	0	0	0	28	64	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		1120	17000	18120	18385	21615	40000	15000	73120	10	61	71	31	449	480	8	611

NC - Not Covered, PC - Partially Covered, QA habe - Quality Affected habitations

Bharat Nirman : Rural Roads Component Financial Achievement 2006-07

Programme : Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

Budget Allocation : 2006-07 Rs. 5225.62 crore and Rs. 4000 crore likely from NABARD Window

Physical Target: To be fixed after discussions with states.

Allocation criteria: (A) Cess of high speed diesel (Rs. 1/lt)

(i) 75% for need (share of unconnected habitations in the total unconnected habitations in the country)

(ii) 25% on coverage (share of connected habitations in the total unconnected habitations in the country)

(B) Additional cess on high speed diesel (50 paise/lt)

(i) Road length to be built under Bharat Nirman

Funding Pattern : 100% Centre

Sl.No.	State	Financial (Rs. crore)		
		Central Allocation in 2006-07	Central Releases upto June-06	Central release as % of Allocation
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	100.00	0.00	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	52.00	0.00	0
3.	Assam	276.00	0.00	0
4.	Bihar	332.00	134.52	41
5.	Chhattisgarh	435.00	428.52	99
6.	Goa	5.00	0.00	0
7.	Gujarat	60.00	0.00	0
8.	Haryana	25.00	45.11	180
9.	Himachal Pradesh	232.00	0.00	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	60.00	0.00	0
11.	Jharkhand	245.00	0.00	0
12.	Karnataka	105.00	0.00	0
13.	Kerala	25.00	0.00	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	685.00	393.98	58
15.	Maharashtra	140.00	0.00	0
16.	Manipur	28.00	0.00	0
17.	Meghalaya	40.00	0.00	0
18.	Mizoram	27.00	0.00	0
19.	Nagaland	25.00	0.00	0
20.	Orissa	368.00	365.48	99

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Punjab	30.00	0.00	0
22.	Rajasthan	604.00	594.33	98
23.	Sikkim	25.00	0.00	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	85.00	0.00	0
25.	Tripura	35.00	0.00	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	520.00	2.00	0
27.	Uttaranchal	95.00	0.00	0
28.	West Bengal	321.00	50.00	16
Total		4980.00	2013.94	40

*Bharat Nirman - Rural Roads Component Physical Achievements 2006-07**Programme : Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*

Sl.No.	State	Target 2006-07			Achievement upto June 2006		
		Number of habitations	New Connectivity (in km)	Upgradation (in km)	Number of habitations	New Connectivity (in km)	Upgradation (in km)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	0	2258.652			
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	85	637.5	0.000			
3.	Assam	1988	2864.063	2005.710			
4.	Bihar	2062	3928.75	2393.617			
5.	Chhattisgarh	1310	4367.606	1986.063			
6.	Goa	0	0	190.114			
7.	Gujarat	246	429.723	1557.114			
8.	Haryana	0	0	1146.789			
9.	Himachal Pradesh	209	795.833	1515.923			
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	352	1059.49	1007.584			
11.	Jharkhand	1295	2594.390	2108.433			
12.	Karnataka	0	0.000	2573.529			
13.	Kerala	0	0.000	628.931			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1760	6162.451	5189.543			
15.	Maharashtra	0	0.000	4334.365			
16.	Manipur	48	460.714	0.000			
17.	Meghalaya	39	135.971	587.583			
18.	Mizoram	39	274.819	257.998			
19.	Nagaland	10	104.529	246.914			
20.	Orissa	874	1985.609	4438.574			
21.	Punjab	0	0.000	1483.051			
22.	Rajasthan	1252	3629.519	4764.543			
23.	Sikkim	30	104.042	196.850			
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	0.000	2824.427			
25.	Tripura	183	261.740	373.737			
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1504	2390.632	7158.962			
27.	Uttaranchal	106	422.008	889.454			
28.	West Bengal	2738	2572.767	2549.942			
	Total	16130	35182.156	54669.259	0	0.000	0.000

Bharat Nirman : Housing Component Financial and Physical details 2006-07

Programme : Indira Awas Yojana

Budget Allocation : Rs. 2950.00 crore Physical Target : 15.33 lakh houses

Allocation criteria : 75% weightage for housing shortage and 25% weightage for poverty ratios prescribed by the Planning Commission.

Funding pattern : 75:25 (Centre:State)

Sl.No.	State	Financial (Rs. crore)			Physical	
		Central Allocation in 2006-07	Central Releases upto Jun-06	Central releases as % of allocation	Total number of houses to be constructed in 2006-07	Total number of houses constructed upto Jun-06
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	259.39	—	—	138342	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10.19	—	—	4839	—
3.	Assam	225.25	—	—	109214	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Bihar	765.66	—	—	408350	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	40.11	—	—	213.93	—
6.	Goa	1.60	—	—	852	18
7.	Gujarat	127.21	—	—	67846	—
8.	Haryana	17.86	—	—	9526	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6.30	—	—	3054	—
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	19.57	—	—	9487	—
11.	Jharkhand	68.29	—	—	36423	—
12.	Karnataka	99.94	1.13	1.1	53299	—
13.	Kerala	55.57	—	—	29639	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	79.78	—	—	42548	—
15.	Maharashtra	156.43	—	—	83430	—
16.	Manipur	8.84	—	—	4287	—
17.	Meghalaya	15.40	—	—	7467	—
18.	Mizoram	3.28	—	—	1591	—
19.	Nagaland	10.19	—	—	4941	—
20.	Orissa	150.43	0.09	0.1	80228	—
21.	Punjab	22.09	—	—	11780	27
22.	Rajasthan	63.93	—	—	34094	—
23.	Sikkim	1.95	—	—	945	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	103.85	—	—	55389	—
25.	Tripura	19.84	—	—	9621	—
26.	Uttar Pradesh	343.90	—	—	183414	—
27.	Uttaranchal	17.24	—	—	8359	106
28.	West Bengal	207.50	—	—	110667	—
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3.29	—	—	1316	—
30.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.55	—	—	219	—
31.	Daman and Diu	0.25	—	—	98	—
32.	Lakshadweep	0.21	—	—	85	—
33.	Pondicherry	1.64	—	—	655	—
Total		2907.53	1.22	1.19	1533498	151

Bharat Nirman : Rural Telephony Component Financial and Physical details 2006-07

Programme : Providing Village Public Telephones Connectivity through

Satellite Based and Other Technology

(Total cost Rs. 451 crore to cover eligible 66822 villages through Universal Service Obligation Fund)

Allocation for 2006-07 Rs. 117.11 crore

Allocation criteria : Demand Driven

Sl.No.	State/Service Area*	Financial (Rs. crore)		Physical	
		Central Releases upto Jun-06	Total villages to be provided with Telephone**	Number of villages to be covered in 2006-07	Villages covered upto June 2006
1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	1074	375	9
2.	Assam	—	8931	2675	597
3.	Bihar	—	—	0	0
4.	Jharkhand	0.310	1694	500	4
5.	Gujarat (including Daman and Diu and Dadra and Nagar Haveli)	—	4144	1250	218
6.	Haryana	—	—	0	0
7.	Himachal Pradesh	0.480	1002	300	396
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	1755	525	41
9.	Karnataka	—	—	0	0
10.	Kerala (including Lakshadweep)	—	—	0	0
11.	Madhya Pradesh	—	11894	3550	816
12.	Chhattisgarh	2.750	5043	1500	208
13.	Maharashtra (including Goa)	—	6441	1950	187
14.	North East-I (Meghalaya, Mizoram, Tripura)	1.470	2128	600	0
15.	North East-II (Arunachal, Manipur, Nagaland)	—	1550	450	45
16.	Orissa	—	4899	1450	0
17.	Punjab	—	—	0	0
18.	Rajasthan	—	12386	3700	229
19.	Tamil Nadu (including Pondicherry)	—	—	0	0
20.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	—	—	0	0
21.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	—	—	0	0
22.	Uttaranchal	—	3881	1175	44
23.	West Bengal (Including Sikkim)				
24.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands				
Total		5.010	66822	20000	2794

Central release as % of budget provision is 0.8%

**Out of 66822 VPT's 24687 VPT's were already provided till 2005-06.

Integration of Indian Systems of Medicine with Mainstream Medicine

**267. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:**

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for integrating Indian systems of medicine with mainstream medicine under the National Rural Health Mission;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) the estimated expenditure therefor;

(d) the manner in which this integration will help the rural masses; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The mainstreaming of AYUSH is one of the core strategies under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM). The integration of AYUSH with primary health delivery system is proposed to be carried out through state specific proposals for revitalization of locally accepted systems of medicine. The proposed initiatives include:

1. Provision of AYUSH practitioners at PHCs through co-location or contractual appointments depending upon availability of manpower & funds.
2. AYUSH wings being set up in CHCs where adequate equipments and medicines are being made available.

The funding for functional integration of AYUSH with allopathic system shall be built into state specific Programme Implementation Plans (PIP) for various years of the Mission. The overall expenditure will depend upon the schemes proposed by individual states, current status of available assets under the AYUSH system and the strategies adopted by the respective states.

The integration of AYUSH system in primary health care system would reinforce the existing delivery system by revitalizing local health tradition with the use of natural, safe and eco-friendly remedies, which are time tested, accessible and affordable. It would also allow optimal utilisation of the skilled healthcare providers and the partnership would ensure easy accessibility to health care in the remote regions where availability of the doctors of allopathic medicine may be lacking or deficient.

(e) The NRHM is for the period 2005 to 2012 and the strategies of mainstreaming of AYUSH are already being implemented in various states.

Bringing Back Indians from Kurdistan

268. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that nearly 100 people from Andhra Pradesh are stranded in Kurdistan;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to bring them back to India; and

(d) the action likely to be taken against those found guilty for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) Yes. 78 Indian nationals, majority of them from Andhra Pradesh, were stranded in Erbil, Kurdistan, where they had been sent to work from Dubai for an Iraqi company called Iraqi Construction Company (ICC) on 10th June, 2006 by different agents. These workers owing to difficult conditions of stay and work expressed the desire to be repatriated. The Indian Mission in Iraq with the help of the concerned Iraqi authorities was able to ameliorate their conditions of stay and arrange for their repatriation. The first batch of 22 left Kurdistan for India via Dubai on 24th June. The remaining 56 left for India via Dubai on 1st July, 2006.

(d) The details of agents involved in their recruitment are being ascertained and action against them will be taken as per the provisions of the Immigration Act, 1983 and the rules made thereunder by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs.

Sale of F-16 to Pakistan

269. DR. K. DHANARAJU:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been signed recently between America and Pakistan regarding sale of F-16 aircraft;

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

(c) whether any protest has been lodged with the US in view of the security threat to India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) The US Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) has notified the US Congress on 28 June 2006 of a possible sale of 36 F-16C/D Block 50-52 Aircraft. The DSCA has also notified its intention of a possible supply of 60 F-16A/B Mid-Life Update Modification kits and Falcon Star Structured Service Life Enhancement Kits with associated equipment and services.

(c) to (e) The issue of US planning to supply F-16 aircraft to Pakistan has been the subject of discussion with the US Government for some time. The Prime Minister has even in the past, expressed his disappointment to US President at the US approach on supply of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan. Official Spokesperson of the Government reiterated this Indian position on 3 July 2006, stating that this step is not conducive to improving ties between India and Pakistan.

(f) The Government will continue to engage US Government to limit sale of advanced military technology to Pakistan which could be used against India. Government would also continue to modernize and equip Indian armed forces to deal with all threats to national security.

Separate Wings in Government Hospitals for CGHS Beneficiaries

270. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Central Government Hospitals in Delhi/New Delhi in which separate wings are functioning for the CGHS beneficiaries;

(b) whether the CGHS beneficiaries can go direct to these units for treatment;

(c) if so, whether the Doctor/staff deployed in these units refuse to treat the CGHS beneficiaries if their cases are not referred to by the concerned CGHS dispensary; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Separate CGHS wings are functioning in Safdarjung Hospital and Dr. RML hospital.

(b) and (c) The CGHS beneficiaries with basic pay of Rs. 12,000/-+D.P. i.e. Rs. 18,000/- and above can consult the doctor in the above two hospitals directly after taking appointment. Other patients are referred by the concerned dispensaries but no patient is refused by the doctor in the hospitals even he/she comes without referral.

(d) In view of (b) & (c) above, the question does not arise.

New Administrative Measures for Bureaucrats

271. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to introduce new administrative measures for the bureaucrats at the Centre; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposed administrative changes in this regard and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) Government of India has constituted the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission on 31.8.2005 to prepare a detailed blueprint for revamping the public administration system. New administrative measures would be introduced based on the recommendations of the Commission. In the meantime, Government of India has decided to introduce Performance Appraisal Report system instead of Annual Confidential Reports and mandatory mid-career training programmes, initially for IAS officers. These steps will help in achieving greater accountability and in upgrading the skills of the officers.

[Translation]

N.S.S.O. Survey of Poverty

272. SHRI RAOSAHEB DANVE PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of poor in the country has crossed 28 crores and 56 lakhs as per the survey conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (N.S.S.O.);

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

(c) whether the Government has any plan to reduce poverty in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years according to the Expert Group Methodology (Lakdawala Committee on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor). The latest available data from such survey is from NSS 55th Round, which was conducted in 1999-2000. According to the estimates based on the above survey, 26.02 crores of population were living below the poverty line in the country during 1999-2000. The State-wise number of persons living below

the poverty line using data from the above quinquennial round of National Sample Survey Organization is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Under the monitorable targets for the Tenth Plan period and beyond, the Government projected to reduce poverty by 5 percentage points by 2007 and 15 percentage points by 2012. The Government has adopted a three pronged strategy for reducing poverty: (i) acceleration of economic growth with a focus on sectors which are employment intensive; (ii) human and social development through provision of basic minimum services; and (iii) targeted anti-poverty programmes.

In rural areas, the programmes which are being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development for upliftment of BPL families are (i) Sampooma Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), (ii) Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozar Yojana (SGSY), (iii) Indira Awas Yojana (IAY), and (iv) National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.

The poverty alleviation programme which is being implemented in urban areas is Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY). This programme seeks to provide gainful employment to the urban unemployed or underemployed poor through setting up of micro enterprises and also through provision of Wage Employment by utilizing their labour for construction of useful public assets. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) is being implemented in selected 63 Mission Cities. Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) is applicable to all cities and towns as per the 2001 Census except 63 Mission Cities. The basic objective of IHSDP is to strive for holistic slum development with a healthy and enabling urban environment by providing adequate shelter and basic infrastructure facilities to slum dwellers.

In addition of the above, the Public Distribution System in India has been more focused and targeted towards the very poor category. The "Antyodaya Anna Yojana" provides 35 kgs of foodgrains to the poorest of the poor families at a highly subsidized rate of Rs. 2 per kg., for wheat and Rs. 3 per kg., for rice. Recently, the coverage of Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been expanded from 2.00 crore (BPL) families to 2.5 crore families in 2005. The State Governments have been advised to give priority to the households from the poorest and the backward blocks and/or where nutritional deficiency is more widespread, while identifying the beneficiaries.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement***Number and Percentage of Population Below Poverty Line by States—1999-2000***

Sl.No.	States/U.T.'s	Rural		Urban		Combined	
		No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58.13	11.05	60.88	26.63	119.01	15.77
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.80	40.04	0.18	7.47	3.98	33.47
3.	Assam	92.17	40.04	2.38	7.47	94.55	36.09
4.	Bihar	376.51	44.30	49.13	32.91	425.64	42.60
5.	Goa	0.11	1.35	0.59	7.52	0.70	4.40
6.	Gujarat	39.80	13.17	28.09	15.59	67.89	14.07
7.	Haryana	11.94	8.27	5.39	9.99	17.34	8.74
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4.84	7.94	0.29	4.63	5.12	7.63
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2.97	3.97	0.49	1.98	3.46	3.48
10.	Karnataka	59.91	17.38	44.49	25.25	104.40	20.04
11.	Kerala	20.97	9.38	20.07	20.27	41.04	12.72
12.	Madhya Pradesh	217.32	37.06	81.22	38.44	298.54	37.43
13.	Maharashtra	125.12	23.72	102.87	26.81	227.99	25.02
14.	Manipur	6.53	40.04	0.66	7.47	7.19	28.54
15.	Meghalaya	7.89	40.04	0.34	7.47	8.23	33.87
16.	Mizoram	1.40	40.04	0.45	7.47	1.85	19.47
17.	Nagaland	5.21	40.04	0.28	7.47	5.49	32.67
18.	Orissa	143.69	48.01	25.40	42.83	169.09	47.15
19.	Punjab	10.20	6.35	4.29	5.75	14.49	6.16
20.	Rajasthan	55.06	13.74	26.78	19.85	81.83	15.28
21.	Sikkim	2.00	40.04	0.04	7.47	2.05	36.55
22.	Tamil Nadu	80.51	20.55	49.97	22.11	130.48	21.12
23.	Tripura	12.53	40.04	0.49	7.47	13.02	34.44
24.	Uttar Pradesh	412.01	31.22	117.88	30.89	529.89	31.15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
25.	West Bengal	180.11	31.85	33.38	14.86	213.49	27.02
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.58	20.55	0.24	22.11	0.82	20.99
27.	Chandigarh	0.06	5.75	0.45	5.75	0.51	5.75
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.30	17.57	0.03	13.52	0.33	17.14
29.	Daman and Diu	0.01	1.35	0.05	7.52	0.06	4.44
30.	Delhi	0.07	0.40	11.42	9.42	11.49	8.23
31.	Lakshadweep	0.03	9.38	0.08	20.27	0.11	15.60
32.	Pondicherry	0.64	20.55	1.77	22.11	2.41	21.67
	All India	1932.43	27.09	670.07	23.62	2602.50	26.10

- Note: 1. Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
 2. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
 3. Poverty Line of Himachal Pradesh and expenditure distribution of Jammu and Kashmir is used to estimate poverty ratio of Jammu and Kashmir.
 4. Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
 5. Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.
 6. Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra and Nagar Haveli.
 7. Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman and Diu.
 8. Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.

Complaints to CVC

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

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has received complaints particularly from peoples' representatives during the last one year till date;

(b) if so, the details of such complaints particularly from the peoples' representatives;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted or is being conducted into such complaints; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) The Central Vigilance Commission has informed that it has received 142 complaints from people's representatives, during the last one-year till date.

(b) to (d) The references from people's representative are handled as per the Commission's policy, according to which only complaints of vigilance nature are taken up for investigation.

[English]

Strike by Medicos

274. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:
MS. INGRID MCLEOD:

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

(a) whether the medicos went on strike in May this year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the extent to which health services were affected as a result of the strike;

(d) whether any assurances were given to the striking medicos to end the strike;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court directed that the doctors of AIIMS who went on a strike and staged a dharna during the above period should not be subjected to any salary cut;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the said directives have been fully implemented;

(i) if so, the details thereof; and

(j) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (j) Resident Doctors and Interns in Government Medical Colleges/Institutes had gone on strike in May, 2006, in protest against the proposed reservation for OBCs in Government Educational Institutions. Emergency and indoor medical services as also OPD services continued to be available as the Faculty/Senior Doctors were not on strike. Medical Officers from CGHS, ESI & Railways were deployed at Central Govt. Hospitals to man the OPDs. Negotiations were held with the striking doctors at various levels of Government but were inconclusive. On the directions of Supreme Court, the Resident Doctors/Intern called off their strike and resume duties around 3rd June, 2006.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 17th July, 2006 has directed that salary of Medical Doctors on strike for the period upto 30th May, 2006 should not be withheld. Action to take approval for relaxation of Government's instructions on "No Work No Pay" has been initiated.

[*Translation*]

Report of Second Administrative Reform Commission

275. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHY:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUAMN:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Second Administrative Reform Commission headed by Shri Veerappa Moily has submitted its report to the Government as reported in the Hindi daily 'Navbharat Times' dated June 10, 2006;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Commission;

(c) whether the Commission has recommended for the abolition of the Official Secrets Act, 1923;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (e) The Second Administrative Reform Commission has submitted its first report titled 'Right to Information—Master key to Good Governance' on 9.6.2006, which is under examination.

[*English*]

RTI Act

276. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints that information is being denied by the officials despite the coming into force of the RTI Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Central Information Commission has issued any orders in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to strictly implement the Act in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (d) Complaints against denial of information by the public authorities are to be received by the Central Information Commission under Section 18 of the Right to Information Act, 2005. These complaints are inquired into by the Commission and suitable orders passed by it.

(e) The Central Government has taken a number of steps to ensure implementation of various provisions of the Act by public authorities under it. These include creating general public awareness about the Act, sensitization of government officials, establishing a reasonable infrastructure for operationalization of the Act, designating Public Information Officers, Assistant Public Information Officers and conducting training programmes for officials. The Central Government, has also requested the State Governments to ensure speedy and full implementation of the Act by public authorities under their control.

Setting up of Nuclear Power Plants by Private Sector

277. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether private sector has shown interest in setting up civilian nuclear power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to revise the policy to allow private parties to set up nuclear power plants;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Reliance Energy Limited and Tata Power have expressed interest in setting up of nuclear power projects. Many foreign firms are also engaged in discussion at the company level for setting up of nuclear power projects in the country. However, these discussions are only of exploratory nature.

(c) to (e) The Atomic Energy Act, 1962 allows setting up of nuclear power stations only by Government Companies. Two Government companies, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) and Bharatiya Nabhikya Vidyut Nigam Limited (BHAVINI) are presently engaged in setting up and operating nuclear power reactors. With respect to the amendment of the Atomic Energy Act 1962, no final decision has been taken.

National Heart Institute in Safdarjung Hospital

278. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has opened a new National Institute in Safdarjung Hospital; and

(b) if so, the present status thereof and the investment incurred therein?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Combating Diseases

279. SHRI SUBRATA BOSE:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

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

(a) whether there had been a number of cases of T.B., Malaria, Kala-Azar, etc., in different parts of the country during 2005-2006 particularly in West Bengal;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken steps to spray DDT in endemic rural/urban areas in the country particularly in West Bengal and Delhi;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures taken/proposed to be taken to effectively control the above diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI

PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) 13.05 lakh cases of TB were reported under the National TB Control Programme in the year 2005-06 which includes 1.07 lakh cases pertaining to West Bengal. Statement-I indicating the State-wise details of number of TB cases detected and put on treatment under the Programme during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 is enclosed. The increase in reporting of TB Cases in comparison to previous year is attributed to increase in access to RNTCP as well as good case detection rate due to improvement in the Programme management and the Programme becoming more popular.

The reported number of Malaria and Kala Azar cases reported in the country during the year 2005 and 2006 are as below:

Year	Malaria cases	Kala Azar Cases
2005	1.81 million	31217
2006	0.24 million Upto June	12245 Upto April

- Since 1997, there has been steady decline in annual reported incidence of malaria cases from 2.66 million to 1.81 million in 2005. During 2006, upto June, 0.24 million cases have been reported.
- The Kala Azar incidence has come down from 77,099 cases in 1992 (year of launch of Kala Azar Control Programme) to 31217 cases in 2005. However, during 2006 the recorded cases are 12245 (report upto April).

The state-wise situation including West Bengal is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) and (d) In endemic areas, the DDT spray is being carried out based on Annual Parasite Incidence (API) of malaria. The rural areas of West Bengal are covered under spray with DDT whereas Delhi is low endemic for malaria and due to poor acceptance in urban areas, DDT spray is not recommended.

(e) Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) widely known as DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment Short Course) which is a WHO recommended strategy is being implemented as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme from 1997 in the country in a phased manner with the objective of achieving cure rate of 85% of new

sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases. By March 23, 2006, all the districts in the country are implementing RNTCP, allowing access of DOTS to all TB patients in the country. Under the programme, diagnosis and treatment facilities including a supply of anti-TB drugs are provided free of cost to all TB patients. For quality diagnosis, designated microscopy centres have been established for every one lakh population in the normal areas and for every 50,000 population in the tribal, hilly and difficult areas. Sputum microscopy instead of X-ray avoids over diagnosis.

The following three pronged strategies are being implemented for prevention and control of Malaria and Kala Azar through primary health care system.

1. Disease Management

- Early case detection and complete treatment
- Strengthening of referral services
- Epidemic preparedness and rapid response.

2. Integrated Vector Management (For Transmission Risk Reduction)

- Indoor Residual Spraying in selected high risk areas
- Use of Insecticide treated bed nets
- Use of Larvivorous fish
- Anti larval measures in urban areas including biolarvicides
- Minor environmental engineering

3. Supporting Interventions:

- Behaviour Change Communication
- Public Private Partnership & Inter-sectoral convergence
- Human Resource Development through capacity building
- Operational research including studies on drug resistance and insecticide susceptibility
- Monitoring and evaluation through periodic reviews/field visits and web based Management Information System

Statement I

State-wise details of TB cases detected and put on treatment under the Programme during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06

Sl.No.	State	2004-05	2005-06
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	595	733
2.	Andhra Pradesh	109365	108679
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2057	2346
4.	Assam	28551	29494
5.	Bihar	24422	30628
6.	Chandigarh	2208	2478
7.	Chhattisgarh	23822	23515
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	141
9.	Daman and Diu	0	158
10.	Delhi	43809	45717
11.	Goa	509	1731
12.	Gujarat	80625	77087
13.	Haryana	33806	34516
14.	Himachal Pradesh	13458	13697
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	6069	5922

1	2	3	4
16.	Jharkhand	20031	26180
17.	Karnataka	65403	68728
18.	Kerala	25439	25074
19.	Lakshadweep	—	4
20.	Madhya Pradesh	68260	72296
21.	Maharashtra	143766	144564
22.	Manipur	5042	4639
23.	Meghalaya	3800	3889
24.	Mizoram	2035	1942
25.	Nagaland	2707	2770
26.	Orissa	43238	44501
27.	Pondicherry	1203	1482
28.	Punjab	23304	30764
29.	Rajasthan	105596	104315
30.	Sikkim	1724	1572
31.	Tamil Nadu	96639	92540
32.	Tripura	924	1730
33.	Uttar Pradesh	164406	182723
34.	Uttaranchal	10872	10825
35.	West Bengal	104026	107737
Total		1257532	1305277

Statement II

Malaria and Kala Azar Cases reported in country

States/UTs.	Malaria Cases		Kala Azar Cases	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	37720	7984		
Arunachal Pradesh	31215	2445		
Assam	67885	76029	1	0
Bihar	2733	272	21797	9163

1	2	3	4	5
Chhattisgarh	187950	0		
Goa	3747	790		
Gujarat	179023	9471		
Haryana	33262	1831		
Himachal Pradesh	129	9		
Jammu and Kashmir	268	15		
Jharkhand	192334	25543	6578	2282
Karnataka	83181	14759		
Kerala	2121	385		
Madhya Pradesh	104317	11044		
Maharashtra	47632	7125		
Manipur	1844	0		
Meghalaya	16816	1883		
Mizoram	10526	1435		
Nagaland	2987	359		
Orissa	391261	40204		
Punjab	1883	20		
Rajasthan	52286	2754		
Sikkim	69	19		
Tamil Nadu	39678	0		
Tripura	18008	3734		
Uttaranchal	1242	119		
Uttar Pradesh	105303	11520	73	0
West Bengal	185964	10752	2706	789
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	3954	771		
Chandigarh	432	28		
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1166	209		
Daman and Diu	104	17		
Delhi	1133	47	62*	11*

1	2	3	4	5
Lakshadweep	0	0		
Pondicherry	44	10		
All India Total	1808217	231563	31217	12245

*Delhi-all Kala Azar cases are imported.

Import of Coal

280. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of coal imported during the last three years;

(b) whether the coal reserve and the expected production in the country during the current year is sufficient to meet the projected demand;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to import coal despite the availability of sufficient quantity of coal in the country;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to boost the production of coal in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The quantity and value of coal imported during the last three years are given below:—

(Million Tonnes/Million Rs.)		
Year	Imported Coal	Value
2003-04	21.683	50087
2004-05	28.950	102660
2005-06 (Estimated)	36.869	143262

(b) and (c) As per Annual Plan, 2006-07, the estimated raw coal demand during current year would be 474.18 Million tonnes. This is planned to be met from

domestic supply of 432.39 Million tonnes and gap of 41.79 Million tonnes will have to be met by imports of 24.19 Mt of coking coal for steel sector and 17.60 Mt. of non-coking coal for power, cement and others sectors.

(d) and (e) Government do not import coal. Since coal is under Open General Licence (OGL), consumers are free to import coal based on their requirement. Import of coal is done due to limited indigenous availability of low ash coking and non-coking coal, environmental consideration necessitating use of imported coal and consideration of location specific landed cost.

(f) Coal India Limited has taken the following steps to increase indigenous production:-

- (i) 100 mining projects are envisaged to be undertaken during Xth Plan.
- (ii) improvement in equipment utilization.
- (iii) timely implementation of projects.
- (iv) mechanization/modernization of existing mines.
- (v) all new mines being planned with mechanization.
- (vi) increasing productivity in both underground and open cast mines.
- (vii) emergency coal production has been planned for increasing production in existing mines/projects.

Further, Government has allotted 97 coal blocks to different consumers for captive use.

[Translation]

Non-Utilisation of Central Assistance

281. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the central assistance provided for various development projects to different States particularly Uttar Pradesh remained unutilised during the last financial year;

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

(c) whether the unutilised amount has been re-allocated to the States during the current financial year;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the additional amount proposed to be allocated to Uttar Pradesh for various development projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Planning Commission does not provide project-wise Central assistance to the States including UP while approving the Annual Plan. The size of the Annual Plan of States which basically consist of States own resources and Central assistance is decided by the Planning Commission after detailed discussions with the State Governments and assessment of resource availability. Sectoral distribution of the Annual Plan outlay is made by the State Governments after Working Group discussions with the various subject matter Divisions. The Sectoral expenditure of the previous year of the States is normally made available to Planning Commission in their Draft Annual Plan Document of the next year during the month of November-December.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) An amount of Rs. 250 crores has been provided as One Time Additional Central Assistance while finalising the Annual Plan 2006-07 to Government of Uttar Pradesh for taking up projects of special importance.

[English]

New National Telecom Policy

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to evolve a new National Telecom Policy;

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

(c) the time by which the new policy is likely to be implemented?

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

(b) The proposed policy is intended to be a comprehensive policy encompassing various aspects of the Telecom Sector *inter-alia*, Access, Spectrum Allocation, Technology, Telecom Equipment Manufacturing, R&D, Deregulation/further Simplification, Value Added Services and Quality of Service etc. Various, major stakeholders had already given their comments for preparation of Draft Policy.

(c) Formulation of the National Telecom Policy involves detailed consultation with various stakeholders. Therefore, no definite timeframe can be given for finalisation of National Telecom Policy.

Mandatory Online Information for Ultrasound

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

(a) whether the Government plans to make it mandatory for ultrasound clinics in the country to fill up certain forms online before conducting any ultrasound test on pregnant women;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the provision in the this regard would come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) As per the provisions of the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques Act 1994 and Rules 1996, It is mandatory by a registered clinic/centre to fill in data in one of the forms D to F in respect of every woman or man subjected to pre-natal diagnostic tests. Ultrasound clinics are required to fill Form F for each pregnant woman undergoing ultrasound scan. A copy of the filled in forms is required to be maintained at the clinic and a complete report is required to be sent to the Appropriate Authority by 5th of the following month for which report is to be sent.

A data entry and report generation software for Form F has been developed and sent to the selected States for pre-testing before launching the same country-wide.

Status of AIIMS to Medical Colleges

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to grant status of AIIMS to select medical colleges in certain States;

(b) if so, the additional facilities proposed to be provided to these medical colleges;

(c) whether the Government has decided to scale down the quantum of assistance as a one time financial grant;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to review the decision and implement the earlier decision to raise the medical colleges to AIIMS status; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), it has been decided to set up six AIIMS like Institutions in under-served States. In addition, it has been decided to upgrade thirteen (13) existing Government medical college institutions in various other States. The additional facilities proposed to be provided to these medical college institutions would depend on the gap analysis and requirements projected by the institution and the respective State Governments. It is essentially proposed to strengthen the existing departments including the existing speciality/super-speciality disciplines already available. The establishment of new speciality/super-speciality disciplines would also be considered depending upon the availability of resources.

(c) to (e) The outlay for the proposed upgradation of each institution continues to remain at Rs. 120 Crores (approx.). However, out of this Rs. 120 crores, the Central Government assistance would be limited to Rs. 100 Crores and the remaining Rs. 20 Crores shall be borne by the respective State Governments/Institutions, as an indication of its commitment towards improving the functioning of its institutions.

Committee to Monitor Implementation of MPLADS

285. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has directed all the State Governments to constitute committee in their respective State to review MPLADS implementation progress with the District Collectors/Magistrates and MPs atleast once a year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to review the MPLADS funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of unutilised amount during the last three years till March 2006, State-wise;

(f) whether the unutilised balance would be distributed equally among the Parliamentary constituencies throughout the country; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per Paragraph 6.3 of Guidelines on MPLADS, for proper and effective supervision of the MPLADS implementation in the State, a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary/Development Commissioner/Additional Chief Secretary would review MPLADS implementation progress with the District Authorities and Members of Parliament at least once in a year.

(c) and (d) There is demand from some Members of Parliament to review MPLADS fund and increase the annual grant under the Scheme. However, the allocation of funds at present in the budget for 2006-2007 is at the rate of Rs. 2 crore per MP.

(e) The details of State-wise cumulative unspent balance during the last three years i.e. as on 31.3.2004, 31.3.2005 and 31.3.2006 are attached in the enclosed Statement-I.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Funds in the MPLAD scheme are non-lapsable. Funds left in the district can be carried forward for

utilization in the subsequent years. The balance of MPLADS funds are passed on and distributed as per the pattern stipulated in the MPLADS Guidelines. These provisions are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

Unspent Balance

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	State	As on 31.03.2004	As on 31.03.2005	As on 31.03.2006
1	2	3	4	5
	Nominated	39.33	46.57	34.95
1.	Andhra Pradesh	181.06	136.73	129.02
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.8	4.57	2.67
3.	Assam	52.99	44.64	45.51
4.	Bihar	181.68	152.62	183.56
5.	Goa	13.22	7.46	7.66
6.	Gujarat	137.86	88.47	86.83
7.	Haryana	27.84	35.62	42.58
8.	Himachal Pradesh	15.96	16.94	19.52
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	43.7	30.3	36.38
10.	Karnataka	81.13	60.97	78.91
11.	Kerala	141.93	96.06	96.31
12.	Madhya Pradesh	94.37	84.45	81.74
13.	Maharashtra	247.69	182.27	184.17
14.	Manipur	4.06	6.6	8.49
15.	Meghalaya	5.89	3.22	6.09
16.	Mizoram	0.6	3.11	1.46
17.	Nagaland	2.52	3.08	3.07
18.	Orissa	147.57	93.87	102.01
19.	Punjab	77.66	55.22	60.00
20.	Rajasthan	71.43	72.73	71.69

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Sikkim	4.67	4.26	6.12
22.	Tamil Nadu	68.37	68.25	63.67
23.	Tripura	7.8	6.44	5.67
24.	Uttar Pradesh	290.81	228.07	269.12
25.	West Bengal	267.13	170.71	147.34
26.	Andaman Nicobar	1.1	2.1	2.08
27.	Chandigarh	0.73	1.58	1.94
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.53	1.85	1.03
29.	Daman and Diu	1.18	1.62	1.67
30.	Delhi	35.11	27.94	39.55
31.	Lakshadweep	5.79	5.25	4.72
32.	Pondicherry	9.24	8.14	6.48
33.	Chhattisgarh	44.5	27.04	29.4
34.	Uttaranchal	24.09	19.14	16.08
35.	Jharkhand	70.93	49.64	55.58
Total		2404.29	1847.53	1933.07

Statement II

4.4 Funds Non-lapsable: Funds released to the District Authority by the Government of India are non-lapsable. Funds left in the district can be carried forward for utilization in the subsequent years. Further, the funds not released by the Government of India in a year will be carried forward for making releases in the subsequent years subject to the fulfillment of criteria stipulated in Paragraph 4.3.

4.7 The balances of MPLADS funds (funds not committed for the recommended works) left by the predecessor MP in a Lok Sabha constituency would be passed on the successor MP from the constituency.

4.8 In respect of elected Members of Rajya Sabha, the balance of funds (funds not committed for the recommended and sanctioned works) left in

the Nodal District by the predecessor Members in a particular State will be equally distributed by the State Government among the successor elected Rajya Sabha Members in that State.

However, the unspent balance of former Rajya Sabha MPs from 1993-94 to 2004-05, if not already distributed, will be equally distributed among the sitting Rajya Sabha Members of the States concerned.

4.9 The balance of funds (funds not committed for the recommended and sanctioned works) left by the nominated Members of Rajya Sabha in the Nodal District will be equally distributed amongst the successor nominated Members of Rajya Sabha by the Government of India.

However, the unspent balance of former Nominated Rajya Sabha Members from 1993-94 to 2004-05, if not already distributed, will be

equally distributed among the sitting Nominated Rajya Sabha Members.

- 4.10 The balance of funds (funds not committed for the recommended and sanctioned works) left by Anglo-Indian nominated Lok Sabha MPs will be equally distributed among the successor Anglo-Indian nominated Lok Sabha MPs by the Government of India.

However, the unspent balance of former Anglo-Indian Nominated Lok Sabha Members from 1993-94 to 2004-05, if not already distributed, will be equally distributed among the sitting Nominated Lok Sabha Members.

[Translation]

Officers Charged with Human Trafficking

286. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain officers of the Ministry are facing charges of illegal immigration;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the current status of the investigation process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) The CBI have registered RC. 1 (S)/2006-SCU. 1 at SCR.I Branch, CBI on 27.3.2006 u/s 120B r/w 420, 430, 467, 468, 471 IPC and Section 13(1)(d) of PC Act, 1988 and substantive offences thereof against Shri Rakesh Kumar, IFS, former Director General, ICCR and 13 others on the complaint of Satyendra Pandey, Inspector who had conducted the Preliminary Enquiry into the allegations that Shri Rakesh Kumar, IFS; Ms. Kehkeshan Tyagi, Programme Officer (OCD), ICCR entered into a criminal conspiracy with Hargulab Singh and Shiv Kumar Sharma, both r/o Ludhiana and others and pursuant thereto facilitated illegal trafficking of 9 individuals to Berlin by misusing their official position for extraneous considerations. These 9 persons disappeared on reaching Germany.

(c) According to information from the CBI who are conducting the investigations, they have seized 333 documents, examined considerable number of witnesses, and arrested and interrogated one Shri Shiv Kumar Sharma. The investigation is continuing.

[English]

Present Status of Golden Quadrilateral Project

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

(a) whether the work on the Golden Quadrilateral Project is going on at a slow pace;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the progress made in the construction of the Golden Quadrilateral project so far;

(d) the total Kilometres of road targetted to be constructed as per the revised target of 2004 and the total kms. of roads constructed by the Government so far;

(e) the target dates for completion of each sector thereof and the extent of delay suffered in respect of each sector;

(f) the cost over-run as a result of the delay; and

(g) the steps taken and proposed to be taken to expedite the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) 92.5% of the Golden Quadrilateral has been completed as on 30.06.2006 and remaining work has suffered mainly due to delays in land acquisition, utilities shifting by respective State Govt's, contractual problems, litigation and excessive rains in some of the States.

(c) and (d) The total length of Golden Quadrilateral is 5848 km. of which 5409 km has been completed by June 2006.

(e) No separate sector-wise target dates have been fixed. However 96% Golden Quadrilateral is targeted for completion by Dec. 2006. Balance of 4% stretches are affected due to non-performance of contractor, re-award of terminated contracts and also award of Allahabad bypass in 2004 with completion date in 2007. The sector-wise status of the project as on 30.06.2006 is as under:—

Sector	Completion	Balance
Delhi-Mumbai	100%	—
Mumbai-Chennai	94%	6%
Chennai-Kolkata	92%	8%
Delhi-Kolkata	84%	16%

(f) The expenditure of Golden Quadrilateral upto 30th June, 2006 is within the total approved cost allowing for escalation. The cost overrun if any, will be known only after the completion of project.

(g) The steps taken to expedite the projects are indicated in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Steps Taken to Expedite the Projects

The following steps have been taken to ensure early completion of the project:-

- (a) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultants, Project Directors, Senior Officers of NHAI. Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, National Highways Authority of India, Secretary, Department of Road Transport & Highways and Minister, Shipping, Road Transport & Highways.
- (b) State Governments have appointed senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highways Development Project such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances, etc. These nodal officers hold periodic meetings to review the projects and take action to resolve the problems.
- (c) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted under Cabinet Secretary to address inter-ministerial and Centre-State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of Road Over Bridges.
- (d) The procedure of issue of Land Acquisition notifications has now been simplified.
- (e) To expedite the construction of Road Over Bridges, an officer of the Railways has been

posted to National Highways Authority of India to coordinate with Ministry of Railways. Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with M/s IRCON International Limited for construction of some of the Road Over Bridges.

- (f) Action has been taken against un-performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in existing contracts.
- (g) Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of contractors by granting interest bearing discretionary advance at the request of contractor, release of retention money against bank guarantee of equal amount, deferment of recovery of advances (on interest basis) and relaxation in minimum IPC amount.

Revamping AIIMS

288. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any review of the medical education and research and revamp the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS);
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether AIIMS has fulfilled the objectives for which it was set up;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to make AIIMS more effective and efficient?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) is an autonomous institution, established through an Act of Parliament. AIIMS was set up with the object of developing patterns of teaching in UG/PG medical, so as to demonstrate a high standard of medical education to all other medical college institutions in India. In order to fulfill these objectives, the institute is engaged in medical education, research & clinical care. In order to further improve the functioning of AIIMS and keeping mind the objectives for which AIIMS was set up the Government has constituted an Expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Valiathan to study

the functioning of AIIMS and to make recommendations for further development of the Institute. The other members the Committee are (1) Secretary (H&FW), (2) Secretary, Department of Bio-technology and Director General of Health Services. The Committee shall submit its report within three months.

Impact of User Charges on Patients' Profile

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to conduct any study on the aspects *viz.*, patients' profile, economic criteria etc., on the patients coming to the OPDs at AIIMS after the introduction of user charges; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There is no specific proposal to study patients profile, economic criteria etc. on patients coming to OPDs. However, the Government has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. G.K. Rath, Professor of Radiotherapy, AIIMS to look into various aspects of levy of User Charges. In the meantime it has also been decided to withdraw the upward revision in the user charges.

[*Translation*]

Awareness Programme for Migrants

290. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA":

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

(a) the approximate number of Indians working in the Gulf countries at present;

(b) the number out of them not getting protection of labour laws;

(c) whether the Government plans to launch multimedia awareness and publicity campaign for migrants;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any private participation is likely to be involved in this plan;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether concerned Ministries/Departments have also been taken into confidence for better implementation of this plan;

(h) if so, the time by which this plan is likely to be implemented;

(i) the number of Indians imprisoned in jails of Gulf countries at present; and

(j) the steps taken by the Government to get them released at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) The Indian workers in the Gulf are estimated to be about 4 million. While exact number are not available, a large number of these workers (about 43% in Saudi Arabia and 48% in Kuwait) are in the unorganized sector and are not covered by labour laws in the Gulf.

(c) to (h) The Protector General of Emigrants has from time to time been making efforts to create awareness among potential emigrants about their rights and duties through publication of an information handbook on emigration, pamphlets and advertisements.

(i) According to the information received from the Indian Missions in the Gulf, the number of Indians in jails are as under:

Saudi Arabia	1116
UAE	825
Kuwait	111
Bahrain	66
Qatar	32

(j) The officials in Indian Missions in Gulf countries visit the jails periodically or whenever required to ensure Consular access to the arrested Indians with a view to ascertain the possibility of their release at the earliest opportunity. The Missions also take up their cases with

the local Government authorities in this regard. Besides, the Indian Missions send requests for Royal Pardon for release of Indian prisoners on humanitarian grounds during the holy month of Ramadan.

[English]

KBK Special Scheme

291. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to extend the KBK special scheme in Orissa to the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether more districts of the State are to be included under the scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the fund actually earmarked therefor so far and the development projects proposed to be taken up during the Eleventh Five Year Plan in KBK districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The development efforts of States for backward regions are to be supplemented through the Backward Regions Grant Fund which is under finalization.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

(f) The allocation for the Special Plan for the KBK districts under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) for the Tenth Plan period is Rs. 1200 crore. The RSVY is being subsumed in the Backward Regions Grant Fund which is under finalization.

Deployment of Ambulances on National Highways

292. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to deploy ambulances with the State-of-the art equipment on every 50 km of completed stretches of national highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to introduce a medical insurance coverage for accidents on the National Highways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The present policy of National Highways Authority of India is to deploy an ambulance at an average interval of 50 kms under their Operation and Maintenance Contracts/Build Operate Transfer agreements on the completed stretches of National Highways entrusted to them. This Ministry has also been providing ambulances to States/UTs to evacuate victims of accident to the nearest medical centres under National Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme (NHARSS).

(c) and (d) Road accidents victims are already covered by the third party insurance under Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

Allocation of New Projects to ITI

293. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether new projects have been allocated to Palakkad unit of Indian Telephone Industries Limited (ITI) in recent years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. New projects allocated to Palakkad unit of M/s ITI Ltd. in recent years (since 2001) are as under:

(i) SIM (Subscriber identification Module)/Smart Cards

- (ii) MLLN (Managed Leased Line Networks)
- (iii) IP TAX [Internet Protocol based Trunk Automatic Exchange (Softswitch)] for Next Generation Network (NGN) applications
- (iv) SSTP [Stand-alone Signal Transfer Point]
- (c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Eco-Friendly Bags In Hospitals

294. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to adopt eco-friendly bags in Government and Private hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Health being a state subject, it is for the State Governments to issue necessary directions to the Hospitals located in respective States for use of eco-friendly bags in conformity with various rules and regulations under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. So far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are concerned, they are using bio-degradable plastic bags for disposal of wastes in conformity with "Delhi Plastic Bag (Manufacture, sales and usage) and Non-biodegradable Garbage (Control) (Amendment) Act, 2004 (Delhi Act 2 of 2005)".

Cases In Administrative Vigilance Division

295. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of cases dealt with in the Administrative Vigilance Division is increasing year after year;

(b) if so, the details of pending cases and disciplinary proceedings initiated against IAS offices, during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether uniformity is seldom found while examining disciplinary cases between CVC and UPSC, resulting in delay in taking final decision; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to minimize the time taken for the conclusion of disciplinary proceedings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) UPSC and CVC are independent constitutional/statutory bodies and their advice on disciplinary cases may not be uniform in all cases. However, with a view to minimizing the time taken in the conclusion of disciplinary proceedings, instructions have been issued by the Government from time to time in addition to the provisions already contained under the All India Services (Discipline & Appeal) Rules, 1969.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of Polio Affected Children

296. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey with regard to the total number of polio-affected children in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to spend more amount on polio vaccination in those States that are at high risk of polio disease during the current year;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme to provide cash and necessary equipments to all the polio-affected children;

(f) if so, whether it has also been proposed to rehabilitate such polio-affected children; and

(g) if so, the total amount likely to be spent on this programme alongwith the time by which this programme is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Ministry has list of all polio cases with addresses that have occurred since 1998, through effective surveillance system.

(c) and (d) Government of India proposes to undertake additional round of Pulse Polio Immunization (PPI) in the highly-endemic areas of Polio virus transmission. The PPI rounds are conducted as per the recommendations of India Expert Advisory Group.

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir. Government has decided to formulate a scheme for corrective surgery for polio affected children between the age group of 3-18 yrs. in the country for their medical rehabilitation. For the purpose a committee has been constituted chaired by Additional Director General Health Services to formulate and recommend the scheme. Government on acceptance of the scheme will implement the same in the period of two to three years.

[English]

Opening of New Dental Colleges

297. MS. INGRID MCLEOD:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

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

(a) the number of dental colleges presently located in the country, Government and privately-owned, State-wise;

(b) the number of applications received for opening up of new dental colleges during the current year and till date;

(c) whether a large number of applications for opening new dental colleges have been rejected by the Dental Council of India;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the number of applications considered favourably in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the quality of dental education in the country?

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

(b) to (d) Till date, of the 88 applications received, in 19 cases, permission has been given by the Central Government on the recommendation of Dental Council of India during 2006-07. A list indicating names of such colleges is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

In the remaining cases, Dental Council of India has not recommended to the Central Government for grant of permission for opening of new dental colleges due to non-fulfillment of Dental Council of India norms. A list of 69 such applications is given in the enclosed statement-III. The reasons for the rejection have been communicated to the colleges for compliance.

Clearance of these proposals depends on availability of infrastructural facilities as per the prescribed norms and recommendation of Dental Council of India thereon.

(e) Regulations have been notified by Dental Council of India with the approval of Central Government prescribing the minimum standards of dental education to be followed by each institute. The Council undertakes periodic inspection for verification of the same and the deficiencies noticed are brought to the notice of the concerned dental colleges for removing the same, with a view to improving the dental education in the country.

Statement I

State-wise number of Dental Colleges in Government and Private Sectors at present in the country

State	Government	Private	Total
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	2	18	20
Assam	1	0	1
Bihar	1	6	7
Chandigarh	1	0	1

1	2	3	4
Chhattisgarh	1	3	4
Delhi	1	0	1
Goa	1	0	1
Gujarat	2	6	8
Haryana	1	8	9
Himachal Pradesh	1	4	5
Jammu and Kashmir	1	0	1
Karnataka	1	42	43
Kerala	3	14	17
Madhya Pradesh	1	9	10
Maharashtra	4	21	25
Orissa	1	2	3
Pondicherry	1	1	2
Punjab	2	9	11
Rajasthan	1	8	9
Tamil Nadu	1	15	16
Uttar Pradesh	2	23	25
Uttaranchal	0	2	2
West Bengal	2	1	3
Grand Total	32	192	224

Statement II

*List of 19 Dental Colleges permitted for the year
2006-07 by the Government of India*

ANDHRA PRADESH

1. G. Pulla Reddy Dental College & Hospital at Kurnool, A.P.
2. MNR Dental College, Hyderabad
3. Meghna Institute of Dental Sciences, Distt. Nizamabad (A.P.)

GUJARAT

1. College of Dental Sciences & Research, Manipur, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

KARNATAKA

1. Navodaya Dental College, Raichur.

KERALA

1. Sree Shankaran Dental College, Akathumuri, Varkala, Trivandrum
2. KMCT Dental College, Calicut, Kerala
3. Noorul Islam College of Dental Sciences, Trivandrum

4. Pushpagiri College of Dental Sciences, Tiruvalla
5. Kannur Dental College, Kannur

MADHYA PRADESH

1. Sri Aurobindo College of Dentistry at Bhanwrasala, Sanwar Road, Indore
2. "Guru Gobind Singh College of Dental Sciences & Research Centre, Burhanpur, M.P."

MAHARASHTRA

1. Swargiya Dadasaheb, Kalmegh Smruti Pratisthan Dental College & Hospital, Nagpur.

ORISSA

1. "Hi-Tech Dental College at Pandra, District Bhubaneswar"

PONDICHERY

1. Indira Gandhi Institute of Dental Sciences, Pondicherry

PUNJAB

1. Dr. Harvansh Singh Judge Institute of Dental Sciences, Punjab University, Chandigarh.

UTTAR PRADESH

1. I.T.S. Dental Colleges, Hospital & Research Centre, Greater Noida.
2. Kalka Dental College, Meerut.

UTTARANCHAL

1. Uttaranchal Dental & Medical Research Institute, Majri Gant, Haridwar Road, Dehradun, Uttaranchal.

Statement III***Details/Information in Respect of the Applications for Establishment of New Dental Colleges******Application/Scheme Returned Back to the Government of India for Disapproval by Dental Council of India***

1. St. Andrews Dental College, Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)
2. Sri Guru Arjun Dev Dental College, Tangori, Punjab

3. East West College of Dental Sciences, Bangalore
4. Adarsh Vijendra Dental College & Hospital, Saharanpur, (U.P.)
5. Padamashree Dr. D.Y. Patil Dental College & Hospital at Khandwa Road, Indore, M.P.
6. Rishiraj Keer College of Dental Sciences Centre, Bhopal.
7. University College of Dental Sciences, University Campus, Kalyanpur, Kanpur.
8. Bengal Dental College & Research Institute, Hoogly, (W.B.)
9. New Horizon Dental College & Research Institute, Bilaspur
10. Government Dental College, Jammu
11. NPC Dental College, Kolkata
12. Arya Dental College and Arya General Hospital, at Kukas, Jaipur, Rajasthan
13. Alwar Dental College & Hospital, at Alwar, Rajasthan
14. Institute of Dental Sciences, Bhubaneswar
15. Sanjeevan Dental College, Dausa, Rajasthan
16. Sofia Dental College, Trichirapalli, Tamil Nadu
17. Kalinga Institute of Dental Sciences, Bhubaneswar
18. Cambridge Institute of Dental Sciences Tatisilwal, Ranchi
19. Institutes of Dental and Medical Research, Gautam Budh Nagar
20. Balasore Dental College and Research Centre, Balasore, Orissa
21. N.I.M.T. Dental College & Hospital, Greater Noida, (U.P.)
22. R.K. College of Dental Sciences, Kasthurbadham Rajkot, Gujarat
23. MES Dental College, Perinthalamanna, Malappuram, District Kerala
24. PSM College of Dental Sciences & Research, Palikattil Building, Akdikavu, Trichur Distt. Kerala

25. Vivekananda Dental College for Woman at Elayampalayam, Tiruchengode T.K. Namakkal District, Tamil Nadu
26. Indira Gandhi Institute of Dental Sciences Kothamangalam, Ernakulam
27. Al-azhar Dental College, Idukki, Kerala
28. Sigma Institute of Dental Sciences, Varoda, Gujarat
29. Mary Matha College of Dental Sciences & Research Centre, Neyyattinkara, Distt. Thiruvananthapuram
30. East Point College of Dental Sciences, Bangalore
31. Aryavart Institute of Dental & Medical Sciences at Lucknow
32. Ginni Modi Dental College, Modi Nagar
33. Inderprastha Dental College & Hospital, Ghaziabad
34. Narayan Swami Hospital & Dental College, Dehradun, Uttaranchal
35. Malabar Dental College & Research Centre, Malapuram, Kerala
36. Awadh Dental College, Jamshedpur (Jharkhand)
37. Purvanchal Institute of Dental Sciences, Gorakhpur
38. Meerut Dental College, Meerut
39. Gurgaon Institute of Dental Sciences & Research, Gurgaon
40. Tejaswi Dental College, Kolliguda, Rayagada
41. D.Y. Patil Dental College & Hospital, Kolhapur
42. Dr. Daulatrao Aher Dental College, Karad, Maharashtra
43. Singhad Dental College & Hospital, Vadgaon (BK), Pune, Maharashtra
44. Educare Institute of Dental Sciences at Kiliyamannil Campus, Malappuram, Kerala
45. Mansarover Dental College, Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
46. Late Shri Yashwantro Chavan Memorial Medical & Rural Development Foundation's Dental College, Ahmednagar
47. Siddhi Vinayak Dental College, Noida
48. Aditdya Dental College, at Beed, Maharashtra
49. School of Dental Sciences, at Karad
50. Shri Maha Kal Bhairav Dental College & Research Centre, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
51. Nootan Dental College & Hospital, Visnagar (North Gujarat)
52. Institute of Dental Sciences, Sehora, Jammu
53. NGM Dental College, Nanded
54. NIMS Dental College, Jaipur
55. Devki Nandan Dental College & Hospital, Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh
56. CT Dental College & Hospital, Jalandhar, Punjab
57. Vyas Dental College & Hospital, Jodhpur
58. Dr. Hedgewar Smruti Rugnea Sewa Mandal's Dental College, Hingoli
59. Maharashtra Institute of Dental Sciences & Research (Dental College), Latur
60. Kalpana Chawla Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, Kamal
61. PDM Dental College & Research Institute, Bahadurgarh
62. Late Narayanda Bhawndas Chhabada Dental College, Satara (Maharashtra)
63. Manav Rachna Dental College, Faridabad
64. Health Foundation and Research Centre, Dahod
65. Indus International Institute of Dental Sciences and Research Centre, Peruvalayal, Kozhikode
66. Karuna Dental College & Hospital, Palakkad (Kerala)
67. The Bombay Patel Welfare Society's Welfare Institute of Dental & Allied Sciences, Bharuch
68. Hindustan Institute of Dental Sciences, Greater Noida (U.P.)
69. The Bombay Patel Welfare Society's Welfare Institute of Dental & Allied Sciences, Bharuch.

Development of Ports under NMDP

298. DR. K.S. MANOJ:

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to develop some more ports under the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) in the country;

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

(c) whether any assessment has been made regarding the amount of money required for developing these ports;

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

(e) the time by which all the ports are likely to be developed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Under the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP), a total of 276 projects in the 12 major ports which are under the Government of India have been identified with the objective to upgrade and modernize the infrastructure in these ports which will enable them to benchmark their performances against global standards. These projects cover the entire gamut of activities including construction/ upgradation of berth, deepening of channels, rail/road connectivity projects, equipment upgradation/modernization and other backup facilities and will be taken up for implementation in two phases over a period upto 2011-12. The total investment under the Programme envisaged for the 12 major ports is Rs. 55,804 crores. State-wise details are given below:-

Sl.No.	Names of the Major Ports with State	Number of projects	Estimated investment (Rs. in crores)
1.	Kolkata Port Trust (West Bengal)	40	6494.45
2.	Paradip Port Trust (Orissa)	28	2402.83
3.	Visakhapatnam Port Trust (Andhra Pradesh)	38	2621.00
4.	Chennai Port Trust, Tuticorin Port Trust and Ennore Port Limited (Tamil Nadu)	52	13284.39
5.	Cochin Port Trust (Kerala)	14	7920.00
6.	New Mangalore Port Trust (Karnataka)	20	7148.00
7.	Mormugao Port Trust (Goa)	12	808.00
8.	Mumbai Port Trust and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (Maharashtra)	46	10044.06
9.	Kandla Port Trust (Gujarat)	26	5081.00
Total		276	55803.73 (say 55804.00)

Opening of Tetulia Corridor

299. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had taken up the issue of opening 'Tetulia Corridor' with Bangladesh during the recent visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister to India;

(b) if so, the details of the talks held; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) During the visit of Bangladesh Prime Minister to India in

March 2006, both the countries held comprehensive discussions on the entire gamut of bilateral relations. The issue of opening 'Tetulia Corridor' has also been raised by Government of India with Government of Bangladesh. The response of Government of Bangladesh is awaited.

Opening of Embassies/Consulates Abroad

300. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open more embassies and consulates abroad;

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

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred by the Government for opening such embassies and consulates; and

(d) the time by which these are likely to become operational in each of these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) The Government have decided to open Indian Embassies in Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of Congo) and Ljubljana (Slovenia); and Consulates General of India in Songkhla (Thailand), Melbourne (Australia) and Juba (Sudan).

(c) The estimated annual expenditure on the above is Rs. 7.22 crores. In addition, there would be a one-time non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 2.06 crores.

(d) These Embassies/Consulates General are to become operational during 2006-07.

Unethical Practices by Doctors

301. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 82 dated 23.11.2005 and state:

(a) whether complaints against the cardiologists of Safdarjung Hospital have since been investigated;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Complaints against the

Cardiologists in Safdarjung Hospital are still under investigation.

[Translation]

Modernisation of Counter Service Programme

302. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:
SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) whether counter service programme of the Department of Posts is being modernised;

(b) if so, the targets fixed, State-wise; and

(c) the details of works completed in this regard till date?

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

(b) Counter services of all large Post Offices located all over the country are being modernized in the Tenth Plan by providing Multipurpose Counter Machines. Number of large Post Offices, State-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Till date Counter Services of 6184 post offices have been modernized. Number of such Post Offices, State-wise, is also given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

State-wise details of Modernization of Counter Services in Post Offices

Name of States	Number of large Post Offices	Number of Post Offices Modernized
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	481	452
Assam	140	110
Bihar	350	127
Chhattisgarh	87	84
Delhi	157	150

1	2	3
Gujarat	507	321
Haryana	157	156
Himachal Pradesh	120	120
Jammu and Kashmir	70	68
Jharkhand	110	104
Karnataka	471	397
Kerala	557	545
Madhya Pradesh	252	246
Maharashtra & Goa	956	864
North-Eastern States viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura & Mizoram	65	65
Orissa	344	179
Punjab	252	239
Rajasthan	283	259
Tamil Nadu	848	848
Uttar Pradesh	565	188
Uttaranchal	132	124
West Bengal & Sikkim	607	540

Recommendations of Talwar Committee

303. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the Talwar Committee has made any recommendations in regard to postmen (Dak Sewaks) working in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the recommendations which have been accepted and the time by which these are likely to be implemented; and

(d) the recommendations which have been rejected by the Government and the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The recommendations made by the Justice Talwar Committee can be classified under the following broad categories:

- (i) Status and Nomenclature of Extra Departmental Agents.
- (ii) Financial Benefits:
Grant of Pay Scales and increments,
Grant of Pension,
Put off duty allowance, and
Retirement benefits, etc.
- (iii) Employment conditions:
Enhancement of educational qualification,
Age of entry,
Working hours,
Transfer liability, and
Leave facility, etc.
- (iv) Re-organization:-
No further creation of Extra Departmental posts,
No Extra Departmental Sub Post Office/Branch Post Office to be opened for next 10 years
Total freeze on filling up vacant Extra Departmental posts, and
Abolition of vacant posts
- (v) Public facility:-
Saving Bank withdrawal limit be increased.

(c) and (d) Approval of the Cabinet was obtained for a package of benefits to be extended to the Gramin Sevaks.

The following recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee have already been accepted:

- (i) Increase in the allowance of Gramin Dak Sevaks by a factor of 3.5 for a period from 01.01.1996 to 28.02.1998.
- (ii) Introduction of the concept of Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA) in respect of Gramin Dak Sevaks in lieu of monthly allowance related to work load w.e.f. 01.03.1998.

- (iii) Increase in the amount of ex-gratia gratuity admissible to Gramin Dak Sevaks from Rs. 6,000/- to Rs. 18,000/-
- (iv) Introduction of the concept of paid leave for Gramin Dak Sevaks @ 10 days for every half year without the provision of carry forward or encashment.
- (v) Increase in office maintenance allowance admissible to Gramin Dak Sevaks Sub Postmasters and Branch Postmasters from Rs. 25/- to Rs. 50/- per month.
- (vi) Even in the absence of any recommendations by Justice Talwar Committee in its report, provision of Severance Amount of Rs. 30,000/- in case of retirement or death, if the period of continuous employment of Gramin Dak Sevaks employee is minimum 20 years and Rs. 20,000/- if a Gramin Dak Sevak has completed 15-20 years of continuous employment, has been made. On absorption to regular departmental post, the Severance Amount of Rs. 20,000/- is payable after 15 years of continuous employment.

The following recommendations of the Justice Talwar Committee have been rejected as these recommendations were not found to be relevant for the Extra Departmental System:

- 1. Gramin Dak Sevaks with less than three years service be terminated by giving them fixed lump sum amount, not below six months' pay and allowances in the recommended grades per year of service.
- 2. Gramin Dak Sevaks over 60 years to be retired subject to payment of all pensionary benefits recommended by Justice Talwar Committee.
- 3. Minimum educational qualification raised to 10+2 for Gramin Dak Sevaks Sub Postmasters/Gramin Dak Sevaks Branch Postmasters, upto matriculation for Gramin Dak Sevaks (Mail Deliverer) and Gramin Dak Sevaks (Stamp Vendor) and no weightage to be given for higher education qualification.
- 4. Retirement age to be reduced from 65 to 60 years.

- 5. Maximum age of entry to be 35 years.
- 6. Total freeze in filling up posts.
- 7. All vacant posts to be abolished. Work to be managed by combination of duties. In exigencies of service, posts may be filled by redeployment.
- 8. Gramin Dak Sevaks to be made liable to transfer within accounts office jurisdiction or maximum with sub-division.
- 9. No further creation of posts of Gramin Dak Sevaks.
- 10. No Gramin Dak Sevaks Branch Post Offices to be opened at least for the next 10 years.

[English]

Payment of Telephone Bills through Post Offices

304. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plans to facilitate payment of telephone bills in various sub-post offices in far flung, inaccessible and remote areas particularly the hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) BSNL has authorized Sub Post Offices and Branch Post Offices to accept payment of Telephone Bills. These include far flung and inaccessible and remote areas. In Himachal Pradesh payment of telephone bill facilities are available in 16 Head Post Offices, 497 Sub Post Offices and 301 Branch Post Offices, covering almost all hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh.

(b) State-wise details are given in the enclosed statement.

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

Statement***State-wise Details of Post Offices authorised to Accept Payments of Telephone Bills***

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of POs authorised to accept payments of telephone bills
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	45
2.	Andhra Pradesh	3084
3.	Assam	733
4.	Bihar	1088
5.	Chhattisgarh	244
6.	Gujarat	6260
7.	Haryana	1832
8.	Himachal Pradesh	814
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	179
10.	Jharkhand	511
11.	Karnataka	3145
12.	Kerala	2345
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1627
14.	Maharashtra and Goa	7760
15.	Mizoram, Tripura and Meghalaya	261
16.	Nagaland	42
17.	Manipur	54
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	56
19.	Orissa	1193
20.	Punjab	3959
21.	Rajasthan	3264
22.	Tamil Nadu including Pondicherry	3317
23.	Chennai Telephones	401
24.	Uttar Pradesh (East) and Uttar Pradesh (West)	2915
25.	Uttaranchal	853
26.	West Bengal	1551
27.	Kolkata Telephones	151
28.	Sikkim	47
Total		47711

Heart Patients

305. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether number of heart patients in the country is increasing day by day;

(b) whether the Ministry has conducted any survey to find the total number of heart patients and identify the most vulnerable zones in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to allocate more funds to curb heart diseases;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the measures taken by the Government to encourage alternative medicines, Yoga and other Desi/Unani practices for the treatment of heart problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes, more number of patients with heart diseases are being reported in secondary and tertiary level hospitals. Although there has not been any long term epidemiological study on heart diseases; several cross sectional surveys have pointed out regarding the increase in prevalence in coronary heart diseases. According to the study conducted at Delhi and Vellore by ICMR, a graded increase in the prevalence of heart disease and risk factor(s) has been shown in rural and urban population.

(d) and (e) The Government proposes to initiate and implement a National Programme for Prevention and Control of Cardiovascular Diseases (CVD) and Diabetes to reduce to adverse health impact of heart diseases, Stroke and diabetes.

(f) Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (CCRYN), an autonomous body of the Department of AYUSH, has started a Specialized OPD (Yoga & Naturopathy) for Cardiac Patients in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi w.e.f. 18.11.2004 and the same is getting a good response from patients and encouraging results. Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), a Yoga Institute which is functioning under the administrative control of the Department of AYUSH is giving yogic treatment to the patients suffering from

Hypertension/CAD to get relief from Heart problems under "Special Health Care Programme". Further it is proposed to take up research project on efficacy of Yoga in Cardio-Vascular Diseases in near future.

Development Projects In Maharashtra

306. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission had sanctioned some development projects for Maharashtra;

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

(c) the amount of funds released during the last three years, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) Planning Commission approves the overall plan size and broad sectoral allocation of the State Plans. It does not sanction individual state sector projects. The approved outlays in respect of the last three Annual Plans of Maharashtra are as follows:

Annual Plan	Approved Outlay (Rs. Crore)
2004-05	9684.99
2005-06	11000.00
2006-07	14829.00

[*Translation*]

Protection of Indian Staff In Pakistan

307. PROF. CHANDER KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of staff appointed in the Indian High Commission in Pakistan;

(b) the number of times cases of torture of the staff of Indian High Commission by Pakistan had come to notice during the last three years and the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) whether the Government proposes to formulate a concrete diplomatic action plan for the protection of Indian staff from torture; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) The number of staff in the High Commission of India in Pakistan is around 100.

(b) Officers and Staff Members of the High Commission of India, Islamabad, are subjected to constant surveillance by intelligence and security personnel of the Government of Pakistan. There has often been close, visible and, occasionally, even aggressive tailing of the officers of the Mission and their spouses. The matter has been taken up with the Government of Pakistan at various levels on several occasions.

(c) and (d) The matter of treatment towards Indian diplomats in Pakistan is included in the Vienna Convention of 1961 and the bilateral 'Code of Conduct for Treatment of Diplomatic/Consular Personnel in India and Pakistan', signed by the two countries in 1992.

[*English*]

Sharing of Infrastructure by Private Telecom Operators

308. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposals to allow sharing of infrastructure, buildings and accommodation of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited by the private telecom operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Sharing of infrastructure is a commercial decision of BSNL & MTNL Government does not intervene on this subject.

(b) and (c) BSNL has been sharing the infrastructure with private telecom operators, wherever possible, to provide interconnection.

**Declaration of Sunderbans Waterways as
National Waterways**

309. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of National Waterways under use as of now in the country;

(b) the steps taken to increase the coverage of National Waterways;

(c) whether the Government proposes to declare Sunderbans Waterways as National Waterways; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The total length of three existing National Waterways is 2716 kilometres.

(b) The Government is considering to declare following inland waterways as National Waterways:

(i) Kakinada—Pondicherry Canals alongwith Godavari and Krishna rivers (1095 kms);

(ii) East Coast Canal along with Brahmani river and Mahanadi delta (623 kms); and

(iii) River Barak (152 kms).

(c) and (d) A proposal to declare International steamer route of Sunderbans as National Waterways was formulated in 1989 and processed by the Government. Subsequently, as directed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), Environment Impact Assessment study was conducted and the report was submitted to MoEF in 1996. After detailed deliberations including field visits, MoEF did not give the environment clearance and suggested that an alternate route outside the periphery of Sunderbans Tiger Reserve area be explored. The detailed survey of the alternate route has since been completed. However, in the Protocol route falling in Sunderbans, Indian and Bangladesh vessels already ply and development works are also executed by IWAI.

Issuance of Machine Readable Passports

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

(a) whether the Government has any plans to issue machine readable passports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Government is likely to issue machine readable passports to all categories in order to properly implement Advanced Passenger Information System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) All Passport Offices in India are issuing machine printed and machine readable passports as per the specifications laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

(c) The Government has already embarked upon a project to ensure that all passports issued by Missions/ Posts abroad are in the machine readable format by March, 2007.

[Translation]

Losses in Telegraph Service of BSNL

311. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the telegraph service of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited is incurring losses continuously;

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

(c) whether the importance of telegraph service has reduced due to expansion of telephone network and increased use of mobile phones, internet, e-mail and fax;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to accommodate surplus employees of telegraph service in other departments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Due to increased utility of Communications at highly competitive rates through telephone, fax, e-mail, internet and mobile phones with SMS facility, usage of

telegraph facility has been constantly declining whereas its operational cost is high. Thus, the telegraph service is incurring losses continuously. Details are given in the enclosed Statement-I and II.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Sir, the officials of Telegraph Service are being redeployed not in other departments but in other sections of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to reduce losses of BSNL.

Statement I

Traffic Trend Since 1992-93

Year	Telegram "A" Booking (in lakh)	% Decrease Yearly w.r. to previous year
1	2	3
1991-1992	651	—
1992-1993	646	0.76

1	2	3
1993-1994	606	6.19
1994-1995	576	4.95
1995-1996	566	1.73
1996-1997	539	4.77
1997-1998	512	5.00
1998-1999	442	13.67
1999-2000	404	8.59
2000-2001	344	14.85
2001-2002	283	17.73
2002-2003	237	16.25
2003-2004	210	11.39
2004-2005	151	28.00

Statement II

Computation of Losses and Average revenue and expenditure per telegrams

Sl.No.		2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004
1.	No. of telegram booked	2.83 crores	2.37 crores	2.10 crores
2.	Revenue	44.56 crores	40.58 crores	35.17 crores
3.	Expenditure	327.79 crores	383.17 crores	294.17 crores
4.	%age loss	635.62 %	844.23 %	736.42 %
5.	Average revenue per telegram	Rs. 15.74	Rs. 17.12	Rs. 16.75
6.	Average expenditure per telegram	Rs. 115	Rs. 161	Rs. 140

Note:- (i) The Tariff for non-press telegrams has not been revised since 1983.

(ii) The Tariff for Press Telegrams has not been revised since 1965.

(iii) Telegram is cross subsidized.

[English]

Opening Consulate General at Dammam

312. SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether existing number of staff in the Missions/ Posts abroad, particularly in Riyadh and Jeddah is sufficient to provide requisite services to the Indian Nationals residing in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;

(b) if so, the reasons for inordinate delay caused in the settlement of legal and other dues to the heirs of the deceased Indian Nationals;

(c) whether Union Government proposes to open a Consulate General in Dammam; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) No, Sir. The existing number of staff in Missions/Posts abroad is not sufficient to provide requisite services to the Indians resident abroad. Government is actively considering a proposal to augment the staff in Missions/Posts abroad including in Saudi Arabia.

(b) Our Missions/Posts abroad, especially in the Gulf region, actively pursue the cases of payment of legal dues and compensation for death to the heirs of the deceased Indians for speedy settlement. There is, however, delay in some cases, mainly due to late receipts of requisite legal documents (legal heirship, power of attorney) from the heirs of the deceased and procedural formalities in the local courts in delivering final judgments on death compensation cases.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The present policy of the Government of Saudi Arabia does not permit opening of an Indian Consulate in Dammam.

Setting up of Laboratories

313. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ICMR has any proposal to set up laboratories in various parts of the country for effectively tackling the outbreak of diseases; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these will be set up, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has a network of 26 permanent institutes strategically located in various parts of the country. A large number of them deal with infectious diseases, particularly, those which can cause outbreaks. Many of these institutes have state-of-art facilities to tackle

outbreaks including Biosafety level 3+ facilities, cyroselection microscopes, animal house facilities (to do animal experiments to confirm diagnosis and raise reagents), public health specialists trained in outbreak investigation, repositories for outbreak causing agents (like V. cholerae, Shigella, Rotaviruses, hepatitis virus, Poliomyelitis, influenza, measles, Japanese encephalitis, dengue, West Nile, Malaria, leishmaniasis, etc.) help to know if a new organism or agent/modified organism has entered the country. The Institutes do resistance mapping and track the spread of infection not only in India but abroad also. ICMR has also planned to further strengthened and upgrade the skills and infrastructure in some of the existing institutions in the 11th Plan.

Underutilisation of Coal Washeries

314. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal washeries are underutilised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantity of coal washed during the last three years;

(d) the number of private coal washeries in the country;

(e) whether coal is being stolen from washeries; and

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government to check the theft of coal from washeries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The reasons for low capacity utilisation of the washeries are as below:

(i) Depletion of good quality upper seam coking coals.

(ii) Less availability of raw non-coking coal from the linked mines.

(iii) Total technological modification in converting some of the coking coal washeries to non-coking coal washeries could not be taken up because of fund constraint.

(iv) Modernization/Technological up-gradation of the old washeries which have out lived their lives,

could not be taken up earlier in many washeries because of fund constraint. However, the modernisation job of the washeries has now been taken up in phases.

(c) The total quantity of coal washed in CIL washeries during last three years is given below:

	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Coking coal (Million Tonnes)	9.32	9.22	8.90
Non-Coking coal (Million Tonnes)	12.70	11.57	9.85

(d) As per information available in the Ministry, the number of private coal washeries in the country is as follows:

Coking coal washeries	—	4
No-coking coal washeries	—	23

(e) There is no report of coal being stolen from the washeries of CIL.

(f) Does not arise in view of the reply given to part (e) above.

Exploration of Coal

315. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether new coal reserves have been discovered during the past one decade in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the quantity of coal reserves explored during the said period; and

(c) the total amount spent for this exploration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) conducts Regional Exploration of coal (besides other minerals) on regular basis to identify new coal resources in the country. Apart from it, Ministry of Coal also undertakes Promotional (regional) Exploration of coal through a plan-to-plan scheme for supplementing and augmenting the efforts of GSI.

(b) The Inventory of Geological Resources of Indian Coal has increased from 201.95 Billion Tonnes on 1.1.1996 to 253.30 Billion Tonnes on 1.1.2006 (last ten years), with addition of 51.35 Billion Tonnes of new coal resources.

(c) As per GSI, total expenditure incurred on regional exploration of additional reserves during last decade works out to Rs. 213.38 crores. Besides, as reported by Coal India Ltd., under the scheme of Promotional Exploration for Coal and Lignite, an approximate sum of Rs. 204.00 crores has been spent on completed and ongoing projects of Promotional Exploration for coal, in the last ten years.

[Translation]

Widening of National Highways

316. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from Jharkhand regarding widening and increasing the number of lanes of National Highways in the State during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government on these proposals till date; and

(d) the results thereof?

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

(b) During the last three years, six proposals relating to widening of various stretches of National Highways in Jharkhand were received from the State Road Construction Department (NH Wing), Jharkhand.

(c) and (d) Out of these, four proposals were sanctioned by this Ministry and the remaining two proposals are included in the current year's Annual Plan 2006-07.

Development of Maritime Sector

317. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any new scheme for faster development of the maritime sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the maritime States have been consulted in this regard; and

(d) if so, their reaction thereto including the reaction of the Union Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The Department of Shipping has formulated the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) keeping in view the fact that India is emerging as a modern economy and the growth of the economy is pitched at 7 to 8 percent per year in a sustained manner over the decade 2004-05 to 2013-14. Under the Programme, to be taken up for implementation in phases over a defined period through public private partnership, a total of 387 specific projects have been identified. Total investment involved under the Programme is Rs. 1,00,339 crores. The objective is to upgrade and modernize the maritime infrastructure in India which will enable it to benchmark its performance against global standards. The Maritime States were consulted on certain aspects of NMDP concerning them while formulating the Programme.

Security Arrangements for Kailash Mansarovar Pilgrimage

318. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether security arrangements for the pilgrims of Kailash Mansarovar Yatra during the current year were made;

(b) if so, the number of pilgrims who visited the shrine during the current year;

(c) the number of batches formed this year for the smooth journey of the pilgrims; and

(d) the organisations which co-ordinated with the Ministry for the said pilgrimage?

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

(b) and (c) As on July 21, 2006, 182 pilgrims in five batches have completed the Yatra this year, which commenced from June 1, 2006, while 160 pilgrims in four more batches are at different stages of the Yatra. A total of sixteen batches of pilgrims will undertake the Yatra this year.

(d) The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is organised by the Ministry of External Affairs, in coordination with various State and Central Government agencies, including the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Uttaranchal Government and the Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN).

Scheme for Backward Districts

319. SHRI ARJUN SETHI:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has finalised the new scheme to provide assistance/grants to the backward districts of the country on the lines of the existing Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme including the criteria for allocation of funds to the States;

(c) whether such a scheme has already been implemented in the States;

(d) if so, the details of the districts selected in the country and the funds earmarked, State-wise;

(e) whether the State Government or Orissa has requested for inclusion of more districts in view of its economic backwardness;

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

(g) the steps being taken by the Union Government for the speedy development of the backward areas of the country and the success achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) In place of Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana, a new scheme, namely,

the Backward Regions Grant Fund to be operationalised from the current financial year is under finalization.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The request of the State Government will be kept in view while finalizing the scheme.

(g) The Backward Regions Grant Fund aimed at speedy development of the backward districts of the country is under finalisation.

[Translation]

Policy for Uranium Exploration

320. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any new policy to explore uranium deposits;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has also formulated any policy for usage of atomic energy to meet the energy requirement of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) A decision in the Department of Atomic Energy has been taken for outsourcing Uranium Exploration.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The development of nuclear power in the country is based on the objectives of complementing the electricity generation at locations away from coal mines in the short and medium terms and to utilize the vast resources of thorium for electricity generation in the long term. This is on account of the country's nuclear resource profile of modest reserves of uranium and large reserves of thorium.

Light Water reactors based on imports, to enable faster nuclear power capacity addition in the short term, have also been introduced as additionality.

Irregularities in Construction Work of National Highways

321. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) the number of engineers against whom action has been taken in relation to irregularities in the construction work of National Highways during the last two years;

(b) the names of the National Highways in respect of which irregularities have been committed and the nature of the said irregularities; and

(c) the present status of the action taken against these engineers?

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

[English]

Reforming Procurement System

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

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision to reform the Ministries/procurement system by centralizing the process under an empowered group;

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

(c) whether the Government is also planning to upgrade logistics of medicines and other health-related drugs and equipment to match international requirements; and

(d) if so, the major steps taken/being taken in this regard?

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

(b) During the negotiations with the World Bank for Reproductive and Child Health (RCH-II) programme a governance and Accountability Action Plan (GAAP) was agreed to. The GAAP addresses the weaknesses in our procurement system. One of the important features of the GAAP is Setting up of a Central Procurement Unit in the Department of Health & Family Welfare. Accordingly, Empowered Procurement Wing (EPW) was established in the Department in order to consolidate, streamline, and strengthen the procurement activity and to professionalize the procurement of health sector goods.

(c) and (d) Under EPW, department of Health and Family Welfare has engaged the services of a consultant organization to strengthen the procurement system. One of the TORs of the Consultant Organization is to assist EPW in strengthening the system of logistics and supply chain management for proper storage and timely availability of drugs to the end users. The existing system of storage, logistics, supply management and transportation which is being studied in selected states to identify the weakness/shortcoming and to take necessary remedial measures.

[Translation]

Progress of BSNL and MTNL Projects

323. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) whether a number of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited projects are running behind schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the timeframe fixed for their completion;

(c) the reasons for their running behind schedule; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Some projects of BSNL and MTNL are running behind schedule. Details of the reasons for delay of projects and likely date of completion are given in Statement-I and Statement-II for BSNL and MTNL respectively.

(d) Steps being taken for early commissioning of delayed projects are as follows:

BSNL: BSNL has set up project coordination team in each of the circles which is monitoring the projects on daily basis. Also BSNL Head Quarter is regularly monitoring the project through weekly reports and through monthly zonal meetings. BSNL is also pursuing the matter with Wireless Planning and Coordination (WPC) for availability of spectrum and with respective agencies for timely availability of power connections, lands and permission for installation of tower.

MTNL: These projects are turnkey projects, which are to be planned supplied, implemented and maintained by the vendor being the new technology equipment. MTNL is continuously monitoring and reviewing the progress of the implementation of the projects to cut down delays. Government also reviews the performance on quarterly basis.

Statement I

BSNL - Projects running behind schedule

Sl.No.	Projects in Hand	Target date	Likely date of Completion	Reasons for Running behind Schedule
1	2	3	4	5
IMPCS Phase IV Project				
East Zone				
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	July-05	Dec-06	
2.	Bihar	July-05	Dec-06	
3.	Jharkhand	July-05	Dec-06	

1	2	3	4	
4.	Orissa	June-05	Dec-06	
5.	West Bengal	June-05	Dec-06	
6.	Kolkata Telephones	June-05	Dec-06	
7.	North East-I	July-05	Dec-06	
8.	North East-II	July-05	Dec-06	
9.	Assam	July-05	Dec-06	(i) Delay in availability of frequency spectrum and SACFA clearance from WPC.
	West Zone			
10.	Gujarat	April-06	March-07	(ii) Delay in getting permission from local bodies for erection of roof top towers in some of the states.
11.	Madhya Pradesh	April-06	March-07	
12.	Chhattisgarh	April-06	March-07	(iii) Delay in getting electricity connections from state electric companies in some of the states.
13.	Maharashtra	April-06	March-07	
	North Zone			
14.	Haryana	June-05	Dec-06	(iv) Delay in supply of equipment from the vendors inspite of tight delivery schedule in the contract.
15.	Himachal Pradesh	June-05	Dec-06	(v) Delay in supply of infrastructure items by equipment vendors due to shortage of supply sources in the market, e.g. for tower.
16.	Punjab	June-05	Dec-06	
17.	Rajasthan	June-05	Dec-06	
18.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	June-05	Dec-06	(vi) Delay in network rollout by the equipment vendors due to shortage of resources with them, inspite of tight project rollout schedule in the contract.
19.	Uttaranchal	June-05	Dec-06	
20.	Jammu and Kashmir	June-05	Dec-06	
	South Zone			
21.	Andhra Pradesh	June-05	Dec-06	
22.	Karnataka	June-05	Dec-06	
23.	Kerala	June-05	Dec-06	
24.	Tamil Nadu	June-05	Dec-06	
25.	Chennai T.D.	June-05	Dec-06	
	IMPICS Phase IV++ Project			
	North Zone			
26.	Haryana	May-06	Dec-06	

1	2	3	4
27.	Himachal Pradesh	April-06	Dec-06
28.	Rajasthan	May-06	Dec-06
29.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	April-06	Dec-06
30.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	May-06	Dec-06
31.	Uttaranchal	May-06	Dec-06
32.	Jammu and Kashmir	May-06	Dec-06
33.	Project No. 3 of (NIB-II) pertaining to OSS/BSS, Messaging, Billing, etc.	Dec-05	August-06 Delayed supply to critical items like Sun Server hardware by the System Integrator.

Statement II**MTNL - Projects running behind schedule**

Sl.No.	Name of the Project and Capacity	Likely date of completion
1	2	3
1.	GSM 800K+ Expansion 400K+ Expansion 400K	Entire capacity of 800K each in Delhi and Mumbai has been commissioned. Nearly 21.6 lacs number of connections has been given. Capacity has been added in the three phase (800K+400K+400K). The Project is likely to be fully commissioned including addition of new BTS etc. by September 2006. Project has been delayed in procurement of BTS sites and technical issue of various equipments. Project has been supplied and commissioned by M/s Motorola.
2.	CDMA 2000 1X type 800K, (400K each in Delhi and Mumbai)	90% of the equipment has been commissioned. Capacity is being utilized and connections both fixed and mobile are being given from the new network. The project has been delayed because of compatibility problem between equipment of various vendors and BTS site acquisition. The entire project is likely to be completed by December 2006 including commissioning of the balance BTS, etc.
3.	Fixed Intelligent network	The supply of the equipment has been delayed by the vendor. The vendor has not been able to configure the equipment for inter working with existing equipment of MTNL and BSNL due to non-resolution of (Technical) IOT (inter-operability test) issues at protocol level.
4.	Switching Projects 80K (for Mumbai)	Supply delayed by the vendor. Expected to be commissioned in the current year 2006-2007.
5.	MPLS Project for the Core network	MP/MLS is a state-of-the-art technology and has been introduced worldwide recently. It involves a lot of interoperability issues as this technology is to be used in the core network for convergence of voice, data and video traffic.

1	2	3
6.	Broadband Project	510K lines equipment of ADSL 2 + type has been ordered Phase-I of nearly 340K has been commissioned. Nearly 260K Broadband connections are working satisfactorily. Phase-II expansion of 140K out of 172K has been commissioned. There was some delay due to technical matters because ADSL 2 + tech. was quite new worldwide.
7.	Convergent Billing solution for Delhi/Mumbai	The system provides a single bill for all type of services plus other corporate needs. Latest CRM system is also being commissioned. Purchase order has been placed likely date of commissioning is March 2007.

*[English]***New Packages for CDMA Network**

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

(a) whether the Government has recently launched new packages in respect of CDMA network for mobile services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the subscribers having old Garuda connections will also be extended the new improved services; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The tariff packages for mobile services are announced by the telecom service providers and not by the Government. Different packages are launched to meet the requirements and expectations of different class of subscribers.

(c) and (d) The subscribers having old Garuda connections are permitted to change to new CDMA network of MTNL in Delhi and Mumbai. There are various tariff plans to address the requirement of different class subscribers who can choose any plan suitable to them.

Permission to Private Operators to run Post Offices

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to permit private operators to run post offices in rural areas and in the regions where there are very few post offices; and

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

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

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

*[Translation]***Demolition of Hindu Temple in Lahore**

326. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA":
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Lord Krishna temple in Lahore has been demolished;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has raised this issue with Pakistan;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reaction of Pakistan thereto; and

(e) the efforts made by the Union Government to ensure that no damage is caused to various religious places abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) It has been reported in the Pakistani media that a Hindu temple, Krishna Mandir, in Lahore was allowed to be demolished.

(b) and (c) The matter was taken up with the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi.

(d) In a Press Release on 15 June 2006, Pakistan Foreign Ministry claimed that "the media reports claiming that Krishna Mandir in Lahore has been demolished are baseless. The only Krishna Mandir that exists in Lahore is safe and the temple referred to in the section of press is not the Krishna Mandir" which is situated on Ravi Road, Lahore.

(e) The pursuit of international and bilateral cooperation, India continues to strive, together with other countries, to ensure that no damage is caused to religious places abroad.

[English]

Revival of Ailing Hindustan Shipyard Corporation Limited

327. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government for revival of the ailing Hindustan Shipyard Corporation Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) The Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) in its meeting held on 12.1.06 has recommended a revival package for Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) based on financial restructuring and an investment linked business plan envisaging capital expenditure of Rs. 400 crores to be funded through commercial arrangements with key customer(s).

Since the investment linked commercial arrangement is proving difficult to implement, HSL has requested this Department that the revival package should not be contingent on this condition. As an alternative, HSL has submitted a proposal to meet this requirement of Rs. 400 crores through Government support, internal accruals and borrowing from Banks and financial institutions, which is under consideration of this Department.

[Translation]

Allocation of Funds to Jharkhand

328. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from State Government of Jharkhand regarding allocation of funds for the development of tribal, backward, rural and hilly areas of the State during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

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

(b) As per the proposal received from the State Government of Jharkhand, one time Additional Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 8.09 crore was approved in 2003-04 for Livelihood enhancement of poor tribal families through capacity building in scientific Lac Cultivation and its value addition.

[English]

Cancellation of Reserved Quota of ITI Units

329. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to cancel the reserved quota of Indian Telephone Industries

Limited units manufacturing equipments for the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in its Management Committee meeting on 12.07.2006 has decided to continue reservation quota to M/s. ITI Ltd.

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

[Translation]

Fire in AIIMS

330. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a fire broke out in one part of the Cardio-Thoracic Centre of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi, recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government had conducted any assessment of the loss caused due to the fire; and

(d) if so, the details of loss suffered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) On 23.6.2006, Fire broke out in one part of Cardio-Thoracic Centre of AIIMS, due to electric short circuit. The extent of loss due to fire is being assessed.

[English]

Reduction of Agricultural Workforce

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to reduce the agricultural workforce by ten million during the Eleventh Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has assessed the effect of such reduction of agricultural workforce;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to tackle the problem of unemployment arising out of reduction in agricultural workforce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The draft Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) refers to this, however the Approach Paper is yet to be approved by the Planning Commission.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Simplifying Passport Issuance Procedure

332. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPAN:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the existing cumbersome procedure for passport issuance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to issue passports without police verification;

(d) if so, whether this move has been opposed by security agencies;

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

(f) the steps proposed to be taken to simplify the passport issuance procedure for timely delivery of passports.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) The Government has been reviewing from time to time the passport issuance process to make it speedier and applicant friendly. A number of steps have been taken recently to simplify the process. These include:

- (i) Process re-engineering has been introduced in certain Passport Offices. Under this process, some activities have been discontinued or clubbed in order to reduce the processing time. As a result, the process of granting of the files by the officers (i.e. the approval for issuance of passport) is done at the counter itself.
- (ii) The specified time period under Tatkaal scheme remains 1-10 days. However, the time period of 11-35 days has been reduced to 11-20 days. It has also been decided to issue full 10 year validity passports on production of verification certificate under Tatkaal Scheme.
- (iii) Similarly, the specified time period for reissue of passports has been brought down from 1-10 days to 1-3 days.
- (iv) Special drives were recently undertaken in Passport Offices in Ghaziabad, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Patna to clear pending applications, thereby substantially reducing the issuance time.
- (v) Pendency is monitored across all Passport Offices on a weekly basis.
- (vi) The State Governments have been requested to despatch the police verification reports in two weeks.
- (vii) Enhancement of output in issuance of passports by use of computerisation of passport offices for processing passport applications and introduction of machine printers for preparation of passports;
- (viii) The submission of applications has been decentralized for the convenience of the applicants and to expedite police verifications. Under this scheme, passport applications are also received at district level in the District Passport Cells (DPCs) located in the office of District Magistrate or Superintendent of Police (as decided by the respective State Government). In addition, they are also received

at designated Speed Post Centres and Passport Application Collection Centres in various states.

- (ix) A Central Public Grievance Monitoring Cell has been set up for quick redressal of grievances.

(c) No, Sir. No such decision has been taken

(d) Not applicable.

(e) Not applicable.

(f) A number of steps are proposed to be taken to further simplify and streamline the procedure for issue of passports, which are:

- (i) Widening the network of Speed Post centres to collect/receive passport applications from the present 218 centres to more than 1000 centres by August 2006;
- (ii) Introduction of on-line registration for passport applicants in New Delhi by August 2006;
- (iii) Augmentation of staff to reduce and clear pendencies; and
- (iv) Simplification of the procedure to establish identity/nationality of the passport applicant.

[English]

Participation in World Cup Football Tournament

333. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for non-participation of Indian team in the world cup football tournament held recently in Germany;

(b) whether the Government has formulated any policy/programme in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to regain the past glory in football, hockey, track events and the Olympic Games; and

(f) the place/ranking occupied by India in the list of football playing countries of the world at present?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Participation in World Cup Football Tournament is only through a Qualifying Tournament. Since, the Indian football team could not qualify through the Qualifying round, it could not participate in the World Cup Football Tournament at Germany. The policy on participation in the World Cup Football Tournament is finalized by the FIFA, the World Body for the game of football. Government have no role in this regard.

(e) The development of sports and the scouting and nurturing of talent in various sports disciplines is, primarily, the responsibility of the State Governments and the National Sports Federations (NSFs). However, the Government of India is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments and NSFs in the following manner:

- (i) Finalisation & implementation of Long Term Development Plans (LTDPs) for various sports disciplines in consultation with the concerned NSFs, former international sportspersons and Sports Scientists/Experts.
- (ii) Provision of equipment and scientific support to sportspersons/teams.
- (iii) Intensive coaching of the players/teams by Indian and foreign coaches in coaching camps.
- (iv) Intensive training abroad to the sportspersons/teams as well as Indian coaches.
- (v) Financial assistance to concerned federations for participation of sportspersons/teams in international tournaments.
- (vi) Assistance for purchase of equipment, scientific support and training & participation within the country and abroad is provided to the outstanding sportspersons under the 'Scheme relating to Talent Search & Training' and the 'national Sports Development Fund'.
- (vii) As regards World Cup Football 2010-2014, All India Football Federation has already launched a project to qualify for World Cup 2010-2014.

Besides, the Sports Authority of India, with a view to broad basing of sports and scouting talent at a young age, also provides coaching facilities under its various schemes viz. National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)

Scheme, Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC) Scheme, Scheme of SAI Training Centres (STC), Special Area Games Scheme (SAG) and Centre of Excellence (COX).

(f) As per FIFA World Ranking released in July, 2006, India is placed at 130 out of 207 units affiliated with FIFA.

Growth of Enterprises in Rural Areas

334. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Economic Census 2005, 61.3 percent of the country's enterprises in the rural areas are growing faster than those in the urban areas;

(b) if so, the comparative details thereof, rural area-wise and urban area-wise; and

(c) the number of persons got employment in the organised and unorganized sectors during the last two years, urban area-wise and rural area-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the provisional results of the Economic Census 2005 released on 12th June 2006, percentage share of enterprises in rural and urban areas were 61.3% and 38.7% respectively. The average annual growth rate in the enterprises during the period 1998-2005 in the rural areas was 5.53% and the corresponding growth rate in the urban areas was 3.71%.

(c) Number of persons who got employment in the organized and unorganized sectors during the last two years was not collected in the Economic Census 2005. However, as per the two most recent quinquennial rounds (1993-94 and 1999-2000) of the National Sample Survey Organisation for which results are available and also using the data collected under the Employment Market Information Programme of the Ministry of Labour and Employment, the estimated number of workers in the organized and unorganized sectors during 1999-2000 were 27.96 million and 308.78 million respectively. The corresponding numbers of workers in the organized and unorganized sectors were 27.38 million and 288.46 million respectively during 1993-94 at country level.

*[Translation]***Computerisation of Post Offices**

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

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

(a) the number of computers installed in Post Offices of Madhya Pradesh for registration of Posts during the last three years, location-wise; and

(b) the places where computers are proposed to be installed in the State during the current year, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number of Computers installed in Post Offices of Madhya Pradesh for registration of Posts during the last three years, location-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The places where computers are proposed to be installed in the State during the current year (2006-07), location-wise, is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement

Names of Post Offices alongwith number of computers installed for registration of Posts during the last three years

Sl.No.	Name of Post Offices	Computers installed
1	2	3
1.	SBB BHEL Bhopal HO	2
2.	Shiksha Mandal Bhopal	1
3.	Ravi Shankar Nagar	1
4.	3 E ME Centre Bhopal	1
5.	Bairagarh, Bhopal	1
6.	Govindpura, Bhopal	1
7.	Jahangirabad	1

1	2	3
8.	Piplani, Bhopal	1
9.	Hamdia Road, Bhopal	1
10.	Moti Lal Nahuru Nagar	1
11.	Sikandari Sarai	1
12.	Mandideep	1
13.	Vallabh Bhawan	1
14.	Dak Bhawan	1
15.	H E Hospital	1
16.	Vidyavihar, Bhopal.	1
17.	Satpura	1
18.	Hoshangabad HO	1
19.	Narsinghpur. HO	1
20.	Babai	1
21.	Banapura	1
22.	Bankhedi	1
23.	Hoshangabad City	1
24.	O F E Itarsi	1
25.	Pachmarhi	1
26.	Pachmarhi Cantt.	1
27.	Seoni Malwa LSG	1
28.	Shoagpur RS	1
29.	Timarni LSG	1
30.	Kareli LSG	1
31.	Gotegaon LSG	1
32.	Gadarwara LSG	1
33.	Piparia	1
34.	Harda	1
35.	Damoh HO	1
36.	Khurai	1

1	2	3
37.	Sagar City	1
38.	S. University	1
39.	Hatta	1
40.	Raisen HO	1
41.	Ganj Basoda	1
42.	Sironj	1
43.	Bareilly	1
44.	Kurwai	1
45.	Badi	1
46.	Begumganj	1
47.	Chhatarpur HO	1
48.	Tikamgarh HO	1
49.	Khajuraho	1
50.	Panna	1
51.	Mahrajpur	1
52.	Harpalpur	1
53.	Nowgaon	1
54.	Balaghat HO	1
55.	Seoni HO	1
56.	Mandla HO	1
57.	Waraseoni	1
58.	Dindori	1
59.	Baihar	1
60.	Katngi	1
61.	Lakhnadone	1
62.	Nainpur	1
63.	Chhindwara HO	1
64.	Betul HO	1
65.	Multai	1

1	2	3
66.	Amla	1
67.	Chitanvisganj	1
68.	Sausar	1
69.	Amla Depot	1
70.	Bhainsdehi	1
71.	Chourai	1
72.	Junnardeo	1
73.	Paandhuma	1
74.	Parasia	1
75.	Pathakheda	1
76.	Sami	1
77.	Rewa HO	2
78.	Satna HO	1
79.	Mauganj	1
80.	Nagod	1
81.	Maihar	1
82.	Satna Birla Vikas	1
83.	Semaria	1
84.	Rewa V. Bhawan	1
85.	Chak	1
86.	Amar Patan	1
87.	Birsinghpur/Rewa city	1
88.	Rampur Baghelan	1
89.	Jaitwara	1
90.	Shahdol HO	1
91.	Sidhi HO	1
92.	Anuppur	1
93.	Singroli	1
94.	Umaria	1

1	2	3
95.	Burhar	1
96.	Chachai	1
97.	Kotma	1
98.	Churhat	1
99.	Jayant Collories	1
100.	Vindhya Nagar	1
101.	Waidhan	1
102.	Amlai Paper Mill	1
103.	Beohari	1
104.	Sehore HO	1
105.	Rajgarh (Bio)	1
106.	Biora	1
107.	Narsinghgarh	1
108.	Pachore	1
109.	Sarangpur	1
110.	Ashta	1
111.	Narsullaganj	1
112.	Ichhawar	1
113.	Budhni	1
114.	Burhanpur	1
115.	Anjad	1
116.	Barwaha	1
117.	Barwani	1
118.	Harsud	1
119.	Sanawad	1
120.	Sendhwa	1
121.	Kasrawad	1
122.	Nepanagar	1
123.	Rajpur	1

1	2	3
124.	Maheshwar	1
125.	Khandwa HO	2
126.	Kukshi	1
127.	Manawar	1
128.	Kannod	1
129.	Khategaon	1
130.	Pithampur SO	1
131.	Pithampur Sec. III	1
132.	Badnawar	1
133.	Dhamnod	1
134.	Sonkatch	1
135.	Hat Piplia	1
136.	MHOW	1
137.	Katni HO	2
138.	Sihora	1
139.	Garha	1
140.	Jabalpur City	1
141.	Adhartal	1
142.	Bai Ka Bagicha	1
143.	Jabalpur Cantt.	1
144.	Jabalpur Factory	1
145.	Gokulpur	1
146.	Jabalpur High Court	1
147.	Jabalpur Jonesganj	2
148.	Khamria	1
149.	Kasturba Nagar	1
150.	Jabalpur Kutchery	1
151.	Jabalpur LAC Lines	1
152.	Jabalpur Lordsganj	1

1	2	3
153.	Jabalpur Napier Lines	1
154.	Jabalpur Vidyut Nagar	1
155.	Jabalpur Vehicle Fact.	1
156.	Katni Ordinance Fact.	1
157.	Katni Cement Factory	1
158.	Kymore	1
159.	Morena HO	1
160.	Bhind HO	1
161.	Sheopur Kalan	1
162.	Sabalgarh	1
163.	Mehgaon	1
164.	Guna HO	1
165.	Ashoknagar	1
166.	Shivpuri HO	1
167.	Ujjain City	1
168.	Ujjain ML Nagar	1
169.	Ujjain Madhonagar	1
170.	Birlagram	1
171.	Barnagar	1
172.	Khachrod	1
173.	Nagda	1
174.	Tarana	1
175.	Shajapur HO	1
176.	Agar Malwa	1
177.	Shujalpur Mandi	1
178.	Jaora	1
179.	Alote	1
180.	Ratlam St. Road SO	1
181.	Sailana	1

1	2	3
182.	Alirajpur	1
183.	Jobat	1
184.	Meghnagar	1
185.	Petlawad	1
186.	Thandla	1
187.	Jhabua HO	1
188.	Indore City 2 SO	1
189.	Tilak Nagar	1
190.	Cloth Market	1
191.	Siyaganj SO	1
192.	Vallabh Nagar SO	1
193.	Indore Nanda Nagar SO	1
194.	Bijasan Road SO	1
195.	A.H.Q. SO	1
196.	Indore Industrial Estate SO	1
197.	Indore Kanadia Road SO	1
198.	Khatiwala Tank SO	1
199.	Indore R.S.S. Nagar SO	1
200.	Sudama Nagar SO	1
201.	G.N. Chowk SO,	1
202.	Gwalior City	1
203.	Gwalior RS	1
204.	Moti Mahal	1
205.	Lashkar City	1
206.	Dabra	1
207.	Datia	1
208.	Birlanagar SO	1
209.	Seodha SO	1
210.	Tekanpur	1

1	2	3
211.	Morar HO	1
212.	Neemuch HO	1
213.	Bhanpura SO	1
214.	Garoth SO	1
215.	Javad SO	1
216.	Manasa SO	1
217.	Mandsaur City SO	1
218.	Piplia SO	1
219.	Rampura SO	1
220.	Shamgarh SO	1
221.	Sitamau SO	1
222.	A.B. Road Guna	1
223.	Aron	1
224.	Pichore	1
225.	Mungaoli	1
226.	Gohat	1
227.	Kelaras	1
228.	Maksi	1
229.	Nalkhera	1
230.	CT T Nagar HO	2
231.	Bhopal GPO	2
232.	Ujjain HO	2
233.	Indore GPO	2
234.	Indore Nagar HO	1
235.	Jabalpur HO	2
236.	Lashkar HO	1
237.	Mandsaur HO	1
238.	Dewas HO	1
239.	Dhar HO	1

1	2	3
240.	Khargone HO	1
241.	Sagar Cantt HO	1
242.	Rattlam HO	1
243.	Vidisha HO	1

Statement II

*Post Offices Selected for Computerisation
during 2006-07*

Sl.No.	Names of Post Offices (Locations)
1	2
1.	Berasia
2.	Barkhera HE
3.	Tulsi Nagar
4.	M A C T
5.	University
6.	Shivaji Nagar
7.	Kolar Road
8.	Mahavir Nagar
9.	Trilanga
10.	Hoshangabad City
11.	Bina
12.	Sagar University
13.	Sagar Cavellary Hills
14.	Hatta
15.	Deori
16.	Damoh R.S.
17.	Bijuri
18.	Gurh
19.	Gewa Chauhatta
20.	Rewa Venkat Bhawan

1	2
21.	Indore Tuko Ganj
22.	Tekanpur
23.	Gwalior-Maharajpur
24.	Chanderi
25.	NFL Vijaypur
26.	Sendhwa
27.	Jaura
28.	Porasa
29.	Morena City
30.	Lahar
31.	Bhanpura
32.	Khachrod
33.	Mahidpur
34.	Kundam

[English]

Spread of Diseases among Children

336. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of Heart Disease, Cancer and Kidney have increased amongst the children;

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

(c) the action being taken by the Government to prevent these diseases amongst children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No Systematic survey has been conducted to estimate the incidence of congenital heart disease (CHD) at birth in India. As per the experts amount 1,30,000 to 2,70,000 children are estimated to be born with CHD each year in India. Other

forms of heart disease that affect children aged 5-15 years include rheumatic heart disease. This problem appear to be on a decline in those parts of the country that have demonstrated improvements in the human development index (HDI).

Regarding Cancer, data from the National Cancer Registry Programme shows a statistically significant increase in childhood cancers in both male and female children. There is no national or state-wise systematic data available on time trends or an increase of kidney diseases in children.

(c) Under the National Cancer Control Programme emphasis is on prevention and early detection of cancer amongst all age groups including children. The Government proposes to initiate and implement a National Programme for the prevention and control of Cardio Vascular Diseases (CVD) and Diabetes to reduce the adverse health impact of heart diseases, stroke and diabetes.

[Translation]

Heavy Infiltration along Indo-Pak Border

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

(a) whether the Union Government has raised the issue of heavy infiltration in Jammu-Kashmir from across the border in recent months after fencing work on LOC with the Pak Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of Pakistan thereto;

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to raise this issue in various international organisations; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHMED): (a) and (b) India has conveyed to Pakistan, at the highest level, that the dialogue process between the two countries would be undermined unless Pakistan takes effective action to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism, including training camps, launch pads and communication links between terrorist groups on the Indian side and their handlers on

the Pakistan side. Pakistan needs to take these steps in fulfilment of the commitment given by it in the Joint Press Statement of January 6, 2004 that it would not permit any territory under its control to be used to support terrorism in any manner.

(c) Pakistan has always denied its role in supporting cross border terrorism.

(d) and (e) Government has been keeping the international community informed of developments in this regard on a continuing basis as part of the global war against terrorism.

[English]

HIV/AIDS Patients

338. SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK:

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

(a) whether India has about 5.7 million HIV/AIDS patients as against 5.5 million in South Africa, as reported by UNAIDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NACO has set up an expert high-level committee to examine the validity of the methodology adopted by UNAIDS;

(d) if so, the details of the finding thereof;

(e) whether a small percentage of HIV/AIDS patients received anti-retroviral therapy and only 1.6 percent of pregnant women who needed treatment to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission were receiving it;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the measures being taken to improve the access to medicine and treatment to the HIV patients in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) According to Annual Sentinel Surveillance conducted in 750 designated sites in the country, there are an estimated 5.2 million HIV infected persons in the age group 15-49. This estimation has also been validated by WHO and UNAIDS. However, UNAIDS for the first time extrapolated this estimate of 5.2 million to arrive at 5.7 million for all age groups using various other assumptions which require to be validated. An Expert High Level Committee under the Chairmanship of DG, ICMR and members from the academic institutions including WHO and UNAIDS has been constituted to review the mortality estimates used by UNAIDS and will alongside be also examining the validity of the assumptions and methodologies used for estimation infection levels in the whole population. The committee will submit the report by the end of this year.

(e) to (g) Government of India started Anti-retroviral Treatment Programme (ART) in 2004. As on date there are about 35,000 patients receiving free anti-retroviral drugs in 54 public hospitals and there are 2155 integrated Counseling and Testing centers providing services for prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV. As 90% of the HIV infected persons do not know their status, a large number of HIV infected persons remain undetected and therefore untreated. However, with the expansion of the programme, a large number of mothers and patients needing ART will be covered. The drugs for treating about 85,000 patients has already been procured for an additional 46 centres that will start functioning from end of this month.

Nuclear Cooperation Promotion Act, 2006

339. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any clause in the US and India Nuclear Cooperation Promotion Act, 2006 which asks the US administration to secure India's cooperation to isolate and impose sanctions against Iran for its nuclear weapons capability;

(b) if so, the salient features of the said Act;

(c) whether obstacles and unfavourable changes have been found/made in the original documents;

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

(e) the reasons therefor; and

(f) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) A Bill titled the 'United States and India Nuclear Cooperation Promotion Act of 2006' has been introduced in the US House of Representatives. In the section on Statement of Policy, article 3(b)(4) of this Bill states 'Secure India's full and active participation in United States efforts to dissuade, isolate, and, if necessary, sanction and contain Iran for its efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction, including a nuclear weapons capability (including the capability to enrich or process nuclear materials), and the means to deliver weapons of mass destruction'.

(b) The salient features of the proposed Act is that it gives the US President the authority to waive the application of certain provisions of the 1954 US Atomic Energy Act that currently prohibits nuclear cooperation with India. Once enacted, this waiver authority would represent the fulfilment of US commitment to adjust its laws and policies to permit full civilian nuclear cooperation with India.

(c) to (f) The Bill contains sections that refer to issues extraneous to the 18 July 2005 Joint Statement and India's Separation Plan. It is the Government's position that the guidelines principle for the resumption of civilian nuclear energy cooperation with the United States must remain the framework of the 18 July Joint Statement and India's Separation Plan. This position has been clearly communicated to the US Administration including by the Prime Minister to the US President. The language of the proposed Act is still under discussion in the US Congress and the Government would continue to engage the US Administration on this matter.

One India Scheme

340. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing 'One India Scheme' to domestic and individual connections throughout the country under Plan-95;

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

(c) whether the same scheme is being extended to the Coins Collecting Box (C.C.B.) connections;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the details thereof;

(f) whether any concessions or exemptions on deposit etc., are given to physically challenged and widows who are having the Coins Collecting Box (C.C.B.) connections; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) are not providing "One India Scheme" under Plan-95. However, the two PSUs have introduced "One India Plan" w.e.f. 1.3.2006 as an alternate tariff plan in addition to other ongoing plans. Important features of One India Plan are as follows:

- (i) Under this plan, landline and fixed WLL customers of BSNL and MTNL can call anywhere in the country on the same network at the rate of Re. 1/- per minute for inter circle calls and Re. 1/- for 3 minutes for local and intra circle calls upto 50 Kms. On other networks, such calls shall be charged uniformly at Re-1/- per minute.
- (ii) Similarly alternate tariff for cellular subscribers for both post paid and prepaid customers have been offered under One India Scheme.
- (iii) MTNL subscribers of landline and fixed WLL services can call from Delhi to BSNL's fixed line in NCR region at Re. 1/- for 3 minutes. Recently '95' level dialing has been introduced by MTNL for landline to landline phones between Delhi and Mumbai at tariff rate of Re. 1.20/- for 3 minutes.

(c) to (e) One India Scheme is not extended to CCBs. In this scheme, a fixed charge in the form of rentals is taken. Since no rental charge is possible in PCOs, therefore, this scheme is not implemented in respect of CCB PCOs.

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. Physically handicapped persons are exempted from providing Security Deposit for CCB connection. No such concession is available for widows.

[Translation]

Trauma Care Vehicle on National Highways

341. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of ambulances available on National Highways in the country;

(b) whether the medical assistance available on National Highways is sufficient;

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to make available trauma care vehicle on National Highways to deal with the cases of accidents; and

(d) if so, the time by which this facility is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) This Ministry has been providing ambulances to States/UTs/NGOs to evacuate victims of accident to the nearest medical centres under National Highways Accident Relief Service Scheme (NHARSS). During the period from 2000-01 to 2004-05, 266 ambulances have been given to various States under this scheme. In addition, National Highways Authority of India provides an ambulance at an average interval of 50 kms under their Operation and Maintenance Contracts/Build Operate Transfer agreements on the completed stretches of National Highways entrusted to them. As on 16.6.2006, 81 ambulances have been deployed on National Highways by National Highways Authority of India.

(b) to (d) Provision of assistance in case of road accident is basically the responsibility of the State Government. This Ministry has no scheme to assist setting up of trauma care centres/facilities. The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare provides assistance to the States/UTs under the scheme of 'Assistance for Capacity Building' for upgradation of emergency services/trauma care facilities in hospitals including those located near the National Highways for the purpose of treatment of accident victims.

Progress of Delhi-Gurgaon Highway

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

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

(a) whether the construction work of Delhi-Gurgaon Highway has not been completed so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of flyovers under construction between Delhi and Gurgaon;

(d) the time by which each of these flyovers were scheduled to be completed;

(e) the current status of construction of each flyover till June, 2006; and

(f) the targets fixed to complete construction of the entire Express Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The work is in progress. Main reasons for delay in work are change of scope of work, delay in transfer of Government land and delay in financial closure of the project.

(c) to (e) There are nine flyovers including three underpasses between Delhi and Gurgaon. They were scheduled to be completed by 12.07.2005 as per original schedule. Current status of construction of each flyover as on 30th June, 2006 is as under:

Sl.No.	Flyover	Work Completed
1.	Rao-Tula-Ram-Marg-Palam Flyover	40%
2.	Mahipalpur-IGI Flyover	92%
3.	Rajokri Flyover	Completed
4.	Udyog Vihar Flyover (Gurgaon)	80%
5.	IFFCO Chowk Flyover (Gurgaon)	84%
6.	South City Flyover (Gurgaon)	85%
7.	Sector-31 Flyover (Gurgaon)	88%
8.	Jarsa Flyover (Gurgaon)	90%
9.	Rajeev Chowk Flyover (Gurgaon)	Completed

(f) The original Commercial Operation date (COD) of the project was 12.07.2005. The entire project is likely to be completed by December, 2006.

[English]

Pilferage of Traditional Knowledge

343. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes non-disclosure agreement to check pilferage of traditional knowledge of Ayurveda, Unani, Sidha and Yoga in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the said agreement will check the pilferage thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes Sir, the Government will be providing access to Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) database to international patent offices under TKDL Access and Non-disclosure Agreement as per approval granted by Cabinet.

(b) The core principles of the TKDL Access Agreement are:

(i) Access to TKDL by the examiners of an international patent office would only be utilized for patent search and examination; and

(ii) International Patent Offices and their examiners would not make any third party disclosure other than what is necessary and essential for the purpose of patent search and examination.

(c) Once TKDL Access Agreement comes into affect, TKDL would get utilized for prior art search by Patent Examiners. Therefore, Patents would not get granted if prior art is established by TKDL database.

[Translation]

Integrated Disease Monitoring Project

344. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

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

(a) whether an integrated disease monitoring project is being chalked out by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether diseases have been identified for monitoring under the project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether this project is being introduced with the assistance of the World Bank;

(f) if so, the total amount likely to be spent thereon; and

(g) the names of States in which this project is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP) has been launched in November 2004 as a centrally sponsored scheme with the objective to integrate disease surveillance activities in the country. Disease Surveillance would provide essential data to detect early warning signals of impending outbreaks and epidemics which would facilitate timely and effective response to curb spread of diseases. It would also help monitor progress of various on-going disease control programmes, facilitate study of disease patterns in the country and identify new emerging diseases.

(c) and (d) The diseases covered under IDSP are Malaria, Acute Diarrhoeal Disease (Cholera), Typhoid, Measles, Polio, Plague, Meningoencephalitis/Respiratory Distress, Hemorrhagic fever, other undiagnosed conditions, HIV/HBV, HCV. In addition to these core diseases, each State Government can identify upto five additional conditions for surveillance as per State priority.

(e) and (f) The project has been introduced with the assistance of the World Bank. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 408.36 crore for the project period 2004-2009. The World Bank has agreed to finance nearly 75% of the project cost through soft credit from the International Development Association.

(g) The project is to be implemented in phased manner as detailed below:

Phase I (2004-05): 9 States, namely, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Mizoram and all the 101 districts covered under the pilot project 'National Surveillance Programme for Communicable diseases'.

Phase II (2005-06): 13 States/UT, namely, Gujarat, Haryana, Rajasthan, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Delhi, Goa, Chandigarh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura.

Phase III (2006-07): Remaining States/UTs.

[English]

Ban on Admission in Medical Colleges of Karnataka

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

(a) whether the Indian Medical Council (IMC) has asked some of the new medical colleges in Karnataka not to make admission for the academic year 2006-07;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the names of these colleges; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that these colleges start functioning immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Proposals for establishment of seven new Medical Colleges in Karnataka i.e. one Private Medical College and six Government Medical Colleges were under consideration of Central Government in consultation with MCI for the academic year 2006-07. Out of these 7 proposals, permission of the Central Government have been accorded for starting of the following medical colleges in Karnataka during 2006-07:

1. Government Medical College at Bengaurn with intake of 100 students.
2. Government Medical College at Mandya with intake of 100 students.
3. S.S. Institute of Medical Sciences, Davangere (Private Medical College) with intake of 150 students (Private).

The Government of Karnataka informed Central Government of its decision not to start 4 remaining new Government medical Colleges, one each at Bidar, Raichur, Shimoga and Hassan during 2006-07.

Disinvestment of CIL

346. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plans to disinvest its stake in the Coal India Ltd;

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

(c) the amount expected to be generated therefrom; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir. No decision to disinvest Government's equity in Coal India Ltd. has been taken.

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

[Translation]

Allotment of Coal Reserves to States

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

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allotted coal reserves to various States to meet their requirements of coal;

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

(c) the number of coal reserves allotted to these States;

(d) the basis on which allotment of coal reserves has been made;

(e) the demands made by these States as per their requirement;

(f) whether the pressure of demand for the coal on the Coal India Limited would be reduced due to the said allotment; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The details of the coal blocks allocated to State Government companies are given below.

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Block allocated	State
1.	West Bengal State Electricity Board	Tara (East)	West Bengal
2.	West Bengal Power Dev. Corp Ltd.	Tara (West)	West Bengal
3.	West Bengal Power Dev. Corp Ltd.	Pachwara North	West Bengal
4.	West Bengal Mineral Dev. Trading. Corp.	Trans Damodar	West Bengal
5.	Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board	Gidhmuri	Chhattisgarh
6.	Chhattisgarh State Electricity Board	Patoria	Chhattisgarh
7.	Chhattisgarh Mineral Devp. Corp.	Tara	Chhattisgarh
8.	Orissa Mining Corporation	Utkal-D	Orissa
9.	Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation	Tadicherla-I	Andhra Pradesh
10.	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation	Amelia and Amelia North	Madhya Pradesh
11.	Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation	Sugia Closed mine	Jharkhand
12.	Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation	Rauta Closed mine	Jharkhand
13.	Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation	Burakhap Small patch	Jharkhand
14.	Punjab State Electricity Board	Pachwara Central	Jharkhand
15.	Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Ltd.	Gondulpara	Jharkhand
16.	Gujarat State Electricity Company and Maharashtra Power Generation Corporation	Mahanadi Machhkata	Maharashtra
17.	Karnataka Power Corporation Ltd.	Kiloni, Manoradeep and Baranj I to IV	Maharashtra
18.	Arunachal Pradesh Mineral Development and Trading Corporation	Namchik/Namphuk	Arunachal Pradesh

The Coal reserves have been allocated to the Government companies to meet their coal requirement wherever they themselves produce power/or iron & steel or to make coal available to other consumer industries in the area.

(d) The quantity and quality of coal requirement of Government companies for their own use, the demand of the small consuming industries in the area, the quality and quantity of reserve in a block, the proximity of the block to the end-use plants of Government companies etc. are the considerations which form the basis of allotment of coal block.

(e) Demands are usually made by the State Governments taking into consideration the coal requirement for their end-use plants or the probable demand of coal of the industries in the area.

(f) and (g) Development of coal blocks involves a gestation period of about 3 to 5 years to reach production stage and about another two years to reach its optimal production capacity. Therefore, once production commences from the captive blocks allocated, the pressure of demand for the coal on the Coal India Limited would get reduced to some extent.

*[English]***Special Economic Package for U.P.**

348. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Uttar Pradesh has requested for Special Economic package to increase the pace of development in the State as reported in the Hindi daily "Nav Bharat Times" dated June 30, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) the time by which the special economic package would be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) Nav Bharat Times in its edition dated June 30, 2006 reported that Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh would like to raise the demand of special economic package for accelerating the growth rate during his proposed meeting with Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission to be held on 3rd July, 2006. Planning Commission organized the regional consultation with the Chief Ministers of Northern Region on Draft Approach Paper to the Eleventh Five Year Plan on 3rd July, 2006 in New Delhi. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh did not demand special economic package during this consultation.

*[Translation]***Mobile Towers in Maharashtra**

349. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mobile phone towers sanctioned in Usmanabad, Maharashtra during the last two years till date;

(b) the number of towers erected so far;

(c) whether the said towers have become operational;

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

(e) the time by which the remaining towers are likely to be erected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has sanctioned 47 towers for Usmanabad, Maharashtra during the last two years till date.

(b) 13 number of BTS towers have been erected so far.

(c) All the aforesaid BTSs have since been operational.

(d) Details are available in the enclosed Statement.

(e) The remaining BTSs are expected to be commissioned during the current financial year subject to timely availability of electrical connection.

Statement*Location-wise details of BTS Towers in Osmanabad*

Sl.No.	BTSs Commissioned during 2004-05		BTSs Commissioned during 2005 to Till Date		Remarks
	Name of the BTS Sites	SDCA Sites	Name of the BTS Sites	SDCA Sites	
1.	Lohara	Omerga	1. Murum	Omerga	
2.	Washi	Bhoom	2 Ter	* Osmanabad	
3.	Paranda	Paranda	3 Yedshi	Osmanabad	
4.	Yermala	Kalamb			
5.	Bhoom	Bhoom			
6.	Temnagar	Osmanabad			
7.	Jalkot	Tuljapur			
8.	Kallamb	Kallamb			
9.	Omerga	Omerga			
10.	Maulichowk	Osmanabad			

*[English]***Function of Administrative Tribunals**

350. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Administrative Tribunals were set up to provide speedy and inexpensive justice to the litigants;

(b) if so, the number of cases disposed of since its inception, till date; and

(c) the number of cases pending for disposal?

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

(b) and (c) Since inception of Central Administrative Tribunal 4,51,751 cases have been disposed of and 24,585 cases are pending as on 30th June, 2006. The information relating to disposal and pendency of cases in the State Administrative Tribunals is not centrally maintained

Report of Javed Chowdhury Committee

351. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the report of the Javed Chowdhury Committee regarding the salaries, emoluments and other benefits to the doctors of the Central Health Service has been considered by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a decision thereon is likely to be announced including the benefits proposed to be made available to the doctors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Report of the Javed Chowdhury Committee is at an advanced stage of consideration by the Government. However, in the meantime the Government has announced setting up of the Sixth Central Pay Commission. The recommendations also involve consultation with the other Government

agencies. Therefore, no time frame can be indicated for a decision on the report.

*[Translation]***Uniformity in Admission and Tuition Fees in Medical Colleges**

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

(a) whether Supreme Court of India has directed the Union Government to make appropriate law to bring uniformity in admission and tuition fees in the medical colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government to make appropriate law to bring uniformity in admission and tuition fees in the medical colleges;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from the State Governments in the matter;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) In August, 2005 the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has pronounced its judgement in the Appeal (Civil) 5041 of 2005 P.A. Inamdar & Others Versus State of Maharashtra while inter-alia holding that it is not feasible to provide any Government Quota/reservation in Private Institutions and each Institute in free to devise its own fee structure and directed the Central Government to frame a Central Legislation on the issue. Accordingly this Ministry has drafted "The private Medical Education Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Fixation of Fee) Bill 2005" At Present the proposed bill has been circulated among state governments for their comments.

Solution to Kashmir Issue

353. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposals for a permanent solution of Kashmir issue from the President of Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) No formal proposal has been received from the President of Pakistan for a final settlement of Jammu and Kashmir.

[English]

Patent Claims

354. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after losing nearly 18,000 patents of medicinal plants to West, the Government has decided to allow International Patent Offices (IPOs) to access its Traditional Knowledge of Digital Laboratory (TKDL) for examining patent claims;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of countries which has signed agreement with India to access data base in this regard;

(d) whether the Government has established laboratory for settlement of patent claims of Indian Medicines and Yoga; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the benefits likely to be derived by the Government by opening data base to foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No specific study has been done to estimate the number of patents which have been granted on Indian traditional medicinal knowledge. The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library Task Force had carried out studies in March 2000 which found 4896 references on medicinal plants out of which randomly selected 762 US patents showed that 374 patents were found to be based on traditional knowledge. The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library was created by Government of India with a view to prevent grant of wrongful patents on traditional medicinal knowledge of India. Government has authorized access to Traditional Knowledge Digital Library by International Patent Offices under a non-disclosure agreement.

(c) The request from European Patent Office for TKDL access was received in July 2005 and United Kingdom Patent office in June 2006. After Cabinet approval dated 30.6.2006 on access to TKDL for international patent offices, copies of TKDL Access Agreement is being sent to EPO and UKPTO offices for their consideration.

(d) and (e) No Sir.

Launching of INSAT-4B

355. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the launch of INSAT-4B is expected to be advanced from the original timing;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to launch INSAT-4B from a foreign base;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the expenditure likely to be involved therein; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) INSAT-4B would be launched by Arianespace from French Guyana.

(e) The cost of launch of INSAT-4B is Rs. 225 Crores and the cost of indigenously built INSAT-4B is Rs. 202 crores.

(f) The launch of INSAT-4B would take place in the first quarter of 2007.

Central Assistance for National Highways

356. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of Central assistance/additional Central assistance sanctioned to various States to construct National Highways during the last three years;

(b) the names of NH projects of Orissa for which Central/additional Central assistance has been sanctioned during the said period year-wise and project-wise; and

(c) the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The funds allocated to various States for development/upgradation of National Highways during the last three years are as under:

(Amount Rs. in crores)

Year	Allocation for development/ upgradation of National Highways
2003-2004	1599.20
2004-05	1476.08
2005-06	1567.00

(b) and (c) Details for the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 are given in Statement-I, Statement-II and Statement-III respectively.

Statement I

NH(O) Works sanctioned during the year 2003-2004

Sl.No.	Head	NH No.	Name of work	Status of work
1.	IRQP	6	Km. 9/0-10/0 & 41/0-43/3	Completed
2.		23	Km 221/0-230/0	Completed
3.		42	Km 144/0-147, 149/0-154/0, 156/0-158/0, 160/0-161/0 & 184/0-185/0	Completed
4.		201	Km 59/0-68/0	Completed
5.		217	Km 18/0-28/0	Completed
6.		217	Km 28/0-35/0, 37/3-38/0 & 40/0-41/0	Completed
7.	Widening to two-lanes	23	Km 312/0-329/3	In progress
8.		43	Km 339/0-348/0	In progress
9.		200	km 72/0-89/0	Completed
10.		201	Km 221/0-240/0	In progress
11.		201	Km 281/0-295/0	Completed
12.		215	Km 12/0-24/0	In progress
13.		215	Km 34/0-48/0	In progress
14.		215	Km 48/0-60/0	In progress
15.		215	Km 60/0-70/0	In progress
16.		215	Km 80/0-91/0	In progress
17.		215	Km 91/0-109/0	In progress

Statement II***NH(O) Works sanctioned during the year 2004-2005***

Sl.No.	Head	NH No.	Name of work	Status of work
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Missing Link	23	Km 29/810-37/500	In progress
2.	IRQP	43	Km 432/0-437/0	In progress
3.		215	Km 178/0-184/0 & 188/0-200/0	In progress
4.		215	Km 224/0-241/100	In progress
5.		217	Km 41/0-48/0	In progress
6.	Widening	23	Km 305/0-310/0	In progress
7.		200	Km 123-131	In progress
8.		200	Km 192/0-200/0	In progress
9.		200	Km 345/4-352/0 (balance length Km 342/0-352/0 & 378/0-389/5)	In progress
10.		201	Km 304/600-310/580 & 311/080- 313/0 (balance length km 300/0- 313/0)	In progress
11.		215	Km 154/500-171/0 (balance length km 138/0-171/0)	In progress
12.		215	Km 171/0-178/0	In progress
13.		215	Km 207/800-213/500 and 215/300-219/300	In progress
14.		215	Km 242/300-258/300 (balance length km 241/1-269/0)	In progress
15.	Minor Bridge	201	Construction of diversion for reconstruction of damaged bridge at 143rd km across pipal nallah	Completed
16.		201	Reconstruction of damaged bridge at 143rd km across papal Nallah	In progress
17.		215	Reconstruction of minor bridge over Antadhar Nallah at Km. 98/958 and its approaches	In progress
18.		215	Reconstruction of minor bridge over river Kasia at km. 154/82	In progress

1	2	3	4	5
19.	Misc.	201	Preparation of Feasibility Study and Detailed Project Report for construction of Nawarangpur bypass	In progress
20.		203	Reconstruction of culvert at Km. 4/075	In progress

Statement III***NH(O) Works sanctioned during the year 2005-2006***

Sl.No.	Head	NH No.	Name of work	Status
1.	IRQP	5	252.0-254.0 & 257.0-258.0	In progress
2.		6	km 13/0-16/0	In progress
3.		6	233.0-235.0 & 254.0-256.0	In progress
4.		6	383.0-387.0 & 391.0-396.0	In progress
5.		23	250.0-257.0 & 296.96-305.0	In progress
6.		42	248.0-252.7	In progress
7.	Widening	200	km 21/0-30/0	In progress
8.		201	km 295/0-300/0	In progress
9.		201	km 313/0-319/600	In progress
10.		224	km 278/500-285/800 & 295/0-298/0	In progress
11.	Strengthening	6	491/0-495.0 & 497.0-498.0	In progress
12.		42	0.0-10.7	In progress
13.	Paved Shoulder	217	6.0-18.0 with Improvement of Riding Quality (2 lanes with paved shoulder)	In progress
14.	Bridge	217	M.B. at Km 21.677 & 27.102	In progress
15.	Bypasses and ROB/RUBs	43,200, 201 & 217	Engagement of Consultancy Services for Preparation of Feasibility Study and Detailed Project Report for construction of following bypasses and bypasses cum ROB: (i) Bypasses cum ROB on NH-217 near Titlagarh (ii) Bypass on NH-43 near Jeypore (iii) Bypass on NH-43 near Boriguma (iv) Bypass on NH-43 near Koraput (v) Bypasses cum ROB on H-200 near Belpahar (vi) Bypass on NH-217 near Berhampur (vii) Bypasses cum ROB on NH-201 near Bolangir	In progress

Extending Satellite Communication System to Village Panchayats

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposals to extend Satellite Communication System to all village panchayats in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the assistance extended/proposed to be extended in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Satellite telephone connectivity is provided to only those villages in remote/inaccessible areas which cannot be easily connected via any other media (This excludes villages having less than 100 population and villages lying in naxalite infested areas etc.) Therefore the Government does not have any proposal to extend Satellite connectivity to all the village panchayats.

(b) In Rajasthan, 18 eligible villages will be connected through Digital Satellite Phone Terminals (DSPTs) by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) with support from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF). Total support from USOF for these 18 DSPTs will be Rs. 33.75 lakh.

Speech by Pakistan Foreign Minister

358. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan Foreign Minister made a speech in Washington after the recent bomb blasts in the country;

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

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHMED): (a) and (b) Pakistan's Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri told Reuters during a visit to Washington: in an interview after the Mumbai blasts "I think the Mumbai incident-however tragic it may be and it is undoubtedly very tragic-underlines the need for the two countries to work together to control this environment, but they can only do so if they resolve their disputes."

(c) In response, Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson stated that it is "appalling that Foreign Minister Kasuri should seek to link this blatant and inhuman act of terror against innocent men, women and children to the so called lack of resolution of disputes between India and Pakistan. His remarks appear to suggest that Pakistan will cooperate with India against the scourge of cross-border terrorism and terrorist violence only if such so called disputes are resolved. Terrorism cannot be tolerated on any grounds whatsoever, and no cause justifies the murder of innocent people". The Spokesperson expressed the hope "that the Government of Pakistan rejects any such linkage and joins hands together with India to defeat the forces of terrorism, based on an ideology of extremism and violence. We would urge Pakistan to take urgent steps to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism on the territory under its control, act resolutely against groups and individuals, who are responsible for terrorist violence and fulfill its solemn commitments enshrined in the India-Pakistan Joint Press Statement of January 6, 2004."

[Translation]

Special Awards for Sportspersons

359. SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA": Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme for giving special awards to the Indian sportspersons who participate in International, Asian and Commonwealth Sports Championships;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether power-lifting is also proposed to be covered under the said scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, there is scheme of 'Special Awards to Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches', which was introduced in the year 1986, for giving special awards to the

sportspersons who win medals in international events including Asian and Commonwealth Sports Championships, which are held in the Olympics, Asian

Games and Commonwealth Games disciplines, and Chess. Under the scheme, special awards are given to sportspersons as per the following details:

Sl.No.	Name of the Game/Championship	Amount (Rs. in lakh)		
		Gold Medal/ First Position	Silver Medal Second Position	Bronze Medal/ Third Position
(i)	Olympics Games	30.00	18.00	12.00
(ii)	Official World Cup/Asian Games/Commonwealth Games.	10.00	5.00	3.00
(iii)	Asian and Commonwealth Championships	3.00	2.00	1.50

(c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f) At present, the scheme does not provide for giving special awards in Power-lifting since it is not included in the general category disciplines of the Olympics, Commonwealth and Asian Games.

[English]

Rules/Regulations for Food Adulteration

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

(a) the details of the rules and regulations governing prevention of food adulteration in the country;

(b) whether the existing laws are inadequate in preventing food adulteration in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any comparative study has been undertaken between the Indian laws and those adopted by the Developed Nations;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken/being taken to curb the adulteration of food in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI

PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954 and Rules, 1955 govern the prevention of Food Adulteration in the country.

(b) to (e) The PFA Rules 1955 are continuously being updated/amended in view of the changing scenario in the food sector, through issue of notifications. There have been four major amendments of the PFA Act, 1954 in the years 1961, 1971, 1976 and 1986 so far. An exercise has also been initiated for harmonizing the standards under PFA Act and Rules with those under Codex and so far 13 notifications have been issued in this regard.

(f) The implementation of the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules, 1955 is entrusted to the enforcement staff of the Food (Health) Authorities of the States/UTs who draw random samples of different articles of food for analysis. Action is taken against the offenders if samples are not found in conformity with the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules, 1955.

[Translation]

Widening of National Highway No. 24

361. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to widen the Delhi-Hapur-Lucknow National Highway No. 24;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

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

(b) and (c) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	Stretch	Status
1.	Km 0.00 (Delhi) to Km 3.40	Already eight laned.
2.	Km. 3.40 to Km. 5.70	Already four laned. Work of widening to eight lanes has already been approved.
3.	Km. 5.70 to km 7.70	Work of eight laning is included in the Annual Plan 2006-07
4.	Km. 7.70 to Km. 8.40 (Delhi/UP Border)	Already eight laned.
5.	Km. 8.40 to Km. 13.00	Already four laned. Consultancy work for eight laning has been sanctioned.
6.	Km. 13.00 to Km. 58.00 (Hapur)	Already four laned.
7.	Km. 58.00 (Hapur) to Km. 149.25 (Moradabad)	Work of four laning is in progress.
8.	Km. 149.25 (Moradabad) to Km. 413.20 (Sitapur)	Four laning of this section is included in NHDP Phase-IIIB
9.	Km. 413.20 (Sitapur) to km. 488.27 (Lucknow)	Contract for four laning has been awarded.

[English]

Supply of Coal to Thermal Power Stations

362. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up any Committee to review regular supply of coal to the thermal power stations in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any difficulty has been encountered in ensuring supply of coal to thermal power stations during the last three years;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The supply of coal to thermal power stations is reviewed by the Standing Linkage Committee (Short-term), an inter-ministerial body, under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Coal), which decides allocation of coal on quarterly basis. There is also a sub-group under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary (Coal) comprising of the representative of Ministry of Power, Railways and Central Electricity Authority to monitor supply of coal to various power stations and decide allocation of coal based on requirement of these power stations.

(c) to (e) The supply of coal to power plants is maintained as per Annual Plan target. However, some times supplies get affected due to factors like unloading constraints at power house end, blockage of railway line due to accidents/floods, local problems in mining areas etc. The sub-group takes corrective action to ensure restoration of coal supplies at the earliest.

Mandatory Rural Services for Doctors

363. SHRI ARJUN SETHI:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory for doctors to serve in rural and tribal areas before awarding the degree;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Government has constituted a Task Force on Medical Education for the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) under the Chairmanship of Ex-Union Health Secretary. The Task Force is required to suggest amongst other measures as to how rural service can be made attractive for MBBS doctors along with other possibilities of providing Health care in rural and under served areas including modifications in the curriculum for Medical course.

CBMs between India and Pakistan

364. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:
SHRI K.C. PALANISHAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether official level talks have been held between India and Pakistan on various Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) recently;

(b) if so, the complete details thereof;

(c) whether any agreements were signed on the occasion;

(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(e) whether bus service for Pakistan has been started recently;

(f) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken to check anti-national activities on this service;

(g) the number of Indian and Pakistan nationals who visited either country during 2005 and 2006; and

(h) the steps proposed to be taken to operationalise the Poonch-Rawalpindi bus service and to further improve the relations between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHMED): (a) and (b) The third round of Pakistan-India Expert Level Dialogue on Conventional Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) was held in Islamabad on 27 April 2006. As mandated by the Foreign Secretaries the two sides continued consultations on security concepts to develop measures for confidence building in the conventional field aimed at avoidance of conflict.

Some CBMs aimed at avoidance of conflict were agreed on by the two sides-finalisation of Border Ground Rules for implementation along the international border; modalities for holding quarterly flag meetings, and on needs basis, at sector level commanders in already agreed sectors; elaborating, consistent with its intent, the agreement reached on no development of new posts and defence works along the LoC; and the finalisation of an agreement on speedy return of inadvertent line crosser (s).

As indicated in the Joint Statement of 18 January 2006, the Pakistan side presented a draft Agreement to the Indian side on the Prevention of Incidents at Sea in order to ensure safety of navigation by naval vessels, and aircraft belonging to the two sides, which is being examined. Both sides agreed to periodically discuss further CBMs and to review and monitor the implementation of existing Conventional CBMs as called for in the Lahore MoU of 1999 and as mandated by the Foreign Secretaries in the Composite Dialogue process. They also agreed to report the progress made in the present round of the talks to the respective Foreign Secretaries who will decide on the date and venue of the next meeting.

During the fourth round of Pakistan-India Expert Level Dialogue on Nuclear Confidence Building Measures, held in Islamabad on 25-26 April 2006, the two sides held discussions in the framework of the Lahore MoU of 1999. As mandated by Foreign Secretaries the two sides continued consultations on security concepts and nuclear

doctrines to develop measures for confidence building. They reiterated their desire to keep working towards further elaboration and implementation of Nuclear CBMs within the framework of the Lahore MoU.

The two sides expressed their satisfaction on the signing of the Agreement on pre-Notification of Flight Testing of Ballistic Missiles and the operationalization of the hotline link between the two Foreign Secretaries. The two sides held detailed discussions on the draft text of an agreement, the objective of which is to reduce the risk from accidents relating to nuclear weapons, and agreed to work towards its finalization.

Both sides discussed modalities for further securing the Foreign Secretaries' hotline. Both sides agreed that future periodic Expert Level talks on Nuclear CBMs would discuss, review and monitor the implementation of Nuclear CBMs as called for by the Lahore MoU of 1999. They also agreed to report the progress made in the present round of the talks to the respective Foreign Secretaries who will decide on the date and venue of the next meeting.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) In 2006, the Lahore-Amritsar weekly bus service commenced on January 20, followed by a weekly Amritsar-Lahore bus service on January 24. The Amritsar-Nankana Sahib bus started service on March 24, 2006 and the Poonch-Rawalpindi was started from June 20, 2006. Security implications of the bus links have been taken into account and passengers are allowed to travel on them only after due procedures and checks have been completed.

(g) The number of Pakistani nationals who visited India is 94078 in 2005 and 17913 up to March in 2006. Information regarding the number of Indian nationals who visited Pakistan in 2005 and 2006 are being collected.

(h) The bus service between Poonch-Rawalpindi was started from June 20, 2006. The modalities for operationalisation of the truck service on the Srinagar-Muzaffarabad route are being worked out. India has also proposed a bus service between Kargil and Skardu.

Shortage of Psychiatrists/Psychotherapists

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

(a) whether there is acute shortage of psychiatrists, psychotherapists and psychoanalysts in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government has assessed the reasons therefor; and

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has conducted any survey to assess the population, specially adult population in the country who suffer from different types of mental illness and the requirement of specialists for treating psychiatric diseases;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to fill up the shortage of professionals/specialists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (f) There are over 300 qualified psychiatrists, 500 clinical psychologists, 300 psychiatric social workers and about 600 trained psychiatric nurses in the country.

The efforts of the Government is to diagnose the mentally ill patients at an early stage and treat them through the general health delivery system. For this purpose under the National Mental Health Programme, the General Duty Medical Officers are given short-term training in the field of psychiatry for handling cases of mental illness. The Government is also providing primary treatment to the common man through the District Mental Health Programme (DMHP). DMHP is presently implemented in 94 districts of the Country.

It is estimated that 5% of the population suffers from various psychological disorders such as depression, neurotics, stress related and adjustment disorders. About 1% of the population suffers from serious mental disorders such as psychotic disorders and 0.5% of the population may be in need of active treatment for serious mental disorder.

*[Translation]***Research on Thalassaemia Disease**

366. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI:
SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE:

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

(a) whether the number of Thalassaemia patients is increasing in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the said disease;

(d) whether the Government proposes to conduct any research on this disease; and

(e) if so, the places where the research is proposed to be conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As reported by Indian Council of Medical Research, there is no central or state-wise

registry to know the exact prevalence of the disease. However based on the data generated by various studies it is estimated that every year about 1000 children are born with the disease in the country.

(b) The details of the Thalassaemia patients during each of the last three years (2003, 2004 & 2005) received from various states is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) There is no National Programme for Thalassaemia. However the patients are treated in the Health Care Delivery System at all levels.

(d) and (e) ICMR has been working in the area for the last two decades or so. A multi-centric study is now planned by the ICMR with the primary objective to establish molecular technology for characterization of mutations in haemoglobinopathies at regional centers, setting up pre natal diagnosis facility by chorionic villus sampling and DNA analysis, set up second trimester diagnosis by fetal blood analysis and to undertake a quality control programme to monitor uniformity and accuracy of diagnosis. The study will be carried out at five centers NRS Medical College, Kolkatta; Christian Medical College, Ludhiana; St. John's Medical College, Bangalore; Govt. Medical College, Nagpur; Valsad Raktadan Kendra, Valsad with IIH (ICMR) as coordinating Unit.

Statement*Details of the Thalassaemia Patients during each of the last three years in various States*

Sl.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Details of cases reported
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil
3.	NCT of Delhi	Govt. of Delhi has informed that there were 855 patients in 2002, 1117 patients in 2003 while in 2004 there were 1116 patients.
4.	Goa	Govt. of Goa has informed that there were 3 patients in 2003, 5 patients in 2004 while in 2005 (till July) there were 3 patients.
5.	Gujarat	Govt. of Gujarat has informed that there were 1918 patients in 2003, 2488 patients in 2004 while in 2005 there were 3125 patients.
6.	Haryana	Nil

1	2	3
7.	Himachal Pradesh	Govt. of Himachal Pradesh has informed that there were 20 patients in 2002, 17 patients in 2003 while in 2004 there were 12 patients.
8.	Manipur	Govt. of Manipur has informed that there were 6 patients in 2003, 7 patients in 2004 while in 2005 there were 6 patients.
9.	Mizoram	Nil
10.	Meghalaya	Nil
11.	Nagaland	Nil
12.	Pondicherry	Nil
13.	Punjab	Nil
14.	Sikkim	Nil
15.	Tamil Nadu	Govt. of Tamil Nadu has informed that there were 25 patients in 2003, 31 patients in 2004 while in 2005 (till July) there were 19 patients.
16.	Tripura	Govt. of Tripura has informed that there were 118 patients in 2003, 120 patients in 2004 while in 2005 there were 139 patients.
17.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil
18.	West Bengal	Govt. of West Bengal has informed that there were 403 patients in 2003, 386 patients in 2004 while in 2005 there were 436 patients.
19.	Chandigarh	Chandigarh administration has informed that there were 5208 patients in 2002, 4841 patients in 2003 while in 2004 there were 4946 patients.
20.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Nil
21.	Daman and Diu	Nil
22.	Lakshadweep	Lakshadweep administration has informed that there was only one case in the last five years.
23.	Madhya Pradesh	Government of Madhya Pradesh has informed that there were 134 patients in 2003, 230 patients in 2004 while in 2005 there were 245 patients.
24.	Uttaranchal	Govt. of Uttaranchal has informed that there were 6 patients in 2002, 7 patients in 2003, 6 patients in 2004 while in 2005 (till June) there were 8 patients.

*[English]***Expansion Plan of Neyveli Lignite Corporation**

367. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) has proposed to expand its Mine-II and Thermal Power Station-II;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount likely to be earmarked for the same;

(c) the time by which the expansion plan would be completed; and

(d) the plans of NLC for the coming years in this regard?

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

(b) Thermal Power Station-II (TPS-II) Expansion project (500 MW) for Rs. 2030.78 crores and the linked Mine-II Expansion Project (4.50 Million Tonne Per Annum) for Rs. 2161.28 crores were sanctioned on 18.10.2004.

(c) The mine will commence lignite production in February, 2009 and will attain full production in June, 2009. The commissioning schedule of TPS-II Expansion Project is February 2009 (Unit-I) and June 2009 (Unit-II).

(d) The Advance Action Proposal to incur expenditure for taking up pre-project activities like preparation of feasibility report, environment report, survey of area were sanctioned for the following projects under formulation:

- (i) Coal based Tuticorin Thermal Power Project of 1000 MW capacity at Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu as Joint Venture project with Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.
- (ii) Coal Based Power project of 2000 MW capacity at Orissa.
- (iii) Lignite based Power Project of 250 MW capacity with a captive lignite mine of 2.10 MTPA capacity at Bithonk, Bikaner District in Rajasthan.
- (iv) Lignite based Power project of 500 capacity with a captive lignite mine of 4.50 Mtpa capacity at Riri, Bikaner District in Rajasthan.
- (v) Lignite based Powerf project of 1000 MW capacity with a captive lignite mine of 8.0 MTPA capacity at Jayamkondam in Tamil Nadu.
- (vi) Mine-III of 8.0 MTPA with a linked Thermal Power Station-III of 1000 MW capacity at Neyveli in Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

Assistance for Development Projects

368. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central assistance provided to various States especially Jharkhand for different development project remained unutilised during the last financial year;

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

(c) whether the unutilised amount has been reallocated during the current financial year 2006-2007; and

(d) if so, the additional amount allocated to Jharkhand during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Planning Commission does not provide project-wise Central assistance to the States including Jharkhand while approving the Annual Plan. The size of the Annual Plan of States which basically consist of States own resources and Central assistance is decided by the Planning Commission after detailed discussions with the State Governments and assessment of resource availability. Sectoral distribution of the Annual Plan outlay is made by the State Governments after Working Group discussions with the various subject matter Divisions. The Sectoral expenditure of the previous year of the States is normally made available to Planning Commission in their Draft Annual Plan Document of the next year during the month of November-December.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) An amount of Rs. 35 crores has been provided as One Time Additional Central Assistance while finalising the Annual Plan 2006-07 to Government of Jharkhand for taking up projects of special importance.

[English]

Condition of National Highways In Kerala

369. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways in Kerala are in bad shape due to heavy rains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide adequate funds for the immediate maintenance of these National Highways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) There have been damages such as formation of pot holes, patches, erosion to berms etc. due to heavy rains on various National Highways in Kerala.

(c) and (d) A sum of Rs. 30.60 crore has already been allocated for maintenance and repairs of National Highways in Kerala for the year 2006-07. Allocation of additional funds for flood damage repairs will depend upon the assessment of flood damages, *inter se* priority and overall availability of funds.

Pending Divorce Cases of Indians Abroad

370. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether instances of divorce of couples of Indian Origin abroad are constantly on the increase;

(b) if so, the names of countries where such instances have been found to be considerably high;

(c) the total number of divorce cases of people of Indian origin pending disposal abroad, country-wise;

(d) whether the Union Government has any mechanism to intervene in such litigation through our Embassy in the respective country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the measures likely to be adopted by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) Reports on divorce of couples of Indian Origin abroad are not maintained in the Ministry.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

(f) The Government is taking measures to create awareness on this issue. The measures include publishing a guidance booklet on marriages to Overseas Indians and publicity through print and electronic media. The

Ministry organized a National Consultation in Delhi in February 2006 and a Workshop in Chandigarh in June 2006 to address the problems relating to marriages with overseas Indians.

[Translation]

Images/Figures Sold to Foreign Agencies

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

(a) whether certain foreign agencies have bought images and figures taken through remote sensing satellites from the Space Corporation, an associate of ISRO;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date, agency-wise;

(c) whether the Government had reached any agreements with these agencies while handing over these images;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether these foreign agencies are complying with the said agreements;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) The details given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) and ANTRIX Corporation of the Department of Space sell imageries acquired by commercial remote sensing satellites of ISRO. The End User Agreement of NRSA authorises the use of these images. ANTRIX Corporation provides data access under a License Agreement. Both these agreements protect the commercial and copyright interests and provide indemnification against liabilities.

(e) to (g) Yes, Sir. Non-compliance with the agreements has not come to the notice of NRSA or ANTRIX Corporation.

Statement**A. Details of Sale of Remote Sensing Data acquired by commercial remote sensing satellites of ISRO to foreign agencies [1900 onwards]**

The Foreign Customer	Number of Scenes
Bangladesh [Environment and GIS Project]	— 199
Bhutan [Principal, Sheruptse College]	— 4
Colombo [International Irrigation Management Institute]	— 13
Dubai [Space Imaging Middle East]	— 160
Iran [Iran System Geomatics Co.]	— 18
Iran [Geo Process of Pars]	— 2
Iran [The Association of Rural Hand-Woven Carpet Cooperatives of Fars]	— 3
Iran [Comkar Systems]	— 55
Italy [Hans Jurgen Stibig MR; Joint Research Centre, Global Vegetation Monitoring]	— 20
Japan [Kokusai Kogyo Co Ltd]	— 1
Kyrgyz Republic [Forest Institute]	— 4
Nepal [International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development]	— 29
Nepal [Nepasoft Solutions Pvt. Ltd]	— 58
Nepal [USAID/NEPAL Office]	— 82
Nepal [Department of Mines and Geology]	— 11
Sri Lanka [International Water Management Institute]	— 8
Sri Lanka [Marine and Coastal Programme, IUCN The World Conservation Union]	— 1
Thailand [Mitr Phol Sugarcane Research Centre]	— 12
UAE [Global Scan Technologies]	— 30
U.K. [Infoterra Limited]	— 1
USA [GeoEye]	— 1239

1Scene size varies depending upon spacecraft and sensors ranging from 23 km X 23 km to 740 km X 740 km.

B. Details of Data Access to Remote Sensing Data acquired by commercial remote sensing satellites of ISRO to foreign agencies

Country	Number of currently operating Ground Stations
USA :	5
Russia	2
China	1
Europe	1
Iran	1
Kazakhstan	1
Myanmar :	1

In addition, Abu Dhabi, Argentina, Australia, Dubai, Ecuador, Europe, Gabon, Japan, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand have collected remote sensing data in the past for varying periods.

[English]

Revision of Tariff on 'One India Scheme'

372. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI K.C. SINGH "BABA":

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

(a) the names of Government/private companies manufacturing WLL handsets in the country;

(b) whether WLL handsets are being imported;

(c) if so, the reasons for the same;

(d) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has recently revised tariff on 'One India Scheme';

(e) if so, the reasons for Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) not reducing tariff on the scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) handsets are manufactured in the country in a limited number from semi-knock down (SKD) stage by companies like M/s ITI Ltd., a public sector company and M/s Himachal Futuristic Communications Ltd. (HFCL), M/s ICOMM Tele Ltd., M/s XL Telecom Ltd., M/s Surana Telecom Ltd., etc. in the private sector.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. WLL (CDMA) handsets are freely importable as per the foreign Trade Policy.

(d) Yes, Sir. Recently, M/s Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL) has reduced the rental of 'BSNL ONE INDIA' Scheme for Basic and WLL Services from Rs. 299/- per month to Rs. 225/- per month with 25 free calls with effect from 01.07.2006.

(e) Telecom Service Providers fix their tariffs keeping in view the competition, cost involved etc. and accordingly M/s Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. (MTNL) has not reduced its tariffs.

(f) The Government does not regulate the tariff for the telecom services.

[Translation]

Criteria for Special Status State

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

(a) the criteria adopted for declaration of special status State;

(b) the State Governments which have sent proposals to the Union Government for declaration of special status State during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Special Category status is accorded by a decision of the National Development Council to States which are predominantly of hilly terrain with large tribal population, located on sensitive international border areas, with under-developed socio-economic infrastructure, low revenue base taking into account also the non-viable nature of State finances and overall economic backwardness.

(b) and (c) No formal proposal has been considered regarding granting special category status to any State other than the existing States, for placing it before the National Development Council during the last three years.

[English]

Launch of CDMA 2000 One Network

374. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) has launched CDMA 2000 One network;

(b) if so, details alongwith the salient features of new network; and

(c) the extent to which MTNL consumers are likely to be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. MTNL has commissioned CDMA 2000 1X network of 400K each in Delhi and Mumbai. The network provides Voice, Short Message Service (SMS), Voice Mail Service (VMS), High Speed Data Services etc. The network provides mobility as well as prepaid services. A new billing system has also been commissioned to address various needs of the customers.

(c) (i) Consumers are benefited as the network has a large number of Base Transceiver Stations (BTS) which provide improved outdoor and indoor coverage including underground Delhi Metro.

(ii) It also has support services including premium and value added services such as:
Prepared voice and data services,
SMS with CDMA and GSM network,
Enhanced data service with internet, fax and data calls,
On line credit control features such as access to users, balance details, etc.,
Scalable network to meet higher subscriber loading as well as capability of supporting higher data rates,

Over The Air Service Provisioning (OTASP) and Over The Air Parameter Administration (OTAPA) service, and

Lawful Interception system for security purpose.

Strengthening of PRIs

375. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether periodic assessment is made by the Government to ascertain the effectiveness of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to further strengthen the PRIs;

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

(e) whether the Government proposes to involve women and youth to generate greater awareness about the role of PRIs; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The Constitution provides that it is the legislatures of States that will endow the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) with powers and authority. In accordance with the same, States have developed powers and responsibilities to the Panchayats in varying measure. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is continually interacting with the State Governments to ascertain the effectiveness of PRIs.

2. To provide an impetus to the implementation of Part IX of the Constitution in letter and spirit by States, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj convened seven Round Tables of State Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj between July and December, 2004 and evolved, by consensus, a set of around 150 points of action, which have been put together in a compendium that was adopted unanimously at the conclusion of the last Round Table in Jaipur. The joint programme of action seeks to ensure that on the basis of Activity Mapping, funds, functions and functionaries are developed to all 3 levels of PRIs to enable them to emerge as institutions of self-government.

3. A Council of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister for

Panchayati Raj has been constituted to review the implementation of the recommendations. The first meeting of the Council was held on 5th-6th August, 2005 at Kochi, Kerala and the second meeting was held at Bhubaneswar on 15th-16th June, 2006. A Committee of Chief Secretaries of States and State Panchayati Raj Secretaries has also been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj to monitor the progress on the implementation of the 150 recommendations of the Seven Round Tables and the decisions of the Council of States Ministers of Panchayati Raj. Six review meetings of the Committee have so far been held in April, 2005, June, 2005, September, 2005, November 2005, April, 2006 and June, 2006.

4. With a view to interacting with Panchayats and carrying out a review with the authorities concerned of the progress in implementing the points for action mutually agreed upon in the Round Tables, a process of visiting the States and UTs at the level of Union Minister of Panchayati Raj has also been initiated. The Minister has so far visited fourteen States and two UTs, namely, Karnataka, West Bengal, Uttaranchal, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Arunachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Goa, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala Chandigarh and Lakshadweep. Each visit is concluded with a Statement of Conclusions jointly signed with the Chief Minister of the State concerned, highlighting the key points of action on which the State would move to operationalise the recommendations of the Round Tables. In the case of Kerala, the Statement has been initialled by the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj and the Minister for Local Self Government, Kerala. It is expected that the Chief Minister will sign the approved version of the Joint Statement on his next visit to Delhi, as was the case with Chief Minister of Sikkim.

5. An exercise is also underway to review different statutes with a view to harmonise them with the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution. Similarly, the guidelines of Centrally Sponsored Schemes are being reviewed to ensure the centrality of Panchayats in planning and implementation. As regards new Centrally Sponsored Schemes, wherever relevant, it is proposed to provide for a central role for Panchayats. Thus, for example, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act provides for the Panchayats to be the "principal authorities" for the planning and implementation of schemes under the Act. Steps are also being taken to fill in critical gaps in infrastructure and capacity so that Panchayats can effectively fulfil their constitutional role.

(c) and (d) Yes. The Government proposes to further strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions through a series of measures some of which are as follows:

- **Constitution of a Group of Ministers**

The Government has constituted a Group of Ministers headed by the Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Arjun Singh to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institutions. The terms of reference of the GOM included, inter-alia, rationalization of CSS Policy in accordance with the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution. The GoM had met on 24th August, 2005 and as per its directions, 22 key Central Ministers are carrying out an Activity Mapping exercise delineating what is to be done at the Central, State and Panchayat levels in respect of functional areas of the Ministries and the Centrally Sponsored Schemes being handled by them.

- **Empowered Sub-Committee on Financial and Administrative Empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions**

An Empowered Sub-Committee on Financial and Administrative Empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions under the Chairmanship of Minister for Rural Development was set up in March 2003 by the Planning Commission, in pursuance of a decision taken in the National Development Council. The members of the Committee are Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Minister of Finance and Company Affairs, Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment, Minister of Tribal Affairs and Chief Ministers of Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh Punjab and Rajasthan. The Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee include, inter alia, working out the modalities for strengthening the financial domain of the PRIs through transfer of resources from the Central and State Governments; assessing the capacity of the PRIs to raise revenues and other resources and to develop an action plan in this regard; analysing the capability of PRIs at different levels to absorb the financial allocation made to the PRIs under different schemes; and to develop a framework to ensure fiscal discipline and financial accountability at different levels of PRIs. The Empowered Sub-Committee held two meetings before it was reconstituted on 14th September 2005, with the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj as the Chairperson and the Union Minister of Rural Development added as a member of the Sub-Committee. The reconstituted Committee held its first meeting on 12.6.2006.

- **Planning at the Grassroots level**

The Government had appointed an Expert Group under the chairmanship of Shri V. Ramachandran to recommend concrete steps for making planning at grass roots level a reality, since planning for economic development and social justice is a mandated function of Panchayats and other local governments in the Constitution. The Group has submitted its report. It has suggested a practicable action programme for local level planning in the Eleventh Plan which is to start in April 2007. It has also suggested in detail the manner in which national programmes of importance in education, health, employment, poverty alleviation, housing and rural infrastructure could achieve their objectives better if centrality is given to Panchayats in working out details and in implementation. Based on the recommendations of the Expert Group, the Planning Commission has sent out guidelines to all State Governments/UT Administrations, for preparation of District Plans and their incorporation into the Annual Plans of States for 2006-07. The ultimate objective is to make integrated local level planning for area development a reality by the end of the 11th Five Year Plan.

- **Electronic tagging and transfer of funds to Panchayats**

One of the goals set by the Government in the NCMP was to ensure that the funds going to the Panchayats are neither delayed nor diverted. In pursuance of this goal, a Committee in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj went into this issue in detail and submitted its report in May, 2005. Recommendations of this Committee are being put in to operation for transfer of 12th Finance Commission grants to PRIs from Consolidated Fund of the States to the Panchayats at the three levels.

- **Empowerment of Gram Sabhas**

Schedule XI of the Constitution provides for the devolution of powers to Gram Panchayats and Panchayati Raj Institutions with regard to subjects that have a bearing on economic development and social justice in rural areas. A joint programme of action was chalked at the seven Round Tables held during July to December, 2004 between the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj and State Ministers of Panchayati Raj to ensure that on the basis of Activity Mapping, Panchayats at various levels are devolved with funds, functions and functionaries to enable them to emerge as institutions of self-government. Efforts

are also being made to institutionalise social audit measures through Gram Sabhas so that Gram Panchayats are made responsible to the Village Community as a whole.

- **Implementation of the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA)**

On the basis of the recommendations of a Committee of Expert known as the Bhuria Committee, the Panchayats (Extension to the Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) was passed and came into effect on 24th December, 1996. This law extends Panchayati Raj to Fifth Schedule areas only. The law applies to the following nine States which have Fifth Schedule Areas viz., Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan.

The matter was discussed in the Third Round Table of Panchayati Raj Ministers in September, 2004 where State Ministers agreed to enforce the provisions of PESA and also to undertake wider consultations with other Govt. departments so as to harmonize the provisions of laws concerned with the aims and objectives of PESA. Progress in this regard is being continually reviewed. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has also entrusted to Indian law Institute, the formulation of appropriate amendments in the State laws concerned with a view to assist the State Govts. to carry out a similar exercise. The first report has been received from the Indian law Institute and has been circulated to the State Govt. concerned for comments. Action is also being taken to harmonise the relevant Central legislations, policies and schemes with the provisions of PESA. All the major central legislations are being examined with the help of Ministry of Law and Justice to identify their conflicting provisions with PESA and to introduce desired changes therein. Some of the important legislations being examined are the following:

- (i) The Land Acquisition Act, 1894
- (ii) Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957
- (iii) The Indian Forest Act, 1927
- (iv) The Forest Conservation Act, 1980
- (v) The Indian Registration Act.

Central Policies and CSSs/Central Schemes pertaining to wastelands, water resources and extraction of minerals from lands in Schedule V Areas are also the focus of the Rehabilitation of Project Affected Persons, 2003, National Water Policy, 2002, National Minerals Policy, 2003, National Forest Policy, 1988, Wild Life Conservation Strategy 2002 and National Draft Environment Policy, 2004 are also being examined. A National level meet of Secretaries of Panchayati Raj and Tribal Affairs of all PESA States was convened by the Ministry on 14th July, 2006 at New Delhi to give a further push to the process of implementation of the provisions of PESA in letter and spirit.

(e) and (f) Yes, the Ministry is talking steps to actively involve Women and Youth to generate awareness about the role of PRIs. Towards this end, a Panchayat Mahila Shakti Abhiyan and Panchayat Yuva Shakti Abhiyan have been launched by the Ministry early this year.

Though in many States women representatives have succeeded in getting elected to more than one third of the seats/offices in PRIs, they are not organized or united to raise their voice and articulate the concerns of their constituency. They need to take stock of their challenges, experiences and achievements so that their problems get redressed. For carrying forward this initiative, State-wise Sammelans, named Panchayat Mahila Shakti Abhiyan are proposed to be conducted in different parts of the country. Two such Abhiyans have been conducted at Udaipur in Rajasthan on 23rd-24th April, 2006 and Patiala in Punjab on 17th-18th July. These Sammelans were preceded by the constitution of a core group and preparation of a demand charter. This demand charter was then debated, discussed, amended and finally adopted in the sammelans.

On a similar pattern, Panchayat Yuva Shakti Abhiyan is also being implemented. The Abhiyan was launched on 19-20 June in Faridabad, Haryana. It is proposed to extend the Abhiyan to 8 other States by December 2006. A full 47% of the country's population comprise the youth, in the age group of 13-35 years. There are 2.5 lakhs Youth Clubs under the Nehru Yuvak Kendra with 8 million members. More than 50% of the elected representatives of the PRIs are in the age group of 18-35. Through a step by step process and after the core committee meetings, a draft charter of concerns has been formulated for ratification amongst a wider constituency. The possibility of joint working has been identified by the core committee of interested stakeholders, youth activities and community leaders.

[Translation]

Progress of Work of Expressways

376. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

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

(a) whether the progress of the work of all the Expressways being constructed by the Union Government have been reviewed;

(b) if so, the number of such Expressways whose construction has been delayed;

(c) whether the additional cost likely to be incurred on all such Expressways has been assessed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the construction work of all Expressways are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (d) The Construction of access controlled 6/8 laning of Delhi-Gurgaon Sector of NH-8 on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis has been delayed due to change in scope of work and delay in acquisition of Government land. An increase of Rs. 155 crores in cost of project has been assessed due to change in scope of work.

(e) The construction of Delhi-Gurgaon Section of NH-8 as originally planned is likely to be completed by December, 2006. The additional works especially RTR-Palam flyover is likely to be completed by June, 2007.

Detailed Project Report for construction of 135 km long Eastern Peripheral Expressway (Kundli-Ghaziabad-Noida-Pahwa; NH-NE-2) is under preparation. The project is scheduled to start in October, 2007 and to complete in October, 2010.

Other expressway projects are at planning stage only. Approximately 1000 km of expressways will be taken up under NHDP Phase-VI over the next few years and will be completed by 2015-16.

E-Governance in Panchayats

377. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision regarding commencement of 'e-governance' in Panchayats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said 'e-governance' is likely to be implemented across the country by the Government;

(d) the amount likely to be spent thereon;

(e) whether any technical training programmes are being run for success of 'e-governance'; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (f) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is preparing a mission mode project for e-governance at the Gram Panchayat level under the National e-Governance Plan. It is envisaged that this will enable all Panchayats in the country to progressively obtain the benefits of Information Technology in implementing e-Governance solutions with reference to identified services delivered at the Panchayat level. This is a new initiative. A few Panchayats in the States have been implementing pilots project for e-Governance at the Panchayat level with support of the State Government concerned. It is under the Central Plan that common standards and benchmarks will be developed so as to ensure the integrated application of Information Technology to further good governance at the Panchayat level.

Under the proposed Gram Swaraj Programme also e-governance is one of the essential elements. Similarly, capacity building and training are also parts of this new scheme proposed under 2006-07, for which outlays are yet to be finalized; but Rs. 8 crores is proposed for this purpose in 2006-07.

Other components for e-governance for Panchayats include basic computer infrastructure, software and basic process re-engineering. Activity mapping for Panchayat basic services would assist this process.

The objective is to support all State Governments and Panchayats to make effective use of IT in:

- Improving internal management processes and decision making in Panchayats;
- Panchayats using IT as a tool for transparency, disclosure of information to citizens and social audit;
- Panchayats using IT to better deliver its mandated services to its citizens;
- States and Panchayats using IT for electronic tagging and tracking of funds transferred to Panchayats from higher level of governments, including rapid bank transfer of funds, tracking fund transfers to, and expenditures of the Panchayats;
- Using IT as a medium of e-Procurement.

[English]

India-Sri Lanka Ties

378. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:
SHRI K.C. PALANISHAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any talks were held recently between India and Sri Lanka on various bilateral issues;

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the matter regarding protecting the lives of Tamil minority people in Sri Lanka also came up for discussion;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Union Government to improve this ties between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes, Sir, Wide-ranging talks were held with Sri Lanka during the visit of the Foreign Secretary to Colombo from July 3-4, 2006.

(b) to (e) Both sides reiterated the high priority that they accord to expansion of bilateral cooperation in all spheres. While reaffirming India's commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka,

Government of India has emphasized the need to make all possible efforts to strengthen the ceasefire and to revive the political dialogue in order to move the peace process forward. We have also conveyed that any escalation of violence will not only undermine the ceasefire but also result in civilian casualties. The Sri Lankan Government has conveyed that war is not an option and that it remained committed to a political solution to the ethnic issue.

20-Point Programme

379. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to restructure 20-point programme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the objectives of the 20-point programme are yet to be achieved;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the main thrust areas where Government is likely to give priority under the revised 20-point programme; and

(f) the time by which a restructured 20-point programme is likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The need to restructure the Twenty Point Programme-1986 has become inevitable due to introduction of several new policies and programmes by the Government since 1986.

(c) and (d) The main objective of the Programme is poverty alleviation and to improve the quality of life of common man. Achieving this objective is a continuous process. The Twenty Point Programme is, therefore, still relevant.

(e) and (f) The thrust areas are being identified and would be shortly finalized by the Government.

[Translation]

Temporary Employees in Passport Offices

380. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the problems related to temporary employees working in all passport offices in the country have not been solved;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Government has made any plans in regard to temporary employees working in the passport offices for over 10 to 15 years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) The Government has been continually taking a number of steps to address the problems related to temporary employees (Casual Workers) working in all Passport Offices in India. Through persistent efforts, 200 Group 'C' (LDC) posts in the Central Passport Organization (CPO) have been revived. The eligible Casual Workers will be considered for absorption against these posts as per the existing rules and regulations.

A combined departmental examination was conducted on 21st May, 2006 for all eligible Casual Workers, who were working in CPO as on 1st January, 2006. This examination was conducted successfully at the designated zonal centres all over the country. However, the result of the examination has not been declared so far because of interim Court orders. An appeal has been filed in the higher Court to vacate the interim Court orders.

[English]

Opening of Nathula Pass

381. SHRI ARJUN SETHI:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks were held between the officials of India and the Tibetan Autonomous region regarding opening of Nathula Pass;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the effect of the same on Indo-Sino relations;

(c) whether the Nathula Pass has since been opened for trade between India and China;

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

(e) the progress made in re-opening of the route at Neeti and Mana that were closed in 1962?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) An Indian inter-ministerial delegation visited the Tibet Autonomous Region from June 17-20, 2006 and held discussions with the Chinese authorities to finalise the various modalities for conducting border trade between India and China through Nathula in accordance with the Memorandum on Expanding Border Trade signed between India and China on June 23, 2003.

The resumption of border trade through Nathula, which is the third border trade point between India and China, is expected to contribute to economic benefits in the border areas on the two sides, and foster great mutual understanding and trust between the two countries.

(c) Yes.

(d) Border trade through Nathula was resumed with effect from July 6, 2006 at the Changgu border trade mart at Sherathang on the Indian side and Renquinggang trade mart on the Chinese side. Border trade through Nathula will take place from June 1-September 30 every year. It will, however, be open to the designated authorities of the two sides to extend or reduce the period of trade when considered necessary on account of exigencies like weather conditions.

(e) Government have proposed to the Chinese side the possibility of opening additional border trading points, including through the Niti Pass in the Middle Sector of the India-China border areas.

Revising Royalty on Coal

382. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre and States are divided over the issue of revising royalty on coal;

(b) if so, the main objections raised by the States;

(c) whether the Centre has asked the states to consider the report of the Economic Advisory Council headed by C. Rangarajan;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Centre has urged the States to accept the combined royalty formula for the time being;

(f) if so, the reaction of the States in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) A Committee was constituted on 02.06.2005 to consider revision of rates of royalty on Coal and Lignite. The Committee had sought the views and comments of the States, both through Questionnaires as well as formal interactions. The major coal producing States desire that royalty on coal be fixed on ad valorem basis whereas the major coal consumers are in favour of tonnage based specific rates.

(c) to (f) The Committee had circulated the report of the Economic Advisory Council (EAC) to the State Governments for their comments. EAC had recommended that royalty on coal should be determined so as to take care in a balanced way of the interests of both the producers and the consumers. Therefore, the formula for determining royalty may have a fixed and a variable (ad-valorem) component. The State Governments offered mixed reactions.

(g) The report submitted by the Committee on royalty is under consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

Family Welfare Centres

383. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

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

(a) the number of family welfare centres functioning in the country at present, State-wise; and

23236 and 3346 respectively as on September, 2005. State-wise break up is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) the amount allocated therefor during the current year, State-wise?

The number of Urban Family Welfare Centres, functioning in the country is 1063. State-wise break up is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The number of Sub Centres, Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Community Health Centres (CHCs) functioning in the rural areas are 146026,

(b) The amount allocated by the Department of Health & FW for implementation of various Family Welfare Programme during the year 2006-07 with State-wise break up is at given in the enclosed Statement-III.

Statement I

Number of Sub-Centres, PHCs & CHCs Functioning

(As on Sept., 2005)

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	Sub-centre	PHCs	CHCs
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12522	1570	164
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	379	85	31
3.	Assam	5109	610	100
4.	Bihar	10337	1648	101
5.	Chhattisgarh	3818	517	116
6.	Goa	172	19	5
7.	Gujarat	7274	1070	272
8.	Haryana	2433	408	72
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2068	439	66
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1879	334	70
11.	Jharkhand	4462	561	47
12.	Karnataka	8143	1681	254
13.	Kerala	5094	911	106
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8874	1192	229
15.	Maharashtra	10453	1780	382
16.	Manipur	420	72	16
17.	Meghalaya	401	101	24

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Mizoram	366	57	9
19.	Nagaland	394	87	21
20.	Orissa	5927	1282	231
21.	Punjab	2858	484	116
22.	Rajasthan	10512	1713	326
23.	Sikkim	147	24	4
24.	Tamilnadu	8682	1380	35
25.	Tripura	539	73	10
26.	Uttaranchal	1576	225	44
27.	Uttar Pradesh	20521	3660	386
28.	West Bengal	10356	1173	95
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	107	20	4
30.	Chandigarh	13	0	1
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	38	6	1
32.	Daman & Diu	21	3	1
33.	Delhi	41	8	0
34.	Lakshadweep	14	4	3
35.	Pondicherry	76	39	4
All India		146026	23236	3346

Note: Figures are provisional.

Statement II

Infrastructure under Special Schemes

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	Urban Family Welfare Centres
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	131
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	6
3.	Assam	10
4.	Bihar	26

1	2	3
5.	Chhattisgarh	8
6.	Goa	0
7.	Gujarat	113
8.	Haryana	19
9.	Himachal Pradesh	89
10.	Jharkhand	16
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	12
12.	Karnataka	087

1	2	3
13.	Kerala	0
14.	Madhya Pradesh	55
15.	Maharashtra	74
16.	Manipur	2
17.	Meghalaya	1
18.	Mizoram	1
19.	Nagaland	0
20.	Orissa	10
21.	Punjab	23
22.	Rajasthan	61
23.	Sikkim	1
24.	Tamilnadu	65
25.	Tripura	9
26.	Uttar Pradesh	78
27.	Uttaranchal	3
28.	West Bengal	111
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
30.	Chandigarh	3
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0
32.	Daman and Diu	0
33.	Delhi	69
34.	Lakshadweep	0
35.	Pondicherry	0
Total		1083

Statement III

*Tentative State-wise Allocation of Grant-in-aid
during 2006-07*

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	Urban FW Services	Sub-centre
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	730.00	10356.32
2.	Bihar	221.00	11315.72

1	2	3	4
3.	Chhattisgarh	75.00	4598.40
4.	Goa	—	168.88
5.	Gujarat	832.00	7128.20
6.	Haryana	116.00	2432.60
7.	Himachal Pradesh	246.00	2027.40
8.	Jharkhand	112.00	4372.72
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	54.00	1666.20
10.	Karnataka	645.00	7979.76
11.	Kerala	—	4992.24
12.	Madhya Pradesh	408.00	7966.28
13.	Maharashtra	487.00	10322.24
14.	Orissa	82.00	6246.84
15.	Punjab	162.00	2800.92
16.	Rajasthan	380.00	10178.88
17.	Tamil Nadu	203.00	8508.44
18.	Uttar Pradesh	732.00	20161.24
19.	Uttaranchal	30.00	1728.44
20.	West Bengal	900.00	10149.08
Total-Other States		6415.00	135101.00
1.	Arunachal pradesh	63.00	185.88
2.	Assam	80.00	3474.84
3.	Manipur	25.00	285.76
4.	Meghalaya	11.00	315.52
5.	Mizoram	11.00	235.32
6.	Nagaland	—	220.92
7.	Sikkim	12.00	99.92
8.	Tripura	48.00	393.84
Total-NE Region		250.00	5212.00
Total-All States		6665.00	140313.00
UTs with Legislature			
1.	Delhi		
2.	Pondicherry		
Total-UTs with Leg.		0.00	0.00
Grand Total		6665.00	140313.00

*[English]***Delinking of CMPDIL from CIL**

384. SHRI P. MOHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to delink the Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) from the Coal Limited (CIL);

(b) if so, the extent to which it would be advantageous to the CIL;

(c) whether Sankar Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof;

(e) whether the CIL without CMPDIL could survive the future competition from MNCs which are trying to enter the Coal Sector; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No such proposal is under consideration of Government at present.

(b) Does not arise in view of answer given to part (a) of the question.

(c) and (d) The Sankar Committee has submitted Part-I of its report. The report does not contain any recommendation in regard to restructuring of CMPDIL. This report deals essentially with issues pertaining to short and medium term management of coal demand and supply, captive coal mining, the strategy to reduce demand-supply gap in the short to medium term, coal pricing and trade etc.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of answer given to part (a) of the question.

*[Translation]***Research and Development in Yoga**

385. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently conducted a review of the schemes for promoting research and development in the field of yoga in the country;

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

(c) the details of the Non-Government Organisations working towards R and D in the field of yoga in the country and receiving grants from the Government alongwith the details of their performance and utilization of funds; and

(d) the action taken against those NGOs found guilty of misusing the amount alongwith their names?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Government has not conducted any specific review recently of schemes for promoting research and development of Yoga in the country. The Extra Mural Research Scheme being implemented by the department of AYUSH, inter-alia, includes funding of research project in Yoga.

(c) Statement-I and II giving names of the organizations which have received Grants for research in Yoga from the Department of AYUSH, New Delhi and the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy including details of utilization are enclosed.

(d) No such case has come up so far.

Statement I***Status of the Funded Projects under Extra Mural Research Project***

Sl.No.	Name of Organization	Project Name	Total amount released and satisfactory utilization by the grantee
1	2	3	4
1.	Swami Vivekananda Yoga Research Foundation, Bangalore.	An integrated approach of Yoga Therapy on Schizophrenia	1st installment 04.04.1998 Rs. 3 lakhs IInd Installment 10.01.2000 Rs. 2.95 lakh

1	2	3	4
2.	Vivekananda Kendra Yoga Research Foundation, Bangalore	Use of Ayurveda & Yoga in the promotion of positive health in a geriatric population	1st Installment 15.03.1999 Rs. 4.50 lakh IInd Installment 05.04.2000 Rs. 2.75 lakh
3.	Lokmanya Medical Research Centre, Pune	Role of Yogic practices in the Management of patients with chronic Backache problems with particular reference to activity related efficiency.	1st Installment-06.04.1999-13 lakh 2nd Installment-13.11.2000-6 lakhs 3rd Installment-27.01.05-4.93 lakh
4.	All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi	Insulin Releasing Effect, if any of Selected Yogasanas	1st installment 2000-01 Rs. 1.70 lakhs 2nd installment 2002-03 Rs. 1.30 lakhs
5.	The Lonavala Institute, Pune	Encyclopedia of Traditional Asanas.	1st Installment 10.12.01 Rs. 5.00 lakh IInd Installment 31.12.03, Rs. 5.00 lakh IIInd Installment 13.07.2004, Rs. 4.00 lakh
6.	Lonavala Yoga Institute, Pune, Dr. Manohar L. Gharote	Hathatatvaakumudi of Sundardeva-A Critical Edition	1st Installment-06.04.2004-Rs. 4.00 lakh IInd Installment 12.07.2004-Rs. 3.50 lakh
7.	Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana, Bangalore	Efficiency of Yoga based life style interventions in preventive Cardiology and Diabetology.	1st Installment-10.04.2003, Rs. 9.70 lakhs
8.	All India Institute of Medical Sciences.	Gene Expression Profiling in practitioners of Sudarshan Kriya.	1st Installment 31.03.03-Rs. 10 lakhs
9.	Ashram Atmadeep, Gurgaon, (Haryana)	Consciousness in the tradition of classical Yoga Integrated studies and Researches in the field of consciousness to build a bridge between Ancient spiritual Wisdom and Modern Scientific Knowledge.	1st Installment-21.10.04-Rs. 7 lakhs Utilization Certificate and Audited Accounts in prescribed format are awaited.

Statement II***Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy Clinical Research Projects Funded to NGOs***

Sl.No.	Name of Institute	Title of the Project	Date of Commencement	Funds Released (in Rs.)		Performance	Position of Submission of U.C.
				Years	Amount		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Karnataka Swami Vivekananda Yoga Research Foundation, Bangalore	Effect of Integrated approach of Yoga Therapy for metastatic breast cancer patients and study of DNA repair mechanisms relevant to cancer	15.5.04	2004-05 2005-06	4,69,000/- 5,80,000/-	Satisfactory	Received Yet to Rec.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	Tamil Nadu Krishnamacharya Yoga Mandiram, Chennai	The therapeutic effect of Yoga on patients with generalized epileptic seizures	12.03	2002-03 2003-04 2004-05 2005-06	1,78,050/- 3,32,900/- 3,33,000/- 2,03,513/-	Satisfactory 	Received Received Received Yet to Receive
3.	Uttar Pradesh Shri Nath Naturopathy & Yoga Centre, Kanpur	Effect of Yoga & Naturopathy modalities in the management of Rheumatoid Arthritis, Osteo- arthritis and Gout	26.3.04	2003-04 2004-05 2005-06	97,000/- 5,37,000/- 5,45,400/-	Satisfactory Received	
4.	West Bengal Indian Research Institute of Integrated Medicine, Howrah	Development of Traditional Tongue Diagnosis aided by Information Technology for Standardization of Nature Cure Diagnostic Methods	1.7.05	2005-06	4,45,100/-	Satisfactory	Received

Production of Coal

386. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of Coal during the last three years, company-wise;

(b) the share of underground and open mines therein;

(c) whether any new scheme has been prepared by Coal India Limited (CIL) to increase the production of Coal from underground mines; and

(d) if so, the estimated expenditure on the new scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) The total production of coal during the last three years, company-wise alongwith the share of underground and open cast mines are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. CIL has drawn up 20 new projects/augmentation of three existing projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 1217.89 crores to increase the coal production from underground mines. Further, Project Report for replacement of Jhanjra R-VI PSLW at an estimated cost of Rs. 274.26 crores has also been drawn up.

Statement

(Figures in million tonnes)

Company	2003-04					2004-05				
	UG	Share %	OC	Share %	Total	UG	Share %	OC	Share %	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Coal India Limited	47.445	15.49	258.919	84.51	306.364	47.041	14.54	276.534	85.46	323.575
Singareni Collieries Company Limited	13.314	39.46	20.540	60.67	33.854	12.974	38.71	22.329	63.25	35.303
J&K Mineral Limited	0.019	95.00	0	0	0.019	0.023	100	0	0	0.023
Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corp. Ltd.	0	0	0.444	100	0.444	0	0	0.589	100	0.589

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Damodar Valley Corporation	0	0	0.381	100	0.381	0	0	0.401	100	0.401
Indian Iron & Steel Company	0.362	43.51	0.408	52.99	0.77	0.401	49.57	0.460	54.99	0.891
Total Public	61.140	17.89	280.692	82.11	341.832	60.439	16.75	300.343	83.25	360.782
Bengal Emta Coal Mines Limited	0	0	3.769	100	3.769	0	0	3.994	100	3.994
Integrated Coal Mining Limited	0	0	1.495	100	1.495	0	0	2.401	100	2.401
Jindal Steel & Power Limited	0	0	2.466	100	2.466	0	0	2.965	100	2.965
Hindalco Industries Limited	0	0	0.099	100	0.099	0	0	0.524	100	0.524
Meghalaya	0	0	5.439	100	5.439	0	0	5.345	100	5.345
Tata Iron & Steel Company	1.613	27.03	4.533	73.76	6.146	1.688	27.13	4.686	73.52	6.374
Monnet Ispat Limited	0	0	0	0	0	0.126	100	0	0	0.126
BLA Industries	0	0	0	0	0	0.096	100	0	0	0.096
Castron Mining Limited	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.008	100	0.008
Total Private	1.163	8.31	17.801	91.69	18.964	1.910	8.75	19.923	91.25	21.833
All India	62.753	17.37	298.493	82.83	361.246	62.349	16.30	302.266	83.70	382.615

2005-06 (Provisional)

Company	UG	Share %	OC	Share %	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
Coal India Limited	45.819	13.34	297.553	86.66	343.372
Singareni Collieries Company Limited	12.711	36.28	23.427	64.83	36.138
J&K Mineral Limited	0.019	100	0	0	0.019
Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corp. Ltd.	0	0	0.761	100	0.761
Damodar Valley Corporation	0	0	0.368	100	0.368
Indian Iron & Steel Company	0.330	40.24	0.328	49.85	0.658
Total Public	58.879	15.44	322.437	84.56	381.316
Bengal Emta Coal Mines Limited	0	0	3.992	100	3.992
Integrated Coal Mining Limited	0	0	2.622	100	2.622
Jindal Steel & Power Limited	0	0	5.310	100	5.31
Hindalco Industries Limited	0	0	0.936	100	0.936

1	2	3	4	5	6
Meghalaya	0	0	5.566	100	5.566
Tata Iron & Steel Company	1.649	26.03	4.872	74.71	6.521
Monnet Ispat Limited	0.439	100	0	0	0.439
BLA Industries	0.282	100	0	0	0.282
Castron Mining Limited	0	0	0.012	100	0.012
Total Private	2.370	9.23	23.310	90.77	25.68
All India	61.249	15.05	345.747	84.95	406.996

Shortage of Medicines in CGHS Dispensaries

387. SHRI HEMLAL MURMU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether patients are facing difficulties due to shortage of medicines in CGHS dispensaries; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure availability of medicines in CGHS dispensaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Adequate quantity of medicines are available in most of the CGHS dispensaries to meet day to day requirement of the beneficiaries. Medicines which are not available in dispensaries and prescribed by specialist are procured through authorized local chemists attached to individual dispensary. The urgently required medicines are also procured by the beneficiaries from the authorized local chemists without any payment, on the basis authority slips assured by CMO in-charge of the concerned dispensary.

In case there is no local chemists attached to the dispensary, beneficiaries are allowed to purchase medicine from open market. The expenditure incurred by the pensioner beneficiary is reimbursed by CGHS and in case of serving employees the same is reimbursed by Department concerned.

[English]

Investment in Share Market by Postal Department

388. SHRI P. MOHAN:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

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

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision to invest Rs. 10,000 crore postal insurance fund in the stock market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether many political parties have objected to the decision of the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Finance *vide* their O.M. No. 5(12)-PD/21001 dated 24th May, 2005 and O.M. of even number dated 30th January, 2006, have communicated the following decisions in respect of investment of Post Office Insurance Fund (POIF) and Rural Post Office Insurance Fund (RPOIF):

1. (i) Corpus under POIF and RPOIF would get frozen as on March 31, 2006. The balance under POIF and RPOIF as on March 31, 2006 would be converted into dated securities over a period of 3 years, starting in the Financial Year 2006-07, offering a mix of maturities, to be decided in consultation with Department of Posts;
- (ii) The subscription received under PLI and RPLI during the period between April 1, 2006 and September 30, 2006 may be invested in the Special Deposit Scheme;
- (iii) Accretion under PLI and RPLI with effect from October 1, 2006 should be invested as per the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Investment) (Amendment) Regulations 2000, as

amended by Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Investment) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 or any subsequent amendment;

- (iv) The cumulative investment during April 1, 2006 to September 30, 2006 shall be eligible for withdrawal on September 30, 2006 or any date thereafter.
- (v) No subscription shall be received with effect from October 1, 2006 and no interest shall accrue on the amounts invested in the corpus on or after April, 2006 with effect from October 1, 2006.

2. The process for implementing the above decision of Ministry of Finance is underway and at this stage it is not possible to indicate the actual amount to be invested. However, any investment to be done will be as per IRDA norms as indicated above.

(c) This Ministry is not aware of any such development.

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

[Translation]

Revival of Closed Coal Projects/Mines

389. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the names of coal projects/mines closed by associate companies of the Coal India Limited during the last three years;

(b) the reasons therefor, associate company-wise;

(c) the details of loss to the Coal India Limited as a result thereof, year-wise;

(d) whether the Union Government of any financial institution has come forward to revive these closed projects/mines;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the amount provided to the Coal India Limited as assistance for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) The names of coal projects/mines/units closed by subsidiary companies of the Coal India Limited and the reasons thereof, company-wise during the last three years are as under:

Subsidiary Company	Name of mines closed	Reasons for closure
1	2	3
ECL	1. Chinakuri-II U/G	Exhaustion of reserves
	2. Khoirabad-U/G	Difficult geo-mining & Techno-economic conditions
	3. Madhujore U/G	Safety ground
BCCL	4. Bhowrah 3 pit OC	Exhaustion of reserves
CCL	5. Saund-DOC	Adverse geo-mining, Fire and land problem
	6. Tapin(S) U/G	Exhaustion of reserves
	7. Dhori Khas OC	Exhaustion of reserves
WCL	8. Bansi U/G	Exhaustion of reserves
	9. Chargaon OC	Exhaustion of reserves
SCCL	10. Subhah Incline-U/G	Amalgamated with Baiga OC
	11. Amlai U/G	Amalgamated with Amlai OC

1	2	3
	12. Joynagar Old-U/G	Exhaustion of reserves
	13. West Chirimiri-U/G	Exhaustion of reserves
	14. Korea-U/G	Exhaustion of reserves
MCL	15. Balanda OC	Exhaustion of reserves
	16. Basundhara (E)	Exhaustion of reserves

(c) The year-wise approximate loss of production due to closure of above mines is:

Sl.No.	Year	Total loss of production in Mt.
1.	2003-04	0.493 (7 Mines)
2.	2004-05	0.658 (10 Mines)
3.	2005-06	2.076 (16 Mines)

(d) to (f) Most of the above mines are closed due to exhaustion of reserves. For the mines which have been closed due to other reasons, there is no proposal to reopen these mines at present.

Performance of SAI

390. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of the Sports Authority of India (SAI), for promoting sports is not upto the mark;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of SAI centres set up in the country, State-wise and their achievements; and

(d) the details of the amount allotted for development of SAI centre situated at Aurangabad in Maharashtra during the last three years and the special achievements of this centre?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The contribution of Sports Authority of India (SAI) in promoting sports has been significant. SAI implements the following schemes for promotion of sports:

1. SAI Training Centre (STC)
2. National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC)
3. Army Boys Sports Company Scheme (ABSC)
4. Centre of Excellence (COX)
5. Special Area Games (SAG)

Besides, following schemes of the Ministry are also implemented by SAI for promotion of sports in the country:

1. Rural Sports Programme
2. Promotion of Sports and games in Schools
3. Sports scholarship Scheme

There is always room for improvement and this is looked into on a continuing basis.

(c) List of centers set-up by SAI State-wise in the country is given in the enclosed Statement.

As regard achievements, in the last Commonwealth Games, held at Melbourne, out of 52 medals, won by the Indian contingent, 30 medals were won by the sportspersons trained under SAI scheme. Similarly, out of 33 medals won in last Asian Games held at Busan, 14 medals won by the sportspersons trained under the

SAI Scheme. In 2004 Athens Olympics, out of 75 sportspersons participating from the country, 39 sportspersons were from SAI Schemes.

(d) The details of the amount allotted for development of SAI Centre situated at Aurangabad, Maharashtra during the last three years is as under:

2003-04	Rs. 37,00,000/-
2004-05	Rs. 32,89,000/-
2005-06	Rs. 51,00,000/-

As regards, special achievement of Aurangabad SAI training centre, the medals won by the inmates of this centre during 2003-04 to 2005-06 is as under:

State Level			National Level			International Level		
Gold	Silver	Bronze	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Gold	Silver	Bronze
38	35	13	07	24	23	—	1	—

Statement

State-wise List of the SAI Centres

Sl.No.	Name of the State(s)	No. of SAI Centres
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6
2.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	1
3.	Bihar	4
4.	Chandigarh (UT)	1
5.	Chhattisgarh	1
6.	Delhi	2
7.	Gujarat	2
8.	Goa	1
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2
10.	Haryana	3
11.	Jharkhand	1
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
13.	Karnataka	4
14.	Kerala	7
15.	Madhya Pradesh	4
16.	Maharashtra	2
17.	Orissa	4
18.	Punjab	4

1	2	3
19.	Pondicherry	1
20.	Rajasthan	2
21.	Tamil Nadu	3
22.	Uttar Pradesh	8
23.	Uttaranchal	1
24.	West Bengal	5

Number of SAI Centres Operational in the North-Eastern States

Sl.No.	Name of the State(s)	No. of SAI Centre(s)
1.	Assam	2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
3.	Manipur	4
4.	Meghalaya	1
5.	Mizoram	1
6.	Nagaland	1
7.	Tripura	1
8.	Sikkim	1

TRAI Guidelines

391. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

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

(a) the manner in which the Telecom Regulator Authority of India (TRAI) exercises control over the telephone operators;

(b) whether the TRAI has issued guidelines to remove differences in call rates fixed on intra network and inter network for achieving an equal call rate on each such network;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the names of those private telecom companies which are abiding and not abiding by the guidelines issued by the TRAI as on date;

(e) whether the Government has taken any action against those private telecom companies who are flouting these guidelines; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) exercises control over telephone operators by issuing Directions, Regulations and Telecommunication Tariff Orders.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. As per Telecommunication Tariff (33rd Amendment) Order 2004, the telephone operators are permitted to offer differential call rates for intra network and inter network calls provided such differential tariffs are not anti competitive or predatory and aimed at lessening competition. As on date all private companies are abiding by the Guidelines as contained in Telecom Tariff (33rd Amendment) Order 2004.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of (b) to (d) above.

Pardon Sought by LTTE

392. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) of Sri Lanka has allegedly taken the responsibility of the assassination of Late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi publicly and has begged pardon for that tragedy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Government have noted the interview given by LTTE's ideologue, Anton Balasingham, to NDTV on June 27, 2006 wherein he has expressed "regret" for the assassination of Late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi and sought Indian involvement in the peace process in Sri Lanka.

(c) LTTE continues to be a proscribed organisation in India and its leaders are "proclaimed offenders" in the case involving the assassination of Late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

Streamlining Long Distance Call Network

393. SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has failed to get security approval on surveillance equipment used in international long distance call network as reported in The Hindi daily *Punjab Kesari* dated July 8, 2006;

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

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to implement any scheme to streamline long distance call network at international level; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) The security agencies inspected the surveillance equipment of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and indicated certain performance deficiencies in the equipment such as distortion of speech, capability of intercepting Short Message Service (SMS), Multi Media Messaging Service (MMS), internet and data transaction. Some of the performance deficiencies were corrected by BSNL and further inspection was carried out by security agencies on 18.07.2006. The facilities of interception of SMS are proposed to be commissioned within three months.

(c) The Government announced measures to streamline International Long Distance Call Network in November, 2005.

(d) The measures announced include reduction in Entry Fee from Rs. 25 crores to Rs. 2.5 crores, reduction in Licence fee from 15% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) to 6% of AGR, permission to access subscribers for providing international leased circuits and to provide Virtual Private Network.

Internet Service by Private Mobile Phone Companies

394. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Telecommunications has accorded permission to the private mobile phone companies to start internet service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any licence fee has been collected from the private mobile phone companies for starting the internet service; and

(d) if so, the total percentage of the revenue shared by these private mobile companies earned through internet with the Government?

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

(b) The Access Service Providers have been permitted to provide Internet Service, Internet Telephony and Broadband Service under their existing licence for providing the Access Service.

(c) According to available information Access Service Licensees have not commenced provision of internet services under Access Service Licence so far. Therefore, no licence fee has been collected from private mobile phone companies so far for this activity.

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

Allotment of Coal Reserves to Government Institutions

395. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal reserves have been allotted to certain Government institutions which do not need coal for their use;

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

(c) the reasons for allocation of coal reserves to these institutions and the purpose for which coal is utilised by these institutions; and

(d) the criteria laid down for the selection of the Government institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Coal block have been allotted to the following Government companies which do not need coal for their own use:

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	State
1.	Chhattisgarh Mineral Development Corporation Limited	Chhattisgarh
2.	Orissa Mining Corporation Limited	Orissa
3.	Madhya Pradesh State Mining Corporation	Madhya Pradesh
4.	Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation	Jharkhand
5.	West Bengal Mineral Development & Trading Corporation	West Bengal
6.	Arunachal Pradesh Mineral Development & Trading Corporation	Arunachal Pradesh

(c) Coal blocks are allocated to these Government undertakings as per the revised mining policy of December, 2001. The revised Coal Mining Policy dated 12.12.2001 provides that a State Government undertaking is allowed to do mining of coking coal and non-coking coal anywhere in the country provided that such an undertaking is authorised to do coal mining by its Memorandum & Articles of Association and will do coal mining in accordance with the provisions of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957, and other statutes governing coal mining in India. The policy seeks to promote participation of state enterprises in coal mining in order to increase coal production. Coal produced from such blocks can be commercially marketed.

(d) Proximity of coal block, financial and technical soundness of the undertaking, recommendations of the State Governments are some of the criteria considered in deciding allocation.

[English]

Accelerated Road Development Programme

396. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take up Accelerated Road Development programme in the North East Region;

(b) if so, the objective thereof;

(c) the state headquarters and district headquarters likely to be connected;

(d) the time by which the project is likely to be completed; and

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

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

(b) The objectives of "Special Accelerated Road Development Programme-North East (SARDP-NE) are as given under.

- To connect all State capitals with improved/ upgraded National Highways.
- To provide connectivity to all the 85 District Headquarters of the NE Region. Since 49 District Headquarters are already connected and connectivity to 2 District Headquarters is included in the plan of North Eastern Council, the remaining 34 District Headquarters are proposed to be connected to 2-lane National Highways through improved State roads under SARDP-NE
- To improve connectivity to the neighbouring countries.
- To provide road connectivity to backward and remote area of NE Region to boost socio-economic development.
- To improve some of the important roads of strategic importance.

(c) Two State Headquarters namely Aizawl and Gangtok which are presently connected with single/ intermediate lane National Highways are proposed to be connected through two lane and two lanes with paved shoulders respectively and two State Headquarters namely Kohima and Agartala are proposed to be connected through 4-lane National Highways under the Programme. District headquarters to be connected by improved 2-lane roads are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The Phase A of programme comprising 1310 km roads is targeted to be completed by 2008-09. Phase B of the programme is yet to be approved by the Government for implementation.

(e) The Government has approved the implementation of Phase 'A' of the Programme covering 1310 km roads (1110 km National Highways and 200 km State/GS Roads) at an estimated cost of Rs. 4618 crores and preparation of Detailed Project Reports in respect of 6306 km roads under Phase 'B' of the programme has also been approved.

*Statement**District headquarters to be connected with 2 lane roads*

Sl.No.	District	District Head Quarter	Whether already connected to NH
1	2	3	4

State: Assam

1.	Barpeta	Barpeta	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
2.	Dhubri	Dhubri	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
3.	Goalpara	Goalpara	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
4.	Golaghat	Golaghat	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
5.	Karbi Anglong	Dhiphu	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
6.	Kokrajhar	Kokrajhar	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
7.	Marigaon	Marigaon	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
8.	North Cachar	Haflong	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
9.	Baska	Baska	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
10.	Udalgiri	Udalgiri	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE

State: Arunachal Pradesh

1.	Anjaw	Hawai	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
2.	Dibang valley	Anini	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
3.	East Kameng	Seppa	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
4.	Kurung Kumey	Koloriong	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
5.	Lower Subansiri	Ziro	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
6.	Papum Pare	Yupia	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
7.	Tawang	Tawang	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
8.	Upper Siang	Yingkiong	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
9.	Upper Subansiri	Daproljo	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
10.	West Kameng	Bomdila	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
11.	West Siang	Along	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE

1	2	3	4
State: Manipur			
1.	Tamenglong	Tamenglong	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
2.	Chandel	Chandel	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
State: Meghalaya			
1.	East Garo Hills	Williamnagar	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
State: Mizoram			
1.	Champai	Champai	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
State: Nagaland			
1.	Zunheboto	Zunheboto	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
2.	Longleng	Longleng	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
3.	Peren	Peren	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
4.		Mon	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
5.	Phek	Phek	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
State: Sikkim			
1.	West	Gylshing	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
2.	North	Mangan	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
3.	South	Namchi	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE
State: Tripura			
1.	North Tripura District	Kailashahar	Proposed to be connected under SARDP-NE

*[Translation]***Eradication of Blindness and Leprosy**

397. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of leprosy and blindness have increased recently particularly in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the number of leprosy and blindness patients in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government has provided any special package for the eradication of blindness and leprosy to the State;

(d) if so, the State-wise details of amount sanctioned for this purpose during the current year and till date;

(e) whether the Union Government has issued any guidelines to the States for the utilization of Central assistance or grant; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The number of cases of leprosy in the country, including in the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, are on decline. The total number of cases of leprosy as on 1st March, 2004, 1st March, 2005

and 1st March, 2006 were 2.65 lakh, 1.48 lakh and 0.95 lakh respectively.

As per National Survey on Blindness (2001-2002), prevalence of blindness in 50 plus population was 8.5% and estimated population prevalence in general population was 1.1%. No further Survey on Blindness was conducted subsequently.

(c) National Leprosy Eradication Programme and National Programme for Control of Blindness are already being implemented as centrally sponsored programmes. No other special package for the eradication of blindness and leprosy to the States has been provided;

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) General Financial Rules issued by the Ministry of Finance contain provisions for proper and timely utilisation of grants.

[English]

Emergency Measures to Increase Coal Production

398. SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether power, steel and cement sectors have called upon government to chalk out emergency measures to step up coal production;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes additional investment in existing coal blocks under the Coal India Limited (CIL) and the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL);

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the production of coal likely to increase as a result of said investment;

(f) whether power, cement and steel sectors would be allowed to bid for the new blocks for their captive mining unit; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) To

meet the burgeoning coal demand during XI Plan, Coal India Limited (CIL) has enhanced its coal production target of 2011-12 to a level of 504.10 Mt which is about 141 Mt. more than the projection of 2006-07. Besides this, CIL under "Emergency Coal Production Plan" has identified 16 opencast projects/mines where production from the existing mines/projects will be enhanced to a higher level yielding additional 71.3 Mt. Out of these, 14 projects have already been sanctioned by the Government/ Coal Companies contributing additional capacity of 61.5 Mty.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The investment proposed during the X Plan period as per Mid Term Appraisal (MTA) for Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) is as under:

XPlan Outlay (MTA)	(Rs. Crs.)	
	CIL	SCCL
a. Existing Mines & completed project	3919.71	576.74
b. On-going projects	2272.13	291.86
c. New projects	3614.34	503.67
d. Total Mining (a+b+c)	9806.18	1372.27
e. Total non-Mining	1168.93	177.73
Grand total (d+e)	10975.11	1550.00

(e) The corresponding year-wise production of CIL and SCCL is given here under:

Years	Production (Mt.)	
	Coal India Limited	Singareni Collieries Company Limited
2002-03 (Actual)	290.69	33.16
2003-04 (Actual)	306.36	33.85
2004-05 (Actual)	323.58	35.30
2005-06 (Actual)	343.39	36.14
2006-07 (Target)	363.80	37.50

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. These sectors are allowed to bid for the new blocks as captive mining units.

*[Translation]***Hazardous Contents in Cold Drinks**

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

(a) whether the report of the Sharad Pawar Joint Parliamentary Committee which examined the hazardous contents in cold drinks has been made public by the Government;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government proposes to ban cold drinks in view of the detection of hazardous contents in them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The said report was laid down in the Parliament on 4th February, 2004. The salient recommendations of the report in so far as hazardous contents in cold drinks are concerned, are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) In line with the recommendations, the standards for carbonated water under the PFA Rules, 1955 has since been amended vide GSR 451 (E) dated 15.07.2004 whereby it has been provided that water used in the manufacture of carbonated water shall conform to the standards of packaged drinking water as prescribed under PFA Rules 1955, wherein the prescribed maximum limits of pesticide residues are as under:

(i)	Pesticide Residues considered individually	Not more than 0.0001 mg/ltr.
(ii)	Total Pesticide Residues	Not more than 0.0005 mg/ltr.

A National Level Expert Committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to review the standards for soft drink, taking into consideration the possibility of maximum residue limits in

various components of the soft drinks, in the light of JPC report.

Statement

Recommendations of the Joint Committee on Pesticide Residues in and Safety Standards for Soft Drinks, Fruit Juice and Other Beverages

1. The Committee finds that the CSE findings are correct on the presence of pesticide residues in carbonated water strictly in respect of the 36 samples of 12 brand names analysed by them.
2. The Committee are therefore of the considered opinion that the water used in manufacturing the soft drinking should be in conformity with the new norms which have already been notified under notification number G.S.R. 554 (E) dated 18.07.2003 so that the consumers are not deprived of the best standards.
3. The Committee recommend that the standards for carbonated beverages which are best suited for the Indian conditions need to be fixed in the overall perspective of public health. These standards should also be stringent enough. The reason that the other countries have not fixed such limit, should not dissuade our law makers in attempting to do so, particularly when a vulnerable section of our population who are young and constitute a vast national asset are consuming the soft drinks. In Committee's view therefore, it is prudent to seek complete freedom from pesticide residues in sweetened aerated waters. "Unsafe even if trace" should be the eventual goal.
4. Given the current levels of pesticide residues allowed in raw foods and vegetables, and given the socio-economic ground realities, the fruit juices and beverage industry needs to be treated differently compared to the carbonated sectors. The same standards can not applied to the equally. Pesticide residues in food are a phenomena related to agriculture practices as they enter the soil and plants systems and work their way into the food chain. It is not a manufacture related issue and, therefore, it will not be fair or proper to apply the carbonated water and packaged drinking water (Pesticide) residue levels to the fruit and vegetable juices and such beverages.

5. The Committee also recommends that institution like ICMR, National Institute of Nutrition, CFTRI etc. should evolve database taking into account our food habits with regard to consumption of processed and non-processed food. Level of contaminants, and pesticides in these food products, their conformity with acceptable daily intake, usage of pesticide in agriculture and public health programme and based on their database, standards for fruit juice and other beverages may be fixed after due deliberations in CCFS.
6. The committee recommends that section 2(v) of the PFA Act which defines "food" should be amended to include drinking water.
7. The Committee recommends a mandatory food recall system should be established and companies should be made accountable for selling sub-standard and harmful products in the market which must be destroyed in the presence of authorities.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Maritime Studies, Mumbai, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Maritime Studies, Mumbai, 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 4500/06]

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Lakshmbai National Institute of Physical Education, Gwalior, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Lakshmbai National Institute of Physical Education, Gwalior, 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 4501/06]

- (3)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4502/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Telecommunications Consultants India Limited and the Department of Telecommunications for the year 2006-2007.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 4503/06]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:
- (i) S.O. 631 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 26 (including construction of bypasses) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
 - (ii) S.O. 577 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (widening/four-laning), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 25 (Jajmau to Ramadevi up to ROB section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
 - (iii) S.O. 578 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 2006 authorizing Additional District Magistrate, Kanpur Dehat as the competent authority to acquire land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 2 in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
 - (iv) S.O. 632 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 26 (Jhansi-Lalitpur section) including construction of bypasses, in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
 - (v) S.O. 633 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 26 (Jhansi-Lalitpur section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
 - (vi) S.O. 572 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 25 (Jhansi-Bhogpur-Bara section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
 - (vii) S.O. 630 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 26 (Jhansi-Lalitpur section) including construction of bypasses, in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
 - (viii) S.O. 628 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 75 (Gwalior-Jhansi section) including construction of bypasses, in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
 - (ix) S.O. 627 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 26 (Lalitpur-Sagar section) including construction of bypasses, in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
 - (x) S.O. 629 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 26 (Jhansi-Lalitpur section) including construction of bypasses, in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
 - (xi) S.O. 655 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 28 (Lucknow-Uttar Pradesh/Bihar Border section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
 - (xii) S.O. 653 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for construction of Gorakhpur bypass including Rapti bridge on National Highway No. 28 in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
 - (xiii) S.O. 739 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening), of National Highway No. 28 (Lucknow-Uttar Pradesh/Bihar Border section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

- (xiv) S.O. 734 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (construction) of Agra Bypass on National Highway Nos. 2 and 3 (Delhi-Kanpur) and (Agra-Gwalior) sections in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xv) S.O. 716 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th May, 2006 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1485 (E) dated 13th October, 2005.
- (xvi) S.O. 717 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ construction of Elevated Highway, etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 2 (Delhi-Agra section) in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- (xvii) S.O. 707 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 28 (Lucknow-Uttar Pradesh/Bihar Border section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xviii) S.O. 788(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd May, 2006 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 428(E) dated 2nd May, 2000.
- (xix) S.O. 709 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th May, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) of National Highway No. 28 (Lucknow-Uttar Pradesh/Bihar Border section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xx) S.O. 857 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 2006 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 930 (E) dated 2nd September, 2002.
- (xxi) S.O. 911 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th June, 2006 authorizing the Additional District Magistrate, Collectorate, Lucknow as the competent authority to acquire land for building (widening/four-laning etc), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 24 (Sitapur-Lucknow section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

- (xxii) S.O. 957 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 2006 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/ four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 11 (Agra-Bharatpur section) in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

- (xxiii) S.O. 548 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th April, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (six/eight laning) of National Highway No. 8 (including construction of Toll Plaza) in the State of Haryana.

- (xxiv) S.O. 1240 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th September, 2005 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building (six/eight laning) of National Highway No. 8 (including construction of Toll Plaza) in the State of Haryana.

- (2) Seventeen statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (i to xix) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 4504/06]

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Twenty-first Report

[English]

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur): I beg to present the Twenty-first Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.02½ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTING OF THE HOUSE

Minutes

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (Sitapur): I beg to lay on the Table minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the 6th

sitting of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House held on 19th May, 2006.

12.02³/₄ hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

[English]

SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN (Tripura East): I beg to move:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of Rule 254, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from amongst themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri Bir Singh Mahato resigned his seat in Lok Sabha".

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect, under sub-rule (3) of Rule 254, in the manner required by sub-rule (1) of rule 331B of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, one member from amongst themselves to serve as a member of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Shri Bir Singh Mahato resigned his seat in Lok Sabha".

The motion was adopted.

12.03 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation arising out of the spread of Chikungunya fever in various parts of the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh and steps taken by the Government in this regard

[English]

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Health and Family

Welfare to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Situation arising out of the spread of Chikungunya fever in various parts of the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please accommodate those also whose names are not in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will try to accommodate; I have already committed.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Silence please. Otherwise, I will adjourn the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

*THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): Chikungunya is a debilitating non-fatal viral illness. It resembles dengue fever. It is caused by Chikungunya virus. It is spread by the bite of female *Aedes* mosquitoes, primarily *Aedes aegypti*. Humans are considered to be the major source or reservoir of Chikungunya virus for mosquitoes. The mosquitoes usually transmit the disease by biting infected persons and then biting others. The infected person cannot spread the infection directly to other person (i.e. it is not contagious disease). Chikungunya typically results in a large number of cases but deaths are rarely encountered. The disease is mostly present in urban and peri-urban areas.

Aedes aegypti mosquitoes bite during the day and breed in a wide variety of man-made containers which are common around human dwellings. These containers such as discarded tyres, flower pots, old water drums, family water trough, water storage vessels and plastic food containers collect rain water.

*Also Placed in Library. See No. LT 4505/06.

[Dr. Ambumani Ramadoss]

Chikungunya occurs mainly in Africa, India and South East Asia. There have been a number of outbreaks (epidemics) in Philippines and in the islands throughout the Indian Ocean. The first outbreaks were observed in Reunion island in the Indian Ocean in 1954. The first outbreak in India was recorded in Kolkatta in 1963 and there have been sporadic outbreaks subsequently in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

The States affected with Chikungunya fever during the current year are Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Kerala. One hundred twenty-one districts in these seven States have been affected with a total of 9,74,541 suspected cases. The largest number of cases have been noted in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. Since the disease is clinically similar to dengue, laboratory confirmation is important. A total of 10,611 samples have been sent from the affected States to laboratories at NIV, Pune and NICD, Delhi, of which 992 have been confirmed positive. No deaths due to Chikungunya fever have been reported from the affected States.

The most affected districts in the State of Andhra Pradesh are Warangal, Visakhapatnam, Ananthpur, Chittoor and Kumool.

There is no vaccine or specific medicine available against Chikungunya infection. There is no specific drug to cure the infection. However, the symptoms can be alleviated by taking pain relieving drugs such as Paracetamol, plenty of fluids and normal diet. Supportive therapy helps in alleviating the symptoms, such as administration of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and getting plenty of rest. Infected person should be isolated from mosquitoes as much as possible in order to avoid transmission of infection to other people. In order to limit the infection, strong Vector Control measures are required to eliminate all potential vector breeding places. This could be done by emptying and drying water containers once in a week, straining of stored water, treatment of water bodies with temephos or through biological control methods such as introduction of larvivorous fish. Pyrethrum extracts (0.1 per cent) can also be sprayed inside rooms to kill adult mosquitoes.

The Government of India has deputed teams to carry out field investigations in the four worst affected States

of Andhra Pradesh (13th-17th February), Maharashtra (3rd-7th April), Tamil Nadu (16th-19th June) and Madhya Pradesh (5th-11th July, 2006). The affected States have been provided detailed guidelines for prevention and control of Chikungunya. In addition, all affected States have been provided with temephos and pyrethrum extracts for vector control.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not happy with the Statement given by the hon. Health Minister. The ground reality is different. Chikungunya is rampant in the State of Andhra Pradesh and in its adjoining States of South India.

The hon. Minister has admitted that most of the States are suffering with Chikungunya. Nearly, 9,74,541 suspected cases are there. Even in Andhra Pradesh, it is the dengue like disease caused by alpha virus known as Chikungunya virus. Chikungunya disease is transmitted by aedes aegypti, culex and mansonias mosquitoes. It is more particularly through aedes aegypti.

Sir, in the year 1952-53, this disease was identified in South Africa and Tanzania. It was identified in Kolkata in the year 1963-64. It was identified in Chennai in the year 1965 where three lakh cases were detected. Then, after four decades, it was identified in Andhra Pradesh in the month of December, 2005. Till today, lakhs of people are suffering with Chikungunya. But there is no response from the State Government.

What the Health Minister has said is that there are no deaths. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Yerrannaidu, I do not think that the hon. Members are interested to hear you. Therefore, I should adjourn the House!

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagar Kumool): Sir, it is very unfortunate.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

The matter is being discussed here. I have been asked to allow this motion and when it comes up, everybody is discussing among themselves! What is the impression, the people are getting of us?

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, it is not only in Andhra Pradesh, but in many other States, people are suffering, particularly, poor people, are suffering with

Chikungunya. By the end of March, 2006, 150 people had died because of the viral fever in Anathpur, Kurnool, Chittoor and Guntur districts. Subsequently, due to reaction of drugs and due to lack of food to the patients, more than 300 people have died in Andhra Pradesh alone.

But according to the statement of the hon. Health Minister, no single person has died! That is the information given by the State Government. They are taking it very casually. There are so many hospitals where there is no doctor, there is no bed. This is the fact. ...(*Interruptions*) You ask our Minister of State for Health. She is also present here. This is a factual thing. It came in the newspaper also. Even the hon. Minister has admitted it that it is spread over 121 districts of the country.

It has spread over to 121 districts in our country. We have to combat it on a war-footing basis. Otherwise, this disease will spread to other States also. We have to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes. We have to kill the mosquitoes. What are the steps that have been taken? People are crying. Out of the affected people, more than 80 per cent of the people are from backward, Dalit and poorer sections. They are not even going to their work. They are not getting any wages also. They are not purchasing medicines also.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI (Nizamabad): Homeopathic medicines have been distributed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: The State Government has not provided rice, *dal* and even other essential things to the patients.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not bring the State Government matter here.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I will give one example.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): These are local body matters which he is discussing. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: No, it is not a local body matter. ...(*Interruptions*) Four or five States are suffering. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Jagannath, you are here sufficiently long to know that you are disturbing your own leader.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: No, he is disturbing.

MR. SPEAKER: You take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, I will adjourn the House. If Members behave in this fashion, I will adjourn the House.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I will give one example to our hon. Minister. In a village called, Nandigama in Mahbubnagar district, out of 3,500 population, 2,800 people have been registered as Chikungunya patients in the PHC. You send your team. You take the particulars. Out of 3,500 population, 2,800 people are suffering. Throughout Andhra Pradesh, more than six lakh people are suffering from this disease. That is why, from my side I am demanding the Union Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded. Why are you interrupting? Only the speech of Mr. Yerrannaaidu will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: The present condition requires declaration of health emergency in Andhra Pradesh....*

MR. SPEAKER: No, I am sorry. That will not be recorded.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: You send teams and everything. The administrative machinery must be geared up to improve hygiene and sanitation and eradicate the mosquitoes, which are transmitting the disease, by adopting advance methods.

MR. SPEAKER: He has given an elaborate answer.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Just one minute, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Please complete now.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: All the hospitals in the State must be provided with sufficient quantity of drugs, manpower and infrastructural facilities. Those who

*Not recorded.

[Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu]

are living on daily wages should be given 25 kilos of rice per week, besides pulses and some essential commodities till they recover. Next of the kin of all those who died in the disease should be given an *ex gratia* of Rs. 3 lakh and employment to one of the family members. So far 450 people have died because of this disease. These are the factual things. You collect information through the media. If necessary, you send the teams to the hospitals. This is the reality. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh is taking it very casually that the Chikungunya disease will come and go. This is the answer by the Chief Minister. The poor people are suffering. That is why, the Government of India should intervene to protect the poorer sections from this Chikungunya disease. I am awaiting the reply from the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will you take your seats please? You see, only one name is there. That means, no other hon. Member thought it important to give notices for Call Attention.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not disturb me when I am speaking. But I have seen there are some notices under what we call, 'Special Mention'. I have myself taken the trouble with the help of my office to select some of those hon. Members so that up to five Members, I shall go. You have to accept my decision. I will call four other hon. Members. It is beyond the rules but I am exercising my authority.

Shri Subodh Mohite—Not present.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no notice. You have not even bothered to give a notice. You are raising your hand.

Now, Shrimati Tejaswini Seeramesh.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (Kanakapura): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the Chikungunya menace in Karnataka.

Chikungunya is a viral fever as explained by the Minister. It is spread by the bites of *Aedes* mosquito which causes high fever and severe joint pains due to the swelling.

It restricts the person to three months' bed rest. He or she cannot move from the bed. It will take three months' period to completely recover and with proper medication only they can come back to normal life.

In my State of Karnataka nearly 10,000 villages are affected by this disease. Out of 27 districts, 26 districts are affected by this disease called Chikungunya. Sir, this Chikungunya is misunderstood by the innocent people and farmers in the villages like 'chicken gunya' which is causing a menace in the poultry industry also. The poultry industry is suffering by this false propaganda or false understanding by the people who restrict themselves from eating chicken. It is causing a loss to the poultry industry also.

On the other side, June and July are the very active months for the agricultural activities. Though the monsoon is in its swing and very good, the farmers could not do any agricultural activities due to their restriction to the bed.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask your clarification.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: In my parliamentary constituency, Kanakapura, almost all the *talukas*, namely Magadi, Anakal, Satanur, Kanakapura, Maluvalli, Uttarahalli and Channapatna, were worst affected by this Chikungunya menace. There is no point in shedding our tears after the farmers' suicide. Let us do something when we can do something for the farmers. It is high time. I am requesting the Central Government to send the expert team to the State of Karnataka—not only to Karnataka but to all other States which are affected as farmers are farmers—to study the agricultural loss to the farming community where they can ensure compensation through their proper studies and their calculation about the losses to the agricultural sector. This is the only source of their livelihood for the rest of the year.

My last point is this.

MR. SPEAKER: Last clarification.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: Sir, the Government of Karnataka is trying their level best to

address this problem. But due to financial crisis they were unable to address this problem 100 per cent and are requesting all the support from the Central Government to address this problem. They are requesting for medicines and other medical help.

Here, I would like to thank the Director, National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, Delhi who has supplied only 2,000 litres of Pyrethrum Extract and 1,000 litres of Temephos to the State diverting from the Delhi District Administration. On behalf of my people I am really thankful to the Delhi Administration. At the same time we are getting no other help from the Central Government. This disease is spreading all across the borders like Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and other States. I would like to request the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Agriculture to address this problem on a priority basis. Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vijay Kumar Khandelwal, please seek one clarification which you are entitled to.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL (Betul): Mr. Speaker, Sir, after Maharashtra, Chikungunya fever is spreading in Madhya Pradesh. In Madhya Pradesh, in my Parliamentary constituency itself more than 40 thousand people are suffering from Chikungunya fever. These are official figures. As far as the State is concerned, medicines etc. are available there, but the Central Government do not have any labs. The reports of the samples sent for testing for this fever do not come before one month. In addition, the team sent there did not suggest any answers to prevent from this fever. Earlier at the time of spreading of Malaria, medicated mosquito mats were distributed among the poor. The whole of my Parliamentary constituency is a tribal area. In other districts of Madhya Pradesh—Chikungunya, Mandla etc., Chikungunya fever is spreading very badly.

I would like to request the Central Government to provide more labs for examination of this fever and arrange for early test reports. The medicines necessary for spray may be supplied so that spread of the disease is checked. In tribal areas, the poor people do not have money for fare. The reported number of 40 thousand is only of my Parliamentary constituency, whereas this number goes beyond one lakh. A person living in tribal area does not have money even to pay for fare to go to

the hospital. In case of deaths there, bodies are not received for post-mortem because they say that they do not have laboratory report for that. Therefore, they do not confirm that these deaths are due to Chikungunya. Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the events of death, taken place in my district. It is requested that out of those ten events of deaths, most of the events have taken place due to Chikungunya. Therefore, I request the Government to provide medicines, medicated mosquito mats etc. and lab facilities in the border districts of Madhya Pradesh.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, when all members start speaking then you remember to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you did not even bother to send the chit to me.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, many hon. Members have given their suggestions in the House in regard to Chikungunya. It is said that Malaria has been eradicated from our country. But even today Malaria disease is spreading due to dengue mosquito bite. As such, due to spreading of mosquito disease like Chikungunya, incephalitis etc. are spreading particularly in our Poorvanchal. A discussion has already taken place in the House earlier also in this regard. This disease has spread from Andhra Pradesh to Madhya Pradesh, might it not spread all over the country. Therefore, through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister to get the examination for it done throughout the country. In slums, particularly in cities, where water stagnates, mosquitoes breed more. Spray should be done there to check the disease. An examination should be got conducted by the specialists as to which virus spread this disease. Vaccine may be arranged for that and a team of scientists may be sent to such areas to examine this.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, this is the time for asking some clarifications, but everybody converts it into a debate. Next Member to ask clarification is Dr. M. Jagannath.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Thank you very much, Sir. The hon. Minister in his statement has said that there were no deaths caused due to this disease and that it is a non-fatal disease mostly confined to the urban and peri-urban areas.

Three days ago our leader Shri Chandra Babu Naidu went to some of the rural villages. *...(Interruptions)* It is not the question of giving a political speech. I am only trying to bring forth the facts about this case in this august House. *...(Interruptions)* I am saying all this because your Government is not listening. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not get upset, and continue making your submissions. Please come to the relevant point.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Yes, Sir. I am making my submissions, but they are interrupting me. I am trying to bring forth the bare facts, but they are interrupting me. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Jagannath, you are only entitled to ask clarifications. I have given you an opportunity to speak as a favour. Therefore, do not misuse this opportunity.

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Thank you, Sir. The hon. Minister is himself a doctor. Therefore, he must be aware that this disease causes high fever for the person suffering from it. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question for the hon. Minister?

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Sometimes, it also becomes fatal for the affected persons.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question for the hon. Minister?

DR. M. JAGANNATH: Sir, there were two deaths in my Parliamentary Constituency. Would the hon. Minister be kind enough to depute some team to take stock of the present situation? He has said that it is mostly confined to urban and peri-urban areas, but these are very rural areas. This disease is already going to be a national problem. Therefore, my request is to take adequate measures to control this disease before it takes the form of a national tragedy.

There is no curative treatment for this disease. Therefore, we have to give the people symptom-based treatment. This disease cannot be controlled unless we equip the Primary Health Centres with enough medicines and doctors. Therefore, my request, through you, to the Government of India is to declare a health-emergency in Andhra Pradesh and other States where Chikungunya is rampant. The Government of India should also depute specialist doctors, provide medicines, and take all measures to prevent this disease from spreading to other States. Thank you very much, Sir.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Sir, please give me a chance to speak on this issue. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, Mr. Khair, you did not even bother to send a notice to speak on this issue. No, I would not allow.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, I would not give you a chance to speak. I would not allow this indiscipline.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have not even bothered to send a notice. I have myself selected the Members who have given notices for Special Mention. I am giving them opportunity here, and even then, you are not satisfied. I would not do that. Those who have not even given notices will not be allowed.

Nothing else will be recorded except the hon. Minister's statement.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member of your Party, Shri Subodh Mohite, had given the notice. I have myself selected his name and called him. He is not present. Without even giving a notice, you want to make a submission. I would not allow this type of breach of rules. If you are so much concerned, you would have given the notice.

Nothing will be recorded, not even one word of Shri Khair, and only the hon. Minister's reply will be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, firstly, I would like to thank my hon. colleague, Mr. Yerranaidu for bringing this problem of *Chikungunya* to the notice of this House. As I have already said in my statement, the problem of *Chikungunya* first occurred in 1963 in Kolkata, and then there was a period of dormancy. Suddenly, during the last few months, in fact, after approximately 30 years, this is occurring again in a huge way in this country.

I definitely share the concerns of the hon. Members within the House and, in fact, even the concerns of the general population outside this House. There has been a lot of apprehension on this disease of *Chikungunya*. The Central Government has been not only very actively monitoring this problem, but also assisting the State Governments to take a lot of steps, first, to prevent this problem, and second, if this happens, how to treat it. The most important thing is the IEC activity, that is, Information, Education and Communication activity. That is the most important concept of treating this problem.

I have already said in my statement. ...(*Interruptions*)
Let me finish my statement. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Do not record anything. Why are you interrupting the Minister? I will not allow this type of indiscipline. Please take your seat. You have to take your seat. I will not allow this type of indiscipline. The Members have expressed their feelings. This is a matter of health, I have gone out of my way to do it, and you are misusing it. You are not even in your seat, which is a double indiscipline.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I definitely share the anguish of the hon. Members, and definitely, the Government is very much concerned of this problem. In fact, I have said that this should not spread out to the entire country. We are taking all steps so that it would not spread out. Today, it has been restricted to these States where a huge number of people are affected by this problem. We are coordinating with the States on this issue.

Mr. Yerranaidu said that about 150 people died in Anantapur District. He also said that about 400 people died in entire Andhra Pradesh. My experts team had been deputed to Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. In fact, Dr. Chinta Mohan came to my office and specifically mentioned about this problem. Initially, the team had been sent to specific areas, like Chittoor and Tirupati, which is

his constituency, and also to other places in Andhra Pradesh. My experts team said that the State Government did not report any deaths due to *Chikungunya*. However, my people are still investigating. If the so-called deaths are occurring due to *Chikungunya*, my people are ready to investigate in any State, whether it is in Andhra Pradesh or Karnataka or anywhere else.

The most effective part is the Information, Education and Communication activity. It is a viral problem, which I have already stated in my extensive statement, in addition to its cause, how to treat it and prevent it.

In fact, the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquitoes, which cause this, bite during the day. So, supplying a mosquito net will not be of much use because it bites only during the day. This mosquito breeds in pure water. Containers like earthen pots, plastic containers and drums which are used to store water in water scarcity areas are the breeding grounds for it, and the rural areas are most affected by it. We need the IEC to empty the water every week and to strain it with a cloth. We have supplied chemicals like Temephos and Pyrethrum to the States, and we are ready to supply any amount of these chemicals. They can be dissolved in the water or sprayed inside the rooms. We have already supplied whatever the State Governments have asked for. We are ready to supply any amount of quantity to them.

For those people who are affected by this disease, basic Paracetamol tablet is enough to treat them. Some doctors are misusing this opportunity and we are advising the doctors not to prescribe any costly antibiotics, which are not going to be much effective on them.

We are going through a lot of process. In fact, we are trying to liaise with the State Governments. In fact, for Andhra Pradesh specifically, my colleague, the hon. Minister of State for Health, Shrimati Panabaka Lakshmi, is holding consultations on the 29th of this month. Of course, there are four to five States which are having consultations, and we are supporting them. Definitely, we are very, very concerned that it does not spread to the entire country.

In fact, I would definitely send a team to that area which the hon. Member has mentioned. I will definitely send a team there. I will ask my people to investigate if there are any deaths. I will definitely get back to you once the report is submitted.

[Dr. Ambumani Ramadoss]

In fact, Shrimati Tejaswini, the hon. Member from Karnataka said that people have been confused and they are unable to differentiate between Bird Flue and *Chikungunya*. In fact, we are advising the State Governments to put a lot more advertisements in the local media, both print and visual media, that *Chikungunya* is different from Bird Flu. We will again advise the State Governments to do that, and the Central Government will also take part in these activities.

She also said that the Karnataka Government is facing a financial problem. For treating *Chikungunya*, you have to provide the basic Paracetamol. I am sure, the State Governments are equipped to provide this medicine, which they have in abundant supply. This is a cost-effective medicine.

Regarding providing chemicals like Temephos and Pyrethrum, we are ready to supply any amount of it for internal spray as well as for mixing in water.

In fact, Mr. Khandelwal said that in his constituency, about 40,000 people are affected. There are two laboratories in the country, that is, NIV, Pune and NICD, Delhi, which are equipped to test the samples. As in the case of *Dengue* fever, approximately about 10,000 samples were literally lifted and sent to them. If in a village, even if one sample has been tested, we literally declare that village as the so-called endemic area. We follow the IEC pattern and we advise the local body authorities because they have to play a major role in advising people on this.

In fact, in Karnataka, a number of Panchayat villages have taken wonderful steps in creating awareness in their villages. After a certain point of time, these villages have become disease-free.

Mr. Shailendra Kumar has given a good advice that this should not spread to other parts of the country. In fact, my colleague, Dr. Jagannath, was very concerned about Andhra Pradesh. Definitely, we will send a team. We have already sent teams to different parts of the country. We will definitely send more teams to the affected areas. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded and do not respond to him.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I am saying that you may also look into Maharashtra.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, we have already looked into Maharashtra. We will definitely again look at Maharashtra because we do not want this to spread to the Northern part of the country. If it spreads, we are going to have a huge problem because of under-served areas in the health sector. Definitely, I respect and share the concerns of the hon. House and I assure you that the Central Government will take all necessary steps to prevent this and to create awareness amongst the public.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will not take more than one minute.

On 12th April, 2006, the Health Minister of Andhra Pradesh stated that over 25,000 cases of *Chikungunya* had been detected in the State and that seven districts and twin cities were affected.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister here is not responsible for that.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: The Health Minister of Andhra Pradesh confirmed on 12th April, 2006 that two deaths occurred in the State.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not bring in State matters.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: However, the Health Minister here has just stated that according to the information received from the State Government there were no deaths at all. These two statements are contradictory to each other.

Poor people are suffering from *Chikungunya* and they are not able to go to work. Who will feed them?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, do not reply to this.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: The Central Government, with the approval of the Prime Minister, ask the State Government to supply 25 kilograms of rice and some *dal* to the poor people who are affected. The Minister of Rural Development is sitting here. That Government talks of *aam aadmi*. What is being done for *aam aadmi*? What about the poor people of this country?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the condition of farmers is worsening rapidly across the country.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: There should be a proper discussion on this.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: So many cases of farmers' suicide have been reported during the last ten years and the issue of improving the farmers, condition has been discussed several times in this august House. However, I am very sorry to say that the condition of farmers have not ameliorated significantly even after all these developments. A holistic policy ought to have been devised to ameliorate the condition of farmers which could not materialize and the incidents of farmers suicide continues.

I congratulate Hon'ble Prime Minister for providing a relief package of Rs. 3750 crore to the farmers of Vidarbha region. But at the same time, I would like to submit that this problem can not be confined to the precincts of Maharashtra and Vidharbha only. Cases of suicide from amongst the farmers of Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Bihar and all the States have come to the light. Given the statistics of the last 10 years as many as one lakh forty thousand farmers have committed suicide. The Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh has not yielded any produce for years together and the UP Chief Minister Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav urged upon the Prime Minister of the country to provide special package to the neglected farmers of Uttar Pradesh. The situation is awfully grieve there and now the condition is such that farmers are forced to commit suicide. The farmers of prosperous areas like Haryana and Punjab are inclined to adopt the other alternative occupation. It is a very serious issue and I want that this issue should not only be linked to the farmers of Vidarbha or Maharashtra but in the context of the farmers across the country. Overall, the farmers of the entire country are in the same boat. Therefore, the farmers of the entire country need to be offered special relief packages.

This Government has arranged loan facilities for the farmers and it has been said that the farmers shall be

offered loans at 7 per cent rate of interest. The amount of loan disbursed by the financial institutions is altogether a separate issue, but the rate of interest charged by local money lenders is exorbitantly high. Therefore, I would like to request through you to provide special relief package to the farmers of the entire country. The solution to this problem lies in waiving off the loans of farmers. Only then the farmers can breathe a sigh of relief. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Sir, the condition of the farmers is very grieve across the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you getting up?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, this issue is not related to a particular State. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, we also want to associate with this.

MR. SPEAKER: I do not understand what is happening.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: There should be detailed discussion on this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Nothing is being recorded. Why are you shouting?

At the beginning, I myself said that this was a matter which should be discussed fully. Either notices have come or will come. But you have yourself been pressing for this as an urgent matter.

Then, everyone rises and asks for a discussion on this issue immediately. How can it be done? Tomorrow, we would be discussing the issue of price rise. We can

[Mr. Speaker]

discuss this issue on any other day. You yourself decide. I shall allow this issue to be discussed. What is the difficulty?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, today you should not open your mouth.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the method, Shri Mohan. You are a senior Member.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to raise the farmers issue with all seriousness. Government might have received figures of farmers' suicide in Vidarbha and Marathwada regions of Maharashtra. I would like to refer to that issue. Hon'ble Prime Minister, M/o Agriculture, M/o Power visited Maharashtra accompanying the Chief Minister. The day he announced package for the farmers, the same day a few farmers of Vidarbha committed suicide. Thereafter, on an average three farmers are committing suicide everyday. After the Prime Minister's visit, as many as 62 farmers have committed suicide. The incidence of suicide have been reported from eight districts of Marathwada. He has declared relief package to the farmers of Amravati. But the farmers belonging to Nagpur, Marathwada (Aurangabad) division have not been provided any relief package. I would like to urge upon the Central Government to waive off the electricity bills to be charged from the dependents of the farmers—aside from bailing out the loans offered by the Co-operative and the other banks for agricultural purposes and a person from that family should be facilitated with employment. The relief package announced for the Amravati farmers should be extended to all the districts of Nagpur and Marathwada. The farmers are compelled to commit suicide on daily basis. They are worried and depressed. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai, South-Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government ought to come up with a reply to it as it is a very serious issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That's why I have allowed them.

...(Interruptions)

12.42 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Situation arising out of recent Israeli attacks on Lebanon

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I strongly condemn the brutal military aggression by Israel on Lebanon.

Israel launched a full scale assault on Lebanon through massive aerial and naval bombardment. Ground forces also have crossed the border in southern Lebanon. This attack has primarily targeted the civilian population and till yesterday, more than 400 Lebanese have been killed. Two Indians were also reported to be killed. Hundreds were injured. Twenty per cent—about 7.50 lakh people of Lebanon have had to flee their places. This is 20 per cent of the population of Lebanon. Many of the residential areas of Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, have been destroyed by Israeli forces. It is a brazen violation of international law and Geneva Convention which prohibits attack on civilian population. It is also totally unwarranted, disproportionate response to kidnapping of two Israeli soldiers.

Hence, I urge upon the Government of India that it should immediately suspend the purchase of weaponry from Israel. The Government of India should also support the demand for imposing international sanction on Israel. Continuously for more than ten days, Lebanon is being attacked by Israel. I have not seen any statement of condemnation by the Government of India.

In the past we have seen such a thing—you had to take the lead, when Iraq was attacked by America. I had been to Iraq 15 days prior to America's attack on Iraq. I demanded that the Government of India should condemn, as we did in the past, when North Korea was attacked by America; but we did not find such an action from the Government of India. The then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee responded and said that when Iraq would be attacked, then definitely the Government of India would condemn. But we had to stall the proceedings of the House continuously for three days and then, ultimately the Government agreed to pass a Resolution, and that too in Hindi and not in English.

I am surprised today that, when we are demanding that the Government of India should have an independent foreign policy, the Government of India is dithering and hesitating to condemn the brutal attack by Israeli forces on Lebanon. Why should the Government of India not take a decision to put pressure on Israel? Why should the agreement with Israel for purchase of weapons not be suspended? We should take a lead to mobilize international opinion to impose sanctions on Israel for diabolical attack on Lebanon. Thank you. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please wait.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to take an opportunity to speak this time. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not fair. I will call the Members one by one who have given notices.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jharkhand): The ruthless Israeli attack must be condemned by India. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have got one ship from Shri Swain. I will consider it.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No other hon. Member's statement will be recorded. I will not allow this practice. Why are you saying all this, jumping the queue? I would not allow this. This shows that you are not concerned; if you had been concerned, you would have given a notice.

Now, Shri Gurudas Dasgupta.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA (Panskura): Something unbelievable is happening in the world. The gravest crime against humanity is being perpetrated with impunity by Israel, being backed up by the Bush Administration. Israel cannot have the courage to defy the international opinion and launch a full-scale war against a small country without some people drawing the strings from behind. Therefore, it is a combined attack by Israel and the Bush Administration on Lebanon in the name of fighting terrorism. We are also fighting terrorism in this country; we are also a victim of unwarranted terrorist actions; but India had never planned to launch a full-scale war against any neighbouring country to protect India's security. We

had always believed that sanity and fight against terrorism need not be accompanied by barbaric action on the peaceful inhabitants of a country which may be helping the terrorists.

The basic point is Lebanon's public life has come to a standstill—all the airports are closed; all the ports are bombed; all the roads are devastated. Even hospitals are being bombed. One person from my constituency is now languishing in a hospital in Lebanon and he is in coma.

Every day, I take information from the Government of India. Many Indians are affected. It is not that only Lebanese are affected. Therefore, the question is, can a country be allowed to behave like this, in total violation of the UN charter. If a country behaves like this in total violation of UN charter, should India remain silent? We have forgotten Nehru, Non-alignment and Indira Gandhi. We have forgotten our past traditions and, therefore, we are eating our own words and eating our own policies. India does not dare to raise its finger against Israeli aggression because it feels that will hamper India's friendship with United States. This is my serious allegation. I have a few suggestions to make.

I suggest that the Government of India must declare Israel as a down right aggressor.

Our Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Sharma should leave immediately for Middle East to talk to different States and build up pressure on reckless, mad administration of Israel.

India should send medical help to the people of Lebanon. We should help them. Why are we afraid of it?

India should express its solidarity with the people of Lebanon. Kindly take up with India's new friendship in Bush administration to tell Israel to immediately stop aggression.

India cannot remain a silent spectator when morality of the whole world is being tampered down by the military administration of Israel.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, this country has a glorious legacy of supporting struggle against imperialist occupations but it is a strange experience that this Government, although it is the 15th day of the naked aggression of a sovereign State, has not condemned it. It has not come out openly that what is happening is in gross violation of the international law. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Neither silently nor openly. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Even what we are hearing from the United Nations Secretary-General is really disappointing. He is saying that the cease-fire should immediately take place. We are now seeing that the cease-fire will take place at an appropriate time by which time the total aggression will be completed. This is the old history.

Our unfortunate part is, this Government is engaged in buying the second largest supplier of weapons to this country. This should be immediately stopped and along with our friends a pressure should be mounted. We have a lot of friends. At the WTO level we have found, we are proud of our Minister who stood up and told America that if this cannot continue, we cannot continue such negotiations where America is imposing unilateral terms. In another sphere, in our Foreign Policy, we are subjugating ourselves, trailing behind the strategic alliance of the US led leadership. They are backing Israel. They are racing in everywhere. This is continuing.

So, the least that should be done is, immediate cease-fire, immediate condemnation by India and mobilising public opinion throughout the world, mobilising international sanctions and immediate stoppage of purchase of weapons from this country which is a total aggressor of Lebanon.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, we should have a response from the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He will respond. Let me conduct the proceedings of the House. The Minister has agreed to respond. You cannot dictate either to me or to the Government, far less me.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Sir, four Indians were killed and one person reported missing in the ongoing Israeli attack in Lebanon. Thousands of Indians stranded in Lebanon are facing threat to their lives and are in constant fear.

Unfortunately, one of the Indians died during the Israeli bombings belongs to my constituency, Kendrapara in Orissa. The dead body of Shri Debesh Kumar Swain reached Kendrapara.

I urge upon the Central Government to give immediate financial assistance to the bereaved families of the NRIs, including Shri Debesh Kumar Swain, who

died in Lebanon during the Israeli bombings. I would also request the Central Government to speed up the air lifting of the Indians trapped in war-torn Lebanon.

MR. SPEAKER: Now hon. Minister to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I respect your views. Please take your seats. All rules are there. Nobody has given notice, even then I am allowing. If I allow you, then how can I stop others? Therefore, I feel if all of us decide, there can be a full discussion on this. I will allow a discussion. Please give a notice. Mr. Swain, I request you to give a notice for discussion. I will allow you.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: It is a very important issue. Given the convention whenever any important issue is discussed, all the parties are given an opportunity to voice their opinions.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not permitted.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, during 'Zero Hour' you could allow one person from every party.

MR. SPEAKER: Those of you who have given notice, out of them I have allowed.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Tell me how many I shall allow.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Then, just throw away the rule book.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I am on a different point. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Sir, he is saying that he is having a different view. If he is having a different view, he may be allowed. Let the House know where we stand.

MR. SPEAKER: I thank you all for your advice. But once I open the Pandora's box, there will be no end to it. Therefore, I am allowing only two more hon. Members, namely, Shri Swain and Shri D.P. Yadav.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, I thank you for your kindness.

MR. SPEAKER: That is wrong. This kindness may be misused.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, on behalf of our Party, I very strongly condemn the terrorist organisation, Hejzbollah which kidnapped two Israeli soldiers in a cross border operation. This activity of Hejzbollah has led to the escalation of tension in the Middle East. Hejzbollah had in the past assassinated the Lebanese Prime Minister also. Terrorism in any form or with any intent must strongly be condemned. We also express our concern with regard to the death of hundreds of Lebanese and Israeli innocent citizens because of bombardment and firing of rockets. As hon. Archanaji said, one person from Orissa has also been killed.

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed her to raise it.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I thank you very much for that.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You need not offer thanks.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, through this august House I make an appeal to the United Nations for sending a peace keeping force to Israel-Lebanon border to function as a buffer between the warring parties and stop hostilities. This should be done immediately. India should appeal to the United Nations to send a peace keeping force.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I owe my deep sense of gratitude for giving me an opportunity to speak a few words on this issue of

international importance. The way Israel has been attacking Lebanon in a barbarous manner for the past fifteen days, has not only taken 400 civilians into its deadly fold but the PIOs have also been drastically affected. Now the situation has worsened to such an extent that the livelihood of the Lebanese has been awfully disturbed. A clear-cut violation of international laws is being witnessed. It's common knowledge who dominates the International Forum these days. The US is in a dominating position and the US administration is also lending it support in some way or the other. For the obvious reasons Lebanon is faced with the worst-state-of-affairs these days.

13.00 hrs.

India must not supposed to stay silent over the existing state-of-affairs. The Union Government would not continue to be a mere mute spectator of the whole episode. The Union Government need not only extent diplomatic pressure but ought to pass a stricture against it. To my mind, you need not extend your favour.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only the reply of the hon. Minister would go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record. It is an important and serious matter. The hon. Minister is responding to it. He need not have responded, but he is responding. Please listen to him.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): Hon. Speaker, Sir, the issue which has been raised by the hon. Members is a very serious one. The Government shares the anguish expressed by the Members over the situation, which is grave, resulting from the Israeli action in Lebanon. India has unequivocally condemned the Israeli action and the disproportionate and excessive use of force which has led to an escalation of an humanitarian cause and loss of a large number of innocent lives. In addition, the infrastructure of Lebanon has suffered considerable damage. At the same time, in our official statement and the position India has taken, we have also condemned Hizbullah's action. India has been talking to other

*Not recorded.

[Shri Anand Sharma]

countries. All our Missions in that region have been co-ordinating. We are for the immediate cessation of hostilities. As we have said, the situation is untenable and Lebanon has become a victim by default.

A large number of Indians were stranded there. We had 12,000 Indian nationals who had to be evacuated. The Government of India has issued advisory to all its nationals to keep their travel documents ready. Many of them had taken refuge in the Indian embassy there. At the same time, Indian missions in Jordan, Amman, Turkey and in Israel were also involved in this process of evacuation. Four Indian warships which were returning from a goodwill cruise in the Gulf of Suez were diverted to Cyprus and from there they went to Lebanon. Once the access was obtained, the evacuation of Indian nationals started within 72 hours after the hostilities were started. The first warship brought the Indian nationals to the port of Lamaka in Cyprus. Air India planes were sent there and the process is still continuing.

Regarding the death of Indian nationals, there is one confirmed death. The second one was not confirmed because the concerned individual was shown as missing. The Chief Minister of Orissa, Shri Navin Pattanaik had personally spoken to me in regard to this Indian national who hailed from the State of Orissa. Subsequently, the Chief Minister and me had spoken to each other and yesterday morning he confirmed that the man was found safe and he has since returned to India.

Sir, the Government of India is continuing all efforts to ensure the safety of its national and also to evacuate all those who want to come out. With regard to the humanitarian assistance, I would like to say that India had earlier, when the situation worsened in Gaza, had given humanitarian assistance and we are committed to do so in future also to the children and women in Palestine those who had suffered because of the situation.

Sir, lastly, regarding the Peace Keeping Force I would like to submit that it is a decision that is of the United Nations. Indian troops are there in Lebanon as part of the UNIFIL. IN fact, that is the largest component. We have 800 soldiers there. We have been concerned about that but the Indian Government not only supports all efforts to restore peace but is also for the cessation of hostilities. As I have said, on the impression which was created and on what has been said. I would like to place the facts on record that India has not been silent on this issue. India has not deviated from its independent foreign

policy and India has been very firm in condemning it. The statements are there before me. I am prepared to lay them on the Table. That is all I can say. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not in a position to say anything beyond this.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 2 p.m.

13.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*English*]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up matters under Rule 377.

Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	— Not present
Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi	— Not present
Shri Harisinh Chavda	— Not present
Shri D. Vittal Rao	— Not present
Shri L. Rajagopal	— Not present

[*Translation*]

Why its that all the members have gone out after submitting their notices under Rule 377.

[*English*]

Shri Mansukhbhai D. Vasava—not present

(1) **Need to bring a comprehensive legislation banning cow slaughter in the country**

[*Translation*]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Madam, more or less, people from almost every civilization attach

importance of the cows. Thanks to its simplicity and usefulness. In a theocratic and primarily agriculture driven country like India cows are looked upon as the symbol of mother and mother land and have continued to be held in high esteem from time immemorial. The cows are largely characterized by and are indicative of the virtues of religion, economic gains, desire and salvation. It's an irony that in a land of Rama, Krishna, Buddha, Mahavir and Gandhi's Incarnation more than 29,500 cows are slaughtered in the abattoirs by the abattoirees or are slaughtered under some pretext of the other at the other locations.

The data provided by the Indian wildlife welfare board regarding the cows obviously engage our attention towards the continual extinction of mother cows. Out of 22 species of cows phylum of Indian origin as many as of 6 species have been defunct and three species are leading towards extinction. Way back in 1951, the ratio of the cows was 426 in the scale of per thousand people has come down to the level of 216 by 1991 following the trend of gradual decrease in number. In view of the importance of cow and cows phylum, in October, 2005, the hon. Supreme Court restored to impose a blanket ban on cow-slaughter across the country.

therefore, I would like to urge upon the hon. Prime Minister through this House to bring in legislation in the House to impose a blanket ban on the slaughter of cows across the country.

(ii) Need to release the balance share of water for Rajasthan from Ravi and Beas rivers to Rajasthan

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL (Tonk): Madam Chairman, according to Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966, an agreement regarding the distribution of balance share of water of the Ravi and Beas rivers had been signed between the Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan in the presence of hon'ble Prime Minister on 31.12.1981 following a number of meetings held after constitution of the State of Haryana. According to this agreement, the share of Rajasthan was fixed at 8.6 M.A.F. which is 52.70 percent of the balance share of water. At that time the Indira Gandhi Canal Project was in its initial stage and Rajasthan was not in a position to utilize its entire share. In view of this matter, it was provided in the agreement that "unless Rajasthan is in a position to utilize its entire share of water, Punjab will utilize the balance share of water of Rajasthan."

Subsequently, as a result of rapid progress of Indira Gandhi Canal system, Rajasthan is in a position to utilize its entire share of water for the last many years. On a number of occasions, Rajasthan has submitted representation to the Central Government, Punjab Government and Bhakra Beas Management Board for receiving its share of 8 M.A.F. water and for returning its balance share of 0.6 M.A.F. water. However, it has not got any success in this regard.

Therefore, the Government of India should immediately direct the Government of Punjab and the Bhakra Beas Management Board to release the balance share of 0.6 M.A.F. water to Rajasthan.

(iii) Need to review the decision to cancel Ken-Betwa Inter-linking river project

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Madam Chairperson, Malwanchal in Madhya Pradesh in the heart of the country which is popular for its rivers and greenery, is changing into a desert due to fast receding water level and low rainfall. The Central Government and the State Government have declared certain areas of Malwanchal where the water level has receded upto 1200-1400 feet, as dark zone. Consequently, the farmers and the common people are facing the water crisis in this agriculture based area. Gradually the crisis of drinking water exists in places where there is no water for agriculture. The Chambal, Chhipra, Kali and Sindh rivers are slowly drying up. In order to end this crisis, the Central Government approved the projects to inter-link Ken-Betwa and Narmada-Chhipra-Chambal rivers under the inter-linking river scheme. However, as per the newspaper report, it is proposed to cancel the Ken-Betwa project which has been termed as impractical and unprofitable and this is a very unfortunate report.

I request the Central Government to review this decision and to remove the hurdles in implementation of this scheme. Its implementation should be taken up so that the crisis prevailing in this area can be removed and this area can be prevented from turning into a desert.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Shri Danve Raosaheb Patil: not present.

Shri N.K. Krishnadas : Not present.

Shri Rasheed Masood: Not present.

(iv) Need to open IITs in Patna and Northern Bihar

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Madam, there is not a single IIT institution in Bihar State. The population of Bihar is approximately nine crores. This State runs ahead in the category of most backward States in the country. The children of this State go to distant parts of the country to study engineering course. The present Government like its predecessor has been urging upon the Central Government to set up I.I.T. in Bihar, but the Central Government has not taken any positive step in this regard so far.

Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development through this august House and urge upon him to take steps to set up at least two I.I.Ts in Bihar at the earliest of which one should be opened in capital city of Patna and another in Northern Bihar so that justice is done to the people of Bihar.

(v) Need to check irregularities in the Public Distribution System in Dumariaganj District, Siddharth Nagar, Uttar Pradesh

MOHD. MUKEEM (Dumariaganj): Madam, through you, I would like to invite the attention of the Government towards my Parliamentary Constituency Dumariaganj, District Siddharth Nagar, Etawah, UP, where irregularities in Public Distribution System have been going on since the last 6-7 years. By forging BPL cards they are selling a major portion of ration for the poor in the market.

Therefore, through you, I demand from the Government in the public interest to get a secret enquiry conducted in the distribution of BPL foodgrain irregularities and bogus cards, and strict action may be taken against the guilty shopkeepers and officers and employees involved so that the poor may get the full quota of their due share and the Government scheme for the interests of the poor can be implemented smoothly.

(vi) Need to stop the closure of Clearing House at Cuttack, Orissa

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): The Reserve Bank of India's decision to merge the Cuttack Clearing House presently managed by the State Bank of India at its main branch with Bhubaneswar Clearing House has agitated

the public at large and precious banking hours were disrupted for two days after which RBI has kept the merger in abeyance. RBI had planned the closure of the Clearing House in Cuttack since 2002, but due to inept handling of the issue the matter has led to such impasse. Today, there are 44 Clearing Houses Cheque Processing Centre using MICR technology in this country. Further, 127 cities in the country are covered by Special Electronic Fund Transfer (SEFT) facility. The pace at which technology is advancing the number is bound to go up. Therefore, it is not advisable to merge the Cuttack Clearing House with that of Bhubaneswar. Rather advance technology be made available in Cuttack.

The valid reason for RBI, Bhubaneswar insisting upon the closure of Cuttack Clearing House seems two fold: firstly, the present MICR machine at Bhubaneswar with a capacity of 30,000 instruments handles only 15,000 instruments. If instruments of Cuttack is taken to Bhubaneswar, then there will be capacity utilization. Secondly, with increase in the volume of business by RBI, Bhubaneswar its official status would be enhanced benefiting its staffing pattern and promotion. RBI has not spent a single pie for the MICR machine at Bhubaneswar. It is acquired by SBI. Similarly, if Cuttack would be allowed to go for a MICR machine, then the cost would be born jointly and not by RBI alone. There are 36 number of banks with at least 120 branches in Cuttack. I would urge upon the Government to refrain from closing down the Clearing House at Cuttack and instruct RBI to install a new cheque Processing Centre with MICR technology at Cuttack.

(vii) Need to solve the problems of agriculture sector in the country

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Madam, Chairperson, recently, on 1 July, 2006 the Prime Minister had announced a package of Rs. 3750 crore for the farmers of Vidarbha. This package has not been implemented yet. It is still on papers only. That is why incidents of suicide in Vidarbha have not stopped yet and 52 more farmers have committed suicide. Punjab, Haryana, which are considered agriculturally rich, there also are farmers indebted and are committing suicide. Punjab farmers owe more than Rs. 57,000 crore. More than 14 percent of the suicides in the country are being committed by the farmers. Today, there is a need to develop the agriculture of the country, make the country

self-dependent in agriculture, then only our food problem will be solved.

While the country is struggling against the shortage of food, arable land is being used for other purposes. For manufacturing small car arable land is required, for agricultural trade, arable land is required, even for Special Economic Zones arable land is being acquired. If agricultural land continues to shrink, increasing the production will be a day dream only. There are some other problems of agriculture like markets for agricultural products, production rate of agriculture, lack of irrigation facilities, paucity of seeds, diminishing productivity of soil etc.

I urge upon the Government that it will not be able to solve the problems of agriculture by concentrating on one State or some districts. It should take care of the agriculture of the entire country and resolve the issue.

(viii) Need to set up a Railway Zonal office at Chakradharpur, Jharkhand in South-Eastern Railway

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO (Jamshedpur): Madam, Chairperson, through the House, it is requested that the railway goods transportation work in the Railway Zonal office at South-Eastern Railway is number two in earning revenue and as far as railway goods transportation is concerned, it is done in the mineral-rich areas of Jharkhand, and one has to go to Kolkata even for minor railway goods transportation work. Therefore, it is necessary to set up a zonal office of the South-Eastern Railway in the Chakradharpur region of Eastern Singhbhum to control the Dhanbad Railway Division, Ranchi Railway Division and Chakradharpur Railway Division. Jharkhand has not even a single Railway Zonal office. As a result, the railway projects relating to Jharkhand development are getting delayed and a number of projects are lying pending.

Through the House, I request the Government that a Zonal Office may be set up at Chakradharpur to control all the three Divisional offices of the South-Eastern Zonal Offices.

(ix) Need to provide financial assistance to credit cooperatives for improving agricultural credit facilities

[English]

SHRI D. VITTAL RAO (Mahabubnagar): Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact

that the Government of India have announced doubling of agricultural credit by the end of Tenth Five Year Plan. During the Kharif 2004 season, the performance of commercial banks, regional rural banks is in tune with the objective of doubling of credit in the next three years. However, the performance of the credit cooperatives is not up to the expected levels due to imbalances and poor recovery due to successive natural calamities, etc.

Hence, I request the Government to give financial support of Rs. 2,350.32 crore which is required towards recapitalisation and restructuring. I also request the Government to advise the NABARD to provide refinance facilities to DCCBs and also to reschedule the Short Term Loans.

(x) Need for proper maintenance of National Highway No. 47 between Thrissur and Walayar

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): The condition of National Highway No. 47 (Cochin-Salem) between Thrissur-Walayar is terribly bad. During the last year, no maintenance work had been done after the heavy monsoon. This year also, due to the heavy monsoon, the same area of NH-47 is completely damaged. This is the main passage from Cochin to Chennai. The volume of the traffic is very high on this route. Due to the bad condition of this road, the accident rate has increased by 100 per cent within one year between this particular area. More than 100 lives have been lost due to the accidents. So, people are agitating and demanding the immediate repair of the fully damaged National Highway.

So, I urge upon the Government to give the necessary directions to the concerned for the immediate repair of this important National Highway No. 47 between Thrissur and Walayar.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, we come to the next item, Food Safety and Standards Bill; Mr. Minister to continue.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Madam, the last item in today's business, Item 14, is regarding discussion on the report of Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry. But, no time has been fixed for this. At what time will it start? This being an important discussion, time should be fixed for that. It is because it involves the

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

sentiments of a number of people. If it is not discussed today, tomorrow it cannot be discussed.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: We can take it up only after completing the whole business.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: It may not be finished today. If it is not finished, then this item cannot be discussed.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Tomorrow we will see.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Tomorrow, there is a discussion on price rise, which is an important subject.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Today, at least we have to finish this business.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The hon. Minister of State of Parliamentary Affairs is here. He can tell us.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Let us go ahead with the List of Business. It is because time has not been indicated here, let us go ahead with the same. In the meantime I will try to find out.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: First, let us complete this business and then we will see.

14.23 hrs.

[English]

FOOD SAFETY AND STANDARDS BILL, 2005

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up for further consideration the following motion moved by Shri Subodh Kant Sahay on the 22nd May, 2006, namely:

"That the Bill to consolidate the laws relating to food and to establish the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import, to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food

for human consumption and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

Now, the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): Madam, Chairperson, this Bill is going to be a historical one in itself. It has been widely debated upon during the last three-four years and all the persons associated with the Bill have been interacted with. This Bill is fully agriculture oriented.

Madam Chairperson, you know that India is the second largest producer of fruit and vegetables in the world but we process only two percent of our production. We are at the top in milk production but barely 15 to 20% of milk is processed. If we take an overall view, we will find that not more than 6 percent part of the value adding of processing is being carried despite being an agricultural country. The farmers cannot get the right price of their cost unless there is a value addition to their produce. This Bill, as a whole, is a Bill concerning the food-processing sector. Today, other countries of the world like U.S., U.K. and Thailand process 78 to 80% food. I can tell you that we waste fruit and vegetables worth Rs. 50 thousand crore because there is shortage of industries to process these fruit and vegetables. The situation is such that till now 16 laws were under inspector rule and this sector was being governed under these rules. Sixteen years ago late Sh. Rajiv Gandhi had set up the Ministry of Food Processing with the sole objective as to how we could put our agriculture sector on the path of growth by value addition and processing and how we could carve a niche for us in the world market.

I can say that this sector has come into focus only after it became a part of our common minimum programme. Unfortunately, this sector was not in the focus for such a long period. That is why it could not be given a boost. Under this Bill, we are going to frame a law and constitute a regulatory authority, which will govern the standard and quality of the food right from the national level to the panchayat level. Today this sector is ruled by 16 inspectors. Therefore, this Bill will also be a major initiative in the direction of abolition of inspector raj. This apart, our goods are rejected every now and then on technical grounds in terms of quality and standards by

European Union and other countries. Codex will match with the world level quality standard and this Bill will also fulfill the expectations of the consumers, arising out of consumer awareness in our country, in terms of quality and standards. I can say that this Bill will work in the interest of the consumers. Through this Bill, a single window reference point is coming into existence. This Bill will be beneficial for assured, safe and quality food. All the major stakeholders like consumer organizations; industries and farmers etc. are being given wide scale participation in the formulation of this Bill. Moreover, this system will be fully transparent and for the first time we are making a provision to compensate the consumer who gets injury or incur any health hazard by eating any food. A provision is being made in this Bill to give compensation to the consumer in such a situation. In this Bill there is a provision of right to recall under which any wrong action can be recalled. Not only this, until today the people used to say that it is the bureaucrats and inspectors who rule. Now in this Bill, there is a provision to impose fine on the inspector who is found to harass any person. Moreover, until now this law was divided among 12 ministries. After the infrastructure of all these 12 ministries is integrated together to create resources, I think we will be able to establish a large set up of down to line infrastructure and quality labs which is essential for the implementation of this law.

Apart from this, we have made a provision of graded system for penalty and gravity of offence. Today, the people often complain that if a label pasted on any brand is found damaged even a little bit, it attracts six months punishment. The fact is that lakhs of cases of similar nature are pending before the Supreme Court, and I don't have the idea in how many cases punishment has been awarded. But it is hampering both the quality and right of consumers. In this Bill we have provided two categories according to adjudication—one which are mildly hazardous to health, and another is hazardous to health and the cases, which fall under later categories, we will refer them in High Courts and lower courts. I assume that until and unless farmers are not related to industries, their capacity to bargain cannot improve. Now-a-days produce of farmer is not treated as a raw material. After enactment of Bill on food processing we have a target for investment of Rs. one crore. But there is no progress due to the matter of 6% sector processing and no synergy is there from anywhere.

Madam, as you are aware we are going to double the production with horticulture mission. We are also

doubling agricultural production. The Prime Minister has said about another green revolution. If there is a lack of synergy among farming, industry and processing then it will be a mismatch. Today we hear about the news of suicide committed by farmers due to non-availability of cost of production of their produce. To check such incidents in future, there is a need to link farming with industry. There should be quality and standard oriented and consumer friendly laws for the people who run the industry.

We have excluded farmers and fishermen from the purview of the Bill. Only the licence holders of industries in our country fall under this Bill. Those who are not holding any licence such as carters, vendors, small confectioners of villages and people doing minor business will have to register themselves locally, they will not need any licence. To avoid harassment they are kept out from it. I think that this is a historical Bill. No law was formulated after 1954 for food sector. This Bill has been presented as a regulatory authority and a Bill which consists essence of all laws. I request this august House to consider and pass this Bill.

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to consolidate the laws relating to food and to establish the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import, to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Madam Chairman, the honourable Minister has just told that no law has been framed in the food sector since 1954. Therefore, the Government is going to frame a law by consolidating different laws or orders passed on this subject from time to time. I think, consolidation of all these laws and orders has resulted in a mix up.

Whenever any law is framed, it has three-four aspects. Prior to framing of a law, its social, legal, technical and financial aspects are looked into. If we go

[Shri Avinash Rai Khanna]

through all these four aspects, it seems that some shortcomings are still present in this Bill. Therefore, I rise here on behalf of my party to oppose the Bill.

All of us—I, you, the hon. Minister and the public are consumers. We have to protect the consumer's right. We have to see that the consumer gets the right article. But this law will create major problem for the small businessmen like hawkers or vendors, as the hon. Minister has just said, who go from one village to another village to sell the goods. You have told that registration will be mandatory. If a vendor, who sells his goods in 15 villages, gets himself registered in a particular village and goes to another village to sell his goods and comes across an officer who asks him why he came there despite being registered in another village, then what will happen? Similarly, it also applies on hawkers. Therefore, it will create a wide panic among vendors and small businessmen. The Bill provides no explanations on this issue. There is no mention of registration process, registration authority, registration form and whether there will be any registration fee or not. Only a simple word has been written that it is essential to get registered with the concerned municipality or village panchayat. There are various such shortcomings in this Bill. I have mentioned about the social aspect in the beginning of my speech. They have used these words that an officer can go and search anywhere. I would like to read section 41 on this.

[English]

Section 41 (1) says:

"The Food Safety Officer may search any place, seize any article of food or adulterant, if there is a reasonable doubt about them being involved in commission of any offence relating to food..."

[Translation]

In this Bill, food safety officer has been empowered but there is no mention of his jurisdiction and the place where he can search. Suppose an officer from Delhi goes to Panipat and gets engaged in a dispute while having his meal at a restaurant. He will assert that he is a food safety officer and the food is adulterated and therefore, it is seized, then the owner would be prosecuted. Therefore, it needs to be defined as to where a food safety officer can go for inspection and seize the items. There is a point in article 41 (1)".

[English]

"The Food Safety Officer shall be responsible for inspection of food business, drawing samples and sending them to Food Analyst for analysis."

[Translation]

This act has been made after abolishing PFA act. PFA act describes in detail the sampling procedure because under PFA act the sample is drawn in a very experienced and technical way. The sample should represent the whole product. Suppose, we have to draw a sample of milk, the PFA act describes the procedure of drawing a sample. To draw a sample of milk, the milk is required to be stirred from both sides and when representative milk is obtained, a quantity sample is drawn from that milk. But, there is no mention of quantity or the procedures in which a sample is to be drawn. The Bill also misses the provisions of packing and sealing of the sample. PFA does have a provision that three samples will be drawn. One sample will be sent to the laboratory, second to the District Health Authority and the third sample will remain with the shopkeeper. The reason behind having three samples is that if a sample drawn by DHO fails and the prosecution is lost, then the respondent has the right to get his second sample reassessed from the Central Food Laboratory. The court permits him for this. But there is no such provision in this Bill. In case a sample is drawn in an improper way from a vendor and declared failed by the laboratory, the extent of fine imposed is so high that it encourages corruption. I read it out. The hon. Minister himself will be surprised. Under Section 69 (1), the SDO or magistrate, who has no field experience and who is not a technical person but an IAS or PCS officer and does not know whether the sample is right or wrong, has been empowered to impose a fine of upto one lakh rupees. You have nowhere mentioned the minimum extent of prosecution.

The fine to be invoked may be in the region of Re. 1 to Rs. 1 Lakh. This will simply add to the corruption already ubiquitous. One will tend to grease hands with the vendor in a bid to reduce the amount of fine to be slapped upon the latter. This too is not devoid of legal lacunae. Secondly, you have mentioned that civil powers are vested with the officials. However, on seeking clarifications it came to light that the powers vested in them are of criminal laws. Both civil and criminal procedures widely vary from each other. When a person is produced under criminal procedure, he/she is required

to submit petition for bail. Thereafter, a judgment is pronounced while on the contrary, in civil cases, it's simply produced through an advocate. For the obvious reasons there is difference between Civil and Criminal process. The procedures put in place are of criminal nature but it's not clear as to which procedure shall be adhered to. If such confusion continues to exist, it would be difficult to implement this Act. There's one more issue presented by you, all the waters have been covered under this Act.

Sir, water being available through municipality supply has been kept out of this ambit. Most of the people depend on water being supplied by Municipality. Nothing finds mention in the Act pertaining to the water being supplied by the Municipalities. To my mind, it's of no use to the common people. Under Section 77 you have conferred powers upon the authorities concerned in an uncommon gesture providing the time frame of one year to initiate the procedure. When that sample was taken or some offence occurred, thereafter prosecution-process shall be launched within a period of one year you said:

[English]

"Provided that the Commissioner of Food Safety may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, approve prosecution within an extended period of upto three years."

[Translation]

There is a lacunae in it. If once it gets rejected by the court on the grounds that it's time-barred, whether it would be able to condemn the orders passed by Commissioner of Food Safety. If such contingency arises, which procedure shall be followed up? Suppose, the prosecutor appointed by you negatives the sample produced by some industrialist, and an understanding is arrived at between the two that the challan shall be issued after a year. The court will reject it. The Commissioner on Food Safety is bound with certain rules as in case of court's order of being the challan time-barred, the Commissioner on Food Safety may extend it.

These apart, I would like to draw your attention towards the financial aspects. I would like to apprise you of the fact that the structure of the Authority framed by you involves the expenditure of Rs. 10 crore while as much as Rs. 7 crore shall be spent on infrastructure, how can we shall be able to provide laboratories out of Rs. 3 crore. If we take a look on the financial aspects,

the Bill introduced by you is vague. From social, legal, technical and financial stand points; your bill is least likely to be passed in the House. I, on behalf of my party I want to submit that the Bill introduced by you should be rejected and not be allowed to be passed.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Madam Chairperson, I must appreciate this Government and the hon. Minister for bringing in such a momentous legislation as it is relevant. It is most contemporary in view of the global trade environment because over the years the rich countries have been putting various kinds of non-tariff barriers on the pretext of food safety and quality aspect.

Madam Chairman, the Minister has already stated in his introduction that this Ministry was established 18 years ago, and it was regarded as a sunrise industry. But still we have been lagging behind in processing the food potentialities available in our country. Only two per cent of food is being processed here, and more than Rs. 60,000 crore are going waste due to lack of food processing management in our country.

It is known to all that the food sector is worth a business of Rs. 2,50,000 crore, and it contributes 26 per cent to our GDP. It is a vast sector where we can generate huge employment opportunities provided we have the requisite legislation. The need and demand of food has been ever increasing with the growth in our population. We are able to produce food in abundance by dint of our technology, genetic engineering and other noble innovations. But we are observing that our diet has been exposed to the global market in the wake of globalised food scenario. Our family meal has been replaced by fast food. What are we consuming here? We may find ingredients like pathogens that are native to a remote area of this world. We are also consuming food that is originating in other parts of the world. Therefore, we should have an integrated food law because it is incumbent upon the Government to ensure safe, hygienic, wholesome and nutritious food to its Countrymen.

In the year 1954 the PFA Act was established, but our experience demonstrates that due to multiplicity of laws involving diverse authorities, the food-processing sector has been facing severe impediments. Therefore, this kind of mismatch, which has been prevailing, must be removed with the introduction of this Bill. The Food

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

Safety and Standards Bill will be baptized as an integrated food law, which would be the first ever in our country.

Madam Chairman, food is our culture so much so that over the ages our culture, our tradition, our religion, our customs have been inextricably linked to the various prescriptions and proscriptions of the food habits.

Food is our biological necessity and also commerce. In order to meet the needs of the people in the world, we have to produce best quality of food so that we can face the cut-throat competition in the world trade scenario.

We are a Member of the WTO. We are a signatory of Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Measures where various recommendations made by the Hygiene Committee have been adopted. The Codex Alimentarius Commission's prescriptions are there which advocate hazard analysis and central critical point at every stage of production and processing so as to prevent any kind of contamination and adulteration. Contamination is a growing concern throughout the world.

As we have observed, Avian Flu H5N1, which was a less pathogenic virus, has now been detected in a more dangerous dimension, which already affected hundreds of people all over the world. However, we do not have the instruments to protect our people from this kind of invasion. Earlier, we had witnessed dropsy caused by Algemore. In this legislation, there may be some *lacuna*, but the endeavour made by this Government deserves to be praised lavishly.

As we are moving to that world where food safety and standard is the imperative need, scientific development of food processing is *sin qua non* for the development of this industry. The key features of this legislative document is that the Second Schedule under Section 97 stands repealed, as the Bill seeks to consolidate eight laws governing the food sector, and it also establishes a Food Safety Authority to regulate this sector. Naturally, it is a transparent and accountable regulatory regime which will regulate the entire food sector, after the passing of this Bill. Already, the Ministry has adopted 45 amendments before the passing of this Bill. As such, it is a voluminous Bill consisting of 101 clauses whereby it has encompassed all the necessary aspects in compliance with the potentially contradictory concept of sovereign discretion, trade liberalisation and scientific objectivity.

Food Supply and Safety Authority will include 22 members. I must appreciate the fact that this Government, in all its measures, tried to empower the women folk of our country. Here also, out of 22 members, women participation has been made mandatory. However, I would request the hon. Minister to include one member from a hawkers association in India. That is because a large number of our people are eking out their livelihood from hawking.

Central Advisory Committee has been proposed to be established in order to assist the Food Safety and Standards Authority to lay down various rules and regulations in terms of pesticide residue, biological, chemical, physical hazards and other contaminants. The law will be enforced through the State Commissioners of Food Safety at the State level and through the designated officers and Food Supply Officers at the local level.

The salient feature of this Bill is that the Panchayati Raj institution, which is called the grassroots democracy of our country, has been given due importance and is entrusted with the task of issuing registration to local vendors, hawkers, etc. Everyone in the food sector is now required to get a licence or registration. Every distributor is required to be able to identify food articles to the manufacturer and every seller to the distributor. So, there is a wide network of checks and balances that has been provided in this Bill.

Further more, entitlement to recall has been provided for in this Bill. Anyone in this sector would be able to initiate recall procedure, if he finds that the food sold had violated specific standards. It is a single statute relating to food providing for scientific development of food processing industry.

The UPA Government has proposed to increase the global share of our trade from 0.9 per cent to 1.5 per cent amounting to 150 billion dollars by the year 2009. Food processing industry would play a very significant and pivotal role in enhancing the global trade share of our country in commensurate with the UPA Government's commitments. It incorporates salient features of the PFA Act, 1954, other international laws including Codex Alimentarius Commission. It has shifted from mere regulatory regime to a self-compliant regime through safety management systems.

However, plants prior to harvesting and animal feed are excluded from the purview of the Bill. I would like to

draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this. Various kinds of food are found to be infected by various pesticides in vegetables or antibiotics in animal feed. That would have a deleterious effect on human health, especially on consumer. But this aspect has not been covered effectively in this Bill.

Secondly, the whole chain from farm to consumer needs to be traced out, which is absent here. If a food product contains grain or vegetable with pesticides above the permissible limit, it is hard to trace back the contaminant beyond the *mandi*.

15.00 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Therefore, it needs to be covered effectively. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that over the years various laws concerning the food sector are available with us. Due to lack of laboratory instrumentation, due to lack of proper training to the testing personnel, and due to lack of observance of rules, this sector has been suffering a lot. It is suffering because lab instrumentations are relatively expensive. For chemical analysis of food, we need instruments which are to be imported from foreign countries. We have resource constraints. Here, scientific research is sporadic. Training facilities are poor and less rigorous. On the one hand, training testing personnel and on the other hand, modern scientific equipment for testing the food, both are imperative. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have taken more than 17 minutes.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Most of our universities are reluctant to offer course in food testing. The Bill is rightly emphasizing to penalise the offender. But, however, the Bill should emphasise on other aspects also in terms of promoting this system and business.

Inspector Raj may be done away with thorough legislation but we have to act to see in reality as to whether Inspector Raj has been abolished or not. I am also sharing the concern of my colleague that the onus of the quality of water should not be put on the user because it is supplied by various municipalities, Jal Boards, etc.

In the amendment No. 44, it is stated:

"(iii) send the remaining part for analysis to an accredited laboratory, if so requested by the food business operator, under intimation to the Designated Officer:

Provided that if the test reports received under sub-clauses (i) and (ii) are found to be at variance, then the Designated Officer shall send one part of the sample kept in his custody, to referral laboratory for analysis..."

There is a referral laboratory and the accredited laboratory. There is existence of two kinds of laboratories, where, the Bill says that the decision of referral laboratory shall be final. I think, here, the decision should be left to the adjudicating officer.

We know that under the Telecom Ministry, there is a regulatory regime—Telecom Regulatory Authority of India. Food Processing Industries has a dedicated Ministry. Hence, I would request the Government to empower the dedicated Food Processing Industries Ministry to administer the Act.

Last but not be least, I would say that India is a land of milk and honey; India is a land where Muslim brethren pray to the Lord for bread; and India is a land where food and salvation are revered in the Last Supper. Therefore, we are all concerned with the quality of food but that quality of food is provided to the millions who are left with no alternative but to consume the food provided by the traders, who are not concerned with the quality of food.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura-West): Thank you, Sir. This is an important Bill as far as generation of employment, production of fruits and vegetables, food processing industries, etc. are concerned.

At the outset, I would like to say that at present there are a plethora of laws on food and its operations which lead to a lot of confusion in the minds of consumers, traders, investors and manufacturers. A number of Ministries like the Health and Family Welfare, Food Processing Industries, Agriculture, Commerce, Food and Consumer Affairs, etc. administer the laws.

A need was, therefore, felt for integration of all such laws for giving a boost to the food processing industries and regulating the quality of food. But the Bill, as originally introduced, was tilted in favour of the big food operators

[Shri Khagen Das]

and contained several loopholes. The Standing Committee on Agriculture, to which the Bill was referred to, had made several recommendations in its Report presented to the House on 21st February, 2006. A majority of the recommendations made by the Committee has been accepted by the Government and some of the shortcomings have now been addressed to by the proposed amendments.

I would like to highlight some of the major shortcomings as observed in the original Bill. Firstly, pesticides and other contaminants were not included in the definition of 'unsafe good', that is under clause 3(i)(zz). The Government has since included this in the definition. Secondly, adequate representation was not given to food technologists, farmers, retailer organizations and particularly women on the proposed Food Safety and Standards Authority, that is under clause-5. The Government has also rectified it by giving representation to these categories and also agreed to give one-third representation to women on the Authority by bringing in an amendment. The third important one is that the poor uneducated farmers who were also proposed to be brought under the provisions of the Bill, would not have been able to comprehend the complicated provisions of the Bill nor be able to meet the stringent standards prescribed under the Act. The Committee had, therefore, recommended that the farmers and fishermen should be exempted from the provisions of the Bill, that is under clause 18. The Government has realized the implications and has now brought an amendment to exempt farmers and fishermen from the stringent provisions of the Bill.

The next and the most important provision is that the petty manufacturer, retailer, hawker, vendor, etc. were also equated at par with the big food operators and required to obtain licence and follow the provisions of the Bill, that is under clause 18. How could the petty hawkers and vendors be equated with the big operators?

However, the Government has now exempted the petty manufacturers, hawkers, vendors, etc. from obtaining licence. They are however required to take only registration. My proposal is that in the case of registration, a provision should be made that they will only register their names to the respective panchayat and other similar elected local bodies. If they have to go for registration to any other organisation, then they may find difficulties and they may also be harassed.

There are some important issues which have not been addressed and for which I have given amendments.

The first one is with regard to Clause 6; Selection Committee for selection of Chairperson and Members of the Food Authority.

The Selection Committee is highly bureaucratic in nature. There is no representation of the elected representatives in the Committee. The Standing Committee on Agriculture had recommend that two Members of Parliament should be represented on the Selection Committee and the Chairman of the Selection Committee should not be a bureaucrat but should be the Minister of Food Processing Industry. The Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture has been excluded. My proposal is, the Secretary in charge of the Ministry of Agriculture should also be one of the members of the Selection Committee.

I strongly feel that in addition to the existing members, as proposed, the above recommendations of the Standing Committee should be accepted. They are:

1. The Chairman of the Selection Committee should be the Minister of the Food Processing Industry.
2. The Members of Parliament; one each from the House of People and the Council of States, should also be included in the Selection Committee.
3. The Secretary in-charge of the Ministry of Agriculture should also be included in that Committee.

My second amendment is with regard to Clause 43 regarding Laboratories for testing food samples. There are not enough laboratories under the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for testing food samples. There should be at least one fully equipped food laboratory in each district for proper analysis of the food samples.

The Government has not indicated as to which Ministry should be administering the Act; whether it will be the Ministry of Food Processing Industry or the Ministry of Health. This has to be indicated.

My third amendment is with regard to Clause 66 regarding offences by companies. In the case of offences by Companies, the CEO of the company should be held responsible for any offence under the Act. Why have the CEOs been exempted? In fact, they should be primarily be held responsible for any offence under the Act. The Standing Committee on Food had recommended that the second proviso to Clause 66(1) should be deleted as

this will enable them to go scot-free. However, the Government has not undertaken any action on this which virtually means protection of the CEOs, that is the operators of the big companies. I would request the Government that the second proviso to Clause 66 should be dropped.

My fourth amendment is with regard to Clause 3(1)(zr). I would like to point out that a lot of sale is also done through vending machines in big cities.

I strongly feel that vending machinery should also be included in the definition of 'sale'. I hope the Government will consider my proposals and amendments.

With these words, I support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker sir, we are discussing Food Security and Standard Bill 2005 relating to the Ministry of Food Processing. A host of valuable suggestions have been advanced from both treasury and opposition benches. On this issue, I would like to submit the essential commodities being used for daily purposes gain in quality, it would be a good achievement. In a bid to give a fillip to this positive development the sale of adulterated and spurious goods is on its rise due to hoarding and fierce competition in the field of trade and commerce. For the obvious reasons all such laws have been provided.

Sir, I hold the conviction that adulteration is a social crime. Now we are used to the adulterated food. We fail to see the difference between the two. We are not able to identify and spot the difference. All this is in currency these days.

Secondly, the Hon'ble Minister has just submitted that as many as 16 legislations have been put in place to control the quality of food products. When we come to our areas, people belonging to big areas, towns, cities and particularly those hailing from rural areas offer cold drinks in our honour. Does not matter whether the cold drink is bearing ISI mark, it does not occur to me that we are having cold drinks. Its flavour is akin to some *sharbat*. Besides this when we uncork a Bislery water bottle quite often, it's available even after the expiry date. As I just said, a provision of life imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 10 lakh has been made in case of death caused due to adulteration. So, therefore, I rise to strongly support this Bill.

Moreover, when the sampling process takes place, nothing but formality is followed up. I am aware that most of the inspectors receive bribe from the shopkeepers concerned on monthly basis.

Sir, of course, disputed goods are subjected to examination but the essential grounds are hardly examined. We will have to keep this factor also in mind. In the current scenario one will find as much as 75 per cent commodities are adulterated. You may visit streets and slums where you will find people selling Lassi, that cost Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 that's deadly. It causes illness of varied kinds. In the recent past Delhi Police happened to nab a notorious gang of spurious drugs and gutkhas. If such appears to me that a huge amount of adulterated and spurious drugs shall be identified. Only by adopting such measures we can rein-in such illegal acts sooner and later.

Our colleagues was just saying that there is adulteration in milk. Urea and Oxitoxin are mixed in milk which cause the great risk of abortion and importance. I was just going through the report that adulterated biscuits in the name of the glucose and other brands worth rupees 1.25 crore were seized in Punjab. Likewise, I would like to remind the hon'ble Minister that adulteration in mustard oil in the year 1988 had resulted in spread of a disease named 'dropsy' affecting thousands of people and causing death of a large number of people at many places.

The mixing of coal-tar dye in pulses, tea and coffee leads to cancer. It is being done openly. Lead chromite is mixed in turmeric which results in serious diseases like paralysis, anaemia and abortion, etc. Copper salt is mixed in pickle which affects kidney. Rangoli is mixed in salt which causes stomach disease. There is spurious silver coat in sweets also. The quality of ... (Interruptions) Yes, we do eat. You eat and we also eat. If the silver coat used in sweets is spurious, it will cause you cancer. Injections are used in vegetables for their early growth. It is also dangerous to use injection to milk the cows and buffaloes to get more milk and profit. This is also a type of adulteration as we do not get pure milk through this process. Similarly, the sweets contain a material named Metabil Yelova road mill which carries the risk of cancer.

The Bureau of Indian Standards recently raided 30 places where the valid licence i.e. I.S.I. marked products were recovered. These places include Delhi, where the raid was conducted at five locations, in Maharashtra where

[Shri Shailendra Kumar]

the raid was conducted at seven places; in Chandigarh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Haryana raid was conducted at one location each including Madhya Pradesh. Fake materials were recovered from there in a large quantity. I would like to suggest the hon'ble Minister to open at least one centre in every district at village level if we want to improve the agriculture and food structure. There should be an arrangement of laboratory and technicians at the center. Then only, we can recognize the fake and original materials. You collect samples from different places and it takes months to prepare reports. So, it is required to open the centre in every district with an arrangement of laboratory and technicians. If any fake material is traced, it should be examined at least within a week.

With these words, I strongly support this Bill. I believe that the few suggestions being noted by hon'ble Minister through the hon'ble Deputy Speaker, will be implemented. The House also is concerned at this issue. I believe that we will get rid of adulteration with the enactment of this law.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on this important Bill today. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: At first, please trace the papers.

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA: This Bill is related to the lives of the common people. Everyday every person includes food in his daily routine and his life depends on it. Yet, till date there is no stringent law to regulate such an important issue and to govern its quality. It was being felt strongly. In practical life also, if any consumer had come to know about any such thing which was adulterated or fake, he was used to take recourse of a consumer court. There were so many laws that a person always got confused as far as proving the adulterated items in court was concerned. In such a situation, people followed the same system instead of challenging the adulteration of consumer items which were fatal to the people's lives. Therefore, I extend my thanks to the Government for bringing this Bill in the House for consideration.

If we look at the objectives of this Food Safety and Standard Bill, 2005, we will find some discrepancies which needs urgent attention. My colleagues have expressed earlier their views on this Bill. I agree with most of them. Further, I would like to say that people engaged in

unorganized sectors, such as hawkers should also be brought under the ambit of this law. There is a need to have a through reviewing of this sector and to have proper control over them. Testing should be simple and effective. Keeping in view the fact that their livelihood and employment is not affected. I would like to state that there is a strong need to do a lot in this sector. It is required to exercise control over this sector. At the same time, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and hon'ble Minister through you that the Government should pay heed to their means of livelihood and employment.

The point regarding water to be used in production, as has been made by the previous speaker, is totally right because if there is no control on the items to be used therein, there would be no control on the quality of the items produced. Therefore, this shortcoming should be overcome.

If a law is not vigilant about any edible commodity prior to harvesting stage, there is no provision to control the same in the present Act. Whatever pesticides are there, an overdose thereof has been given. Besides, negative effects of the chemical fertilizers have also come to the notice. The residuals of the products remain there even after washing them thoroughly with water, thereby causing adverse affect on the health of common public unknowingly and their life expectancy is decreasing. This has been said. It is a chain. The Government must keep an eye on this aspect that as to how this could be controlled.

Today, we walk about organic food. We get double triple rates of organic products and products made up of bio-food or naturally made products in foreign countries. as to how these could be made more simple so that they are available to common people and people would not play with their health by consuming pesticides only. There is a need to have a control over this so that people would not endanger their health by consuming the chemical fertilizers which are used in increasing the productivity of agriculture. Therefore, there is a need to have a control over this. There is no verdict effect of contamination of spoiled food or by consuming contaminated food. It works like a slow poison. There is a need to do a research work in this field to know the reasons of negative impact of food items. This is a very sensitive bill. There is a need to do comprehensive work in this Department. Therefore, there is a need to further empower the Food Processing Department. For this, they

should coordinate with other departments also, but the main line of authority should be with this Department, so that it could regulate the entire law and could feel its responsibility in this fields. If this department be given the authority, the responsibility will also lie with the same Ministry. This department should be given the responsibility in true sense so that it could implement this law in a very effective manner.

Food chain is also affecting the eco-system. Chemicals, fertilizers and pesticides are being used in a huge quantity. We cannot view them in different context. They are not merely concerned with Chemicals and Fertilizers Department. There is a need of coordination. In place of using chemical, fertilizer and pesticides, organic fertilizers should be used and encouraged. We must compel them for this. A natural trend is being observed today that earth worms and frogs are becoming extinct from the earth. These are considered to be the man friendly organism and they help in reducing the harmful germs and enhancing the natural fertility of the soil. These are reducing in number and we are not sure that the Department of Environment or any other related department has been keeping a close watch on this situation. We should keep a close eye on this and should consider the fact that if these organism will become non existent in the time to come, this would put an adverse effect on our eco-system. Who would eat up those germs which were eaten up by the frogs thereby helping the environment from getting contaminated. This causes a chain imbalance in the eco-system. I would like to say that the way in which eco-system is being imbalanced, the food-system could also become imbalanced likewise on account of that.

I, through you, would like to urge upon the hon'ble Minister that there is a need for intensive analysis and research in all these areas and there is a need to highly empower this department. This department is more important than the Ministry of Home Affairs because such situation will adversely affect the humanity.

With these words, I fully support this Bill and would like to mention through hon'ble House that keeping in view the importance of Bill related to contamination of food and also the spirit of the House, the Government should take a concrete decision in this regard, enact a stringent law, so that there is no economic imbalance in the society and it does not have negative impact on the poor people and better food could be served to the common people.

[*English*].

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill.

We are discussing a very important Bill today. It deals with food, safety and standards. This Bill is of 63 pages and the hon. Minister, after getting the Report from the Standing Committee on Agriculture, has come out with at least 45 numbers of amendments. This clearly demonstrates how much effort has been put in and how much effort needs to be put in.

Today we have heard Shri Avinash Rai Khanna and other Members also, but it clearly demonstrates that there is no clear unanimity relating to this Bill.

I hold a view which is not in support of this Bill because at the outset I would like to mention that the Bill, as was put forth by the hon. Minister today and also when it was initially introduced, looks very innocent, yet it is pregnant with serious repercussions. I will deal with those repercussions for the information of this House.

Sir, though the intention of the Bill is to have a single statute relating to food and to provide for scientific development of the food processing industry about which the Minister said, and to establish a single reference point for all matters relating to food safety and standards by constituting a full regulatory body, still it will have serious repercussions. The Minister has suggested moving from multi-departmental control to a single authority, but some terms in the Bill have not been defined. This will create confusion and require interpretation by the courts in case of disputes.

I will give you the first such instance where there is no definition of a term. In the Preamble as well as in Clause 16(1) of the Bill, there is a reference which says: "safe and wholesome food for human consumption". This has not been defined. Is the water which we drink from the municipal water taps considered to be safe? Then, what is meant by the term "wholesome food" is also not defined. Should we wait for the judgement of the court and then only implement this? So, this term "wholesome food" has not been defined. It should have been defined.

Then, the Bill also mentions a term like "food safety management system". The definition of this food safety

[Shri B. Mahtab]

management system calls for adoption of "good manufacturing practices" which has not been defined again. Then it says "good hygienic practices". This also has not been defined. There is another term called "hazard analysis and critical control point". This is again not defined.

So, if you do not define these terms, the Bill will lead to a number of litigations. A Bill should be clear in definitions. The Government has drafted a 64-pages Bill and it has brought forward another 45 amendments to it, but still the Bill has been drafted in such a manner that one does not understand these terms which are mentioned there. If you go into the detail, you will not understand what it intends to do. That is why I have said that this Bill is pregnant with serious repercussions.

There is another word "contaminant" and it has been defined as "any substance whether or not added to food, but which is present in such food as a result of production, manufacture, processing and preparation".

These are the four stages. Here, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that there is a Codex guideline. The Codex guideline on the other hand defines contaminant as and I quote:

"Any substance not intentionally added to food, which is present in such food as a result of the production."

To make my point very clear, I will just give a very simple example. I will come to that. The omission of the phrase 'not intentionally' from the definition in the Bill could result in such cases. The example, which I wanted to give is that if yeast is added to make bread, it will be termed by some inspectors somewhere as a contaminant and he can be prosecuted. Is the hon. Minister going to correct it? I will request the hon. Minister to look into this aspect. This is a very simple thing. As we know for the last 50 years, how this law has created a number of cases in different courts and everybody is doing according to this sweet will.

No doubt, the Food Safety and Standards Bill consolidates eight laws governing the food sector and establishes the Food Safety and Standards Authority. That is the main purpose of this Bill that was mentioned. To regulate the sector the law will be enforced. By whom? By the State Commissioners of Food Safety and local level officers. Who is going to implement it? It is the local level officials as the food inspectors were doing.

They will be empowered to do it because there is no other mechanism in place. But the key issue, to which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, is the organised as well as unorganised sector. About organised sector many hon. members have mentioned. For organised sector this is all right. But there is a large section in the society who are in the unorganised sector and unorganised food sections are required to follow this food law.

The unorganised sector such as a street vendor will have difficulty in adhering to this law. For example, with regard to specification of ingredients, which is mentioned that one has to specify. Specifications of ingredients, traceability and recall procedures. Will a street vendor do that? How do you expect the street vendors, not only in Delhi but in small towns, who go to the streets and sell some cooked food and earn his living to do this? He will be hounded everyday in the evening and morning because of this Bill.

The Bill does not require any specific standards for potable water. This is usually provided by local authorities, as I have said earlier. Now, it is the responsibility of the person. The onus lies with the person preparing or manufacturing food to ensure that he uses water of adequate quality even when the tap water does not meet the required safety standards even in cities like Delhi.

The Bill excludes plants prior to harvesting and animal feed from its purview. Thus, it does not control the entry of pesticides and anti-biotics into the food at its source, milk for instance. I am giving one instance. You are knowledgeable, you can understand the problem that this Bill is pregnant with. The power to suspend the licence of any food operator is given to a local level officer. This offers scope for harassment and corruption.

It appears that the State Governments will have to bear the cost of implementing the new law. However, the financial memorandum does not estimate the costs. Incidentally, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this Bill keeps the IMS Act out of the purview of the Integrated Food Law. I would like to know whether this new piece of legislation is a threat to the existing law that guarantees all measures to encourage breast-feeding, which is important in checking infant mortality.

This is a very important issue. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister and I expect the Minister to respond to this. Does this Bill involve repealing of the

Infant Milk Food Substitutes, Feeding Bottles and Infant Feeds (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Act, 2003, that is IMS Act 2003? I would like to know whether this has resulted in a lot of anxiety in this country. I would also like to know whether HRD Ministry had raised objections; whether the HRD Minister had written to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. Have you interacted with the HRD Ministry? What is the result thereto? The Malaysia based International Code Documentation Centre, which is known as ICDC, which keeps track of global efforts to implement the international code of marketing of breast milk substitutes, has now raised objection to it. The same organisation had commended this country when IMS Act was amended in 2003. What is their reaction now? This Food Safety and Standards Bill is a general one dealing with all sorts of foods—processed or unprocessed. Only one of the nine operative sections in the IMS Act deals with food standards and this section makes it clear that these standards shall continue to be governed by the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954. An amendment to provide that this will be governed by Food Act stands to be repealed under the new legislation. We would like to know from you about this.

Now I come to the last aspect and the most serious aspect of the Bill which, if not delved into, posterity will not excuse us. The matter deals with Chapter-V and its provisions relating to imports, that is, all imports of articles of food. Here in the Chapter it is mentioned that all imports of articles are to be subjected to this Act. In page 17, Chapter V, Sub-clause (2) of Clause 5 says:

"The Central Government while prohibiting, restricting or otherwise regulating import of article of food under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act 1992, follow the standards laid down by the Food Authority under the provisions of this Act and the rules and regulations made thereunder."

What do the Acts, rules and regulations mean? As far as I understand, I expect the Minister would explain what does this mean and what repercussions it will have on the food sector of this country. When the standard should be enforced by the Commissioners of Food Safety of each State, who will guarantee that there will be uniformity of approach?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will it not lead to a number of litigations? A simple thing is that a law is termed as a good law when it does not lead to a number of litigations. My impression from reading through the fine prints of the Bill is that it will create a large number of litigations through the country in a number of courts. I would just like to give you an example. I am comparing it because we are thinking of going in that line. What has happened in England?

Sir, I am told that in England where local economies have been destroyed, pseudo safety laws prevent little old ladies from selling their homemade cakes in Churches for charity. We are going to implement this law. In India, such laws would criminalise '*annadana*', the *langars* in Gurdwaras, the *zaket* at Mosques and *Darghas* and *Bhandaras* which feed millions of poor people and destitutes.

Sir, I come from a State where lakhs of people are fed everyday in Sri Jagannath Temple. A food inspector is going to determine how that food is going to be cooked, what are the ingredients, the portions and how it has to be manned.

The modern food law should recognize that our country's decentralized food economy enhances nutrition, safety, culture and livelihood. We need laws to protect our diverse local food cultures from the disease causing homogenous, centralized industrial food culture of the West. Do we need food police through pseudo safety standards which serve global business? We need society-led, participatory, democratic systems to enrich our food systems, promote health and nutrition, and guarantee food safety. Let the Government regulate agri business. There is a need for food sovereignty, food freedom.

I oppose this Bill.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, I stand here generally and largely to support this Bill. While I am supporting this Bill, I would like to know from the Minister and seek some clarifications as a lot of doubts and apprehensions are there. already several Members in this august House have expressed their doubts and apprehensions during the discussion.

15.53 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the chair*]

Sir, the organised as well as the unorganised food sectors are required to follow the same food law. It is

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

required. The unorganised sector such as street vendors might have difficulty in adhering to the law. I think, the Minister has agreed to that. Take for example, specification on ingredients and maintaining the procedures. So, how would you address the problems?

In many countries like the U.S., Japan and Malaysia, food safety is governed by the Ministry of Health. In our country, the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act was also being implemented by the Health Ministry. However, the Food Safety and Standards Bill, 2005 was drafted by the Ministry of Food Processing Industry, whose main objective is to promote and monitor the food processing industry.

Is there a risk that the Bill might be drafted to favour the processed food sector at the cost of negatively impacting the largely unorganised food vendors in the country? From the point of view of consumers, it is better to define stringent standards for all sectors of food vendors even if a vast majority will not be able to adhere to the law? Is there a middle ground between consumer food safety and food standards for various categories of food processors?

Sir, the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill states that 'the main objective of the Bill is to provide for a systematic and scientific development of the food processing industry'. It is all right. It further says that 'however, the duties of the Food Safety and Standards Authority (FSSA) appear to mainly ensure compliance of safety standards.'

In this context, my question is this. Should there be a greater thrust towards development of the food processing industry? For instance, if a manufacturer or distributor falls short of specified standards, should the FSSA attempt to improve his systems to achieve the requisite level before initiating penal action? It is a very important question. I hope, the Minister would respond to it.

I have some other questions. Is there a need to make registration or licences a compulsory requirement for everyone in the food sector including the unorganised sector? Is it compulsory? If yes, does the Bill adequately and realistically address the problems of monitoring such operators? If not, what would be the mechanism to ensure that the consumer gets safe food?

Sir, the Food Safety and Standard Bill mentions, and I quote: "

"It is hereby declared that it is expedient in the public interest that the Union should take, under its control, the food industry."

Is there a particular reason for using the word 'control'? What does the 'control' mean here?

The purpose of the Bill is to bring out a single Statute relating to food. To this end, the Bill has repealed eight food related laws. It has proposed to set up the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, which would fix the standards and regulate the manufacturing, import, processing, distribution and sale of food in the country.

So, more questions arise here. Should all members be whole-time members, and not-ex-officio members, so that they have sufficient time available for the Authority? Should the members be required to have a scientific/technical background and experience? Given the wide scope of food processing industries covered by the Bill, should there be a higher representation of industry drawn from a cross-section of these sub-areas? What is the fair balance between the civil servants and other stakeholders in the Authority? How would you apportion the membership of 18 across the various stakeholders?

Sir, it is already mentioned by the hon. Members, Shri Mahtab that it does not include potable water. Why does it not include potable water?

The Bill defines primary food as "an article of food, being a produce of agriculture of horticulture or animal husbandry and dairying or aquaculture in its natural form, resulting from the growing, raising, cultivation, picking, harvesting, collection or catching in the hands of a person other than a farmer."

Are there any other laws which monitor and regulate inputs at the farm level?

16.00 hrs.

Would it be feasible for the concerned authorities to check contamination in primary food without having the power to monitor the farmers as the product can only be traced at the *mandi* level at best? Would a retailer, a vegetable vendor be held accountable if the vegetable contains pesticides above the specified norms?

Then, the Bill prescribes a set of graded penalties for offences like mis-branding, sub-standard food or misleading advertisements. The penalty is a fine. What would be the impact of change in the penalty levels? The designated officer has the power to accept from petty manufacturers, hawkers and vendors a fine of up to Rs. 1 lakh in case of violations. He also has the power to issue licences to businesses. But the designated officers are of the rank of at least Sub Divisional Officers, the SDO.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: I am coming to the end. Would an SDO have the requisite technical knowledge? Do all the SDOs have the requisite knowledge to establish whether the business is following all the regulations that are prescribed in the Act?

This Bill provides safeguards for consumers with a provision for Food Recall Procedure. It is good. Should the Bill also provide for consumers who have already bought the product to be informed in case of food has been recalled? So, apparently, it is a good Bill. It is a very good legislation. But all these doubts are there. All these apprehensions are there. They are very important. It is known to us that the small businessmen and the street hawkers are all there. So, how would you cover all of them?

My last point is that the State is also there. I would like to know that before this Bill is brought in this august House, whether the State Governments have been consulted or not. So, this is a very important thing but nothing has been stated here. So, this has to be replied here. I have raised all these points. Though I have raised all these apprehensions, I am supporting this Bill. I think the Minister will satisfy us.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are discussing a very important Bill concerning food safety and standards. I stand here to oppose the Bill as this Bill supports the multinational companies. It does not assist the unorganised sector, the *aam aadmi* with which the UPA Government came to power. When they fought the general elections, they said they are for the *aam aadmi*. This Bill supports the multinational companies. It does not help the petty individuals and the hawkers.

But at this moment I must also mention that we need good food products. There should not be any adulteration in food. Food should be hygienic. It should be pesticide free and the food product should have gone through a hazard analysis process.

Our farmers work very hard day in and day out along with our fishermen and along with persons who are having dairy. Everyone works hard to produce the raw materials and then going for processed food products.

But, Sir, I must mention at this stage that the Bill defines primary food as "an article of food being a produce of agriculture or horticulture or animal husbandry and dairying or agriculture in natural form". The food produced is produced by the farmer and taken to the processor, the industrialist. At this stage I must say that we must also look at the contamination of the food product. Nothing is mentioned regarding what does the person who produces a food item in a local village do if the food item is already contaminated at production level. What is the traceability aspect of it? When you go to big food fairs like ANUGA, the general section of people from around the world are talking about traceability. Traceability is the new *funda* in food products and we must use all methods to remove any pesticide within the food product. How do we do that? Where do we do the tests? Let me go further. A very good suggestion has been made by an hon. Member here of vermiculture, of using vermiculture food. But what is the Government doing regarding vermiculture production?

Now, let me speak on two aspects. Who is enforcing the Bill for us? Who is the authority for the Bill? The person who is enforcing the Bill is the Sub-Divisional Officer. Is the SDO that way competent enough? Does he know the food law? Is he acquainted with the structure of food processing? Have you given him training? Where are the training centres? Are you having any backup with the Ministry of Human Resource Development for training of the Sub-Divisional Office members and Panchayat members? Have you thought about that? Have you made plans and funding for that? If so, when?

We go forward from that. As mentioned by my previous speaker, countries like the US, Japan and Malaysia have food processing under the Ministry of Health. In India also the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act is under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Are we discussing with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare? Are we working with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare?

[Shri Dushyant Singh]

Now, you have created a Food Authority under this Act. It is a central hegemony.

[Translation]

It is your regime and your courts. You can do which you like and it will become a government policy, you have constituted an authority consisting 22-members. You have included Agricultural Ministry, Commerce Ministry, Consumer Affairs Ministry Food Processing Ministry and Ministry of Health.

[English]

Like this you have included 22 members from various Ministries. I must say that you repeal eight laws to get into this system. In this august House, in the Budget speech of this year you have said the food-processing sector is a priority sector. I must get your information back to 1988 when the food processing sector was a priority sector then also. I go back to the recommendation made in the Twelfth Report of the Standing Committee. In 1988 and since then, it has been recently mentioned that only 2.2 per cent of the fruits are processed.

[Translation]

Fruits are processed 33% milk and 21 percent meat is processed. An hon'ble member was saying that there is no checks and balance on cattle feed and poultry feed.

[English]

You must take look at that. Six per cent of poultry is also processed. We are lacking cold storage and the backward linkages. What are we doing for that? Agreed that in today's world we have adopted to western food cultures.

But we also have our own traditional food culture, and we must support our traditional food culture.

An example of the State of Uttar Pradesh was mentioned in the Standing Committee Report. It states that there are four test laboratory centres in a big State like Uttar Pradesh. We need to have more test laboratory centres.

I must say that I have become acquainted with a lot of foreign visitors either by travelling abroad or by travelling with them with India also. These foreign visitors go to the *dhabas* and small shops, and they have become

acquainted with the fact that the food provided at *dhabas* is good. Actually, they cherish the food at the *dhabas* because it is authentic, hygienic, and clean. Sometimes you might go to a big hotel and find things lying in your dish, which are not up to the mark. Therefore, you might end up sending the food back. I would like to say that you must support the common man or the *dhabhawalas* also. I would also like to add that we must look at the contamination caused by harmful pesticides and come forward with effective measures to curb it.

The hon. Finance Minister had made a remark here as to how he cares for the '*aam aadmi*' or the common man. He had said that: "We are going to give a big budgetary support for this sector." In the 12th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture it is said that: "The Government funding for the food processing sector has been reduced compared to other Ministries." Why have you taken this step?

I would like to mention that we must have more food parks. I believe that every State should have a food park. You have given a food park to the State of Jammu & Kashmir, which is a backward State according to you. I admire this step taken by you. But how can a person go to Jammu & Kashmir to package his food or use the packaging centres there? How do you plan to improve his food products? Where is his product development process taking place? What is the process for doing it? You have not mentioned anything about these issues.

How are we going to help the small and medium players within the industry of our country, and the small persons within the system? How do you plan to liberalise the food parks? Have you discussed this issue with your counterpart States or are you following an appeasement policy only for the States that belong to you?

[Translation]

Will you give work to the people only in the state where your party is in power or in other states also where work is not available? You have done a good work in South India by providing rice to the poor people but you should also implement this scheme in our state as well as other states but neither you implemented this scheme there nor even paid a visit. I request you that there is large number of poor people in our state. The poor have brought us here by voting in favour of us. The members of your party were saying that we discriminate and now we are reduced to a minority. I intend to say that BJP

belongs to all the 36 castes. We have love and affection for all. I wish that we should all come together with a sense of love and concern for all and work for our region and our country India.

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): May God make everyone as poor as Dushyant Singh. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: The people who have voted in favour of us are poor farmers. You need to feel our plight. ...(*Interruptions*)

(*English*)

SHRI K.S. RAO (Eluru): Sir, I am happy that the hon. Minister has brought a substantial Bill, which was earlier dealt by at least 12 laws. Similarly, the issue of food is being dealt with by not less than 12 Ministries. Therefore, to integrate all that into a comprehensive and consolidate Bill is always welcome.

Changing from a regulatory regime to self-compliance is what is desired today. In this context, I wish to speak just one sentence about what my hon. friend from the BJP, Shri Dushyant Singh, said. He said that this Bill has been brought by the UPA Government, which won the elections in the name of *aam admi*, and he was saying that this Bill is intended for multinationals. It is totally contradictory and let me explain the reasons. This Bill provides such a big punishment to those who commit the mistake. Clause 59(3) says:

"Where such failure or contravention results in grievous injury, with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six years (which punishment hitherto was not there anywhere) and also with a fine which may extend to Rs. 5 lakh."

It is not limited to money only; there is the threat of imprisonment for six years. Sub-clause (4) says:

"Where such failure or contravention results in death, with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than seven years but which may extend to imprisonment for life."

If it were to be for the sake of multinationals, such a drastic punishment would not have been envisaged. Obviously, it clearly indicates that it is against the multinationals which commit mistakes, and the punishment is so drastic, no multinational can ever think in terms of

committing a blunder which causes death to the consumer. So, the apprehension that this UPA Government which has won in the name of *aam admi* is now bringing a legislation is incorrect. It is possibly in his imagination that he wanted to put it that this Government is only for the multinationals.

Coming to the Bill, we all know that these days the usage of processed foods has gone up substantially high, right from baby food to fast foods. Now, at a time, when women are also being employed in substantially large number, unlike in the past, today, many of the families are taking cooked and finished food from the market, and they are also even storing it in their houses for days together. Naturally, the need for regulating the quality of food has gone up. This is appropriate time for the Bill to come up. The only thing I will say, though I belong to the ruling Party, is that bringing a Bill is one thing and effectively implementing it is another thing. We must concentrate more on the effective implementation of the Bill and the clauses. If some of the companies or individuals, who commit mistakes, were punished mercilessly, then the purpose of the Bill will be served and our objective will be achieved.

Sir, a lot of provisions have been made in this Bill; it covered many things extensively. The food that has to be prepared on scientific standards to prevent adulteration, storage facilities, etc., will all be regulated. In case of perishable food items—maybe, at the time of making it is in good condition, but with the storage, it may become a harmful substance—it is also being controlled by this legislation.

Unfortunately, in some of the food making industries, we find that for the sake of appearance and colour of the food and also taste of the food, additives are being added, though it is harmful to the health. For the sake of marketing that product, some industries and manufacturers are adding harmful additives. This Bill controls the additives like chemicals, colours and many other things also. This Bill has taken care of all that.

The penalties also are graded. It is not left to the imagination of a judiciary, a judge on an Appellate Tribunal. It is very clear as to for what kind of offence what punishment is to be given whether it is in terms of money or in terms of jail. There also there is clarity. This was not done earlier in several of the Bills that were brought.

[Shri K.S. Rao]

I am happy that farmers, fishermen, etc., are exempted from these punishments. That is taken care of because the unfortunate farmers who are not aware of scientific methods and doing things in a routine way should not be punished if something happens by chance. This was taken care of and I am happy about it.

The problem today in the country is not only the misdeeds of the business community or the manufacturers but also corruption by officers who are meant to prevent all such things. Unless that is checked we will not be in a position to achieve our targets. I am with him with regard to the huge punishments given for the people who have committed mistakes, manufacturers or food makers. But at the same time, there must be a threat on officers who are likely to harass tomorrow.

The powers that are given to the officers are such where they can regularly harass and make tonnes of money from the innocent manufacturers who also do things in a right way. I am happy that you have made some provisions. It is said that the Food Safety Officer who makes out a wrong case deserves punishment. But what is the punishment? The maximum amount of penalty is Rs. 25,000. Under the law of probability, he can always take risk and go on harassing the people. At any time if he were to be found, or if some courageous businessman or somebody were to make a complaint, the maximum punishment of penalty he takes is only Rs. 25,000. So, when you have provided imprisonment to the manufacturer or the trader, let us also provide imprisonment to the officer who makes out a wrong case. If you do that, tomorrow he will not resort to such cases and he will make only genuine cases. Please think of it. Even if you do not make it today, please think about it out of your experience tomorrow. Punishment to the corrupt officers who harass people and make money also should be substantial.

As regards the different stages, both in the case of officers and the panels, you have provided Food Safety Standards Authority of India, Central Advisory Committee, Scientific Committees, Commissioners of Food Safety, Designated officers and so many other categories. It is good. At least at some level an honest officer can prevent bad things. Similarly, you have provided the jurisdiction also not at one stage but at different stages.

If the Food Safety Officer books a case, he cannot book it without giving an improvement notice. It is a good thing that you have provided. If the man who is making

a mistake does not respond even to the improvement notice, then only he comes under punishment. He deserves punishment if he is not ready to improve. Even then, if any corrupt officer who makes out a wrong case, there is an Adjudication Officer, there is Food Safety Appellate Tribunal, and over that or in its place the State Commissioner of Food Safety, and above that if it is a case of imprisonment, Special Courts and finally High Courts. So, I am happy that you provided checks and counterchecks at different stages. It is very good.

It is very unfortunate that value addition to the agricultural products is not going on in a very big way. The hon. Minister has to think in an innovative way as to how we can compete with the developed nations where the value addition is going on in a substantial manner in the rural areas itself by which the farmer also will get a remunerative price. That is because there is value addition taking place in his own area which will help him. The consumer also gets the item at a reasonable price.

That way the food processing industry has to be encouraged in a big way by providing substantial loan facilities with lesser rate of interest. We cannot put the food processing industry on par with the major industries. We must make arrangement to see that food processing industries are encouraged with either subsidy or lesser rate of interest and by giving them protection, including marketing facilities. In this way, we can also increase rural employment and curb the rural migration to urban areas. Many things can be achieved. Today, we find *Jhuggi Jhonpdies* in large numbers in the urban areas. It is so because people living in rural areas are not getting any employment in the rural areas. They migrate to urban areas with the hope that they get employment in the urban areas. This has resulted in many problems, including the law and order problem. Under these circumstances, your encouraging food processing industries through this Bill would be a good event.

The hon. Minister himself has stated that we are losing at least Rs. 50 crore worth of fruits and vegetables as they are getting perished over a period for want of good storage facilities. We have to take care of this issue. Sometime back we heard that the then Delhi Government had lost the elections only because of increase in prices of onions. If they were in a position to store it, such a situation might not have happened then. Hence, we have to take some precautions on this issue also. Common man is affected because of these small things. We have to keep check on the prices of vegetables and common

and routine fruits to control inflation. All these things, including storage facilities, are required.

I would request the hon. Minister to take special care of the small vendors because we cannot punish them. There are umpteen number of people living in villages and indulge in small vending business. Why are we opposing big malls today? We are opposing because we are worried about these people who would become unemployed. Hence, let this Bill come to the rescue of hawkers, small vendors and temporary small traders of the villages.

The hon. Minister himself stated and we all know that the quality labs are not available in the rural areas. Hence, we must concentrate on providing quality labs in the vicinity and in the rural areas of the country.

Lastly, I would request the Minister to concentrate later—not thinking that the job is over by introducing the Bill and getting it passed in Parliament—on monitoring as to how this Bill is being implemented and as to what are the repercussions and as to what are the problems and come with an amendment later, without any hesitation.

With these few points, I support this Bill.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Sir, I rise to support this Bill presented by the hon. Minister for Food Processing Industries. In my view, this is a well thought out and a timely Bill with laudable objectives in the present context of food industries and the scenario of globalisation.

There are many merits in the Bill than limitations. Therefore, I find that it would be appropriate to accept this Bill with little modifications. Now, the significance of the Bill can be understood if only we know the background in which the food industry of India is growing today. You know, Sir, the Government of India, especially the UPA Government, is interested in ensuring food security of the people. But what kind of food should be given to them? It should be qualitative; it should be safe food; and it should be highly hygienic food.

Today, there is a metamorphic change in the food industry with the rising urbanisation, with the rising incomes of the people and with the rising trends of globalisation. We find that a large number of changes are coming up; a large number of small scale industries, medium scale industries and even cottage industries are entering into the fray of the food industry. Most of these

industries are not aware of many of the safety regulations which must be observed by them. They just enter, produce something, and dispose it in the market. A large number of people who are involved in this business are not aware of many of the rules which are required to ensure qualitative food. Therefore, it is necessary that we ensure that these people are aware of.

According to a survey made by a certification company, 36 per cent of food business in the country do not have a safety management system in place, 52 per cent of them have not heard of hazard analysis and critical control points and only 38 per cent of the people believed that they would be responsible to develop food safety management system. This is a very sad situation in a country which happens to be the second largest producer of food products in the world and where the value addition to raw materials of food items is much lesser when compared to smaller countries like Malaysia, Singapore and others.

Therefore, we will have to look into the situation where the food industry is suffering on account of lack of safety and lack of quality and is in a situation where we have multiplicity of laws. There is no dearth of laws as far as the governance of the food materials in the country is concerned. We have Food Adulteration Act; we have the Essential Commodities Act; and there are eight more laws which are governing this. But more the laws, more the confusion. We are not able to understand; the producer is not able to understand; the consumer is not able to understand; the traders are not able to understand and therefore, all those who are concerned in this field are not aware of all these issues because of lot of confusion.

Therefore, there is an imperative need that all the existing laws must be integrated into one food law and that integrated food law must be implemented not by a variety of authorities in the Government of India as well as in the State Governments; we need a Centralized Authority. Therefore, today in the changing scenario of globalization where WTO insists on quality food, standardized food and where the people of India also expect standardized food, there is a need for two things—one is that we must have an integrated law and second is that there is a need for a Central Authority which would be able to implement this law.

This Bill has to be appreciated only in the context of these two imperatives or these two necessities. This Bill

[Prof. M. Ramdass]

satisfies these two objectives which are required. Therefore, there can be no better timing of this Bill than today and hence, I support this Bill.

This Bill, apart from this, has a number of advantages—more of merits than of demerits, as I told you. This Bill would update all the existing laws in the country. It will help the industry to set up food safety management system in place. It will cover the entire food chain with special attention to food quality, food-related diseases, impact of processing techniques, etc. The Central Authority would lay down guidelines and set up safety standards. The Bill incorporates the provisions of international legislations so as to conform to the WTO regime, etc. It will also formulate mechanisms and guidelines for the accreditation bodies engaged in the certification of food managing system. Above all, it will lead to scientific development of food industry. This is the brighter side of the Bill.

But on the other hand, when you look into the various provisions of the Bill, I feel that the Bill has to be modified in certain respects. The first thing is this. The very preamble of the Bill talks about availability of safe and wholesome food. But what is safe and wholesome food? It has not been explained in the Definition Clause. That has to be taken note of. The second thing is that under the definition of food, you are excluding animal feed, live animals, plant prior to harvesting, potable water supplied by the municipalities, etc. All the food contents have water component. This water component is provided by the local authorities. Under the item of food, this is not made known or is not made explicit. Therefore, there is a possibility that a man who uses the municipal water will be held responsible, if it is not qualitative; but the municipal authorities which are providing this will not be taken to task. Therefore, definition of food must explicitly make a mention that it includes potable water provided by the municipal authorities or the local authorities.

I will take two more minutes and then conclude.

Coping to the composition of the Council, the Food Safety and Standard Authority of India, the Government has given nominations to seven Ministries but one very important Ministry has been left out, that is the Ministry of Agro-Industries. The Ministry of Agro-Industries is an important Ministry which is contributing its raw material to food industry. The Government has included the representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture, Commerce, Consumer Affairs, Food Processing, Health, Legislative

Affairs, Small Scale Industry but why a representative from the Ministry of Agro Industries has not been included? He could have been included.

This is a very technical subject. The food preparation includes a lot of scientific laws, scientific testing, laboratory techniques, etc. but among the 19 persons in the Committee, there is a provision for only one technically qualified person. A Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture may or may not know the safety standards for food. A Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs or Food Processing may or may not know the essential guidelines of the food processing industry but an eminent food scientist will know that. So, out of 18 why is it that the Government has given only one representation to the eminent person? You do not want the Committee to be technical. You do not want well-known suggestions from the technical people in the Committee. I would feel that at least five members drawn from different areas of the food industry, food science and technology should be included in the Committee. This a major omission and if it is not included, the Committee would be more bureaucratic and it would not be able to come up with any positive suggestion and it would not improve the quality or any of these things. Therefore, we should give favour to a scientific person and not to a bureaucrat.

A mention has been made about the Selection Committee. How it is going to select the Chairman or how it is going to select other 18 members is not mentioned in the Bill. It has only been mentioned that the Selection Committee will recommend the Chairman and other members of the Committee. If the Committee is going to recommend somebody, the Committee should be called as the Search Committee and not the Selection Committee. If it is a Selection Committee, then you must lay down the process of selection; that it will be openly advertised, the qualified persons will submit their applications and based on the credentials of the persons you will recommend. Unless you mention the process of selection, you do not call it as the Selection Committee but call it only as a Search Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Sir, I have two more points.

The licensing and registration process would be very very difficult to implement. As our learned friend from the Congress Party has said, that all Bills can be easily

enforced and implemented with regard to the organised industry where you have a licensing system already permitted and where the people know about regulations and everything. But how do you expect thousands of people, hawkers, street vendors, and small shop owners to know all these procedures? Therefore, implementation with respect to licensing and registration can be phased out over a period of three years. In fact, I would say that all the provisions of this Bill could be easily applicable only to the organised sector and the unorganised sector would not be able to satisfy any of these provisions. Either you want to kill the unorganised sector through this Bill or you want to relax the norms and conditions so that the unorganised people, who are the backbone of this Government, the backbone of this country and the backbone of employment, survive. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude, Shri Chandrabhan Singh.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: With regard to penalty, it is being said that a minimum of Rs. 1 lakh should be the penalty. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Ramadass, I have called the next speaker. Please conclude.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: How many small business people, street vendors or food sellers would be able to pay Rs. 1 lakh as penalty? The maximum penalty for a multinational company. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not to be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chandrabhan Singh. Nothing will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is going on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing is being recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH (Damoh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity

to speak on the Food Safety and Standard Bill, 2005. I oppose this bill on behalf of my party and being a member of the Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs. The manner in which search is to be conducted as provided in this bill is totally incorrect. There is no clear cut mention of the quantity of the sample to be taken by the officers under the sampling provision. Thus the quality of a material can not be truly identified.

Secondly, there is a mention of fine under clause 69 of the bill under which the officers can impose fine ranging from nil to 1 lakh rupees. This provision will create scope for the officers to blackmail the traders, threaten them to impose fine and later conspiring with them to reduce the same fine of 1 lakh rupees to one or two percent and pocketing the rest of money which will encourage corruption. Thus the Government will have to incur loss of amount of fine and revenue and the traders will be encouraged to sell the adulterated materials. A provision should have been made to impose fine on the basis of the cost of the quantity under this clause so that its far reaching results could be achieved properly.

I oppose this bill on behalf of my party.

[*English*]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, this is a very exhaustive Bill. It is evident from the Schedule itself that the Food Adulteration Act, 1954 as well as six other statutory orders would be repealed as a result of passing of this Bill.

Now as a lawyer, I was very conversant with the implementation of the Food Adulteration Act. In the implementation of this Act, the most important thing for the prosecution is to prove the liability. Fixing the liability is the most important point. When a case is registered under the Food Adulteration Act, a Food Inspector will go to some institution, take samples, send them to the laboratory, get a certificate and then the case will come up in the court. The court will find that the liability has not been fixed by the prosecutor. This is the outcome. With the result, hundreds of persons have been acquitted for the simple reason that there is technical difficulty with regard to proving the guilt of the accused in matters of adulteration. Now it is a common knowledge that adulteration has become a national issue. This has become the order of the day. When we enter into an area of global trade, it is likely to become an international

*Not recorded.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

issue. The international level adulteration will have to be researched.

Now we are entering into the age of global trade. Chapter-V of this Bill is very pertinent in this matter. There is only one Section in Chapter-V allowing import of food materials in India. Previously our food items were prepared in our home kitchens.

Now, many of the food items being prepared at home would be prepared either in America or in Australia or in some far off countries. Those will be imported through this process. For this purpose, they want a national standards to be fixed.

Sir, I may draw your kind attention to Chapter-V of this Bill. This is in Section 25. Anybody can import any food material in India. The only restriction in this regard is enumerated in section 25 of Chapter-V in the Bill. I would like to quote that Section here.

"The Central Government shall, while prohibiting, restricting or otherwise regulating import of article of food under the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992, follow the standards laid down by the Food Authority under the provisions of this Act and the rules and regulations made thereunder."

This is the only Section which deals with restrictions of import of food materials from abroad. What is the security? We are in an era of globalisation and commercialisation. Profit motive is the only ulterior motive now. That is the most important thing. In that sense it is not easy, it is not safe. Who is responsible for any kind of adulteration of imported foods in India? The manufacturers and producers would easily escape. Fixing responsibility would be a very difficult process in the matter of imported food.

There is a criticism that the Bill is intended to benefit the global traders and the Multinational Companies. India produces one of the finest foods in the world. China is only next to India. In the matter of food production we do not need the help of others. Indians produce very tasty foods. Why should we go for import of food items? This will allow imported foods flood our domestic market without any restrictions. There can be no prosecution. Responsibility cannot be fixed on anyone. Nobody could be made liable for any adulteration. For that, the law is very defective. That is one point.

The definition of food, as given in the Bill, is very vague. No liability can be fixed on anyone when you take the definition of food. For preparation of food, water is one of the major ingredients as given in the definition. Water is an essential ingredient for preparation of food. Now, who is liable for supply of water? Would the concerned municipalities take the responsibility? Would the Department of Water Resources take any liability for supply of pure water? Which authority would give the guarantee for supply of clean and pure water? In the absence of such a guarantee by any authority and water being an essential ingredient of any food preparation, any case of adulteration of food against any producer or manufacturer will not hold water and it would be dismissed right away. So, the definition of food in the Act is very vague. So, there are chances for people who are committing food adulteration to escape the law. That is another important point I would like to submit for the consideration of the hon. Minister.

I would here like to give an example in support of my contention. In a marriage party or in a tea party hosted by some one at home, the ingredients are purchased from the market and then we prepare the food at home. Now, in the event of something going wrong with the prepared food, the person who prepared the food would be prosecuted and sent to jail. In case of a tea party at some one's house, he or she would purchase food items from outside and in the event of some guests falling sick by consuming those food articles, the persons who arranged for the tea party would be prosecuted and sent to jail.

How can we fix up the responsibility? Catering service is also included in the definition. It is a highly dangerous aspect. That may be taken into consideration. Do not put somebody into jail for no fault of his. When we conduct a marriage party or evening tea, we use several materials. We do not cultivate them in our gardens and we do not produce the materials on our own. We purchase the materials from the market. There is no guarantee that we are given unadulterated materials. We prepare food with those materials. The net result is that we will be sent to jail. That is a very dangerous thing. Liability can never be fixed under the provisions of this statute. The Prevention of food Adulteration Act was very severe. Even then people escaped. Acquittal was the order of the day. I am telling you this from my fifty years of experience.

This statute is indefinite in many ways. The real culprits will escape. Implementation of this statute is the

most important thing. The Standing Committee has recommended that there shall be a laboratory in every district. There must be a full-fledged laboratory in every district for testing purposes. Is it possible? Is it possible to have it in any State in India? Then, how are you going to implement this statute? For testing purposes, the samples will have to be sent to capital cities like Delhi, Mumbai, or Chennai. Otherwise, they will have to be sent to State Capitals for testing and getting the analysis report. The result is that it is impossible for the Central Government and the State Governments to implement the provisions of this Bill. The most important thing is testing. We do not have the apparatus and we do not have sufficient laboratories. The State Governments are handicapped due to lack of funds. They may not be able to provide a laboratory in each and every district, without which it will be difficult to implement this statute. So, please take all the aspects into consideration.

The idea is good, but the implementation is going to be very difficult. You must realise that the State Governments are not in a position to provide laboratories in every district. ...(*Interruptions*)

We purchase vegetables in the market. For cultivating vegetables, they use a lot of chemicals and fertilizers. Consuming those vegetables is injurious to health. But how can we prevent it? These are some of the difficulties. That is also included in the definition of food. That is why I am referring to that.

So, considering these aspects, I think, in the very near future, the Government will have to come before this House for a drastic change in the Bill that is now placed before this House. The matters of prosecution, evidence and fixing liability will have to be dealt with by an amendment. The idea is good because multiplicity of legal procedure is not a good thing.

I would request the hon. Minister to consider all these aspects and come prepared with an amendment, may be in the next Session. With these words I conclude.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I seek your permission for speaking from this seat.

Sir, through you, I extend my heartiest congratulations to the hon'ble Minister and the Government for moving the Food Safety and Standards Bill, 2005 in the House.

The Bill says:

[*English*]

"That the Bill to consolidate the laws relating to food and to establish the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import, to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration".

[*Translation*]

The hon'ble Minister really deserves praise for this. But I associate myself with the views just expressed by my predecessors and experienced member of the House hon'ble Radha Krishnanji and Rao Sahib that certain points are needed to be considered by the Government and certain amendments are required to be made in the articles of the bill moved here by you. The time is short, so I will not go in detail, but the point I would like to make is that there should be centers at district level which are equipped with laboratories and manned by officers and inspectors and wherever any food adulteration is detected or any defect is found in any food article or drinks, the safety and preservation of such articles is very essential.

Now, I come to medicines. Often, we hear on TV and read in newspapers about the incidents of supply of spurious medicines. Such medicines consumed by the patient for his recuperation may sometimes cause his death. Such incidents do not occur only at small places, there was a news in the newspapers the other day and I also had heard that many patients lost their life because of the supply of defective or adulterated glucose in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. You have to keep in mind that this trend is not restricted to only rural areas or small cities.

Our hon'ble Member was just stating that urea milk is being sold in the market openly and I think that the hon'ble Members of the House will agree with me that how much harmful the urea milk is. I have also expressed my views on this issue in the House earlier. You just imagine that small kids that do not suckle mother's milk and mother have to buy milk from the market for them that results in slow poisoning.

[Kunwar Manvendra Singh]

17.00 hrs.

Here too, we have booths of that milk. In Delhi we procure milk from Delhi Milk Scheme and we too are not untouched from it because centers of that milk is in villages where adulterated milk is prepared and is then sold in the open market. However, it's regrettable that neither the State Government nor the Union Government have paid any attention to this issue. Even no raid has been conducted for enquiry into this issue. This adulterated urea milk is being sold at the district level. Neither the District Collector pays any attention to it nor the Inspector of Food Supplies checks it. In this way a few people sell this slow poison in the form of adulterated milk throughout the society at large in an uninterrupted way. So is the case with sweet meats. Most of the sweets are prepared from milk and the same quality of milk is used in its preparation that contains chemicals. On the occasion of Deepawali last year we heard that hundreds of children had fallen ill having consumed such sweet meats and a lot of them had to lose their lives. So, therefore, it needs to be checked without delay.

In so far as soft drinks are concerned, be it Pepsi or Coca-cola, adulterated soft drinks and low quality drinks are sold in most of the rural areas. On many stations, when the train stops, Jelly, sauce, juice and drinks sold over there are adulterated. We use these things on daily basis and people becoming ill out of consumption of such items and this is the reason that cancer is spreading more and more and a lot of people are suffering from ailments. More or less, the same is the case with mineral water. Whenever the train stops at local stations. Quite often, people purchase water bottles. But there is no quality control for them. There is no control of Government on it. Many times, I myself have seen worms in the mineral water bottles. It has been reported by many people that most of the companies are selling tap water by sealing them in the bottle. The ISI mark is labelled thereon. Hence, this issue must be given attention and stringent action shall be taken against them. Several cases have been reported in the trains due to the consumption of such adulterated water. Besides this, if we talk of food, be it meat or chicken Quality-wise—these items have also caused death to many innocent lives because they have eaten adulterated food that caused food poisoning. Over and above, there is adulteration in oil in which these items are prepared. We use these things on daily basis and people are purchasing substandard oil and ghee. Hathras is nearby to my constituency. Deshi

Ghee of Hathras is very famous. Tonnes of deshi ghee is prepared at Hathras and is sold at many places. Many times it's been heard that animal fat is mixed in it. If we try to tend out then we will come to know that Ghee manufactured and sold in Hathras Mandi is more than milk produced. Thus, it seems impossible to consume good and pure ghee. Due to the consumption of these adulterated oil and ghee one is led to suffer from various diseases and several of them have to lose their lives. Its evidence has been witnessed by us over the last few years when mustard oil was sold in the market having adulterated contents which caused death among hundreds of people. This issue faced wide protest. To my mind, the NDA was in Government then the Hon'ble Members of the opposition are quite aware of it.

Besides, it has also been witnessed that there is adulteration in liquors as well. Be it towns or villages, people consume liquor and it deserves attention its not that a few people have to lose their lives but hundreds of people have lost their lives on the contrary. I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to exercise certain degree to control over it through the Bill and it must engage the Government's attention. In so far as fertilizers are concerned, fertilizers is largely based on production without which we can not enhance the yield. However, spurious fertilizers is being sold these days. In my district farmers complaint that adulterated urea and the other fertilizers are contained in the Government supply, as a result of which the yield of the farmers comes down. If we talk of petrol and diesel, these are also impure. The consumer is very much faced with the problems of adulteration in pulses-rice-wheat-species etc. and no quality control measures are taken by the Government. Mr. Chairman Sir, through you I would like to convey to the Hon'ble Minister that without adopting stringent measures, results cannot be in view. Therefore, strictness should be resorted to and those involved in adulteration should be apprehended. Be it indigenous companies or foreign ones, if adulteration is detected in their products, there should be a provision of capital-punishment for them.

In the days when Food Processing Ministry was formed during the regime of Late Rajiv Gandhi, then too I was member of it. With the change of the Government when the Janata Party came to power, voice was raised to provide licence to Coca Cola and Pepsi in India. I think several members of that period are present in this House and if you remember, there a condition was

exposed there in that Pepsi and Coca-cola shall be given licence on the condition that they will set up small industries for rural production of tomato and potato and will thus provide a fillip to the agriculture sector. By doing so economic status of our farmers will be uplifted. Hon'ble Minister Sir, please refer to those pages of your Ministry. Of course, Pepsi and Coca-cola entered India but those units are yet to be set up to enhance the agricultural production. I express my deep sense of gratitude to you and to the Government and request you to comply with the laws in a strict manner to bring down the level of adulteration. To my mind, when the NDA was in power, no action was taken thereon as the traders have always supported the Bhartiya Janata Party. So, therefore, those involved in adulteration must be subjected to strict action.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Bill brought by the hon'ble Minister, is a very old one. This Bill has come in the House many times. I request the hon'ble Minister to look at this Bill minutely. This is a very lengthy Bill and you want to get it passed in a day. In this Bill, you have stated that the Inspector Raj will end, and all rights including Panchayat will come in your hands. You have asked for cooperation from all in it and given right to call back as well. If you look at its objects, you have stated that you want to take the arrangements of storage, distribution, sale and import in your hands. You want to make available pure goods to the people. This is your objective. I do not want to go in all the objectives but the only thing I would like to say is that you have brought this Bill in haste, therefore, I oppose this Bill. I request you that if you include some more things in this Bill, it will definitely become complete. I and my Party oppose this Bill because you have not stated certain things in the interest of vendors, dhaba owners, restaurateurs, milk suppliers and have included them in this Bill. But you have excluded the farmers, this is a very good thing you have done. You deserve an appreciation for that. But if you exclude the petty traders like kachauri, samosa, vendors, dhaba owners, green grocers, milk suppliers from this Bill, then your Bill will come in shape. We also want that adulteration should not be there. We witness adulteration in turmeric, I am sorry donkey dung is mixed in coriander and people consume these items and relish them. We witness adulteration all the way. It has become a malady. Even politics has also fallen prey to adulteration. That is why, I am against adulteration. People deserve pure things, no two opinion are there. Your objective is very good but there are certain shortcomings in it. You are importing wheat from Australia, and you take wheat from Vet Board,

that has been black listed. The wheat is of inferior quality. We are going to purchase wheat at the rate of Rs. 10.20. I request that it is wrong to purchase wheat from Australia and such company which has been black listed. Had this not happened, I definitely think that the Indian farmers would have got the price at the rate of Rs. 7.50 Indian farmers would have become prosperous and there would have been no need to import wheat from outside and you would not have got bad name. Your officers who work in the food corporation by adopting corrupt practices get the wheat of good quality declared as of bad quality and send outside and sell at the rate of Rs. 3.2. The same wheat is sold at the rate of Rs. 9 or 10 a kilo in the open market. It will be good if you make some proper arrangement. Similarly, I have one more request to make. Who is going to provide license to small vendors? It will be good if they get license from one place i.e. Panchayat. But if they run from one place to other to get license, they will face difficulties. Vendors move from one locality to other and if necessary, they move from one city to other also. How will they get license for every place? As per your arrangement, they will have to take license only for the place they are present at. Make an arrangement that if a licence is taken for a place, there will be no need to get license for other places separately, they should be given license for moving from place to place and they should not require to get license for each place separately. How will you monitor this? If it is not monitored, I believe, it will definitely prove to be an easy way to increase corruption. I mean to say jurisdiction should be determined for officers to check the vendors. No checking should be there at places out of the jurisdiction. It will be good if you make an arrangement in this regard.

Similarly, what will be the basis for giving samples? Whether the sample given to laboratory will be tested properly and if you talk about giving any punishment to the persons found guilty after tests, then it will be some other thing. After all some system for giving samples must be there, but it has not been mentioned in the Bill. You have said that S.P. will have civil, criminal powers and 6 months imprisonment can be given. But a fine of one lakh rupees is a big thing. If one lakh rupees penalty is imposed on a poor vendor, then his whole life earning will go and he will be ruined. You will have to keep this in mind.

Surprisingly, water supplied by the Municipalities has been exempted. What is this? Municipality water is meant for watering vegetables and human consumption but it is

[Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava]

adulterated. I would like to talk about Jaipur. The gutter line there had been connected with the drinking water line. Foul smell is coming from the water. This is the water being used to grow vegetables. You have exempted the drinking water, please consider this. Where will be the laboratories situated? It is being said that the samples can be tested in Delhi. If laboratories are to be set up in the States then they do not have any fund. Will you provide fund? Please consider this. You have made a provision of only 10 crore rupees for this. But 7 crore rupees will go for bill etc, and if land or building tax or some other taxes are levied, that will not be good. I think three crore rupees will not do. The State Governments do not have funds. There is a shortage of foodgrains due to improper arrangement. Foreigners buy the standing crops. What provision will be made to penalize them? There is no systematic storage arrangement based on scientific standards. Mice, the carrier of Ganeshji, destroy all foodgrains. There must be some suitable arrangement in this regard also. The distribution system is with state governments. You bring this Bill in a comprehensive manner exclude the small vendors. The provision made for penalty i.e. one lakh rupees may be withdrawn. You are also an human being and a Minister as well, but are an elected Member of Rajya Sabha. I would like to tell you for your well being that if you contest a Lok Sabha election, the small vendors for whom you have made a provision of penalty of one lakh rupee, will not vote for you. The Government is thinking that it has done a very big job, but the UPA Government is known for carrying out ups and down. You definitely consider my suggestions.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are asking me to sit down. I obey, you have not made provisions in this Bill due to your constraints. Hence, I oppose it.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman Sir, the day we were waiting for has come. Our minister Shri Subodh Kant Sahai has brought in a very good Bill. The Bill will be passed despite opposition from Bhargavji. The responsibility for the safety of food items rests with the Central Government and also with the State Governments. He has moved Food Safety and Standards Bill, 2005 for this. I have risen here to support the Bill on behalf of my party. Food Safety and Standards Authority of India will be set up through this Bill. The Authority will have a Chairman and 22 members and experts also. I feel that inspector raj will come to an end with the sitting up of this Authority. The Inspectors go and collect bribe from various places and mislead the

traders and the public. Thus a very good work is going to begin through the Authority. You are to set up a Central Advisory Committee and a Scientific Panel for this. If this good Bill is passed, it can be used for ensuring food and safety and checking the corruption prevailing among the Inspectors. Not speaking much, I support the Bill and request that the Bill be passed as early as possible.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, I rise not to support the Bill because there are a lot of problems in this Bill. The intention of the Bill might be good. To boost up the food processing industry sector, the Food Safety and Standards Bill, 2005 was introduced. With the present scenario in the world today, India, which is one of the biggest producers of milk producer and one of the second biggest producers of vegetables, is wasting its food due to lack of preservation facilities, lack of proper packing facilities and thereby losing around Rs. 40,000 crore to Rs. 50,000 crore a year.

The intention of the Bill is to preserve food. It is good. But this Bill also envisages creation of a food authority. After going through this Bill, it has been seen that they have got a lot of arbitrary powers, and these arbitrary powers might be disadvantageous to the farmer in future in producing crop and secondly for selling it through small retail outlets like vendors and hawkers, who do not get any protection through this Bill. This Bill is only to boost the packaging sector, which is abysmally low in the country. Today, smaller countries like Malaysia, Thailand and even China had beaten us in this. Today, India has not been able to maintain the food standards and safety when our products are supplied to the European Union or to America or to any part of the world. Most of its produce is either dumped or sent back; the shipload is sent back. For example, last year in this august House, a question had propped up regarding the supply of basmati rice to Europe. The chemical contamination was so much that the entire shipload of basmati rice had to be sent back to India, and the traders, marketers and producers of this rice were put to loss. So, it was eventually loss to the country. Today, in our country though we produce the largest number of vegetables and though we have got the largest number of land holdings, we are importing nearly Rs. 50,000 crore worth of pulses, Rs. 50,000 crore worth of edible oil to supply to our consumers. It is because of the failure of the packaging industry and failure in promoting cereals and pulses production and oil production by

farmers. Also the SAFTA arrangement between Malaysia and Srilanka has to be scrutinized.

This idea of creating a single authority was mooted by the NDA Government. During the regime of Shri Vajpayee as the Prime Minister, it was decided by the Joint Parliamentary Committee that a single food authority should be created so that the producers, the distributors and the marketeers will have a level playing ground with its foreign competitors.

This has come into being. But I am sorry to state that while formulating this piece of legislation, the hon. Minister should have gone into the implementing authority, the Food authority with arbitrary powers.

Now, the name of the Bill is 'Food Safety and Standards Bill'. By doing scientific research, you will include the quality of food and the standard of food. But I am sorry to see that the scientific body is dominated by the bureaucrats, and the persons who are supposed to investigate into the retail marketing of food products are mere an ADM or a Sub-Collector, who can just go and create troubles for the small retailer putting him into a lot of troubles. I would not go into the other details of the Bill as other members have spoken and the Chair is pressing the Bill.

But I would also congratulate the hon. Minister that later on he got an amendment excluding the farmers, fish producers and the fish farmers from the provision of the Act. Here, I would make a submission and if the hon. Minister and the august House agree, it may be considered. In our country, specially in Jharkhand, Orissa, Bengal, it is the tribals who depend on minor forest produce like bamboo shoot, mushroom and other products, which come out during monsoon, which have got a terrific potentiality in the export market and also in the international market. So, they should not be subject to this Food Safety and Standards Bill, and they should be exempted. Otherwise, their livelihood would be hit severely. During the time when they go and collect these produce for the local haat, if your Food Inspector comes and challenges them saying that 'this is poisonous' as there are so many types of mushrooms, they would be in trouble. As we all know, some mushrooms grow on the places where snakes live; some grow on the forest floor; and some grow on sand. So, all these are collected. But there are different varieties of mushrooms, which are also poisonous. But the tribals are very much aware as to which mushrooms are edible; and it is only those mushrooms which they get into the market.

Similarly, the bamboo shoots and other products, which come out during the rains, if they are subject to this Bill, there would be a big agitation among the tribals in the country. Those people are illiterate; and if a policeman comes or an officer comes and threatens them, whatever they have, they would give it to him. It is because these tribals cannot challenge or fight when the time of necessity comes.

Therefore, the Government must sincerely think to keep these people and their products outside the ambit of this Bill. Then only, the aims and objectives of this Bill would be met.

Sir, I come from the State of Orissa, which has got one of the largest coastlines in the country, with a huge potential for marketing and aqua culture like prawn, fishery and all. Umpteen number of times, I have said in this august House that this sector has been neglected. If you do not have the indigenous technology, please get the foreign technology and introduce it in the Indian market so that our food produce gets some more shelf life, some more time for it to stay in the shell so that it could be exported and we could earn foreign exchange in the country.

Sir, today, in Japan and other developed countries, you will be astonished to know that in restaurants, the waste food, which is being thrown out by the restaurant owners, amounts to over crore of rupees. Can you believe it? Food worth more than Rs. one lakh crore prepared in hotels goes waste and is thrown out. They can afford it. But in India, every morsel is precious for us; every grain is precious for us because we have to feed 108 crore people in our country; 108 crore mouths have to be fed. So, each and every morsel is valuable in this country. It is our duty to preserve each and every morsel.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as a part of the Standing Committee, I feel that the Government should not have rushed through the Bill as such. It is a voluminous Bill.

It would have been circulated, would have allowed more time for a thorough discussion and assimilation but unfortunately Government is rushing through the Bill.

I have some objections to this Bill. There is no time to elaborate clause-by-clause. This Bill generally, I feel, does not ensure food safety. It is for the safety of the multinational companies. It dismantles the food safety structure of the country. In the name of integrating food

[Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar]

laws, we are repealing important laws like Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and the Fruit Products Act etc. There are nine or 10 State Acts.

Sir, I would like to point out that in our country, the local community is governed by community control, and local culture is now to be regulated by the centralised rules and standards appropriate for a one per cent industrialised large scale manufacture. The 'Integrated Food Law' is a law to dismantle our diverse, decentralised food economy. That is my first objection.

Secondly, by repealing these laws, in short I will say this. In effect, what does it mean? It serves the interests of the global corporations like Nestle which sells baby food. Coke and Pepsi can do anything in the country. The case of Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola selling soft drinks with phosphoric acid, ethylene glycol and huge amounts of sugar of High Fructose Corn Syrup shows that industrial food products need to be regulated. But unfortunately we are giving them a free market. These health hazards were addressed by the JPC. The JPC has commented on this.

Monsanto which is pushing untested GM foods on Indians; Cargill and ADM which are pushing soya on us, even though it has high levels of endocrine disruptors, they affect human hormones and fertility; or High Fructose Corn Syrup is known to cause obesity. Dismantling the Essential Commodities Act is dismantling food security, not creating food safety. In effect, that is what will happen.

I will cut short, In effect, the Act is aimed at deregulating the industrial food processing which causes health hazards and diseases through chemicals, artificial synthetic additives and genetic engineering.

While deregulating the industry, the Act aims at creating a policy raj and inspector raj for every farmer and vendor. The definition of 'food business' is far reaching and includes in 3(n) 'food business' means any undertaking, whether for profit or not and whether public or private, carrying out any of the activities related to any stage of manufacture, processing, storage, transportation and distribution of food and includes food services, sale of food and food ingredients.

What does it mean? This will cover temples and gurudwaras. Any food that is given at the temples could, in effect, be controlled by this Act. It has such far reaching consequences. This Act is generally detrimental to the

farmers and small *dabha* wallas. I do not know what is the scientific scale of food. I do not understand this. Anyway, it could be used against small *dabhawallas*. If this law is used indiscriminately, it will only help promoting the big corporations.

I will cut short. This is my comment I have made during my submission in the Standing Committee. By this Act, we will end up wiping out small food business and we will replace it with big companies. There cannot be a more socially unjust Bill than the proposed one.

I have one more point. Who is bringing this Bill? It is not the Health Ministry. It is the Food Processing Ministry which is bringing this Bill. Who is interested in this Bill? The Commerce Ministry is interested in this Bill. The Industry Department is interested in this Bill. The bureaucrats are interested in this Bill. Has it happened in the U.K.? Even in the United States about which we talk every time, has it happened? Who piloted this Bill? Is it to safeguard the food for the health of the people or safeguard the food for the profit of the corporations?

This is a vital question. I fail to understand how the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has agreed to this Bill. In general, by rushing this Bill, I am afraid to say, there are some motives which are not helpful to the small farmers, small *dhabawallas* and for common men. It is generally to support the multinational corporates and to bring the corporate *raj*.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Thank you, Sir. I must thank the hon. Members. Almost all the hon. Members have contributed quite a lot in this discussion. Some of their ideas that have been expressed, I can say, that were because of the amendments that I have brought which is covering almost all their aspects. Most of the hon. Members were concerned about small vendors and processors in the village, whatever you say, *halwai ka dukan* or something, we have completely kept them out. My friend, Shri Adhir Chowdhury was saying that they should also be included in this so that they should develop their habits. But I want to assure that outside of the purview of this Bill we are going to have a massive campaign for safe and hygienic food in this sector which is unorganised sector. I am purposely not bringing them within the purview of this Bill. You all are afraid about the inspector *raj* that it will harm them. It is not so. We are simply saying that they would be registered anywhere. Mostly, I do not think they are travellers. But they have fixed their *theles* somewhere in the *chauraha* or

crossroads or here and there and they would be registered in the nearby municipality or panchayat. But they are being allowed to move and sell their things and they will not have any restriction about their movement. But they should be just registered that 'I am doing this thing in nearby area'.

Most of the apprehensions were expressed about bringing small vendors and processors within this Bill. They are completely outside of the purview of this Bill. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): I want to know whether you are saying it or the Bill is saying it. You should tell us which is the clause etc. where it is there where you have debarred them from the provision of law. You should tell us. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: The Bill is saying. It is very much there. I am coming to it. I will give you the specific clause. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the hon. Minister complete the reply and then you can ask the question.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Second thing is about water. Once you are adding value in water then that becomes a different thing. The municipal tap water or water from the pond, etc. are used. People are saying—'Why you are not including water in the food?' That will have a long implication if you bring water in this purview because in most of the areas we are not providing water by the tap. Even they are taking water from the pond and the river. Who will be responsible to that?

17.39 hrs.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker *in the Chair*]

Once you are using it as an industrial activity or in processing of a food which you are selling, then you come under the purview of this law. That is why we have kept water outside from the purview of this. But we have included those types of water which is being used for industrial purpose.

Most of the hon. Members have expressed their concern on one point. I must say that the import of any item from them is already going to be covered by the same law because that import law is going to be merged in this law and it will be covered by the same authority.

The authority is an independent, transparent organisation. Down the line we are having four or five stages of checking. The food safety officer on the administrative side will be there. On the judiciary side an adjudication officer will be there. There will be a designated officer, food safety officer and appellate tribunals will be there. The next stage is the appellate tribunal where we are having a designated officer. The Commissioner of Food of the State is there things go at that level and then it will go to the civil court or the High Court. If things come to the level of Food Standard Authority of India, then it will go to the Supreme Court. So, these four stages are very much defined.

You all are saying that this is a multinational Bill or something like that. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ask it later please don't interrupt.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister only one point that what would be the qualification for Food Inspectors.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. member that the qualification for the Food Inspectors will be same as it is presently. Presently there are 16 Food Inspectors. The qualification will be the same as is the qualification of these Inspectors at present. And you know what qualification they have. This issue will be governed by the State Government. We have to make the law only. As per the present circumstances, Food Inspectors are associated with 12 ministries. They perform their duty as per the requirements of their individual ministries. If we pool in the whole infrastructure at a single place, you can imagine how many hands will be added. On the other hand, you are saying that we have a very thin infrastructure. If we club the infrastructure of all the ministries together, you may guess on your own that it will be more useful in this situation or when it remains divided among 12 ministries, then it will be useful.

Sir, we are setting up an Authority. I would like to tell you that at present, we are allocating a budget of 10 crore rupees but in future when it gets established and starts working, it will be provided with whatever

[Shri Subodh Kant Sahay]

requirements it may have. We will also link the laboratories of State Governments with the Authority. Besides this, there are so many private laboratories which are graded by the government. Apart from this, district laboratories and all other similar type of laboratories will be at the disposal of the Authority.

Sir, there was the biggest apprehension that the trader would be harassed the most but I would like to tell that for the first time a provision to the effect has been made in the bill that if a food inspector tries to implicate a person in a wrong way or harasses any person, the powers have been conferred on the Food Commissioner to take action against the erring food inspector or recall him or impose a fine upto rupees one lakh. The Commissioner has been empowered to impose a fine of rupees 25 thousand on a departmental official for committing a fraud even on a negligible level. A provision has been made to impose a fine of the amount ranging from rupees 1 lakh to 10 lakh and awarding a sentence of the period ranging from 7 year to life imprisonment to the manufacturer and the wholesaler.

This is happening for the first time. Such a tough line has not been maintained in any Bill. However, this provision has been made in this Bill so that Government officials do not harass any person intentionally.

Sir, I do not understand why our colleagues from B.J.P. and N.D.A. are opposing this Bill. I would like to say that the Minister of Finance of the previous Government had stated on 28 February, 2002 that he was bringing the integrated full law. It had been stated in this House. Afterwards, the first meeting of the Group of Ministers was held on 27.01.2003 and in continuation of the same, consultation for three years was done towards which so much contribution has been made by the two Governments. Not only this, but also more than one hundred stake holders have made intake in it. I would like to congratulate the standing committee which gave 26 suggestions for this Bill out of which 21 suggestions have been accepted by us. We have left four to five suggestions, as it was not possible to accept them. Standing Committee, Consultation Committee and one hundred fifty people have been consulted. My colleagues were asking me to state whether State Governments have been consulted about this Bill or not. At least 20 State Governments including Rajasthan have been consulted.

[English]

Your Government also contributed.

[Translation]

All of them have made their contribution. This Bill had been on Internet for the last one and half year for seeking advice. The people from the European Union, the people from the member countries of the United Nations and all other people have extended their advice on it. they said,

[English]

how are you able to make this Bill so effective to cater to local as well as international requirements?

[Translation]

Most of our hon'ble Members have suggested us to bring it after one year and to bring about some more improvement in it. We are always ready for it. I would like to state that in view of your apprehensions, if any, we are going to cover all those by rules and regulations which have not taken shape as Bill. A number of former Members are sitting here and they must know that everything cannot be covered under the Bill. It is covered by rules and regulations. We are not going to do any such thing, which may cause loss to someone.

Our colleague Shri Dev from Orissa was stating that his area is the most backward one. I would like to tell him that the area, which I belong to, is also a backward area. The areas to which we belong are also backward areas. All the areas in Jharkhand, Bihar, Orissa, U.P. are backward ones.

Sir, although ours is an agriculture based States, yet we are making negligible process. Please awake, we have to wake up. If the farmer is to be saved, value will have to added to his product. Today, the buyer will pay the asked price of one kilogram of packed tomato. However, if the farmer sells the tomato himself, nobody ready buys his tomato. Nobody takes tomato even if it is left on the roadside. So, no industry is ready to invest in this sector. This is a perishable sector. No industry has the ability to bear as many as 16 inspectors. There are a number of opportunities to earn a large amount of money in this country.

Today, there is boom in I.T. and bio-sector. I say that this period of time is of food technology sector and it is required to enact law to regulate it. Therefore, I have brought this Bill before you.

Sir, the hon'ble Members are asking me about the law. If you see the clause 31(2), you will get whatever I have stated. You have not seen the amendment made by us. You have only seen the part of the main Bill. I have made amendment and kept them out of preview. Small Vendors, small hawkers, farmers and fishermen have been kept out of the Bill.

Sir, 17 hon'ble Members have spoken on this Bill. I thought that this Bill would be passed in its original form as it is in debate for the last four years.

[English]

Still, I think that you all have contributed a lot. I take what you have said in opposition also as contribution from your side.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can seek only clarification.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Initially I had asked a question and yet that question has remained unanswered. You have not defined 'safe and wholesome food'. The amendment about which the hon. Minister has mentioned in page 20, 31(2) also mentions—not only that petty retailers, hawkers, itinerant vendor or a temporary stall holder or small scale or cottage or such other industries relating to food business. This is there. They have to be registered. It is all right. But the business which they will enter into is 'safe and wholesome food'. Unless and until you determine and define that, this Bill will empower the inspector to such an extent that they will be harassed. Our contention here is, why do you not define 'safe and wholesome food for human consumption'? I am only insisting as to what is the harm in defining it. When are you going to define it? Who is going to define it? Will it be left to the court? Will the court determine it? This is my initial question.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to the speech of 2-3 hon'ble Members and then reply to the same.

[English]

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Firstly, I would like to mention about what. Water is an issue. In today's 'The Economic times', the All India Food Processors' Association has expressed resentment regarding the Bill. He has stated that he spoke to a lot of people and taken into consideration their views. But the fact is that

there is resentment regarding water. Water is the main contention and the same has been discussed.

Secondly, in the Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture, there is a mention of setting up of liberalised food parks. I have also mentioned in my speech. Is the Ministry going to set up a Food Park in Rajasthan? If yes, when?

Thirdly, is there any thinking on the part of Government to link *Kendriya Vigyan Kendras* with Labs? Linking would extend an additional help to the *Kendras*.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask a very important and basic question which is regarding adulteration and difference between quality as well as quantity of a product. We all have strongly supported this Bill on which the hon'ble Members were expressing their views. We agree on all the views expressed by you. We have seen the ground realities in this regard. Unless you make an arrangement for laboratory, technician, sampling, preparation of report within a week, we will not be able to do anything in this regard.

[English]

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Parvatipuram): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my clarification to the hon. Minister is this. Whatever food we produce in the country is with chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Now that we have achieved the Green Revolution, we are thinking of the Second Green Revolution. Shri Swaminathan is talking about the Evergreen Green Revolution. Now, food is being produced and is being presumed to be produced for the future in the organic method. Is there any difference between the marketing food and the processing food? What premiums the Government would give if organic food manufacturer come forward with organic food and packaging? What benefit would the Government give them?

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, hon'ble Minister stated about the Inspector. There is a provision of penalty of Rs. one lakh and imprisonment for a period of seven years to even life term imprisonment. However, this is an important question whether there is

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

any provision to terminate an Inspector if he is found involved in a fake work. This is alright that a fine of Rs. 1 lakh will be charged but if any such Inspector is found involved, he should be terminated from the job.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): The hon'ble Minister is enacting new laws. You have mentioned a number of points. I would like to go to its original form. The law will be enacted and as you stated that laboratory will be made common, districts will be inter-connected and such other things. However, this law will come into force when there are laboratories, Inspectors etc. The fact is that in many States, there are no laboratories. What to talk of districts when there is no laboratory in State capital. There is no proper staff who can guide. Moreover, there are no Inspectors. I am talking about my own State Bihar. There is a laboratory in Patna. I myself have seen this laboratory which is in a very poor condition. There is one laboratory in Hajipur. I think that unless you see the condition of such laboratories, you will not be able to do the networking and the purpose of enacting a law will not be served. My apprehension is that the law will remain only on paper and it will not come into force. You will not be able to give such benefits to the people which you want to give them. I would like to know whether you have made any arrangement in respect of the States where there is any lack of laboratories, infrastructure and Inspectors? You have stated that it will be left with the State Governments but the State Governments do not have any basic structure. In such a situation, this law will not give any benefits.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, in the Preamble of the legislative document, it has been referred to as 'availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto'. Even section 16 refers to the safe and wholesome food. However, it has not been defined in this legislation.

Secondly, I have put forward one issue. That is in regard to accredited laboratories and referral laboratories. With an amendment, the Government has been emphasising that the referral laboratories are to be given the final decision in case of any dispute in regard to food. But it smacks of an overlapping provision; it looks as if a superseding provision is inherent in this amendment. So, I have suggested to him that these matters may be left to the adjudicating officer.

So far as labelling is concerned, may I know whether any stipulation has been made to put the content of any nutritious food—GM or non-GM food, organic or inorganic, etc.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): This House constituted a Joint Parliamentary Committee on 'soft drinks'. That JPC has made recommendations regarding bottled drinking water. When water is used commercially and value is added to water, it should be of the stringent ground so that the customer or the purchaser gets pure water, good quality water and not contaminated water. So, already that norm was being notified by the Government, after the recommendations of the JPC, at that time.

So far as water is concerned, the value added-bottled water which is used for commercial purposes, that portion has already been taken care of, through the notification of the Government of India. Regarding the other part, there was also a recommendation of the JPC; that after Independence, so many years had passed; other countries have already passed legislation to take care of the food safety of their people. Only in our country, we have not taken any standard legislation. Now, this legislation has come and it is a good piece of legislation. With the experience of this Act, if there is any shortcoming, the Government may come to this House and bring in necessary amendments.

But as far as the requirement of the country—taking into consideration the health of its population—we must have a legislation in our country and we have this piece of legislation.

18.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is six o'clock now. What is the opinion of the House? If the House agrees, we may extend the time of the House till we pass this Bill and also dispose of Special Mentions?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

SHRI B. MAHTAB: I had asked about the IMS Act, 2003. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given you more than sufficient time. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: I am coming to it. It is being kept out of the purview of this Bill. At the Group of Ministries' level, while finalizing it, we had kept this out of its purview. So, that is not covered.

Secondly, I am ready to assure my friend Shri Dushyant Singh. Food Parks, etc. do not come under this but Rajasthan is our priority. You may fix any date and I am ready to go there because that is a link to our food sector. You do not have to bother about it.

[Translation]

I would like to say to Shailendraji and Ram Kripal Bhai that their apprehension is absolutely correct that justice will not be meted out till the networking of the lab testing facility is not done because in the absence of this, a lot of time will be wasted. Presently, hundred percent grant is provided by our Ministry to the State Government to set up the Food Testing Laboratory. Even if any private organization which comes forward and shows interest for this, is also provided grants according to the rules of the Government. Therefore, when this authority will be set up, I feel that they'll give priority to the networking. However, my work will be incomplete in the absence of this networking. Therefore, I would like to remove your apprehension and mention here that we'll complete this task.

Hon'ble Athawaleji mentioned about punishment. It is but natural that if any inspector is caught using unfair means, the Commissioner has the authority to withdraw his powers. He can also impose a fine upto Rs. 1 lakh on him and if the matter is processed further, I understand that he may even lose his service and decision in this regard can be taken by the competent authority from the administrative point of view.

I would like to reiterate that norms with regard to the water meant for industrial use already exist, as has been mentioned by some of the hon'ble Members. We cannot give such relaxation to that because municipality is supplying the impure water. As such, one will go scot-free by adding this water to the food prepared by him for sale. Hence, I feel that such relaxation will not be justified.

Our another hon'ble Member was mentioning that food will be prepared in home. We have put a check on the vendors on sale of food. But this does not come under the purview of having food at home and at any

party. If any incident occurs in which anybody loses his life by consuming adulterated food or any other serious incident happens, then the situation becomes quite different because an enquiry has to be set up on that incident. But it is not so that a food inspector visits the homes of the individuals and examines the food because that is not within his purview. The Food Authority, which is likely to be set up, will lay down all the rules and regulations and if anything is left out of it, I understand that nothing is superior than this House, when you'll ask for that, we'll amend the same on that very day.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to consolidate the laws relating to food and to establish the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India for laying down science based standards for articles of food and to regulate their manufacture, storage, distribution, sale and import, to ensure availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3

Definitions

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Khagen Das—Not present.

There are Government amendments to Clause 3.

Amendment made:

Page 2, line 28, for "primary food", substitute "primary food to the extent defined in clause (zk)" (9)

Page 3, for line 3 *substitute*,—

"processing, packaging, storage, transportation, distribution of food, import and includes food services, catering services,". (10)

Page 4, for lines 37 to 39, *substitute*,—

"(zh) "package" means a pre-packed box, bottle, casket, tin, barrel case, pouch, receptacle, sack bag, wrapper or such other things in which an article of food is packed,". (11)

Page 4, for line 48, *substitute*,—

"catching in the hands of a person other than a farmer or fisherman,". (12)

Page 6, line 15, for "in sanitary", *substitute* "insanitary". (13)

Page 6, after line 18, *insert*,—

"(xii) by virtue of containing pesticides and other contaminants in excess of quantities specified by regulations." (14)

(Shri Subodh Kanti Sahay)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 3, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 5

Composition of Authority and qualifications for appointment of its Chairperson and other Members.

Amendments made:

Page 6, lines 32 and 33,—

for "the following eighteen members namely:—"

substitute "the following twenty-two members out of which one third shall be women, namely:—" (15)

page 7, for line 5, *substitute*,—

"(d) three eminent food technologists or scientists." (16)

page 7, line 9, for "one person", *substitute* "two persons". (17)

page 7, after line 9, *insert*,—

"(g) one person to represent retailers' organisations." (18)

(Shri Subodh Kant Sahay)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 6

Selection Committee for selection of Chairperson and Members of Food Authority

Amendment made:

page 7, line 26, for "Ministry of Food Processing Industries",

substitute "Ministry or the Department responsible for administration of this Act". (19)

(Shri Subodh Kant Sahay)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 7 and 8 were added to the Bill.

Clause 9

Officers and other employees of Food Authority

Amendment made:

page 8, for lines 40 to 42, *substitute*—

"9. (1) There shall be a Chief Executive Officer of the Food Authority, not below the rank of Additional

Secretary to the Government of India, who shall be the Member-Secretary of the Authority, to be appointed by the Central government." (20)

(Shri Subodh Kant Sahay)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 10 was added to the Bill.

Clause 11

Functions of Central Advisory Committee

Amendment made:

page 9, line 45,—

after "Food and Public Distribution"

insert "or government institutes or organisations and government Recognised farmers organisations". (21)

(Shri Subodh Kant Sahay)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 11, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 11, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 12 to 17 were added to the Bill.

Clause 18

General principles to be followed in administration of Act

Amendments made:

page 14, line 14, *for* "consideration", *substitute* "consideration and". (22)

page 15, line 1, *for* "effective", *substitute* "an effective". (23)

page 15, *after* line 20, *insert*,—

*Not recorded.

"(3) The provisions of this Act shall not apply to any farmer or fisherman or farming operations or crops or livestock or aquaculture, and supplies used or produced in farming or products of crops produced by a farmer at farm level or a fisherman in his operations." (24)

(Shri Subodh Kant Sahay)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 18, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 18, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 19 to 21 were added to the Bill.

Clause 22

Genetically modified foods, organic foods, functional food, proprietary foods etc.

Amendment made:

Page 16, line 20, *for* "combination", *substitute* "in combination". (25)

(Shri Subodh Kant Sahay)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 22, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 22, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 23 was added to the Bill.

Clause 24

Restrictions on Advertisements and prohibitions as to unfair trade practice

Amendment made:

Page 17, line 17,—

after "misleading", *insert* "or deceiving". (26)

(Shri Subodh Kant Sahay)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 24, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 24, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 25 and 26 were added to the Bill.

Clause 27

Liability of the manufacturers, distributors and sellers

Amendments made:

Page 18, line 34,—

after "manufacturer", insert "or packer". (27)

Page 18, line 36, *for "distributor", substitute "wholesaler or distributor".* (28)

Page 18, line 40, *substitute "(c) unsafe or misbranded, or".* (30)

Page 18, *after line 44, insert—*

"(f) received by him with knowledge of being unsafe". (31)

Page 19, for lines 1 to 6, *substitute—*

"(3) The seller shall be liable under this Act for any article of food which is—

(a) sold after the date of its expiry; or

(b) handled or kept in unhygienic conditions; or

(c) misbranded; or

(d) unidentifiable of the manufacturer or the distributor from whom such articles of food were received; or".

(32)

(Shri Subodh Kant Sahay)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 27, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 27, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 28

Food Recall Procedures

Amendment made:

Page 19, for lines 8 to 15, *substitute,—*

"28 (1) If a food business operator considers or has reasons to believe that a food which he has processed, manufactured or distributed is not in compliance with this Act, or the rules or regulations made thereunder, he shall immediately initiate procedures to withdraw the food in question from the market and consumers indicating reasons for its withdrawal and inform the competent authorities thereof.

(2) A food business operator shall immediately inform the competent authorities and co-operate with them, if he considers or has reasons to believe that a food which he has placed on the market may be unsafe for the consumers." (33)

(Shri Subodh Kant Sahay)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 28, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 28, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 29 and 30 were added to the Bill.

Clause 31

Licensing and registration of food business

Amendments made:

"Page 20 for lines 26 to 31, *substitute,—*

"(2) Nothing contained in sub-section (1) shall apply to a petty manufacturer who himself manufactures or sells any article of food or a petty retailer, hawker, itinerant vendor or a temporary stall holder or small scale or cottage or such other industries relating to food business or tiny food business operator; but they shall register themselves with such authority and in such manner as may be specified by regulations, without prejudice to the availability of safe and wholesome food for human consumption or affecting the interests of the consumers.".

(34)

Page 20, line 34,—

for "particular", *substitute* "particulars and fees". (35)

Page 20, line 35,—

for "sub-section (2)", *substitute* "sub-section (3)".
(36)

Page 20, line 39, for "order", *substitute* "the order".
(37)

Page 2, for line 6, *substitute* "(9) A licence unless suspended or cancelled earlier shall be in force for such period".
(38)

(Shri Subodh Kant Sahay)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clauses 31, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 31, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 32 to 37 were added to the Bill.

Clause 38

Powers of the Food Safety Officer

Amendment made:

"Page 24, line 39, for "where article", *substitute* "where the article".
(39)

(Shri Subodh Kant Sahay)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 38, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 38, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 39

Liability of Food Safety Officer in certain cases

Amendment made:

"Page 25, for lines 42 and 43, *substitute*,—

"shall be guilty of an offence under this Act and shall be liable to a penalty which may extend to one lakh rupees:

Provided that in case any false complaint is made against a Food Safety Officer and it is proved so, the complaint shall be guilty of an offence under this Act and shall be punishable with fine which shall not be less than fifty thousand rupees but may extend to one lakh rupees".
(40)

(Shri Subodh Kant Sahay)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 39, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 39, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 40 was added to the Bill.

Clause 41

Powers of search, seizure, investigation, prosecution and procedure thereof

Amendments made:

"Page 26, for lines 9 to 11, *substitute*,—

"41. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (2) of section 31, the Food Safety Officer may search any place, seize any article of food or adulterant, if there is a reasonable doubt about them being involved in commission of any offence relating to food, and shall thereafter inform the Designated Officer of the actions taken by him in writing".
(41)

Page 26, line 13, for "witness", *substitute* "witnesses".
(42)

(Shri Subodh Kant Sahay)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 41, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 41, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 42, was added to the Bill.

Clause 43**Recognition and accreditation of laboratories
research institutions and referral food laboratory**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up amendment No. 5 of clause 43. Shri Khagen Das— not present.

The question is:

"That clause 43, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 43, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 44 to 46 were added to the Bill.

Clause 47**Sampling and Analysis**

Amendment made:

Page 28, line 11, *omit* "the remaining". (43)

Page 28, *for* lines 13 and 14, *substitute*,—

"(iii) send the remaining part for analysis to an accredited laboratory, if so requested by the food business operator, under intimation to the Designated Officer:

Provided that if the test reports received under sub-clauses (i) and (ii) are found to be at variance, then the Designated Officer shall send one part of the sample kept in his custody, to referral laboratory for analysis, whose decision thereon shall be final."

(44)

(Shri Subodh Kant Sahay)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 47, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 47, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 48 and 49 were added to the Bill.

Clause 50**Penalty for selling food not of the nature or
substance or quality demanded**

Amendment made:

Page 29, *for* Lines 27 to 32, *substitutes*,—

"Penalty for 50. Any person who sells to the purchaser's prejudice any food which is not in compliance with the provisions of this Act or the regulations made thereunder, or of the nature or substance or quality demanded by the purchaser, shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding five lakh rupees:

Provided that the persons covered under sub-section (2) of section 31, shall for such non-compliance be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty five thousand rupees." (45)

(Shri Subodh Kant Sahay)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 50, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 50, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 51 to 62 were added to the Bill.

Clause 63**Punishment for carrying out a business
without license**

Amendment made:

Page 31, *for* lines 17 to 20, *substitute*,—

"Punishment for 63. If any person or food business operator (except the persons exempted from licensing under sub-section (2) of section 31 of this Act), himself or by any person on his behalf who is required

to obtain licence, manufactures, sells, stores or distributes or imports any article or food without licence, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months and also with a fine which may extend to five lakh rupees." (46)

(Shri Subodh Kant Sahay)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 63, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 63, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 64 was added to the Bill.

Clause 65

Compensation in case of injury or death of consumer

Amendment made:

Page 31, *after* line 41, *insert*—

"Provided that the compensation shall be paid at the earliest and in no case later than six months from the date of occurrence of the incident:

Provided further that in case of death, an interim relief shall be paid to the next of the kin within thirty days of the incident." (47)

(Shri Subodh Kant Sahay)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 65, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 65, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 66

Offences by Companies

Amendment made:

Page 32, line 11, *for* "Chief Executive or the person in-charge" *substitute*

"Head or the person in-charge". (48)

(Shri Subodh Kant Sahay)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 66, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 66, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 67 to 77 were added to the Bill.

Clause 78

Power of court to implead manufacturer, etc.

Page 35, line 43, *for* "or in section 71", *substitute* "or in section 71 of this Act". (49)

(Shri Subodh Kant Sahay)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 78, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 78, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 79 to 91 were added to the Bill.

Clause 92

Power of Food Authority to make regulations

Amendment made:

Page 40, *for* lines 30 to 34, *substitute*—

"(o) notifying the registering authority and the manner of registration; the manner of making application for obtaining license, the fees payable therefor and the circumstances under which such license may be cancelled or forfeited under section 31." (50)

(Shri Subodh Kant Sahay)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 92, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 92, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 93 to 101 were added to the Bill.

First Schedule*Amendments made:*

Page 44, for lines 5 to 34, *substitute*,—

"Zone I

2. Goa,
3. Karnataka,
4. Kerala,
5. Maharashtra,
6. Orissa,
7. Tamil Nadu.

Zone II

1. Haryana,
2. Himachal Pradesh,
3. Jammu and Kashmir,
4. Punjab,
5. Uttaranchal,
6. Uttar Pradesh.

Zone III

1. Bihar,
2. Chhattisgarh,
3. Gujarat,
4. Jharkhand,
5. Madhya Pradesh,
6. Rajasthan,
7. West Bengal.

Zone IV

1. Arunachal Pradesh,
2. Assam,
3. Manipur,
4. Meghalaya,

5. Mizoram,
6. Nagaland,
7. Sikkim,
8. Tripura.

Zone V

1. Andaman and Nicobar Islands,
2. Chandigarh,
3. Dadra and Nagar Haveli,
4. Daman and Diu,
5. Delhi,
6. Lakshadweep,
7. Pondicherry." (51)

Page 45, *omit* lines 1 to 8 (52)

(Shri Subodh Kant Sahay)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the first Schedule, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The First Schedule, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Second Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1**Short Title, Extent and Commencement***Amendment made:*

Page 1, line 4, for "2005", *substitute* "2006". (8)

(Shri Subodh Kant Sahay)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula*Amendment made:*

Page 1, line 1, for "Fifty-sixth", substitute "Fifty-Seventh". (7)

(Shri Subodh Kant Sahay)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Long Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

18.31 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**Twenty-seventh Report**

[English]

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Sir, I beg to present the Twenty-seventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to draw your attention during the zero hour towards whatever had happened during the World Trade organization summit at Hong Kong. A proposal regarding complete discontinuation of Government grant for education was passed in the GATTS proposal. The GATTS has proposed to discontinue the Government grant completely for the higher education, on which harsh reaction has been expressed by almost all the countries including India. This seems to be a

conspiracy to destroy the education system completely. The system of education will be completely destroyed due to such a decision. It is hoped that the Government will get a higher profit out of it. It is mentioned in the proposal that the Government should withdraw its responsibility from the higher education. I would like to mention in the house that in the country and in the entire world, the students after getting the higher education and assuming the higher position be they are doctors, engineers, scientists or officers add glory to the nation. In particular, the US have praised the education of India. It has said that excellent education being implemented in India. It has said that excellent education being implemented in India. If such proposals are passed in World Trade Organisation, GATT that Governments grant should be completely discontinued in education, which will increase the income of the Government, I feel that it would be a great injustice and in particular, an injustice with India. I would like to mention in this regard that people related to rich families and people having sufficient money-power will get higher education whereas poor people will be deprived of higher education. I urge upon the Government that we should join our neighbouring countries, who support our views, with us and voice a strong protest against this proposal. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SITARAM SINGH (Sivhar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a proposal for electrification of the villages of the entire country under the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme and under this scheme, the Government have declared to complete the rural electrification in the State of Bihar within two years. NHPC has been given the responsibility of electrification of certain district of Bihar. They have been provided the funds and funds have also been provided to the concerned power grid officers. The officials of power grid have started the work relating to the electrification of certain villages. But the progress of work there is very slow. The work related to the electrification of my Lok Sabha constituency viz Shivhar, Motihar and Sitamarhi has been entrusted to NHPC. Two years time was given to complete this task. One year has already been lapsed and only one year is left. But the NHPC has not started the work of electrification even in a single village. It is a very discouraging situation. The people of village ask us about stages of implementation of the schemes of the Government. Unfortunately, the Power Minister is not present here. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government to take measures immediately for the implementation of the scheme and electrification of the villages.

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI (Udaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government, through you, to the point that injustice is being meted out to the mustard growers of Rajasthan by the Ministry of Agriculture. This is evident from the fact that while Rajasthan produced 40 lakh ton mustard, the Government has fixed the minimum support price at Rupees 1715. NAFED procures mustard from Rajasthan through RAJFED. After fixing this support price, they have decided to buy a certain percentage of the total production of 40 lakh ton. At present, only about 33 percent mustard is being purchased. Thus, a total of 12 lakh ton mustard has been procured. There is no storage facility there for the rest of the produced mustard. Because of this very reason, the farmers are in a very pitiable condition. Therefore, I request that mustard should be brought under the category of special production so that the farmers of Rajasthan could be protected against the conspiracies of WTO and multinational companies. I think if mustard is brought under special category, only then the mustard growers of Rajasthan and other places will get some relief.

Apart from this, I want to say that mustard oil and ghani oil were easily sold in the market in the past. But now these oils are being imported in the market and foreign oils are coming in the market. And that is why foreign oils are dominating the Indian market with a 56% share and indigenous oils are unable to sell in the competition resulting in the closure of all ghanies. Therefore, I request the Government, through you, to either stop the import of oil immediately or impose a heavy duty on its import so that indigenous oil could get a good market. Thank you.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY (Dhanbad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Railways, through you, to the route of the proposed Asansol-Bokaro, AMU VAB and VI AB train under Adra division of south-eastern railway. I am to inform you that the route of this train should be Asansol-Bhojudih-Talgadia-Tupkadih-Bokaro Steel city because no passenger train runs on this route, only goods trains run on this route, and this route has been given technical approval for the running of passenger trains by the concerned department.

Keeping in view the availability of deposits of methane gas reserve in Talgadia (Paharpur) and the proposed investment of 950 crore rupees on this project buy the

ONGC, it is essential to provide the facility of railway traffic on this route.

But ignoring this primary requirement of the region, efforts are being made to run this new AMU train via Purulia. Many passenger trains and mail express trains are already plying on this route. Therefore, I would request the hon'ble Minister of Railways that keeping in view the priority and requirement of this region, he should direct the officials to run the proposed train on Asansol-Bhojudih-Talgadia-Sukhpadi route.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir. I draw the attention of this House through, this Special Mention, to a very important issue.

While the international quality parameters are being tightened the world over to ensure that invasive alien species do not use the vehicle of commodity trade to enter into a country, why is our Government going head over heels by relaxing the quality norms and opening the floodgates to noxious weeds, deadly insects, pests and dreaded plant diseases?

Bending backwards to allow the highly contaminated wheat shipments from Australia, the Food and Agriculture Ministry has turned a blind eye to the presence of 14 weeds, two fungal diseases and one insect pest that the import consignment contains. The first consignment of 50,000 tonnes of wheat (of the total contracted five lakh tonnes) from Australia has already arrived at Chennai Port in the last week of April and the rest is arriving this month, that is, in the month of July. Of the 14 weeds, 11 species are not found in India.

Interestingly, while Australia has accepted that its wheat shipment contains these weeds, the Food and Agriculture Ministry had sought a certificate from the importing country saying that the imports are "essentially free from weeds". At the time of tender, the requirement was "free from weeds". That was mentioned at that time. Why has Food and Agriculture Ministry overruled the objections raised by the Plant Quarantine Directorate to import of exotic weed species and has relaxed the provisions of Plant Quarantine Order 2003?

With the trade in agricultural commodities subsequently brought under the World Trade Organisation, Plant, Food, Seed Order 1989 has been replaced by the

more stringent Plant Quarantine Order 2003. Even this Plant Quarantine Order 2003 was later amended to reduce the number of alien weeds that pose a threat from 61 to 31.

The shipment also brings in two fungal diseases, that is, dwarf bunt and Ergot. Both these diseases are not known to afflict wheat in India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your demand?

SHRI B. MAHTAB: Sir, I am coming to that.

I would like to know from the Government whether to accommodate not only Australian wheat, the Agriculture Ministry is also changing its Plant Quarantine laws to make it easy for the United States, Ukraine and Argentina to export its sub-standard wheat?

[Translation]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to tell, through you, about the increasing unemployment in the country. Today, crores of well educated unemployed persons of our country keep waiting for getting a job after getting themselves registered with employment exchanges. They do not get job even after several years. The educated youth are living in distress. All Government undertakings like Coal India and SAIL have stopped recruitment. The employees and workers are being rendered jobless by the Government by discontinuing recruitment and bringing VRS scheme. I urge the Government. Through you, that the Government have taken a decision in the Cabinet recently to constitute 6th Pay Commission for Central Government Employees. I would like to say that the government takes care of the persons who get salary but it does not take care of the persons who get no salary and who are facing unemployment and are on the verge of committing suicide. The Government should think of giving sustenance allowance to these unemployed persons. Today, people are unable to get job for years and are becoming over age. I would request the Government to take initiative to increase the age limit for the persons who get themselves registered in the employment exchanges for jobs.

[English]

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA (Mangalore): Sir, I would like to raise before this august House an important issue concerning the railway connectivity in Karnataka.

The Mangalore-Hasan railway gauge conversion work in Karnataka took 10 years to complete. I think that it is an unusual record time for a gauge conversion work to complete. However, finally the gauge conversion is completed as early as in March 2006. Of course, the track was opened for goods trains but unfortunately till today it is not open for passenger trains. The Commissioner of Railway Safety has to certify or give clearance in this regard. I do not know why this inordinate delay is taking place. The General Manager of South Western Railway has said that papers have already been submitted to the Commissioner for statutory inspection. But we fail to understand why the Railway Safety Commissioner is delaying the issuance of certificate since last six months. Practically the Minister of State for Railways, Shri Velu, who came there, gave three or four dates for commissioning of all the passenger, trains, but nothing has been done so far.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your demand?

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA: Sir, I am coming to that. Every day about 350 buses are plying between Mangalore and Bangalore. I think, there is an underhand dealing between Railway Department and the bus owners and hence there is this delay.

I urge upon the Government to direct the Railway Ministry and the Railway Safety Commissioner to issue clearance immediately to facilitate the opening of track for passenger trains.

*SHRI SHARANJIT SINGH DHILLON (Ludhiana): Sir, when a young man is recruited in the Army, he does his best to protect the borders of the country from foreign aggression. He hopes that after retirement, the Government and the country will look after him. However, the condition of ex-servicemen today is pitiable. Especially, the disabled ex-servicemen are in a miserable condition.

Some time ago, the disabled ex-servicemen wanted to hold a rally at India Gate to draw the attention of the Government towards their demands. However, they were beaten up with batons by the police. These disabled ex-servicemen were so disillusioned that they tried to sell their medals there.

I want to highlight the plight of the disabled ex-servicemen of the emergency wing. Injustice is being meted out to them. The Army rules provide for equal facilities to the 'Regular Commissioned Officers' and the

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

'Emergency Commissioned Officers'. During war times, the enemy bullets do not distinguish between 'Regular Commissioned Officers' and 'Emergency Commissioned Officers'. However, the injured or dead 'Regular Commissioned Officers' are provided all facilities by the Army whereas the 'Emergency Commissioned Officers' are denied these facilities and left to fend for themselves.

For instance, Sir, there is a rule in the army that if a soldier becomes 80% or more disabled, he gets all the facilities that a 'Regular Commissioned Officer' gets. Similarly, there are facilities a soldier gets if his disability ranges between 20% and 79%. However, in reality, these provisions are not being implemented.

The 'Emergency Commissioned Officers' field a case in the High Court. The High Court accepted their demands. But, the demands have not yet been implemented by the Army. So, I appeal to the Government to accept the genuine demands of the 'Emergency Commissioned Ex-servicemen' as per rules. I also demand that a separate Pay Commission for them should be announced.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways towards one point. As we are aware, while presenting the Railway Budget, the Hon. Minister of Railways had announced that in all, 100 trains would be upgraded as super fast trains. Upgradation to super fast category started in July with the charges increased to Rs. 20 per passenger. And, in A.C. coaches, it went up to Rs. 50 from Rs. 30. However, the sad part is that several trains were made super fast yet their speed did not increase, causing hardships to the people. The country is already mired in poverty.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under the leadership of the Hon. Minister of Railways, several achievements have been made. He has worked for the benefit of the people, without increasing the fares. The Minister of Railways looks after the interests of the poor. I would like to tell him that although trains have been upgraded to super fast category, yet the passengers are not getting commensurate benefits. I would request him to revert the trains to their previous categories and save the money from people pocket, upgradation is in name only, then withdraw it so that the passengers are not charged with

extra money because they have to face this malaise. I am sure that the entire House is agreed. ...*(Interruptions)*

ALL HON. MEMBERS: We all are agreed.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: The Minister of Railways should look into it at the earliest. The super fast charges which are accruing whereas it is not super fast. My request is that the poor passengers should not be charged extra money for the non-existent super fast facilities. This is my request to you. Kindly take necessary action at the earliest.

[English]

SHRI AMITAVA NANDY (Dumdum): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government, particularly the Finance Minister, through you, Sir. The country has come to know that the bank employees are going to strike on the 28th of August, and similarly, IT Officers also are going to strike on the 4th of August.

Sir, these two sectors are very important sectors of the financial periphery of our country. The bank employees raise their demand on the question of recruitment in the banking industry. Sir, you know that many employees have taken VRS during the last few years and thus reduction in the number of bank employees has taken place in the banking industry. But at the same time, recruitment is also stopped. Sir, you know that the unemployed educated youth were getting jobs in the banking industry so far, but during the last few years the Government has stopped the recruitment in the banking industry.

Another demand that they have raised is that some of the bank employees are getting pension as per last wage settlement but the employees who were recruited afterwards are not getting pension in the banking industry.

Therefore, they raised this demand of social security. The second option should be allowed to the bank employees who are not getting the pension so far.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: Sir, there is another important demand, which they have raised in the interest of the national economy. Yesterday, the Government has introduced one Bill regarding banking.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your demand?

SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: It is regarding outsourcing of the clearing system in the banks. The bank employees have raised this demand that it should be stopped because so far, the clearing of cheques is conducted by the Reserve Bank of India. Now, all over India, around 1,100 centres are operating as clearing agencies.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Amitava Nandiji, why are you reading his demands? Speak about your demand.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI AMITAVA NANDY: This is to stop the outsourcing. I would urge upon the Government to stop the outsourcing of the clearing system in the banking industry.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Nandy, please take, your seat. This is not the time for a full-fledged debate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shrimati Jayaben Thakkar.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, nothing would go on record except the submission made by Shrimati Thakkar.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Nandy, whatever you are speaking now, is not going on record. Kindly take your seat.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Sir, the Government of India's notification dated 7th January, 2005 to charge excise duty on drugs at 15 per cent to 65 per cent of the MRP which was subsequently reduced to 16 per cent to 60 per cent of the MRP, has severely affected the small-scale industries in Gujarat.

The Chief Minister of Gujarat had sent a letter to the Finance Minister for the rationalisation of rates and duty structure. But nothing has been communicated to the State Government as yet in this regard. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to review the situation and protect the small-scale industries in Gujarat, which is adversely affected by the recent Government's notification.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government on some serious issues. A large number of citizens of India from various States go abroad for seeking employment. The reports that we get from different countries are that these citizens are facing a lot of difficulties and atrocities. In the recent times, thousands of Indian citizens—most of them are belonging to Kerala and they are all Malayalees—are held in Muscat and Oman. They were brought there by the sponsors, who had taken a huge amount from them. But it is understood that due to lack of documents many of these persons were held in jails. Most of them are in the labour camps.

The Embassy of our nation has to contact the Embassy of Oman with immediate effect and the relief measures have to be taken. It is because they are not allowed to return or work there. Either they have to go to the jails or they have to go to the labour camps.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to take immediate steps in this regard.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, the Kerala Government had submitted a proposal to start a new air line known as Air Kerala to enable the Gulf Malayalees to reach the Gulf States at normal air fare. It will be an air line with public participation of the Government of Kerala and the Chief Executive of the airline will be the Chief Minister of the State. But this project is pending approval before the Central Government.

Now, when the Central Government is encouraging the private airlines, why do they hesitate to give sanction to this proposal by a State Government especially by the Chief Minister?

19.00 hrs.

It is pending for a long time. Not only the present Government but also the previous Government proposed this. Now, it is strongly put by the Chief Minister. I do

not understand the logic behind it. You always prefer or encourage private airlines but at the same time when a State Government has submitted a proposal to start an airline with public participation and with the Chief Minister being the Chief Executive of that airline, why do you refrain from doing that? It is an injustice. You have no hesitation to give sanction to the private airlines. Then, why do you hesitate in this case? The private airlines are increasing the fares everyday.

From Trivandrum to Delhi, we suggested a direct flight. If Mr. Praful Patel is present here, I would not have allowed him to go because he has stopped the direct flight. I have to travel with very great difficulty. How can I continue my membership in the House when the direct flight is rejected? So, I would request the Government, particularly, Mr. Praful Patel, to start the direct airline from Trivandrum to Delhi. You are unnecessarily stopping it. I would not allow him to move into the House if he comes.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): He is very annoyed. His concern should be considered.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I will have to get down at Chennai, emplane another plane and return here. All these difficulties are there. You convey him my concern.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): I will convey it to the concerned Minister. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, nothing should go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Bhushan Singh—Not present.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House that several hundreds of women from all over the country are sitting in *dharma* at Jantar Mantar under the banner of National Federation of Indian Women for the last four days. They are demanding one-third

reservation for women. Everyday women are coming from various States. It is a demand that is accepted by everybody but never becomes an Act. For the last one decade, we are again and again discussing this issue and assurances are given.

Last year, Shri C.K. Chandrappan, our hon. Member, introduced a Private Member Resolution on this. There was a big discussion. Irrespective of Parties, more than 55 to 60 Members participated in it and supported the demand for one-third reservation for women. Even the Government agreed and it is a part of the Common Minimum Programme.

Everybody expected that soon this Bill will be introduced by the Government but there is no sign of any introduction of this Bill. It is a very big injustice. Women are angry and they are justifiably angry. Something has to be done. The Government should take it into consideration the necessity of bringing this Bill at the earliest.

The Beijing Declaration has asked for 33 per cent reservation. Even in countries like South Africa, women are having 40 per cent reservation in Parliament. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your demand?

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: This is a big demand. I would request that the Government should come out early. In the name of consensus, it should not be postponed for ever. There should be some sort of an end to this type of eternal debates. There are several Bills that are being introduced in our Parliament even without a consensus. Even with a simple majority, it is possible to bring it. Though a Constitution Amendment that is needed with two-thirds majority, I am sure all the major political parties will support it. Let us take into consideration the justifiable demand of the women who are fighting under the banner of National Federation of Indian Women.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum): Thank you, Sir. I just want to raise an important issue of urgent public importance, through you, and I want to draw the attention of the Government, particularly the Ministry of Railways to this issue. Very recently a devastating flood has caused immense damage to our State particularly in the district Birbhum. Due to this devastating flood one railway bridge over the river Brahmani near Nalhati

*Not recorded.

Junction station on the Sahibganj loop section of Eastern Railway has been badly damaged. It is an important rail route connecting the State headquarters Kolkata to North Bengal and North-East on one side and Bihar and up to Delhi on the other side. This important rail link has been disconnected due to damage caused to that railway bridge because of the floods.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your demand?

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Sir, I am just coming to that. All passenger services and freight services have been suspended since then. It is causing immense suffering to the people of that area. The essential commodities are not being transported by that route. I, therefore, urge upon the Government, particularly the Ministry of Railways, through you, that they should take immediate and appropriate measures for damage control and restoration of railway services—both passenger and freight services—on that route. This is my demand and I hope that the government would take appropriate action in this regard. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a very minor points Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyay, a well known leader. It was he who showed the path of economic progress and enunciated the 'Panch Kalyan Siddhanta.' He was born in a small village Dhankya, under Jaipur Parliamentary Constituency. To commemorate his memory as well as his village the Dhankya railway station as well as the precincts should be named after him.

Keeping in view the fact that a school, a college and a hospital too are being constructed there. Through you, I request the Central Government to name the Dhankaya railway station as Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Puram so that the leader of his stature as a highly respected national leader and who propounded the country's economic politics as well as given the 'Panch Kalyan Siddhanta', it will be befitting to commemorate his memory. I hope the Central Government would definitely accede to my small demand which is very minor in nature and is just also. I thank you sir for giving me this opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (Serampore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether the hon.

Minister of Women and Child Development is aware that since yesterday, braving the inclement weather of Delhi, a good number of ICDS employees are sitting on mass *dharma* and relay hunger strike to press for their seven-point demands.

The demands for the *anganwadi* workers are:

Universalisation of the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme as per the Supreme Court order and NCMP commitment and making it permanent;

Regularisation of the services of *anganwadi* workers and helpers as Grade III and Grade IV employees;

Immediate enhancement of the remuneration of the *anganwadi* workers to Rs. 3,000 per month and helpers to Rs. 2,000 per month;

Automatic linkage to Consumer Price Index;

Ex gratia of Rs. 1,00,000 to workers and Rs. 50,000 to helpers on retirement at 60 years;

Implementation of all the social security benefits like Provident Fund, ESI, Gratuity, Pension, etc.; and

Formation of a National Tripartite Committee on the issues of the *anganwadi* employees.

The Government, in a booklet, reported to the people that about 1.88 lakh new centres are functioning. It also reported that the outlay for ICDS has been increased by 171 per cent. It also reported that nutritious food is being provided to all pregnant women and children, and it was not limited to BPL people. When this was reported to the people by the UPA Government, I wonder what the hon. Minister is doing. Our sisters are waiting there, and they are on hunger strike and on *dhamas*. Should the Government not approach them, invite them and consider their legitimate demands?

Therefore, hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I draw your kind attention and I would request you to direct the Government to see reason and to ensure that their legitimate demands are fulfilled.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the whole House as well as the Minister for Women and Child Development to the fact that right from yesterday, mass rallies and hunger strikes are going on at Jantar Mantar near the

Parliament Street. They have already met the Minister one month ago and they raised their demands. Their main demand is to regularise the services of *anganwadi* employees and helpers, that is, Grade III and Grade IV employees, and to make them permanent employees.

They are also demanding that the ICDS Scheme should become a permanent one, and the Government should open more *anganwadi* centres in all human habitations within a prescribed time-frame. They also want regularisation of the services of the *anganwadi* workers and helpers as Grade III and Grade IV employees with all attendant benefits. The key grass-root level functionaries of the ICDS are not even recognised as employees. They do not have any job security or social security. The Supreme Court has given a verdict in 2001 that every settlement in the country should have a functioning *anganwadi* centre and it should be made operational immediately. They also want immediate enhancement of the remuneration of the *anganwadi* workers to Rs. 3,000 per month and helpers to Rs. 2,000 per month. Besides, they want automatic linkage of their remuneration to Consumer Price Index. In addition, they want a lump sum *ex gratia* of Rs. 1,00,000 to be paid to *anganwadi* workers and Rs. 50,000 to be paid to the helpers on retirement at 60 years. The retirement benefits given to the *anganwadi* workers and the helpers should also cover EPF, ESI, etc. They also want a National Tripartite Committee consisting of representatives of the Government of India, State Governments, trade unions representing the *anganwadi* workers and helpers.

[Translation]

The children between three to five years of age are the 'buds of the society. Our *anganwadi* workers and helpers feed them, look after them so that they blossom into ideal citizens. They also provide them with small items of teaching aids, and it is through them that we would achieve the target of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan mentioned in clause one. If we do not help the bud to blossom, our society will not develop along proper lines.

[English]

I would urge upon the Government to fulfill the demands of the *anganwadi* workers and helpers immediately so that India can prosper and our children can become good citizens of India.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch): Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Prime Minister as well as

the hon. Home Minister towards one very serious matter, that is, regarding the widespread terrorist activities in our country. The terrorist activities, as we all know, are increasing day by day, and the height of these terrorist activities in the last Mumbai bomb blasts. For controlling these terrorist activities, our Gujarat Government passed one Bill known as Gujarat (Control of Organised Crime) Bill, 2003 on the suggestion of the Central Government. The same was sent to the Government of India for the assent of His Excellency the President of India on the 1st of April, 2003.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, vide their letter dated 24th December, 2003, had recommended deletion of Clauses 14 and 16. Thereafter also the amended Bill was passed by the State Legislative Assembly on 2nd June, 2004 and the amended Bill was again sent to Government of India in June, 2004 for the Assent of His Excellency the President. The State Government is awaiting the Assent of His Excellency the President of India for the last more than two years.

The Bill is based on a similar Act passed by the State Governments of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. When the police in the neighbouring State of Maharashtra was about to take action against some of the organised groups of criminals, some of them have shifted to Gujarat. So, unless and until Gujarat Government gets the statutory authority to deal with such criminals in the same manner as the Government of Maharashtra, the security situation in the State would remain under constant threat. Gujarat being a border State has all the more reason to worry about the organised crime. The amended Bill is in accordance with the principles laid down by the hon. High Court of Mumbai.

I, therefore, urge upon Government of India to kindly convey the Assent of His Excellency the President of India to the Bill as immediately as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are a large number of handicapped children in our country for whom adequate resources for education have not been arranged as per their requirement at present. That is why a large number of children are deprived of education in rural areas. At the same time, there is a lack of educational institutions in urban areas also. Today, we organize a lot of programmes for celebrating Bal Divas. We also organize Polio Divas

but we ignore the right to education which must be provided to the handicapped children. Today, there are a number of middle and high schools for the blind, dumb and deaf children in all the States of the country but they are inadequate.

I hail from Madhya Pradesh. In Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, there is a very large and old University but for the blind, dumb and deaf children, there is only one primary school. There are only two middle schools in entire Madhya Pradesh and there is not only any Government High Secondary School in Madhya Pradesh for deaf and dumb children. The same situation exists in the country. There is only one school for blinds.

Therefore, through you, I request the Central Government to conduct a special survey campaign in entire country and to make arrangements of Higher Secondary education for blind, deaf and dumb children as per requirement in various States. Thanks.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The topic raised by Shrimati P. Satheedevi is similar to the one raised by Shri Sunil Khan. So, his name should also be associated with this issue.

[English]

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara): I associate myself, Sir.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, the coastline of Kerala is subjected to severe sea erosion throughout the year and it is more during monsoon months. During monsoon season, the entire stretch of coastline of Kerala is vastly affected. In my Constituency Alleppey, that is Alappuzha, alone nearly 60 houses were fully destroyed and nearly 200 houses were partially damaged. This is the same along the entire coast of Kerala. This gets repeated every year. The State Government has to spend a huge amount of money every year for the rehabilitation of the affected families. Unfortunately, the State of Kerala does not get any Central assistance since sea erosion is not considered a natural calamity as per the Government of India guidelines. Similarly, hilly areas of the State are subjected to landslides and lightning strikes which have taken up many lives and caused severe damage.

The Government of Kerala has represented this matter before the Union Home Ministry and was informed that CRF norms were fixed by the Finance Commission.

Considering the devastation caused by this natural calamity, I would urge upon the Government to include natural calamities like sea erosion, land slidings and lightnings in natural calamity norms fixed by the Government of India and assistance under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) should be provided for the sufferers of this catastrophe.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to raise a serious matter that the provision of creamy layer has been made in the matter of reservation for O.B.Cs., and this provision has not been made properly. I would like to place such a neglected issue before you which has a far-reaching effect. You can notice that when Supreme Court order had been applied on creamy layer, the civil application with regard to Indira Sahni and others versus Government of India and others was in Union of India and other case writ petition (civil) number 930 of 1990. An expert committee had been constituted very carefully in this regard. This expert committee had given a recommendation and made a criteria that socially advanced persons. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Have you prepared it properly?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: I have come here well prepared but this is a very complicated matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What do you want to say?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: It is very complicated issue. Hence it would be a bit difficult to explain to you all as well as the countrymen. Henceforth I will choose to speak in English.

[English]

In the judgement of the Indira Sawhney and other Versus the Union of India and others case, the Supreme Court has appointed an Expert Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please lay it on the table of the House.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: The criterion suggested by him excluded the socially advanced persons. They were not supported to get the reservations meant for the backward classes. For this constitution posts, some service category and as decided recently, those who have income upto 2.5 lakhs per annum to whom we call creamy layer will be excluded. Thereafter, directives were issued by the Supreme Court also.

[English]

The directive of the Supreme Court is that the rule of exclusion will not apply to persons working as artisans or engaged in hereditary occupations, callings. A list of such occupations, callings will be issued separately by the Ministry of Welfare.

[Translation]

This was the direction of the year 1993. It's the circular issued by the Government of India. However, no exclusion has yet been done by the Government so far. It has not been engaged anyone's attention so far. For these obvious reasons I happened to remark that it's complicated issue. There was a directive of the Supreme Court therein. The Supreme Court's directive was ignored in this case and it is an insult to Supreme Court. In the recent past, the Government of Maharashtra has passed a G.O. which finds inclusion of denotified and Nomadic tribes who as of now were kept out of this list of creamy layer. They are very neglected. They continue to be neglected for all times.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it's a very serious issue. Nobody has yet been the Supreme Court's directives. I would like to raise the demand through you that

[English]

Immediately, the Government of India should issue a list of such communities as directed by the Supreme Court.

[Translation]

The Government of Maharashtra has unnecessarily placed denotified and Nomadic tribes under creamy layer

category. It's quite unfair. I urge you that you should pass directives to the Government in this regard. I want that you should issue directive for it and convey to the Government that it is a serious issue and attention should be paid to it.

[English]

SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOUDHURY (Asansol): There is a serious problem of the industries particularly of small-scale industries and medium industries in the State of West Bengal and also in other parts of the country. It was raised in the Question House during the Budget Session. The Coal Minister, Shri Shibu Soren is present here.

[Translation]

It would be good if they lend their ears to this fact. It's an issue of coal linkages. Of Coal-linkages situation is such that small and medium industries do not get Coal. No policy has yet been put in place to supply Coal from the West Bengal based Coal mines to the industries.

[English]

It is true for other parts of the country as well. So, my demand is that there should be a policy in the Coal Ministry for coal linkage to the industries, particularly the small scale industries.

SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA (Mavellikara): The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme was introduced during the year 1999-2000 in Kerala. The crops covered under this Scheme in the State presently are paddy, tapioca, banana, turmeric and ginger. In Kerala, farmers have been switching over to commercial and horticultural crops. Cash crops are the mainstay of the agricultural sector in the State. The State's agriculture sector is dominated by perennial crops and the climatic advantage is less vulnerable to production instabilities, but production loss is significant largely due to pest and disease incidences.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to include other major horticultural perennial crops such as coconut, cashew, arecanut, rubber, pepper, coffee, tea, cardamom and vegetables to be covered under the National Crop Insurance Scheme.

[Translation]

SHRI NIHAL CHAND (Sriganganagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my parliamentary constituency is adjacent

to Sriganganagar, at the border. The Air Force had acquired as much as forty seven and a half thousand acres of land of Rautsar Tehsil in Hanumangarh district in the year 1991. It has acquired entire land of Dandusar Motor in five village panchayats including Banesar and award has already been passed in 1995. An amount of Rs. 1 billion 59 crore was awarded, however, the farmers are yet to be compensated against the acquisition of land. No development work has been undertaken there since 1995, as the land of that area is owned by the Air Force. It is imperative to provide the farmers with compensation as neither one can undertake development work in those villages nor can roads be constructed, nor can there be any arrangement of potable water. There is no sign of development in these five-GRAM PANCHAYATS nor can we undertake development work there. As a result, all the farmers are facing numerous difficulties and the entire area is being annihilated. I would like to submit through you that out of the entire area of land acquired in the year 1991 which has already been awarded, either the farmers should be compensated by issuing an award on the land should be returned to them in order that there may be a little bit of respite in their difficulties. This is all that I have to submit.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This should be taken care of.

[English]

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (Quilon): Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity. The UPA Government should immediately enact a comprehensive Central legislation to have 'social control' over the self-financing professional colleges in the country. The law should regulate admissions and fee structures in self-financing professional

colleges. The law should prohibit the collection of capitation fee and should not allow the managements to conduct their own separate entrance examination as they had done in the past few years, which are affecting the academic standards. The LDF Government's new legislation in the State of Kerala was a major step in bringing social control over the self-financing professional institutions which was unanimously adopted by the Kerala Legislative Assembly.

But the intervention by the hon. High Court has helped colleges to maintain *status quo* on the admission procedures and fee structure of self-financed professional colleges in the State. This has created confusion and chaos in the minds of the student community. The sheer profiteering resorted to by the various self-financing colleges has denied opportunity, right to education, to the poor and depressed sections of the society. This is a grave issue concerning the lives of millions of students across the country. It could not be resolved through judicial process. The issue is social and political and only Parliament can take a final decision on it.

I urge upon the Government, through you, Sir, to bring a proper legislation at the earliest, as the Supreme Court in its latest judgement has upheld the legitimacy of the Government to legislate on policy matters. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11 a.m.

19.31 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, July 27, 2006/Sravana 5, 1928 (Saka)

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