

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, February 22, 2006/Phalgun 03, 1927 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice for suspension of Question Hour. This incident of corruption is unprecedented in this country in regard to Quattrochi. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You may raise this issue during the zero hour at 12 O'clock.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: ...* is directly involved in it ... accounts have been opened under pressure. From...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you at 12 o'clock.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No. Do not record it. I will delete it.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: That is deleted. The name is deleted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have deleted that.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The bank account of an Indian fugitive was allowed to be defreezed

*Not recorded.

in London by none other than the Additional Attorney General and crores of rupees were withdrawn from that account. Nowhere in the world has ever been happened like this. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, Prof. Malhotra. I am not trying to stop you from raising any issue. My only request is that you may please raise it at the proper time. I will give you an opportunity.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is not a question of 'proper time'.

[Translation]

It would do if the country is run like this. Is it possible that Sonia Gandhiji and the Hon'ble Prime Minister are not aware how it happened? If the hon'ble Prime Minister is not aware then at whose instance it was done? *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not a matter that has happened today. It is an old matter.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no reason for suspension of Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The hon'ble Prime Minister stated in his reply that he was not aware of it while the Law Minister is contradicting him and saying that he is aware of it and by defreezing the accounts of Quattrochi. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are many important questions to be raised. Members have put questions and let them be answered.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is not a matter of questions. It is the question of country's money and corruption. The Hon'ble Prime Minister says that he does not know. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: After all, an hon. Member of your Party has given notice of the first Question.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Sir, ...* is directly involved in it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): We want to know who advised them to defreeze the account. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The statement of the hon'ble Prime Minister says that he is not aware of anything. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Being in the Opposition we say it ourselves. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You will not listen to me, you will listen to him.

[English]

I was counting; I see that there are about 35 hon. members speaking together.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: There has been corruption, but the hon'ble Prime Minister does not know. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Please you spare only one minute time for me to speak. I am asking for only one minute time out of six hours.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It will not go on record. Expunge it.

...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We have got a pool of scientists. You could find out a machine by which I can hear one hon. Member out of so many Members speaking together. It is impossible.

The Deputy Leader of your Party is an astute, articulate, well-disciplined Member. When he is speaking on one subject, others are speaking on another subject. I do not know whether he needs others help when he is speaking.

[Translation]

How will it go on. You must speak only when you are asked to.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yours is a disciplined Party.

[Translation]

Please speak one by one, but speak only for two minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying that the Question Hour may be suspended. A grave incident has taken place in the country and the hon'ble Prime Minister says he does not know ...*(Interruptions)* How can the Additional Solicitor General of India go there? ...*(Interruptions)**... is directly involved in it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No name should go on record. Nothing should go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I will ask the Government to make a Statement. You may raise it at 1200 noon. I will ask the Government to respond.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: No, Sir.
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been proved that. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed you to speak. Nothing will go on record. You are speaking without my permission. I am sorry, nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want the House to run?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to ask the Government to respond. You may raise it at 1200 noon.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet at 11.15 hours.

11.06 hrs.

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

11.15 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at fifteen minutes past Eleven of the clock.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had requested that. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting all the hon. Members and particularly Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra to let us have

*Not recorded.

Question Hour. We have important questions. We can discuss that at 1200 hours. I have got a notice from the hon. Leader of the Opposition, I will allow him. I thank you for your cooperation.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mahendra Prasad Nishad Q. No. 62.

[Translation]

Adulterants In Ayurvedic Medicines

*62. ⁺ SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA":

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

(a) whether a large number of Ayurvedic medicines are being manufactured by Private and Government Institutions all over the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is aware of cases regarding presence of animal products, human bones and other adulterants in Ayurvedic medicines;

(d) whether the Government has conducted any probe or laboratory tests in this regard;

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government against companies for their failure to mention ingredients on the labels of their drugs/medicines;

(f) the details of laboratories set up to examine the adulteration of indigenously manufactured/imported Allopathic, Ayurvedic and other kinds of medicines, State-wise;

(g) whether the Government has decided to make compulsory licensing system for Ayurvedic firms;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

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

Statement

Yes, Sir. Large number of Ayurvedic medicines are manufactured by Private and Government Licensed Pharmacies. As on 1.4.2005, there were 7997 Ayurvedic manufacturing units in the country as detailed in Annexure.

Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, State Governments regulate the manufacturing of Ayurvedic medicines. Ayurvedic Medicines contain mostly plant materials. The use of minerals and metal and some animal parts and products in addition to plant ingredients is permissible according to Ayurvedic formularies, Pharmacopoeia and books mentioned in first schedule of the Drugs and Cosmetic Act, 1940. But, use of human bones is not permissible in Ayurvedic Medicines.

Recently an Hon'ble Member of Parliament brought a case of alleged use of animal parts and also some parts of human skull in two medicines made by a Pharmacy in Uttaranchal to the notice of the Department. The matter was referred to the Government of Uttaranchal for further inquiry and necessary action under the law. At the same time, the two medicines provided by the Hon'ble M.P. were got tested by reputed laboratories in the country. Regarding one of the medicines, one of the

laboratories has confirmed presence of DNA of human species but the other laboratory has not confirmed the same. Regarding the other medicine, neither of the laboratories found DNA of any human origin. The analysis reports have been sent to the State Government of Uttaranchal for further investigation and appropriate action under the law. The Drugs Controller General of India has received three reports wherein an allopathic drug has been detected as adulterants in Ayurvedic drugs. These cases are under further investigation.

25 States have been financially assisted to upgrade their AYUSH State Drug Testing Laboratories. In addition, there are two Central Government laboratories *i.e.* Pharmacopoeial Laboratory for Indian Medicine and Homeopathic Pharmacopoeial Laboratory. All NABL/GLP accredited laboratories are also approved by the Department to test AYUSH medicines. As regards Allopathy Drugs, 19 States have established their drugs testing laboratories and there are about 140 approved drug testing laboratories functioning in the country.

Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Medicines are being licensed by State Drugs Controllers of ASU & H Drugs in accordance with the provisions of Chapter IVA of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Drugs and Cosmetics Rules, 1945.

Annexure

State-wise Number of Government and Non-Government Ayurvedic Licensed Pharmacies as on 1.4.2005

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Govt.	Non-Govt.	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	557	558
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
3.	Assam	1	39	40
4.	Bihar	—	216	216
5.	Chhattisgarh	3	50	53
6.	Delhi	1	56	57
7.	Goa	—	8	8
8.	Gujarat	3	291	294
9.	Haryana	—	450	450

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Himachal Pradesh	3	67	70
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	9	9
12.	Jharkhand	—	—	—
13.	Karnataka	—	—	135*
14.	Kerala	1	1133	1134
15.	Madhya Pradesh@	1	624	625
16.	Maharashtra	3	674	677
17.	Manipur	—	—	—
18.	Meghalaya	—	1	1
19.	Mizoram	—	—	—
20.	Nagaland	—	—	—
21.	Orissa	—	—	192*
22.	Punjab	—	—	149*
23.	Rajasthan	—	—	391*
24.	Sikkim	—	2	2
25.	Tamil Nadu	1	403	404
26.	Tripura	—	—	—
27.	Uttar Pradesh	2	2060	2062
28.	Uttaranchal	3	74	77
29.	West Bengal	1	323	324
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—
31.	Chandigarh	—	3	3
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	19	19
33.	Daman and Diu	—	17	17
34.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—
35.	Pondicherry	—	30	30
Total		24	7106	7997

Note:

*Break-up of Government and Non-Government is not available for the State of Karnataka, Orissa, Punjab and Rajasthan.

@Ayurveda Figure including Unani.

Source: State Governments.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ayurvedic system of medicine is an ancient system of medicine in India. The people of this country have had unflinching faith in the Ayurvedic system of medicines. However, a few cases questioning the quality and efficacy of Ayurvedic medicines have come to light recently as a result of which doubts have been created in the minds of people with regard to Ayurvedic medicines. Through you, I would like to know the outcomes of laboratory tests of medicines conducted? If those medicines have been found to be adulterated with objectionable products, then what action has been taken against such companies?

[English]

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I am not able to understand what tests he has been referring to.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know the results of the tests.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, there are hundreds of tests conducted every day and every month.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Which tests you are referring to?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is with regard to presence of animal products, human bones and other adulterants in Ayurvedic medicines. It is being widely propagated in the country.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is there in part 'c' of the Question.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, the hon. Member has been right in saying that our own system, the Indian system of medicine, especially Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani, has been followed for centuries together by our fore-fathers. This is a cost-effective system also which is well entrenched into our culture and society. When this system was found in the earlier days, the natural elements which were found in abundance at that point of time were used as medicine. All these medicines were mostly plant based. They include minerals also. Some of these

medicines used animal parts also. Some of these medicines used human parts like hair. In fact, even in an Ayurvedic medicine, hair was used for eye ointment. It was crushed and made into a liquid form.

So, we have evolved a formulary. We have a Pharmacopoeia associated with the Indian system. Since today the topic is Ayurveda, I will specially go into issues pertaining to Ayurveda. We have a Pharmacopoeia for Ayurveda, both for individual drugs and for formulation. We have a list of ingredients which could be and cannot be used. In those there are some medicines where animal parts, like tiger claws, ox tooth or camel tooth or cow's milk and a lot of such things have been used. They had been permitted earlier under the ancient manuscript.

MR. SPEAKER: What is the result of the tests? That is what he wants to know. He is not asking about Ayurvedic drugs as such.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I will come to that. Coming back to the specific issue, there was recently a case where an hon. Member Shrimati Brinda Karat had given some samples to the Government. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Generally we do not take names of Members who are not present. But it is all right.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: She has given two samples of medicines and one sample of an animal part to be tested. In fact, we had got these tested in some lab in Hyderabad. The animal part was tested in one lab in Chennai and in Kolkata. The results of these tests have already been stated in my reply. Out of the two samples of medicine, one was supposed to be for epilepsy and the other one was supposed to be for virility. The first sample was analysed in the National Centre for Compositional Characterisation of Material (CCCM) affiliated to BARC, Hyderabad. Their analysis was that calcium phosphate was found to be a major constituent of that sample. After that they recommended that a DNA testing should be done. Accordingly, DNA Finger printing was conducted for the first sample at the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology (CCMB) Hyderabad and Centre for DNA Finger Printing Diagnostics, Hyderabad. The report received from CCCM, Hyderabad said that the first sample did not contain any ingredient of human origin.

The second sample, in fact, the sample was supposed to be for virility or potency and on the basis

of the report received from CCCM, BARC, Hyderabad, it was again sent to labs in CCCM and CDFD. The report received from the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology concluded that the source of DNA isolated from the sample exhibits presence of human species. But the report from the CDFD Hyderabad did not confirm this.

MR. SPEAKER: So, there is one laboratory which had said that. That is what he wanted to know.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I had mentioned about two samples and one was of the animal part. This was sent to two labs, one in Chennai and the other at Kolkata. They have confirmed that these were from animal origin. The sample itself was of an animal organ.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his reply that human parts are used in certain drugs. Through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to which are the drugs where human parts are used and which companies have been given permission to use that?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Which are the companies that manufacture this?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I will bring to the notice of the hon. Member that, as I said, there is no Ayurvedic formulation where human parts are used as on date.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know the name of the company.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: As on date, there are no Ayurvedic formulations where human parts could be used but in ancient scripts, it is found that human hair was used for making eye ointment.

MR. SPEAKER: That is theoretical exposition. He wants to know the name of the company.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Today, there is no company which manufactures medicines based on any human part.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not known to the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question and the related reply indicate that the matter is very serious and sensitive. A sort of professional competition has started between the industries based on Indian Ayurvedic system of medicines and herbs on one hand and multinational companies in the Allopathy sector on the other at the international level, at present. This matter is related to Uttaranchal and I represent Uttaranchal. Divya Yoga Pharmacy based at Kankhal is run by Swamy Ramdev ji who has integrated Yoga, Pranayam with Ayurveda which benefited lakhs of people. Everything was alright. In the meantime two samples were taken as been referred to by the hon'ble Minister in his reply. On the pattern of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act is there is also the Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Act which provides the comprehensive process of taking samples alongwith the persons in whose presence these samples to be taken, number of part sit should be divided; the authorised person who will sign on those samples and the number of witnesses to be present at the time of taking samples. But there no mention in the hon'ble Minister's reply as to whether above procedures were adopted while taking the samples. As per my information there was a dispute between the workers and the owners. I know that Members of Parliament enjoy so many privileges but the method which was adopted for taking samples was not right.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has not done it. The Government has not come to the conclusion.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': He said that samples were provided. Will merely providing samples make you jump to a conclusion? If we are Members, can we do anything? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That is not recorded. Only his supplementary is recorded. Nothing else will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': The statement of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been published in all newspapers and in electronic media. And today reply of the hon. Minister has come. Both these reports are contradictory. Swami Ramdevji alleges that all this is being done under the pressure of multinational companies. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt. Put your question now.

...*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': In this case somewhere or the other these people are hand in glove with one another. This is being done to help the multinational companies. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated, do not interrupt. One half of the Question hour has already gone.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I was indeed putting the question but they have complicated the issue.

MR. SPEAKER: You leave it aside and please put your question.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': Ok, Mr. Speaker, Sir, If I go into this matter in detail, there are give to six issues involved in this.

MR. SPEAKER: There are no issues. They said that there was nothing like that.

...*(Interruptions)**[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not put your supplementary then I will have to stop you. Please put your question.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I am putting the question only. Divya Pharmacy and Swami Ramdevji had levelled allegations that the existing norms and practices are a part of the conspiracy to defame the multinational companies. Will the Government conduct an enquiry by adopting any statutory procedure and will it propose to take action against anyone found guilty after the enquiry. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not do it. You cannot go on interrupting sitting there, w'thout my permission.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Our Indian system has been gaining a lot of mileage not only within the country but internationally also. And in fact, there have been some issues in America, Canada, Europe and Singapore where some of our Indian medicines specially Ayurvedic medicines have been proven to have some metallic compounds and we are trying to sort out those issues.

Coming to the pointed question on this specific issue on whether anybody is competent to lift samples from anywhere, under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, there are recognised authorities to do it. Or, consumers and consumer organizations can lift samples in a prescribed format and give them to a recognized laboratory to be tested whether a drug or a food product. In fact, being an hon. Member of Parliament, we found that it is our duty to test these samples. After testing these reports, we had given. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, you are not denying the right of a Member to give a sample to the Government.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: So, we had given these reports to the Government of Uttaranchal who is the authority. We have asked them to do an inquiry and go into the positives, benefits and the legalities of the cases, *prima facie*, and take action under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. They are the people who are eligible to take action.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is all right.

(English)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: The Minister has stated in his answer that after the detection of heavy metals found in Ayurveda medicines in Canada and the USA, the Government is preparing itself to sort it out. How is it to be sorted out in view of the indigenous medicines that have now been gaining popularity globally with its export potentialities also.

The second thing is that the ingredients are used to be displayed on the label of any medicine. But in view of the classical form of Ayurvedic medicine, it becomes inscrutable for the common people to know what are those ingredients, whether these are beneficial or harmful. May I know the reaction of the Government?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: The Government has been taking a number of steps to bring back quality and credibility also where internationally, the international community is looking at the Indian drug manufacturing with some queries and doubts. We have initiated a number of proposals. There are two types of drugs. One is the purely herbal drugs, and the second is, herbal drugs with permitted metals or compounds—metallic compounds. The number one is that the onus is on the manufacturer to self-test his product in a recognized laboratory and then export it. There will not be any problems. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has asked whether that will be mentioned in that.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, I am coming to that. This is one step that we are taking.

The second step is that all the ingredients have to be mandatorily mentioned in the label. There are two types of drugs. One is the classical drugs, and the second is, patent and the proprietary drugs. For the classical drugs, in fact, these are drugs notified under the classical text. Within this year, first of July, for the classical drugs, it is mandatory that all the ingredients will also be mentioned. In the patent and proprietary drugs, already there is a notification that all the ingredients have to be mentioned in that.

Goods manufacturing practices of all manufacturing units of Indian system units literally number about 9,000. We have enforced it last year and we have strengthened our own drug testing laboratories to test these samples.

We have given money which is literally about Rs. 1.5 crore to about 23-25 States' testing laboratories. We are doing research ourselves to have the scientific validity. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. P.P. KOYA: Our hon. Minister has been trying his level best to balance the question as well as the answer. But I would like to know a little more information from him. It appears from his answer that there are people who violate the Cosmetics Act of 1940. How many such cases have been brought to his notice? How many of them are prosecuted? This is my first part of the question.

The second part is that in the AYUSH drugs whether Homeopathy is covered or not.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Regarding part (a) of the hon. Member's question, I will bring it to the notice of the hon. Member.

About part (b) regarding AYUSH, we call it Indian System of Medicines as well as the traditional system. Indian system consists of Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani. Even though Unani was founded in Greece and through Persia it has come to India, we are still calling it the Indian system because India is the largest practitioner of Unani System. Homeopathy is the traditional system which was founded in Germany. In fact, the Indians are the most leading practitioners of Homeopathy. Of course, Yoga and Naturopathy are there.

MR. SPEAKER: Is it included in AYUSH? What about the first part of the question?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I said that I would collect the details and give the details.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: The Ayurvedic System of Medicine is the age-old system of medicine and a very reputed one. Today's question is relating to adulteration of particular medicines of Ayurvedic System, specifically about a particular product which is under dispute. As per the Minister's reply, about the testing of samples from reputed laboratories, different opinions have come up. But one sample is having the definitive test of human product which was confirmed by the DNA test.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question?

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: So, my specific question to the hon. Minister is this. On this specific and positive

result, what concrete action has the Government taken to identify the delinquent manufacturing unit? This is part (a) of my question. Part (b) of my question is. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no part (b) of your question.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Sir, please allow me. At the backdrop of the rampant commercialisation of Ayurvedic products throughout the country and outside the country as well, these days the quality of the Ayurvedic products should be maintained. I would like to know whether the Government is considering strengthening of the testing facilities to keep quality brand of Ayurvedic products or not.

MR. SPEAKER: Have you identified the delinquent company and what steps are to be taken?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act for Indian System of Medicine, the State Government authorities are the competent authorities to give licence and take action, if any required. So, we have tested the samples and given all the samples to the Government of Uttaranchal. They are the competent authority who could even do an inquiry and find out things. They could even test more.

MR. SPEAKER: Has the Government of India ascertained the result of that?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Yes, Sir, we have.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: What all we have got from these laboratories, we have given it to them. The State Government of Uttaranchal wanted more information. We have also given them the information. An Inquiry is going on. They are the competent authority to take action.

Regarding part (b), I have already mentioned that we are taking a number of steps to maintain the quality and credibility because this is a growing industry. Today, in fact, 25 per cent of the world's medicines is plant-based. The medicines are increasing. So, we have the National Medicinal Plant Board which is trying to propagate the medicinal plants among our farmers to replicate them from the other crops. It is a very progressive industry also.

MR. SPEAKER: That is all right. You have already said that.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: We are modernising the drug testing laboratories. We have given a lot of money even to the private laboratories, the accredited laboratories and the recognised laboratories to modernise. We are taking a number of steps to maintain the quality and credibility.

MR. SPEAKER: You have mentioned that.

Shri Ram Kripal Yadav. This is the last supplementary. We have a very bad record today because we are still in the first Question.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister in his reply has stated that there are 7997 Ayurvedic Manufacturing companies across the country. You will be surprised to know that out of these, only 700 companies have received the Goods Manufacturing Practice Certificate (GMP). All the remaining manufacturing companies are operating without obtaining the GMP certificate. If so, will the Government take action against such companies and will it after conducting an enquiry take stringent action against companies which have not received the GMP certificates.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You need not repeat it. You have said that.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, there are approximately 9,000 manufacturers of Indian system drugs. Out of that approximately 7,000 are from Ayurveda side. Out of that, in 14 States there are about 5,300 units of Ayurveda manufacturers and out of 5,300 units, 3,900 units are GMP compliant in 14 States. In other States also this is mandatory that all the manufacturers must compulsorily have this Goods Manufacturing Practice. If they do not have, their license will be cancelled and they cannot manufacture anything anywhere in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: To be cancelled by whom?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: By the State authorities.

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, there are companies doing that. There are companies, which are manufacturing without GMP.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, without GMP nobody can manufacture.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, I too have a question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You haven't given notice for it.

...*(Interruptions)*

Completion of Power Projects

*63. ⁺SHRI AJIT JOGI:
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several power projects have not been completed as per schedule;

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

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

(d) the additional expenditure that the Government is likely to bear due to non-completion of the projects within the stipulated time frame;

(e) the details of the status of the projects which are proposed to be completed during the current financial year, State-wise;

(f) whether the Government has any proposals to increase the installed capacity of certain projects;

(g) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (h) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There has been delay in execution of a few Central Sector projects from the X Plan target envisaged at the time of Mid Term Appraisal. The details of these projects along with the reasons for delays in at Annexure-I.

(c) The issues relating to delays in execution of power projects are discussed regularly in the quarterly performance review meetings. Wherever necessary, project specific meetings are also organized.

The average lead time for the 500 MW coal based unit has been reduced from 49 months to 38 months, for 210/250 MW units reduced to 28 months from 32 months and for gas based projects it has come down from 24 months to 20 months. The gestation time in respect of new hydro projects has also been declining.

Regular inter-action with Ministry of Environment & Forests, Finance Ministry and Planning Commission have led to faster clearances of projects. The procedures for clearances have also been streamlined.

To avoid delays in the execution of projects, monitoring mechanism has been strengthened. Measures taken include:

- Quarterly review by Ministry for each Central Public Sector Undertaking.
- Quarterly review by Ministry with Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) top level team.
- Quarterly review by Ministry with Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for all projects of the country.
- Video Conferencing with Chief Executives of select projects at more frequent intervals.
- Visits to projects.

(d) Due to rigorous monitoring and continuous inter-action with the developers, the long delayed projects of Nathpa Jhakri HEP and Dhauliganga HEP have been commissioned and the remaining major projects with long history of cost and time overrun specially the projects of Tehri HEP and Dulhasti are likely to be commissioned in March, 2006 and September, 2006 respectively. With this, all the Central Sector projects with long history of time and cost overrun would be commissioned in the X Plan.

In respect of projects mentioned in Annexure-I, no financial implications towards the Government have been reported as in these projects award of projects was delayed for want of fuel tie up and other clearances.

(e) The details of status of projects which are

proposed to be completed during the current financial year State-wise are at Annexure-II.

(f) to (h) Various Generation Utilities and States have proposed to Central Electricity Authority, a number of extension projects for inclusion in the XI Plan. A tentative list of these projects is at Annexure-III.

Annexure I

The Slippages from Mid Term Appraisal of X Plan to Present Assessment Projects slipping from target envisaged during Mid Term Appraisal of X Plan

Sl. No.	Name of project	No. of units x Rating=MW	Capacity slipping	Reasons for slippage
Thermal				
1.	Gandhar CCGT	2x725	725	The project could not be taken up due to uncertainty in availability of gas
2.	Kawas CCGT	2x725	725	The project could not be taken up due to uncertainty in availability of gas
3.	Tripura Gas	280	280	Project abandoned due to gas issues
Hydro				
4.	Sewa-II (NHPC) J&K	3x40=120	120	Project could be sanctioned by 9.9.2003. Under Best efforts its commissioning was proponed to X plan which does not appear feasible now. It takes about 5 years to complete.
5.	Teesta Low Dam-III (NHPC) W.B.	3x44=132	132	Project was sanctioned on 30.10.2003 due to delay in getting the environmental clearance.
6.	Omkareshwar (NHDC) M.P.	8x65=520	260	Sanction accorded on 29.5.2003. Under Best efforts its commissioning was proponed to X plan. However only four units are possible for commissioning now.
7.	Koteshwar (THDC) Uttaranchal	4x100=400	400	Sanction accorded in April, 2000. Resettlement and Rehabilitation issues are affecting progress of works.
Sub-total (C.S.)			2642	

Annexure II*Details of Projects proposed to be completed during the year 2005-06*

Projects targeted	Projects commissioning status
1	2
(a) Commissioned	
Central Sector	
Rihand STPS U-4 (500 MW), U.P.	Commissioned on 24.9.2005 (500 MW)
Dhauliganga Unit 1 to 4 (4x70 MW), Uttaranchal	U-4 commissioned on 26.7.2005 & U-3 Commissioned on 28.7.2005, U-2 on 1.9.2005 and U-1 on 17.10.2005. (280 MW)
TAPP U-4 (540 MW), Maharashtra	U-4 (50 MW) Commissioned on 4.6.2005
MAPS (R&M) (Addl.) (50 MW), Tamil Nadu	Commissioned on 30.4.2005 (50 MW)
State Sector	
Gujarat	
Akrimota Lignite TPP U-2 (125 MW)	Commissioned on 19th Dec. 2005 (125 MW)
Sardar Sarovar H.E. Project-RBPH	Unit 2 Commissioned on 30.4.2005 (200 MW).
Unit 2 to 5	U-3 commissioned on 30.8.2005 (200 MW).
(4x200 MW)	U-4 commissioned on 13.10.2005 (200 MW).
Karnataka	
Almatti Dam H.E. Project	U-5 Commissioned on 6.7.2005 (55 MW).
U-5&6	U-6 commissioned on 10.8.2005 (55 MW)
(2x55 MW)	
Tamil Nadu	
Pykara Ultimate H.E. Project	U-1, U-2 & U-3 (150 MW) Commissioned in August-Sept. 2005
Unit 1 to 13	
(3x50 MW)	U-1&2-11.8.2005 and U-3-5.9.2005
Private Sector	
Tamil Nadu	
Valantharavai GTPP GT-38 MW, ST-14.80 MW	GT (38 MW) commissioned on 29.10.2005
Karuppur CCPP ST-49.80 MW	Commissioned on 15.7.2005 (49.8 MW)
Jharkhand	
Jojobera TPP U-1 (120 MW)	Commissioned on 23.9.2005 (120 MW)
Andhra Pradesh	
Jagrupadu CCPP Extn. GT (140 MW)+ST (80 MW)	GT (140 MW) commissioned on 9.10.2005.
	ST (80 MW) commissioned on 11.11.2005.
Vemagiri CCPP GT (233 MW) + ST (137 MW)	GT (233 MW) commissioned on 13.1.2006
Total Commissioned during 2005-06 (Upto 31.1.2006)	3015.8 MW

1	2
(B) Projects likely to be commissioned by March, 2006	
Central Sector	
Tehri St-I H.E. Project- Unit 1 to 4 (4x250 MW), Uttaranchal	Anticipated Date of Commissioning: March, 2006.
MAPS I-Uprating U-1 (50 MW), Tamil Nadu	Anticipated Date of Commissioning: March, 2006
State Sector	
Tripura	
Rokhia GT Extn. GT-8 (21 MW)	Anticipated date of commissioning: March, 2006
Gujarat	
Dhuvaran CCPP GT (70 MW)	Anticipated date of commissioning: Feb. 2006
Sardar Sarovar H.E. Project U-5 (200 MW)	Anticipated date of commissioning: March, 2006
Uttar Pradesh	
Parichha TPS Extn. U-3 (210 MW)	Anticipated date of commissioning: 3/2006.
Himachal Pradesh	
Larji H.E. Project Unit 2 & 3 (84 MW)	Anticipated date of commissioning: March, 2006
Private Sector	
Andhra Pradesh	
Konaseema CCPP FT I&II (280 MW)	Anticipated date of commissioning: March, 2006
Vemagiri CCPP GT ST (137 MW)	Anticipated date of commissioning: Feb. 2006
Tamil Nadu	
Valantharavai GTPP ST-14.80 MW	Anticipated date of commissioning: Feb. 2006
Total	2066.8 MW
Total likely capacity addition in 2005-06	5082.6 MW

Annexure III

Thermal power projects where existing plants are proposed to be augmented by installation of additional units/stage

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	State/Implementation Agency	Capacity (MW)
1	2	3	4
1.	Sipat-I	Chhattisgarh/NTPC	3x860
2.	Kawas ST-II	Gujarat/NTPC	1300
3.	Kayamkulam-ST-II	Kerala/NTPC	1950

1	2	3	4
4.	Farakka ST-III	West Bengal/NTPC	500
5.	Barsingsar ST-II	Rajasthan/NLC	250
6.	Neyveli-II Expansion	Tamil Nadu/NLC	500
7.	Mython RBC Extn.	Jharkhand/DVC	1000
8.	Simhadri TPS Extn.	Andhra Pradesh/NTPC	500
9.	Korba Extn.	Chhattisgarh/NTPC	500
10.	Dadri TPS Extn.	UP/NTPC	490
11.	Giral Extn. U-2	Rajasthan/RRVUNL	125
12.	Kota U-7	Rajasthan/RRVUNL	195
13.	Suratgarh Lignite Extn.	Rajasthan/RRVUNL	250
14.	Praichcha Extn. U-5&6	UP/UPRVUNL	500
15.	Korba West Extn.	Chhattisgarh/CSEB	600
16.	Surat Lignite Extn.	Gujarat/GIPCL	250
17.	Sika TPP Extn.	Gujarat/GSECL	500
18.	Utran CCPP	Gujarat/GSECL	350
19.	Khaperkheda Extn.	Maharashtra/MAHAGENCO	500
20.	Prii Extn. U-2	Maharashtra/MAHAGENCO	250
21.	Paras Extn. U-2	Maharashtra/MAHAGENCO	250
22.	Bhusawal extn.	Maharashtra/MAHAGENCO	500
23.	Vijayawada ST-IV	Andhra Pradesh/APGENCO	500
24.	Kothagudam Extn.	Andhra Pradesh/APGENCO	500
25.	Bellary Extn.	Karnataka/KPCL	500
26.	Raichur U-8	Karnataka/KPCL	210
27.	Bakreshwar Extn. U-5	West Bengal/WBDCL	710
28.	DPL TPS Extn.	West Bengal	500
29.	Sagardighi Extn.	West Bengal/WBDCL	1000
30.	Budge-Budge Extn.	West Bengal/CESC	250

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Shinde, of course, you are not a new Minister but I compliment you in anticipation. You are always welcome. Yes, supplementary please.

SHRI AJIT JOGI: Sir, it is obvious from the detailed answer given by the hon. Minister that the time and cost overrun in the implementation of the generation projects is mainly responsible for the deficit in the electricity that the nation is facing. Therefore, part (a) of my supplementary is. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your first supplementary!

SHRI AJIT JOGI: Part (a), Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Each question will have one part. You will have two parts.

SHRI AJIT JOGI: Sir, my supplementary is whether the Government of India have chalked out a definite plan by when the country would not be deficit in electricity and we would be producing and supplying as much electricity as is demanded and as is required.

I would also like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India is planning to change the strategy. The current strategy is to distribute and disburse thinly our efforts all over the country whereas there are some States in the country like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Orissa where you concentrate on thermal projects, some States in the country like Uttaranchal and North-Eastern States where you concentrate on hydel projects. If you focus on these States you would be able to meet the deficit.

MR. SPEAKER: Put your question. You are now giving suggestion.

SHRI AJIT JOGI: No, Sir, it is not a suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER: No.

SHRI AJIT JOGI: I am saying whether he will like to change his strategy.

MR. SPEAKER: First of all, will you assure a date of completion of all the projects and whether you will change your strategy?

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Sir, in the Tenth Plan, it was decided to have 41,000 Megawatt. The

appraisal was taken and the mid-term appraisal towards the end of 2004 was coming down from 41,000 Megawatt to 36,000 Megawatt. But I must tell you that my Department, while considering all the production of the energy, thought that some difficulties will come in the future because there was no gas availability and other availabilities also. So, they were concentrating on having more new schemes and about 6,600 Megawatt was considered so that we may be able to produce to compete with this 41,000 Megawatt. But I must tell you that though it is my Department and I am new to it, I have taken a review of the entire Department and I am proud to say here that my Department and particularly the NTPC and NHPC are working hard.

Now, considering what hon. Member, Shri Ajit Jogi, has said whether we will be able to achieve the targeted plan, I assure this House that we have not only worked out a plan, yesterday I had a meeting with FICCI for the Ultra-mega Programme. Each Ultra-Mega project will produce 4,000 Megawatt of electricity. We have decided to have five such projects in India.

Considering all this deficit, we have to consider the private and public enterprises participation and then only we will be able to achieve what was targeted in the Tenth Plan. I must tell you that I have gone through the Eighth and Ninth Plans earlier. I have seen that what was produced in Eighth and Ninth Plans was not even 50 per cent. But now we are likely to achieve 82 per cent of Mid-Term Appraisal Review. The hon. Member will be very happy to note this. Even now my Department and I myself are not happy with this 82 per cent. I, with my colleagues in the Department, will try to reach 92 per cent of these projected targets.

MR. SPEAKER: Wish you and your officers all the best.

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT JOGI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister in his reply made a mention of Ultra Mega Projects and said that five major projects would be implemented in the country through which we would be able to overcome the deficit of electricity. I would like to know about each of the locations where these five ultra mega projects are proposed to be set up. Will these projects be installed in the private sector? If these projects are to be installed in the private sector, the time by which these projects will be allotted to them and when

the process for this work will start so that these five major projects get completed quickly and the issue of electricity deficit in the country is sorted out once for all.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: We are going to start these projects in Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. I have also stated that these will be between the private enterprises and public enterprises. In addition to this, there could be foreign investments in this. Yesterday, I went to the FICCI Auditorium. The people gathered there whole-heartedly supported us in large numbers. Shri R.P. Goyankaji, Essar and numerous other persons were present there. I am preventing myself from referring to them by name. But all the independent power producers of the country were present there in large numbers. Prime Minister as well as everyone of you have reposed great faith in me by handing me this responsibility. So I am marching ahead with high hopes that I and my department will put our best foot forward to make electricity available in the country and also address the problem of power cuts in the areas affected by it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody has his best wishes for you.

[Translation]

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, electricity is considered as the lifeline for the development of any country. But it is the misfortune of our country that even after 59 years of our independence, electricity remains a big problem before our country. There is no electricity in our villages owing to which the developmental works remain incomplete there. Many plans are prepared in the country for the generation of electricity. But none of them gets completed in a time bound manner owing to which the governments have to bear the losses to the tune of billions of rupees. Costs of the schemes keep on increasing and the places where these schemes are being implemented remain under developed. The Government have till date never held a single person responsible for causing delay in implementation of these schemes.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know about the Karanpura National Thermal Power Project in my parliamentary constituency for which the foundation stone was laid twice—once in year 1998 and again in year 2000 and billions of rupees were spent on this. The

foundation stone was laid by the then Prime Minister and it was done twice. The district is Chatara, but as the then Finance Minister belonged to Hazaribag, it was made its headquarters. Corruption is at its zenith there. Every year corruption to the tune of crores of rupees is orchestrated by the GM there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour cannot be conducted like this. Don't beat about the bush, be specific and put pointed questions.

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know about the time by which Karanpura National Thermal Power Project is going to be commissioned?

MR. SPEAKER: You could have asked this in one sentence like as to when Karanpura National Thermal Power Project is going to be commissioned, instead you wasted five minutes in its preface.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Sir, it is a fact that there are two projects in Jharkhand-Patradu and Tenughata. If any foundation has been laid in Karanpura, I will definitely give you the details about it. I want to add that the capacity of these two plants of Jharkhand is 1109 megawatt whereas the requirement of that State is only 700 Megawatt and these two plants are not even utilized upto 20% of their capacity. There are a lot of mines etc. there. Still I want to inform him that we have already deployed engineers of the NTPC there. Yesterday itself I made a review about the reasons of these plants not faring up to the mark and I had also intimated that this is a small unit and their demand is for only 700 Megawatts and we can generate electricity upto 1109 Megawatts there and this can be done in this unit. For this purpose, the engineers of the NTPC have been posted there. I want to inform this august House that we would like to build a 400 KVK power grid near Ranchi which will help in improving the situation over there. For the last one year we have been trying to acquire land, but we are not getting land there. If the hon'ble Member helps us in this regard, then I would help in creating excellent facilities there. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: This facilitation issue will definitely be looked into, but you will have to commission it very soon. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: That will not be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfair. You know I am a Leftist. I have a leaning for the left. But there are two hon. Members whose names are there in the List of Questions. How can I look at the left unless they exhaust themselves?

[Translation]

SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR: Sir, at present, Madhya Pradesh is reeling under power crisis. Everyone, including the farmers, students are suffering.
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR: The State Government is trying its best with its limited resources, but serious power crisis cannot be solved without the support of the Central Government. So, through the Chair, I would like to request the Central Government to expedite the approval of proposals sent by the Madhya Pradesh government for modernization and upgradation of power projects in the State with help from Germany and Japan. I would also like to remind the Central Government that a proposal to set up a nuclear power project of 2000 megawatt capacity is awaiting its approval.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the date by which the above mentioned projects are likely to be sanctioned by the Central Government and if there is any hurdle in granting sanction, then it should be resolved immediately. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Scindia, it will not be recorded. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: I have already ordered.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right. Who will regulate the proceedings of the House?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Scindia, this is not desirable at all.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfair. I have myself asked him to sit down. I have already said that it would not go on record. What more can I do? By shouting it would not help. On my own I have done it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You may throw the Chair out of this House and do your work by coming and standing amid and Well of the House.

Now the hon. Minister.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would certainly pay attention to the information provided by the hon. Member. The Ministry of Power is meant for helping all regions and States of the country. The Ministry will look into the problems pertaining to power generation in all States. In our country, we have two main projects—thermal power and hydro power. We intend to run some gas based projects but our country does not have enough gas. For example, I would like to make a reference about the Dabhol plant which was set up in the year 1992 but later work came to a standstill due to no-availability of gas. Even then, we would like to make Dabhol Project functional. So, I would personally look into the matter about gas based power projects in Madhya Pradesh. The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh had met me recently in this regard. I would like to hold another meeting with him in this matter. It is our duty to provide electricity to every State of the country irrespective of the party holding power in that State. It is our duty to provide electricity to all ranging from the poor people to the industries. I would like to inform the House that we would try our best to be capable to do so.

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in order to complete the power projects, the evaluation of their targets fixed for Tenth Five Year Plan was done in the mid-term appraisal. But, there was some delay in certain Central Sector Projects. The reasons for delay in these projects have been given in Annexure-I and State-wise position of these projects has been given in Annexure-II. It is proposed to complete these projects in

the current financial year itself. I would like the hon. Minister to elaborate as to when scarce supply of gas and coal have been cited as reasons for delay of these projects, then have you enough supply of coal and gas to complete these projects and if not, the efforts being made by the Government to bridge the gap between demand and supply.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India are trying their best to make gas available and the Prime Minister is helping us in this endeavour. Moreover, the Prime Minister has strictly said in the co-ordination committee meeting about the process by which we are to get gas. So, we are making all out efforts to get the required quantity of gas. The department is trying its best to procure gas both from internal and external sources. I have gone through the decisions taken in mid-term appraisal and I have already said that it has been decided to generate additional power upto 6600 megawatts.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri A. Krishnaswamy.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, my question is very particular. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Sir, the hon. Minister has made a detailed statement regarding the delay in executing the power projects.

12.00 hrs.

Sir, two power projects from the State of Tamil Nadu are missing in the statement given by the hon. Minister. One is, the 1000 megawatt power project from Ennore in the State of Tamil Nadu. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow this to go on.

[Translation]

Is it the way to behave?

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: Already a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the State Government of Tamil Nadu....*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening in this House?

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: The second project is the integrated power project with the association of Neyveli Lignite Corporation at Jeyamkundam. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this?

[English]

This is unruly behaviour.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: These two power projects have been missing in the list which was given by the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You neither listen to the chair nor your leader. How do you work here.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: I want to know the status of these power projects. When will they be implemented? What is the status now?

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked for information. At the moment, I do not have this information. I will give all the information to him. It is not available with me. I will write to him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Let me conduct the proceedings of the House.

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Sir, I want to put a question on this.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Question Hour is over.

I was told by the hon. Finance Minister of France that 85 per cent of their power generation is nuclear.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Implementation of National Rural Health Mission

*64. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched on April 5, 2005 to provide integrated health care to rural people especially the vulnerable sections of the society;

(b) if so, the total amount spent so far on the Mission;

(c) whether even after spending Rs. 120 crore in campaigning on this Mission, it has not been started in right earnest;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether 2.5 lakh voluntary female health workers have been appointed as stipulated in the Mission;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Government has laid down parameters to evaluate the performance of each State in the implementation of the NRHM;

(h) if so, the details thereof;

(i) the States which have reviewed the progress under NRHM so far;

(j) the details of the shortcomings noticed by the Union Government in implementation of the NRHM; and

(k) the steps taken by the Government for effective implementation of Mission all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) The National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 12th April, 2005, for the period 2005 to 2012 with the objective to provide comprehensive integrated health care services to the rural poor especially women and children.

(b) An amount of Rs. 4260.56 crore has been released during 2005-06 up to December, 2005, for implementing various initiatives under the NRHM. This amount includes the funds released for RCH II, Immunization, various Disease Control Programmes, the new initiatives under the Mission etc.

(c) and (d) The amount of Rs. 92 crore out of the budget estimate of Rs. 120 crore meant for IEC activities for the Ministry during 2005-06 has been expanded on dissemination of various health related Public awareness messages on issues of Immunisation, breast feeding, Save the girl child, other disease control programmes, tobacco usage etc. These messages were knitted around the common NRHM theme. Further, the first year was the preparatory phase of the Mission during which the institutional framework has been put into place. All the States have set up the basic structures under the Mission and the Mission has thus started in the right earnest.

(e) and (f) While it is true that 2.5 lakh Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) are envisaged to be set up over the Mission period, the target for the first year was only 40% which amounts to 1 lakh ASHA. As on date over 1.44 lakh ASHAs have already been put in place by various States. The selection of ASHA is, therefore, going as per schedule. The training of trainers for ASHA has also been started.

(g) and (h) The Mission is an umbrella initiative of the Ministry and subsumes several initiatives and schemes including the RCH II, Disease Control Programme as well as Immunisation initiatives. The Government has laid down parameters to evaluate the performance of each State under the Mission. The evaluation of the Mission includes evaluation of progress of each of the individual initiatives. Further, the performance of each State is also being monitored on parameters like strengthening of institutional framework including use of united funds, upgradation of CHCs, manpower strengthening, progress of ASHA selection, setting up of Rogi Kalyan Samities etc.

(i) The State Health Missions have already been set up by 31 States and UTs while the District Health Missions have already been set up by 29 States and UTs. These are the institutions which spearhead the Mission activities in the states and review the progress. A three pronged monitoring comprising internal, external and document based monitoring has been envisaged under the NRHM.

(j) and (k) The systemic deficiencies in the public health delivery system such as inadequate infrastructure, deficiency in skilled manpower etc. can be taken care of in phases over the entire Mission period. Sufficient

flexibility has been provided to States to address these issues. Adequate management support has also been provided to the States to carry out necessary corrections in the health delivery system.

FDI in Captive Coal and Lignite Mining

*65. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to allow 100 per cent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) through automatic route in captive coal and lignite mining by the Steel and Cement Companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHIBU SOREN):

(a) and (b) The Government has reviewed the policy on FDI and decided to increase FDI caps to 100% and permit it under the automatic route for coal and lignite mining for captive consumption by power projects, iron & steel, cement production and other eligible activities permitted as per the provisions of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973.

Recruitment Agencies

*66. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) the State-wise and year-wise total number of companies which have been issued licenses for providing employment opportunities abroad during the last three years;

(b) whether these companies are working as per the directions of the Government;

(c) whether the Government has received complaints of irregularities and violation of norms against certain companies;

(d) if so, the details of the complaints received during the said period;

(e) the action taken by the Government against these companies and the nature thereof;

(f) whether the Government proposes to amend the present Emigration Act, 1983 in order to put a check on illegal recruitment agencies; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) The State-wise and year-wise total number of agencies which have been issued Registration Certificates for providing employment opportunities abroad during the last three years *i.e.* 2003, 2004 and 2005 are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) By and large, these Recruiting Agencies are working as per provisions of the Emigration Act, 1983 and Rules framed thereunder.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Complaints have been received against certain agencies from various quarters including Indian Missions in the Gulf Countries, alleging ill-treatment of Indian workers. These complaints relate to non-payment/reduced payment of salary, overcharging by the Recruiting Agents, non-availability of promised jobs, substitution of employment contract, non receiving of the workers by their employer at the airport of destination, impounding of passports and work permits by the employer, physical and mental torture and sexual exploitation of housemaids/domestic workers, harsh punishment like flogging/caning etc. in some countries, maltreatment and exploitation by the foreign employer and adverse working conditions.

(e) During 2003, 2004 and 2005, 3, 24, 28 Registration Certificates have been suspended and 2, 2 and 16 Registration Certificates have been cancelled.

(f) and (g) Yes Sir. Existing Section 24 of the Emigration Act, 1983 provides for mandatory imprisonment for a minimum period of six months and a minimum fine of Rs. 1000 in respect of agencies engaged in illegal recruitment. All offences under the Act are cognizable under Section 26 of the Act. During the year 2003, 2004 and 2005 prosecution sanctions have been given in 11, 9 and 8 cases respectively. The Act is proposed to be amended to provide more deterrent punishment and harsher penalties to the illegal recruitment agencies.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	Year 2003	Year 2004	Year 2005
1.	Maharashtra	92	79	62
2.	Delhi	54	57	57
3.	Tamil Nadu	21	25	42
4.	Kerala	25	29	38
5.	Punjab	17	27	24
6.	Andhra Pradesh	08	16	18
7.	Chandigarh	06	13	12
8.	Karnataka	02	11	10
9.	Rajasthan	03	11	11
10.	Uttar Pradesh	04	04	02
11.	Goa	03	05	04
12.	Gujarat	06	03	08
13.	West Bengal	03	05	02
14.	Haryana	02	04	04
15.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	01
16.	Orissa	01	—	—
17.	Jammu & Kashmir	02	01	—
18.	Uttaranchal	—	—	01
19.	Himachal Pradesh	—	01	—
20.	Mizoram	—	02	—
Total		249	293	296

*[Translation]***Growing Menace of AIDS/HIV**

*67. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

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

(a) whether AIDS/HIV is spreading very fast in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the growing incidents of AIDS/HIV reported separately during the last three years till date, State-wise;

(c) whether around forty per cent of the population living in slum areas in Delhi is facing threat of AIDS/HIV as reported in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated January 9, 2006;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(e) the action taken/being taken by the Government to combat AIDS in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) The number of people infected with HIV in India has increased from 3.86 millions in 2000 to 5.13 millions in 2004. The spread, however, has been uneven. During 2004, it is observed that 12 States indicated an increase in HIV prevalence among antenatal mothers, while 16 States showed an increase in HIV prevalence among STD population. Further, some pockets of increasing HIV prevalence have also been identified in low prevalence States. The trends of HIV prevalence among Injectable Drug Users have also shown an increasing trend particularly in the States of Delhi, Mizoram and West Bengal. However, overall, the prevalence of HIV among adults is just 0.9%. The information related to HIV/AIDS prevalence and reported AIDS cases State-wise is given in the enclosed statement I & II.

Delhi is a low prevalence area with an estimated prevalence level of 0.25% among the adult population. Higher prevalence among some slum pockets have been observed which could be due to the presence of certain factors such as the large number of migrant populations, illiteracy and low levels of awareness of preventive measures and poor health seeking behaviour etc.

With a view to reduce the spread of this infection, the National AIDS Control Programme is being implemented throughout the country. Major focus of the programme is on prevention among high risk as well general population; care and support and provisioning of treatment to the needy. Action being taken to contain the spread of HIV/AIDS under various components is as under:

- (1) For ensuring blood safety which is one of the well known modes of transmission, over 953 blood banks have been modernized, over 52% of the total blood units required collected through voluntary blood donation and a system of mandatory screening of blood for HIV, Hepatitis B & C, malaria and syphilis enforced. This has enabled reducing transmission of HIV infection through contaminated blood from about 9% in 1993 to about 2% in 2005;
- (2) Intensive IEC among general populations has resulted in increasing awareness among rural populations to more than 72% and increased

condom availability to 1.2 billion pieces. Further, to enhance easy access to condoms, over 11,000 condom vending machines have been installed. Likewise, under the adolescent education programme, over 60,000 high schools have been covered with HIV/AIDS and life skill education programmes. In the next year, the remaining 60,000 schools will also be covered;

- (3) Over 1033 targeted intervention projects among high-risk populations are under implementation adopting a multi-pronged strategy including peer counselling and behaviour change communication. Under these projects, about 49% of high risk groups are found to be using condoms. In future years, it is proposed to increase these intervention projects by four time so as to saturate all the high risk populations;
- (4) Over the last three years, 1114 Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centres have been established, enabling people to assess their risk status and access services as per need;
- (5) To prevent the transmission of HIV from HIV positive mothers to the newborn, 523 centres have been established, where all mothers are counselled and positive mothers provided prophylaxis treatment;
- (6) Low cost care and treatment of opportunistic infections is provided in 85 community care services to the very poor and terminally ill. Besides, grants are provided to all medical colleges and district hospitals for opportunistic infections and Post exposure prophylaxis to health care providers.
- (7) In over 60 centres free Antiretroviral therapy is being provided to over 26,000 patients. It is proposed to increase coverage to about 100,000 patients during the next financial year.
- (8) In order to monitor the trend of the epidemic and also enable formulating focused strategies, over 750 sentinel sites have been established covering both the general populations and high risk groups. Another 400 sites are proposed to be established during the next year in order to give more accurate estimates of the situation.

Besides the interventions detailed above, various media initiatives have been undertaken to spread the message of HIV/AIDS such as the Media Leaders Summit

that was held under the chairmanship of the PM; a Youth Parliament attended by over 3000 youth from various universities and colleges; a meeting of about 500 student leaders of the political parties et. More recently, the Government constituted the National Council on AIDS

under the chairmanship of the PM and consisting of 31 Ministers, 7 Chief Ministers and lead NGOs and Private sector with a view to mainstream HIV/AIDS into all ongoing activities and programmes in different sectors of the economy.

Statement I

HIV Prevalence State-wise Reports: 2002-2004

Sl.No.	State	HIV prev. in ANC			HIV prev. in STD		
		2002	2003	2004	2002	2003	2004
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
High Prev. State							
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1.25	1.25	2.25	30.40	19.60	16.40
2.	Karnataka	1.75	1.25	1.25	13.60	10.40	12.00
3.	Maharashtra	1.25	1.25	1.25	7.60	10.00	10.40
4.	Manipur	1.12	1.25	1.50	9.60	13.00	7.20
5.	Nagaland	1.25	1.25	1.43	2.42	0.90	1.70
6.	Tamil Nadu	0.88	0.75	0.50	14.70	9.20	8.40
Medium Prev. State							
1.	Gujarat	0.38	0.40	0.13	6.17	4.50	3.60
2.	Goa	1.38	0.50	1.13	11.29	14.30	15.77
3.	Pondicherry	0.25	0.13	0.25	2.02	2.60	4.80
Low Prev. State							
1.	Assam	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.75	1.20	0.80
2.	Bihar	0.25	0.00	0.00	1.60	0.40	1.20
3.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.25	2.35	1.20	1.80
4.	Mumbai	0.75	1.25	1.12	14.84	18.40	15.65
5.	Rajasthan	0.50	0.13	0.00	6.00	3.70	2.92
6.	Uttar Pradesh	0.25	0.00	0.25	0.80	0.55	0.80
7.	West Bengal	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.47	1.45	0.88
8.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.38	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Chhattisgarh	0.25	1.00	0.00	0.80	2.27	2.53

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10.	Delhi	0.25	0.13	0.38	3.23	7.20	7.98
11.	Haryana	0.38	0.25	0.00	1.14	1.20	0.93
12.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.40	0.80	0.00
13.	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.13	0.13	0.00
14.	Kerala	0.38	0.33	0.33	2.45	4.00	2.78
15.	Orissa	0.25	0.00	0.50	0.80	2.40	2.80
16.	Punjab	0.49	0.00	0.25	1.60	1.60	1.09
17.	Uttaranchal	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.26	0.00	0.37
18.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.08	0.00	0.08	0.95	1.86	0.20
19.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.90	0.25	0.00
20.	Mizoram	1.50	1.38	1.25	2.60	3.80	1.00
21.	Sikkim	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
22.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	0.30	1.40	0.00	0.00
23.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.50	0.00	2.60	1.60	1.60
24.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.00	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Chandigarh	0.25	0.50	0.50	0.80	1.66	1.80
26.	Daman and Diu	0.22	0.50	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Note: The Zero prevalence rate noted in some of the low prevalence States may be due to sampling effect.

Statement II

Reported number of AIDS cases in the country State-wise (2002-2005)

Sl.No.	State	Reported in 2002	Reported in 2003	Reported in 2004	Reported in 2005 (Prov.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	6	5	0	4
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1085	4123	4155	3481
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0
4.	Assam	16	50	13	7

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Bihar	28	9	0	0
6.	Chandigarh	239	173	218	422
7.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0
9.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0
10.	Delhi	106	114	68	1027
11.	Goa	68	174	109	139
12.	Gujarat	1108	1124	1536	1125
13.	Haryana	53	54	85	125
14.	Himachal Pradesh	40	41	75	69
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	0	0	0	0
16.	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0
17.	Karnataka	294	201	222	1664
18.	Kerala	385	626	73	0
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	156	145	209	181
21.	Maharashtra	3818	5072	4701	1742
22.	Manipur	632	1187	0	0
23.	Meghalaya	0	0	0	0
24.	Mizoram	14	18	54	0
25.	Nagaland	87	84	269	18
26.	Orissa	15	1	0	291
27.	Pondicherry	140	0	0	0
28.	Punjab	59	38	37	69
29.	Rajasthan	292	266	228	0
30.	Sikkim	2	2	0	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	9101	7130	15271	3856
32.	Tripura	5	0	0	0
33.	Uttar Pradesh	359	339	109	339

1	2	3	4	5	6
34.	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	30
35.	West Bengal	969	611	0	0
	Total	19077	21587	27432	14589

Note: It may be noted that there is considerable under reporting of AIDS cases is on account of stigma and availing of services by these cases in private sector.

[English]

FDI in Power Sector

*68. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to increase Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the power sector;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. No such proposal is under consideration as 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is already permitted on the automatic approval route in respect of projects relating to electricity generation, transmission and distribution (other than Atomic Energy power plants). Recently power trading has also been included in the above, subject to compliance with the regulations under the Electricity Act, 2003.

Model Concession Agreement

*69. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has finalised the draft Model Concession Agreement (MCA) for ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether private sector participation in the development of ports has been considered in the MCA; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the names of the ports which are likely to be covered under the MCA in the first instance?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) For construction of new or additional facilities through private sector participation in the major ports under the control of the Central Government, a 'Model License Agreement' was finalised and circulated to all the Major Port Trusts in March, 2000. The Model License Agreement addresses the concerns of the various stakeholders in the project including the technical parameters, rights and obligations of the contracting parties, tariff, financial and commercial terms, risk allocation, etc. However, on the recommendations of an Inter Ministerial Group set up for evolving a Model Concession Agreement (MCA) pursuant to the decision of the Committee on Infrastructure under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, Department of Shipping has invited proposals for appointment of a Law Firm of International repute for preparation of the MCA for Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects to be awarded on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis in Major Ports in India.

Setting up of Ultra Mega Power Plants

*70. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Ultra Mega Power Plants by 2012;

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

(c) the States in which such plants are likely to be set up;

(d) the estimated cost of the said plants and the per unit cost of power likely to be generated by them;

(e) the total power in megawatts likely to be distributed to the States; and

(f) the steps taken to expedite the setting up of such plants and the time by which these are likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has taken an initiative for facilitating the Development of five Ultra Mega Power Projects of 4000 MW capacity each under tariff based competitive bidding route.

(b) Reasons for proposing ultra mega projects are as follows:

- (i) The National Electricity Policy envisages that energy and peaking shortages are to be overcome by 2012. Large size projects being envisaged under this initiative would help in creation of required capacities to meet this objective.
- (ii) The Electricity Tariff Policy stipulates that all future requirement of power needs to be procured competitively. The ultra mega projects are expected to be the first few to come up through tariff based competitive bidding route and thus would encourage States to take up smaller projects as well through this route.
- (iii) The tariff from large size generation projects would have benefits of economies of scale and thus the cost of electricity generated from these projects is expected to be lower.
- (iv) With mitigation of all possible risks relating to tie up of land, fuel, water and other statutory clearances, the expected competition in the tariff based bidding would result in low tariff of electricity from these projects.

(c) Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka and Maharashtra are the States in which an ultra mega project each is envisaged to be set up in the first phase.

(d) On the basis of thumb rule, estimated cost of each plant is likely to be of the order of Rs. 15,000 crore. However, the project developer for each project is to be selected on the basis of tariff based competitive bidding and the per unit cost of power generation by these projects would be outcome of such bidding process.

(e) The total proposed power to be generated from each ultra mega power projects is 4000 MW. The quantum of power to be supplied to the beneficiary States from the ultra mega projects is dependent upon the results of consultations with respective States.

(f) The Government has already completed the first round of discussions with concerned States. Meetings were held with leading financial institutes and leading developers for identification of risk factors with a view to simultaneously get them removed. Power Finance Corporation has been entrusted with the work relating to formation of Shell companies which are envisaged to carry out developmental activities including tie up of various inputs/clearances before handing over the project to the final developers. The names of the shell companies have already been registered and Chief Executives of the shell companies are already in place and have initiated the action of appointment of consultants for preparation of project report and Environment Impact Assessment Studies etc. The expression of interest in respect of Mundra project, Gujarat and Sasan project, Madhya Pradesh has already been published in the newspaper.

[Translation]

Tuberculosis and other Contagious Diseases

*71. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:

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

(a) the percentage of people suffering from tuberculosis and other contagious diseases;

(b) the number of deaths caused due to these diseases during the last three years;

(c) the funds required to provide sufficient nutrition in order to prevent the people from falling victims to tuberculosis and other contagious diseases;

(d) the total amount spent by the Union and State Governments for the treatment of tuberculosis and other contagious diseases during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(e) whether the Government proposes to open tuberculosis clinics in each district of the country;

(f) if so, the time by which these clinics are likely to be opened; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) As far as TB is concerned, it is estimated that about 0.85% of people are suffering from tuberculosis in the country. Every year, approximately 18 lakhs new cases of TB occur in the country of which about 8 lakhs are new smear positive and, therefore, highly infectious.

Leprosy is a communicable disease caused by bacilli *Mycobacterium leprae* with low contagiousness. In India, 0.0095% of population is suffering from leprosy. As on 31st December, 2005, India has eliminated leprosy as a public health problem at national level having achieved a Prevalence Rate of 0.95 cases/10,000 population.

(b) Deaths were not reported under the National TB Control Programme. It is estimated that about 4 lakh persons die of TB every year in the country. However, under the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP), deaths due to TB among patients registered for treatment are reported. State-wise details of deaths during last 3 years are given in the enclosed statement.

Leprosy is a non-fatal disease and no deaths are reported directly due to the disease.

(c) Research Studies have established that provision of good nutritious food does not alter or improve the treatment outcome of TB. The only effective means of ensuring the cure of TB patients in the community is to give regular and full course of treatment under direct observation. Hence, no such estimation of funds requirement for providing nutrition to prevent people from falling victims to TB has been made under the Programme.

In so far as leprosy is concerned, there is no direct link between nutritional status and falling victim to leprosy. Therefore, no funds are provided under the National Leprosy Elimination Programme to raise the nutritional status of the population.

(d) The Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP), widely known as DOTS which is a WHO recommended strategy is being implemented as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

The details of funds allocation and expenditure under the National TB Control Programme during the Tenth Five Year Plan is as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Allocation	Expenditure
2002-03	11500.00	9695.12
2003-04	11500.00	11789.64
2004-05	14000.00	13363.03
2005-06	18600.00	16300.00 (till 15.2.2006)
2006-07	20200.00 (B/E)	
Total Expenditure till date		51163.1906 (Rs. 512 crs.)

NLEP is also a 100% centrally sponsored scheme. Out of the funds provided under the scheme, the total amount released by Government of India to State Governments for the treatment of Leprosy patients during the Tenth Five Year Plan are as per details given below:

Year	Allocation	Actual expenditure (in crores)
2002-03	75	74.97
2003-04	74.2	50.22
2004-05	55	42.34
2005-06 (RE)	41.75 (28.32 RE)	19.77 (till 15.2.2006)
2006-07 (BE)	42.25	
Total Expenditure till date		202.7006 (Rs. 202 crs.)

(e) to (g) The Programme is integrated with Primary Health Care Infrastructure. All the districts in the country have District TB Centre (DTC) at the district Head Quarter (HQ). At sub-district level, TB Units (TUs) have been established for every 5 lakh population and in case of tribal/hilly and difficult areas, for every 2.5 lakh population. Facilities for diagnosis by sputum microscopy have been further decentralized and strengthened. To make diagnostic and treatment services for TB easily accessible,

the programme has established diagnostic centres at 1 lakh population and in case of hilly/difficult and tribal areas for 50,000 population. Treatment centres (DOT centres) have been established to make it close to the residence of patients to the extent possible. All government hospitals, Community Health Centres (CHC), Primary Health Centres (PHCs), Sub-centres are DOT Centres. In addition, NGOs, Private Practitioners (PPs) involved under the RNTCP,

Community Volunteers, Anganwadi workers, Women Self Groups etc. also function as DOT Providers/DOT Centres.

By January 2006, 1083 million (97%) of the population in 620 districts/reporting units were getting benefited by DOTS strategy. Only 14 districts are yet to implement RNTCP. These are in the final stages of preparation and the entire country will be covered under RNTCP by 31st March, 2006.

Statement

Deaths reported during last 3 years

State	Year		
	2002	2003	2004 (upto Sept.)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	1465	4344	2966
Arunachal Pradesh	16	57	31
Assam	52	376	656
Bihar	158	194	222
Chandigarh	24	43	29
Chhattisgarh	144	366	466
Delhi	437	493	378
Goa	—	—	2
Gujarat	1788	2058	1398
Haryana	188	348	1016
Himachal Pradesh	361	433	258
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	23
Jharkhand	81	177	244
Karnataka	1096	2429	1893
Kerala	861	894	568
Madhya Pradesh	258	1158	1219
Maharashtra	3449	4971	3471
Manipur	156	148	76
Meghalaya	—	33	75
Mizoram	—	66	58

1	2	3	4
Nagaland	4	54	33
Orissa	812	1116	1177
Pondicherry	—	—	21
Punjab	48	511	373
Rajasthan	2151	2275	1481
Sikkim	28	26	28
Tripura	—	—	17
Tamil Nadu	3035	3335	2231
Uttaranchal	1	54	140
Uttar Pradesh	663	2500	2228
West Bengal	2533	2996	2109
Total	19809	31455	24887

*As treatment outcome (death, success rate etc.) becomes available only after one year from initiation of the treatment, the information in regard to TB deaths is available only upto 2004.

The coverage of population under RNTCP has increased from year to year. This resulted in increased number of TB cases detected and put on treatment under the DOTS strategy. Hence, seemingly more number of

TB deaths reported under RNTCP in the successive years although the proportion of deaths over the years is more or less the same as is evident from the table given below:

Year	Population under RNTCP	No. of TB Cases detected and put on treatment	TB deaths	%age
2002	530 million	622873	19809	3.18
2003	775 million	906472	31455	3.47
2004	947 million	1187353	24887	*

*Deaths available only upto September, 2004 for the patients put on treatment during the year 2004.

[English]

India-China Dialogue

*72. SHRI D.P. SAROJ:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has initiated dialogue with China on the India-China border dispute recently as reported in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated January 10, 2006;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether talks have been held in regard to India's claim for permanent membership in the Security Council during the recent Foreign Secretary visit to China;

(d) if so, whether China has supported India's claim for the same;

(e) if so, the details of talks held;

(f) whether China has created extensive transportation facilities along the India-China border;

(g) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(h) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to resolve the various issues with China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) The Second Round of India-China Strategic Dialogue was held in Beijing on January 9-10, 2006 between Foreign Secretary and the Chinese Vice Foreign Minister. During the talks, the two sides discussed bilateral, regional and international issues of common interest, and briefed each other about their respective foreign and security policies. There was also an exchange of views on outstanding issues, including the boundary question.

The Special Representatives of the two countries on the boundary question continue to explore the framework of a boundary settlement, proceeding from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Chinese side reiterated the assurance given by the Chinese Premier H.E. Mr. Wen Jiabao when he visited India in April 2005 that China understands and supports India's desire to play a bigger role in the United Nations, including in the Security Council, and that China would be happy to see India succeed in its endeavour to become a Permanent Member of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The Chinese side also conveyed their support for greater representation of developing countries in the UNSC and noted India's credentials for permanent membership as a major developing country.

(f) and (g) Government are aware of the fact that China has developed its road transport network in Tibet, including in the India-China border areas. Government attach importance to development of infrastructure in India's border areas. Our infrastructure development plans for the border areas are in place and the same are reviewed from time to time.

(h) Government are committed to the resolution of all outstanding issues with China through peaceful

dialogue. The two countries have instituted an elaborate dialogue architecture for regular exchange of views on issues of mutual concern in a friendly and candid manner.

[Translation]

Transportation of Cargo Through Inland Waterways

*73. SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENG PATIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transportation of cargo through inland waterways is getting reduced constantly;

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

(c) the targets fixed and achieved during the last three years in this regard; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the transportation of cargo through inland waterways?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The thrust is on enhancing the modal share of Inland Water Transport from the present level of less than 1% to 2% in a time span of 10 years. However, no yearly targets have been fixed. The actual cargo transportation figures in the last three years are as under:

Year	Cargo moved in millions tonnes
2002-03	26.90
2003-04	32.48
2004-05	45.48

(d) The steps proposed to be taken in order to increase the transportation of cargo through inland waterways are:

(i) Operation of fixed schedule demonstration services on all National Waterways;

(ii) Making existing National Waterways fully functional by providing requisite infrastructure thereon;

(iii) Putting in place a comprehensive package of incentives/catalyst action for modal shift to take place; and

(iv) Declaration of three new National Waterways.

Working of Passport Offices

*74. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a severe shortage of staff in various passport offices in the country;

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

(c) the steps taken in this regard;

(d) the number of pending passport applications, RPO-wise;

(e) whether the Government proposes to open more RPOs, particularly in North Bengal;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) if not, the reasons therefor;

(h) whether hardships are being faced by people to obtain passports;

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

(j) whether the CBI has filed chargesheet against touts operating in passport offices in Delhi; and

(k) if so, the measures taken to keep a check on their activities?

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

(b)	Name of Passport Office	Staff shortage
	1	2
	Ahmedabad	58
	Bangalore	14
	RPO Bhopal	13
	Bhubaneshwar	1

1	2
Chandigarh	34
Chennai	5
Delhi	9
Ghaziabad	16
Guwahati	6
Hyderabad	61
Jaipur	6
Jalandhar	40
Kolkata	16
Lucknow	8
Nagpur	9
Panaji	1
Patna	13
Pune	14
Ranchi	2
Srinagar	8
Tiruchi	28
Visakhapatnam	24

(c) The Government has been taken steps to fill up the existing vacancies at the Passport Offices. The Staff Selection Commission has recently made available dossiers of 57 Lower Division Clerks (LDCs). Offers of appointment have issued to 55 of the available candidates, the remaining two were found unfit. Of these 55, 15 have already joined in various Passport Offices. The Department of Personnel and Training has also been requested for no objection to fill the remaining vacancies in LDC grade. The Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance has recently carried out a study of all Regional Passport Offices (RPOs) and their final report on augmentation of staff has been received.

(d) The details are set out in enclosed statement.

(e) to (g) The Government have decided, in principle, to open new passport offices in Dehradun, Simla and

Raipur. However, it has not been possible so far to open passport offices elsewhere, including in North Bengal, for a variety of reasons in particular, manpower constraints.

(h) and (i) Hardship faced by applicants in respect of issue of passports are due to following reasons:

1. Shortage of passport booklets.
2. Delayed receipt of police verification report in Passport Offices.
3. Delayed Police verification report due to frequent change in residence of the applicants.
4. Delay in receipt of applications forms from District Passport Cells.
5. Wrong information/documents given by applicant.
6. Substantial increase in number of applications received in Passport Offices.
7. Shortage of staff in Passport Offices.

(j) The CBI has registered six cases against private persons, including officials of RPO, Delhi, from the year 2004 till date. Out of these six cases, as per information available with this Ministry, four cases are still under investigation by the CBI. The Ministry has accorded sanctioned for prosecution to the CBI in one case, as regards the last case, a CBI report is under examination in the Ministry prior to according sanction for prosecution.

(k) The problem of touts is kept under check in passport offices with the help of the local police authorities. As a first step, closed circuit camera televisions (CCTVs) and mobile jammers have been installed in a few passport offices to deter such activities.

Statement

Pending in various Passport Offices as on 31.1.2006

Sl.No.	Name of Passport Office	Passport applications pending for more than 30 days	Out of these applications pending because of non-receipt of police verification report
1	2	3	4
1.	Ahmedabad	16032	2468
2.	Bangalore	31875	7148

1	2	3	4
3.	Bareilly	11372	3032
4.	Bhopal	15909	11779
5.	Bhubaneshwar	11900	6082
6.	Chandigarh	34614	14646
7.	Chennai	43034	14300
8.	Cochin	11148	972
9.	Delhi	6369	1483
10.	Ghaziabad	12717	3781
11.	Guwahati	1392	842
12.	Hyderabad	42995	15191
13.	Jaipur	22450	14369
14.	Jalandhar	18662	6848
15.	Jammu	1985	1131
16.	Kolkata	17981	12847
17.	Kozhikode	21299	9779
18.	Lucknow	28367	14996
19.	Mumbai	11613	9758
20.	Nagpur	1813	582
21.	Panaji	447	16
22.	Patna	47830	32966
23.	Pune	7098	5693
24.	Ranchi	10145	9541
25.	Srinagar	7630	6063
26.	Surat	6813	3340
27.	Thane	5730	4551
28.	Trichy	34923	7848
29.	Trivandrum	1198	156
30.	Vishakhapatnam	8308	1854
Total		493649	224062

Promotion of Non-Conventional Energy Sources

*75. SHRI SRICHAND KRIPLANI: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government to promote non-conventional energy sources in the country;

(b) the target set for providing the facility of solar energy to remote villages;

(c) whether the Government proposes to provide solar energy to people living below poverty line at concessional rate; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) To promote deployment of renewable energy, financial and fiscal incentives are being provided that include capital/interest subsidy, accelerated depreciation, concessional duties and relief from taxes. In addition, preferential tariff is given to grid interactive renewable power in most potential States. Publicity and awareness on the use of renewable energy systems/devices is also created through print, postal and electronic media and special events like the Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Diwas are being organized. District-level Advisory Committees have been constituted in the States to facilitate effective coordination of renewable energy schemes/programmes.

(b) The Ministry is implementing a Remote Village Electrification Programme for electrification of remote un-electrified census villages and remote hamlets of electrified census villages where grid connectivity is not being provided under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana. Electrification in these remote villages and hamlets will be done through biomass/biofuel/small hydro distributed generation systems, wherever feasible and cost-effective, otherwise 37 Wp solar photovoltaic home lighting systems will be provided. The 10th Plan target for electrification of villages through renewable means is 5000.

(c) and (d) Under the aforementioned programme, one light connection free of cost is being provided to households below the poverty line when electricity through distributed generation systems is sought to be supplied. Otherwise, an 18Wp solar photovoltaic home lighting systems is being given free of cost.

[English]

Exodus of Government Doctors

*76. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had appointed any Committee under the chairmanship of former Union Health Secretary to study the problems arising as a result of exodus of doctors from the Central Health Services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee had submitted its report;

(d) if so, the major findings/recommendations of the Committee;

(e) whether the Government has taken any follow-up action in pursuance thereof;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the time by which the Government is likely to announce its decision on the Committee's recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (g) The Committee was constituted in September, 2005, under the Chairmanship of Shri Javed A. Chowdhury, IAS (Retired), former Health Secretary to (i) look into the circumstances leading to the increasing trend of the Government doctors including doctors from All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi/ Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER), Chandigarh, seeking VRS/ Resignation; (ii) identify the speciality/super-speciality streams that have become more vulnerable to this attrition, along with reasons therefor; (iii) suggest further incentives including changes in terms and conditions of service, conditions for further training, etc. to retain them in Government; and (iv) suggest measures/disincentives to arrest the further outflow of doctors from Government.

The Committee has since submitted its report. The Committee has identified an element of attrition in the Central Health Service particularly in specialities of Teaching, Non-Teaching and Public Health Sub-Cadres.

The major recommendations of the Committee for CHS officers are as under:

(i) Upgradation of 458 posts to SAG level to remove stagnation; (ii) Promotion to all officers with five years in scale of Rs. 14,300-18300 as a One-time measure; (iii) Early Cadre Review; (iv) Enhancement of retirement age to 62 years; (v) Additional 5 years benefit over and above present 5 years towards terminal benefits; (vi) Improvement of infrastructure; (vii) Provision of Leave/deputation reserve; (viii) Financial assistance of Rs. 1 lakh for International Conferences; (ix) Enhancement of Book/Research Allowances; (x) Timely holding of DPCs; (xi) Research incentive by sharing consultancy fees; (xii) Enhancement of NPA to 30% from 25% (xiii) irrevocable Bank guarantee for an amount equal to three times annual salary before going on foreign assignment.

The decision on the report of the Committee can be taken after detailed study of the same.

[Translation]

Formulation of Integrated Energy Policy

*77. DR. RAJESH MISHRA:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate an Integrated Energy Policy;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) An Expert Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Member (Energy), Planning Commission on 12th August, 2004 to prepare an integrated energy policy.

The draft report has been put up on the Planning Commission's website and presented in several fora for inviting comments.

[English]

Ramjet Technology

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

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has demonstrated the Supersonic Combustion Ramjet (SCRAMJET) technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the future plans of ISRO in this regard?

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

(b) As part of the advanced technology initiatives in the area of Air-Breathing propulsion, a series of ground tests on a supersonic combustion ramjet engine has been successfully completed. During these tests, a stable combustion has been achieved for nearly 7 seconds at supersonic speeds corresponding to an inlet Mach number of 6 (i.e., six times the speed of sound).

(c) The next step in the development of this engine is a flight test of an integrated SCRAMJET propulsion module comprising of air-intake, combustor and nozzle, in a two stage RH-560 sounding rocket.

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas-2006

*79. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO:
SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP:

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

(a) whether the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas-2006 was recently held at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held therein;

(c) whether the PM had advised each State to devise its own strategy to benefit from the expertise of overseas Indians;

(d) if so, the reaction of the States so far;

(e) whether the Government has decided to grant voting rights to NRIs and has introduced a more liberal Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana for workers;

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

(g) whether an easy-to-use integrated electronic facility to remit money to India by NRIs has been launched recently;

(h) whether the emigration process is also likely to be streamlined; and

(i) if so, the details and the time by which a final decision on all the above issues is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) The fourth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was organized from 7th–9th January, 2006 at Hyderabad. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas-2006 was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and culminated in the conferment of the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards by Rashtrapati. In the 3 day conference there were 9 plenary sessions, 6 parallel sessions, 3 panel discussions and 2 round table discussions, covering a wide range of issues including Diaspora partnership in Health care, Remittance Services, Knowledge Network, Culture, Overseas employment, Diaspora Youth and Gender issues, Opportunities in Education, Assisted living, Diaspora Philanthropy, Diaspora and political discourse, Communal Harmony and Secularism etc. A separate interactive session was held on the second day with ten participating State Governments followed by parallel sessions conducted by the State Governments. Six States namely Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala and Maharashtra were represented by the Chief Ministers, while Karnataka, Tamilnadu and Rajasthan were represented by the Industry Ministers and West Bengal by the Chief Secretary.

(c) and (d) As a follow up to PM's advice, the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs has since written to the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Bihar to establish a separate department/cell as done by Kerala to serve as a single point contact for Overseas Indians. All the above State Governments had enthusiastically taken part in PBD 6 both in the Plenary as well as in the one-to-one sessions.

(e) and (f) A proposal for giving Voting rights to Non-Resident Indians has already been approved by the Cabinet. It is expected that a Bill in this regard will be introduced in the current session of the Parliament.

A more liberal Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana-2006 for the benefit of the Overseas Indian Workers was launched by the Government at PBD, Hyderabad and came into force from 1st February, 2006. Under the upgraded scheme, the emigrant workers will now get a minimum insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakhs and the policy will be for the entire period of employment contract. An additional cover of Rs. 25,000 for the legal expenses incurred by the emigrants in connection with their employment has also been included minimum insurance

cover of Rs. 5 lakhs and the policy will for the entire period of employment contract. Several leading insurance companies of India have shown interest in the Scheme. This will bring down the insurance premium substantially.

(g) An easy to use Integrated Electronic Remittance facility was launched during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas-2006 during the Session on 'Remittance Services' with Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram. This new facility offered by the UTI Bank in association with Doha Bank initially combines the virtues of speed, economy and convenience and is expected to be fully operational from the next financial year.

(h) and (i) A proposal entitled 'e-governance solution for emigration' received from the Semiconductor Complex Ltd. (SCL), Punjab—a Government of India enterprise—is under consideration of the Government. The said proposal envisages establishing a complete IT infrastructure at the Office of Protector General of Emigrants and eight field offices of the Protector of Emigrants and providing a tamper proof 'Smart Card' based ID photo cards to emigrants which shall have adequate data storage capacity to carry emigrants' personal information, visa particulars, recruiting agent's details, POE office approval reference, insurance details, etc.

National Highways Development Projects

*80. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under their National Highways Development Projects (NHDP) for Phase I, II and III during the financial year 2005-06 till now, State-wise;

(b) the total length of roads covered under the NHDP for Phase I, II and III, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has stopped funding to NHAI for their future projects and ongoing projects are being delayed as a result thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The total amount spent by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) on projects under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) for Phase-I, II and III till January, 2006 (during the financial year 2005-06) is as under:

NHDP	Expenditure (Rs. in Crore)
Phase-I	3,174.64
Phase-II	1,122.49
Phase-III	47.56
Total	4,344.69

In addition, expenditure of Rs. 6442.72 crores has been incurred on repayment of loans and interest and payment of annuities.

The State-wise details of expenditure are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) The state-wise lengths of roads included in NHDP Phase I, II and III are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement I

State-wise project expenditure upto January, 2006

Sl.No.	States	2005-06 (upto January, 2006)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	177.20
2.	Assam	54.77

1	2	3
3.	Bihar	369.35
4.	Chhattisgarh	—
5.	Delhi	43.41
6.	Goa	25.52
7.	Gujarat	503.10
8.	Haryana	56.22
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	93.67
10.	Jharkhand	158.78
11.	Karnataka	386.72
12.	Kerala	15.56
13.	Madhya Pradesh	69.18
14.	Maharashtra	114.50
15.	Orissa	268.22
16.	Punjab	16.63
17.	Rajasthan	204.87
18.	Tamil Nadu	378.02
19.	Uttar Pradesh	897.86
20.	West Bengal	490.75
21.	Others/Common	20.36
Total		4,344.69

Statement II

State-wise length of roads under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase I, II & III

All Figures are in km.

Sl. No.	State	NHDP-I & II					NHDP-III
		Golden Quadri- lateral	North- South Corridor	East- West Corridor	Port Connectivity	Others	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,016	769		12	83	507
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0					22

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	0		681		10	613
4.	Bihar	206		501			890
5.	Chandigarh	0					—
6.	Chhattisgarh	0				18	190
7.	Delhi	25	21			10	28
8.	Goa	0			13		208
9.	Gujarat	485		634	56		421
10.	Haryana	152	183			18	167
11.	Himachal Pradesh	0	11				110
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	451				101
13.	Jharkhand	192					265
14.	Karnataka	623	92		37	10	457
15.	Kerala	0	162		10		660
16.	Madhya Pradesh	0	539	118			804
17.	Maharashtra	489	276		44	17	959
18.	Manipur	0					112
19.	Meghalaya	0					136
20.	Mizoram	0					140
21.	Nagaland	0					28
22.	Orissa	443			77		435
23.	Pondicherry	0					4
24.	Punjab	0	270			20	254
25.	Rajasthan	722	30	527			654
26.	Sikkim	0					—
27.	Tamil Nadu	341	750		54	477	1255
28.	Tripura	0					195
29.	Uttar Pradesh	754	188	656		148	617
30.	Uttaranchal	0					125
31.	West Bengal	398		331	53		60
Total		5,846	3,742	3,448	356	811	10,417

*[Translation]***Discontinuance of Developmental Schemes**

*81. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken a decision to discontinue various developmental schemes funded by it during the year 2006-07;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of such schemes alongwith the details of average annual expenditure incurred during last three years under the schemes, Ministry and Department-wise;

(d) whether the State Governments have also been consulted regarding the discontinuance of such schemes;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the reaction of the States in this regard; and

(f) the amount likely to be saved as a result of discontinuance of schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (f) The decision to discontinue Plan Schemes is taken on the basis of: (a) Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) exercise carried out before a Five Year Plan; and (b) interim rationalization of Plan Schemes during the course of the Plan carried out in consultation with the Ministries/Departments. The Planning Commission had undertaken a review of the existing Plan schemes and subjected them to Zero-based Budgeting, retaining only those schemes in the Tenth Plan that were demonstrably essential. The aim of the exercise was to rationalize the schemes by making them more focused and to streamline the delivery system to ensure that benefits reach the target group. Subsequently, in 2004-05 the Planning Commission also carried out an exercise in consultation with the Union Ministries/Departments regarding transfer/rationalization/review of the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and communicated them to the Ministries/Departments. An Expert Group has been set up by the Planning Commission to develop concrete proposals for restructuring the CSS, in pursuance of the decision taken in the 51st meeting of the National Development Council

(NDC) held on 27th and 28th June, 2005. The terms of reference of the Group *inter-alia* included to suggest restructuring and rationalization of CSS. The Planning Commission has decided that a Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) exercise is to be carried out for carrying forward Plan Schemes into the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

*[English]***Central Assistance for National Coastal Protection Project**

374. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has approved the proposal received from Maharashtra for Central assistance worth Rs. 195 crore under the National Coastal Protection Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the stage at which the project stands at present; and

(e) the cost escalation of the project, if any, on account of the delay in granting sanction for the same?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) The Maharashtra Maritime Board submitted a proposal for an estimated cost of Rs. 195.50 crores in July, 2002 for inclusion in the proposed National Coastal Protection Project (NCCP). The proposal includes 72.36 kms of anti-sea erosion works in Mumbai, Mumbai Suburban, Thane, Raigad, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg District.

As the NCCP seeks external funding, an approach paper on coastal protection has been prepared and forwarded to Asian Development Bank for consideration.

Sale of Embassy Building in Germany

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

(a) whether the Indian Government has decided to sell its former Embassy Building in Bonn (Germany); and

(b) if so, the reasons for the sale of this heritage building?

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

(b) The Embassy of India shifted from Bonn to Berlin in October 1999 following a decision of the German Government to shift the capital to Berlin. A temporary office dealing with residual consular and administrative matters was maintained in Bonn up to June 2002, and was wound up with the opening of the new Consulate General of India in Munich. Consequently, the former Indian Embassy building in Bonn has been lying vacant since July 2002. Since it was not found possible to put the building to an efficient use in a cost effective manner, the Government of India has decided to sell the property in the best interests of the Government. A number of other countries have already sold their diplomatic properties that were located in Bonn.

Funds for Upgradation of Roads

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

(a) whether Karnataka has submitted any proposal seeking assistance for the upgradation of thirty eight roads in Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total cost thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government has considered and released any assistance for this purpose;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Karnataka Government has sought assistance for upgradation of 38 roads of economic importance around Bangalore in form of one time assistance amounting to Rs. 516.00 crore from Planning Commission.

(d) to (f) Above roads are not National Highways and as such State Government is primarily responsible for their development and maintenance. The Planning Commission has intimated that the proposal of Government of Karnataka has been examination by them but Additional Central Assistance (ACA) is not available for funding the said proposal. Planning Commission has

further stated that State Government should explore the possibility of getting the same funded through National Urban Renewal Mission.

Protecting Indian Fishermen from Sri Lankan Navy

377. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether many fishermen of Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu are allegedly killed or injured by the Sri Lankan Navy whenever they go fishing in the waters around Katchatheevu Island, about 18 kms from Rameshwaram and rich in marine life;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government so far to protect the lives and rights of these fishermen; and

(c) the appropriate steps taken/proposed to be taken to wrest back the rights over Katchatheevu Island?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) No Sir. There was a report of an incident involving an attack on 4 fishermen while they were fishing near Katchativu Island on January 8, 2006. This incident was taken up immediately with Sri Lankan authorities. The Sri Lankan Government has conveyed that the incident was investigated by a designated Board and it was found that on the day of the incident, the Sri Lankan Navy was not operating in that area. Incidents of harassment of Indian fishermen straying into Sri Lankan waters are taken up immediately with the concerned Sri Lankan authorities. It is Government's assessment that Sri Lanka has adhered to its commitment regarding humane treatment of straying fishermen.

(c) The 1974 Agreement on the demarcation of the International Maritime Boundary Line between India and Sri Lanka as also the Exchange of Letters of 1976 on the issue of fishing rights stipulate that fishing vessels and fishermen of India shall not engage in fishing in the historic waters, territorial seas and the Exclusive Economic Zones of Sri Lanka. Indian fishermen, therefore, do not have the legal right to fish in the waters in Katchativu Island. Under the Agreement, Indian fishermen are allowed access to the island for rest, for drying of nets and for the annual St. Anthony's festival. The right of access is not understood to cover fishing rights around the island.

Delay in Launching of Satellites

378. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was any delay in the launching of INSAT-2A, INSAT-2B and INSAT-4A satellites;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the benefits to accrue as a result of the launching of the above satellites;

(d) the time by which the above satellites are likely to be launched;

(e) whether ISRO proposes to launch more satellites in the near future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. INSAT-4A was launched on December 22, 2005 and has been operationalised. There was a delay of about 6 months in launching INSAT-4A. INSAT-2A and INSAT-2B spacecraft which were launched in 1992 and 1993 respectively have completed their mission objectives and since been decommissioned.

(b) Delay in launch of INSAT-4A was due to non-availability of Ariane-5 Launch Vehicle.

(c) INSAT-4A is a high power satellite having 12 Ku-band transponders for DTH applications and 12 high

power C-band transponders for TV and Cable Networks and Telecom services.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. INSAT-4B and INSAT-4C are planned for launch during the year 2006-07.

[Translation]

Persons Employed in Coal Sector

379. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers (apart from supervisory staff) employed in various coal companies in the country during each of the last three years, location-wise;

(b) the number of workers carrying out manual work in various coal companies during the said period; and

(c) the quantum of coal produced separately by human labour and Machines during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHIBU SOREN):

(a) The number of workers (apart from supervisory staff) employed in various coal companies in the country during each of the last three years, location-wise is as under:

Company	Location	Year		
		As on 1.4.03	As on 1.4.04	As on 1.4.05
1	2	3	4	5
ECL	Jharkhand	12382	11914	11421
	West Bengal	77339	74115	70706
	Total	89721	86029	82127
BCCL	Jharkhand/W. Bengal	91613	86376	81814
CCL	Jharkhand	65821	63040	60184
WCL	Maharashtra	40195	39093	38343
	Madhya Pradesh	24391	23347	22528
	Total	64586	62440	60871
SECL	Chhattisgarh	50209	49307	48323

1	2	3	4	5
	Madhya Pradesh	35413	34355	33454
	West Bengal	45	43	43
	Total	85667	83705	81820
MCL	Orissa	18433	18157	17873
NCL	Madhya Pradesh	7309	7369	7264
	Uttar Pradesh	5307	5320	5292
	Total	12616	12689	12556
CMPDIL	Jharkhand	803	828	829
	West Bengal	290	247	241
	Maharashtra	232	211	199
	Chhattisgarh	270	366	351
	Madhya Pradesh	182	176	181
	Orissa	226	222	214
	Delhi	01	01	01
	Total	2004	2051	2016
NEC	Assam	3185	3019	2919
	Total	433646	417506	402180

(b) Number of piece rated workers engaged in manual jobs in different coal companies during the said period is as follows:

Company	Year		
	As on 1.4.03	As on 1.4.04	As on 1.4.05
1	2	3	4
ECL	27925	26448	24547
BCCL	26154	24554	23460
CCL	15178	13496	12292
WCL	7557	7000	6276
SECL	7315	6177	4985
MCL	1620	653	523
NCL	0	0	0

1	2	3	4
NEC	236	215	205
Total	85985	78543	72288

(c) Coal produced by Coal India mechanically and manually is given below:

(Figures in million tonnes)

	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03
Mechanical	306.92	288.05	269.92
Manual	16.66	18.31	20.77
Total	323.58	306.36	290.69

[English]

Opening Consulates of India and Pakistan

380. SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER to be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Consulate of India and Pakistan *i.e.* at Mumbai and Karachi have been opened;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) During the Foreign Secretary level meeting in June 2004, India and Pakistan agreed, in principle, to reopen the Consulate General in Mumbai and Karachi. Agreement was reached during President Musharraf's visit to India in April 2005 to reopen these by the end of 2005. However, Pakistan High Commission has not been able to find premises to rent so far. India is ready to open its Consulate General in Karachi any time but Pakistan is insisting on simultaneous opening of the Consulates General in Mumbai and Karachi.

Backward Regions Grant Fund

381. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of Backward Regions Grant Fund as proposed in the 2004-05 budget;

(b) the details of funds released so far, State-wise; and

(c) the details of schemes implemented so far towards the development of Backward States Regions through the fund, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Union Finance Minister announced the establishment of the Backward Regions Grant Fund in his Budget Speech for 2005-06. The scheme is under finalization.

(b) As per the announcement, the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY), envisaged to end in 2006-07, is to be wound up with suitable transition arrangements that will protect every district now covered under RSVY. In view of this announcement, the funds for implementation of schemes under the three components of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana are being released from the funds provided for the Backward Regions Grant Fund for 2005-06. A statement indicating the funds so far released is enclosed.

(c) The Backward Regions Grant Fund is under finalization.

Statement*Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana—funds released—Position as on 17.2.2006*

(Rs. in crore)

Component	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
I. Special Plan for Bihar	0.37	445.75	248.01	269.96	964.09
II. Special Plan for The KBK districts of Orissa	200.00	225.00	275.00	250.00	950.00
III. Backward Districts Initiative					
States					
1. Andhra Pradesh	0.00	40.00	72.50	7.50	120.00
2. Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	7.50	7.50	15.00
3. Assam	0.00	10.00	27.50	—	37.50
4. Bihar	0.00	0.00	157.50	75.00	232.50
5. Chhattisgarh	0.00	40.00	57.50	82.50	180.00
6. Gujarat	0.00	17.50	20.00	—	37.50
7. Haryana	0.00	0.00	7.50	7.50	15.00
8. Himachal Pradesh	0.00	5.00	25.00	15.00	45.00
9. Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	5.00	25.00	22.50	52.50
10. Jharkhand	0.00	37.50	120.00	120.00	277.50
11. Karnataka	0.00	12.50	25.00	15.00	52.50
12. Kerala	0.00	20.00	17.50	7.50	45.00
13. Madhya Pradesh	0.00	22.50	142.50	90.00	255.00
14. Maharashtra	0.00	15.00	67.50	45.00	127.50
15. Manipur	0.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50
16. Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	7.50	—	7.50
17. Mizoram	0.00	0.00	7.50	7.50	15.00
18. Nagaland	0.00	0.00	15.00	7.50	22.50

	1	2	3	4	5	6
19. Orissa		0.00	10.00	42.50	45.00	97.50
20. Punjab		0.00	0.00	7.50	—	7.50
21. Rajasthan		0.00	35.00	47.50	30.00	112.50
22. Sikkim		0.00	0.00	7.50	7.50	15.00
23. Tamil Nadu		0.00	20.00	77.50	60.00	157.50
24. Tripura		0.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50
25. Uttar Pradesh		0.00	62.50	162.50	150.00	375.00
26. Uttaranchal		0.00	0.00	22.50	7.50	30.00
27. West Bengal		0.00	35.00	55.00	45.00	135.00
28. NABARD		0.00	0.00	1.08	—	1.08
Total III		0.00	402.50	1241.08	870.00	2513.58
Grand Total		200.37	1073.25	1764.09	1389.96	4427.67

Power Plant in Assam

382. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister during his recent visit to Assam in January 2006, laid the foundation of a Rs. 3,000 crore coal based NTPC power plant at Salakati in Kokrajhar district of Lower Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof including its implementation schedule; and

(c) the extent to which the power deficit in Assam will be met thereby?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Hon'ble Prime Minister of India had laid Foundation Stone of Bongaigaon Thermal Power Project (2x250 MW) on 16.1.2006. The project is to be set up by NTPC at Salakati in Kokrajhar district of Assam based on Assam coal at the existing location of Assam State Electricity Board's (ASEB) Bongaigaon Thermal Power Station which had been shut down for quite sometime. The proposed project is planned with a view to augment power supply in Assam and States/UTs of North-Eastern and other Regions. The tentative cost

estimate, based on 4th Quarter, 2005 price level is estimated at Rs. 2997.37 crores. Benefits from the projects are envisaged in XI Plan.

(c) Assam State Electricity Board has indicated requirement of 300 MW power from the proposed Bongaigaon Thermal Power Plant (2x250 MW).

Difficulty in Practising Hindu Faith in Russia

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

(a) whether Hindus in Russia face difficulties in practicing their faith freely and are unable even to establish a permanent place of worship in Moscow;

(b) whether the Moscow Mayor cancelled permission to build a temple in the heart of Moscow;

(c) whether Britain backs Russian Hindus' right to religion;

(d) if so, whether the said matter has been taken up with Russia; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Russian Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) There are no restrictions for Hindus to practice their religion in Russia. As regards the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON) temple, this was functional from 1989 till June 2004, when it was moved, with the consent of the Temple authorities, to a new location in the city. Subsequently, the Moscow Prosecutor General's office issued a ruling that the reallocation order for the ISKCON temple was not legal. It is understood that ISKCON representatives are working with the Moscow City Government to find a solution.

(c) to (e) The British Foreign Minister, responding to a question raised in British Parliament, *inter-alia* stated that Britain raises the issue of religious freedom during regular EU and bilateral contacts with Russian authorities. He confirmed that Britain will continue to monitor religious freedom issues in Russia and raise them as appropriate in the course of its ongoing dialogue.

Government has taken up the matter with the Russian Foreign Office and they have referred the matter to the Moscow City Government.

Alleged Murder of BRO Official in Afghanistan

384. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced any inquiry into the alleged murder of a BRO official in Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is of the opinion that the said murder has links with the ISI or Pakistan to allegedly sabotage the relationship between India and Afghanistan;

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

(e) the timeframe decided to complete the said inquiry?

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

(c) and (d) Soon after the murder of BRO official, media reported that Taliban had claimed responsibility for

the murder. Government of Afghanistan is investigating this matter.

(e) Does not arise.

Acute Shortage of Drugs and Medicines

385. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute shortage of some life saving drugs as well as essential medicines in Government hospitals in Andaman & Nicobar Islands;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure adequate supply of drugs and medicine in these hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per the report received from the Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration, life saving and essential medicines are generally available in Government Hospitals in Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

(c) Steps have already been taken to ensure adequate supply of life saving medicines as well as essential medicines by placing indent to the GMSD, Kolkata and GMSD, Chennai as well as by procuring from the market at the open tender rate and also from the manufacturing firm at manufacturer institution rate.

[*Translation*]

Families Below Poverty Line

386. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the total number of families living below poverty line in the country as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): 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. The latest available data from such survey is from NSS 55th Round, which

was conducted in 1999-2000. However, the Planning Commission estimates the total number of persons, not families, living below the poverty line in the country *i.e.* it estimates poverty on individual basis. 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.

Statement

Number of Persons Living Below Poverty Line in 1999-2000

(in lakhs)

Sl.No.	States/U.T.s	Rural	Urban	Combined
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58.13	60.88	119.01
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.80	0.18	3.98
3.	Assam	92.17	2.38	94.55
4.	Bihar	376.51	49.13	425.64
5.	Goa	0.11	0.59	0.70
6.	Gujarat	39.80	28.09	67.89
7.	Haryana	11.94	5.39	17.34
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4.84	0.29	5.12
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.97	0.49	3.46
10.	Karnataka	59.91	44.49	104.40
11.	Kerala	20.97	20.07	41.04
12.	Madhya Pradesh	217.32	81.22	298.54
13.	Maharashtra	125.12	102.87	227.99
14.	Manipur	6.53	0.66	7.19
15.	Meghalaya	7.89	0.34	8.23
16.	Mizoram	1.40	0.45	1.85
17.	Nagaland	5.21	0.28	5.49
18.	Orissa	143.69	25.40	169.09
19.	Punjab	10.20	4.29	14.49
20.	Rajasthan	55.06	26.78	81.83
21.	Sikkim	2.00	0.04	2.05
22.	Tamil Nadu	80.51	49.97	130.48

1	2	3	4	5
23.	Tripura	12.53	0.49	13.02
24.	Uttar Pradesh	412.01	117.88	529.89
25.	West Bengal	180.11	33.38	213.49
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.58	0.24	0.82
27.	Chandigarh	0.06	0.45	0.51
28.	Dadra and Nagar haveli	0.30	0.03	0.33
29.	Daman and Diu	0.01	0.05	0.06
30.	Delhi	0.07	11.42	11.49
31.	Lakshadweep	0.03	0.08	0.11
32.	Pondicherry	0.64	1.77	2.41
	All India	1932.43	670.07	2602.50

*[English]***Mini Ratna Status to Coal India Limited**

387. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has applied to the Government to accord it the mini ratna status; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHIBU SOREN):
(a) and (b) Coal India Limited has applied to the Government for grant of Mini Ratna (Category-I) status. The matter is being considered by the Ministry in consultation with the Department of Public Enterprises.

*[Translation]***Policy Regarding Major Power Projects**

388. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced its policy regarding major power projects for supply of power from the Power Trading Corporation;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the manner in which Power Trading Corporation would monitor the power supply?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) PTC India Limited is not required to monitor the power supply.

*[English]***Indian Stake in Syrian Oil Field**

389. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States has asked the Union Government to cancel the proposed investment in buying a stake in a Syrian oil field in partnership with China;

(b) if so, the reasons advanced by the USA in this regard;

(c) whether the Government has agreed to the said suggestions;

(d) if so, whether the same is likely to adversely affect India's efforts to ensure energy security; and

(e) 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.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

*The reply was subsequently corrected through a Correcting Statement made in the House on 1.3.2006 and was also placed in Library under LT No. 3719/2006. The correct reply may be read as follows:

- (a) The matter was raised informally by the U.S.
- (b) The U.S. asked that the investment be reconsidered in view of Syria's regional policies.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Committee to Evaluate Publicity Activities

390. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted any committee for evaluating the impact of publicity activities undertaken by the various missions and other agencies entrusted with the same task abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the said committee in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Combating TB and AIDS

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

(a) whether incidents of spread of Tuberculosis continue to be much higher as compared to AIDS in the country;

(b) if so, the comparative details of population suffering from TB and AIDS during the last three years, till date;

(c) the comparative details of funds allocated to the States for treatment and prevention of TB and AIDS during the last three years, year-wise;

(d) whether funds have also been received from foreign countries for treatment and prevention of TB and AIDS during the above period;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to combat these diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The number of people suffering from TB is more than the people suffering from AIDS. However, in recent years there has been no increase in the incidence of TB in the country.

(b) The number of TB cases detected and put on treatment under the National TB Control Programme and number of cases of AIDS during the last three years, is as under:

Year	TB Cases	AIDS Cases
2002	1129076	19077
2003	1147223	21587
2004	1257532	27432
2005 (upto Sept. 2005)	999903	not available

(c) Details of funds allocated under National TB Control Programme and National AIDS Control Programme are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The details of funds received from foreign agencies for treatment and prevention of TB and AIDS are given in the Statement II and III, respectively.

(f) In so far as TB is concerned, Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP), widely known as DOTS, which is a WHO recommended strategy is being implemented in the country since year 1997 in a phased manner. By January, 2006, 1083 million (97%) of the population in 618 districts/reporting units is getting benefited by DOTS strategy. Only 16 districts are yet to implement RNTCP. These are in the final stages of preparation and the entire country will be covered under RNTCP in the financial year 2005-06. The Project districts have reported treatment success rate of more than 85% which means that more than 8 out of every 10 patients put on treatment under the revised strategy are being successfully treated as against below 4 in the earlier programme.

In so far as AIDS/HIV is concerned, the Government of India has launched a comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme with the objective to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India. Currently, the Programme is being implemented throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme with the following components:

- (i) Targeted interventions for high risk population by adopting a multi-pronged strategy including peer counselling and behaviour change communication as a preventive strategy.
- (ii) Preventive intervention for the general population through programme for blood safety, voluntary counselling and testing services, IEC and awareness building among adolescents and sensitization for the AIDS Vaccine Initiative.
- (iii) Provision of low cost care and support services by providing community care services, treatment of opportunistic infections and prevention of occupational exposure.
- (iv) Intersectoral programme activities focused on learning from the innovative HIV/AIDS programme activities in other sectors and sharing of awareness generalize advocacy.
- (v) Building technical and managerial capacities for programme implementation through Surveillance, Training, Monitoring and Evaluation, Technical resource groups, operational research and programme management.

Statement I

(A) Details of funds allocated during last three years to the States for treatment and prevention of AIDS:

Year	Funds allocated (rupees in crores)
2002-03	162.72
2003-04	156.32
2004-05	248.37
2005-06 (till date)	158.25

(B) Allocation of funds during the last three years under the Revised National TB Control Programme.

Year	Funds allocated (Rs. in crores)
2002-03	107.00
2003-04	107.60
2004-05	118.00
2005-06	186.00

Statement II

The following international agencies are providing assistance for treatment of TB:

Agency	Amount (In Crores)
World Bank Phase I 1997-2005	604
World Bank Phase II Oct. 2005 to Sept. 2010	765
DANIDA	
Phase 1 (1997-2003)	31.95
Phase 2 (De.c 2003 to 2005)	13.48
DFID (October 2000 to Oct. 2005)	109.93
GFATM	303.41
USAID	29.6
For Phase 2 DFID will provide commodity assistance of anti TB drugs through WHO	199.79

DANIDA—Danish International Development Agency
DFID—Dep'tt. for International Development
GFATM—Global Fund for AIDS TB & Malaria
USAID—United States International Development Agency

Statement III

The following international agencies are providing assistance for treatment of HIV/AIDS

(rupees in crores)

Year	USAID		DFID	CIDA	Total
	APAC	AVERT			
1994-95	1.50				1.50
1995-96	1.66				1.66
1996-97	2.80				2.80
1997-98	0.64				0.64
1998-99	3.00				3.00
1999-2000	5.50				5.50
2000-2001	9.09		8.00		17.09
2001-2002	6.83	4.63	25.37	2.00	38.83
2002-2003	7.25	6.65	24.99	0.50	39.39
2003-2004	10.99	5.99	25.75	1.50	44.23
2004-2005	16.84	8.99	41.00	2.00	68.83
2005-2006 (Till date)	11.24	4.20	132.24	Nil	147.68
Total	77.34	30.46	257.35	6.00	370.65

In addition, National AIDS Control Programme has also received funding from multilateral agencies and funding mechanisms like World Bank (US\$ 260.594 m) and GFATM (Rs. 57.26 crores).

Widening/Repair of National Highway-52

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

(a) whether the Union Government has taken steps to widen, strengthen and repair NH-52;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the achievement made thereon and the target fixed for the current year;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the total plan outlay sanctioned and annual allocation made for the said work during the Tenth Plan;

(e) whether the Union Government has received any proposals for implementation of works in various sectors of NH-52;

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(g) whether the Union Government has cleared all such proposals; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the date by which pending proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The stretch from Baihata Charali to Banderdewa is identified for four laning under National Highways Development Project (NHDP)-III for which Government have given approval for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) and preparation of DPR has been undertaken by National Highways Authority of India. The stretches from North Lakhimpur to Jonai and from Dirak to Rupai in Assam have been identified for widening to two-lane with paved shoulders under Phase 'A' of Special Accelerated Road Development Programme-North East (SARDP-NE), which is already approved by the Government on 22.9.2005 for implementation. The work of widening to two lanes from Jonai to Dirak in Arunachal Pradesh has been approved by the Government for preparation of Detailed Project Reports under Phase 'B' of SARDP-NE. For these projects identified under SARDP-

NE, Border Roads Organization (BRO) has been asked to prepare DPRs.

The repair/rehabilitation of the existing road including strengthening/repair to bridges is a continuous process. In addition, the work of improvement of riding quality has been completed in 199.63 kms length on NH-52 in Assam by BRO upto March, 2005 and has been planned for a length of 105.07 km. during 2005-06. For all such works it is proposed to spend Rs. 45.74 crore in Assam and Rs. 13.14 crore in Arunachal Pradesh.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The details of funds allocated and utilized by BRO on NH-52 during the 10th Plan period are given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Assam Portion		Arunachal Pradesh portion	
	Allotted	Utilised	Allotted	Utilised
2002-03	10.71	10.71	20.00	20.00
2003-04	20.36	20.36	8.12	8.12
2004-05	25.04	25.04	12.16	12.16
2005-06	45.74	18.80 (upto Dec., 05)	13.14	8.90 (upto Dec., 05)
2006-07 (Planned)	52.00		16.90	
Total	153.85	74.91	70.32	49.18

(e) to (h) Two Detailed Project Reports for the stretches from Km. 345 to Km 360 and Km 365 to Km 382 of NH-52 have been approved in December, 2005 and further two Detailed Project Reports for the stretch from Km 440 to Km 455 and Km 845 to Km 876 of NH-52 have been received from BRO, one each in January and February, 2006. A case for replacing the deteriorated timber bridges with Bailey bridges in the stretches identified under SARDP-NE has also been received from BRO in January 2006. These proposals are under scrutiny and their approval is subject to fulfilment of technical requirements.

Reconstitution of Governing Councils of Major Port Trusts

393. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to reconstitute the governing councils of major port trusts in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the norms to be followed for nomination thereto; and

(c) the details of the number of public representatives nominated in different port trusts?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) There are 12 major ports, namely Kolkata, Mumbai, Jawaharlal Nehru, Chennai, Cochin, Visakhapatnam, Kandla, Mormugao, Paradip, New Mangalore, Tuticorin and Ennore. Ennore Port is a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956, and remaining 11 major ports are regulated by the provisions of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963. While Ennore Port is governed by Board of Directors other 11 ports are managed by their respective Boards of Trustees constituted as per the provisions of Section 3 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963. The Boards of Trustees for the ports of Jawaharlal Nehru, Tuticorin and New Mangalore stand reconstituted for the period from 1.4.2005 to 31.3.2007. The Board of Trustees for the ports of Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai, Cochin, Visakhapatnam, Kandla, Mormugao and Paradip are due for reconstitution for the period from 1.4.2006 to 31.3.2008.

As per the provision of Section 3 of the Major Port Trusts Act 1963, the Central Government constitutes the Board of Trustees of the Port consisting of Chairman and Deputy Chairman and not more than 19 persons in case of Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai and not more than 17 person in the case of all other major ports representing one or more of the following interests:

- (i) Labour employed in the Port
- (ii) Mercantile Marine Department
- (iii) Department of Customs
- (iv) The Government of the State in which the port is situated
- (v) The Defence Services
- (vi) The Indian Railways; and
- (vii) Such other interests as in the opinion of Central Government ought to be represented on the Board.

Apart from interests mentioned above, the Government may also appoint such number of persons to be elected by such bodies and representing any one or more of such of the following interests:

- (i) Shipowners
- (ii) Owners of sailing vessels
- (iii) Shippers; and

- (iv) Such other interests as in the opinion of Central Government ought to be represented on the Board.

State of Affairs in Safdarjung Hospital

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

(a) whether the condition of trolleys and wheel chairs provided to ferry the patients in Safdarjung Hospital are in a bad condition;

(b) if so, the steps taken to immediately improve the condition of trolleys and wheel chairs;

(c) whether ward boys, ECG technicians, qualified Nephrologist and Geochronologist doctors are not available in Safdarjung Hospital and doctors with MD qualifications are looking after their work; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Adequate number of functioning trolleys and wheel chairs are available in casualty, OPD and wards to ferry the patients in the hospital. Wheel chairs/trolleys which are not in working condition are either repaired or replaced from time to time.

(c) and (d) The posts of ward boys and Geochronologist do not exist in the hospital. 9 posts of ECG Technician have already been filled up and they are working in the hospital. Two posts of Nephrologist sanctioned for the hospital are presently vacant and Physician with MD qualification having adequate training/experience in the field of Nephrology is looking after the Nephrology Unit.

[Translation]

Rural Electrification

395. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from Madhya Pradesh for electrification of villages

by Non-Conventional sources of energy in remote and forest areas of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Madhya Pradesh is suitable for harnessing the non-conventional energy sources; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Madhya Pradesh Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd. (MPUVN), the implementing agency notified by the State Government for electrification of villages through non-conventional energy sources in Madhya Pradesh, has recently submitted proposals for electrification of 10 villages in district Guna, 7 in district Satna and 37 villages in district Jhabua. These villages had earlier been identified by the Rural Electrification Corporation as remote and hence are suitable for electrification only through non-conventional energy sources. The total estimated project cost for electrification of these 54 villages has been placed at Rs. 502 lakhs.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry is implementing various programmes for promoting use of non-conventional energy sources such as solar energy, wind energy, biogas, biomass, etc., in different parts of the country, including Madhya Pradesh. For this purpose, project based support is provided to various State nodal agencies including MPUVN, the nodal agency for promotion of non-conventional energy in Madhya Pradesh, in accordance with the guidelines of different programmes.

Sale of Spurious Drugs

396. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to take stringent steps to check the sale of spurious drugs in the country;

(b) if so, the approximate value of spurious drugs sold in the market during each of the last three years;

(c) the approximate percentage of India's share in the production of spurious drugs in the world;

(d) the approximate percentage of spurious drugs out of total drugs produced in the country;

(e) whether all the States have drug testing laboratories to test the drugs;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the manufacturing and marketing of spurious drugs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (g) Yes, Sir. The State Drugs Control Organisations who are entrusted with the task of regulating manufacture and sale of drugs including monitoring of quality of drugs and also to check any possible movement of spurious drugs, have been furnished with detailed guidelines to ensure effective monitoring over manufacture and sale of any spurious medicine. Moreover, a bill has been placed in the Parliament to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 to provide stricter punishment to the offenders including maximum penalty of life imprisonment as well as stiff fines. The bill further provides for making such offences non-bailable and cognizable and to constitute designated court for speedy trials.

Manufacture and sale of spurious drugs is a clandestine activity and therefore it is not possible to maintain details of such activities. However, as per information received from State Drugs Control Organisations following are the details of samples found spurious out of the total samples of drugs tested in the last 3 years:

Year	No. of samples tasted	No. of samples declared spurious
2004-05	49,287	144
2003-04	40,862	118
2002-03	43,138	129

As per the available information total 19 States/UTs are having Drugs Testing Laboratories to test drugs. Further, under World Bank assisted Capacity Project for food and drugs. States have been provided facilities for enhancing their drug testing capacity and also to promote Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) in industry, ensure uniform enforcement capabilities for State Drugs Regulatory Agencies, train regulatory staff and industry personnel.

Simplifying Procedure for Grant to Poor Patients

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to simplify the procedure of providing grant to the poor patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) In order to cut down delay, lump-sum advances have been placed with the under mentioned Government Hospitals and heads of these Hospitals have been authorized to sanction the financial grant to the persons covered under the provisions of the Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi and requiring assistance up to Rs. 50 thousand.

1. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi.
2. Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh.
3. Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi.
4. Lady Harding Medical College and Associated Hospitals, New Delhi.

5. Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Calcutta.
6. National Institute of Mental Health & Neuro Sciences, Bangalore.
7. Central Institute of Psychiatry, Ranchi.
8. Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Lucknow.
9. Gandhi Memorial and Associated hospitals & King George Medical College, Lucknow.
10. Jawahar Lal Institute of Post Graduate Medical Education and Research, Pondicherry
11. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, New Delhi.

Also State Level Illness Assistance Funds have been set up in all the States/UTs except the following States and 'below Poverty Line' residents of such States requiring assistance for their treatment are sanctioned upto Rs. 1.50 lakhs are sanctioned grant by the respective State Level Illness Assistance Fund Societies.

1. Assam
2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Haryana
4. Meghalaya
5. Nagaland
6. Orissa
7. Punjab
8. Uttar Pradesh
9. Manipur.

Only in cases where the cost of treatment is more than the delegated limits; the cases need come to the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare where also the administrative machinery has been toned up and wherever the documents (income certificate issued by the respective district revenue authority, attested copy of ration card and estimate in the prescribed form duly signed by the doctor in-charge of the treatment/Head of the Department and Medical Superintendent of the Hospital) are complete, minimal possible time for processing of the application is being taken.

*[English]***Japan's Grant-in-aid For Health Services**

398. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra had sent a proposal for purchase of machinery and essential equipments with financial assistance from Japan's Grant-in-aid for upgrading the health services in Government Medical Colleges and Civil Hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The proposal of Government of Maharashtra for upgradation of civil hospitals and Government Medical Colleges at Kolhapur-Latur, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli and Amaravati into Regional Referral Centers at an estimated cost of Rs. 21.45 crore was submitted for the consideration of Government of Japan through Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs in 2002. The Embassy of Japan has informed vide their communication dated 23rd November 2004 that the above proposal has not been adopted for financial assistance.

Closing Down of CGHS Dispensaries

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

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to close down all the CGHS dispensaries in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any alternative arrangements have been stipulated for the beneficiaries; 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) No, Sir, there is no proposal to wind up the CGHS.

*[Translation]***Allocation of Coal Blocks**

400. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has allocated coal blocks to Private Coal Companies for their own captive use;

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

(c) whether the time limit for the use of these coal mines has been extended; and

(d) if so, the details and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHIBU SOREN):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. So far 54 coal blocks have been allocated to 68 companies in the private sector for mining of coal for captive use in power generation, iron & steel production or cement production in their own plants as permissible under the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973. Three of these blocks, being small and isolated reserves/abandoned mines, have been allocated for non-captive mining under Section 3(3)(c) of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of the answer given to part (c) above.

*[English]***Changing Provisions of FRBM Act**

401. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has decided to ask the Ministry of Finance to change the provisions of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Commission has initiated the process of analyzing performance of individual States;

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

(e) whether the Planning Commission believes that borrowing for capital investment should not be discouraged; and

(f) if so, the extent by which the Government has accepted Planning Commission's recommendations for amending provisions of FRBM Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) No Sir, the Planning Commission has not requested the Ministry of Finance to change the provisions of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act. However, the Planning Commission had suggested that States be allowed to adopt their chosen version of Fiscal Responsibility legislation keeping in mind their present condition and potential for improvement.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Planning Commission holds discussions with States on a regular basis wherein performance of the Plan of the States and its financing through various sources is discussed. In general, the approach of the Planning Commission is that borrowed resources should be utilized by States for productive purposes including capital investment.

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

Use of Antibiotics

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

(a) whether the World Health Organization (WHO) has advised the doctors to reduce prescribing antibiotics;

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

(c) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to educate the public about the adverse effect of overuse of antibiotics; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to ensure compliance with the advice of the WHO?

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

Organization (WHO) advocates rational use of drugs as over use of antimicrobial agents may lead to increased antimicrobial resistance.

(c) and (d) The proposal of creating awareness among the consumers about the adverse effects of overuse of antibiotics was discussed in the 35th Meeting of Drugs Consultative Committee (a statutory committee under section 7 of Drugs and Cosmetics Act) held in April 2004. The Committee observed that antibiotics are prescription drugs under Schedule 'H' of Drugs and Cosmetics Rules and they are required to be sold against the prescription of Registered Medical Practitioners only. All State drug regulatory authorities were requested to keep strict vigil over the sale of antibiotics without prescription. It was also urged that the Chemists and Druggists Associations are advised to educate consumers about perils of self medication of antibiotics.

[Translation]

Thorium Extraction and Use

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

(a) whether the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has found an alternative of uranium in the field of production of atomic energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to lay emphasis on the research work related to thorium as an alternative of Uranium;

(d) whether thorium is adequately available in the country;

(e) if so, whether the Government has formulated any scheme/programme to develop atomic energy on the basis of its use; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Uranium 235 is the only naturally occurring fissile material, which can be used for production of nuclear energy. Plutonium 239 and Uranium 233 are the two man made fissile materials, which can also be used for

production of nuclear energy. Presently reactors operated by the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) are fuelled by natural Uranium. DAE is constructing 500 MWe fast reactor at Kalpakkam which will utilise plutonium 239 as fuel. In the third stage of nuclear power programme, the DAE have plans for using Uranium 233 as fuel.

(b) The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has a mandate for the development of approaches for utilization of Thorium for power generation. It is currently working on the design and development of an Advanced Heavy Water Reactor, which would produce nearly two-third of its power from Thorium. This reactor will require Plutonium as fissile fuel input. BARC is also actively working on the development of different techniques for the manufacture of nuclear fuel bearing Thorium and also its reprocessing. In the past, several studies were carried out for use of Thorium in our Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors.

(c) Yes, Sir. BARC proposes to lay emphasis on the research work related to Thorium.

(d) Yes, Sir. Thorium is adequately available in the country.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Uranium is the only naturally occurring source of fissile material and it is necessary to start any new nuclear power programme. In order to multiply the fissile material resource available for growth of nuclear power programme, DAE have adopted use of natural Uranium fuelled Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors in the first stage. Plutonium recovered from the spent fuel of these reactors

will be used to serve as the fissile fuel for the second stage comprising Fast Breeder Reactors. Naturally occurring Thorium, which does not have any fissile component, can be irradiated in these fast breeder reactors to produce Uranium-233, a man made fissile material. In the third stage of Indian nuclear power programme, Thorium together with Uranium-233 produced in Fast Breeder Reactors will be used to generate power on a large scale to ensure long-term energy security in the country.

[English]

Increasing Cargo Handling Capacity of Ports

404. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the Cargo handling capacity of ports as reported in the *Business Standard* dated December 31, 2005;

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

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

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

(b) Major port-wise details are given below:

(In million tonnes)

Sl. No.	Name of Major Port	Existing Capacity as on 31.3.2005	Additional Capacity Proposed	Proposed Capacity as on 31.3.2012
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Kolkata	43.90	38.98	82.88
2.	Mumbai	42.90	8.58	51.48
3.	JL Nehru	33.10	48.85	81.95
4.	Chennai	41.85	18.73	60.58
5.	Cochin	15.50	27.40	42.90

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Vizag	49.65	56.95	106.60
7.	Kandla	45.00	47.17	92.17
8.	Mormugao	28.50	24.80	53.30
9.	Paradip	39.00	49.86	88.86
10.	New Mangalore	30.30	24.64	54.94
11.	Tuticorin	15.80	23.72	39.52
12.	Ennore	12.00	33.24	45.24
Total		397.50	402.92	800.42

(c) A total of 276 projects covering the entire gamut of activities in the major ports, namely, construction/upgradation of berths, deepening of channels, rail/road connectivity projects, equipment upgradation/modernization schemes and other related schemes for creation of backup facilities have been identified for inclusion under the National Maritime Development Programme formulated by the Department of Shipping. This Programme, involving an estimated investment of Rs. 55,804 crores, will be taken up for implementation in two phases over a period upto 2011-12, through public private partnership.

Indian High Commissions Working out of Rented Flats

405. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CAG has asked the Ministry to curtail the expenses on hiring of rented buildings for Indian High Commissions as reported in the *Times of India* dated December 21, 2005;

(b) if so, whether Indian High Commissions are working out of rented flats in some countries;

(c) if so, the details and the reasons therefor;

(d) the reasons for not renovating/repairing Indian properties abroad; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. This is also in line with the Ministry of External Affairs' policy of progressively reducing the outflow on rentals by construction/acquisition of suitable properties.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. India has resident diplomatic Missions/Posts at 164 stations abroad. So far, the Ministry of External Affairs has been able to construct/acquire Chancery (office) buildings at 77 stations and the process is continuing. The remaining Missions/Posts are functioning out of rented Chancery buildings. There are various factors which determine the Government's decision to construct/acquire properties abroad and the important ones are: India's overall interest; economic viability; availability of suitable properties; local procedures and regulations; principle of reciprocity; security requirements etc. Finally, the availability of funds in the Ministry's budget and Government of India's own procedures also have a bearing on this process.

(d) Repair and maintenance of the Government-owned diplomatic properties abroad is a continuous process. Most of the routine repairs and maintenance are carried out by the respective Missions/Posts abroad under their delegated powers. Only major renovation proposals exceeding the delegated powers need to be referred to the Ministry for approvals. All such cases are considered keeping in view economic viability, functional requirement, conformity with the local norms/laws and availability of budgetary resources.

(e) In order to closely pursue renovation/repair proposals, and for acquisition/construction of diplomatic

properties abroad, a special Projects Division has been established since February 2005.

Integrated Coastal Health Projects

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

(a) whether the Integrated Coastal Health Project submitted by the Government of Kerala has been sanctioned by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by when the proposal is likely to be approved?

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

[Translation]

National Rural Energy Security Programme

407. SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to encourage the production of non-conventional energy through local means in villages in order to make them self-reliant in the field of energy as reported in the *Dainik Jagran* dated December 30, 2005;

(b) if so, whether a National Rural Energy Security Programme has been prepared in this regard;

(c) if so, the details of the said programme;

(d) the amount likely to be spent in each village to launch this programme; and

(e) the time span of this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) An Outline Plan was prepared

for creating energy security in villages through use of locally available biomass resources with participation of the local community. It has been decided to take up 200 test projects initially. The projects involved energy plantations and installation of improved chulhas, biogas plants, gasifiers and biofuel units for meeting the total energy requirements of a village.

(d) and (e) An amount of about Rs. 20.00 lakh has been estimated for a test project in a typical village of 100 households. A test project is to be implemented over a period of one year.

Coal Supply to Small and Medium Industries

408. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether small and medium industries are facing acute shortage of coal;

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

(c) whether such small and medium industries which were set up in large numbers particularly in the coal producing States in the recent past are meeting their requirements by purchasing the coal from the market at a rate which is three times more than the rate being paid by the power sector; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to provide sufficient coal to these industries as per their demand?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHIBU SOREN):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Small and medium industries have been facing shortage of coal supply due to increase in demand by the core sector especially Power. This supply position has, however, now improved.

(c) No, Sir. The price payable by the small and medium linked industries is determined through e-marketing rate but such prices which were initially 76% more than the notified price have now come down to 40% above the notified price. The difference between notified price and e-marketing price has been gradually coming down with the e-marketing process getting stabilised.

(d) Coal India Limited has taken initiative to increase the availability of coal to non-core sector consumers including small and medium scale industries and have accordingly earmarked a quantity of 17 million tonnes coal during 2005-06. In addition, another 20 million tonnes of coal has been approved for sale through e-marketing during 2005-06 to increase availability of coal to non-core sector consumers.

The coal earmarked for non-core sector consumers, 5 million tonnes is being distributed through State Government nominated undertakings and NCCF to those tiny/small consumers, whose requirement is less than 500 tonnes per year at floor price *i.e.* 20% above the notified price.

Granting Overseas Citizen of India Status

409. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to grant Overseas Citizen of India status to Indians turned 'naturalized American Citizen' with right to function from either country;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether this status with voting rights would be extended to Indian Citizens of the Gulf region;

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

(e) whether the Government has surveyed the demand and utility of these citizens seeking the said status; and

(f) if so, the time by which the said status is likely to be granted?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes. Persons of Indian Origin of all countries, except Pakistan and

Bangladesh who fulfil certain conditions, are eligible to apply and become Overseas Citizens of India (OCI). OCIs are entitled to multiple-entry, multi-purpose, life-long visas with no requirement of registration with police. Hence they can live and work in India or in the country of their naturalization. OCIs are not entitled to hold constitutional posts and employment in the Government. They are however eligible to work in the private sector. OCIs enjoy parity with NRIs in respect of economic, financial and educational fields except in relation to acquisition of agricultural or plantation properties.

(c) and (d) A proposal to grant voting rights to Indian citizens who are not ordinarily resident in India on account of employment, education or otherwise has been approved by the Government. The facility will meet a long-standing demand of Indian workers in the Gulf who take up employment there on a contract basis and cannot be naturalized in the countries they work. The facility will be granted after Parliament approves the necessary amendments to the Representation of the People Act. A Bill in this regard is expected to be introduced in the current session of Parliament.

(e) and (f) Both OCI and grant of voting rights are part of Government's efforts to promote a broader and stronger engagement with the Indian diaspora.

Referring of Patients by Safdarjung Hospital

410. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Safdarjung Hospital refers patients to those private hospitals which have been allotted land on the condition that they would reserve some beds for the poor patients;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the names of such private hospitals; 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) Safdarjung Hospital is referring poor patients to private hospitals with reserved bed for poor patients. List of patient referred to such hospitals is enclosed as statement.

Statement

Name of the hospital	Number of patients	Referring Deptt.	Name of patient
National Heart Institute	Five	Cardiology	Umesh, Subash Chand, Shanti Devi, R.S. Negi, Virender Pd.
Dharamshila Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Vasundra Enclave, Delhi	Four	Cancer Surgery, ENT	Sher Ram, Raj Kr., Mohd. Zamir, Devki Devi
Batra Hospital, Delhi	Two	Cancer Surgery	Asha Ram, Om Wati
Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute & Research Centre, Delhi	One	Cancer Surgery	Dhan Singh

Assistance to Kailash Mansarovar Pilgrims

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

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance is being given by the Government to the pilgrims visiting Kailash Mansarovar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has held talks with China on any new scheme to provide pilgrims with more facilities and assistance;

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

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

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

(b) The Kailash Mansarovar Yatra is presently organised by the Government under a bilateral

arrangement with the Chinese Government through the Lipulekh Pass in Pithoragarh (Uttaranchal). Government pay Rupees Three thousand two hundred and fifty (Rs. 3,250) for each pilgrim to Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN) for arrangements made by KMVN for the Yatra. In addition, during the course of the Yatra, facilities provided by the Government to the pilgrims include free medical assistance, security and escort over by the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) till the Lipulekh Pass on the Indian side, communication links with China, and provision of satellite phone to the Liaison Officer for each batch of pilgrims for use during emergency throughout the Yatra. A Liaison Officer is attached by the Government with each batch of pilgrims, who is responsible for their general welfare.

(c) to (e) It is Government's endeavour to improve and upgrade facilities for the pilgrims going on the Yatra on a continuing basis. In this spirit, Government have, from time to time, also raised with the Chinese Government issues regarding the improvement of facilities on their side for the pilgrims. There has been progressive improvement over the years. In addition, Government have proposed to the Chinese side on several occasions in recent years opening of an alternative route to Kailash-Mansarovar through Demchok in Jammu and Kashmir, or

Shipki La in Himachal Pradesh, which would be shorter and more convenient. The Chinese side have cited difficulty in opening these routes on the ground that it would involve travel over longer distances on their side through difficult terrain, with poor road conditions and lack of proper infrastructure for accommodation and communications.

[English]

Development of Co-operative Based Power Stations

412. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal for development of co-operative based localized power stations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which such stations are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Questions do not arise.

East Asia Summit

413. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an East Asia Summit was held at Kuala Lumpur during December 2005;

(b) if so, the main points discussed therein and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether differences were noticed in regard to the position taken by India and China during the said Summit; and

(d) if so, the manner in which the same was resolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes. The East Asia Summit was held in Kuala Lumpur on December 14, 2006.

(b) The Leaders exchanged views on the challenges and opportunities facing the region and the long-term objective of community building as an integral part of the evolving regional architecture. The Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the East Asia Summit was signed on this occasion. The Leaders also adopted a Declaration on Avian Influenza Prevention, Control and Response.

(c) and (d) The discussions at the East Asia Summit were of an informal nature in a Retreat format, wherein the participants shared their respective perspectives on the issues under consideration. The consensus that emerged is reflected in the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the East Asia Summit.

[Translation]

Employment on Compassionate Ground

414. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) has made any changes in its policy relating to providing of jobs on compassionate grounds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any ban has been imposed on providing jobs to women on compassionate grounds in the Coal India Limited;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the number of pending cases relating to providing jobs on compassionate grounds company-wise especially in Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL); and

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

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHIBU SOREN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable in view of reply (a) above.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Not application in view of reply (c) above.

(e) 4640 cases are pending in CIL and its subsidiaries as on 1.1.2006. Subsidiary-wise break-up including WCL is as under:

ECL	BCCL	CCL	WCL	SECL	NCL	MCL	NEC	CMPDIL
2179	831	951	184	176	29	75	208	7

(f) All efforts are being made to dispose of eligible pending cases at the earliest and it is an ongoing process. Main reasons for pending of cases are as under:

1. Receipt of incomplete application.
2. Variation in the name, age, relation etc.
3. Claim by more than one dependent.
4. Non-appearance of the dependent before the Committee on fixed date.
5. Belated claims.
6. Cases sub-judice in various courts.

Eradication of Diseases

415. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to launch various programmes on the lines of Pulse Polio campaign in each State of the country, particularly in Jharkhand to eradicate Malaria, Filaria, Kala-Azar and T.B. from the States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Government of India is implementing comprehensive National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) in the entire country including the State of Jharkhand for prevention and control of vector borne diseases namely Malaria, Filaria, Kala-azar, Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Dengue. The implementation of the programme is primarily the responsibility of State Governments. The Central Government provides technical guidance and material support by way of providing insecticides, larvicides, anti-malaria, anti-filaria and anti-kala-azar drugs.

For the elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis, annual Mass Drug Administration (MDA) with single dose of Diethylcarbamazine (DEC) is being observed in endemic districts as National Filaria Day since 2004. The National Filaria Day was observed on 5th June, 2004 in 202 filaria

endemic districts and on 11th November, 2005 in 243 endemic districts and 80.67% coverage was recorded in 2005 as compared to 72.74% in 2004.

For the elimination of Kala-azar, intensive Kala-azar search & Indoor Residual Spray with DDT (50%) is being carried out in the endemic by States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand & West Bengal.

The strategy for Malaria control includes:

- (i) Early diagnosis and prompt treatment;
- (ii) Integrated vector management by use of appropriate mix of vector control measures (Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) in selected pockets, anti-larval measures in urban areas, use of insecticide treated bednets (ITNs), larvivorous fishes and environmental and minor engineering methods;
- (iii) Epidemic preparedness and rapid response for initiating epidemic control measures in the event of abnormal increase in malaria cases;
- (iv) Behaviour Change Communication for generating awareness & social mobilization through different media including interpersonal communication;
- (v) Inter-sectoral collaboration for involvement of non-Health Departments/Civil Society Organizations/Corporate sector/local self-government, Armed & Paramilitary Forces;
- (vi) Human Resource Development through capacity building of medical and paramedical personnel/partner organizations by training at primary, secondary & tertiary levels; and
- (vii) Monitoring and evaluation through periodic reviews, field visits and web based Management Information System upto District level.

In respect of T.B., it is not possible to launch Programme on the line of pulse polio campaign in the country to eradicate T.B. due to different epidemiological situation pertaining to T.B. However, Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP), widely known as DOTS which is a WHO recommended strategy is being implemented as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme since 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.

Project districts have reported treatment success rate of more than 85% which means that more than 8 out of every 10 patients put on treatment under the revised strategy are being successfully treated as against below 4 in the earlier programme. Till date, the RNTCP has placed more than 53 lac patients on treatment thus averting more than 9.5 lac deaths. By January 2006, 1083 million (97%) of the population in 618 districts/ reporting units is getting benefited by DOTS strategy. Only 16 districts are yet to implement RNTCP. These are in the final stages of preparation and the entire country will be covered under RNTCP in the financial year 2005-06.

As per the report to the 3rd Quarter 2005, performance under RNTCP in the State of Jharkhand, annualized case detection rate at present is 107/lakh population as against target of 137/lakh population, new sputum positive case detection rate is 39/lakh as against target of 53/lakh and cure rate of new sputum positive cases is 87% against the national target of 85%.

[English]

Anti-Terror Deal with Saudi Arabia

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

(a) whether the Union Government has entered into an anti-terror deal with Saudi Arabia;

(b) if so, the main points included in the memorandum of understanding; and

(c) the benefit to India as a result of the said deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) The Delhi Declaration as well as the MoU on Combating Crime that were signed during the State Visit of King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia envisage India-Saudi Arabia cooperation in combating terrorism.

(b) The MoU on Combating Crime envisages cooperation in:

- (i) combating international terrorism;
- (ii) combating illicit use and production, trading, distribution of narcotics/psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals;

(iii) combating counterfeiting of currency/securities, falsification of travel documents and visas;

(iv) combating smuggling of items of historical/cultural value, precious stones/metals and other luxury articles;

(v) search/seizure/confiscation of properties/monies derived from crimes and international terrorism.

(c) As terrorist linkages frequently involve activities and linkages across national boundaries, international cooperation is essential to effectively combat terrorism.

National Youth Policy

417. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate a National Youth Policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The National Youth Policy 2003 was laid on the Table in both Houses of Parliament during the month of December, 2003. There is no proposal at present to formulate another policy.

(b) The National Youth Policy 2003 reiterates the commitment of the nation to the composite and all round development of youth and to establish an all India perspective to fulfil their legitimate aspirations.

The policy defines youth as persons in the age group of 13 to 35 years. Youth belonging to the age group 13 to 19 years are regarded as a separate constituency.

The thrust areas of the policy includes youth Empowerment, Gender Justice, Inter-Sectoral Approach and Information & Research Network.

The policy accords priority to rural and tribal youth, out-of-school youth, adolescents, particularly female adolescents, youth with disabilities and youth under specially difficult circumstances like victims of trafficking, orphans and street children.

[*Translation*]

Fight Against Global Terrorism

418. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has taken any steps to formulate a joint action plan to fight global terrorism affecting India, Pakistan and United States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) India is committed in its efforts to combat global terrorism. In this context, Government of India has taken the initiative for a Comprehensive Convention against International Terrorism (CCIT) at the United Nations. The CCIT provides for a comprehensive legal framework to combat global terrorism.

[*English*]

Modernization/Upgradation of Infrastructure

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

(a) whether the Prime Minister unveiled a mega investment Programme recently for modernizing and upgrading country's infrastructure;

(b) if so, whether monitoring of this investment Programme will be done by the PMO;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is encouraging enterprises by reforming public sector and involving private and public participation in upgrading country's infrastructure; and

(e) if so, the present status thereof and the timeframe fixed for completion of this programme?'

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (e) Government has constituted a Committee on Infrastructure in August, 2004 under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister with the objective of initiating policies that would create world class infrastructure; developing structures that

maximize the role of Public-Private Partnership in the field of infrastructure; and monitoring progress of key infrastructure projects to ensure that established targets are realized. The Committee includes the Finance Minister, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and the Ministers in-charge of the respective infrastructure Ministries. The Committee so far has held ten meetings and have articulated policies and action plans for highways, railways, ports, airports and power. The programmes and policies approved by this Committee have since been taken up for implementation by the respective Ministries.

An Empowered Sub Committee of the COI under the Chairmanship of Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, has also been setup to, *inter alia*, monitor and follow up on implementation of the decisions of the COI.

The Government have also launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) in December 2005. The scheme envisages an expenditure of Rs. 50,000 crore within seven years beginning 2005-06 for upgradation of urban infrastructure facilities in the country.

Government have also announced Bharat Nirman for building rural infrastructure over a period of four years (2005-2009). Bharat Nirman comprises six components namely, irrigation, roads, water supply, housing, rural electrification and rural telecom connectivity. The Committee on Rural Infrastructure under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister is monitoring the implementation of Bharat Nirman.

Registration of Brand Names of Medicines

420. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all medicines are prescribed and sold under brand names;

(b) whether it is mandatory to get approval for and register brand names with any Central Authority in India;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is any law to prohibit the use of old established brand names even after the ingredients are changed/altered; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As per norms prescribed under the drugs and cosmetics rules, medicines can be prescribed and sold under brand names as well as generic names.

(b) and (c) It is not mandatory to get approval for and register brand names with any central authority in India.

(d) and (e) There are no legal restrictions on use of old established brand names by firms even after some ingredients are changed or altered.

Leprosy Patients in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

421. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the growing Leprosy patients in Andaman & Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to eradicate the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) During last 10 years the number of cases on record have declined from 157 in March, 1996 to 27 in March, 2005. Thus the leprosy cases in the Andaman & Nicobar are declining. The Islands have already achieved elimination of leprosy (i.e. PR of less than 1/10,000 population) in 2003-2004. As in December 2005, with a population of 396243 there were 27 cases on record and the PR is 0.68/10,000 population.

(c) The goal of National Health Policy, 2002 was to achieve elimination of leprosy at National level and not the eradication. Andaman & Nicobar Islands have already achieved leprosy elimination in 2003-04 i.e. prevalence rate of less than 1 case per 10,000 population. Elimination at national level has been achieved as on 31st December 2005 which was the target date under the National Health Policy. The Government of India is implementing the National Leprosy Elimination Programme as a Centrally

Sponsored Scheme throughout the country including in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Under this Programme Multi Drug Therapy (MDT) is provided.

Alternate Treatment for Treatment of Malaria

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that the WHO has asked Pharmaceutical Companies to end the marketing and sale of 'Single Drug' artemisinin malaria medicines to prevent malaria parasites from developing resistance to the drug;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued to pharmaceutical companies in India in this regard;

(c) whether in the wake of this development, the Government has decided on an alternative treatment for prevention of malaria; and

(d) if so, the details of the research going on in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. WHO has recently recommended use of Artesunate in combination with other anti malaria so as to prevent malaria parasites from developing resistance to the drug.

(b) No such guidelines have been issued.

(c) The National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme of the Government of India already recommends use of artesunate and sulpha pyremethamine combination as second line treatment for the treatment of drug resistant malaria cases. The Directorate of National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme (NVBDCP) has also been using other combination therapies like Sulpha with Pyremethamine, Chloroquine with Primaquine, and proguanil with Chloroquine for treatment and prevention of malaria.

(d) No applicable.

Stopping Military aid to Neighbouring Countries

423. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has stopped military aid to neighbouring countries;

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

(c) whether there is any demand from our neighbours for resumption of military aid; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) After His Majesty King Gyanendra imposed a state of emergency in Nepal and assumed direct executive powers on 1 February 2005, Government suspended military supplies to Nepal. Following the lifting of emergency in April 2005 and release of several political leaders and activists, the Government of India released some of the non-lethal supplies that were in the pipeline.

(c) There have been some requests from His Majesty's Government of Nepal for resumption of military supplies.

(d) The issue of military supplies to Nepal remains under constant review of the Government.

Power Projects In Maharashtra

424. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power projects commissioned in Maharashtra during the last three years; and

(b) the financial and other details thereof including the capacity of each of these power projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) No thermal or hydro power project has been commissioned in Maharashtra during the last three years in Central, State or Private Sector. However, Tarapur Atomic Power Plant (U-4) (540 MW) of Nuclear Power Corporation Limited has been commissioned on 4.6.2005. The approved completion cost of Unit 4 along with the ongoing Unit 3 (540 MW) of Tarapur Atomic Power Project is Rs. 6525 crore.

Cadre Review of Central Health Services

425. MS. INGRID MCLEOD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to

the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3203 dated December 14, 2005 and state:

(a) whether work relating to cadre review in the Central Health Services has since been completed; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Textile Mills by NRIs

426. SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recently concluded Pravasi Bharatiya Divas meeting in Hyderabad, some NRIs had offered to set up textile mills in the country;

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

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not apply.

[Translation]

Schemes under Bharat Nirman Yojana

427. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments have already submitted their schemes under the Bharat Nirman Yojana;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of States yet to submit their schemes thereunder;

(c) whether all the State Governments have completed those schemes which were to be completed during 2004-05;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Union Government has dispatched any central team to make its own assessment of the schemes;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the number of State Governments which has not completed the works related to the schemes during 2004-05 till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a), (b), (e) and (f) The agenda of Bharat Nirman involves both on-going programmes and upscaling some of the on-going programmes like Rajiv Gandhi Vidyutikaran Yojana, Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Indra Awaas Yojana and use of Universal Service Obligation Fund for village public telephone. In most of these programmes allocations are not scheme/project based but are formula based. While the existing monitoring arrangements for these schemes are continuing, the effort is to impart a sense of urgency to the goals set to make the programme time-bound, transparent and accountable.

(c), (d) and (g) The four year Bharat Nirman programme came into operation in 2005-06 only.

[English]

Road Development Projects in Bihar

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

(a) whether the Government has approved Rs. 20,000 crores for Road Development projects in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether this amount has been sanctioned under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana to Bihar;

(c) if so, the number of kilometres of Road that would be covered under the projects;

(d) whether the Government has any plan to include all the districts of Bihar under this scheme for one-time implementation of the projects;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The project relating to Development of State Highways has been taken up under the Special Plan for Bihar, a component of the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana.

(b) to (f) There are 41 State Highways with a length of 2382.48 Kms. in the State of Bihar. The project covers all the 38 districts of the State. As per the "Pre-feasibility Report for Upgradation of State Highways in Bihar" received from the State Government, the estimated project cost is Rs. 846.28 crore. The State Government has assigned the work to IRCON International Ltd. and the Central Public Works Department (CPWD), Government of India to prepare Detailed Project Reports (DPR) and implement it on turn-key basis. The first instalment of Rs. 8.46 crore has been released to the two agencies who would complete DPR preparation work on priority basis.

National Knowledge Commission

429. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has set up the National Knowledge Commission;

(b) if so, the details of the composition of the Commission;

(c) the aims and objectives for setting up such Commission;

(d) whether the Commission would explore avenues of making the Government more responsive and transparent;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the time-frame of the Commission; and

(g) the time by which the Commission would submit its report?

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

(b) It is headed by Shri Sam Pitroda. Dr. Pushpa M. Bhargava is its Vice-Chairman and Shri Nandan Nilekani, Dr. Pratap Bhanu Mehta (Member-Convenor), Dr. Andre Beteille, Dr. Jayanti Ghosh, Dr. Ashok Ganguly and Dr. Deepak Nayyar are its six Members all part-time.

(c) Its 'Terms of Reference' are,—

[*Translation*]

- (i) To build excellence in the educational system to meet the knowledge challenges of the 21st century and increase India's competitive advantage in fields of knowledge;
- (ii) To promote creation of knowledge in S&T laboratories;
- (iii) To improve the management of institutions engaged in intellectual property rights;
- (iv) To promote knowledge applications in agriculture and industry; and
- (v) To promote the use of knowledge capabilities in making government an effective, transparent and accountable service provider to the citizen and promote widespread sharing of knowledge to maximize public benefit.

(d) and (e) Yes. It has this responsibility as one of the Terms of Reference.

(f) and (g) The Commission will wind itself up on 2nd October, 2008, with a report on tasks done.

Profit Earned by Subsidiary Companies of CIL

430. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the subsidiary companies of the Coal India Limited are earning profit;

(b) if so, the details of the profits earned by the subsidiary companies of the Coal India Limited during each of the last three years, company-wise;

(c) whether the Coal India Limited is preparing to bring Initial Public Offer (IPO) to sell off 5 per cent of its total equity;

(d) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(e) the areas being considered by the Coal India Limited to invest the fund raised through I.P.O.?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHIBU SOREN):
(a) and (b) All the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL), except Eastern Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited have earned profits during the last three financial years. The details of profit/loss (before tax & dividend) earned by subsidiary companies of CIL during the last three financial years are as under:

(Rs. in Crore)

Company	2002-2003 Profit (+)/Loss(-)	2003-2004 Profit (+)/Loss(-)	2004-2005 Profit (+)/Loss(-)
Eastern Coalfields Limited	(-) 338.78	(-) 326.38	(-) 679.20
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	(-) 507.13	(-) 569.85	(-) 959.43
Central Coalfields Limited	(+) 384.65	(+) 370.38	(+) 437.81
Northern Coalfields Limited	(+) 1293.01	(+) 1647.06	(+) 1976.03
Western Coalfields Limited	(+) 472.52	(+) 743.60	(+) 935.30
South Eastern Coalfields Limited	(+) 882.13	(+) 1314.22	(+) 1580.93*
Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	(+) 882.31	(+) 1418.60	(+) 1469.36
Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited	(+) 1.99	(+) 1.76	(+) 1.73
CIL (including North Eastern Coalfields)	(+) 280.08	(+) 1355.97	(+) 1328.30

*Profit of South Eastern Coalfields Limited in 2004-05 is before consideration of National Coal Wage Agreement-VII.

(c) CIL have informed that no such decision has been taken in this regard.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of reply to part (c) above.

[English]

Situation in Nepal

431. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has expressed concern over the situation in Nepal where Maoist violence has increased and rallies by political parties have been banned;

(b) if so, whether the Indian envoy to Nepal has recently informed the Government regarding 'fluid situation' in the Himalayan Kingdom;

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

(d) whether China and Pakistan have agreed for arms supply to Nepal in the face of India's refusal to do so; and

(e) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by India for bringing about peace in Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) Yes, Government has on a number of occasions expressed concern over developments in Nepal.

(b) Government regularly receives assessment on the situation in Nepal from its Mission in Kathmandu.

(c) The Government has consistently maintained that there is no purely military solution to the challenges facing Nepal, including the Maoist insurgency. The grave challenges facing Nepal demand the initiation of a genuine process of national reconciliation, dialogue and participation, which can facilitate a peaceful political settlement that contributes to political stability and economic prosperity of Nepal.

(d) Government is aware that Nepal has received certain quantities of arm supplies, lethal and non-lethal, from third country sources, including China and Pakistan.

(e) As a close and friendly neighbour of Nepal, India wishes to see an early return to peace, stability and development in Nepal. In this context, the Government has, on the one hand, urged the constitutional forces in Nepal to work together to achieve peace and stability in the country, and on the other hand, called upon the Maoists to abandon the path of violence, accept the discipline of multiparty democracy and work for a political settlement.

Withdrawal of Preferential Treatment to Kendriya Bhandars

432. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has withdrawn the preferential treatment given to the Kendriya Bhandars for supplying stationery and other items to the various departments and the facility of rent free Government premises occupied by these Bhandars and its offices;

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

(c) whether the closure of these outlets would adversely affect the interest of its workers including lakhs of Government employees who purchase their groceries from these outlets;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) In relaxation of the provision of General Financial Rules (GFR) 1963, orders were issued in 1981 providing for mandatory purchase of stationery and other items by Government Departments etc. from Kendriya Bhandar (KB). The GFRs have since been

revised and the GFR, 2005 has come into effect from 1.7.2005. Accordingly, the relaxation accorded under the earlier GFR is no longer available.

The Government has also decided that the Government accommodation allotted to Kendriya Bhandar would be got vacated in a phased manner over three years and till such time, Kendriya Bhandar will pay market rate of licence fee for the accommodation occupied by it.

Kendriya Bhandar has been making substantial profit and has also built up a large reserve fund. Protection/preferential treatment from Government may not now be indispensable for its survival.

(c) to (e) At present, there is no proposal for closure of the Kendriya Bhandar.

[Translation]

Construction of Highways

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

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

(a) the time by which the work regarding the construction of highways linking north end to south end and east end to west end of the country is likely to commence;

(b) whether the work of two laning or four laning of all the national highways in the country is also being undertaken;

(c) if so, whether any time limit has been fixed in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) Work of 4-laning of Sections of North-South Corridor (linking Srinagar to Kanyakumari, including Salem-Kochi Spur), and East-West Corridor (linking Porbandar to Silchar) is already in progress.

(b) to (e) The total length of National Highways in the country is 65,569 km. which is being improved in a phased manner. Improvement of around 18,000 km by 4/6 laning has been taken up under Phases I-II and III (A) of National Highways Development Project (NHDP). NHDP Phase I is likely to be completed upto 96% by June, 2006. NHDP Phase II is likely to be completed substantially by December 2008. NHDP Phase IIIA is targeted to be completed by December, 2009. NHDP Phase III is targeted for completion by 2012.

[English]

Levy of User Charges

434. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:
MS. INGRID MCLEOD:
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA":
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

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

(a) whether the Government has recently permitted the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) to levy user charges on patients for their tests and medical investigation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some Central Government hospitals in Delhi have also taken a similar decision;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is opposition to this move in certain quarters;

(f) if so, whether the Government is considering to review its decision; 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) The user charges for diagnostic and specialized procedures in Government Hospitals including AIIMS is subject to periodical revision. The recent exercise for rationalization of charges in AIIMS was carried out after a period of more than 10 years to ensure free treatment to more number of poor and needy patients.

In this exercise, a total of 1250 cases of charges for tests, procedures etc. have been rationalized. Charges for over 400 new tests and procedures have been introduced. In respect of another 400 tests, the charges have been increased due to increase in cost of consumables. In the case of over 380 cases, the charges have been left unaltered and in about 40 cases charges have been reduced. Some stakeholders have raised concerns on the effect of the revised charges on the poor people. The concerns have already been taken care by fully exempting the poor people from payment of charges. Besides, all patients admitted in the emergency wards are provided free treatment irrespective of their economic status. The procedure for exemption of charges is also very liberal and simple, as the treating faculty is empowered to recommend exemption of charges. At this juncture, there is no proposal to review.

Re-imbursement of Arrears

435. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any requests from Andhra Pradesh are lying pending for re-imbursement of arrears for implementing Family Welfare Programmes of the Union Government in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Andhra Pradesh has also requested to increase the annual allocation from Rs. 100 crores to Rs. 180 crores; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Clarifications have been sought from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding re-imbursement of arrears relating to the years 2002-03 and 2003-04.

(c) and (d) This Department has not received any communication from the State Government for increasing the allocation from Rs. 100 crores to Rs. 180 crores.

Indians Killed in Haj Stampede

436. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:
SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:
SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was an incident of stampede at Mina in Saudi Arabia during Haj stoning rituals;

(b) if so, whether many Indians were killed during this incident;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the total number of Indians killed;

(d) whether any compensation has been paid to the next of kin of the deceased persons;

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

(f) whether arrangements for Indian Hajis were not up to the mark from the Indian consulate side;

(g) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(h) the steps taken or being taken to provide adequate amenities during Haj pilgrimage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) Yes. A stampede took place at round 1400 hrs. in Mina in Saudi Arabia on 12th January, 2006 during which 62 Indians were killed. The details of the deceased Indians are given in enclosed Statement-I.

(d) and (e) The next of kin of such deceased persons who performed Haj through the Haj Committee of India are entitled to compensation under the Group Accident

Compensation Scheme of the Haj Committee of India. The details of the scheme are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(f) No.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) The Government continuously strives to improve and enhance amenities for Indian Haj pilgrims. For Haj 2006, a high level Government delegation led by the

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri E. Ahamed, had detailed discussions with Saudi authorities in May 2005 and August 2005 and accordingly concluded agreements on Haj 2006 arrangements. The details of measures taken to provide better facilities to Haj pilgrims during Haj 2006 are given in the enclosed Statement-III. Over and above the facilities and arrangements mentioned in details in Statement-III, Khadlum-ul-Hujja also were increased from one per 500 Hajis to one per 300 Hajis to be in attendance in the Haj 2006.

Statement I

Haj-2006

Pilgrims deceased in the Mina Stampede on 12.1.2006

Total Casualties-62

	Male	Female	Total
Haj Committee of India	20	26	46
Private Tour Operators	6	4	10
Others	5	1	6
Total	31	31	62

(I) Pilgrims from Haj Committee of India

Sl.No.	Name (Father's/Husband's name)	Passport/ Cover No.	Age (in years)	District/State	Maktab No.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Sabiran Bano W/o Mohammad Shareef	3930/ UP-1111-5	57	Sultanpur/ Uttar Pradesh	45
2.	Akhtarnul Nisha D/o Mohd Habib Ali	3931/ UP-1111-5	45	Sultanpur/ Uttar Pradesh	45
3.	Mohammad Shareef S/o Gulam Rasool	3929/ UP-1111-5	60	Sultanpur/ Uttar Pradesh	45
4.	Mohammed Shabeer S/o Mohammed Shafi	3932 UP-1111-5	63	Sultanpur/ Uttar Pradesh	45
5.	Zainab Khatoon W/o Mohd. Shabbeer	3933 UP-1111-5	62	Sultanpur/ Uttar Pradesh	45

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Raushan Jahan W/o Altafur Rahman	5558/ UP-1616-2	41	Varanasi/ Uttar Pradesh	45
7.	Zaibunnisa W/o Mohd. Shafi Shah	48365 MH-481-5	48	Dhule/ Maharashtra	19
8.	Mahmoodha Bee W/o Moosa Shah	48366 MH-481-5	19	Dhule/ Maharashtra	19
9.	Fauzia W/o Meraj Ashraf	949/ UP-275-7	57	Lucknow/ Uttar Pradesh	41
10.	Seerat Fatima W/o Mohd. Abdul Salam	950/ UP-275-7	66	Lucknow/ Uttar Pradesh	41
11.	Abeda Shakeel W/o Shakeel	953 UP-275-7	55	Lucknow/ Uttar Pradesh	41
12.	Chowdhary Meraj Ashraf S/o Khalil Ashraf	948 UP-275-7	62	Lucknow Uttar Pradesh	41
13.	Kamal Ahmed S/o Ishtiaq Ahmed	951 UP-275-7	—	Lucknow Uttar Pradesh	41
14.	Khatoon Begum W/o Shabbir Ahmed	78318/ RJ-657-7	75	Jaipur/ Rajasthan	41
15.	Sarfraz Ahmed S/o Abdullah	3228 UP-908-2	58	Sultanpur/ Uttar Pradesh	45
16.	Saifunnisa W/o Sarfraz Ahmad	3229 UP-908-2	53	Sultanpur Uttar Pradesh	45
17.	Mohd. Bahuddin S/o Mohd. Mohiuddin	71245 AP-784-1	60	Hydrabad/ Andhra Pradesh	26
18.	Ruksana Begum W/o Mohd. Idrish	552 UP-159-4	55	Gorakhpur/ Uttar Pradesh	39
19.	Mohd. Idris S/o Sheikh Bafati	551 UP-159-4	59	Gorakhpur/ Uttar Pradesh	39
20.	Moideen Kutty S/o Kunnah	93935/ KL-2268-6	63	Palakkad/ Kerala	32
21.	Immerumma W/o Moideen Kutty	93934 KL-2268-6	62 62	Palakkad/ Kerala	32
22.	Nisar Ahmed S/o Juman	6429/ UP-1871-4	34	Ambedkar Nagar/ Uttar Pradesh	41
23.	Farzana Khatoon W/o Nisar Ahmed	6430 UP-1871-4	29	Ambedkar Nagar/ Uttar Pradesh	

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Rahisa Bano W/o Abdul Rashid	76616 RJ-200-6	53	Jaipur/ Rajasthan	39
25.	Kachem Ali Sekh S/o Sekh Haran	23885 WB-753-6	71	South 24/Parganas/ West Bengal	21
26.	Jamshed Ali S/o Mohd. Kabool	12840 UP-3980-2	54	Baghpat/ Uttar Pradesh	41
27.	Haneefunnisa Begum W/o Mohd. Ibrahim Sharfi	69792 AP-289-3	38	Hyderabad/ Andhra Pradesh	22
28.	Zaheera Bee W/o Mohammed Abdul Khadeer	69793 AP-289-3	53	Hyderabad Andhra Pradesh	22
29.	Salma Begum Pathan W/o Pathan Hilal Khan	56536 MH-4223-7	65	Aurangabad/ Maharashtra	24
30.	Mohd. Abdul Shukur S/o Mohammed Ikhasim	69910 AP-330-3	56	Ranga Reddy/ Andhra Pradesh	29
31.	Syed Yousuf S/o Syed Mustafa	56636 MH-4248-5	60	Parbhani/ Maharashtra	18
32.	Nasim Bano W/o Syed Yousuf	56637 MH-4248-5	51	Parbhani/ Maharashtra	18
33.	Azim Khan S/o Muner Khan	107629 MP-1186-2	60	Jabalpur Madhya Pradesh	24
34.	Raseedan Bee W/o Azim Khan	107630 MP-1186-2	58	Jabalpur/ Madhya Pradesh	24
35.	Kamrunnisa W/o Abdul Gafoor	105462 MP-960-8	58	Ujjain/ Madhya Pradesh	28
36.	Aboobacker S/o Moyi	91755 KL-1600-4	55	Kozhikode/ Kerala	22
37.	Mehraj Begum W/o Syed Aziz Hussain	72848 AP-1288-4	40	Hyderabad Andhra Pradesh	28
38.	Shammo W/o Maqsood	18555 UP-5465-2	50	Baghpat Uttar Pradesh	41
39.	Abdul Sattar S/o Abdur Rasheed	17116 UP-5045-5	69	Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh	18
40.	Nazma Waheed W/o S.A. Waheed	7667 UP-2268-2	57	Kanpur Uttar Pradesh	41
41.	Feroz Bee W/o Raheem Khan	59114 CG-79-4	58	Durg Chhattisgarh	31

1	2	3	4	5	6
42.	Abdul Kareem S/o Abdul Raheem	2038 UP-576-4	80	Jaunpur Uttar Pradesh	16
43.	Mushtari Khatoon W/o Sher Mohammed	3446 UP-971-2	51	Jaunpur Uttar Pradesh	39
44.	Maqsood Ahmad S/o Saddiq Ahmad	108219 GQUP-314-1	60	Ghaziabad Uttar Pradesh	27
45.	Mohammed Rafi S/o Ghurhu	6572 UP-1914-1	60	Azamgarh Uttar Pradesh	33
46.	Sarwatullah Khan S/o F.K. Khalid	103330 MP-277-3	60	Bhopal Madhya Pradesh	16

II. Pilgrims from Private Tour Operators

1.	Sheerin Bano D/o Mohamed Rafiq	F-5393077	16	ZamZam Tour Ahmedabad Gujarat	64
2.	Malek Aslam Miya S/o Ashraf Miya	F-0258411	45	ZamZam Tour Ahmedabad Gujarat	64
3.	Ruksana Banu W/o Aslam Miya	A-6484167	36	ZamZam Tour Ahmedabad Gujarat	64
4.	Patel Rafiq Yakub Bhai S/o Patel Yakub Bhai Issa Bhai	F-5393075	41	ZamZam Tour Ahmedabad Gujarat	64
5.	Adam Ali Ismail Patel S/o Ali Ismail Patel	F-1174955	68	Al-Hijaz Masoom Tours, Bharuch Gujarat	49
6.	Hanifmahmad Adam Patel S/o Patel Adam Ali	E-2815849	43	Al-Hijaz Masoom Tours, Bharuch Gujarat	
7.	Gulamhusein Yusuf Bholoda S/o Bhaloda Yusuf Ali	E-6748700	58	Al-Hijaz Masoom Tours, Bharuch Gujarat	49
8.	Sarifa Gulamhuein Bhaloda W/o Gulamhusein Yusuf Bhaloda	F-0649687	56	Al-Hijaz Masoom Tours, Bharuch Gujarat	49
9.	Jaibunnisha Dawood Londriwala W/o Dawood Ismail Londriwala	E-7819398	41	Al-Hijaz Masoom Tours, Bharuch Gujarat	49

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Mohd. Abbas S/o Mohd. Ibrahim	E-7571848	33	Multajeem Haj Coop New Mumbai Maharashtra	54
II. Others					
1.	Ibrahim Falidad Bihai	Local Iqama Holder	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
2.	Mongom Alamathil Sulaiman	2131719144	40	Malappuram Kerala	-
3.	Md Alam Siddiqui	E-6610207/ 2082493854	27	Allahabad/ Uttar Pradesh	N.A.
4.	Shaheda Begum	E-0502648	45	Allahabad/ Uttar Pradesh	N.A.
5.	Mohd. Salim Ahmed	Riyadh 2174031696	29	Hyderabad Andhra Pradesh	N.A.
6.	Kangadakadavan Hassan S/o Rayin	E-6565014	62	Valiyora Kerala	N.A.

Statement II***Details of the Group Accident Compensation Scheme***

- (1) Death due to accident/Fire/Stampede/Subversive Activity,
- (2) Personal Accident—Permanent Total/Partial Disablement,
- (3) Loss of Cash;

(4) Loss of Baggage; and

(5) Repatriation of wheel chair/stretchers cases of ailing Pilgrims back to India.

The compensation cover commences with the landing of Pilgrims in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and ceases to operate once the Pilgrims leaves the Kingdom. The period of coverage would be 45 days. The maximum compensation cover under each Section is as under:

(1) Death due to Accident/Fire/Stampede/Subversive Activity

(a)	Pilgrims up to 60 years	Rs. 3,00,000
(b)	Pilgrims from 60 to 65 years	Rs. 2,00,000
(c)	Pilgrims above 65 years	Rs. 1,00,000
(d)	Children up to 15 years	Rs. 1,00,000

(2) Personal Accident—Permanent Total/Partial Disablement

(a)	Loss of Two Limbs/Two Eyes in Accident/Fire/Stampede/Subversive Activity	100%
(b)	Loss of One Limb/One Eye in Accident/Fire/Stampede/Subversive Activity	50%

- | | | |
|-----|---|------------------------------------|
| (c) | Permanent Total Disablement | 100% |
| (d) | Permanent Partial Disablement | 1% to 50% |
| (e) | In Patient Treatment expenses incurred in Recognized Hospitals, for not less than 24 hours. | Subject to a maximum of S.R. 5,000 |

(3) Loss of Cash (500 cases only)

Cover for actual loss of cash is as under:

- | | | |
|-------|--|--|
| (i) | If loss occurs during first 10 days of Stay in Saudi Arabia | Upto SR. 4,000 |
| (ii) | If loss occurs during the 11th day to 20th day of Stay in Saudi Arabia | UP to SR. 3,000 |
| (iii) | If loss occurs during the 21st day to 45th day of Stay in Saudi Arabia | Up to SR 2,100 |
| (4) | Loss of baggage (500 cases only) | Actual loss subject to a maximum of SR. 500. |

Statement III***Measures taken to provide better facilities to Haj pilgrims during Haj 2006***

1. *Air Operations:* As in the previous years, Air India/ Indian Airlines and Saudi Arabian Airlines were entrusted with the responsibility of transporting Haj Committee pilgrims from 15 embarkation points in India to Saudi Arabia and back.

2. *Accommodation in Makkah:* Accommodation in Makkah has been provided, as before, in buildings with lifts and space-norms as prescribed.

3. *Mina stay:* Discussions were held with the South Asian Moassassa to ensure that a greater number of pilgrims are accommodated nearer the Jamarat in Mina.

4. *Communication facilities to pilgrims:* Arrangements were made to provide communication facilities to pilgrims whereby pilgrims could communicate with their relatives, through internet.

5. *Supply of Zam Zam:* 10 ltrs of Zam Zam has been provided to all Haj Committee pilgrims on arrival at airports in India.

6. *Identification stickers to pilgrims:* To enable easy identification of pilgrims, stickers with Indian flags were provided to each pilgrim. The stickers, for the first time, also included basic health details of the pilgrim.

7. *Welfare of pilgrims:* One hospital and 11 branch dispensaries-cum-Haj offices in Makkah, one main Dispensary and 4 branch dispensaries-cum-Haj offices in Madinah and dispensaries at airports, Mina and Arafat were set up by Consulate General of India, Jeddah to provide round the clock medical assistance to the pilgrims for which medicines and equipment worth Rs. 1.10 crores were supplied for India. The number of Doctors and Paramedical staff deployed for Haj 2006 was increased from 107 Doctors and 125 Paramedical staff in Haj 2005 to 135 doctors and 145 Paramedical staff in Haj 2006. Similarly, the number of Assistant Haj Officers and Haj Assistants was increased from 47 and 137 to 51 and 171 respectively. For the first time, three senior level officers were deputed as Coordinators to bring in further improvement and efficiency in Haj arrangements. The number of Khadim-ul-Hujja deputed by various State Haj Committees was also increased.

8. *Registration of private tour operators:* The system of registration of private tour operators which commenced in 2003 was further strengthened for Haj 2006 with the involvement, for the first time, of various State Haj Committees also.

Train Service between India and Pakistan

437. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan have agreed to start train service between Munabao in Rajasthan and Khokhrapar in Pakistan;

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

(c) the steps taken to check illegal activities in this sector;

(d) whether freight service is also proposed to be introduced in the above route;

(e) If so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the said service is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) During the visit of President Musharraf to New Delhi in April 2005, India and Pakistan decided to re-establish a train service between Munabao in Rajasthan and Khokhrapar in Pakistan by January 1, 2006. The train known as the Thar Express commenced service from 18 February 2006. Government remains fully vigilant and takes all necessary steps to safeguard India's security and national interests.

(d) No.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

CBI Raids on Coal Companies

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

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any raid has been conducted on the official premises of coal companies and residences of

their officers by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the officers whose residences were raided;

(d) the departmental action taken against them till date and the number of cases in which officers have been punished alongwith their names; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check corruption in coal sector?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHIBU SOREN): (a) to (c) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) conducted raids in the office premises/residences of the officials of coal companies and registered 35 cases against them during last two years i.e. 2004 and 2005. The details are as follows:

No. of cases in which chargesheet has been filed in the court	22
No. of cases recommended for Regular Departmental Action (RDA)	4
No. of case in which sanction for prosecution is under process	1
No. of cases under investigation	9

(d) Out of 35 cases, CBI has recommended RDA in 4 cases involving 12 officials of coal companies. The concerned disciplinary authority has initiated action against them. Suitable punishment will be imposed on them in accordance with relevant rules of Coal India Limited (CIL).

(e) Due attention is paid to streamline the procedures and practices prevailing in the Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries so as to make their working more transparent and systematic thus minimizing chances of corruption. The Government and CIL are taking the following steps to check corruption:

- (i) Identification of sensitive posts/departments.
- (ii) Rotational transfer of officers/employees working in sensitive posts.
- (iii) Transfer of officers figured in agreed list and list of officers of doubtful integrity.
- (iv) Periodical inspections, both regular and surprise, in sensitive areas.

- (v) Post-scrutiny of files, etc.
- (vi) Scrutiny of property returns.
- (vii) Annual exercise to verify the stock position of coal.
- (viii) Joint action by coal companies in liaison with the local police administration, CISF, railway police to check the illegal mining, theft and pilferage of coal.

Integrated Development in Power and Associated Sectors

439. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has achieved success in creating integrated development in power and associated sectors in the States;

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

(c) the amount provided as loan during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise; and

(d) the rate of interest at which loan is advanced to the States?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC) is financing all type of power projects including Hydro/Thermal and Transmission Projects, Captive & Co-generation Plants, Urban Distribution Systems including installation of energy meters, renovation & modernisation of Generation and Transmission projects. The major beneficiaries of PFC financing continue to be the state power utilities. PFC's funds are not pre-allocated to the states. Financing is based on—

- Request from State Utilities,
- Credit worthiness of the borrower, and
- viability of the project.

Power Finance Corporation (PFC) since its inception has sanctioned financial assistance amounting to Rs. 89,453 crores and disbursed Rs. 57,810 crores (till end December, 2005) to Central Sector, State Sector and Private Sector projects. As a result of PFC assistance, capacity, generating capacity of 43,000 MW has been assisted. Of this, 25,000 MW has been commissioned and balance is under various stages of execution. Financial assistance provided by PFC to the various States during 2002-03 to 2004-05 is given at the enclosed statement-I.

On the reform side, PFC has facilitated reforms in a number of States in various parameters as shown in the table given below:

Action Plan for financial and operational efficiency improvement	Unbundling/ Restructuring Corporatization	Distribution Reform	ARR and Tariff petition
42 Utilities in 17 States	Facilitated in 14 States	Privatization—2 States Corporatization—10 States	20 States

(d) The interest rates chargeable on the loans by PFC are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement I

Disbursement made by PFC

(State and Year-wise)

		(Rs. in crores)		
Sl.No.	Name of State	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	818.85	611.01	465.82
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	15	11.05	0

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	2.95	3.15	25.77
4.	Bihar	0	0	64.68
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0	4.38
6.	Delhi	205.59	215.4	10
7.	Goa	21.24	17.29	19.97
8.	Gujarat	188.88	786.06	2121.91
9.	Haryana	664.67	1196.39	647.79
10.	Himachal Pradesh	779.58	608.92	151.44
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	16.23	69.3	130.7
12.	Jharkhand	0	47	18.54
13.	Karnataka	665.04	286.24	292.85
14.	Kerala	0	218.23	122.58
15.	Madhya Pradesh	114.05	482.44	592.02
16.	Maharashtra	345.58	789	544.41
17.	Manipur	0	0.12	0.06
18.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
19.	Nagaland	6.85	0.06	3.96
20.	Orissa	224.32	430.49	193.83
21.	Punjab	13.71	155.65	77.07
22.	Rajasthan	1837.8	1074.86	972.04
23.	Sikkim	0	0.06	0.09
24.	Tamil Nadu	56.83	154.69	442.27
25.	Tripura	0	0.17	0
26.	Uttar Pradesh	534.22	1051	1572.72
27.	Uttaranchal	772.32	678.65	229.64
28.	West Bengal	57	86.94	700.85
Total		7340.71	8974.17	9405.39

Statement II

Schemes	Reforming State Sector Borrowers/Central Sector Borrowers (other than Identified CPSUs and AAA Companies)			
	with reset after every 3 years %		with reset after 10 years %	
	Pre-COD	Post-COD	Pre-COD	Post-COD
(A) Rupees Term Loan (RTL)				
Term Loan/Schemes				
(1) Conventional Generation—Large	8.50	8.25	N.A.	N.A.
(2) Generation—Others (including Non Conventional)	8.75	8.50	9.50	9.25
(3) R&M, R&U, Trans., Dist. and other Schemes	8.50		9.25	9.25
(4) Computerization	7.75		N.A.	N.A.
(B) Short Term Loans—upto 1 year	8.25		N.A.	N.A.
(C) Buyers Line of Credit (BLC)				
(1) upto 1 year	8.75		N.A.	N.A.
(2) 1-5 years	9.00		N.A.	N.A.
(3) >5 years	9.25		N.A.	N.A.
(D) Bill Discounting				
(1) upto 5 years	9.00		N.A.	N.A.
(2) >5 years	9.25		N.A.	N.A.
(E) Transitional Loan	9.00		N.A.	N.A.
(F) Concessional Loan for Studies	7.75		N.A.	N.A.
(G) Lease Financing (During Comm.)	As per RTL Rate		As per RTL Rate	
(H) Loan to Equipment Manufacturers				
(1) upto 1 year	8.75		N.A.	N.A.
(2) 1-5 years	9.00		N.A.	N.A.
(I) Infrastructure Projects	9.00	8.75	9.75	9.50

COD: Commercial Operation Date

- The above rates are effective rates after timely payment rebate, wherever applicable.
- The payment of interest is on quarterly basis, unless otherwise indicated.
- Interest rates for Transmission, distribution and R&M schemes under ADB Loan-II to State Sector Utilities shall be lower by 0.25% than the interest rates indicated above.
- Conventional Generation Large Loans—Sanction Amount Rs. 700 cores & above.
- Interest rates for Grade C State Sector Borrowers shall be higher by 0.50% as indicated above.

N.A.—Not applicable.

Rural Electrification in Maharashtra

440. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate an action plan for rural electrification in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry of Finance has accorded financial approval to the said plan;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (e) Sir. It is for the State Government to initiate the action plan on rural electrification for its State as per the guidelines issued under the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana (RGGVY). So far seven (7) projects of Maharashtra for Rs. 91.79 crores have been sanctioned. Details of the projects sanctioned are given in the enclosed statement. Maharashtra Government is yet to begin implementation of the scheme.

Statement

(Amount in Rs. Lakh)

Details of projects sanctioned by REC for electrification of villages and rural households in Maharashtra

Sl. No.	Name of District	Name of State Power Utility and Implementing agency	total No. of villages covered for Household electrification		Rural Households to be electrified under the project		total financial assistance for the project	Total Amount Disbursed	Status of issue of NIT	Status of Award of Contract
			No. of un-electrified villages to be electrified	No. of electrified villages covered for Household electrification	total No. of villages covered (Col. 4+5)	total No. of Rural Households to be electrified (including BPL HH)	Total No. of BPL HHs to be electrified			
1.	Gondia			869	869	110334	91474	1057.12		Yet to be issued
2.	Dhule			580	580	95549	80746	1009.97		Yet to be issued
3.	Wardha			1004	1004	72526	43997	1139.09		Yet to be issued
4.	Ratnagiri			1539	1539	39396	26869	1625.26		Yet to be issued
5.	Solapur			1139	1139	100912	66417	2072.47		Yet to be issued
6.	Nanded			1464	1464	48794	23901	1120.61		Yet to be issued
7.	Yavatmal			1856	1856	83074	78705	1154.83		Yet to be issued
Total (Mah.)			0	8451	8451	550585	412109	9179.35	0.00	

[English]

Expert Committee to Improve Performance of Sportspersons

441. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has set up an expert committee to improve the performance of Indian sportspersons at various international events;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Improvement in the performance of sportspersons is an ongoing process. Efforts are made on a continuous basis to improve the performance of Indian sportspersons at various international events by providing international standard training facilities, diet, scientific support, high standard coaching by foreign and Indian coaches, foreign exposure, etc. The performance of sports persons in various International events and their requirements are assessed periodically in the Sports Authority of India through consultations with the National Sports Federations (NSFs) concerned and other experts.

Status of Two Bridges

442. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4140 dated August 24, 2005 and state the present status of two Bridges and the reasons for delay in starting the construction work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): Construction work of the two bridges, one on River Ganga at Ghattugad and another linking Srinagar to Chauras has not started. Construction of these bridges sanctioned under Central Road Fund and Additional Central Assistance respectively is the responsibility of the Government of Uttaranchal. For both the bridges, tenders were invited by the State Government on two earlier occasions but the bidders failed to qualify technically. The bids have now been invited for the third time and are due to be received on 10th March, 2006.

[Translation]

Setting up of Special Companies for Power Generation

443. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT:
SHRI SHISHUPAL PATLE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up special companies to undertake four major power projects for power generation as reported in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated January 13, 2006;

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

(c) whether the task of distribution of electricity to the various buyers would be entrusted to the independent power producers through the international bidding process after commissioning of power projects by these companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the total megawatts of electricity to be created through these projects;

(e) whether these companies have obtained No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the concerned bodies;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the time by which the NOC is likely to be obtained?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (g) The Government has taken an initiative for facilitating the development of five Ultra Mega Power Projects of about 4,000 MW capacity each under tariff based competitive bidding route in the sites to be located in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.

Power Finance Corporation has been entrusted with the work relating to formation of shell companies, which are envisaged to carry out developmental activities including tie up of various inputs/clearances before handing over the projects to the final developers. Both Independent Power Producers and Public Sector Companies are allowed to participate in the international competitive bidding process. Distribution licensees would procure power from the project developers for distribution to the consumers.

The Shell companies have initiated action for tying up various inputs, clearances/no objection certificates from concerned agencies.

India-US Technical Talks

444. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:
SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and US have concluded recently their third round of technical talks on the plan of separation and safeguarding of Indian civilian nuclear facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indo-US agreement on nuclear co-operation has since been signed;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether several countries have assured assistance to India in its civilian nuclear energy programme;

(f) if so, the names of such countries and the details thereof;

(g) whether several top nuclear scientists and military experts of the country have raised apprehensions over India's decision on the separation of nuclear facilities; and

(h) if so, the details and the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) The third meeting of the India-US Working Group on civil nuclear energy cooperation was held on 19-20 January 2006 in New Delhi. Indian side was led by Foreign Secretary, while US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs led the US delegation. The meeting focussed on steps by both sides to implement their commitments and responsibilities as agreed in the India-US Joint Statement of 18 July 2005.

(c) and (d) India and US have not signed an agreement on civil nuclear energy cooperation. The two sides are continuing their discussions to fully implement the nuclear understanding. There are outstanding issues that are being addressed.

(e) and (f) The Government is engaged in a dialogue with several countries including Russia, France and Canada, who have agreed on the need to have full international civilian nuclear cooperation with India. The Government is engaged in discussion with these countries as well as with others to further deepen bilateral cooperation in this sphere and to achieve the objective of full civilian nuclear cooperation.

(g) and (h) The Government has seen reports of nuclear experts and former diplomats expressing a wide variety of views on the extent and implications of the separation of nuclear facilities. The Government has consulted all relevant organizations in addressing the issue of separation. The India-US Working Group on civil nuclear energy, led by the Foreign secretary, has representatives from the National Security Council Secretariat, Department of Atomic Energy and Ministry of External Affairs. The separation of the Indian nuclear facilities would be done voluntarily by us based on India's national interest.

[English]

Export of Chemicals to Iran

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

(a) whether the U.S. Government has imposed sanctions on some Indian Chemical firms for exporting certain chemicals to Iran;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) The US Government on 27th December 2005 announced imposition of sanctions on two Indian companies Sabero Organics Gujarat Ltd. and Sandhya Organics and Chemicals Ltd. under its Iran Non-Proliferation Act, 2000 for the export of some chemicals to Iran.

(c) Government of India's commitment to prevent onward proliferation is well acknowledged. A rigorous system of export controls is in place. The imposition of sanctions by the US on Indian firms, which in our view have not acted in violation of Indian laws or regulations, is not justified.

Scheme for Boosting Sports

446. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Government to boost sports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the funds allocated for the development of Sports during the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the names of sports projects completed with the help of funds provided to States during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) 'Sports' is a State Subject under the Constitution and the promotion of Sports at the State level is mainly the responsibility of the State Governments and Sports federations. However, the Government of India, through its own schemes and schemes of Sports Authority of India (SAI), augments the efforts of the State Governments and Federations in the promotion of sports.

To this end, the Government of India runs following schemes to boost sports in the country:

1. Scheme relating to Incentives for the Promotion of Sports Activities

The Scheme has the following five components:

- (a) Sports Fund for Pension to Meritorious Sportspersons
- (b) Promotion of Sports and Games in Schools
- (c) Rural Sports Programme
- (d) Sports Scholarship Scheme
- (e) National Sports Development Fund

2. Scheme relating to Awards:

The scheme has the following components:

- (a) Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards
- (b) Special Awards to Winners in International Sports Events and their Coaches.
- (c) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy.

3. Arjun Awards

4. Dronacharya Awards

5. Dhyani Chand Award for Life Time Achievements in Sports and Games

6. National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons.

7. National Sports Championship for Women

8. Scheme of State Sports Academies

9. Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations

10. Talent Search & Training.

In addition, the Sports Authority of India implements the following sports promotion schemes in the country:

- 1. National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)
- 2. Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC)
- 3. SAI Training Centre (STC)
- 4. Special Area Games (SAG)
- 5. Centres of Excellence (COX).

(c) Government of India funds are not allotted State-wise but are spent Scheme-wise.

(d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of House.

Assistance to Promote Adventure Sports

447. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is providing assistance to promote adventure sports like world tour on cycles etc.;

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

(c) the number of pending applications for such tours at present; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No financial assistance is provided for any adventure activity which is performed out-side the country, including world tours on cycles. However, this Ministry issues 'No Objection Certificates' for such events "at no cost to Government", after obtaining clearance from the Ministry of External Affairs.

(c) At present, 10 applications are pending for want of information from individuals/clearance from the Ministry of External Affairs.

(d) Approval of these applications would depend on the receipt of information/clearance as above.

Terrorist Camps in Pakistan

448. SHRI RAYAPTI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the wake of fight against terrorism by the US, India has also provided a list of terrorist camps operating from Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any protests have been lodged with Pakistan after the terrorist attack on the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore;

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

(e) the reaction of Pakistan thereto;

(f) whether any fresh proposal has been received from Pakistan President to demilitarize some towns of J&K to end cross-border terrorism; and

(g) if so, the reaction of Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) Government have, from time to time, handed over to Pakistan information about terrorist activities emanating from Pakistan.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

(f) President Musharraf, in an interview on CNN-IBN on 5th January 2006, has proposed, *inter alia*, demilitarization of three towns, Srinagar, Baramulla and Kupwara, in Jammu & Kashmir.

(g) Any demilitarization or deployment of security forces within the territory of India is a sovereign decision of the Government of India and cannot be dictated by

any foreign government. Such decisions are based on our assessment of the security situation prevailing in any particular part of the country. As long as the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir and indeed in other parts of the country is adversely affected by the phenomenon of cross-border terrorism and violence perpetrated by Pakistan based terrorist groups, the Government of India will fulfill its responsibility to safeguard the lives and security of its citizens.

Construction of Playgrounds

449. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sports Authority of India has drawn up any plan to construct a minimum number of playgrounds in each State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. "Sports" is a State subject and promotion of sports and development of infrastructure is mainly the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Governments of India, through various schemes of Sports Authority of India (SAI), augments the efforts of the State Governments in the promotion of sports for improving sports performances at Junior, Sub-Junior and Senior levels. At present SAI is implementing the following Schemes for the promotion and development of sports in the country:

(i) National Sports Talent Contest Scheme (NSTC)

(ii) Army Boys Sports Company Scheme (ABSC)

(iii) SAI Training Centre Scheme (STC)

(iv) Special Area Games Scheme (SAG)

(v) Centre of Excellence Scheme (COX)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***India's Stand on Nuclear Issue of Iran**

450. SHRI MOHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI M. APPADURAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India took part in the voting against Iran in the last meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India voted in favour of American-European alliance in all resolutions of the Atomic energy Organisation in the matter related to imposing ban on Iran's strategic Atomic Energy production;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether India has brought about some changes in its traditional policy towards Iran;

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

(g) the manner in which this is likely to affect our bilateral relations with Iran?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (d) India took part in the voting at the IAEA Board of Governors on 4th February 2006 on resolution on 'Implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreements in the Islamic Republic of Iran' and voted in favour. Of the 35 member countries of the IAEA Board, 27 voted in favour, 3 against and 5 abstained. Our vote was in view of our policy to avoid confrontation and resolve outstanding issues through dialogue and diplomacy within the framework of IAEA.

(e) to (g) Our vote should not be seen in any way as detracting from our traditionally close and friendly relations with Iran. We do not expect it to affect friendly relations between the two countries.

*[English]***Setting up of National Drug Authority**

451. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a National Drug Authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its jurisdiction; and

(c) the time by which the said authority will start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) A Note has been prepared for the consideration of the Cabinet for (i) Establishment of an independent and autonomous Central Drug Authority of India having financial and administrative autonomy and accountable to the Central Government through Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. (ii) Amendments in the Drugs & Cosmetics Act 1940, to provide statutory basis for the proposed Central Drug Authority of India. (iii) Proposed administrative and staff structure of the Central Drug Authority of India. (iv) Financial autonomy and Approval for the proposed Drug Authority to retain fees realized for administrative and operational purposes of the Authority. (v) A phased five year transition from the present system of grant of manufacturing licenses to a complete Central licensing of drug manufacturing.

The Cabinet note has been circulated to concerned Ministries/Departments of Central Government for soliciting their comments before the note is sent for obtaining the approval of the Cabinet.

Upgradation of Medical Institutions

452. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to upgrade eleven existing medical institutions in various States;

(b) if so, the names of these institutions identified therefor, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which the proposed six AIIMS like institutions are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), apart from setting up six AIIMS like Institutions in under-served States, there is also a proposal to upgrade eleven (11) existing State Government medical college institutions to the level of AIIMS like Institution in various other States. The following medical college institutions have been identified so far, for upgradation under the Scheme:

- (1) Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh)
- (2) Rajendra Institute of Medical Sciences, Ranchi (Jharkhand)
- (3) Govt. Medical College, Jammu (J&K)
- (4) Kolkata Medical College, Kolkata (West Bengal)
- (5) Govt. Medical College, Salem (Tamil Nadu)
- (6) Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh)
- (7) Sri Venkateshwara Institute of Medical Sciences, Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) subject to the condition that the Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanam, Tirupati bear the 50% cost of upgradation.

One Medical College Institution proposed to be upgraded each in the States of Kerala, Karnataka, Gujarat and Maharashtra are being identified in consultation with the concerned State Governments.

(c) The PMSSY Scheme has been cleared by the Expenditure Finance Committee and Committee of Secretaries (COS) and is being processed for placing before Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for approval. The PMSSY Scheme is expected to be implemented within three years from the date of approval.

Sale of Banned Drugs

453. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

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

(a) whether several medicines banned in many foreign countries are still being allowed to be used in India;

(b) if so, the details of such medicines; and

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Government against the companies still selling these medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) There is no system of global banning of drugs. Drugs withdrawn or not permitted in one country may continue to be used in other countries depending on the indications and dosages permitted as well as overall benefit risk profile of the drug. There is an adequate mechanism to review the status of drug formulations in the country as and when any serious adverse event is reported in the international journals or when the drug formulation is withdrawn or prohibited in one or a few countries.

[Translation]

Outsourcing Visa Applications

454. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:
SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to assign the work pertaining to visa applications to private companies;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (c) The Government is considering a proposal to have a pilot outsourcing project for visa applications in London and it will be replicated elsewhere only subject to success of

this proposal in London. A final decision will be taken after weighing all the pros and cons of the proposal.

Scheme for Removal of Unemployment

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

(a) whether the Planning Commission has formulated or proposes to formulate any scheme to remove unemployment in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The suggestions of Planning Commission towards creation of more and better employment opportunities are given in the Mid Term Appraisal of Tenth Five Year Plan, and in particular in its Chapter 8 on "Labour & Employment". A copy of this Document has been placed in Parliament Library.

[English]

Exchange of Lists of Nuclear Installations between India and Pakistan

456. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan exchanged lists of the respective nuclear installations in January 2006 under an agreement that prohibits Islamabad and New Delhi from attacking each other's nuclear facilities;

(b) if so, the manner in which the same is likely to strengthen the mutual ties between the two countries;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to enter into similar understanding with other neighbouring countries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) For the fifteenth consecutive year, India and Pakistan, through diplomatic channels, simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad, exchanged lists of nuclear installations

and facilities covered under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attacks against Nuclear Installations and Facilities between India and Pakistan on 1 January 2006. This Agreement was signed on December 31, 1988 and entered into force on January 27, 1991. Under the Agreement, the two countries are to inform each other on January 1 of each calendar year of the nuclear installations and facilities to be covered by the Agreement. The Agreement is an important confidence-building measure between India and Pakistan.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Ban on Traditional Salt

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

(a) whether the Government has imposed a ban on the use of traditional salt;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any opportunity had been provided to the organizations protesting against it to air their views;

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

(e) whether a case in this regard is pending before the Supreme Court of India; and

(f) if so, the reasons for issuance of notification without waiting for the decision of the Supreme Court in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) A notification GSR 670(E) dated 17.11.2005 has been issued under PFA Rules, 1955 restricting the sale of edible common salt for direct human consumption unless the same is iodized.

(c) to (f) This notification was published as draft *vide* GSR 340(E) on 27.5.2005 inviting objections and suggestions from the persons likely to be effected before the expiry of sixty days from the date of publication of the said notification.

The objections and suggestions received within the specified period on the draft rules were considered by the Government.

Yes, Sir a writ Petition is pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court requesting the Hon'ble Supreme Court to direct Ministry of Health to take immediate steps to restrict the sale of non-iodized salt.

Suggestions of Administrative Reforms Commission

458. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Administrative Reforms Commission has recently given suggestions for removing delay in works in the Government offices and changing their existing work culture for better results; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) The IInd Administrative Reforms Commission has not yet submitted any Report to the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Physically Handicapped Employees in Coal Mines

459. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether physically handicapped persons have been employed in the Coal Mines;

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

(c) the details of the facilities provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHIBU SOREN): (a) Physically handicapped persons are not deployed to work in coal mines (underground/opencast). However, physically handicapped persons either appointed against reservation in identified categories or those who have become physically handicapped in course of employment are deployed to work on surface such as in water supply

system, township maintenance, telephone exchanges, training institutes, offices, hospitals/dispensaries, etc.

(b) Subsidiary-wise deployment of physically handicapped persons is given below:

Company-wise Deployment of persons with disabilities

Subsidiary	Number of persons with disabilities
ECL	194
BCCL	171
CCL	158
WCL	191
SECL	92
MCL	33
NCL	25
NEC	1
CMPD	19
CIL (HQ)	2
Total	886

(c) Transport allowance for attending duty at double the normal rate, specialized training according to the job for upgradation of skill, reservation in promotion, allotment of residential accommodation nearer to the work place etc. are the facilities provided to the physically handicapped employees.

[*Translation*]

Scheme for Sharing of Power

460. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is contemplating to formulate any scheme for sharing of power amongst States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) The Government is not contemplating formulation of any new scheme for sharing

of power of Central Generating Stations amongst the States. The power generated by Central Generating Stations used to be allocated to the constituent States/ Union Territories of the Region as per the Gadgil Formula, which became a guideline w.e.f. April, 2000. The shares to the constituent states are generally allocated at the time of setting up of Central Generating Stations. Allocations out of 15% unallocated power at the disposal of Central Government are generally distributed within the Region keeping in view the emergent/seasonal requirements.

[English]

University Education for Children of NRIs/PIOs

461. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether children of NRIs and PIOs are facing difficulties of university education in India;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to set up Special Universities to facilitate the NRIs and PIOs;

(c) if so, the locations identified for the setting up of such Universities;

(d) whether the Government proposes to woo Indians settled abroad for funding of the said Universities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (e) With a view to improve the access of children of overseas Indians to higher education in India, the idea of a PIO University has been mooted. The details are yet to be worked out.

Pension/Financial Assistance to Sportspersons

462. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of sportspersons given pension/lumpsum financial assistance under the existing scheme of 'National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons', during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to start any other scheme for Sportspersons in near future; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) A list indicating the names of sportspersons given pension/lump sum financial assistance under National Welfare Fund Scheme during the last three years is enclosed as statement.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Names of Sportspersons who are availing pension facilities under 'National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons'

Sl.No.	Name of Sportsperson
1	2
2003-04	
1.	Sh. Babu Lal
2.	Ms. Nilima Vasant Ponkshe
3.	Sh. Y.H. Yantata
4.	Sh. Gora Chand Seal
5.	Ms. Beni Ghosh
6.	Ms. Pavithra Chandra
7.	Sh. Netai Chand Bysack
8.	Sh. Suhas Chatterjee
9.	Sh. Sameer Banerjee
10.	Sh. Gurcharan Singh
11.	Sh. Nikhil Kumar Nandy
12.	Ms. Jaspreet Kaur
13.	Sh. Robin Hazra
14.	Sh. H.L. Prabhakar
15.	Sh. C.P. Chandra
16.	Sh. Prabhunath Patra
17.	Md. Kakkadan

1	2
18.	Sh. Raghunath Mahapatra
19.	Smt. C.K.K. Pillai
20.	Sh. K. Eshwara Rao
21.	Sh. A Sussy
22.	Sh. Sameer Kumar Roy
23.	Sh. Suprvot Chakraborty
24.	Sh. Ajoy Kumar Chatterjee
25.	Sh. Abul Hassan Ahmed
26.	Sh. Rajayya Bosi
27.	Sh. V. Mookan
28.	Sh. Jayaraman
29.	Sh. Ramchandra B. Parab
30.	Sh. P. Ravindran
31.	Sh. N.S. Thakur
32.	Smt. Raniben Nakum
33.	Sh. Saik Babu
34.	Sh. V.B. Pillai
35.	Smt. Baghwan Devi
36.	Sh. O.P. Sathyan
37.	Sh. K. Balagopal
38.	Smt. Ramrati Devi
39.	Sh. M. Gabriel
40.	Sh. N.S. Francis Xavier
41.	Sh. R.V. Govardhan
42.	Sh. H. Loknath
43.	Sh. S. George
44.	Sh. Gurudev Singh
45.	Sh. E. Rama Krishna Rao
46.	Sh. T.I. Chacko

1	2
47.	Sh. Bhujanga Rao
48.	Smt. K.K. Jadhav
49.	Sh. Nirmal Kumar Bose
50.	Sh. M.J. Rathnam
51.	Ms. Soma Bose
52.	Sh. N. Pappna
53.	Ms. Rikta Dhar
54.	Sh. Shyam Lal Verma
2004-05	
1.	Sh. Babu Lal
2.	Ms. Nilima Vasant Ponshe
3.	Sh. Y.H. Yantata
4.	Sh. Gora Chand Seal
5.	Ms. Beni Ghosh
6.	Ms. Pavithra Chandra
7.	Sh. Netai Chand Bysack
8.	Sh. Suhas Chatterjee
9.	Sh. Sameer Banerjee
10.	Sh. Gurcharan Singh
11.	Sh. Nikhil Kumar Nandy
12.	Ms. Jaspreet Kaur
13.	Sh. Robin Hazra
14.	Sh. H.L. Prabhakar
15.	Sh. C.P. Chandra
16.	Sh. Prabhunath Patra
17.	Md. Kakkadan
18.	Sh. Raghunath Mahapatra
19.	Smt. C.K.K. Pillai
20.	Sh. K. Eshwara Rao

1	2
21.	Sh. A. Sussy
22.	Sh. Sameer Kumar Roy
23.	Sh. Suprvat Chakraborty
24.	Sh. Ajoy Kumar Chatterjee
25.	Ch. Abul Hassan Ahmed
26.	Sh. Rajayya Bosi
27.	Sh. Mookan
28.	Sh. Jayaraman
29.	Sh. Ramchandra B. Parab
30.	Sh. P. Ravindran
31.	Sh. N.S. Thakur
32.	Smt. Raniben Nakum
33.	Sh. Saik Babu
34.	Sh. V.B. Pillai
35.	Smt. Baghwan Devi
36.	Sh. O.P. Sathyan
37.	Sh. K. Balagopal
38.	Smt. Ramrati Devi
39.	Sh. M. Gabriel
40.	Sh. N.S. Franis Xavier
41.	Sh. R.V. Govardhan
42.	Sh. H. Loknath
43.	Sh. S. George
44.	Sh. Gurudev Singh
45.	Sh. E. Rama Krishna Rao
46.	Sh. T.I. Chacko
47.	Sh. Bhujanga Rao
48.	Smt. K.K. Jadhav
49.	Sh. Nirmal Kumar Bose
50.	Sh. M.J. Rathnam

1	2
2005-06	
1.	Sh. Babu Lal
2.	Ms. Nilima Vasant Ponkshe
3.	Sh. Y.H. Yantata
4.	Sh. Gora Chand Seal
5.	Ms. Beni Ghosh
6.	Ms. Pavithra Chandra
7.	Sh. Netai Chand Bysack
8.	Sh. Suhas Chatterjee
9.	Sh. Sameer Banerjee
10.	Sh. Gurcharan Singh
11.	Sh. Nikhil Kumar Nandy
12.	Ms. Jaspreet Kaur
13.	Sh. Robin Hazra
14.	Sh. H.L. Prabhakar
15.	Ch. C.P. Chandra
16.	Sh. Prabhunath Patra
17.	Md. Kakkadan
18.	Sh. Raghunath Mahapatra
19.	Smt. C.K.K. Pillai
20.	Sh. K. Eshwara Rao
21.	Sh. A. Sussy
22.	Sh. Sameer Kumar Roy
23.	Sh. Suprvat Chakraborty
24.	Sh. Ajoy Kumar Chatterjee
25.	Sh. Abul Hassan Ahmed
26.	Sh. Rajayya Bosi
27.	Sh. Mookan
28.	Sh. Jayaraman

1	2
29.	Sh. Ramchandra B. Parab
30.	Sh. P. Ravindran
31.	Sh. N.S. Thakur
32.	Smt. Raniben Nakum
33.	Sh. Saik Babu
34.	Sh. V.B. Pillai
35.	Smt. Baghwan Devi
36.	Sh. O.P. Sathyan
37.	Sh. K. Balagopal
38.	Smt. Ramrati Devi
39.	Sh. M. Gabriel
40.	Sh. N.S. Francis Xavier
41.	Sh. R.V. Govardhan
42.	Sh. H. Loknath
43.	Sh. S. George
44.	Sh. Gurudev Singh
45.	Sh. E. Rama Krishna Rao
46.	Sh. T.I. Chacko
47.	Sh. Bhujanga Rao
48.	Smt. K.K. Jadhav
49.	Sh. Nirmal Kumar Bose

*Name of Sportspersons given lump sum grant under
National Welfare Fund for sportspersons*

2003-04

Ms. Barbara J. Francis

Sh. M. Gabriel

Sh. N. Pappana

Sh. Arun Kumar Das

Sh. Jugraj Singh

2004-05

Sh. M. Gabriel

Sh. Jugraj Singh

Sh. Prem Lal

Sh. Vivek Singh

Ms. Priyanka Singh

Sh. G.C.S. Rao

Ms. Deeparani Devi

2005-06

Sh. Raju Yadav

Sh. Ajit Singh, s/o Sh. Baldev Singh

[Translation]

Diseases Spread by Mosquitoes

463. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of deaths caused by diseases spread by mosquitoes in each State particularly in Chhattisgarh during the last three years and the current year;

(b) whether the Indian Institute of Technology has developed a new technique to eliminate Dengue mosquito and its eggs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The State-wise number of Deaths caused by Dengue, Japanese Encephalities and Malaria during the last three years and current year in the country including Chhattisgarh is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Statement*Deaths due to Mosquito borne diseases*

States/UTs	2003			2004			2005		
	Malaria	Dengue	JE	Malaria	Dengue	JE	Malaria	Dengue	JE
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	3	5	183	2	1	3	10	2	0
Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assam	53	0	49	54	0	64	88	0	52
Bihar	1	0	2	0	0	28	1	0	64
Chhattisgarh	4	0	0	4	0	0	2	0	0
Goa	1	2	0	7	0	0	2	0	0
Gujarat	65	9	0	89	4	0	0	11	0
Haryana	0	4	67	0	0	27	0	1	31
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Jharkhand	13	0	0	40	0	0	9	0	0
Karnataka	22	7	10	27	2	6	19	13	10
Kerala	7	68	2	12	8	1	2	8	0
Madhya Pradesh	22	0	0	36	0	0	20	0	0
Maharashtra	85	45	115	61	22	0	80	48	30
Manipur	17	0	0	8	0	0	3	0	0
Meghalaya	38	0	0	29	0	0	26	0	0
Mizoram	48	0	0	72	0	0	66	0	0
Nagaland	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Orissa	333	0	0	283	0	0	166	0	0
Punjab	1	13	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Rajasthan	66	11	0	20	5	0	0	5	0
Sikkim	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	0	0
Tamil Nadu	0	8	36	0	0	9	0	8	1
Tripura	13	0	0	16	0	0	17	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	0	8	237	0	0	228	0	1	1472
West Bengal	214	0	1	184	0	1	144	34	6
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delhi	0	35	5	0	3	0	0	9	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pondicherry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0*	0	0
Total	1006	215	707	949	45	367	638	142	1666

No death due to Malaria, Dengue and JE has been reported during the year 2006

[English]

Visits by Foreign Dignitaries

464. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
 SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
 SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
 SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
 SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
 SHRI E.G. SUGAVANAM:
 SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY:
 SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA:
 SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
 MS. INGRID MCLEOD:
 SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:
 SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign dignitaries who visited India during the last three months, till date;

(b) the issues on which deliberations were held with 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 Ministers 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 E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) Details of foreign dignitaries who visited India during the last three months, till date; the issues on which deliberations were held between them; whether any bilateral agreements were signed with them; the details thereof; and the steps taken by the Government to further improve the relations with these countries are given below, country-wise:

1. Bhutan

Foreign Minister Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk visited India from December 16-17, 2005. He met former Minister of State for External Affairs Shri Rao Inderjit Singh and Foreign Secretary. Discussions centred on bilateral issues.

Intensive and regular bilateral exchanges and consultations at all levels have been taking place to strengthen the close bilateral relationship.

2. Sri Lanka

The Sri Lankan Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Mangala Samaraweera paid an official visit to India from November 30 to December 1, 2005. The visit was in preparation of the state visit of the Sri Lankan President Mr. Mahindra Rajapakse. The President of Sri Lanka visited India from December 27-30, 2005. The two sides took stock of the entire gamut of India-Sri Lanka bilateral relations and reaffirmed their resolve to further consolidate the existing close and friendly relations. Discussions covered international and regional issues of mutual interest.

India's relations with Sri Lanka have been further strengthened through high level exchanges, expansion of bilateral engagement in various fields and through provision of assistance in building national capacities in Sri Lanka.

3. Thailand

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn visited India from 18-23 November 2005. The Princess was given the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development. She also held talks on bilateral issues with MOS (EA).

HRH Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol visited India from 21-29 November 2005. The purpose of HRH Princess Chulabhorn Mahidol's visit was to attend the Third General Assembly and International Conference 2005 on "Women's Impact on Science and Technology in the new Millennium" held in Bangalore.

4. Indonesia

Dr. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, President of Indonesia paid a state visit to India from November 21-24, 2005. He was accompanied by Coordinating Minister for Economy, State Secretary, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Defence, Minister of Industry and Minister of Trade. The deliberations were held on bilateral, regional and global issues. Both sides agreed to utilize the opportunity to establish closer ties in various fields such as defence, information technology, bio-technology, oil sector, space and other areas. A Joint Declaration and the following MoUs were signed during the visit:

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Agriculture of Republic of India and the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Republic of Indonesia on Marine and Fisheries Cooperation;
- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between Government of Republic of India and Government of Republic of Indonesia on the Establishment of a Joint Study Group to examine the feasibility of Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA);
- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of External Affairs of Republic of India and the Department of Foreign Affairs of Republic of Indonesia on Training Cooperation.

Government has taken further steps to strengthen relations with the ASEAN countries in consonance with India's "Look East Policy" and is actively pursuing the areas identified for cooperation during the above visit.

5. Mauritius

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mauritius Mr. Madan Murlidhar Dulloo visited India from January 17-20, 2006 to attend the CII Partnership Summit held in Kolkata.

6. Saudi Arabia

His Majesty King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, visited India from January 24-27, 2006 and was the Chief Guest at this year's Republic Day celebrations. Issues of bilateral and international interests were discussed which included cooperation in the energy sector, IT, technology and education, mutual investments including in infrastructure, cooperation in combating crimes, and frequent and more regular exchange of high-level visits. Following Agreements were signed during the visit:

- (i) Bilateral Investment Promotion & Protection Agreement (BIPPA)
- (ii) Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement/Convention (DTAA/DTAC)
- (iii) MoU on Combating Crimes
- (iv) Cooperation Agreement in the field of Youth & Sports.

Necessary follow-up actions to the discussions held and agreements signed during the visit of His Majesty King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia (24-27, 2006) are currently being taken to further enhance our close bilateral relations.

7. Mongolia

Mr. Ts. Munh Orgil, Foreign Minister of Mongolia visited India from December 22-27, 2005. Deliberations on consular, cultural matters, etc. were held during his visit. Following four agreements were signed:

- (i) Mutual waiver of Visa requirements for holder of diplomatic and official passports;
- (ii) Programme of Cooperation in the field of Culture for the years 2006-2007 and its associated financial and general provisions (Cultural Exchange Programme 2006-2008);
- (iii) MoU on Cooperation to establish an Indo-Mongolian Friendship Agropark in Darkhan Uul Aimag, Mongolia; and
- (iv) Agreement on leasing of the Chancery Premises in Ulaanbaatar.

8. Japan

Mr. Taro Aso, Foreign Minister, visited India from January 3-4, 2006. Bilateral, regional and multilateral issues were discussed during the visit. Notes were exchanged on the Feasibility Study Survey for the Freight Corridor Project agreed upon during the visit of Japanese PM Koizumi in April 2005.

India and Japan are engaged in the process of concretizing Global Partnership in the 21st Century through high-level visits, deepening economic relations and growing mutually beneficial exchanges in energy, science and technology, defence, cultural and academic fields. During the visit of Foreign Minister Tao Aso on January 3-4, 2006, the two countries agreed to hold Foreign Ministers' dialogue in the future from a strategic perspective and have annual Joint Secretary/Director General-level consultations on Disarmament and Non-proliferation, with the objective of promoting commonalities and enlarging areas of convergence for mutual cooperation in a constructive manner.

9. The Bahamas

Mr. Frederick A. Mitchel, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Public Service of the Bahamas visited India from January 22-26, 2006. Deliberations were held on exploring cooperation in the fields of technical, economic, maritime, education, shipping, IT, culture, etc.

10. Panama

First Vice President and Foreign Minister of Panama Mr. Samuel Lewis Navarro visited India from November 18-24, 2005. Deliberations were held on issues of bilateral cooperation, science and technology, IT and healthcare sectors, avenues for Indian investment in Panama, speedy issue of business visas for Indian businessmen, India's interest in Central American Bank for Integration. Exchange of Letters on relaxation of issue of business visa by Panama to Indian businessmen was resigned.

11. Czech Republic

Prime Minister Jiri Paroubek of Czech Republic also visited India from January 17-19, 2006. Deliberations on bilateral relations were held during his visit.

The visit further strengthened political, economic, commercial and cultural ties existing between the two countries.

12. Ireland

Mr. Bertie Ahern, Prime Minister of Ireland, accompanied by Mr. Michael Martin, Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment; Mr. John O'Donoghue, Minister for Arts, Sports and Tourism; and Ms. Mary Hanafin, Minister for Education and Science visited India from January 16-21, 2006. Following agreements were signed during the visit:

- (i) Agreement on Cultural Cooperation;
- (ii) Agreement on S&T Cooperation;
- (iii) MoU on Cooperation between the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and Science Foundation of Ireland (SFI); and
- (iv) MoU between Association of Biotechnology-Led Enterprises (ABLE) and the Irish Bio Industry Association (IBIA).

13. Netherlands

Dr. Jan Peter Balkenende, Prime Minister of Netherlands, visited India from January 17-20, 2006.

14. Sweden

King of Sweden Carl XVI Gustaf visited India from November 19-26, 2005. King as Patron of the Royal Technology Mission called on Rashtrapati and discussed matters of mutual interest.

15. Norway

Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg visited India from December 7-9, 2005. Deliberations were held on bilateral relations. Both sides agreed to collaborate in S&T and to set up an International Institute for Precursor Studies in India.

The visits of King of Sweden and Prime Minister of Norway further strengthened our existing bilateral relations in political, economic, commercial and cultural fields. As a result of these visits, it is expected that exchanges by business delegations, scholars, academicians, parliamentarians, etc. would take place more frequently from these two countries to India and help in expanding our bilateral cooperation.

(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 outcome thereof; and the steps taken by the Government to further improve the relations with these countries are given below, country-wise:

Malaysia

Prime Minister visited Malaysia from December 12-14, 2005 to attend the 4th India-ASEAN Summit and 1st East Asia Summit held in Kuala Lumpur. Deliberations were held to enhance synergies in overall scheme of cooperation between India and ASEAN, including trade and investment, S&T, HRD, people to people contacts etc. The meeting adopted the "Kuala Lumpur Declaration" outlining the objects and modalities of the East Asia Summit. On the margins, Prime Minister had bilateral meetings with President of South Korea and Prime Ministers of China, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar and Vietnam. Bilateral, regional and global issues were discussed during these meetings.

Prime Minister also attended the 1st East Asia Summit held on 14 December 2005. Deliberations were held to explore way forward for the East Asia Summit, this being the inaugural Summit. The meeting adopted a Declaration on Combating Avian Influenza.

The government has taken several steps to further strengthen relations with the countries of East Asia in consonance with India's "Look East Policy".

Russian Federation

Prime Minister visited Russian Federation from December 4-7, 2005. Entire gamut of bilateral relations and international issues of mutual concern were discussed. (i) Agreement on Reciprocal Protection of Intellectual Property rights in the field of Military—Technical Cooperation; (ii) Agreement on Safeguard Technologies while implementing long-term cooperation in the area of joint development, operation and use of the GLONASS System for peaceful purposes; and (iii) Agreement between the Indian Space Research Organization and the Federal Space Agency of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the field of Solar Physics and Solar-Terrestrial relationships within the framework of the Coronas-Photon Project.

The Government of India has entered into an arrangement of annual summit level meeting and, annual sessions of the two Inter-Governmental Commissions respectively on Military—Technical Cooperation and on Trade, Economic, Cultural, Scientific and Technological Cooperation. There are a number of established consultation and cooperation programmes between various other Departments, including the Foreign Offices, and regular high-level and technical-level exchanges to further improve cooperative relations with the countries of the CIS & the Caucasian region. Our political, economic and cultural relations have all witnessed an upward trend in the last few years with the signing of various agreements with these countries and the identification of new areas of cooperation. Joint Commissions have been set up with many of these countries and we have defence cooperation with some of them.

Threat to Indian High Commission in Dhaka

465. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Islamic terrorists in Bangladesh had threatened to blow up the Indian High Commission in Dhaka recently;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has taken up the matter of providing security to the lives and properties of people working in the Indian High Commissions with Bangladesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) to (d) There were reports in Bangladesh media that the Jamaat-ul-Mujahedin Bangladesh (JMB) was planning to attack the Indian High Commission in Dhaka. Our High Commission took up this matter with the concerned authorities in Bangladesh, sensitising them to the importance of providing increased security cover to the personnel and premises of the Indian High Commission in Dhaka and the Assistant High Commissions in Rajshahi and Chittagong.

Indo-Pak Foreign Secretary Level Talks

466. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI RAYAPTI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan resumed Foreign Secretary level talks in January, 2006;

(b) if so, whether the issue of cross border terrorism was conveyed to Pakistan during the said talks;

(c) whether the two sides discussed CBMs like starting of Poonch-Rawalakot trans-border bus service and truck service along Srinagar-Muzaffarabad route;

(d) if so, the details of issues discussed during the said talks and the outcome thereof;

(e) whether India has entered into an agreement with Pakistan to avoid setting up of defence posts near LoC as reported in the *Rashtriya Sahara* dated January 18, 2006; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) The Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan met in New Delhi on 17-18 January 2006 to commence the third round of talks under the India-Pakistan Composite Dialogue framework.

(b) During the talks, it was reiterated that the dialogue process was predicated on Pakistan fulfilling its commitment of the 6 January 2004 Joint Statement that it would not permit any territory under its control to be used to support terrorism in any manner. India conveyed that terrorism was the central issue and that Indian public opinion would not tolerate it. Our ability to carry forward the dialogue process in a positive direction was related to the creation of an atmosphere free of violence. Attention was drawn to the fact that despite the assurances received at the highest level from Pakistan, there is no end to cross-border terrorism. The infrastructure of terrorism still continues to exist in Pakistan. Attention was drawn to the recent terrorist incidents, of the bomb blasts in Delhi, the incident at Bangalore. These incidents underlined the need for more action to curb cross-border terrorism and to eliminate the atmosphere of violence, whether in Jammu and Kashmir or anywhere else in India.

(c) The two sides also discussed, *inter alia*, the commencement of the Poonch-Rawalakot bus service and the truck service on Muzaffarabad-Srinagar route for trade in permitted goods as soon as the infrastructure damaged during the October 2005 earthquake is restored.

(d) During the talks, India and Pakistan discussed issues related to 'Peace and Security including CBMs' and 'Jammu and Kashmir'. They assessed the developments in bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction at the progress made during the composite Dialogue process. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to move forward the peace process in a meaningful way during the third round, recalling the outcome of the discussions between the President of Pakistan and Prime Minister of India reflected in the Joint Statements of 6 January 2004, 24 September 2004, 18 April 2005 and 14 September 2005.

On the issue of Peace and Security including CBMs, the two Foreign Secretaries reviewed and assessed positively the progress made during the meetings of experts on Nuclear and Conventional CBMs. They agreed

to mandate the who experts groups to continue consultations on security concepts and nuclear doctrines to develop measures for confidence building in the nuclear and conventional fields aimed at avoidance of conflict, including, *inter alia*, consideration of an agreement on "Reducing Risk of Nuclear Accidents or Unauthorised Use of Nuclear Weapons", conclusion of an agreement on prevention of incidents at sea, Modalities for the conduct of already agreed monthly flag meetings between local commanders at the selected sectors.

They had a detailed exchange of views on Jammu & Kashmir and agreed to continue the sustained dialogue in a purposeful and forward-looking manner to find a peaceful and negotiated final settlement. They also discussed the process of promoting greater interaction between divided families.

The two Foreign Secretaries discussed consular access and early repatriation of all civilian prisoners and fishermen, reopening of the Consulates General in Mumbai and Karachi and the schedule of meetings under the Composite Dialogue framework. Both sides also agreed to hold early meetings of the technical level working groups of the Joint Commission.

(e) and (f) Yes. The Foreign Secretaries agreed to mandate the two experts groups on Nuclear and Conventional CBMs to continue consultations for elaborating the agreement reached on no development of new posts and defence works along the LoC. The Indian side handed over a Non-Paper containing proposed elements to Pakistan for consideration which includes, *inter alia*, not undertaking any fresh construction within 500 metres of the LoC, confining ourselves to only the improvement of existing structures but not creating new posts along the LoC.

Development of Various Forms of Medicines

467. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is making efforts to develop various forms of medicines including innovations in mixed medicines as an affordable health tool for the common man;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds earmarked for this purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) A scheme entitled "Drugs and pharmaceuticals Research programme" is being operated by the Department of Science & Technology since 1994-95 and has so far supported 38 industry/institutional collaborative Research & Development projects related to development and standardization of herbal drugs to treat several diseases, development of vaccines, diagnostic kits, synthesis of new chemical entitles, development of new drug delivery system, etc. In addition, Indian drug companies have been carrying out research programmes for development of a number of drugs required for major diseases as well as development of new molecules of pharmaceutical value for treatment of diseases.

Setting up of Blood Bank

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

(a) whether the Government has any plan to set up atleast one Blood Bank in each District headquarters in Bihar;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned therefor so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) No, Sir. however, Government is supporting modernization of at least one blood bank in each District of the country, including Bihar.

(b) An amount of Rupees 110 lakhs has been allocated to the State of Bihar during the financial year 2005-06 for implementation of Blood Safety Programme in the State.

(c) Does not arise.

Exemption from Toll Tax

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to exempt Members of Parliament and Members of State Legislatures from paying toll tax;

(b) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) As per the present norms, a member of Parliament in the entire country, or a member of Legislative Assembly of a State, or a member of Legislative Council of a State, in the respective State, if he/she produces his/her identity card issued by the Parliament or concerned Legislature of a State, as the case may be, are already exempted from the payment of User's fee (Toll Tax) for using section of National Highways or Bridges.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Harnessing of Non-Conventional Energy Sources

470. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any estimates have been made by the Government to ascertain the potential of energy generation through non-conventional energy sources in the country;

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

(c) the details of non-conventional energy sources projects and schemes currently in action;

(d) whether certain foreign institutions are providing assistance for the same;

(e) if so, the details thereof, project-wise, scheme-wise; and

(f) the States and Union Territories which have the potential for harnessing non-conventional energy sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. State-wise details of estimated potential of non-conventional energy sources and cumulative achievement under grid interactive renewable electricity as on 31.12.2005 are given in enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) A grant of around of US\$3.5 million from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Federal Republic of Germany is being provided for a project titled "Renewable Energy for Rural Livelihoods" being implemented under the United Nations Country Cooperation Framework-II. The World Bank has also provided a loan of US\$ 130 million apart from a Global Environment facility grant of US\$ 5 million to the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) for small hydro power and energy efficiency & conservation projects.

(f) A list of States and Union Territories having potential for harnessing non-conventional energy sources is enclosed as statement.

Statement

State-wise details of estimated potential of non-conventional energy sources and cumulative achievement under grid interactive renewable electricity as on 31.12.2005

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Wind Power* (MW)	Small Hydro Power (MW)	Bagasse Cogeneration (MW)	Energy from Wastes (MSW) (MW)	↓ Cumulative Estimated Potential (MW)	Cumulative Installed Capacity (MW)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8275	255	200	123	8853	623.57
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	1059	0	0	1059	34.48
3.	Assam	0	118	5	8	131	2.23
4.	Bihar	0	194	200	62	456	45.92

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	58	0	20	78	39.01
6.	Goa	0	3	5	0	8	0.07
7.	Gujarat	9675	157	200	112	10144	312.06
8.	Haryana	0	30	0	23	53	69.76
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	1625	0	1	1626	119.09
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	170	0	10	180	110.26
11.	Jharkhand	0	1207	0	0	1207	4.13
12.	Karnataka	6620	653	300	151	7724	990.25
13.	Kerala	875	467	10	37	1389	87.37
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5500	336	25	92	5953	82.33
15.	Maharashtra	3650	599	1000	287	5536	901.69
16.	Manipur	0	106	0	2	108	5.45
17.	Meghalaya	0	182	0	2	184	30.71
18.	Mizoram	0	190	0	2	192	14.96
19.	Nagaland	0	181	0	0	181	20.47
20.	Orissa	1700	157	25	22	1904	7.37
21.	Punjab	0	65	150	45	260	143.43
22.	Rajasthan	5400	27	10	62	5499	344.62
23.	Sikkim	0	203	0	0	203	35.60
24.	Tamil Nadu	3050	339	350	151	3890	2785.44
25.	Tripura	0	10	0	2	11	17.11
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0	267	1000	176	1443	138.19
27.	Uttaranchal	0	1478	0	5	1483	75.50
28.	West Bengal	450	183	10	147	790	100.40
29.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	6	0	0	6	5.52
30.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	6	6	0.00
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
32.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
33.	Delhi	0	0	0	131	131	0.07

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0.65
35.	Pondichery	0	0	10	3	13	0.63
				0	1020		
	Biomass Potential					16000	***
	Industrial Waste Potential					1020	
	Total	45195*	10324**	3500	2700	77720	7148.34

* For sites having wind power density greater than 250 w/sq. m. at 50 m. hub height, wind farms requiring and @12ha/MW; and area availability for setting up of wind farms @3% of the total potential area.

** Aggregate potential of surveyed sites, although potential is placed at around 15,000 MW.

*** Aggregate potential from surplus agricultural residues only. In addition, the range of solar isolation in the country is 4-7 kWh/sq.m./day, whose appealing for grid-interactive power currently is not economically viable. However, SPV home-lighting systems for remote/isolated applications are being deployed alongwith solar thermal hot water systems, wherever feasible and cost effective.

Construction of Sea Port in West Bengal

471. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct a sea port in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the proposals received from the State Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which the said port is likely to become functional?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) A proposal was received from the Chief Minister of West Bengal for undertaking a detailed techno-feasibility study for setting up of a modern deep seaport of international standard in the State of West Bengal. The Government has agreed to undertake a feasibility study in order to select a suitable location for setting up of a modern port on the coastline of West Bengal. No specific timeframe can be prescribed at this stage.

[Translation]

Visit of US President to India

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

(a) whether the US President is coming to India on the invitation by the Union Government along with the likely date of his arrival.

(b) whether Indo-US relationship has become strained in view of the Iran episode; and

(c) if so, the efforts being made by the Union Government to normalize the relations between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) The President of the United States of America is likely to visit India very soon. The exact dates of the visit and details are being finalized by the two sides.

(b) India's relations with United States stand on their own merit and are not influenced by India's ties with other countries. There has been steady progress in India-US relations in recent times. India-US interaction today is multifaceted and includes cooperation on strategic and security issues, counter-terrorism, science and technology, health, trade, space, energy and environment.

(c) India's bilateral relations with United States are normal.

[English]

Development of Coal Industry

473. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of targets fixed for the development of coal industry in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) the funds allocated for achieving these targets; and

(c) the total amount spent thereon till the end of December, 2005?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHIBU SOREN): (a) and (b) For the Tenth Five Year Plan the all India Coal and Lignite production targets stand at 431.50 million tonnes and 21.5 million tonnes respectively to be achieved by the terminal year of the Plan i.e. by 2006-07. The total capital outlay for the Tenth Five Year Plan period has been fixed at Rs. 18652.20 Crores.

(c) The total amount spent till the end of December, 2005 is Rs. 6807.69 Crores.

[Translation]

Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana

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

(a) the main objectives of Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana; and

(b) the details of progress of implementation of this Yojana till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana was launched in the Tenth Plan to put in place programmes and policies with the joint efforts of the Centre and States to remove barriers to growth, accelerate the development process and improve the quality of life of people.

(b) The scheme has three components, namely, Special Plan for Bihar, Special Plan for the KBK districts of Orissa and the backward Districts Initiative covering 147 districts. The schemes/projects included in the three components are in progress. A statement indicating the funds released to the State Governments under the three components is enclosed.

Statement

Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana—Funds released—Position as on 17.2.2006

(Rs. in Crore)

Component		2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	Total
1		2	3	4	5	6
I.	Special Plan for Bihar	0.37	445.75	248.01	269.96	964.09
II.	Special Plan for The KBK districts of Orissa	200.00	225.00	275.00	250.00	950.00
III.	Backward Districts Initiative					
States						
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	40.00	72.50	7.50	120.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	7.50	7.50	15.00
3.	Assam	0.00	10.00	27.50	—	37.50
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	17.50	75.00	232.50

	1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	40.00	57.50	82.50	180.00
6.	Gujarat	0.00	17.50	20.00	—	37.50
7.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	7.50	7.50	15.00
8.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	5.00	25.00	15.00	45.00
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	5.00	25.00	22.50	52.00
10.	Jharkhand	0.00	37.50	120.00	120.00	277.50
11.	Karnataka	0.00	12.50	25.00	15.00	52.50
12.	Kerala	0.00	20.00	17.50	7.50	45.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	22.50	142.50	90.00	255.00
14.	Maharashtra	0.00	15.00	67.50	45.00	127.50
15.	Manipur	0.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50
16.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	7.50	—	7.50
17.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	7.50	7.50	15.00
18.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	15.00	7.50	22.50
19.	Orissa	0.00	10.00	42.50	45.00	97.50
20.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	7.50	—	7.50
21.	Rajasthan	0.00	35.00	47.50	30.00	112.50
22.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	7.50	7.50	15.00
23.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	20.00	77.50	60.00	157.50
24.	Tripura	0.00	7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50
25.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	62.50	162.50	150.00	375.00
26.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	22.50	7.50	30.00
27.	West Bengal	0.00	35.00	55.00	45.00	135.00
28.	NABARD	0.00	0.00	1.08	—	1.08
Total III		0.00	402.50	1241.08	870.00	2513.58
Grand Total		200.37	1073.25	1764.09	1389.96	4427.67

Space Laboratory

475. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a space laboratory to boost space programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it will affect Chandrayan Mission;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether space laboratory is totally an indigenous project;

(f) whether essential technology and corrective mechanism are available in the country for the said project; and

(g) if so, the time by when this project is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir. However, there are plans for conducting experiments with platforms in orbit around earth for limited period and with specific objectives.

(b) Spacecraft Recovery Experiments are planned involving a 500 kg. capsule. It will have a metallographic experiment on board and the samples processed in space will be recovered and brought back for studies. Also, there are plans to orbit Astrophysical Instruments in Astrosat which will provide an opportunity for the Indian scientists to explore the outer space and galactic phenomena for a period of about two years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The above experiments are totally indigenous.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The Space Recovery Experiment is planned for 2006-2007 and Astrosat launch is planned during 2007-2008.

Coal Blocks of Coal India Limited

476. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. has allocated 79 coal blocks out of which production has started only in 8 coal blocks.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor,

(c) whether it is the main reason for the huge difference between production and demand of coal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Coal blocks are not allocated by the Coal India Limited (CIL). However, Government of India have allocated/decided for allocation 91 coal blocks. Production has started in 8 coal blocks.

(b) The allocatees of Coal blocks, who have not started production so far, are in various stages of obtaining statutory clearances and mining lease, preparing mining plan, acquiring land, machinery and equipments etc. for both the mining as well end-use projects. The progress achieved by them against certain given milestones are reviewed by the Screening Committee from time to time and if the desired progress is not achieved despite consistent persuasion, the blocks are de-allocated. So far three coal blocks have already been de-allocated for want of satisfactory progress in development of coal block and installation of end-use projects.

(c) Development of coal blocks involves a long gestation 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 availability of coal would improve significantly.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply given to part (c) above.

Sale of Kidneys

477. SHRI AJIT JOGI:
SHRI ANANT GUDHE:
CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH:
SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY:

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

(a) whether in the recent past several cases regarding selling of kidneys in the Hospitals have been reported;

(b) if so, the details of cases reported so far;

(c) the action taken against the doctors and hospitals involved in such illegal activities;

(d) whether the Government has provided any assistance to the victims;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the details of foreign nationals who came to India for treatment during the last two years;

(g) the number of such nationals out of them who underwent Kidney transplantation;

(h) the stringent measures the Government proposes to take to keep a check on the incidents of selling of Kidneys;

(i) whether the Transplantation of Human Organs Act enacted in 1994 has not yet been adopted by some of the States; and

(j) if so, the details of such States and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Some incidents of alleged illegal transplant of kidneys have come to the notice of Government of India.

(b) and (c) Under Section 13 of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, (THOA) 1994, the Central and the State Governments are empowered to appoint Appropriate Authorities for the purpose of the THOA Act. The Appropriate Authorities appointed by the Central and the State Governments are empowered to investigate any complaints of breach of provisions of the Act including those pertaining to sale and purchase of human organs, including kidneys. Details of cases of illegal kidney and other organ transplantations in various Government/private hospitals reported and action taken during the last three years (2003, 2004 & 2005) from various States/UTs are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) Sale and purchase of organs is not permissible under THOA Act, 1994. However, in case it has been proved that organs of a person has been removed by the doctor without his/her consent, the concerned doctor/hospital is liable for legal action under the existing law. There is no provision under the Act to provide compensation by the Government to such victims.

(f) and (g) This information is not centrally maintained by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(h) Sale and purchase of human organs including kidneys is already banned under the provisions of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994. This Act already contains stringent provisions for punishing removal of human organ without authority and for commercial dealings in human organs.

(i) and (j) The Transplantation of Human Organ Act, 1994 have been adopted by all States/UTs. except the Government of Andhra Pradesh (who have their own Act), and Government of Bihar.

Statement

Details of Cases of Illegal Kidney and other Organ Transplantations in various Government/Private Hospitals reported and action taken during the last three years (2003, 2004 and 2005) received from various States/UTs

Sl.No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	Details of cases reported
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil
2.	Arunachal Praesh	Nil
3.	Assam	Nil

1	2	3
4.	Chhattisgarh	Govt. of Chattisgarh have informed that no case of illegal transplant of kidney in Government and private hospitals has come to light during 2004.
5.	NCT of Delhi	Delhi Police has registered six FIRs in respect of illegal kidney transplantations in Research and Referral Hospital, New Delhi, Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, New Delhi, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, New Delhi and Kakkar Hospital, Amritsar. As a result, ten people were arrested by the Delhi Police. The Commissioner, Delhi Police has informed on 31.7.2005 that the cases included in the five out of the six FIRs are currently under investigation. The case included in the sixth FIR (No. 186 dated 23.3.2004) has been filed as untraced for want of evidence.
6.	Goa	Nil
7.	Gujarat	Nil
8.	Haryana	Nil
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil
10.	Maharashtra	Government of Maharashtra have informed that in January 2004 Dr. S.P. Trivedi of Bombay Hospital, Mumbai has been prosecuted for the charges of cheating and forgery that deal with illegal trafficking of human organs. The matter was <i>sub-judice</i> as on 3.12.2004.
11.	Manipur	Nil
12.	Mizoram	Nil
13.	Meghalaya	Nil
14.	Nagaland	Nil
15.	Pondicherry	Nil
16.	Punjab	Government of Punjab have reported that sale of human organs for transplant, particularly kidney was detected in a few cases in the State which are under investigation of the Special Investigating Team constituted for this purpose. As a result of the investigations, many people have been arrested and one hospital, namely, Ram Saran Dass Kishorilal Charitable Trust Hospital, Amritsar has been deregistered. However, there is no large sale exploitation of the poor in the name of organ transplant in the State.
17.	Sikkim	Nil

1	2	3
18.	Tamil Nadu	Government of Tamil Nadu have informed that no case of illegal transplant of kidney in Government and private hospitals has come to light during 2004.
19.	Tripura	Nil
20.	Uttar Pradesh	Government of Uttar Pradesh have informed that no case of illegal transplant of kidney in Government and private hospitals has come to light between 1.1.2004 and 30.11.2004.
21.	West Bengal	Government of West Bengal have informed that no case of illegal transplant of kidney in Government and private hospitals has come to light during 2004.
22.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Nil
23.	Chandigarh	Nil
24.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Nil
25.	Daman and Diu	Nil
26.	Lakshadweep	Nil

[English]

**World Bank Loan to Power Grid Corporation
of India**

478. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has approved a \$400 million loan to the Power Grid Corporation of India to help the country realize the goal of optimal utilization of electricity resources and strengthen the transmission system;

(b) if so, the amount to be utilized in each State/ Union Territory;

(c) whether the Government has drawn up any contingency plan to utilize the amount adequately;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the World Bank has stated that the power

sector in the country is currently inadequately positioned to support the said goal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. World Bank has approved a loan assistance of US \$400 million to Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) in January, 2006, which will be utilized by PGCIL in the core projects listed at enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The total estimated cost of the projects to be funded under the World Bank loan is about Rs. 4400 crore (US \$ 968 million). The loan amount of US \$400 million is, therefore, expected to be fully utilized on these projects.

(e) The Government is not aware of any such comments made by the World Bank in the context of utilization of above loan by PGCIL.

(f) Does not arise.

Statement*List of Project proposed under New World Bank Loan*

Sl.No.	Name of the System	Kms.	Estimated Cost (Rs. Cr.) Ind. IDC	Estimated Cost (US\$ million) ind. IDC	Fund requirement (US \$ million)	Project Beneficiaries— Regions/States/UTs (Beneficiaries)
CORE PROJECTS						
A.	System Strengthening Schemes					
(I)	Projects in Northern region					
(i)	Balia-Bhiwadi 2500 MW HVDC Bipole along with Bipole converter station at Balia and Bhiwadi.	803	3240	717	502	Eastern Region States: Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal & Sikkim. Northern Region States: Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Chandigarh Western Region States: Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Daman & Diu
II. Projects in Western Region						
(i)	Seoni-Wardha-Akola- Aurangabad Transmission System	660	772	169	118	Western Region States: Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Daman & Diu
(ii)	Seoni-Bina 765kV S/C charged at 400 kV level	292	369	82	56	Eastern region States: Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, West Bengal & Sikkim. Northern Region States: Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Chandigarh Western Region States: Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Daman & Diu
Total of Core Projects			4381	968	676	

Integrated Rural Energy Programme

479. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the districts of each State particularly in Bihar have been covered under Micro Level Energy Plans under the Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP); and

(b) if so, the details alongwith the budget allocation made therefor, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) was modified in 2003-04. The modified IREP is a 50 : 50 Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which financial and technical assistance is provided for preparation and implementation of micro level energy plans and related activities. No separate budgetary allocation is made State-wise under this programme. Central Financial Assistance is, however, provided on the basis of proposals received from the States, availability of central funds, provision of counterpart funds by the States, settling of earlier accounts, etc. Twenty States have been covered so far under the modified IREP, in which selected districts have been taken up for preparation and implementation of micro level district energy plans. The list of States and the districts covered under the modified IREP since 2003-04 is enclosed as statement. The modified IREP Programme has not been set up so far in Bihar.

Statement

State-wise number of districts covered under modified Integrated Rural Energy Programme (IREP) since 2003-04

Sl.No.	Name of State	Number of districts covered under IREP
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5
3.	Chhattisgarh	16

1	2	3
4.	Gujarat	2
5.	Haryana	19
6.	Himachal Pradesh	12
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	14
8.	Jharkhand	7
9.	Karnataka	27
10.	Kerala	14
11.	Madhya Pradesh	48
12.	Manipur	9
13.	Meghalaya	7
14.	Mizoram	6
15.	Nagaland	6
16.	Pondicherry	1
17.	Punjab	17
18.	Tripura	2
19.	Uttaranchal	13
20.	Uttar Pradesh	60

Annual Plans

480. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of annual plans, as approved by the Planning Commission for States and Union Territories for the Financial Year 2005-06;

(b) the way the finances for the above annual plans were generated by States and the share of the Union Government in this regard, State-wise;

(c) the target of rate of growth fixed for States for 2005-06; and

(d) the extent to which the target has been achieved till December, 2005 by the respective States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) States/Union Territory-wise details of Annual Plan outlays and its source of financing for the years 2005-06 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) The target growth rate of Gross Domestic Product for the Tenth Five Year Plan estimated at 8% per annum on average was dis-aggregated to State level growth target. The growth targets for the States/UTs were not estimated annually.

Statement

(Rs. Crore)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	Annual Plan-2005-06			
		Central Assistance	States Own Resources	Aggregate Plan Resources	Approved Plan Outlay
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9,376.31	6,274.46	15,650.77	15,650.77
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	90.69	859.31	950.00	950.00
3.	Assam	409.04	2,907.45	3,316.49	3,000.00
4.	Bihar	1,607.05	3,730.61	5,337.66	5,329.65
5.	Chhattisgarh	2,964.13	1,310.87	4,275.00	4,275.00
6.	Goa	826.82	198.18	1,025.00	1,025.00
7.	Gujarat	7,456.51	3,543.49	11,000.00	11,000.00
8.	Haryana	2,365.41	634.56	2,999.97	3,000.00
9.	Himachal Pradesh	199.10	1,400.89	1,599.99	1,600.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	554.11	3,645.89	4,200.00	4,200.00
11.	Jharkhand	3,044.74	1,465.38	4,510.12	4,510.12
12.	Karnataka	10,189.71	3,365.30	13,555.01	13,555.00
13.	Kerala	3,416.73	1,952.27	5,369.00	5,369.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	3,962.86	3,508.14	7,471.00	7,471.00
15.	Maharashtra	6,142.22	4,857.78	11,000.00	11,000.00
16.	Manipur	(95.33)	1,080.70	985.37	985.37
17.	Meghalaya	143.77	656.23	800.00	800.00
18.	Mizoram	(20.00)	705.00	685.00	685.00
19.	Nagaland	(22.64)	642.64	620.00	620.00
20.	Orissa	56.11	2,943.89	3,000.00	3,000.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
21.	Punjab	2,592.43	957.57	3,550.00	3,550.00
22.	Rajasthan	5,255.96	3,094.23	8,350.19	8,350.00
23.	Sikkim	100.51	399.49	500.00	500.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	6,451.14	2,648.86	9,100.00	9,100.00
25.	Tripura	(56.98)	860.98	804.00	804.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	6,872.95	6,627.05	13,500.00	13,500.00
27.	Uttaranchal	1,298.85	1,401.15	2,700.00	2,700.00
28.	West Bengal	2,089.05	4,386.95	6,476.00	6,476.00
	Total (States)	77,271.25	66,059.32	143,330.57	143,005.91
	Union Territories				
29.	A&N Islands*				661.29
30.	Chandigarh*				201.43
31.	D&N Haveli*				65.01
32.	Daman & Diu				59.30
33.	Delhi	4,552.91	547.09	5,100.00	5,100.00
34.	Lakshadweep*				82.95
35.	Pondicherry	428.34	381.66	810.00	810.00
	Total (UTs)	4,981.25	928.75	5,910.00	6,979.98
	Total (States & UTs)	82,252.50	66,988.07	149,240.57	149,985.89

Note: Figures in brackets are Minus figures.

*These UTs are 100% Centrally funded.

Power Projects in Private Sector

481. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private power generation projects in operation in the country;

(b) whether the Government has evaluated the performance of these projects;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government has received proposals from private companies to increase capacity of power generation in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, year-wise;

(g) the number of proposals out of them sanctioned by the Government and the action taken thereon; and

(h) the number of proposals rejected by the Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) As per information available with CEA, the total number of projects operating in private sector as on 31.1.2006 is 60.

(b) to (d) The Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has been monitoring the performance of these operating projects from time to time. It is informed that the power generation of thermal projects in private sector during the years i.e. 2003-04, 2004-05 and upto January, 2006 are 49360 Million Units (MU) 89.0% of target), 50663 MU (94.6% of target) and 45045 MU (91.9% of target) respectively.

There had been no shortfall in the hydro generation. Major reasons for shortfall occurred in the thermal generation are identified as:

- Less supply of gas than allocation;
- No demand on liquid fuel from beneficiary units; and
- No schedules given by utilities.

(e) to (h) As per the Electricity Act, 2003, no Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) for thermal power projects is required from Central Electricity Authority (CEA). Further, as per the Electricity Act, 2003 any generating company can set up thermal power plants if it complies with the technical standards relating to connectivity with grid.

Under hydro sector, CEA has received one Detailed Project Report (DPR) in private sector for clearance during last three years. Details of the proposal is as under:

Name of the Scheme/Project	Capacity	Estimated Cost (Cr.)	Date of receipt in CEA	Status
Teesta Stage-III HEP in Sikkim by M/s. Teesta Urja Ltd. (TUL)	6x200 MW	6569	20.7.2005	The DPR was returned to utility on 9.8.2005 as certain pending essential inputs clearances were not tied up. Besides, M/s. TUL has been asked to submit revised DPR due to major changes in scope of works.

Condition of Road in Maharashtra

482. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the riding quality of road is poor between Khandala and Satara on the National Highway No. 4 in Maharashtra under the Golden Quadrilateral Project; and

(b) if so, the action taken/being taken by the Government to improve the riding quality of the road?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Installation of Wind Mills

483. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of windmills installed and the amount of power generated from these windmills in Patan Tehsil of Satara District in Maharashtra;

(b) whether new potential sites for installation of windmills have been identified by the Government in Patan Tehsil of Satara District of Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the details these of alongwith the location of the proposed sites and the number of windmills to be installed at each site;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up a wind energy park at Vankusawade in Satara District of Maharashtra; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) A wind power capacity of 257.50 MW, comprising of 680 wind electric generators has so far been installed in Patan Tehsil of Satara District in Maharashtra. The cumulative units of generation of electricity from wind mills in Satara District is 2492 million units.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. As per Government of Maharashtra wind Power Policy, wind power projects are installed by the private developers/investors.

Compensation to Land Owners

484. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether no compensation is paid to land owners on whose land power transmission lines are laid;

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

(c) whether the present compensation is being denied under the provisions of Para 164 of the Electricity Act, 2003;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has issued written orders in this regard as required by the Act; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (d) In accordance with Section 164 of the Electricity Act, 2003, "the appropriate Government may, by order in writing, for the placing of electric lines or electrical plant for the transmission of electricity or for the purpose of telephonic or telegraphic communications necessary for the proper co-ordination of works, confer upon any public officer, licensee or any other person engaged in the business of supplying electricity under this Act, subject to such conditions and restrictions, if any, as the Appropriate Government may think fit to

impose and to the provisions of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, any of the powers which the telegraph authority possesses under that Act with respect to the placing of telegraph lines and posts for the purposes of a telegraph established or maintained, by the Government or to be so established or maintained."

The agencies implementing the transmission projects and conferred with the above powers under Section 164 of the Electricity Act, 2003 are not required to acquire land for laying of transmission lines. In accordance with the provisions of Telegraph Act, 1885, compensation towards all damages including damage to crops/trees during construction/maintenance of transmission line is paid to the land owner. The land owner is allowed to continue agricultural activities below the transmission lines. In case any damage to immovable property becomes necessary for laying of transmission lines, full compensation to all interested persons for any damage sustained by them, is allowed.

(e) and (f) In accordance with Section 164 of the Electricity Act, 2003, Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) has been authorized to exercise all the powers vested in the Telegraph Authority under Part III of the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, in respect of the electrical lines and electrical plant established or maintained, or to be so established or maintained for the transmission of electricity or for the purpose of telephonic or telegraphic communications necessary for the proper coordination of the works, *vide* Order S.O. 1463(E) published in Part II Section 3 (ii) of the Gazette of India on 24.12.2003. The appropriate Government for issuing similar Order in respect of State transmission lines is the respective State Government.

Use of Naphtha in Ratnagiri Power Plant

485. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to use Naphtha in Ratnagiri Power Plant for generation of electricity;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the operational cost of production of electricity generated through Naphtha; and

(c) the extent to which the demand of power will be met thereafter?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Out of the three power blocks of the Ratnagiri power plant, one power block which is scheduled to be commissioned by July, 2006, could be got ready to commence generation of electricity by May, 2006 itself if so desired by Maharashtra. However, since the commissioning of the LNG terminal is likely to be operational only by December, 2006, in the interim period, Naphtha could be used as fuel.

(b) and (c) Since Maharashtra is facing acute power shortages particularly during peak hours, and RGPPL currently already has a stock of 34000 KL of Naphtha, the stocks of naphtha available could be suitably augmented through fresh purchases of naphtha to the extent that the pooled price is acceptable to Maharashtra. The cost of generation would depend upon the quantity of fresh naphtha to be procured to augment the existing stock which in turn would depend upon the quantum of power required by Maharashtra.

Fissile Minerals Extraction

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

(a) whether the sea shore of Kanyakumari District is having a vast deposit of various fissile minerals like 'monozite'.

(b) if so, whether the private mining companies have been issued mining licences to exploit the strategic minerals from beach sand;

(c) if so, whether the mining activities by the private companies are against the National security; and

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

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

(b) No sir. However, the Department has issued licences for mining ilmenite and Rutile (which are used for industrial purposes) to private companies.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Not applicable.

[Translation]

Connecting Metro Cities with Expressway

487. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to connect Metro Cities with Expressway to avoid traffic snarls;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Presently, four metro cities are being connected with four lane National Highways under Golden Quadrilateral component of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-I. It is proposed to widen these four lane National Highways to six lane facility under NHDP Phase-V. Construction of 1000 km of expressway is also proposed under NHDP Phase-VI, the details for which are under discussion with Planning Commission. As such, it is too early to give the details.

[English]

Non-Utilization of Machines/Equipments

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

(a) whether many machines/equipments which have been donated by various world organizations, NGOs etc., are lying unused/unutilised in various Central Government hospitals;

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

(c) 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) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Construction of New CGHS Building

489. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:
DR. K. DHANARAJU:

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

(a) whether the building for Rajouri Garden CGHS Dispensary, New Delhi, was scheduled to be completed by December, 2005 but has not been completed so far;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be built and the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government to make the said CGHS dispensary functional at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The construction of the building has since been completed.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The building will be handed over to CGHS after obtaining completion certificate from local bodies by CPWD.

The dispensary is already functioning from Hari Nagar dispensary building.

Introduction of Goods Carrier Ships

490. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce goods carrier ships from Varanasi/Allahabad to Haldia;

(b) if so, the proposed route thereof and the total amount earmarked for the said work; and

(c) the time by which the goods carrier ships are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No Sir.

However, Government has already introduced fixed schedule demonstration service between Haldia and Patna where requisite Least Available Depth (LAD) is available and maintained. It is expected that successful fixed schedule demonstration services will lead to development of cargo and ultimately private sector will be attracted to operate Cargo Ships between Haldia and Patna on a regular basis.

During monsoon when LAD is available between Allahabad/Varanasi and Patna cargo, ships have operated between these cities as well.

(b) On national waterways No. 1 the route from Allahabad/Varanasi to Haldi is *via* Patna-Munger-Bhagalpur-Farakka-Tribeni-Kolkata. During 2005-06, an amount of Rs. 46.65 crores has been provided for development and maintenance of this national waterway.

(c) No time frame can be fixed, as the Government does not propose to operate cargo ships (goods carrier ships) on a commercial basis.

Connecting National Highways with Religious and Tourist Places

491. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to connect National Highways with religious and tourist places;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) The connectivity to tourist destinations is one of the criteria for declaration of National Highways. There is no comprehensive plan to connect all such destinations by National Highways. However, the provision of connectivity to the tourist/religious places from the existing National Highways through the State roads is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned.

*[English]***Construction of International Container Terminal**

492. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to construct an International Container Terminal at Vizhinjam in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount involved, mode of construction, private participation and the time fixed for completion of the project;

(c) the stage of construction of the other International Super Container Terminal planned at Vallarpadam;

(d) whether the Government proposes to increase the container transshipment in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof including the centres where container transshipments are available?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Ports other than major ports are under the overall jurisdiction of the respective State Governments. Since Vizhinjam is not a major port, responsibility for construction of an International Container Terminal at the port is that of the Government of Kerala. Based on bids invited, Government of Kerala has sought security clearance of the bidders for development of a Deep Water International Container Transshipment Terminal at Vizhinjam.

(c) In terms of the License Agreement signed by Cochin Port Trust (Licensor) with M/s. India Gateway Private Limited (Licensee), a subsidiary of Dubai Ports International (DPI), Dubai, UAE on 31.1.2005, the Licensee has commenced commercial operations at the existing Rajiv Gandhi Container Terminal (RGCT) as per schedule on 1.4.2005. Commencement of construction works at the International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT) site by the Licensee is contingent on fulfilment by the Licensor of 'Conditions Precedent' enumerated in the License Agreement, namely, obtaining of requisite environmental clearance in respect of construction works for Phase I of ICTT, declaration of the project site at Vallarpadam/Puthuvyppeen as part of the Special Economic

Zone (SEZ) and commencement of construction of Rail connectivity and National Highway connectivity by the appropriate authority. In the light of the time-frames specified for various activities in the License Agreement, construction works at the ICTT site is scheduled to commence by 31.3.2007.

(d) and (e) Amongst the major ports which are under the Central Government, container handling facilities are available in Kolkata, Visakhapatnam, Chennai, Tuticorin, Cochin, Jawaharlal Nehru and Mumbai Ports. However, a substantial portion of container cargo which either originates from or is bound for Indian ports is currently transhipped at ports outside India. It is the Government's endeavour to minimize transshipment of such cargo in ports outside India, while concurrently tapping potential of the Indian ports for handling transshipment of International container cargo through development of necessary infrastructure.

*[Translation]***Express Highways Project**

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

(a) whether any agreement has been reached on 'Express Highways' project meant for connecting Outer Delhi with neighbouring States of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan etc. with a view to facilitate easy transportation between Delhi and the said States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount likely to be spent on the project and the amount likely to be provided by the Union Government and the concerned States; and

(d) the targets fixed for commencement and completion of the said project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Regional Plan-2021 of National Capital Region notified on 17.09.2005 recommends implementation of Peripheral Expressways comprising Eastern and Western Peripheral Expressway on priority basis in first phase besides development of other radiating roads and National Highways. Consensus on construction of Peripheral Expressway has been reached.

(b) and (c) The length comprising both Peripheral Expressways (Eastern and Western) is about 269 Km. As per preliminary estimates, the cost of the project including cost of land acquisition is Rs. 4120.00 crore. The project is to be executed on Built Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. The funds for viability gap, if required, would be provided by the Union Government. The cost of land acquisition presently assessed, as Rs. 1307.00 crore is to be shared by the Governments of Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh in the ratio of 50:25:25.

(d) The project of Peripheral Expressway is scheduled for commencement by July 2006 and is likely to be completed by October 2010.

New Policy for Wind and Solar Energy

494. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD;

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is formulating a new policy regarding wind power plants and solar energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the resources identified for the purpose;

(c) the reasons for high cost of equipments used for tapping solar energy and tidal energy inspite of hefty incentives being given; and

(d) the reasons for differential costs of these equipments in different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) The National Electricity Policy and the Tariff Policy have already been announced. These two policies are expected to pave the way for the development of renewable power, including wind power. The cost of solar photovoltaic grid-interactive power is currently estimated at around Rs. 20 kWh and consequently its deployment is not economically viable. The State electricity Regulatory Commissions are required to fix a percentage for purchase of power from renewable sources apart from determining preferential tariffs for the same. Procurement from these sources for future requirements shall be done, as far as possible, through

competitive bidding process within suppliers offering energy from same type of renewable sources.

(c) Despite the fact that the price of solar photovoltaic technology has been coming down over the years it still remains economically unviable for power generation purposes. However, its deployment for small loads in remote/isolated locations can be justified. Solar Thermal (low temperature) technology for water heating purposes has already reached near commercial status and with current efforts to increase its level of deployment, solar water heating systems should achieve full commercial status in the near future. On the other hand, tidal energy is still in technology demonstration phase and with further technological advances, it too is expected to reach near commercial status in some locations in the not too distant future.

(d) Justification for any wide differential in price of these equipment across states does not exist. Differential, if any, is only marginal. Efforts are being made to have one Akshay Urja Shop in each district of the country by the end of the 10th Plan period. These shops would serve as fair price shops for renewable systems/devices apart from providing repair and maintenance facilities.

[English]

Change in Policy in National Highway

495. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to change the policy regarding National Highway; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Merchant Power Plants

496. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain domestic/foreign companies are planning to set up Merchant Power Plants as reported in The Economic Times dated January 11, 2006;

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

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (c) As per Electricity Act, 2003 any generating company may establish, operate & maintain a generating station without obtaining a licence under this Act, if it complies with the technical standards relating to connectivity with the grid. A generating company may supply electricity to any licensee or consumer in

accordance with the Electricity Act, 2003 and the Rules and Regulations made there under.

The Government of India has constituted an Inter-Institutional Group (IIG) in January, 2004 to facilitate financial closure of private sector power projects. The IIG has provided a forum for interaction amongst promoters of power projects, banks and financial institutions and the Ministry of Power. A list of projects which have achieved financial closure since inception of IIG is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

List of projects which have achieved financial closure since inception of IIG.

Name of Project	Capacity (MW)
Vemagiri CCGT (Gas), Ispat Power Ltd, AP	370
Peddapuram (Gautami) CCGT (Gas), BSES Andhra Power Ltd. AP	464
Jegurupadu Exp (Gas), GVK Industries AP	140
Konaseema CCGT (Gas), Konaseema EPS Oakwell Power Ltd. AP	445
Jojobera Exp (Coal), Jamshedpur Power Co., Jharkhand	120
Valantharavai GTPP (Arkay Energy Ltd.) (Gas)	52.8
Raigarh (Jindal Power Ltd.) TPP (Coal).	1000
Malana-II HEP (Everest Power)	100
Torangallu Expn (Jindal Thermal Power Co. Ltd.) (Coal) (Provisional in-principle subject to fulfilment of conditions.)	500
Akhakhol (Surat) CCGT (M/s Torrent Power Generation Ltd.)	1050
Allain Duhangan HEP (M/s Rajasthan Spinning & Weaving Mills) H.P.	192
Pathadi TPP Ph. I (M/s Lanco Amarkantak Power Pvt. Ltd., (Chhattisgarh (Coal)	300
Total	4733.8

[Translation]

Power Plant in Jharkhand

497. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a power plant at Bhalpahadi in Giridih district of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the land provision made for establishment of the same;

(c) the capacity and amount received for the project;

(d) whether the feasibility report in this regard has been submitted;

(e) if so, the details thereof along with the steps taken by the Government to expedite the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to set up a power plant at Bhalpahadi in Giridih district of Jharkhand.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

[English]

Health Facilities in Lakshadweep

498. DR. P.P. KOYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of hospitals/institutions/clinics/health centres that are functioning in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep;

(b) the facilities available in these hospitals/institutions etc;

(c) whether there is shortage of doctors/technicians in various wings of these hospitals/institutions etc;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) 2 Hospitals, 3 Community Health Centres, 4 Primary Health Centres, 2 First Aid Centres, 14 sub-centres, 2 Ayurvedic Dispensaries, 1 Homoeopathic Dispensary and 4 Dental Units are functioning in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

(b) X-Ray, ECG and Ultra Sound scanning facilities are available in all hospitals/CHCs and PHCs. Eco-Cardiogram, TMT & Physio Therapy facilities are available at Indira Gandhi Hospital, Kavarathi. HIV ELISA facility is available in two hospitals. Telemedicine facility is also available in two hospitals and CHCs.

(c) to (e) Out of 12 posts of Specialist Doctors, only two posts are presently filled up and remaining 10 posts are vacant. One Gynaecologist, one Paediatrician and

one Surgeon are being deputed to work in the Union Territory on rotation basis for a period of 90-days. Out of 22 posts of General Duty Medical Officers, 20 posts are presently filled up.

Commonwealth Games

499. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new stadiums and sports complexes being developed for the proposed Commonwealth Games in Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR);

(b) whether a monitoring committee is being formed having representation from DTC, METRO, Delhi Police, Tourism Ministry and various other departments to coordinate this mega event;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of new stadiums constructed during the last two years in various stages; and

(e) the number of sports complexes to be constructed during the next three years in the country State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The venues for 15 approved disciplines and 3 proposed disciplines have been finalized by the Core Group of Ministers in its meeting held on 4th January, 2006. The details of these venues are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) For the smooth conduct of the Commonwealth Games, 2010, Government have made the following institutional arrangements:

(i) A Core Group of Ministers for coordinating the work related to the Commonwealth Games, 2010 headed by the Minister for Human Resource Development.

(ii) Apex Committee headed by Minister (Youth Affairs and Sports) with overriding powers and responsibility for overseeing and coordinating the Commonwealth Games.

(iii) Organizing Committee headed by the President, Indian Olympic Association to conduct the Games.

- (iv) Lt. Governor of Delhi to have overall responsibility regarding Security, Law & Order and matters under DDA.
- (v) A Sub-Committee headed by the Chief Minister of Delhi for matters falling in the jurisdiction of the State Government.
- (vi) A Committee of Secretaries headed by the Cabinet Secretary to implement the decisions of the Group of Ministers.
- (d) During the years 2003-2004 and 2004-2005, the

construction of 73 new stadia was approved under the erstwhile scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure.

(e) Since the Sports Infrastructure Scheme under which Central assistance was provided for construction of Stadium has been transferred to State sector, no new projects will be sanctioned by the Central Government. The number of new sports complexes to be constructed during the next three years would depend on investment decisions and allocations made by individual State Governments.

Statement

Sports Venues for Competition for Commonwealth Games, 2010

Sl.No.	Disciplines	Venue	Status
1	2	3	4
1.	Athletics	J.N. Stadium	Existing
2.	Lawn Bowls	J.N. Sports Complex	New Outdoor Greens
3.	Weightlifting	J.N. Sports Complex	New Indoor Auditorium
4.	Hockey	Maj. Dhyan Chand National Stadium	Existing
5.	Cycling	Velodrome, I.G. Sports Complex	Existing
6.	Gymnastics	I.G. Indoor Stadium	Existing
7.	Wrestling	I.G. Sports Complex	New Indoor Stadium
8.	Shooting	Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range 1000 yards Range at Manesar (about 60 Km from Games Village)	Existing
9.	Netball	Tyagaraj Sports Complex	New Indoor Stadium
10.	Boxing	Talkatora Indoor Stadium	Existing
11.	Badminton	Siri Fort Sports Complex	New Indoor Stadium
12.	Squash	Siri Fort Sports Complex	New Indoor Stadium
13.	Table Tennis	Yamuna Sports Complex	New Indoor Stadium
14.	Rugby	Delhi University	New Outdoor Greens
15.	Aquatics	Delhi University Polo Ground	New Aquatic Complex

1	2	3	4
16.	Archery	I.G. Sports Complex	Existing
17.	Billards & Snooker	Siri Fort Complex	New Indoor Stadium
18.	Tennis	R.K. Khanna Tennis Complex	Existing

Coal Based Power Plant at Mauda, Nagpur

500. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation had proposed the setting up of a Coal based Power Plant at Mauda, Nagpur;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NTPC has failed to prepare and submit a feasibility report in this regard;

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay in submission of feasibility report; and

(e) the steps being taken to expedite the same?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) to (e) In the course of identification of power projects for National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC) capacity addition programme, a site near Mauda was identified in May 2001 as one of the prospective sites in Nagpur district of Maharashtra. The work for various site-specific studies was undertaken by NTPC in order to prepare the Feasibility Report and establish techno-economic viability of the project.

The site was identified considering its proximity to coalmines of Western Coalfields Ltd. about 150 Kms. away and water from Gosikhurd Reservoir, which was under construction. The mines identified for supply of coal to the project in Wardha Valley Coal fields were of very small capacities and scattered over a large area. Therefore, Standing linkage Committee (Long Term) accorded linkage of coal for the project from Ib Valley of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) in Orissa, located about 600 Kms away. Consequently, the cost of coal transportation works out to be about Rs. 585 per tonne, resulting in increase of the cost of power by about 45 Paise/kWh.

Thus, economic ranking of Mauda Thermal Power Project does not compare favourably with NTPC's proposed pit-head based integrated mega power project

in Raigarh, district of Chhattisgarh with a capacity of 3000-4000 MW for meeting the power requirement of the Western Region beneficiaries including Maharashtra. The integrated power project in Chhattisgarh shall have assured fuel availability, no burden on Railways network and much lower coal transportation cost. Further, Mauda being a rail fed project, would require elaborate coal handling plant and coal stockyard loading to higher project cost. Hence, it is felt that setting up Mauda Power Plant would neither be economically viable nor in the interest of the state of Maharashtra as the cost of power generated from the plant would be higher.

In view of the above constraints, preparation of Feasibility Report could not be undertaken.

Status of Ganga Kumari National Waterways Project

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

(a) the present status of work on Ganga Kumari National Waterways Project (NWP);

(b) the reasons for delay in implementation of the project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) There is no such national waterways project conceived by or pending with the Government of India.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

National Highways Projects in Northern and Western Regions

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

(a) whether a large number of National Highway Projects in the Northern and Western Regions of the country are awaiting clearance from the Union Government as on December 31, 2005;

(b) if so, the number of projects in each region;

(c) the main reasons for the delay in granting clearance; and

(d) 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. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) As on December 31, 2005, 85 estimates for various types of works, totalling to 48 from Northern region (comprising Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi and Chandigarh) and 37 from Western region (comprising Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa), of National Highway projects executed by the respective State Public Works Department were awaiting clearance.

(c) The clearance of estimates involves time for detailed technical and financial examinations and fulfilment of all the technical parameters. Some of the works also require clearance by other Ministries/Departments.

(d) In the Northern region, 11 estimates have been sanctioned and in the case of Western region, 7 have been sanctioned and 1 estimate has been returned unapproved. Sanctioning of the balance estimates is subject to availability of funds, fulfilment of technical parameters and clearance by other Ministries/Departments.

Shortage of Fuel to Tarapur Atomic Power Plant

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

(a) whether the stockpile of fuel at Tarapur Atomic Power Plant is running very low;

(b) if so, whether Russian Government has agreed to release low enriched Uranium for the Tarapur nuclear power plant in the first half of this year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) to extent to which Prime Minister's visit and the Indo-US Civilian nuclear agreement have been helpful in facilitating supply of fuel by Russia;

(e) whether India and Russia have also agreed to discuss future cooperation in the development of 4th and 5th generation nuclear reactors;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the future strategy chalked out by both the countries for further cooperation in this field?

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

(b) and (c) The matter is under discussion with foreign suppliers.

(d) to (g) The recent Indo-US joint statement issued during the visit of our Prime Minister to the United States envisages opening up of civil nuclear cooperation. Discussions have also been held with Russia. Further discussions would be continued.

Upgradation of Maternal and Child Health Care Hospital

504. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a proposal for upgradation of Maternal and Child Health Care Hospital in Mumbai with grant-in-aid from Japan;

(b) if so, whether that project was put on hold due to imposition of sanctions by Japan in 1998;

(c) if so, whether after withdrawal of sanctions, Maharashtra had requested the Union Government to forward the proposal to Japan;

(d) if so, whether the project has since been cleared by the Union Government; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay in granting clearance to the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Yes Sir. A proposal titled "Improvement of Medical Services for Sir J.J. Hospital and Cama and Abless Hospital, Mumbai" was posed to Government of Japan in April, 1997 for financial

assistance. The total project cost was JPY 1380 million (Approx. Rs. 59 Cr.) At that time the Basic Design Study Mission had finalized the list of equipments to be procured under the Japanese financial assistance. However before the project could be processed further, Government of Japan imposed economic measures against India following the Pokharan-II and the project was suspended.

With the lifting of economic measures in October, 2001 the Government of Japan indicated to resume the grant in aid programme in 2003. A Basic Design Study was again conducted by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in January-March, 2003 for the project. The exchange of Notes for the project, signifying its clearance was signed on 28.8.2003 for assistance of JPY 759 million under Japanese Grant Aid programme. The project has since been completed on 30.4.2005.

Status of Golden Quadrilateral Project

505. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the replies given to

USQ No. 1218 dated December 8, 2004, SQ No. 34 dated March 2, 2005 & USQ No. 2035 dated December 6, 2005 and state:

(a) the present date of completion of the Golden Quadrilateral Project and the reasons for frequent change of completion dates of projects under it; and

(b) the details of the Projects likely to be completed/ not likely to be completed by June, 2006?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) It is expected that about 96% of length of Golden Quadrilateral Project would be completed by June 2006.

The details of projects which are likely to be completed by June 2006 are given in the enclosed Statement-I. Details of projects which are not likely to be completed in full length by June 2006 are given in the enclosed Statement-II. Reasons for delay if any, for each contract is also indicated in Statement-I & II.

Statement I

Golden Quadrilateral projects which are expected to be completed by June-2006

All Lengths in Km.

Status as on January 31, 2006

	Stretch	NH	Length	State	Reason for Delay
	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Sikandara-Bhaunti (TNHP/II-A) km 393-km 470 through MDR route	2	62.00	Uttar Pradesh	Slow progress of contractor, Artesian problem in Sengur Bridge and delay in shifting of utilities.
2.	Handia-Varanasi (TNHP/II-C) km 245-km 317	2	72.00	Uttar Pradesh	Slow mobilization by the contractor, tree cutting & shifting of utilities, poor contract management of contractor
3.	Kharagpur-Laxmannath (WB-IV) km 53.41-km 119.275	60	65.86	West Bengal	Land Acquisition, utility shifting, court case etc.
4.	Laxmannath-Baleshwar (OR-4) km 0-km 53.41	60	53.41	Orissa	Land Acquisition, utility shifting, court case etc.
5.	Bridges Section (OR/WB-I) km 0-km 119.275	60	0.00	Orissa	Land Acquisition, utility shifting, court case etc.
6.	Bridges section (OR-V) km 199-km 61	5	11.59	Orissa	Delay in land acquisition, utility shifting and poor performance of contractor
7.	Bhubaneswar-Khurda (OR-I) km 387.7-km 418	5	26.30	Orissa	Delay in land acquisition, utility shifting, court and poor performance of contractor.

	1	2	3	4	5
8.	Katraj-Sarole (PS-3) km 825.5-km 797	4	28.50	Maharashtra	Delay in land acquisition, utility shifting and poor performance of contractor.
9.	Katraj Realignment (PS-4) km 825-km 30 of Bypass	4	9.00	Maharashtra	Delay in land acquisition and utility shifting.
10.	Hubli-Haveri km 404-km 340	4	64.50	Karnataka	Delay in land acquisition, utility shifting, poor performance of contractor and difficulty in getting stone aggregate of required specification.
11.	Haveri-Harihar km 340-km 284	4	56.00	Karnataka	Delay in land acquisition, utility shifting and poor performance by the contractor.
12.	Harihar-Chitradurga km 284-km 207	4	77.00	Karnataka	Delay in land acquisition, utility shifting and poor performance by the contractor.
13.	Chitradurga-Sira km 189-km 122.3	4	66.70	Karnataka	Delay in land acquisition, utility shifting and poor performance by the contractor.
14.	Kanchipuram-Poonamallee km 70.2-km 13.8	4	56.40	Karnataka	Delay in land acquisition, utility shifting and poor performance by the contractor.
15.	Belgaum-Dharwad km 495-km 433	4	62.00	Karnataka	Delay in land acquisition, utility shifting and poor performance by the contractor.
16.	Tumkur Bypass km 75-km 62	4	13.00	Karnataka	Delay in land acquisition, utility shifting and poor performance by the contractor.
17.	Belgaum Bypass km 515-km 495	4	18.00	Karnataka	Delay in approval of ROB by the railways.
18.	Mohania-Sasaram (TNHP/IV-B) km 65-km 110	2	45.00	Bihar	Initial delay in land acquisition, utility shifting. Adverse Law & Order situation, Slow mobilization by the contractor. Poor contract management by the contractor.
19.	Khurda-Sunakhala (OR-VI) km 388-km 338	5	52.06	Orissa	Land Acquisition, utility shifting, court cases and poor performance of the contractor.
20.	Chilikaluripet-Ongole (AP-13) km 357.9-km 291	5	68.00	Andhra Pradesh	Land Acquisition, utility shifting, court case etc.
21.	Dhankuni-Kolaghat (WB-I) km 17.6 to km 72	6	54.40	West Bengal	Land Acquisition, utility shifting, court case etc.
22.	Satara-Kagal km 725-km 592.24	4	133.00	Maharashtra	Delay in land acquisition, utility shifting.
23.	Vaniyambadi-Palikonda (KR-2) km 49.0-km 100.0	46	51.00	Tamil Nadu	(I) The land free from encumbrance could not be made available to the contractor as per contract agreement. (II) due to delay in construction of ROBs by railways.

Statement II*Golden Quadrilateral projects which are likely to be completed after June-2006*

Status as on January 31, 2006

All Lengths in Km.

Stretch		NH	Length	State	Reason for Delay
1		2	3	4	5
1.	Etawah Bypass (Balance Work) km 307.5-km 321.1	2	13.60	Uttar Pradesh	Contract terminated on 05.04.2005 due to poor progress and contract for balance work awarded during Dec. 2005.
2.	Shikohabad-Etawah (GTRIP/I-B) km 250.5-km 307.5	2	59.02	Uttar Pradesh	The earlier contract was terminated on 09.06.2004 due to poor progress and contract for balance work was awarded during Sep. 2005.
3.	Allahabad Bypass Contract-II km 158-km 198	2	38.99	Uttar Pradesh	Contract signed in June, 2004 with 30 months period for completion.
4.	Allahabad Bypass Contract-III km 198-km 242.708	2	44.71	Uttar Pradesh	Contracts signed in November, 2004 with 30 months completions period.
5.	Ganjam-Icchapuram (OR-VIII) km 284-km 223	5	50.80	Orissa	The contractor expelled from site due to failure of JV and slow Progress Court case-Appeal Pending in Orissa High Court.
6.	Allahabad Bypass Contract-I (Bridge) km 158-km 159.02	2	1.02	Uttar Pradesh	Initial delay in Land Acquisition & utility shifting.
7.	Vivekananda Bridge and Approach	2	6.00	West Bengal	No delay.
8.	Agra-Shikohabad (GTRIP/I-A) km 199.66-km 250.50	2	50.83	Uttar Pradesh	Initial delay in shifting of utilities and land acquisition, Delay in approval of drawings for ROBs.
9.	Kanpur-Fatehpur (GTRIP/II-B) km 470-483 (O) km 0-km 38	2	51.50	Uttar Pradesh	Initial delay in shifting of utilities, Slow progress of contractor delay in clearance of drawings for ROBs by railways.
10.	Fatehpur-Khaga (TNHP/II-C) km 38-km 115	2	77.00	Uttar Pradesh	Slow mobilization of the contractor, shifting of utilities, poor contract management of contractor
11.	Varanasi-Mohania (GTRIP/IV-A) km 317-329 (O) km 0-km 65	2	76.00	Uttar Pradesh [55] Bihar [21]	Initial delay in land acquisition, utility in shifting/tree cutting Adverse Law & Order situation, Slow mobilization by the contractor.
12.	Sasaram-Dehri on-sona (GTRIP/IV-C) km 110-km 140	2	30.00	Bihar	Initial delay in utility shifting/tree cutting Adverse Law & Order. Technical Difficulty
13.	Aurangabad-Barachatti (TNHP/V-A) km 180-km 240	2	60.00	Bihar	Initial delay in Land Acquisition & utility Shifting, Adverse Law & Order, Slow Mobilization by the contractor, Problem related with quarry

	1	2	3	4	5
14.	Rajganj-Barakata (GTRIP/V-B) km 240-km 320	2	80.00	Bihar [10]/Jharkhand [70]	Adverse law & order, slow mobilization by contractor, delay in land acquisition & utility shifting.
15.	Gorhar-Barwa Adda (TNHP/V-C) km 320-km 398.75	2	78.75	Jharkhand	Delay in land acquisition, utility shifting. Adverse Law & Order situation, Slow mobilization by the contractor.
16.	Balasore-Bhadrak (OR-III) km 136.5-km 199.14	5	62.64	Orissa	Land acquisition, utility shifting and poor performance of contractor
17.	Sunakhala-Ganjam (OR-VII) km 338-km 284	5	55.71	Orissa	Land acquisition, utility shifting, court cases and poor management of contractors
18.	Srikakulam-Champawati (AP-1) (Balance Work) km 97-km 49	5	48.00	Andhra Pradesh	Termination of initial contract.
19.	Chitradurga Bypass km 207-km 189	4	18.00	Karnataka	Delay in re-allocation of utility shifting Delay in resettlement, Poor performance by the contractor and Internal dispute between JV partners.
20.	Etawah-Rajpur (GTRIP/I-C) km 321.1-km 393	2	72.83	Uttar Pradesh	Initial delay in land acquisition for by passes and shifting of utilities. Delay in procurement of aggregates due to closure of Chambal bridge through which contractor had proposed to procure the material.
21.	Bridges section(WB-III) Total Stretch km 17.6-km 136	6	1.73	West Bengal	Land Acquisition, utility shifting, court case etc.

NEEPCO Funding for Flood Protection Work

506. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) is committed to fund flood protection work of Dikrong river due to additional discharge of water into it from Ranganadi project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Assam had approached NEEPCO for funding of flood protection work of Dikrong river from the downstream Bandardewa to Dikrong confluence;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken thereon; and

(f) the benefits to Assam on account of Ranganadi project of NEEPCO?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) is committed to provide safety measures due to incremental rise in water level from Bandardewa to Sessapathar on release of maximum discharge of 160 cumec from Hoz Power House of Ranganadi Hydro Electric Project (405 MW).

(c) to (e) Government of Assam had sent an estimate of Rs. 835.85 lakhs for raising and strengthening of embankment of both the banks of Dikrong river including anti-erosion works at different reaches based on the highest observed flood of 2500 Cumec. NEEPCO had then agreed to share financial implications to the tune of Rs. 88.61 lakhs for providing safety measures due to incremental rise in water level varying from 7 cm. to 12

cm. from Bandardewa to Sessapathar on account of release of maximum discharge of 160 Cumec from Hoz Power House. The balance funding was to be borne by the Government of Assam.

(f) The State of Assam has a share of 161 MW power out of the total installed capacity of 405 MW of Ranganadi HEP (405 MW). Besides, the steady discharge of the Hoz Power House may be utilized for agricultural purposes in Dikrong Valley especially during lean periods.

Inquiry into Stent Episode of Safdarjung Hospital

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

(a) whether the Head of Department of Cardiology, AIIMS, was appointed to inquire into the 'Stent' episode of Safdarjung hospital;

(b) if so, whether the said inquiry has been completed;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof;

(d) the action taken in the matter;

(e) whether complaints have also been received against the Cardiologist of Safdarjung hospital; and

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

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

(b) to (d) The report of inquiry is still awaited.

(e) and (f) Four more complaints have been received against the same Cardiologist of Safdarjung Hospital which are at various stages of inquiry.

[*Translation*]

Electricity Rates

508. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether consumers are charged at different rates by the State electricity Boards and the Institutions supplying electricity in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the per unit average rate charged by them for consumption of electricity in each State of the country during December, 2005 and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the percentage of profit being earned by these Boards/Institutions?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir. The tariff to be charged by a distribution licensee for retail sale of electricity from different categories of consumers e.g. domestic, commercial, agricultural and industrial are determined by the concerned State Electricity Regulatory Commissions under the provisions of the Electricity Act 2003.

(b) Statement-I showing estimated average rates of electricity (updated upto 1.12.2005) for different categories of consumers in various states is enclosed.

(c) Statement-II showing State-wise details of financial profit of power utilities is enclosed.

Statement I

Estimated Average Rates of Electricity (Updated upto 01.12.2005)

(Rates in Paise/KWh)

Sl.No	Name of Utility	Tariff effective from	Domestic 1KW (100 KWh/ Month)	Domestic 4KW (400 KWh/ Month)	Domestic 10 KW (1000 KWh/ month)	Commercial 2KW (300 KWh/Month)	Commercial 10KW (1500 KWh/ Month)	Commercial 30KW (4500 KWh/ Month)	Commercial 50 HP (7500 KWh/ Month)	Agriculture 2 HP (400 KWh/ Month)	Agriculture 5 HP (1000 KWh/ Month)	Agriculture 10 HP (2000 KWh/ Month)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	01.04.2005	238.50	396.63	492.25	599.33	624.67	628.89	629.73	55.00	52.00	51.00
2.	Assam	01.04.2005	277.45	388.60	438.15	527.53	545.48	548.47	549.06	174.17	215.79	276.12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
3.	Bihar	01.06.2001	208.70 U 63.60 R	237.18	279.84	743.98 U 276.87 R	805.81	805.81	805.81	40.50	40.50	40.50
4.	Chhattisgarh	01.03.1999	157.20	253.03	291.62	462.97	502.52	509.13	510.46	30.00	30.00	30.00
5.	Gujarat	25.06.2004	391.84 U 276.29 R	516.46 U 382.44 R	588.71 U 443.99 R	589.61	626.47	631.83	632.89	57.75	57.75	57.75
6.	Haryana	15.08.2004	333.00	379.25	414.50	429.00	429.00	429.00	429.00	17.50	17.50	17.50
7.	Himachal Pradesh	01.07.2005	230.96	270.27	284.96	455.50	441.50	425.36	424.19	186.00	182.85	181.80
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	01.04.1999	122.00	222.00	222.00	277.00	277.00	277.00	277.00	102.00	102.00	102.00
9.	Jharkhand	01.01.2004	163.00 U 74.00 R	183.00	182.00	438.67	438.67	438.67	438.67	28.75	28.75	28.75
10.	Karnataka											
	(Bangalore Metro Area)	10.10.2005	292.43	418.30	482.32	637.88	651.18	653.39	653.84	45.00	45.00	55.00
	(Other Areas)	281.93	402.55	463.42	630.87	644.18	646.39	646.83	105.00	105.00	115.00	
11.	Kerala*	01.04.2004	187.00	396.89	517.61	727.84	889.90	982.74	989.96	74.80	74.80	74.80
12.	Madhya Pradesh	15.07.2005	337.30	424.64	421.55	538.30	539.59	539.81	539.85	67.50	132.50	132.50
13.	Maharashtra	01.12.2003	329.16	367.95	431.70	476.65	530.13	543.44	546.11	75.00	75.00	75.00
14.	Meghalaya	01.10.2004	180.00	246.25	275.50	409.33	448.67	452.89	454.13	116.00	116.00	116.00
15.	Orissa	01.04.2005	135.00	242.50	280.00	385.00	441.00	450.33	452.20	105.00	105.00	105.00
16.	Punjab	01.10.2004	210.00 U 189.00 R	320.51 U 288.47 R	350.60 U 315.54 R	403.20	403.20	403.20	403.20	31.50	31.50	31.50
17.	Rajasthan	01.01.2005	417.50 U 390.25 R	396.88 U 363.81 R	392.75 U 358.53 R	556.67	554.00	556.78	558.13	78.75	75.80	74.55
18.	Tamil Nadu	16.06.2004	120.00	216.25	288.50	610.75	609.35	609.12	609.07	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Uttar Pradesh	11.10.2004	282.00 U 124.00 R	339.75 112.75	351.30 110.50	482.33 U 152.33 R	452.33 152.33	452.33 152.33	452.33 152.33	224.00 U 45.00 R	224.00 U 45.00 R	224.00 U 45.00 R
20.	Uttaranchal	20.08.2003	225.00 U	225.00	225.00	365.00	365.00	365.00	365.00	75.80 U 63.00 R	75.80 U 63.00 R	75.80 U 63.00 R
21.	West Bengal	01.04.2005	218.30 U 212.17 R	299.34 U 288.01 R	368.70 U 350.64 R	362.86 U 357.47 R	526.22 U 525.09 R	586.39 U 586.01 R	586.41 U 586.20 R	191.10	191.10	191.10
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	01.02.2000	162.50	211.88	231.75	370.00	390.00	393.33	394.00	—	—	—
23.	Goa	01.04.2002	122.00	170.75	216.50	327.00	357.00	373.67	377.00	102.00	102.00	102.00
24.	Manipur	03.09.2002	262.20	299.70	302.20	302.20	302.20	381.80	381.80	272.20	272.20	272.20
25.	Mizoram (Dist. HQ & sub. Divn. Area)	01.08.2002	115.00	145.00	148.00	233.33	233.33	233.33	233.33	69.94	69.94	69.94
	Other Areas			133.75	143.50							
26.	Nagaland	01.06.2001	235.00 U 200.00 R	276.25 U 200.00 R	290.50 U 200.00 R	346.00	373.20	377.73	378.64	150.00	150.00	150.00
27.	Sikkim	15.08.2002	90.00	230.63	281.25	292.59	345.00	355.00	357.00	157.50	213.75	286.88
28.	Tripura	01.07.2003	200.00	270.00	460.00	320.00	400.00	400.00	400.00	75.00	75.00	120.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	01.07.2003	130.00	275.00	326.00	406.67	485.33	475.11	477.07	90.00	90.00	90.00
30.	Chandigarh	01.11.2002	160.75	246.94	282.18	401.00	401.00	401.00	401.00	101.50	101.50	101.50
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	01.09.2002	130.00	172.50	204.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	55.00	55.00	55.00
32.	Daman Diu	01.09.2002	130.00	172.50	204.00	248.33	265.67	268.56	268.13	55.00	55.00	55.00
33.	Delhi BSES/NDPL	15.07.2005	277.20	346.50	434.70	596.75	596.75	622.76	622.76	162.20	162.20	162.20
34.	Delhi NDMC	01.06.2001	158.00	252.25	327.70	462.00	525.00	525.00	525.00	—	—	—
35.	Lakshadweep	01.09.2004	100.00	300.00	300.00	480.00	480.00	480.00	480.00	—	—	—
36.	Pondicherry	16.04.2002	55.00	113.75	150.50	274.74	325.34	333.78	335.47	235.00	20.57	19.83
37.	Ahmedabad Elec. Co.	01.08.2002	389.40	450.45	482.47	613.71	681.88	688.91	691.22	327.54	327.54	327.54
38.	Kolkata (CESC)	01.04.2005	280.67	460.28	530.15	447.55	575.93	593.94	597.54	—	—	—
39.	D.V.C. (A) Bihar Area (B) West Bengal Area	01.09.2000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
40.	Durgapur Projects Ltd.	01.04.2004	229.00	285.50	285.50	283.66	310.05	308.52	308.21	281.50	281.50	281.50
41.	Mumbai (B.E.S.T.)	15.07.1997	99.00	299.50	428.45	606.00	764.20	1009.81	1009.81	—	—	—
	Mumbai (B.S.E.S.)	01.04.2000	189.56	451.31	462.86	622.58	662.66	672.85	674.89	—	—	—
	Mumbai (TATA's)	01.06.2004	181.60	338.05	410.34	522.98	477.78	477.78	477.78	—	—	—

U : Urban R : Rural B : BMR/PMR Areas O : Other Areas

*In Kerala, Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission *vide* their Order dt. 16th April, 2004 has approved continuation of the existing tariffs (effective from 01.10.2002) and other charges by the Kerala State Electricity Board Tariffs notified have varying parameters for tariff in respect of various categories of consumers. The above comparison is for certain assumed load and consumption levels in a month.

The Statement has been prepared on the basis of Electricity Tariff, Electricity Duty/Tax and FCA as reported to F.S.&A Division, CEA upto 01.12.2005

(Rates in Paise/KWh)

Sl.No.	Name of Utility	Tariff effective from	Small Industry 10 KW (1500 KWh/Month	Medium Industry 50 KW (7500 KWh/Month	Large Industry 1000 KW 60% L.F. (438000 KWh/Month	Heavy Industry 10000 KW 60% L.F. 4380000 KWh/Month	Heavy Industry (33 KV) 20000 KW 60% L.F. (8760000 KWh/Month	Railway Traction 12500 KW (25000000 KWh/Month
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	01.04.2005	415.40	414.33	391.75	431.20	425.80	440.03
2.	Assam	01.04.2005	345.73 U 268.35 R	428.10	388.54	388.41	378.00	
3.	Bihar	01.06.2001	703.65	743.79	469.44	469.44	460.06	530.51 at 25KV 524.51 at 132 KV
4.	Chhattisgarh	01.03.1999	305.39	409.39	436.71	436.71	428.15	449.81 at 132 KV
5.	Gujarat	25.06.2004	450.02	465.81	518.63	557.35	556.91	549.12 at 132 KV
6.	Haryana	15.08.2004	438.00	438.00	419.00	419.00	407.00	444.29 at 11 KV

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7.	Himachal Pradesh	01.07.2005	401.25	440.57	345.64	326.21	321.30	
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	01.04.1999	157.00	157.00	157.00	157.00		
9.	Jharkhand	01.01.2004	405.62	405.62	412.95	412.95	392.95	516.50 at 25 KV 477.69 at 132 KV
10.	Karnataka (Bangalore Metro Area) (Other Areas)	10.10.2005	418.40 413.71	521.47 512.08	490.28 487.46	501.07 498.25	500.62 497.79	485.88 485.88
11.	Kerala*	01.04.2004	390.50	390.50	385.02	385.02		360.29 at 110KV
12.	Madhya Pradesh	15.07.2005	396.13	483.61	474.48	469.00	441.49	473.33 at 132/220KV
13.	Maharashtra	01.12.2003	254.90	254.90	399.55 B 388.57 O	399.55 B 388.56 O		385.00
14.	Meghalaya	01.10.2004	383.33	408.67	253.92	253.53		
15.	Orissa	01.04.2005	320.00	336.80	353.74	353.69	353.69	413.48 at 25/33KV
16.	Punjab	01.10.2004	321.30	353.85	353.85	353.85	343.23	402.00 at 132KV
17.	Rajasthan	01.01.2005	421.28	459.68	463.83	463.83	460.65	451.00
18.	Tamil Nadu	16.06.2004	458.85	486.57	452.11	462.61	452.11	526.47
19.	Uttar Pradesh	11.10.2004	452.33 U 408.00 R	452.33 U 408.00 R	438.36 U 395.42 R	438.36 U 395.42 R	419.38 U 378.34 R	472.22 Below 132KV 452.78 132 KV and above
20.	Uttaranchal	20.09.2003	305.21	305.21	282.10	282.10	282.10	
21.	West Bengal	01.04.2005	342.13 U 327.07 R	468.49 U 447.91 R	471.48	442.18	442.18	453.62 at 25KV 424.22 at 132KV
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	01.02.2000	345.00	353.33	393.86	394.89	342.29	—
23.	Goa	01.04.2002	257.00	297.00	342.29	342.29	342.29	—
24.	Manipur	03.09.2002	287.20	381.80	336.09	336.09	336.09	—
25.	Mizoram (Dist. HQ & sub. Diva. Area) Other Areas)	01.08.2002	208.33	208.33	71.35	71.35	71.35	—
26.	Nagaland	01.06.2001	243.44	257.00	274.69	274.97	—	—
27.	Sikkim	15.08.2002	360.00 U 262.50 R	250.59	261.26	261.26	—	—
28.	Tripura	01.07.2003	240.00	270.00	—	—	—	—
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	01.07.2003	316.67	327.33	—	—	—	—
30.	Chandigarh	01.11.2002	301.00	336.00	381.09	381.00	369.90	—
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	01.08.2002	230.00	243.40	269.97	271.00	—	—
32.	Daman & Diu	01.08.2002	230.00	262.34	259.97	261.00	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
33.	Delhi BSES/NDPL	15.07.2005	560.00	560.00	560.30	560.30	574.32	517.26 at 11 KV
34.	Delhi NDMC	01.06.2001	431.00	431.00	—	—	—	576.00 —
35.	Lakshadweep	01.09.2004	330.00	330.00	—	—	—	—
36.	Pondicherry	16.04.2002	247.52	257.50	320.15	332.72	—	—
37.	Ahmedabad Elec. Co.	01.08.2002	396.72	446.40	429.83	429.83	—	—
38.	Kolkata (CESC)	01.04.2005	390.08	480.32	460.66	460.66	444.15	388.08
39.	D.V.C. (A) Bihar Area	01.09.2000	—	—	340.78	340.78	326.94	427.95 at 33KV
	(B) West Bengal Area		—	—	365.44	365.44	350.44	409.06 at 132KV
40.	Durgapur Projects Ltd.	01.04.2004	306.61	330.55	340.78	340.78	—	—
41.	Mumbai (B.E.S.T.)	15.07.1997	658.38	827.41	528.29	528.29	—	—
	Mumbai (B.S.E.S.)	01.04.2000	585.65	567.35	366.42	342.64	—	—
	Mumbai (TATA's)	01.06.2004	449.36	449.36	424.57	424.57	424.57	457.40 33/22/11/ 6.6KV

U : Urban R : Rural B : BMR/PMR Areas B : Other Areas

*In Kerala, Kerala State Electricity Regulatory Commission vide their Order dt. 16th April, 2004 has approved continuation of the existing tariffs (effective from 01.10.2002) and other charges by the Kerala State Electricity Board Tariffs notified have varying parameters for tariff in respect of various categories of consumers. The above comparison is for certain assumed load and consumption levels in a month.

The Statement has been prepared on the basis of Electricity Tariff, Electricity Duty/Tax and FCA as reported to F.S.&A Division, CEA upto 01.12.2005

Statement II

Commercial Profit/Losses (Without subsidy) as % of Turnover during 2003-04

(Rs. in Cr.)

	Profit/Losses	Turnover	Profit/Losses as % of Turnover
	1	2	3
Bihar	-980	1266	-77.41%
Jharkhand	-522	1233	-42.34%
Orissa	215	5323	4.04%
Sikkim	-15	64	-23.44%
West Bengal	-296	6631	-4.46%
Arunachal Pradesh	-82	33	-248.48%
Assam	-655	888	-73.76%
Manipur	-125	32	-390.63%

	1	2	3
Meghalaya	64	197	32.49%
Mizoram	-49	26	-188.46%
Nagaland	-42	37	-113.51%
Tripura	-6	122	-4.92%
Delhi	-1774	8843	-20.06%
Himachal Pradesh	-46	1052	-4.37%
Haryana	-769	8829	-8.71%
Jammu & Kashmir	-1229	421	-291.92%
Punjab	-663	6283	-10.55%
Rajasthan	-1777	13519	-13.14%
Uttar Pradesh	-2848	10234	-27.83%
Uttaranchal	-35	1153	-3.04%
Andhra Pradesh	-1400	22498	-6.22%
Karnataka	-1235	15445	-8.00%
Kerala	-915	3061	-29.89%
Pondicherry	38	497	7.65%
Tamil Nadu	-1417	11431	-12.40%
Chhattisgarh	587	2784	21.08%
Goa	153	592	25.84%
Gujarat	-3021	9379	-32.21%
Madhya Pradesh	-1230	5474	-22.47%
Maharashtra	-549	14454	-3.80%

1. (-)ve denotes losses

2. Source: Report on the Performance of the State Power Utilities for the years 2001-02 to 2003-04 by Power Finance Corporation.

Survey of Hydel-Power Projects

(b) if so, the details thereof;

509. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(c) whether several projects are facing difficulties from various quarters viz., approval from forest department, land acquisition, geographical disadvantage etc.;

(a) whether the Union Government had carried out the survey of such projects if 2004-05 pertaining to Hydel Power which have been completed or likely to be completed in more than five years;

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

(e) the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to tide over such problems?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) Construction of hydro projects, which are generally located in far flung remote areas and hilly terrain, is a complex task and involves obtaining clearances from several agencies. Several hydroelectric projects are facing difficulties on various accounts such as forest and environment clearances, land acquisition issues, encroachments upon forest land, law and order problems, geological surprises encountered during construction and inaccessibility of sites etc.

An illustrative list of some of the projects facing difficulties on account of various factors is enclosed as Statement.

(e) In order to accelerate hydro power development, the Hydro Policy was announced by the Government of India in August, 1998 incorporating several steps and measures to mitigate the problems encountered in development of hydro power projects. In pursuance of this Policy, Government has laid emphasis on basin-wise development, evolving consensus on inter-State issues, mitigation of geological risks, simplified procedure for transfer of clearances, promoting joint venture arrangements etc. The Government has also approved a 3-Stage clearance procedure for Hydel projects to be executed by Central Public Sector Undertakings.

Government had launched an ambitious programme in May, 2003 namely, 50,000 MW Hydroelectric Initiative, under which Pre-Feasibility Reports of 162 hydel schemes aggregating to about 48,000 MW were prepared. Of these 162 schemes, 77 attractive low tariff hydel schemes aggregating to about 34,000 MW have been selected for preparation of bankable Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). Availability of good quality DPRs would help in expeditious development of remaining hydro electric potential of the country.

Periodical meetings are being held with the State Governments and with the concerned Central Government Ministries and agencies to sort out the problems relating to forest & environment issues, rehabilitation & resettlement and land acquisition issues, law and order problems etc.

The Ministry of Environment & Forests is re-engineering the environmental clearance process to bring

about greater transparency and improvement in the quality of appraisal. Regular coordination meetings are held between Secretaries of Ministry of Power and Ministry of Environment and Forests to sort out various issues relating to clearance of hydel projects from environment, forest and wild life angles.

A National Policy on Resettlement & Rehabilitation (NPRR-2003) for project affected families (PAFs) has been notified by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), which lays down the basic framework for benefits and facilities to be provided to PAFs. The Department of Land Resources, MoRD is also in the process of amending the Land Acquisition Act to mitigate the difficulties being faced in land acquisition for these projects. State Governments have been advised to update and computerize their land records to avoid any delay in determining the title of the land ownership.

Statement

Illustrative List of Hydro Electric Projects Facing Difficulties on Account of Various Factors

Sl.No.	Name of the scheme	Installed capacity (MW)
1	2	3
Environment, Forest Wild Life and Net Present Value of Forest Land		
1.	Puyankutty	240
2.	Tapovan Vishnugad	520
3.	Loharinag Pala	600
4.	Matnar	60
5.	Tipaimukh	1500
6.	Siyom (Siang Middle)	1000
7.	Subansiri Lower	2000
8.	Chamera-III	231
9.	Parbati-II	800
10.	Subansiri Middle	2000
11.	Subansiri Upper	1600
12.	Pakal Dul	1000
13.	Bursur	1020

1	2	3
Land Acquisition and Rehabilitation & Resettlement issues		
14.	Tehri HEP	1000
15.	Sardar Sarovar HEP	1450
16.	Tural HEP	60
17.	Koteshwar HEP	400
18.	*Keol Karo HEP	710
Law & Order Problems		
19.	Tural HEP	60
20.	Dulhasti HEP	390
21.	Loktak D/S	90
Geological Surprises		
22.	Teesta-V	510
23.	Tehri HEP	1000
24.	Baglihar HEP	450
25.	Dulhasti	390

*Scheme closed due to high cost and high tariff.

[English]

Establishment on National Load Dispatch Centre

510. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (PGCIL) has decided to establish a National Load Dispatch Centre and interconnect the power network of all States and regions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated cost of the said work; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to establish a National Load Dispatch Centre (NLDC) at New Delhi with back up at Kolkata. Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) is implementing the scheme. The NLDC will interface with all the Regional Load Dispatch Centres to acquire the real time data to continuously monitor integrated operation of National Grid. Integration of regional transmission systems in the country is being done by development of a National Power Grid. The present inter-regional transmission capacity is around 9,500 MW, which is likely to increase to over 30,000 MW by 2012.

(c) and (d) The scheme for establishment of NLDC is scheduled to be completed by May, 2008 at an approved estimated cost of Rs. 44.96 crore.

Declaration of National Highways

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

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted to the Union Government a revised list of roads for their upgradation as National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the roads which are likely to be declared as National Highways in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Government of Andhra Pradesh, in July, 2004, had submitted a proposal for declaration of 17 State roads as National Highways. The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The Ministry, in February 2004, had declared 7457 Km. of State roads including 470 km. in Andhra Pradesh as National Highways. The total length of National Highways in the country is about 65,569 km. At present, emphasis is being given for development of roads already declared as National Highways to the National Highway standards instead of declaring more roads as National Highways.

Statement*Details of proposals for declaration of new National Highways received from State Government of Andhra Pradesh*

Details of Roads/Stretches		Length in Kms
1.	Nellore-Atmakur-Badvel-Mydukure-Gooty	314
2.	Hyderabad-Ramagundam-Mancheria-Chanda	330
3.	Hyderabad-Srisailem-Dornala-Nandyal	300
4.	Gundugolu-Nallagera-devarapalli-Vernagiri road	83
5.	Krishnapatnam port-Nellore-Chellakara near Chitradurg	470
6.	Hyderabad-Medak-Bodhan-Basar-Luxettipet	395
7.	Kakinada-Dwarapudi-Rajamundry-Kovvur-Suryapeta	300
8.	Rajamundry-Maredumilli-Chinturu-Bhoopalapatnam	400
9.	Kurnool-Atmakur-Dornala-Thokapalli-Pericherla-Guntur	300
10.	Kodad-Miryalaguda-Devarakonda-Tandur-Chincholi	240
11.	Bellary-Adoni-Raichur-Mehboobnagar-Jadcherla	200
12.	Kalingapatnam-Srikakulam-Raygadh to NH 201	120
13.	Sironcha Mahadevapur-Tungaturthi-Erpedu-Renigunta	650
14.	Anakapalli-Anadapuram	50
15.	Kuppam-Gundipalli-Kolar to NH 219	70
16.	Kodad-Khammam-Thorrur-Warangal-Jagityal	290
17.	Ananthapur-Uravakonda-Bellary	78
Total		4590

Reimbursement of Project Cost

512. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Maharashtra has completed the work of Mumbai-Pune Expressway, costing about Rs. 1630 crores which forms part of the Golden Quadrilateral Project of the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has requested the National Highways Authority of India for due reimbursement of 40% of the project cost;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Government of Maharashtra has requested the Ministry of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways for reimbursement of 40% of project cost of Mumbai-Pune Expressway.

(d) As per the policy of the Union Government, the cost of such projects developed by State Government on State roads are not reimbursed. The Ministry has, however, signed a Concession Agreement with Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) permitting them to levy toll on existing National Highway-4, running generally parallel to Expressway, after completion of some improvement works including widening. The concession period of toll collection upto 30th April, 2030 has been fixed after taking into consideration the capitalised cost of Rs. 704.45 crore of common portion of Expressway and NH-4 which is more than 40% of cost of the entire Expressway.

Amount Allocated for AIIMS Type Institutions

513. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1098 dated November 30, 2005 and state:

(a) whether the approval of the Cabinet has since been obtained;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the approval is likely to be obtained;

(c) whether any funds had been allocated for the six proposed AIIMS type institutions during 2005-2006; and

(d) if so, the amount allocated to each of the six proposed institutions during the same period, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) After examination of the recommendations of the Committee of Secretaries (COS), a draft Cabinet Note on PMSSY Scheme, was prepared and circulated to appraising agencies viz. Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance for eliciting their comments. The Comments of appraising agencies have been received recently and the PMSSY Scheme, alongwith the observations of this Ministry on the comments of appraising agencies, is being placed before CCEA shortly for approval.

(c) and (d) Though budget provision of Rs. 250 crores was made for the year 2005-06, it was reduced to Rs. 6 crores at Revised Estimate Stage as the approval of the CCEA could not yet be obtained.

Welfare of Children in Tenth Plan

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

(a) whether the key objectives with regard to welfare of children during the Tenth Plan have failed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Planning Commission and the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in collaboration with the Institute of Human Development had held consultation in regard to key issues of Children for the Eleventh Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the schemes likely to be carried forward for the Eleventh Plan in regard to children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) It may not be entirely appropriate to say that key objectives in regard to welfare of children during the 10th Plan have failed tremendously. The recently completed Mid Term Appraisal (MTA) of the Tenth Plan shows that there has been good progress in achieving some monitorable goals for children. There is reduction in the number of out of school children from 42 million at the beginning of plan period to 8.1 million in September 2004 as a result of enrolment drive launched during the second year of Tenth Plan. Similarly, gender gap in literacy, which started narrowing in the 90s i.e. by coming down to 21.59% in 2001 from 24.85% in 1991, is expected to narrow down further by the end of the Tenth Plan. The total literacy rate has also improved Tenth Plan target of literacy rate of 75% by 2007. The Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has also been on the decline i.e. from 72 per 1000 births in 1998 to 60 in 2003 and is expected to decline further.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The Consultation held on January 18-19, 2006 was basically to get inputs for the working Group on Children for the 11th Five Year Plan.

(e) The 11th Five Year Plan and the schemes likely to be taken forward for children have not been finalized so far.

*[Translation]***Haj Pilgrimage**

515. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the number of applications received during the last three years including the recently concluded pilgrimage and the number of people who got the visa for the same, during the said period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): The number of applications received and the number of pilgrims who proceeded for Haj after obtaining visa through the Haj Committee of India during the last three years is as follows:

Year	No. of applications received by Haj Committee of India	No. of pilgrims who proceeded for Haj after obtaining visa
Haj 2004	75100	71707
Haj 2005	82715	80772
Haj 2006	106180	99660

Power Problems Due to Snowfall

516. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the power problem has intensified in some parts of the country due to snowfall;

	Energy				Peak			
	Requirement (MU)	Availability (MU)	Shortage (MU)	Shortage (%)	Demand (MW)	Met (MW)	Shortage (MW)	Shortage (%)
Jammu & Kashmir	6466	5719	747	11.6	1450	1225	225	15.5
Himachal Pradesh	3142	3133	9	0.3	749	749	0	0

(d) and (e) No new capacity addition was planned in the State Sector in J&K during 2005-06. In Himachal Pradesh during the year 2005-06, Larji HEP (3x42 MW) was programmed for commissioning during July-September, 2005. The project got delayed due to slow progress of Civil Works mainly in surge shaft and desilting

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total difference in the demand and supply assessed till the end of 2005 in such states;

(d) whether power generation capacity has been enhanced in such states during the year;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the power plants in such states have been affected by snowfall; and

(g) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) During the current financial year, power supply position was mainly affected in J&K and Himachal Pradesh due to snowfall in the month of January, 2006. Heavy snowfall and thunderstorms led to tripping of Kisenpur-Pampore D/C line on 2nd January, 2006 curtailing supply of around 250-300 MW to the valley. However, the lines were restored on 6th January, 2006 normalising the power supply. Apart from this there were breakdowns in the distribution network which affected power supply to the State.

Baspa HPS (3x100 MW), an IPP located in Himachal Pradesh, was affected by landslide due to movement of Glacier, causing damage on 19th January, 2006 leading to reduction in generation by 150-200 MW to Himachal Pradesh.

(c) During the period April-December, 2005, the actual power supply position in J&K and Himachal Pradesh (H.P.) was as under:

chambers and erection of main valves and gas insulated switchgear.

(f) As already answered in reply to part (a) and (b) Baspa HPS in Himachal Pradesh was affected due to movement of Glacier.

(g) Machines at Baspa are expected to come on bar by March, 2006.

[English]

Agreement with Sudan for Setting up of Power Plant

517. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA": Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has signed any agreement with the Government of Sudan for setting up of a power plant in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued to India as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Conversion of Golden Quadrilateral Into Six Lane

518. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to convert Golden Quadrilateral into a six lane road;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken so far by the Government in this regard;

(d) the present status of the Golden Quadrilateral; and

(e) the expenditure incurred thereon so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The project is at preliminary stage of preparation.

(d) 89% of the Golden Quadrilateral has been completed as on 31 January, 2006.

(e) An expenditure of Rs. 24,052.62 crores has been incurred on the Golden Quadrilateral upto 31 January, 2006.

Reconstruction of Roads and Bridges in Mumbai

519. SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether following unprecedented floods in Mumbai in 2005, Maharashtra has sought any special technical and other aid for speedy upgradation and reconstruction of roads and bridges in Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No such aid has been sought from this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

Construction/Development of Highways

520. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has undertaken the construction and development of six highways namely (1) Delhi-Chandigarh (2) Delhi-Jaipur (3) Delhi-Meerut (4) Bangalore-Chennai (5) Delhi-Agra (6) Kolkata-Dhanbad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the estimated cost thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The details of construction and development undertaken by NHAI on the above mentioned six highways are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl.No.	Stretch	Development/Construction undertaken by NHAI.
1.	Delhi-Chandigarh	Delhi-Ambala Section of NH-1 is already 4 laned. Delhi-Panipat Section (km 8.2 to km 44.3) is being 6/8 laned at an estimated cost of Rs. 254.73 crore. Action initiated for award of work for 6 laning of km 66 to km 86. Work has been awarded on BOT basis for 6-lane elevated highway from km 86 to km 96, the estimated project cost is Rs. 325 crore. Ambala-Chandigarh section of NH-22 has been awarded on BOT basis under NHDP Phase-IIIA. The work is scheduled for completion by November, 2008. The estimated project cost is Rs. 298 crore.
2.	Delhi-Jaipur	Stretch is already 4-laned. The 6/8 laning of Delhi-Gurgaon section has been undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs. 555 crore on BOT basis.
3.	Delhi-Meerut	The stretch is already 4 laned. Action initiated for award of DPR bids for 6 laning of this stretch.
4.	Bangalore-Chennai	The section has been 4 laned as part of Golden Quadrilateral Project except for Kancheepuram-Poonamallee Section of NH-4 (km 70.2 to km 13.8, with estimated cost of Rs. 164.37 crore and progress 88.5%).
5.	Delhi-Agra	The section has been 4-laned. Construction of a 6-lane elevated highway at Badarpur (km 16.7 to km 19.7 and approaches) on NH-2 at an estimated cost of Rs. 270 crore with target date of completion of work by December 2009, is planned. Prequalification of bidders has been done. Tenders are likely to be invited by June, 2006 after consultation with Government of Delhi/Haryana.
6.	Kolkata-Dhanbad	The stretch has been 4-laned as part of the Golden Quadrilateral Project except for Vivekananda Bridge and approaches which has been taken up on BOT basis with estimated cost of Rs. 641 crore.

Works on North-South and East-West Corridors	Total Length	— 7300 kms (Original approved length)
521. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:		7190 km (length at present, less than approved length due to realignment during project preparation)
(a) the progress of works on North-South and East-West Corridors;		
(b) the total number of contracts awarded so far; and		
(c) the date of award, length of the stretch, costs of the civil works and the expected date of completion of each of the projects?	Completed	— 798 km
	Under implementation/Letter of Acceptance (LOA) issued	— 4527 km
	Balance for Award	— 1865 km
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Status of North-South & East-West Corridors as on 31.01.006 is as under:		(b) and (c) The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement**Details of Awarded Works on North South-East West Corridor**

Status as on 31st January 2006.

Sl.No.	Stretch	NH No.	Length (km.)	Awarded cost (Rs. crore)	Start Date	Expected date of completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Purnea-Gayakota (EW-12/BR)	31	28	176.1	Sep-2001	Dec-2006
2.	Lucknow Bypass (EW-15/UP)	25, 28 & 56	22.85	158.8	Sep-2001	June-2006
3.	Kunjwani to Vijaypur (NS-15/J&K)	1A	17.2	83.88	Jan-2002	June-2006 (Except ROB)
4.	Lucknow-Kanpur (EW/3A)	25	16	45	Dec-2003	Dec-2006
5.	Gundla Pochampalli to Bowenpalli Shivarampalli to Thondapalli (NS-23/AP)	7	23.1	60.35	Dec-2005	Dec-2006
6.	Thumpipadi to Salem (NS-26/TN)	7	19.2	70.61	Sep-2001	Jun-2006
7.	Nandi Hills Cross to Devanahalli & Six laning of Meenukunte to Habbal (NS-24/KN)	7	25	147.8	Sep-2001	Jun-2006
8.	Purnea-Gayakota (EW/4)	31	15.15	53.68	Dec-1999	Apr-2006
9.	Eight Laning of Mukarba Chowk to Mall Road (Delhi) (NS3/DL)	1	8.00	49.25	Nov-2001	Jun-2006
10.	Lucknow-Kanpur section (EW-8/UP)	25	22.2	81.24	Sep-2001	Feb-2006
11.	Morena-Rainu (Start of Gwalior bypass) (NS-21/MP)	3	18	59.42	Already 4-laned	
12.	Dalkola Islampur Sub section 2 (EW/6)	31	23.85	76.76	Already 4-laned	
13.	Lucknow-Kanpur section (EW-9/UP)	25	15.5	42.82	Already 4-laned	
14.	Raj/UP border to Mania (NS-19/UP/RJ)	3	17	64.99	Already 4-laned	
15.	Bhogpur to Jalandhar (NS-16/PB)	1A	21.77	60.93	Already 4-laned	
16.	Sarai Cholla to Morena (NS-20/MP)	3	15	41.96	Already 4-laned	
17.	Guwahati Bypass (EW-14/AS)	37	10.5	54.52	Already 4-laned	
18.	Jalandhar Bypass (NS/1)	1	14.4	54.09	Already 4-laned	
19.	Angamali to Aluva (NS-28/KL)	47	16.6	66.46	Already 4-laned	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20.	Bangalore-Salem-Madurai (NS-27/TN)	7	8.4	18.38	Already 4-laned	
21.	Dalkola-Islampur (EW/5)	31	23	61.84	Already 4-laned	
22.	Guwahati Bypass (EW/7)	37	8	46.78	Already 4-laned	
23.	Palanpur-Dessa (EW-11/GJ)	14	22.7	46	Already 4-laned	
24.	MP/RAJ Border to Sarai Cholla (NS/6)	3	9	24.1	Already 4-laned	
25.	Thondapalli to Farukhanagar (NS/9)	7	12.5	23.55	Already 4-laned	
26.	Salem Bypass (NS/12)	7	8.4	18.85	Already 4-laned	
27.	Ribda to Gondal section (EW-10/GJ)	8B	17	34.61	Already 4-laned	
28.	4 laning of Karur Bypass including additional bridge across river Amarawati	7	9.36	34.96	Already 4-laned	
29.	Construction of Karur ROB	7	0.84	9.66	Already 4-laned	
30.	Lucknow Kanpur Section (EW/2)	25	10.42	28.71	Already 4-laned	
31.	Thopurghar section (NS/14)	7	7.4	17	Already 4-laned	
32.	Kalkaliu village to Gundla Pochampali (NS-8)	7	17	34.8	Already 4-laned	
33.	Chinchbguan-Butibori-Borkhedi (NS-7)	7	25.6	59.89	Already 4-laned	
34.	Agra-Raj/UP Border (NS-4)	3	16	36.11	Already 4-laned	
35.	Six laning of Kamaspur to Haryana/Delhi Border (NS/2)	1	15	36.5	Already 4-laned	
36.	Avathi village to Nandi Hills cross & Six laning of Davanhalli-Meenukunte (NS-10)	7	7	18.38	Already 4-laned	
37.	Abu Road Deesa Section near Palanpur (EW/1)	14	10	15.68	Already 4-laned	
38.	Mania-Dholpur (NS/5)	3	10	17.99	Already 4-laned	
39.	Nagpur-Chinchbhuvan	7	9.2		already 4-laned	
40.	Bowenpalli (Hyderabad city) to Shivarampalli	7	9.2		Already 4-laned	
41.	Ambala-Panipat	1	116		Already 4-laned	
42.	Thrissur-Kochi Section	47	17		Already 4-laned	
43.	Six laning of Panchi Gujran to Kamaspur (Sonepat) (NS-17/HR)	1	21.7	75.28	Nov-2005	Jun-2007
44.	Rajkot-Ribda	8B	15		Already 4-laned	
45.	Eight laning of Haryana/Delhi Border to Mukaraba Chowk (NS-18/DL)	1	12.9	93.69	Nov-2005	Jun-2007

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
46.	Barnaborn-Rajkot	8B	31		Already 4-laned	
47.	Jalandhar-Ambala	1	160.7		Already 4-laned	
48.	Salem to Kerala Border Section (TN-6)	47	53.53	129	Jul-2006	Dec-2008
49.	Salem to Kerala Border Section (TN-7)	47	48.51	17.5	Jul-2006	Dec-2008
50.	Salem to Karur (NS-2/TN-3)	7	33.48	24	Jul-2006	Dec-2008
51.	Krishnagiri to Thopurghat (NS-2/TN-1)	7	62.5	-140.04	Jul-2006	Dec-2008
52.	Karur to Madurai (TN-5)	7	53.03	31	Jul-2006	Dec-2008
53.	Dewapur to UP-Bihar Border (LMNHP-9)	28	41.09	357.14	Oct-2005	Oct-2008
54.	Kotwa to Dewapur (LMNHP-10)	28	38	263.97	Oct-2005	Oct-2008
55.	Gorakhpur-Ayodhya (LMNHP-6)	28	43.7	262.6	Nov-2005	Nov-2008
56.	Gorakhpur-Ayodhya (LMNHP-5)	28	44	266.06	Nov-2005	Nov-2008
57.	Ayodhya-Lucknow (LMNHP-3)	28	41.93	249.95	Nov-2005	Nov-2008
58.	Gorakhpur-Ayodhya (LMNHP-4)	28	29	255.21	Nov-2005	Nov-2008
59.	Ganga Bridge to Rama Devi Crossing (UP-6)	25	5.6	159.06	Dec-2005	Aug-2008
60.	Ayodhya-Lucknow (LMNHP-1)	28	36	198.06	Oct-2005	Oct-2008
61.	Ayodhya-Lucknow (LMNHP-2)	28	47	212.33	Oct-2005	Oct-2008
62.	Mehsi to Kotwa (LMNHP-11)	28	40	318.77	Nov-2005	Nov-2008
63.	Muzzaffarpur to Mehsi (LMNHP-12)	28	40	311.13	Nov-2005	Nov-2008
64.	Swaroopganj to Bakaria (RJ-1)	76, 14	43	173.34	Dec-2005	Jun-2008
65.	Gogunda to Udaipur (RJ-3)	76	31	208.08	Dec-2005	Jun-2008
66.	Jammu to Kunjwani (Jammu Bypass) NS-33/J&K	1A	15	74.87	Nov-2005	May-2008
67.	Jhansi Bypass (UP-3)	25	15	115.24	Nov-2005	May-2008
68.	Bakaria to Gogunda (RJ-2)	76	44	411.6	Nov-2005	May-2008
69.	Pathankot to Bhogpur (NS-37/PB)	1A	44	286.7	Nov-2005	May-2008
70.	Pathankot to Jammu & Kashmir Border (NS-36/J&K)	1A	19.65	90.11	Nov-2005	May-2008
71.	Jhansi-Shivpuri (UP-MP-1) (UP-11 km & MP-30 km)	25	41	150.03	Nov-2005	May-2008
72.	Kota to Chittorgarh (RJ-8)	76	65	397.44	Oct-2005	Apr-2008

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
73.	Kota to Chittorgarh (RJ-7)	76	63	375.98	Oct-2005	Apr-2008
74.	RJ/MP Border to Kota (RJ-9)	76	43.15	286.65	Oct-2005	Apr-2008
75.	RJ/MP Border to Kota (RJ-10)	76	59.85	347.36	Oct-2005	Apr-2008
76.	Nagpur to Hyderabad Section (NS-59/MH)	7	30	117	Oct-2005	Apr-2008
77.	Chittorgarh Bypass (RJ-6)	76, 79	40	314.41	Oct-2005	Apr-2008
78.	Nagpur to Hyderabad Section (NS-61/MH)	7	30	115.23	Oct-2005	Apr-2008
79.	Nagpur to Hyderabad Section (NS-60/MH)	7	29	105.27	Oct-2005	Apr-2008
80.	Orai to Jhansi (UP-4)	25	66	414.88	Oct-2005	Apr-2008
81.	Vijaypur to Pathankot (NS-34/J&K)	1A	33.65	158.08	Sep-2005	Mar-2008
82.	Rajkot bypass & Gondal Jetpur (Package-VII)	8B	36	-59.17	Sep-2005	Mar-2008
83.	Orai to Jhansi (UP-5)	25	50	302.97	Sep-2005	Mar-2008
84.	RJ/MP Border to Kota (RJ-11)	76	70	278.09	Sep-2005	Mar-2008
85.	Vijaypur to Pathankot (NS-35/J&K)	1A	30	151.36	Sep-2005	Mar-2008
86.	Madurai to km 120 of Madurai-Tirunveli Section including Madurai Bypass (NS-39)	7	42	282.58	Sep-2005	Mar-2008
87.	Madurai-Kanniakumari Section (NS-40/TN)	7	38.86	219.05	Sep-2005	Mar-2008
88.	Madurai-Kanniakumari Section (NS-41/TN)	7	39.51	173.5	Sep-2005	Mar-2008
89.	Madurai-Kanniakumari Section (NS-42/TN)	7	42.7	232.46	Sep-2005	Mar-2008
90.	km 120 of Madurai-Tirunveli Section to Panagudi (km 203) (NS-43)	7	43	224.35	Oct-2005	Mar-2008
91.	Jhansi-Shivpuri (EW-II-MP-2)	25	35	157.36	Aug-2005	Feb-2008
92.	Shivpuri Bypass & upto MP/RJ Border (EW-II-MP-I)	25, 76	53	294.98	Aug-2005	Feb-2008
93.	Purnea-Forbesganj (BR-1)	57	41	281.87	Nov-2005	May-2008
94.	Purnea-Forbesganj (BR-2)	57	38	318.05	Nov-2005	May-2008
95.	Borkhedi-Jam (NS-22/MH)	7	27.4	89.39	Jun-2005	Dec-2007
96.	Radhanpur to Gagodhar (Package-V)	15	106.2	288.54	Feb-2005	Nov-2007
97.	Bhiladi to Porbandar (Package-I)	8B	50.5	193.23	Feb-2005	Nov-2007
98.	Deesa to Radhanpur (Package-VI)	14	85.4	326.04	Feb-2005	Nov-2007
99.	Jetpur to Bhiladi (Package-II)	8B	64.5	299.83	Feb-2005	Nov-2007

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
100.	Gagodhar to Garamore (Package-IV)	15, 8A	90.3	339.02	Feb-2005	Nov-2007
101.	Garamore to Bamanbore (Package-III)	8A	71.4	289.92	Feb-2005	Nov-2007
102.	Thopply Ghat to Thumpipadi (NS-25/TN)	7	16.6	49.7	May-2005	Nov-2007
103.	Silchar-Udarband (AS-1)	54	34	115.86	Sep-2004	Sep-2007
104.	Butibori ROB (NS-29/MH)	7	1.8	24.268	Jun-2005	Dec-2006
105.	Kanniyakumari-Panagudi (NS-32)	7	30.6	110.26	Mar-2004	Sep-2008
106.	Srinagar Bypass (Road Portion) (NS/30)	1A	17.8	60.66	Dec-2003	Dec-2006
107.	Sagar Rajmarg Choraha (ADB-II/C-7)	26	42	189.64	May 2006	Oct-2008
108.	Guwahati to Nalbari (AS-4)	31	28	173.62	Nov-2005	May-2008
109.	Siliguri to Islampur (WB-7)	31	26	211.07	Jan 2006	Jul-2008
110.	Siliguri to Islampur (WB-6)	31	25	158.97	Letter of Acceptance (LOA) issued	
111.	Bijni to Assam/WB Border (AS-12)	31C	30	218.37	Nov-2005	May-2008
112.	Bijni to Assam/WB Border (AS-11)	31C	30	199.41	Nov-2005	May-2008
113.	Bijni to Assam/WB Border (AS-10)	31C	33	248.69	Nov-2005	May-2008
114.	Nalbari to Bijni (AS-9)	31	21.5	131.22	Nov-2005	May-2008
115.	Nalbari to Bijni (AS-8)	31	30	187.07	Nov-2005	May-2008
116.	Forbesganj-Simrahi (BR-3)	57	40	356.51	Feb-2006	Aug-2008
117.	Darbanga to Muzzaffarpur (BR-8)	57	40	323	Jan-2006	Jul-2008
118.	Nalbari to Bijni (AS-6)	31	25	182.48	Oct-2005	Apr-2008
119.	Farukhanagar to Kotakatta (NS-2/AP-4)	7	55.74	45	LOA issued	
120.	Farukhanagar to Kottakata (NS-2/AP-3)	7	46.16	-70.37	LOA issued	
121.	Rajmarg Choraha to Lakhandon (ADB-II/C-9)	26	54.7	203.5	May 2006	Oct-2008
122.	Simrahi to Ring bund (missing link) (BR-4)	57	15	115.56	LOA issued	
123.	Ring bunds to Jhanyharpur (BR-6)	57	45	383.47	Jan 2006	Jul-2008
124.	Nagpur to Hyderabad section/MH/AP border (NS-62)	7	22	92.59	LOA issued	
125.	Guwahati to Nalbari (AS-5)	31	28	192.87	Nov-2005	May-2008
126.	Jhanyharpur to Darbanga (BR-7)	57	40	388.23	Feb-2006	Aug-2008
127.	Nagaon bypass (AS-18)	37	23	238.72	Dec.-2005	June-2008

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
128.	Darbangha to Muzzaffarpur (BR-9)	57	30	323.00	Jan-2006	Jul-2008
129.	Nalbari to Bijni (AS-7)	31	27.3	207.17	Nov-2005	May-2008
130.	Armur to Atflor Yellareddy (NS-2/AP-1)	7	60.26	112.6	LOA issued	
131.	Lalitpur-Sagar (ADB-II/C-4)	26	55	171.46	May 2006	Oct-2008
132.	Sagar Bypass (ADB-II/C-5)	26	26	116.07	May 2006	Oct-2008
133.	Karur to Madurai (TN-4)	7	68.13	86	LOA issued	
134.	Salem to Karur (NS-2/TN-2)	7	41.55	-46.004	Aug 2006	Jan-2009
135.	Pathankot to Bhogpur (NS-38/PB)	1A	40	201	Nov-2005	May-2008
136.	Palanpur to Swaroopganj (Rajasthan-42 Km & Gujarat-34 km)	14	76	43.21	LOA issued	
137.	Rajmarg Choraha to Lakhnadon (ADB-II/C-8)	26	54	219.01	May 2006	May-2008
138.	Sagar-Rajmarg Choraha (ADB-II/C-6)	26	44	163.87	May 2006	Oct-2008
139.	Kota Bypass (RJ-4)	76	25	205.51	March 2006	Sep-2008
140.	Lalitpur Sagar (ADB-II/C-3)	26	38	140.39	May-2006	Oct-2008
141.	Trishur to Angamali (KL-I)	47	40	-84.4	LOA issued	
142.	Dharamtul to Sonapur (AS-20)	37	22	137.75	Dec-2005	Jun-2008
143.	Atflor Yellareddy to Kalkallu village (NS-2/BOT/AP-2)	7	80	54.18	LOA issued	
144.	Kasia to Gorakhpur (LMNHP-7)	28	40	253.12	Dec-2005	Jun-2008
145.	Assam/WB Border to Gairkatta (WB-1)	31C	32	232.93	LOA issued	
146.	Nagaon to Dharamtul (AS-2)	37	25	273.8	Dec-2005	Jun-2008
147.	Bara to Orai	2	62.8	44.82	LOA issued	
148.	Sonapur to Guwahati (AS-3)	37	19	166.71	Oct-2005	Oct-2008
149.	Dharamtul to Sonapur (AS-19)	37	24	173.15	Oct-2005	Oct-2008
150.	Daboka to Nagaon (AS-17)	36	30.5	202.18	Oct-2005	Oct-2008
151.	Lumding to Daboka (AS-15)	54	18	143.97	LOA issued	
152.	Maibang to Lumding (AS-24)	54	16	171.62	LOA issued	
153.	Maibang to Lumding (AS-25)	54	27.6	226.17	LOA issued	
154.	Maibang to Lumding (AS-26)	54	23	179.25	LOA issued	
155.	Lanka to Daboka (AS-16)	54	22.5	198.65	Dec-2005	Jun-2008
156.	UP/Bihar Border to Kasia (LMNHP-8)	28	41.12	259.77	Dec-2005	Dec-2008
157.	Panipat Elevated Highway	1	10	-96.4	Feb-2006	Jan-2009

Paying Back ADB Loan

522. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India has failed to pay back Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan as reported in *The Times of India* dated February 8, 2006;

(b) if so, the fact thereof;

(c) the reasons for non-payment of ADB dues in time; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for timely repayment of such loans in future?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) the first instalment of ADB Loan No. 1747-IND for Surat-Manor Toll-way Project amounting to US\$ 43,08,820.36 (Rs. 19,14,40,889) taken directly by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) which was due on 1st January, 2006, was paid on 10th January, 2006. The delay was due to lapse on part of the concerned officers in the NHAI.

(d) Suitable monitoring mechanisms like centralized monitoring of payments at appropriate levels, timely triggers in advance and more effective co-ordination with the lending agencies are implemented to avoid recurrence of such instances in the future.

**Pending Proposals Relating to
National Highways**

523. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals submitted by the States regarding strengthening and widening of National Highways pending with the Union Government, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government has chalked out any scheme in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time-frame fixed thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The State-wise details of proposals for strengthening and widening of National Highways which are included in the Annual Plan 2005-2006 and pending for clearance are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) The improvement of National Highways, including strengthening and widening is a continuous process and is carried out as per Annual Plan programmes, decided on the basis of the availability of funds and inter-se priority of works.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the State	Proposals for Strengthening and Widening of National Highways pending for sanction	
		Number	Amount (Rs. in Crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	Assam	5	24.70
2.	Bihar	1	14.60
3.	Chhattisgarh	1	1.75
4.	Haryana	1	2.23
5.	Himachal Pradesh	9	38.20
6.	Jharkhand	4	18.24
7.	Karnataka	4	12.00
8.	Kerala	2	6.00
9.	Madhya Pradesh	3	9.40
10.	Maharashtra	1	2.60
11.	Manipur	1	1.00
12.	Meghalaya	2	8.50
13.	Mizoram	3	22.00
14.	Nagaland	4	31.20
15.	Orissa	3	6.96
16.	Punjab	1	2.00

1	2	3	4
17.	Rajasthan	6	16.20
18.	Tamil Nadu	2	6.60
19.	Uttar Pradesh	7	32.40
20.	Uttaranchal	1	5.00
21.	West Bengal	2	13.00

Resuming Production of Typhoid Vaccines

524. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of Typhoid Vaccines at Haffkine Biopharmaceutical Corporation Ltd. was stopped on the direction of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is pressing demand from Armed Forces for supply of these vaccines;

(d) if so, the annual estimated demand therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken to resume manufacture of the said vaccines?

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

(b) dues to frequency of adverse reactions of the Whole Cell Killed Typhoid Vaccine, the Vaccine Production Board had recommended for stopping its manufacture.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) According to Armed Forces Medical Services, Ministry of Defence, the annual estimated demand is 65 lakh does.

(e) Heffkine Biopharmaceutical Corporation Ltd. has started manufacturing Acetone Killed and Dried (AKD) Typhoid Vaccine for supply to Armed Forces/General public.

[Translation]

High Security Registration Plates for Vehicles

525. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to implement the scheme of making high security registration plates mandatory for all the Vehicles in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Rule 50 of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 has already been amended by the Central Government to introduce High Security Registration Plates throughout the country, in respect of all categories of vehicles. These plates have certain security features which would make removal, tampering or counterfeiting of such plates difficult.

(c) As per notification, the scheme was to be implemented by 31st May, 2005 which the State Governments could not achieve. The State Governments have been advised to speed up the process of implementation.

Increasing Use of Solar Energy

526. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide solar energy operated equipments to the farmers for operating their tubewells;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the cost thereof;

(c) the per Megawatt production cost of Solar Energy as on date in the country;

(d) whether the essential plants and equipments for solar energy production are indigenous;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the expenditure on import of plants and equipments;

(g) the names of countries from where these are being imported; and

(h) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the use of solar energy in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Government is implementing a scheme to provide subsidy for installation of solar photovoltaic (SPV) water pumping systems for irrigation and drinking water applications. Typically, a 1800 Wp PV array capacity SPV water pumping system, which cost about Rs. 3.65 lakh, is being used for irrigation purposes. The Ministry is providing a subsidy of Rs. 30 per watt of PV array capacity used, subject to a maximum of Rs. 50,000 per system.

(c) Solar energy can be harnessed through two routes, namely solar photovoltaic and solar thermal, by direct conversion to electricity and heat energy respectively. Use of solar energy to generate electricity at mega-watt level has not been done in the country so far. Further, power generation from solar thermal energy is still in the experimental stages in the country. However, the estimated unit cost of generation of electricity from solar photovoltaic and solar thermal route is in the range of Rs. 12-20 per kWh and Rs. 10-15 per kWh respectively.

(d) to (g) An industrial base has been created in the country to indigenously manufacture solar cell modules, which are the most essential items required for the production of solar photovoltaic systems/applications. Imports are also being made from different countries mainly USA, Japan, Europe, and Russia etc. to meet the domestic as well as export requirements. Since solar cell modules are covered under open general license, no data on imports is maintained by the Ministry.

(h) The Ministry has been implementing comprehensive programmes for the development and utilization of solar energy in the country. In addition, number of incentives like subsidy, soft loan, 80% accelerated depreciation, concessional duty on import of raw materials and certain products, Excise duty exemption

on certain devices/systems etc. are being provided by the Government for the production and use of solar energy systems.

12.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

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): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Civil Services Society, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Civil Services Society, New Delhi, for the year 2004-2005.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3690/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 38 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940:
 - (i) The Drugs and Cosmetics (7th Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 734 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 2005.
 - (ii) The Drugs and Cosmetics (8th Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 735 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st December, 2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 3691/2006]

- (2) A copy of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (9th Amendment) Rules, 2005 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 682 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd November, 2005 under sub-section (2) of section 23 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3692/2006]

- (3) A copy of the Corrigendum (Hindi and English versions) to the Delay Statement relating to the Annual Report and Audited Accounts* of the Central Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3693/2006]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1725 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th December, 2005 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 251 (E) dated the 25th February, 2004, under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3694/2006]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1726 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th December, 2005 entrusting National Highway No. 45C (The Highway starting from its junction with NH 67 near Thanjavur connecting Kumbakonam, Sethiathope, Neyveli Township, Vadalur, Panruti and terminating at its junction with NH-45 near Vikravandi) to the National Highway Authority of India, issued under section 11 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3695/2006]

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Eighteenth Report

[*English*]

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur): I beg to present the Eighteenth Report (Hindi and English versions)

*The Annual Report/Audited Accounts and Delay Statement were laid on the Table on 27.4.2005.

of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.03¹/₂ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

Eighteenth Report

[*Translation*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to present the 18th Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways on the action taken recommendations/observations contained in the 8th Report on Demands for Grants (2005-06) of the Ministry of Railways.

12.03³/₄ hrs.

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

[*Translation*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to present a petition on pollution emanating from the factory of HINDALCO near Murry in Ranchi district of Jharkhand signed by Shri Mustafa Kamal Ahamad and other villagers living at Murry and surrounding areas in the district of Ranchi (Jharkhand).

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 3696/2006]

12.04 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

Re: Situation arising out of defreezing the bank accounts of Octavio Quattrocchi, an accused in the Bofors Scam

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I come to the important matters. May I make one respectful submission? As many

[Mr. Speaker]

as possible matters of importance will be allowed to be raised provided we speak to the point and there is no disturbance from each other. My earnest appeal is this. You have all got important issues to raise. Let them be presented in this House to which people are looking in a manner which helps our dignity. Therefore, let us not be impatient of each other. Let us listen to each other. At the appropriate time, we shall respond.

Now, I request the Leader of the Opposition to speak. Mr. Advani, I have a request. In future, your office may kindly send a notice to the Notice Office.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): I have sent it.

MR. SPEAKER: I have entertained your letter but I am only requesting that your office may send it to the Notice Office. Otherwise, records are not maintained.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am extremely grateful to you for allowing me to raise this particular matter. I am gratified that the Prime Minister was also here because this is a matter on which the whole country would like to know the full facts as to what happened and how it happened. It is because what we have read in the newspaper or what we have heard from the media does not satisfy anyone.

It does not satisfy anyone that the process that ought to be adopted in an important matter of this kind has not been properly adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Advaniji, I am told there is a proceeding. Therefore, please steer clear of that.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Yes, Sir. I will steer clear of everything.

I will only like to know from the hon. Prime Minister as to who decided that these accounts in the name of Quattrocchi in two London banks should be defrozen. Who decided? I have seen that the moment this news appeared, there were protests from almost all sections of the media. There were protests from all sections of the political circles. Of course, the NDA protested. I heard that even the Left Parties protested. I saw a statement.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Why 'even'?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: 'Even' because you are supporting this Government; you are in alliance.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Not in alliance.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: If any Party that was in alliance with NDA also protested about something, then it acquires a very important significance. That is all. I welcome the fact that you protested. Every section protested; so much so that I saw that the General Secretary of the CPI (M) Shri Prakash Karat told the Press that the Party strongly objected to a person being sent to London authorising the de-freezing of these accounts. Not only that, but after that Shri Sitaram Yechury had a one-hour meeting with Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the Congress President to find out why it had happened. What was the answer given? Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, the Chairperson of the UPA told the Left Front that the Government had no advance knowledge of the CBI decision to allow the de-freezing of Ottavio Quattrocchi's London bank accounts and we had no information. This is what Sonia Gandhiji told the Left Front. ...*(Interruptions)* This meeting lasted one hour.

Not only that. The hon. Prime Minister is here. I have seen the hon. Prime Minister's own statement. The hon. Prime Minister's statement says: "The act of freezing or de-freezing was not done at the behest of the Government. It fell strictly within the domain of the functional responsibility of the CBI which took the necessary steps going by the right legal advice". So, it is attributed to the CBI that it has done whatever it has done.

I also find it strange that the CBI, just a couple of days before Shri Dutta left for London—Shri Dutta is the law officer who went to have the accounts defrozen—just two days before that, according to the court records, the CBI, on 20th December, 2005 said in the court of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Seema Maini: "To apprehend the accused" he is still an accused, "a red corner notice was still in existence and details of the present whereabouts of the accused would be submitted soon to the court". Just a couple of days before these accounts are defrozen, the court is told that he is still a fugitive from the law and a red corner notice is still in existence against him.

Who is being misled? Is the court being misled or is Sonia Gandhiji misleading the Left Front or is the hon. Prime Minister misleading the country? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That part is not on the Government's responsibility, if some Member is misleading another Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, we do not know.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. This is very wrong. I made a request to all of you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There are competent hon. Ministers over here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: The Law Minister is also here. The Law Minister virtually says that there is no evidence against Ottavio Quattrocchi. The Government on Thursday, the January 12 said that the CBI had found no evidence against the Italian businessman Ottavio Quattrocchi in the Bofors pay-off case and this was conveyed to the British Government. The Law Minister, Shri H.R. Bhardwaj, said that the Crown Prosecution of the British Government had, over the past two years, sought evidence against Quattrocchi and the British Government had frozen Quattrocchi's bank accounts. The British Government had not frozen his bank accounts on its own; it was on the request of the CBI that they had frozen these accounts in UK and offshore islands, on the India's request three years ago. The Crown Prosecution had sought the status of the investigations and we have conveyed to them the recent rulings of the High Court rejecting the case against the Hinduja brothers. Now, this is also another story.

Five different matters were decided in the High Court in favour of the various accused in the Bofors case. In three cases, the Government appealed to the Supreme Court and they were upturned. Only in two cases, the Government did not appeal. Even though the CBI wanted it to be appealed, the Government did not appeal. I would admit that my own Government, the NDA Government did not appeal because the case against Rajiv Gandhi was decided by the High Court in favour, exonerating Rajiv Gandhi, in February. Therefore, we did not appeal. We felt that the elections had been announced, let the new Government, whichever Government comes, decide and we did not decide. Then, their Government came.

I do not want to comment on the High Court's judgement. There are judicial authorities whom I have heard commenting on that judgement, but they were the only two cases. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is not to be done.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I have not commented; I have cautiously said that I am not commenting and yet you make observations of a nature as if I have done something wrong. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, I did not say that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I simply said that I am not commenting, but everyone did expect the Government to appeal. Even the CBI wanted it because certain observations either in the Hinduja case or in the Rajiv Gandhi case had been made against the CBI. The CBI was also keen that at least those comments should be scored out and therefore, there should be an appeal. But that apart, they were the only two cases, where the Government did not go in appeal, which are being cited in favour of Quattrocchi. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Mr. Speaker Sir, when there was the issue of Ayodhya, They had. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded. Why do you bother? By your intervention, it becomes a bigger problem.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: They are intervening and he has pointed out. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already said that his statement will not be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, you are snubbing us. While they a from that side are trying to make interruptions, snub them only, not us.

MR. SPEAKER: I snub them the most.

[English]

Please do not impute motives.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, you snub people of that side but look at us. They think that you are snubbing us. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not right. I snub Manvendra Singh the most. You know it very well. This is not a matter of joke. This is a very serious matter.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, here is a case in which the accounts of a person have been defrozen, a person who has publicly said that he does not believe in the Indian law system and therefore, he is not going to appear in any Indian court.

He publicly said that: "I am a friend of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi's family, and whatever has been done..."
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati): What has that got to do with you? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: This is their statement. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. This is very difficult. It is very impossible for me to regulate the proceedings.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please try to understand.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please you also sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will appeal to Shri Advani to make them sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are not helping your leader.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Advani does not need any volunteers to help him speak.

[Translation]

You may go on speaking.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is persistent.

MR. SPEAKER: I have ordered him to sit down. Nothing is being recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What can I do? I do not have the Police to arrest them.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will show all of you the photograph as to how every side of the House is behaving.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, except this side of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Advani, I would kindly request you to conclude now.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: In fact, after Mr. Quattrocchi made his statement about his friendship with Shrimati Sonia Gandhi's family, I had expected the Congress President to come out very forcefully and say that: "We would like no fugitive to remain away from the court of law." After all Mr. Quattrocchi. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please refer to the Government.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: After all Mr. Quattrocchi is no different in so far as avoiding law is concerned; in so far as red-corner notice is concerned; and in so far as being a fugitive is concerned. He is no different from Dawood Ibrahim for Mr. Quattrocchi is another Dawood Ibrahim. So, there should be no one in the Government who has any soft corner for this kind of a fugitive. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Next is Shri Prabhunath Singh.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: It is, therefore, amazing that the Government goes out of its way to have his account defroze. Further, I have seen. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, it is not the Government, but it is the CBI that. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything. Anybody speaking without my permission will not have his statement recorded.

[*Translation*]

You may continue.

...(*Interruptions*)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, I want to draw your attention to the fact that. ...(*Interruptions*) How can he hold the Government responsible? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not bound by his statement. Nobody is bound by anybody else's statement. He is given his views on the issue.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sir, whatever I have said on the basis of records. I have knowledge of certain matters relating to the CBI, but I will not say it because it is not on record. All that I have said is only on the basis of the records. Therefore, even in respect of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi I would respectfully say that if he had not said. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: She does not represent the Government. She does not come within it.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will adjourn the House.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will adjourn the House. What more can I do?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I will request Shri Advani to please conclude now.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, she is a Member of this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, you cannot just make allegations against a Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Sir, I have not made any allegation against any Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, I have not ruled it out so far.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[English]

But I would request that this is.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Malhotra ji, Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Who are you?

[English]

Who are you to regulate this House? Is it your duty to do it?

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, Malhotra ji.

[English]

Please come here, and I will make you the Speaker!

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Why do not you ask them. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do I not ask them.

[English]

Do not be unfair. Again you are unfair.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: They are always on their legs. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: My only intervention was that it is for the Government to answer. Therefore, when you are asking somebody, a Member, to answer that question, only on that point, I made that intervention.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I started my comments and submissions. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Be ready to be named, Mr. Manvendra Singh. This has become your very bad habit. There is an end to patience.

I would request you now to conclude please. You have taken nearly 25 minutes.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Is it not true, Sir, that no officer of the Government, certainly not such a senior law officer like Mr. Dutta, can go to London without the permission of the Prime Minister? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Incurable, some of you are.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Therefore, when the Prime Minister says that he has nothing to do with it, that he did not know, and that it is the decision by the CBI, and when the CBI tells the Court that Quattrocchi is still a fugitive, there is a Red Corner Notice against him, who is saying untruth? Who is misleading whom?

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, just mention it. This is not a discussion on that. I have allowed you to speak for 20 minutes.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Sometimes, these days, I believe that in the matter of probity, corruption, scandals, scams, accountability is the most important part. Who is accountable? We have a Volcker Report.

MR. SPEAKER: We have seen that. It is becoming a general discussion. I have allowed you to speak for 20 minutes. Even omitting the interruptions, at least, you have had 20 minutes to speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: At the time of Special Mentions because of his position, I have given that chance to him.

I will request you to please conclude now.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I am grateful to you. Mr. Prime Minister, could you reply to my question that if it was the decision of the CBI, why did they submit these affidavits to the Court? Why did the Investigating Officer of the CBI be allowed.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a discussion. You can only refer to certain issues.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Was he allowed to accompany the Additional Attorney General, Mr. Dutta, to London to discuss the matter with the British Crown Prosecutions Service? Was it the CBI's opinion that Quattrocchi's accounts should be de-frozen? My own information is that the CBI was never in favour of the accounts being de-frozen. So, when the Government says that it is not their decision. *...(Interruptions)* These are pertinent questions. I would also like to know...

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Now that the Speaker has allowed us to raise this issue, let the Prime Minister inform the House as to why an appeal was not made to the Supreme Court in respect of these two cases—Rajiv Gandhi's case and Hinduja's case.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already asked that question.

Shri Prabhunath Singh, I think, you can associate yourself. He has taken 20 minutes.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: On this issue, please allow me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I will not allow you. Please take your seat, Shri Basu Deb Acharia. For Heaven's sake, please take your seat.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, please allow all political party leaders to speak for one minute each.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is a very important issue and we have our own views on this.

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Prabhunath Singh's submission will be taken. I will request him to be very brief. This is a 'Special Mentions' time.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will take only five minutes. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will see how much time you take.

[English]

Do not misuse it. I will discontinue this system. Indulgence should not be misused.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What's happening to you?

[English]

I will strictly follow what we have decided, that is to take up five matters for half-an-hour.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Lal Krishna Advani has presented all the facts to you and the House. This case is connected with pay-off. We

are not raising it, the then Finance Minister of Congress, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh had raised it. This question was raised on that day. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is the name of this Member?

[English]

Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid, please stand up. I would pass an order on you.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not mentioning anybody's name. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: May be you will also be there soon!

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh had raised this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I request all the leaders that

[English]

Please cooperate. This is not the way. The issue is important according to the hon. Leader of Opposition and I have allowed him twenty minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I do not want to go on merits. if I go on merits I will have to start from the way back 1964 that how..."

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not talk in this regard.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I do not want to speak on merit. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing anything to be said for which there is no basis. No references are here. This is one specific matter. I would not allow anything else.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I have not said anything. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have mentioned the name.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is too much.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Very well! If you do not want a proper discussion, I will adjourn the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will adjourn the House and give the Government an opportunity to get time.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It seems, the House is not in a mood to listen. I will adjourn the House.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: What have I said? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I have not asked for your advice.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I am not going on its merits and de-merits, I want to conclude my point in a

very short time. I want to say that two accounts of Shri Quattrocchi were opened. There was a statement of honourable Prime Minister that is was not in his knowledge and CBI was making a probe into this matter on its behalf. I would like to only know from the honourable Prime minister whether CBI is above the Government or it is in the Government. Alright, CBI is an independent institution and it plays its role but when it does any work from the other countries of the world and when it goes abroad and returns from there and when its people go abroad and return from there whether any information is given to the Government or not. Its people go abroad without any information to the Government and then passing such a statement by the honourable Prime Minister is misleading one. I admit that this is a case of grave embezzlement and scandal and the name of the country to which he belongs is Italy...* I want to request you that this country is not only meant for one person but it is for all of us. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing to be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)**

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Your point is being recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please continue.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: You are sitting in the Chair. I would like to request you that the treasure of this land which was usurped by way of pay-off and was deposited with a bank in England and now a let up was given here to withdraw the same in an unlawful manner. So, the way the things are happening in the country, a lobby is working behind the same. Whatever the Prime Minister is saying is to save himself is a wrong statement. ...(*Interruptions*) In that situation, I would like that the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will see this record.

...(*Interruptions*)

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

**Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You speak, please.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, make him understand otherwise I will expose him. ...(*Interruptions*)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Prabhunath Singh, please stick to the subject.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I will expose him. He will come to terms. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please, you sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You are a very experienced Member. You are a leader now of your Party.

[*Translation*]

This issue was raised.

[*English*]

This is Special Mentions time. On this issue the hon. Leader of the Opposition has taken twenty minutes omitting the interruptions. Now you have to refer strictly to that if you have to associate with him.

Now, you are bringing so many other issues.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Who spoke this? Come and sit here.

...(*Interruptions*)

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, I thought you were a sensible person. You are a new member already got into the bad habit.

Shri Prabhunath Singh, please restrict yourself to this. I had already spoken to the Government. I believe, Government is ready to respond. But you refer to the issue. You are converting this into a discussion under Rule 193 or under rule 184. Then, this is the misuse of the opportunity that is being given, if I may say so, very humbly. With such astuteness, Shri Prabhunath Singh, please be brief and complete your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, abiding by your instructions, I would like to say. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, when he has put forth his point why are you asking him to get up? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please continue.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it and anything found unparliamentary, the same will be deleted.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief. Speak on the point, nothing more.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I rise to speak, I pinch these people like a glass. I do not want to speak with a difference. I want to say while, obeying your order that every point should be made clear by the Prime Minister in connection with the questions raised by Advaniji so that the people of this land can come to know about the atmosphere misleading the country and their resentment to the Government and also can come to know as to how Congress Government is giving patronage to a broker middleman. With these words, I thank you very much.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy, only one minute. All the issues have been covered. You can associate with them.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): I will try. I will definitely refer to those points which have not been brought out here.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a discussion. I will not allow a long discussion. Enough is enough.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, the Bofors gun deal had shocked the conscience of the nation and became symbolic of corruption in public life. Now, it seems that the CBI has been completely subverted its independence. Having filed a charge-sheet against Quattrocchi with substantive evidence. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All that has been said.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: CBI initiated extradition proceedings, having issued a Red Corner alert. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That has already been stated. I will not allow this, Shri Tripathy.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Having got his accounts frozen, it is now contending that it has no evidence against Quattrocchi.

MR. SPEAKER: You are repeating the same matter.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: When the CBI has filed its petition and there is evidence against Quattrocchi, now CBI is saying that there is no evidence. The CBI is completely subverting its independence. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Would the Government like to respond?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you have not given any notice. No one will be allowed to speak, without the notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: When there is a Congress Government at the Centre, it is trying to cover up the issue of Bofors. ...(*Interruptions*) I would like to give two or three examples. In one minute, I would complete. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No. Nothing more will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, nothing will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: Does the Government want to respond?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not compel the Government to respond? Would the Government like to respond?

...(*Interruptions*)

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): Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Then, do it.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: What is the matter.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: How can you say that?

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Prime Minister has to reply, not the Minister of State. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): You are making fun of it. ...(*Interruptions*) Such a serious matter is being taken in this way. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, Shri Pachouri.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: No, we will not listen to him. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot dictate to me like that. I do not find anything wrong. It is for the Government to decide as to who has to reply.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Since you do not want to hear the Government, let Shri Gurudas Dasgupta speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Prime Minister has misled the nation. The Prime Minister should resign. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: The Prime Minister has misled the nation. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot compel the Prime Minister to speak. Nobody can compel the Government. It seems you do not want to listen to the Government. Let Shri Gurudas Dasgupta speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Gurudas Dasgupta's issue will be taken up.

12.36 hrs.

(*At this stage, Shri Manjunath Kunnur and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*)

MR. SPEAKER: I want to appeal to the hon. Leader of the Opposition that he had his full say. Now if you agree to hear the Government's view, it can respond. It is for the Government to decide which Minister will speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: It seems that you are not prepared to listen. It is a very unfortunate situation. I cannot allow this. Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is a deliberate obstruction to the proceedings. I am very sorry to say that you are deliberately obstructing the proceedings of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: To say the least, it is most unfortunate that you only want to have your opportunity. And after getting full opportunity to speak, you do not want to hear the Government side. This is very unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: With a great sense of sorrow and after recording my total condemnation of the method that is adopted, I am compelled to say that the main Opposition and its supporters, having their say in the matter, are not allowing the Government to respond to that. The Government has agreed to respond at my suggestion. Since the Opposition is not allowing the House to continue, I adjourn it till 2 O'clock.

12.39 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.01 hrs.

[The Lok Sabha re-assembled at one minute past fourteen of the Clock]

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I just want to say that today Prime Minister will give reply to the debate on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. We had raised the matter related to Quattrocchi in the morning. That's why we want that when Prime Minister gives reply, he should also respond to the question raised in this regard. If he

did not reply to these questions, then we will certainly express our views. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not now, Raise it at 6 O'clock.

[English]

Now, we will take up Item No. 8—Matters under Rule 377.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL (Faridkot): Sir, how can there be two laws in a State? ...*(Interruptions)* How can there be two laws in the country—one for the police and one for the common man? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL: Sir, for the last two days we have been raising this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wants to respond. Let us hear him.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in response to the issues raised by the distinguished Leader of the Opposition, Advaniji and a few other respected leaders, I would respectfully submit that we wanted to respond instantly, but however they insisted that the Prime Minister should respond. While the Prime Minister is already scheduled to reply to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, our Minister Incharge for this department, will make a statement in this House. As and when he comes, I would seek your indulgence. Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Not before the Prime Minister.

*Not recorded.

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I think, it has never been the practice that the Government is dictated by the Members as to when a Minister should make a statement.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He can speak any time. But we are talking about that very issue.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It has never been the practice. I think, he knows better than me about the rules. The Government cannot be dictated by any Member as to when the Minister should make a statement.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, the Minister can intervene in the debate; we have no objection. But on that very specific issue, we want the Prime Minister to reply.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Avinash Khanna.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, it is the time of the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Zero Hour is already disposed of. If Members raise any matter, how would I dispose of the business? I seek your protection.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, I know, and I want to run the House. Let me conduct the proceedings.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Leader of the Opposition has requested that he may be given a minute to speak.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He may make his submission. But Sir, if everybody starts raising his issue, it would be difficult to dispose of the listed business.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am allowing him only and not anybody else. Now, let us hear the submission of Shri Avinash Khanna.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: As per the statement received from a Punjab Government official, there are more than 300 such terrorists, who are still alive but they

are shown dead in records. Sir, now the question arise as to who were those 300 people who were killed? On whose killing did the police got compensation, awards and promotions? Today there is a planning to use politicians in this matter? We seek statement from the Central Government in this regard.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up item no. 8, Matters Under Rule 377.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL: Sir, it is in the national interest that I am raising this matter. The Police Chief of a State is harbouring militants. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your point has come.

...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. It is not to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It should not be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH BADAL: Sir, we are walking out in protest.

14.06 hrs.

(*At this stage, Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal and some other hon. Members left the House.*)

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, there was an understanding that Matters Under Rule 377 would be laid.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: They are saying that they are not going to lay it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, there was an understanding that till the time we dispose of the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, we will lay the Matters Under Rule 377 on the Table of the House. If we take it up now, how could I accommodate the other business? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us ask them.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, turn comes hardly ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I respect the feelings. I was also doing the same thing. But on the first day, we discussed and decided about that. The time is very short now and the hon. Leader of the Opposition is to speak on the Motion. At 5.30 p.m., the Prime Minister has to reply here and go to the other House. We have a list of speakers. On the first day, the Matters Under Rule 377 were laid on the Table of the House. It was decided to lay them only till the time we dispose of the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address and not later on. ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Yerrannaidu, I am not opposing that. But this is the decision that was taken. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, let us take it up now. All the hon. Members listed here can take only one or two minutes and finish this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sir, once we dispose of the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, they can read it out; there is no problem in that.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the hon. Members of the House desire so, should it be taken up or laid on the Table of the House?

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA (Banaskantha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it's hardly a matter of two-two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, after the disposal of this debate, they can read it out; after 6 o'clock, they can read it out; I do not mind. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Anyway, now let me call one by one.

14.08 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) Need to provide economic package to the Nagar Palikas in Banaskantha Parliamentary Constituency for providing basic amenities in the smaller towns of the region

[Translation]

SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA (Banaskantha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are several such small cities like Palampur, Disha, Danera, Sarad, Rajanpur, etc. in my Parliamentary Constituency where basic amenities are totally lacking, where there is neither good roads nor sewer facilities are available. Basic amenities are totally lacking in the slum areas. There is lack of potable water and due to extensive filth there is adverse effect on the health of the people. Municipalities are financially in very bad condition due to which basic amenities have not yet reached to the people. There are many schemes of Urban Development Ministry but benefit of those schemes is

not reaching to these cities. If Urban Development Ministry or Central Government may provide Financial Grant or assistance to these municipalities as a package then the middle class residing in these small cities may be able to avail these basic amenities.

I would request to Central Government through the House that in order to provide basic amenities to the above mentioned cities, financial package may be provided to the municipalities of these cities.

- (ii) Need to release a commemorative stamp in honour of Late Shri P.S.K. Lakshmiipathiraju, a freedom fighter from Tamil Nadu**

[English]

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (Palani): Sir, in my Palani parliamentary constituency, the town Palani is the abode of Lord Karthikeya. The town Palani had a great soul namely Shri P.S.K. Lakshmiipathiraju who fought for the freedom of this country. He was the close associate of great Leader, Late Shri K. Kamraj.

He was born to Shri S. Krishnamaraju and Shrimati Nallammal in the year 1913 at Palani. He had actively participated in the freedom movement of this country at his 16th year itself. He was arrested for a number of times and imprisoned for a period of five years and 29 days in various jails in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

He occupied various public offices like Palani Municipal Chairman; Member—Madurai District Board; Member of Legislative Assembly—Palani constituency; Chairman—Palani Dhandayuthapani Devasthanam Temple Trust; Member—Cardamom Board, Government of India. The Government of Tamil Nadu had also nominated him on various positions.

He had close contacts with late leaders—Mahatmaji and Nehruji. He had organised two visits for Mahatmaji to Palani in the year 1934 and 1946 and organised two very big Conferences at Palani during the year 1936 and 1942 and the same was attended by Jawaharlal Nehruji. He was honoured by both the Leaders. Till his death, he served for the welfare of the people of the country.

Hence, I urge upon the hon. Minister to release a commemorative stamp and a First Day Cover in honour of Late Shri P.S.K. Lakshmiipathy Raju.

- (iii) Need to charge reduced rate of interest on the loans availed by the farmers from cooperative banks in Amreli Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat**

[Translation]

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in my Amreli Parliamentary Constituency farmers are provided credit at the 11 per cent interest rate under short term finance and KCC. This 11 per cent interest rate is applicable in my Parliamentary Constituency only whereas Public Sector Scheduled Banks provide loan at the interest rate of 7 per cent and other cooperative Banks in Gujarat also provides loan at the interest rate of 9 per cent which is not in the interest of farmers. One side announcements are being made for providing many facilities to farmers and on the other hand in my home State farmers are being charged with such a high interest rates. It came to my notice that the high interest rate that has been charged by the cooperative banks with the consent of NABARD.

I request through this House to the Central Government that the 7 per cent interest rate charged by the cooperative banks of other districts should also apply in the case of the cooperative banks of my Parliamentary Constituency Amreli which is charging more interest rate and the extra interest rate charged till date should be refunded to the farmers. If there is any problem in this regard then the loans should be directly made available by the NABARD and State Cooperative banks and the interest should be charged at the rate of 9 per cent as is being charged in other districts.

- (iv) Need to provide special economic package to the Government of Arunachal Pradesh for improving the State economy and modernisation of Arunachal Pradesh police force**

[English]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West): The State of Arunachal Pradesh has been known as the "Island of Peace" in the country due to peaceful atmosphere prevalent in the State which is different from other regions. Government of India has been giving special packages to some States as "Peace Bonus" for their return to normalcy which is a welcome step. But at the same time depriving the already peaceful State from economic benefit through special grants is viewed by the people as discouraging and negative policy.

[Shri Kiran Rijju]

Lately, there have been intrusions of certain elements into the State's territory and created troubles in certain areas which has resulted in the loss of lives and properties. It is a disturbing as well as dangerous trend since Arunachal Pradesh is situated at a very strategic location making it one of the most sensitive States.

The State Police Force has been putting good efforts and trying its best to contain the situation. But the State police force is ill-equipped and is not sufficiently funded to raise its numerical strength and improve its resources and qualities with the modern weaponry system.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House through you and urge the hon. Prime Minister to provide Special Economic Package to the State of Arunachal Pradesh to improve the economic condition of the people of Arunachal Pradesh. I would also like to urge hon. Home Minister to provide Special Financial Grant to modernise the Arunachal Pradesh police force.

- (v) **Need for construction of a Railway Over-bridge at the Railway crossing near Maxi Railway Station in Ratlam Division**

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a long pending demand regarding construction of a Railway over bridge at the Railway crossing of National Highway No. 3 near the Maxi Railway Station under Western Railway Division Ratlam but as no approval has so far been accorded in this regard, the construction work could not be started. Being a National Highway and due to heavy traffic, there is traffic jam on this route for hours together. The construction of Railway over-bridge is inevitable at this place. Therefore, I demand from the Minister of Railways to kindly accord approval to construction of this Railway over-bridge as soon as possible.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan—absent.

- (vi) **Need to revamp the Public Distribution System in KBK region of Orissa**

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): The Public Distribution System in the KBK region of Orissa has to be revamped to the fullest extent to mitigate the

suffering of poor people mostly tribals during the coming years. Allocation to the State for the purchase of more mobile vans should be provided to check starvation conditions in the tribal region.

- (vii) **Need to exempt stamp fees on mortgaged land for Kisan Credit Cards from the farmers in Punjab**

[Translation]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Central Government regarding Kisan Credit Cards which have been issued to increase the credit power of the farmers. The farmers are taking full advantage of these cards. To issue the Kisan Credit Cards lands of the farmers are mortgaged. For which farmers are exempted from depositing the stamp fees under the Indian Stamp Act. But the Government of Punjab have started recovering stamp fees and land revenues from the farmers due to which there is great resentment among the farmers. I urge the Minister for Agriculture to clarify the Government position regarding this policy.

- (viii) **Need to set up a regional All India Institute of Medical Sciences at Trivandrum, Kerala**

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has decided to establish six regional All India Institutes of Medical Sciences at six State capitals. Unfortunately, Kerala has been discriminated in this project. We understand that the hon. Chief Minister has petitioned the Prime Minister in this matter. Despite the fact that Kerala has achieved commendable progress in the areas of high life expectancy, reduction of infant mortality etc., the State is yet to have a national level health care institute of the Union Government. Often the achievements of the Government in the primary health care sector is being foisted against the State's rightful demand and eligibility for a national level institute such as AIIMS.

Establishment of an AIIMS at Trivandrum has many added advantages. The city has excellent connectivity with the Gulf countries, Maldives, and other foreign countries. Health tourism is gaining increased acceptance here. This avenue can be most profitably and effectively exploited if such a national institute with modern facilities is set up at Trivandrum. It is, therefore, requested that

the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare may be directed to set up a national institute of the status of the AIIMS at Trivandrum.

(ix) Need to rescind the order reducing the superannuation age of the employees of B.O.G.L. from 60 years to 58 years

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): To ensure that every citizen of our Republic is empowered to know how the Government programmes are being implemented, the Right to Information Act, 2005 was passed. It is a historic piece of legislation in increase transparency in the functioning of the Government at all levels. If it is so, why the Government is reducing the age from 60 years to 58 years for the closed unit of B.O.G.L. employees whereas other public sector enterprises are facilitated 60 years of age.

The superannuation age of the employees of B.O.G.L. is 60 years. A decision was taken by the Board of Directors of the Company long back on 16.7.2003 to reduce the same to 58 years which, however, was not implemented and the employees were allowed to superannuate at the age of 60 years till date. The company has now all of a sudden decided to implement the said decision of 16.7.2003 with effect from 1.4.2005. This has naturally evoked widespread resentment amongst the 188 existing employees of the Company.

Through an Office Memorandum bearing Ref. No. 18 (9) 2004-G4 dated 18 April, 2005 of the Department of P.E., GOI, it has now been communicated "the Government has since reviewed this matter and it has been decided that the power of roll back of age of retirement of employees of PSEs, including Board level Executives, shall henceforth vest with the Cabinet".

In view of this, the decision to implement the reduction in the age of superannuation at this stage taking the shelter of an unimplemented decision taken two years back cannot be a sequel to the earlier decision of 2003 and is quite unjustified.

I urge upon the Government to take corrective action in the matter.

(x) Need to provide financial assistance to the potato growers whose crops have been damaged due to frost in Agra region of Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Deputy Speaker, Sir, potatoes have a very significant role in the

context of vegetables in Indian Society. Potatoes are an important part of the food consumed by the common man, especially the poor. A large tract of land in Uttar Pradesh is entirely devoted to the production of the potatoes. Uttar Pradesh is one of the largest producers of potato in the country in which an area of approximately 286219 hectares of land is under potato cultivation and it is a main source of income for the farmers belonging to that area. In Agra Mandal there is an area named Khandoli. The potatoes variety being produced there has its distinct identity. Owing to which Uttar Pradesh Government have named them as the "Taj Potatoes" and almost 2000 tonnes of these potatoes are exported every year. However, this year the crops have been destroyed by frost. Consequently, the potato producers of Agra and its vicinity are facing a serious problem. Exporting of the potatoes is out of the question this year and with it has went out their chances of earning their livelihood also. The farmers are in a very miserable state. This situation is not only confined to the farmers of Uttar Pradesh alone, the farmers of other States are also undergoing the same condition. Therefore, I request that the Government should conduct a detailed survey of the areas where potato crops have been destroyed and provide the potato producing farmers with immediate financial assistance. In view of the losses suffered by the potato producing farmers, the Government should announce compensation to the tune of crores in one lot.

(xi) Need to provide a direct train between Mahoba and Lucknow via Kanpur with necessary amenities at Mahoba Railway Station in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA (Hamirpur, U.P.): Deputy Speaker, Sir, a locoshed for the night halting of trains may be constructed at the Mahoba railway station in my parliamentary constituency. A direct train between Mahoba and Lucknow may be introduced via Kabarayi-Kharirar-Ragoul-Bharua-Sumerpur-Kanpur. Kulaphar-Charkhar Road and Hamirpur road railway stations should be built near Basti. A survey should be conducted for laying a new line between Urai via Rat-Charkhari upto Mahoba and from Hamirpur Road via Hamirpur Headquarters and Vihar-Rat to Harpalpur (MP) and from Harpalpur via Rat-Gohan-Srila-Chandouth to Kalapi and also the construction work should be completed at the earliest.

Owing to the fact that pilgrims in large numbers visit 'Amavasya Fair' at Chitrakoot every month during

[Shri Rajnarayan Budholia]

'Amavasya' (last day of the dark fortnight) a train may be run between Jhansi and Chitrakoot and Kanpur to Chitrakoot. Besides, 6 more travel coaches may be introduced in the Uttar Pradesh Sampark Kranthi Train.

Therefore through this House I request the Hon'ble Minister that in order to meet the requirements of the people and to remove the backwardness of the area and also to provide them with means of transportation, funds should be allocated to the said areas for laying the lines and commencing the work.

(xii) Need to give due weightage to the suggestions of MPs in implementation of Centrally-sponsored schemes in their constituencies

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL (Chatra): Deputy Speaker, Sir, various sponsored schemes of the Central Government are being implemented for the development of the nation and also to provide the people with amenities. But the Government have not given any directions to find out whether the benefits of these schemes are reaching out to the people or whether the entire allotted amounts have been used fully. Owing to this reason, only 15 to 20% of the amount allotted for these schemes is being spent on those works. The suggestions of the local MPs are not heeded for completing these works. There are directions of the State Governments to consider the opinions and suggestions of the local MLAs concerning the schemes run by the State Governments, but there is no such practice of taking into account the suggestions of the local MPs in the schemes sponsored by the Central Government. As a result, the illiterate persons and those with little education feel that the Central Government is not doing anything for them and only the State Government is working for them. The Central Government allot funds to various non-governmental organizations to implement many schemes. In this also, the MPs do not have any roles and nor their opinion are solicited. Regarding the schemes of the Ministry of Urban Development which are being implemented in the constituencies of the MPs, the complaints made by the MPs in the capacity of being Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the monitoring and vigilance committees, about the various officers which are sent to the Central Government and redirected to the State Government that in turn passes it to the officers of the State Government for conducting enquiries which is not fair and justified at all.

Therefore through this House I request to the Prime Minister that the opinions and suggestions of the MPs should be taken note of in all the centrally sponsored schemes for implementing thereof and directions be issued to make the MPs inaugurate and lay the foundation stone, for conducting the enquiries at the centre level regarding the complaints made against the State Governments officers by virtue of the MPs being the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the monitoring and Vigilance Committee for the rural development schemes.

(xiii) Need to review "Food For Work" Programme in Lakhimpur Khiri Parliamentary constituency, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI ILYAS AZMI (Shahabad): Deput Speaker, Sir, last year about 30 crore rupees were allotted to my Parliamentary Constituency under the 'Food For Work' programme. No work has been taken up utilizing that amount in that year. All the representatives of the people have been sending their proposals, but none of them got accepted. After the completion of the programme, the proposals of the ruling party MLAs and Members of the Legislative Council, were made into a statement in which dates were shown as that of an earlier period by the Zila officer, CDO and the entire amount was embezzelled by the said officers.

Through this House I urge upon the Rural Development Minister to send a central team to Lakhimpur to seal all the records related to the scheme and also technical enquiry may be conducted regarding the works shown in those records and take necessary action against the guilty.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Arjuncharan Sethi—
Not present.

(xiv) Need to declare 'Telugu' as a classical language

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, the growing globalisation in the economic sphere has its backlash in the ethnic, cultural, linguistic and other spheres of communities all over the world. India, with more than a dozen major languages and scores of sub-cultures, is no exception. The recent declaration by the Government of India regarding Tamil as a classical language is but an offshoot of the problem of identity of a majority community speaking that language and a response to a long-standing demand made by that community.

As per the record, the word 'Andhra' first occurs in the Itareya Brahmana of 7th century B.C. This presupposes the existence of the people and language by that name some centuries earlier. An eminent linguist, in fact, concluded that Telugu branched off from the Dravidian family and acquired a separate identity around 10th century B.C. (Dr. Blt. Krishna Murthy—The Dravidian Languages Cambridge University Press 2003). This then puts the antiquity of the language at about 3000 years. Telugu appears on the coins issued by Satavahana kings during 1st century B.C. and later on the inscriptions of the Buddhist stupa of Amaravati in the present Guntur district. Names of Telugu places and personal names occur from 1st century B.C. an almost all available inscriptions.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to declare 'Telugu' as an ancient and classical language.

(xv) Need to allocate Rs. 1000 crore for infrastructural development in Bangalore City, Karnataka

*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajnagar): Sir, the Managing Director of Siemens Limited has decided to drop expansion plans in Bangalore due to crumbling infrastructure in the city. Bangalore is not attractive for investors any more because of the worsening infrastructure in the city according to the head of a global manufacturing giant.

There are about 12,000 employees in India out of which 4600 employees are in Bangalore. About 24 per cent of the turnover is from Bangalore. He has also said that he would look at cities such as Chennai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Delhi, Pune and other cities to expand the company's business.

Bangalore is in a mess. Road and power infrastructure is chaotic. Besides, hotel rooms are not available. The employees are spending more time on the road as a result of which efficiency will come down.

Hence, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Urban Development to allocate Rs. 1000 crore for the infrastructure development, particularly for the construction of subways and over-bridges besides other facilities in Bangalore.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

(xvi) Need to provide basic infrastructural facilities at Sunderbans Wildlife area in West Bengal

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): I wish to bring to the notice of the Government the importance of developing the Sunderbans Wildlife area/National Park in the perspective of eco-tourism as it has an immense potential to bring both the national/international tourists as well as revenue in the foreign exchange.

Though Sunderbans Wildlife area, the core of the largest delta/largest mangrove forest in the planet, has been declared as a National Park, the infrastructural and other facilities available for the visiting tourists are not at par with other National Parks of the country. If developed properly from the eco-tourism point of view, it would be a pride of India.

Therefore, I request the Government to take steps to provide all the facilities, which are available at a National Park, at Sunderbans Wildlife area and also to develop the same into a world-class eco-tourism spot of the planet.

14.31 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Item No. 9, further discussion on the President's Address.

First, I would like to request Shrimati Bhavani Rajenthiran.

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN (Ramanathapuram): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I thank you immensely for the chance given to me to participate in the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

At this point of our country's history, we are indeed proud and happy to have a very learned scientist with a humane heart, embellished by qualities of humility, simplicity and patriotism as the Head of the Republic and the President of our Bharat. Particularly, I have a deep sense of pride in mentioning that our President hails from my Rameswaram parliamentary Constituency

[Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran]

as the son of the soil. Of course, Rameswaram stands as the sign of national integration. But today, he belongs to the entire nation as the darling President. With full optimism, the hon. President in his Address, in the Joint Session of Parliament, has given a graphic profile of the strategy and great plans adopted by Government of India to achieve faster and comprehensive economic and social development.

The Indian economy has acquired a high degree of buoyancy in comparison with that of the previous years. The accelerating growth rate is a harbinger of even better times to come. India is getting transformed into a veritable Economic Powerhouse with a growing image and reputation before the comity of nations.

The economic management of our country is excellent. The rate of inflation has been kept under control in spite of sustained pressures in the global oil prices. The people of India are finding more resources to set aside, pushing up the domestic Savings rate. The hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister deserve all our appreciation for their matchless economic performances in transforming India as the most desired destination for foreign capital and technology.

In the President's Address, he has talked about five pillars as the foundation for the new architecture of inclusive national development. They are: the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Bharat Nirman; National Rural Health Mission; Jawaharlal Nehru Mission for Urban Renewal; and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, with a universal Mid-Day Meal Programme.

In all humility, I would venture to call these five programmes as the "new Panchsheel" for the inclusive economic development of our country. The earlier Panchsheel for international peace was propounded by our former Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. We are confident that the "new Panchsheel" will take the nation to great heights of glory and prosperity. At this juncture, I would like to request our UPA Government to extend the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act to some more most-backward districts like mine, that is, Ramanathapuram.

Sir, Agriculture is the mainstay of our economy. Still, it is the largest self-employment sector providing direct and indirect employment to nearly 70 per cent of our

population. We are happy that the Government of India is determined to provide all inputs for agricultural development. In order to promote bio-fuel, a National Bio-Diesel Programme which is going to be launched in 2006-07, has been proudly mentioned by our hon. President in his Address.

Marketing is the crucial linkage between the producer and the consumer. This step will help farmers to earn a steady income and would help the rejuvenation of village economy. At this juncture, I would like to mention that our revered leader Dr. Kalam created in Tamil Nadu a network of farmers' marketing centres called "*Uzhavar Sandhais*" or the Kisan Shandies which helped the small and the marginal farmers to bring the produces like vegetables and fruits daily to the market. The consumers also benefited by getting fresh farm produces at fair prices. We are sure that the Government of India would organise measures in a similar fashion to strengthen the marketing infrastructure at the micro-level.

The President, in his Address, underscored the urgent necessity for prudent and ethical management of public finance meant for the welfare of the people.

The Government of India recently has provided massive funds to the extent of Rs. 1000 crore towards mitigating the Tsunami disaster in Tamil Nadu. Unfortunately, we learn through the media that these funds have been misused for favouring some particular individuals harming the larger interest of the affected people. I am to bring to the attention of this august House that our revered leader Dr. Kalam has recently come out with a statement on the misuse and mal-administration of the Tsunami funds with concrete evidence.

This is a matter of great concern for all of us. I would urge upon the Government of India to probe the matter further and install necessary systems and mechanisms to closely monitor the use of funds provided by the Centre for disaster management.

Infrastructure is the key to faster economic development. The Government of India has come out with a clear vision and policy on building infrastructure for power, roads, highways and telecommunication. We are immensely delighted that our esteemed Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Communications Shri Dayanidhi Maran have introduced a most revolutionary scheme of "One India, One Rupee" to connect all parts and all the

people of the country. This programme is unparalleled in its strategy and operation, and not found anywhere in the world. However, in all the infrastructure programmes, efficient implementation with a deep commitment to total quality management is the mantra for success. We are quite confident that the Government of India will create the required administrative and technical structure and mechanism to ensure this.

Our hon. President has mentioned in his Address about a historic piece of legislation, that is, the Right to Information Act, 2005 which will increase transparency in the functioning of Government at all levels. Setting up the Sixth Pay Commission for the Central Government employees is a welcome thing in the President's Address.

Our UPA Government is so sensitive to gender issues. Particularly to alleviate the sufferings and hardships imposed on women by anti-social elements in the society, a historical Bill to curb the violence has been brought about as an act to avoid domestic violence against women.

We are also extremely delighted to note that the Government of India will bring about speedy legislation to reserve 33 per cent of seats to women in Parliament and State Legislatures. The assurance found in this regard, mentioned in the President's Address falls as honey to our ears. Particularly, the women Members of this august House would welcome this statement in the President's Address on reservation as a golden statement and this will surely open up a glorious chapter in national governance.

"Catch them young" is the best strategy for transforming children and youth into capable human resources. Therefore, the Government of India has formed National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights. The Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme for Children of working mothers has also been approved recently.

Well, in all sense, our hon. President has presented to the nation a very impressive, thought provoking Address.

Sir, I conclude my speech with the words of the great Tamil saint, Thiruvalluvar who has aptly said about a prosperous nation as follows:

"Piniyinmai Selvam Vilaivinbam Yemam

Ani Enba Nattirku Evvainthu."

The meaning is that the five ornaments of a prosperous nation are unfailing health, wealth, rich harvests, popular pleasures and security.

We should strive hard to achieve the goal of a prosperous nation. Our hon. President insists in his Address that only the devoted participation of the people in planning and implementation of the schemes will make our India as a prosperous nation.

I once again thank our hon. President on behalf of our DMK Party for his optimistic Address.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to discuss on the Motion of Thanks on President's address moved by Shri Madhusudan Mistry. The President's address is a mirror that reflects Government policies and the Government expresses its policies through the President. The President gives this message through his address as to what Government have done during the past and what it aims to do in the ensuing days. What would be the future policy of the Government, what is its intention, what it wants to do for the countrymen, for states and for villages. The President's Address has the glimpses of all these things. I have gone through the book which has been given to us and also listened to his address. He has made one point very good that his Government has successfully created a new architecture for all round development on the basis of five pillars. It has made a mention of five things. The historical National Rural Employment Guarantee Act aimed at ensuring employment and economic security to the poor, bridging the gap persisting among rural poors etc. I would not like to go into details but I would like to speak in brief on each of these points. The reason is when Shri Mistry was speaking, he had stated with Rozgar Guarantee Yojana and he had expressed doubt on the States having Government of Opposition parties. He said that the Governments of opposition parties in the States are afraid of this yojana and they are worried because they feel that if this yojana succeeds, they will put in a great loss in the forth coming election. I do not know whether Shri Mistry is present here or not but I want to tell him that however trumpets you may beat. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Well, you are sitting here. Through you I would like to request the House, and Mistry ji in particular, to kindly consider seriously that as compared to the publicity being given to this scheme what is infact being given to the people through this scheme. You said that you are providing employment for one hundred days. ...*(Interruptions)* It seems as if birds from jungles have come to this House. When I speak they also start speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not invited you to make any running commentary please.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, I want to tell you that it is being publicized that employment is being provided to the rural labourers and this scheme will help in stopping migration from the villages to cities. But this scheme going to do nothing. You are running this scheme at Panchayat level. You have not yet clarified that how much funds is to be allotted to the panchayat on the basis of its population. This work on the scheme has commenced from the second day of this month but the amount of funds has not yet been clearly mentioned. You say that one hundred days employment is being provided. There are three hundred sixty five days in a year and you say that a family would be given employment for one hundred days. Most of the people in the villages earn their livelihood by doing manual labour.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, if these people are to be believed the people would be given employment for one hundred days but how would his family survive during the remaining 265 days. Would he get food. Where from he would get the required medicines? You have not mentioned it in your programme. You are just talking of giving employment for one hundred days so far as you have made allegations against the State Government, I would like to say in this regard that you have identified only 200 backward districts. The scheme for providing employment is already running in 16 districts out of the 33 districts in Bihar. You have added seven more districts in Bihar. You have added seven more districts to this scheme at the behest of the Chief Minister of Bihar but Chief Minister of Bihar has implemented this scheme in all these seven districts with the funds for Bihar. The

State Government have implemented your scheme with their own funds. You shall at least be thankful to the Government of Bihar and you should not make allegations against the State Governments.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as electrification of each village of the country is concerned, Hon'ble Minister of power is sitting here. He was today replying to question. Shri Shinde is very hardworking and able Minister. Nobody has doubt about it. He himself has accepted that the supply of electricity is shorter than its requirement. He assured that he would extend the period of scheme and would try to complete the old schemes earlier. He has promised that he would make electricity available in all the villages of the country by the year 2009. His Party remained in power for 58-59 years and when his own Government over all these years could not provide electricity to each and every village in the country, then how will they supply electricity to each and every village of the country in a short span of three years.

Sir, I do not have complete knowledge about the over all arrangements for electrification of villages in the country but I have knowledge about Bihar. I would like to tell about the power situation in Bihar. There is no electricity in the villages. The arrangement of power supply had been made in many phases and through many companies. Sometimes such arrangements were made through Power Grid, sometimes through NTPC and sometimes through some agency of the State Government. During the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government in the country Rs. 365 crore had been allocated by the Union Government for providing transmission lines in North Bihar. The work on transmission lines had been started but when would be completed is not known. So far as the electrification of villages is concerned, electrification work in villages has been done only on papers but not in reality. Even those villages have not been provided with electricity where the people had deposited money for power connection. The number of such villages have also been entered in the registers as electrified villages where there are no electric poles or power cables. No arrangement of electricity has so far been made there. Through you I would like to ask the Government that merely making plans or allocating funds would not do. There should be effective monitoring or concrete arrangements to see whether the funds being given by the centre to the states are being used properly. Whether the villages whose list is being sent to you from the State Government as electrified villages in fact have electricity or not. Whether that list is correct or not. Ensure

proper monitoring for this, so that the people of these villages may get electricity.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the President in his address have made some points to provide basic infrastructure in the rural areas. He says in one of his points that:

"To provide an all weather road in every village in areas having a population of one thousand or above or in a village with a population of five hundred people in hilly and tribal areas".

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it means metalling of roads in the village having population of 1000 and 500 people. This work had been started when the Atal Bihari Government was at the centre. When Government was changed at the centre. I do not have much information about the whole country but I have information regarding Bihar. I therefore, would like to tell that out of the list of roads forwarded by the Government of Bihar to the Union Government. A plan was formulated to spend the available funds for the PWD roads, forest and other departments on these roads only. When you consider those roads as main roads, then your claim on paper that you are giving connectivity to all villages and you propose to connect all the villages having a population of one thousand or 500 but this may be a good advertisement in newspapers or on TV. But it is not actually implemented. If you want to extend benefits to the villages then you fix the target for the list you have got from the States that what amount you wish to allot in one year. State Government have decided that is in villages having a population of 500 people, funds will be provided from the exchequer of Bihar Government to provide road connectivity, Government of Bihar is moving a steps ahead from yours. But you have formulated the scheme for villages, you are not giving the funds to that village although you are working on the damaged roads that comes under REO and PWD, even though you are claiming that you will connect all the villages. You have made such schemes for development. I do not want to comment. There is a employment generation scheme. Employment generation scheme is a good scheme. You are allocating Rs. 15 crores each year to several districts. The district which I belong also got rupees 30 crores, but the system evolved to spend the amount specify that there shall be a committee headed by district collector and other government officials and engineers will be members of that Committee. Chairman of District Board as a member is the sole public representative in the Committee, I through you, would like to draw the attention of

Government that this system is faulty. Reasons being that if you do not include public representatives, it may be member of legislature or member of Parliament, who know about their areas better, unless you seek their advice, the officials sitting in the airconditioned offices would not be able to describe the village problems. Government officials are employees. They do not work with a zeal to serve the people. Hence, they formulate schemes on paper only in such a fashion which may get them more and more Commission.

Therefore, through you, I submit that public representatives should have a say in the implementation of employment generation schemes. We shall have to take advice of public representatives and public representatives should be involved if we want to develop villages on the pattern of towns and if we want to extend urban facilities to rural areas then schemes should be formulated by involving local perspectives.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I should be given opportunity to speak for 10-20 minutes, half an hour because I am speaking extempore.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have a problem that we have got more than 30 hon. members to speak but we have got very limited time. The hon. Prime Minister will reply at 5.30 p.m.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I shall conclude after speaking only on one point. I do not want to hurt you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I wish that maximum members get a chance to speak. If every one speaks for 3, 4, 5 minutes then House will function smoothly and all of you will get an opportunity to speak.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is mentioned in it that every village will be connected by telephone. Minister of Telecommunication department is sitting here. It seems that Government have gone blind. I would like to say you that he is ready to take credit of providing one telephone in every village.

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

The tenure of Atal Bihari Vajpayee saw the telecom revolution taking place and expansion of mobile services took place. But there is a problem in the expansion of mobile services in the rural areas. I would like to refer about the villages. Through you, I would like to put the feelings of the villages on the floor. Earlier cables were laid in the villages for telephones. Telecom department have fixed certain population and distance norms for setting up exchanges and that exchange covers the villages in the periphery of 5-7 kilometers through cable. After the onset of mobile services department have almost stopped supplying cables. Plea was given that mobile services have been provided in villages and all infrastructure have been raised so that mobile services are made available in villages. But I would like to point out certain technical problems. Still land line telephones are available in villages and they are more effective also. Mobile is not very useful because electricity is not available in villages, mobile hand sets are required to be charged periodically, in the absence of electricity it would not be charged and in that case it will not function. I would like to submit through you that for rural areas inspite of depending on mobile service, cable should be laid, exchanges should be set up and telephone facility should be provided through it. People residing in villages are in difficulty, they have deposited money for telephone connection. This money is deposited for several years and the department does not even pay interest accrued on it. Profits earned on account of that interest is shown as departments profit. The people living in villages are not provided with telephone facility. We are given a telephone quota on the basis of which we recommend telephone connections and when quota is released, telephone connection is not provided on the pretext of unavailability of cable on non feasibility in laying cables, thus they are being deprived of telephone facility. If you want to provide telephone facility to those living in the villages then set up telephone exchanges on the basis of distance. In villages telephone facilities should be extended through cables. Only then you can provided urban like facilities in the rural areas otherwise it will remain a lip service only.

I would conclude after some remarks on the agriculture sector. Whenever, Government discusses in this regard on the floor, members of both the sides express their concern. It is natural also, because 70% of population is engaged in farming. Members express their deep concern but the root cause of the problems of farmers is not addressed. What is presented in the House

regarding villages or what we get to read or what is told to the country through press or media is not converted into reality. Minister of Agriculture is not present here. I would like to know from him that facilities you have extended to the farmers for agriculture? Farmers depend on the blessings of God and due to God's blessings he keeps himself and the nation prosperous. Fertilizer, seed and water and three important inputs for the agriculture. Punjab, from where you come enjoys facility of canals. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: They also face a shortage of water.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: When the canal project was started in our area, the farmers had to face three kind of problem. That canal project was never completed but the farmers' land was acquired and even till today they have not been fully compensated for their land. Water from canals is released when the crops of farmers are about to ripen. This causes damage to their crops. Above that the third problem they are subjected to is that the department sends them a notice stating that their irrigation charge is due and they must pay it. When the farmer refuses to pay saying that his crop has been destroyed, they take away their cattle to police stations. This is how the farmer is suffering from three sides. The farmers have not been provided with the facility for water so far. They are managing by god's grace. The farmers install pumping sets by taking loan from banks.

It has been mentioned that the loan of 60 percent farmers has been increased. I would like to draw his attention towards the procedures of granting loan to farmers. They are given loans by two door system—first block and second bank. The farmers have to run for both. A list is prepared in which people are divided into three categories. Poor farmer, poorest farmers, middle class farmer and when the list passes through the block and then loan is sanctioned on their names.

15.00 hrs.

First the farmer has to run at the block level and then the employee recommends from there. When the employee recommends someone his share is kept separate, now when the Block Development officer will send its recommendation further to the bank then he will also recover separately and by the time it reaches the bank, it becomes fixed at 10 percent. Whatever loan is sanctioned to the farmers, 10 per cent of that is deducted by the bank officials. I am not raising this question for

the first time, many hon'ble members have raised this issue in the House a number of times. But no effective steps have been taken by the Government so far to ensure that the farmers are able to get required loan without any problems so that they are able to reap the benefits of their crops for themselves as well as for the country also.

Yesterday, Shri Sharad Pawarji was discussing this. This wheat crop is growing. In our villages wheat is harvested before Holi. There is a custom in rural areas that at the time of Holi sweet balls and delicacies are prepared from fresh wheat. When wheat is being cultivated in the country and soon the godowns of the country are going to be filled with them then how can they talk about farmer's welfare by importing wheat from foreign countries. On the one hand crops are growing in the fields and the farmer value is increasing so that when they want they can sell off their crop for some financial income and at that moment the Government is encouraging the black marketeers by importing wheat from outside. This will never help the farmers.

I will conclude with a request. If they want the welfare of the farmers then whom do they give subsidy in agriculture, they give subsidy to those factory owners who produce fertilizers in their factories. They have not made any arrangements for monitoring as to whether the quantum of production they show on papers is actually reaching to the rural areas. One Government official is placed there. The factory owners send a list, the official stamps it and the subsidy money is withdrawn from the Government. Even today the farmers produce organic fertilizers for their own use with the help of cattle dung, waste, garbage, etc. They plant trees. In the rural areas the consumption of gas is not more than 1 to 1.5 percent, it is more in urban areas. The labourers and farmers of villages use burning wood for cooking, and make cow dung cakes for their use. If the Government wants that the farmers should prosper then it will have to arrange for subsidy first. The farmers grow trees and plants for their use. The Government must give subsidy to the farmers on planting trees, this will make the farmers happy and prosperous. Subsidy should also be given on purchase of cattle. If they buy cattle they can look after their families and earn their livelihood by selling its milk and other milk based products. The Urea fertilizer which is being used these days is causing various diseases. The fertilizer made from Cattle's dung will be an organic fertilizer, which will keep the body healthy and strong.

Therefore, the Government should provide separate subsidy on whatever is produced in villages and by village people.

With these words, without hurting him, I would like to conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shrimati Krishna Tirath.

Nearly 32 hon'ble Members are yet to speak and hon'ble Prime Minister will give its reply at 5.30 p.m.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH (Karol Bagh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please give some more time to the females. Please give two minutes extra to the females, then the duration for which all the hon'ble Members have spoken. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall be very grateful to you all if every hon'ble Member concludes his speech within 4-5 minutes.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today I rise to speak on the motion of thanks on the President's Address. This motion reflects about the works done by the Government and there is truth in this. But I am pained to mention when Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra ji, he is not present here at the moment, started his speech he read out from news paper clippings stating that this is the weakness of the Government and this is the weak person in the Government. If we read the clippings of the time when the NDA was in power we will find only scams all around. Be it a Bank Scam, shoe scam, coffin scam or petrol pump scam. If we start reading clippings of all those scams then we would only waste our time into that. I do not want to waste time by reading out clippings of all those scams. I feel happy to say that the works hon'ble President has mentioned in his address in all the fields be it education, health, progress of women, child care, new schemes for upbringing of children, new programmes and new avenues have been started by this Government. Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra ji was telling that when ever the Congress has come into power in the country, the country has seen decline.

I think, he has forgotten that it has been 120 years since the Congress party come into existence even before

[Shrimati Krishna Tirath]

the independence of the country. He seems to have forgotten those 120 years of history or he has never read that it was Congress party which led the country towards its freedom. Today we should not forget the sacrifices made by those freedom fighters because of whom we are breathing into freedom, it is all due to the efforts of Congress. Whatever our ancestors and big freedom fighters did is still running into our blood and we see what we have to do for the farmers, poor, women, elderly of this country. I would like to apprise about all the works done by this Government in each and every field.

First of all I would start from women. In our country ICDS programme was started by Shrimati Indira Gandhi in the year 1975. The ICDS programme was to provide for full meal for women, nutritious food for pregnant women so that the child in womb is born healthy and after the delivery she should be given complete food under this programme because if the women of the country are healthy then only the country will prosper and progress. Today our UPA Government have made further progress in this scheme. Women alongwith children are also fed under the ICDS programme so that they can get nutritious food. Such a healthy and educated child when stands on his feet would be called an Indian.

India is a secular country. People of every caste, religion, creed and culture get equal respect and rights. It is not like the.....* Government which discriminates. Members sitting in the opposition talk of the minorities at the back. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Reference to any person who is not a Member of this House should be expunged.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: They do not know that everyone is equal in our eyes because at the time of independence persons of every caste, creed, culture, religion and region were united. Today, they enjoy equal rights. They get equal respect. Every person has equal rights be it rich or poor or belonging to any caste, religion, creed or culture. The address of the hon. President clearly

mentions about the resolve of the UPA Government of ensuring all round development of the country. New schemes have been launched in the health sector, new hospitals dispensaries have been constructed and medicines have been made available. Just two three days back our Minister of Health announced "Asha aur Janani" scheme of the UPA Government. This scheme would be launched in villages across the country. It would bring an improvement in the condition of women across the rural areas. They will get health benefits. We have such schemes ongoing in the country. Funds are provided from the Prime Minister's fund for the treatment of a poor person, if he undergoes one in a Government hospital, he may be suffering from any fatal disease like cancer, or may have to undergo brain or heart surgery whatever the expenditure, it is borne by the Prime Minister Fund.

Our UPA Government has put its best foot forward in the employment sector. Schemes like Jawahar Rojgar Yojana were launched and efforts are ongoing even in the direction of Jawahar Lal Urban Renewal Mission in the interest of the country. It is the objective of the UPA Government to provide basic amenities to all the citizens of the country. The efforts of our Government are oriented towards providing electricity, drinking water and linking sewers, canals etc. and providing canals and water, fertilizers and subsidy in full to farmers. Right now, Prabhunath Singh ji was telling the manner in which these should be provided but perhaps he is forgetting that we are stepping forward in that very direction and perhaps he has not read the Hon. President's address properly. The command of the UPA Government is in the hands of hon. Sonia Gandhiji who is working as its Chairperson and Dr. Manmohan as Prime Minister who handled the portfolio of Minister of Finance under the Narsimha Rao Government's regime and strengthened the country's economy, we are now going ahead in the field of education. New schools and colleges are being established, scholarships are being given to the meritorious and talented students, the scheme to provide uniforms alongwith scholarships to the students belonging to the scheduled castes, scheduled tribe category has been launched. Our Government has given sanction for opening more than thousand Kasturba Gandhi schools for girls. That is why full stationery items are provided to SC, ST and minority students alongwith scholarships so that they may continue their education in a proper manner.

Here, I would like to add and perhaps many a member may not be aware of it. Our Government has another scheme for students belonging to SC and ST

*Not recorded.

those who want to study overseas, be it in U.K., Russia or the U.S. The U.P.A. Government bears the entire expenditure in lakhs of rupees after their admission. The Government has prepared such programmes so as to facilitate education to the poor and downtrodden born in India, who do not have money and intend to study abroad. This is not only one scheme but there are several such schemes of our UPA Government and right now a Prabhunath Singh ji was discussing these very schemes in the context of Bihar in which hundred days employment is assured and the Chief Minister of Bihar has got these schemes implemented in all parts of the State. With deep regret I have to admit that innumerable youths of Bihar who have left their State and are wandering in other States in search of employment getting disenchanted with the law and order situation, should be given employment by the Chief Minister of the State so that they can live happily in their homes. The law and order situation has crippled in Bihar which gets manifested from the increasing number of cases of rape and worsening condition of women. If the State Government makes efforts to check the situation then I think the Central Government would also be ready to lend them a helping hand.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have asked to be brief since there are other honourable Members. I would simply like to submit that I would extend my felicitations to the U.P.A. Government for formulating schemes aimed at progress and development. Besides, I would like to say when we will ahead on the path of progress then this country's name would be written in golden words. Prabhunath Singh mentioned the use of mobile phones which reminds me of our former young Prime Minister late Shri Rajiv Gandhiji while he was mocked at by the opposition when he envisaged the use of mobile phones. That very mobile phone is so diffused that it is being used by every rickshaw puller, bullock cart driver and every person doing even a mean job. He said the villages are not electrified, well there are batteries, one can at least charge mobile phones and make use of the services.

With these words I express my gratitude to you for providing me an opportunity to speak. The progressive steps of the Government would take the country on the path of development.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the Presidential address the maximum stress was laid on the point that the economy of the

country is growing at a good rate and we are making our presence felt at international level. Acknowledging it, I would like to ask a question from the Government that finally who is being benefited from this progress?

[English]

There may be growth in the GDP, and there may be improvement in the economy. But is it going to benefit the common people? Is it going to the areas where it has not yet touched?

[Translation]

Has there been any development in those areas also which have been grossly neglected by the Government during these years.

While not taking more time I would like to mention only those issues which have not been included in the Presidential address. We had met the Prime Minister. We asked him why special attention has not been paid to the Himalayan region so far. All the representatives from Laddakh to Himachal, Uttaranchal, Sikkim and our Arunachal Pradesh had collectively put this question to him. We were expecting that there shall be mention in the Presidential address this time about these areas, but there was no mention. Nothing was mentioned about hilly areas, especially the Himalayan region. I am very disappointed to see that and the feelings of people of those areas have been hurt badly.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): We are also hurt.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please maintain silence in the House. Shri Lal Singh, please do not give any running commentary in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: They are supporting.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You will be given opportunity to speak when your turn comes you may support him then.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Now a days, all the programmes are run in the country on the basis of population. We have repeatedly said that every place has got its unique

[Shri Kiran Rijju]

environment. The criteria of population is not justified in the case of sparsely populated Arunachal Pradesh. If we compare it with the population of either Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana or Delhi than it is negligible. You said that facility of mobile phones shall not be provided to the villages having a population of less than 1000 people. Likewise, you said we shall not construct roads in the areas having a population of less than 250 people. All the programmes of the Central Government are not implemented properly in our State, since the topography of that area is of such type that it is not possible to have settlements having more than 250 or 1000 persons at every place. If the Government do not understand this thing the people of that area will not be benefited from your Programme.

There has been a demand to give special status to the North-East region but it remains confined only to the statements and the documents of the Government and is never materialized. Therefore, there is a need to pay attention to the infrastructure policies and the lacunas if any, found therein should be removed.

Arunachal Pradesh came into being after 1962 Chinese aggression on it. Earlier, it was called 'NEFA'. Many of my colleagues know about it. But, it is a matter of regret that there is a small road in Twang sector which was constructed by the Chinese troop in four months period by taking it in their possession, and now we are using it. Think, that around 60 years have passed since the independence of our country and what has been done for our State so far? Only announcements are made but in reality no scheme is implemented there. The Prime Minister announced a socio-economic package for North-east last year. This package was for three States *i.e.* Tripura, Assam and Manipur. I would like to ask a question from the Government that a peace bonus is given to the State when it has been able to improve its deteriorating law and order situation, but what will you give to the State which has been maintaining peace for long? It is unfair policy and it needs to be rectified. Arunachal Pradesh is known as an island of peace in India. No package has been announced for it so far. If this is the incentive for being a peaceful State than I am sorry to state that you are adopting a very biased policy. I want to warn the Government of India that if it continues to adopt such policies then it does not augur well for future. When Advaniji was Deputy Prime Minister he visited Itanagar and acknowledged that the policy of Government of India especially regarding Arunachal

Pradesh is not fair and it needs to be changed. It is a sensitive State. So, there will be no development of Hydel Power Projects and industries, the terrain is difficult and China is also making its claim over this area. Such restrictions have been imposed in this sensitive area. By this way you do not further the feelings of national integration. This instil a sense of isolation. Such feelings prevent the people of that area to become part of the mainstream. The Government need to understand this fact. But, however, days after the announcement of Shri Advaniji the Government at Centre changed and I was expecting that this new Government will come out with a new policy, but this did not happen. I am sorry to say that Power Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde is also present in the House and I have written a letter to him also. The Hydro Electric Power was supposed to have a major contribution in the power vision document released by the Prime Minister and around 50 percent of the Hydel electricity was about to be generated in Arunachal Pradesh. But, what happened to that. The Chief Minister of State belongs to your party who himself is mocking at the policy formulated by the Government of India. The National Hydro Power Corporation had very diligently conducted a survey and investigation there and the Chief Minister discretely hand over that to a Private party before the commencement of the project. What does this mean? If you remain just a silent observer here then how the shortfall of the electricity in our State and the country will be met? Hon'ble Minister is sitting in the House so, I urge him to look into this matter as Arunachal Pradesh has a lot of potential in the field of power generation. The hon'ble Minister should discuss this matter with his Chief Minister and ask him not to adopt such wrong policies. Time and again we raise our demand of trade route from Arunachal Pradesh to its neighbouring countries-China, Bhutan and Myanmar. The demands for increasing trade with Pakistan are raised in the House. Presently, the buses and trains are running between the two countries. We had also raised a question that what the Government is doing to, extend further the 'steel well' road of British period which runs from Iedo area of Assam to Myanmar and Kunming area of China via Panchupas in Arunachal Pradesh? Presently, nothing is being done. We have repeatedly raised this issue. The officers visit the area and conduct the surveys regarding the proposal for a route from Taiwan to China but no decision is taken at the level of the Government consequently, no result is achieved. When the situation will improve? What steps have been taken from our side? Something should be done to make the results visible. Will you leave the State like Arunachal Pradesh in such a situation? The

people of Arunachal Pradesh have never started any movement to secede from India. If you want to see the patriotic feelings then visit the villages of Arunachal Pradesh. Even today, the officers are welcomed by shouting the slogan 'Jai hind' there. If the people sitting here become familiar to this situation then it will be in the interest of the country. The people who have visited the Arunachal Pradesh have seen and realized it but I would like to know about the steps being taken by the Government in this regard? You are repeatedly committing mistakes since years by neglecting the State. Therefore, I think the days to come may be dangerous to the country. You should keep this thing in mind.

Sir, since long back, there is a problem of law and order in North East region but Arunachal Pradesh has been peaceful. There was a large scale insurgency in Assam, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura and Mizoram many years back, but what has been the reaction of Government? We have reacted upon that not once but many a times. Recently Karbi Aonglong witnessed a massacre. Yesterday more than 50,000 people were rendered homeless and took shelter in the forests. The Government of India did not announce any compensation for them. A delegation arrived from there. I myself met the Minister of Home Affairs. Today, more than 50,000 people are living in the forest and along the roads. They have no shelter. They should be provided with tents, food and medicines. I would object to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs Statement that surplus tents destined for Kashmir would be sent there. It is shameful that the Minister of Home Affairs makes such statements. It is reprehensible. We were helpless in case of natural disaster in Kashmir. But we could have prevented the massacre in Assam. It was caused by humans. Had the State Government taken adequate steps, massacre could have been forestalled, so many people would not have been rendered homeless.

You talk of conducting a census of the minority community. I would like to dilate on this. Taking steps for the welfare of minority is all right. However, among the minorities, the Buddhist community is the smallest and the weakest of all in the country today. We have no objection for what you have done for the Muslims and others. However, if the Government had formed special programmes for the Buddhist and the Christians, then we as well as they would have been very happy. We are going to celebrate the Mahaparinirwan of Buddha this year in India after 2550 years. This did not find any mention in the Presidential Address. Lord Buddha was

born here. He was a Messiah of peace. It is after 2550 years that all the three events have coincided. Hence it is a year for the Mahaparinirwan celebrations. Not a single word about this was mentioned in the Presidential Address. This has hurt Buddhist community tremendously.

Time is running out. I had much to say. But I confined myself to one or two important points.

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH (Sheohar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the Presidential Address. Sir, it is correct that the Presidential Address reflects the Government policies and programmes. Since I have to speak within stipulated time, I would speak from where several Members had left off. The Government has several programmes particularly for the development and welfare of the villages and its people. These programmes are very important and have been outlived in the Presidential Address. I believe that in the past 58 years no Government had enacted employment guarantee law. The Government have assured to provide Guaranteed Employment for 100 days in a year and enacted law in this regard. But people are asking what would happen for the remaining 265 days? I do not want to hurt anybody but would like to say that several Governments came and went. Those who are making disparaging remarks had run the Government for six years. Those who promised to provide at least one crore employment opportunities each year if voted to power failed to provide employment to even a single person. They should at least thank the UPA Government under the leadership of the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh for passing a law in the Parliament for the first time in 58 years guaranteeing a minimum of 100 days employment for a person in a family. This has now become a law. No amount of praise can express the gratitude of the people towards this Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a suggestion. Initially the Government has selected only 200 districts, including some from Bihar also. Around 23 districts have been included from Bihar. An hon. Minister mentioned that the Chief Minister of Bihar had got all the districts of the State included in the programme. I would only like to say that issuing statements in the Press is not the end. Funds and resources are also needed to materialise programme. Though, it was stated in the press that the remaining districts too have been included. However, no funds have been released for any district. I support hon. Member Shri Madhusudan Mistry's contention that there are different State Governments

[Shri Sita Ram Singh]

belonging to different parties. Some States have begun to prefix the names of their States in Employment Guarantee Scheme. Same thing happened in Bihar also. The funding is to be provided by the Central Government and yet you have prefixed Bihar as if the Scheme belongs to the State Government. We would appreciate if the remaining districts too are included. I would just like to say that Centre should reveal the districts included under these programmes. Regarding SGRY, you enacted the law that the funds being used from Panchayat level to the Zila Parishad level would be brought under this scheme. It is a major decision taken by the Government and we express our thanks for this. I would suggest the Government to create a monitoring cell for its effective implementation. You can take the assistance from the States but do not remain totally dependent on them. You should impress upon the Government for its early implementation and depute your officers in this regard. Only then the success of this can be ensured. This is my suggestion in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you have a point of order?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that right now the hon. Member cautioned that merely speaking about a scheme would not ensure the success of a scheme. Perhaps he was not aware that some of our districts which were not included in the scheme have now been done so due to the efforts of the State Government of Bihar. Work has now begun there. In case of any difficulties in this regard or if any scheme is needed in Bihar let us know, it would be sanctioned.

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: There is no need to repeat it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have another point to make. The people of the country gave a befitting reply to the 'India Shining' campaign. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should speak when your turn comes. Do not dictate him.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Though he does not belong to the ruling party, yet he wants to take the credit.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Sir, this may not be included in my time as they are wasting my time. Bharat Nirman Yojana is the scheme of Government of India. It is a commendable scheme and I feel that the way programmes are chosen in a consolidated way for development of villages is praiseworthy. The Government of India has stated about providing electricity to every village. This view of Government has been reflected in the address. In last 58 years a number of Governments came into power but no one mentioned that we will provide electricity to all the villages. If any Government stated this and fixed the time limit for the same, then that Government could not do anything. The Honourable Minister was present, but now he has left. I would like to say that the decision to provide electricity to all villages by year 2009, is a good thing. But you need to implement the proposal. I would like to dwell upon Bihar. Regarding Bihar.

15.37 hrs.

[SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG in the Chair]

The Government said that it will implement the scheme by the year 2007. The Government have paid 90 percent money to NHPC. Presently the Honourable Minister is not present here. But all those who are sitting, must take note of the information. You paid 90 percent money to NHPC and the officers of NHPC conducted survey of left out villages of Bihar. However, there is no information about survey work. This work has yet not been started in any village. One year has passed and the Government is talking about the year 2009. In Bihar it was planned to complete the work by the year 2007. Therefore, there is still a year left. Hence, I request the Government that utilization of the money which the Government of India has given to NHPC for electrifying the villages, should be monitored to know what percentage of work is being done in Bihar villages and what

*Not recorded.

percentage was spent in other parts of country. The Government should form a monitoring cell. The Honourable Minister should visit Bihar and review the progress to know why the given money is not being spent and why the work related to electrifying villages is not being done. The Government of Bihar is doing the work at its own level. However, I request the Government that the money given by the Centre should be used for electrifying the villages.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government proposes to link by road villages with a population of one thousand and it's a good scheme. Earlier, an Hon'ble Member from Arunachal Pradesh submitted that the Government should also consider about remaining villages where population is less. However, the Government decided that in case of hilly tribal areas with population of even five hundred work will be taken up, but that target is not being achieved. I am of the view that if the time schedule is not adhered to then it would be believed that target will never be achieved. Targets can only be completed when stringent action is taken against those officers to whom the work was entrusted. The only the work will be completed as per the time schedule. I think that the money which the Central Government gives to the State Government is never monitored. The Government never enquires about the money and the Hon'ble Ministers and officers do not undertake State-wise monitoring and this is a big mistake. I would request the UPA Government that improvement is necessary in this regard. Thirdly I would like to submit that the issue of providing drinking water to every village should be solved. It might also be discussed in other countries. However, there are still a few villages where facility of drinking water is not there. This Government is thinking about providing potable water, but it is not being implemented properly in my area.

Here, a discussion was held on telephone. I have no comments on this. But I would like to submit that there would not be a better thing than this if telephone is provided in all the villages, because in this era whosoever works and lives outside wants to remain in touch with his family and children. Hence, every village should get the facility of telephone. In the last budget a provision was made that houses will be constructed for 60 lakh poor villagers. But I want to know whether it was reviewed that how many houses had been constructed in villages for poor? There is a rule of obtaining return from States and the State Government's which are not filing returns, what action are you initiating against them? It is only on paper that 60 lakhs houses have been

constructed. The main thing is that there are discrepancies. The Government implemented Panchayati Raj and said that Panchayats will hold public meetings to decide the number of houses to be constructed for poor, but this is not happening in any part of the country. I hail from Bihar. There village pradhan never convenes public meeting and it is never decided in public meetings about houses for poor and bribe is also taken there. The Government have enacted a law to decide about houses for the poor people so that nobody has to pay bribe because practise of paying bribe is delaying work of house construction. Further, I want to know whether any discussion was undertaken to avoid pendency? You will keep giving money, but benefits of programme will never reach the poor. The important point is that after our meeting with the Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development of the Government of India, a circular was issued, but even then it is not being implemented. In Bihar, even today Panchayat's Head do not hold public meetings on the ground of quorum and two persons—Gram Sewak and Panchayat Head take, five thousand rupees bribe. The amount which you raised from twenty thousand to twenty five thousand is going in tout's pocket and houses for poor are not being constructed. I would like to submit to the Government that public meetings in Panchayats should be definitely convened, if there are two thousand beneficiaries present in one meeting then decide that houses will be constructed as per the schedule of release of funds. This is a big scheme of the Government of India but people know that it is being done by the State Government. The Parliament is passing laws but the benefits are going to the State Governments. There is no benefit to the UPA Government. This is a terrible thing. The Government needs to worry about it.

Sir, my friend has rightly submitted that decisions are being taken in Delhi and State Government is getting acclaim for it. You kindly consider it, I am talking about situation on the ground.

I would like to request that it should be discussed in the Cabinet. Implement this rule. Panchayats are being entrusted with the work of constructing houses for the poor, but I would like to submit that please look for some other way, so that money reaches the poor. It can go through Panchayati Raj but make laws for the same. A panel should be made of people, who are below the poverty line and the money should continuously be disbursed for ten years. Otherwise no one will be benefited and the money will go into middleman's pocket.

[Shri Sita Ram Singh]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are ringing the bell again and again. I have a lot more to say but still I will finish by saying a few words. Here problems of agriculturists are being discussed. If agriculturists do not support us and turn hostile, then no one amongst us will be able to reach Parliament. We are discussing at length about agriculturists but we are unable to feel their pain. The Government is not providing fertilizer, seed and water to agriculturists. Any budget allocation for irrigation in a year can not bring even a single acre land under irrigation. Farmers are preparing their pumping sets. They are producing crops with the help of irrigation, manure and seeds with their own hard work. Our agriculture policy is defective as a result farmers are deprived of their benefits. The most important thing is that you should include the cost of manure, seeds, water and ploughing of fields by tractors and determine the remunerative price for farmers after having a meeting with their representatives. A few days earlier Minister of Agriculture had said that 5 lakh tones wheat would be imported from abroad. Whether wheat does not grow in our country? The fact is that even last year's grain has not been purchased from farmers. In various States, it has not been purchased. Farmers are in trouble. The Government of India should formulate a clear policy for farmers. Compensation and remunerative price should be given to them. The policy should be formulated in accordance with the farmer's convenience.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, finally I would talk about nutritious diet. Food is being provided to school children under education for all campaign but not more than 2-5 percent children are getting it. There is a need to investigate into it and a team from Centre should visit every State which will provide report to the Central Government.

[English]

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Sir, I deem it a pleasure, on behalf of my Party, PMK, to commend the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, delivered to both the Houses of Parliament on 16th of this month.

There are salient and salutary features in this Address which deserve our accolades and gratitude to the President of India. The Address, *per se*, is logically prepared in the backdrop of the emerging challenges in the society. Hon. President has been kind enough to survey the entire gamut of India's polity, society and economy and also to provide a determined direction to

the future development of this country. He has exuded ample confidence in the ability of the people of this country to rise above petty partisan politics and take this country to newer heights of development in the years to come. I am grateful to the Hon. President for the large hearted optimism with which he looks forward to the development of this country. Perhaps because of that optimism he has called upon the countrymen to make India as a developed nation by 2020. In fact, in his Address he has reflected the present mood of the country when he said in his Address and I quote:

"We have restored to our polity a sense of healing, that we have restored to our society a sense of inclusiveness and that we have given our economy a sense of purpose. Confidence in India, in our democracy and in our economy has never been higher. We have been able to restore the pluralistic ethos that is the essence of India. We have been able to replace debates that sought to divide the nation with debates that matter to everyday living of the people. Such debates are the life blood of our democracy."

Can there be a better evaluation or assessment of Indian reality at the ground level than what the hon. President has said in his Address? Can anyone deny that evaluation? For such an excellent evaluation of India's reality we are grateful to the hon. President.

One can easily appreciate and applaud the President's Address if one can really understand the purpose and the nature of the Address. It is not a Motion of Thanks on the Address of Bihar Governor or Orissa Governor: that we should talk about various issues concerning Bihar or Orissa. It is the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address which has got a limited purpose of taking stock of what has happened in the last one year of this Government and what is in store for the Government in the near future. It has got only a limited purpose. If you look at this purpose, the President's Address is not supposed to be a lengthy report like the Five Year Plan document where you get all kinds of palliatives for all kinds of age-old problems. It has got a limited purpose wherein one has to outline the achievements as well as what one is expected to do in the future. If we cannot understand this purpose we give all kinds of amendments and these amendments need to be rejected because they cannot be incorporated in the President's Address.

If you look at the purpose of taking stock of this Government, I should say that the President's Address gives a balance sheet of this Government and this balance sheet is excellently drafted on the positive side. It is indeed an objective evaluation. Any impartial observer of this Government would endorse the view that this Government under the dynamic and dedicated Leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh has really done a commendable job, in fact the best of a bad job in the face of various constraints under which it has been working.

As you know, this Government came into Office just less than 20 months back and when it took the mantle it had to face all kinds of constraints. As you know, it has inherited an economy from the erstwhile Government, which was characterised by fiscal irresponsibility, dwindling growth rates and that growth rate was just above the traditional Hindu rate of growth, wide-ranging disparities and dichotomies, frustrated people and marginalized sections of the society. This was the economy which was inherited by the Government of Dr. Manmohan Singh. Immediately after taking over, the Government has to face the worst disaster in the human memory and human history in the name of Tsunami, Jammu and Kashmir experienced, the worst hit earthquake and avalanches resulting from heavy snowfall, torrential rains and floods in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu and there were man made terrors created by communalism perpetuated by the fundamentalists and obscurantist forces in this country. Under these circumstances one has to evaluate the performance of the Government in the last one-year.

Any other Government in the face of such constraints would have simply craked but this Government under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh took up the mantle and not only withstood all the challenges but has also become stronger and stabler today. The most important characteristic of this Government is that it has converted all the challenges into opportunities which is the hallmark of any efficient and efficacious Government. Now look at the other salient characteristics of this Government.

First of all, it has given a commitment to the people. After the last Lok Sabha election, the UPA Government was formed with an alliance of some parties. These parties have given a manifesto to the people that they will be able to satisfy the aspirations of the people. Based on these manifestoes, they came together and prepared

a Common Minimum Programme which has become the *magna carta* of this Government. Now, look at how this National Common Minimum Programme has been implemented by this Government. In the last 20 months, this Government has carefully adhered to this *magna carta* without any deviation. It has implemented this programme very sincerely, seriously and faithfully. Inspired by the CMP, Dr. Manmohan Singh Government has taken a number of administrative, legal, legislative and budgetary measures to take more than 70 initiatives. Just imagine in 20 months more than 70 policy initiatives have been taken by this Government. Never before in the history of Independent India had any Government taken so many measures within a short span of time. The Government has fulfilled many of its stated commitments within such a brief span of time. This remarkable achievement only shows that this is a responsible, responsive, caring and inclusive Government. It is really a patriotically committed Government. This is not only a responsible Government but it is an accountable Government. It wants to show accountability to the people for all the actions it has taken.

In the last two years, the Government has brought out two Mid-Term Reviews of what it has done and what the Government has achieved in the last two years. These Reviews have told the people about the achievements of this Government. Now this Government believes in performance rather than percepts, beliefs and principles. That is why, the Government has brought out an outcome budget rather than an outlay budget. Have you ever heard in the last 59 years of independent existence of India that any Government is willing to show that this is the outcome for the outlay that we have incurred? Now we are passing through that fiscal transition—from outlay budget to outcome budget which is one of the innovative aspects and hallmark of this Government which no one can challenge. Not only that, on the fiscal front the Government has understood that if the fiscal deficit is allowed to rise and if it goes uncontrolled, it will become the villain of peace. The history is reminiscent of this kind of instability in 1991 which culminated into an economic crisis. Now having realized this danger, the Government has given upto itself Fiscal Responsibility and Management Act which has said that the revenue deficit will be within this permissible limit and the fiscal deficit will be within this permissible limit. This kind of attitude has brought about a wholesome fiscal consolidation in the country which has given more resources to the Government to implement various schemes.

[Prof. M. Ramadass]

This is a Government which believes that economic growth *per se* is not enough. But the benefits of economic growth must percolate down to the common man. In other words, it believes in economic growth with social justice. That is why, today on the social side this Government has taken a number of policy measures which would help the common man of India to rise above the poverty line, unemployment level, etc. In 1991, when the hon. Prime Minister was the Finance Minister, he made a classic statement that there cannot be good politics without good economics and there cannot be good economics without good politics. So, there should be a combination of both. Now, the performance of Dr. Manmohan Singh is a reflection of that good economics, good politics and social justice also. That is why, the Government has taken a number of initiatives of which I would mention only one or two. It has a bearing on the common man of this country.

16.00 hrs.

Sir, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is a revolutionary step which has not been implemented anywhere in the world. Today, through this Act the Government recognises right to employment as a Fundamental Right. If a person is not going to get a job within 15 days from the date of application, then he would be entitled to a wage of Rs. 60/-. This has never been heard of in the history of India so far.

Sir, the Government has also passed a legislation, namely, the Right to Information Act. This Act would provide information and lead to transparency. Under this Act the people are entitled to seek information on any subject and through this process the Government has tried to root out corruption in this country. The Bharat Nirman programme seeks to provide six infrastructural facilities in the rural areas. It would help in upholding the dignity of the people and would also help in preventing exodus of the people from the rural to the urban areas. We are also immensely pleased to note that this Government has taken measures like declaring Tamil as a classical language, repealing POTA and also has brought about Administrative Reforms Commission etc. There is also the Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Programme etc.

Thanks to all these initiatives, today all the economic indicators are looking up. The *per capita* income of India is today one of the highest and the growth rate of India is one of the highest in the global scenario. Not only

that, the social indicators also are looking up. Someone had asked as to what has happened to the human development indicators. In fact, the human development indicators, in the last two years, has also risen. Therefore, there is both economic and social progress in the country today. These developments have been brought out in the President's Address.

Sir, the only thing that I would like to bring to the notice of the Government is about the development of the people belonging to the Other Backward Classes who constitute about 60 per cent of our population. They must deserve the attention of the Government. This class has so far not received the proper share that it should get. Therefore, we wish that this Government should provide reservation to OBCs in the educational institutions. The Government—in response to a decision of the Supreme Court, through a Constitutional Amendment Bill—has provided reservation for people belonging to the Other Backward Classes in private institutions. But what about reservations for them in Central Government institutions? In those institutions they have not been provided with any reservation. Therefore, it is our earnest appeal to the Government that it should provide reservation to people belonging to the Other Backward Classes in the Central Government institutions.

Sir, with these few words I would like to express our deep sense of gratitude to the Address of the hon. President which provides a symbolic gesture of the development scenario of this country.

[Translation]

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had requested five minutes to speak on the Address of honourable President. You have given me an opportunity for which I am thankful to you. While participating in discussion on motion of thanks on President's Address, I would like to draw the attention of this Government on one point only. When our country became independent the share of agricultural sector was about 50 per cent in GDP but now it has decreased to only 23.9 per cent. It is unfortunate that budget allocation for agriculture sector is decreasing every year. In 1977 it was 6 per cent which has come down to one per cent last year.

Sir, 73 per cent of our population depends on agriculture. They earn their livelihood from this and agriculture sector provides 63 per cent employment. So it

is very contradictory that only 1 percent budget allocation is provided for agriculture sector which gives employment to 63 percent population and 16 percent budget allocation is distributed for IT Sector which provides 15-16 percent employment only. If you will compare with others you will see that when we talk about 10 percent growth rate our per capita income should be double in ten years according to it. China is the only country of the world which has doubled its per capita income in 20 years. According to it if our growth rate would be 7.2 percent then it will be difficult to double the per capita income in 10 years because our population is growing at the rate of 2 percent every year. From this point of view to double our GDP in 10 years our growth rate should be 9.2 percent or 10 percent. When scholars considered that how China has done this they found that China has done maximum investment in agriculture. As a result of this the per capita income of China has doubled in the last 20 years due to agricultural growth. In our country continuously its reverse is taking place. If you will not increase budget allocation for agriculture then our GDP and per capita income will not increase upto the desired level. If there is 0.1 percent increase in GDP due to agriculture then our farmers would get 10 thousand crore rupees. But last year it was only 1 percent, this year 8 percent growth rate is expected but we do not know as to how much our agriculture contributes to it. We will come to know about this when Economic Survey will come before Budget. But their behaviour is not proper with agriculture and farmers. The another matter related to agriculture is animal husbandry. The other source of income is animal husbandry. You will be surprised to know that despite being so neglected, it provides so much money. Wheat, paddy and sugarcane together contributed nearly Rs. 1.45 lakh crore in the national income (offer) in the last few years, whereas milk alone contributed Rs. 1.02 lakhs crores. If we will add meat, fisheries in it then the income from this sector equals agriculture sector—but nobody pays attention on it. Every time in every speech whether it is Budget Speech or Presidential Address, it is said that big amount of loan will be provided to farmers in credit flow. Last year it was decided that 18 percent of loan will be provided to farmers. But this aim has not been fulfilled till now. No strict directions have been issued to the banks which have not fulfilled its promises and the greatest problem is. ...*(Interruptions)* I do not take much time, neither I wait for bell. I want to speak about farmers who are committing suicide. When I visited some villages of Karnataka with agriculture Committee, then it was found that farmers are committing suicides due to interest on

loan only. NABARD provides loan to Cooperative banks of States at the rate of 4.5-5 percent. Then these banks provide loan to farmers at 9 percent, 10 percent, 12 percent and 13 percent compound interest. It has been recommended and requested repeatedly that if NABARD provides money to States at 4.5-5 percent interest rate then States should provide loan to farmers at the rate of 6, 7 or 8 percent. They go to money lenders when they are unable to pay the interest and money lenders charge interest after interest which led them to commit suicide.

So, through you, I would like to say that very responsible persons and Ministers are here. If they want progress of the country then it is necessary that our farmers should prosper. Country will progress if farmers and villages will prosper and we all, whether we belong to ruling party or opposition, want that the country should prosper. The only way to prosper our country is to prosper village, farmers and people living there. Whether they are labourers or landless labourers who are dependent on land. Sir, through you, I would like to say that the Minister of Finance speaks very good English, lives in city and takes a cue from Delhi as well as rest of the world. Sometimes he talks about villages as well. But this will not help. We see this contradiction in the budget every time. So, through you, I would like to say that unless there is large scale allocation for farmers, agriculture, food processing, animal husbandry in the ensuing budget, the country will not prosper.

As discussion regarding President's Address is going on, various other things have been said by other hon'ble Members. With this, I support the motion of Thanks on President's Address.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I have got a list of 28 speakers on this Motion of Thanks on President's Address. Those who want to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House, they can do so. It will be treated as part of the proceedings. As there are 28 speakers, how can we cover all of them?

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): At the outset, I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. So, this is a policy statement of the Government. This is a speech prepared by the Government, approved by the Cabinet and read by the President of India. The promises given at the time

[Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu]

of elections and the promises made in the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA have not been covered in the Presidential Address. Even everybody is talking about 'recording 7.5 per cent growth in 2004-05 and likely to cross 8.0 per cent in 2005-06'. Everybody is talking about this growth rate. By achieving this growth rate, who will get advantage? This is the question now. Whatever income we are getting, whatever growth we are achieving, that should percolate down to the common man. Otherwise, there is no use of it. Everybody is talking about the growth rate of 8.0 per cent. Now, they want to achieve a growth rate of 10 per cent. But the important thing is that it should percolate down to the common man; it should trickle down to the common man. There is no initiative by the Government of India. Revolutionary changes are required to trickle down the benefits to the common man. Otherwise, there is no benefit of this growth.

Now, the farmers are committing suicide. More than 30,000 farmers are committing suicide. By achieving this growth rate, if the fruits of the growth trickle down to the farming community, the common man and the weaker sections of the society, they will benefit. The present Government is criticising the previous Government. Even in Andhra Pradesh, they are criticising the TDP Government that in those days the farmers were committing suicides. Okay, I agree. After this, why has the Government of India not prevented them from committing suicides. Even in Karnataka, in Maharashtra, in Punjab, in Andhra Pradesh, farmers are committing suicides. In all these States, Congress Government is there. We have to find out the root cause as to why these farmers are committing suicides. You can go through the figures. Since so many years, the farmers' income is coming down year by year. Even the poor-rich gap is also increasing year by year. That is why, we have to take necessary proper steps to provide more money for agriculture, and for the social welfare. There should a reform with a human face. Without human face, there is no reform. So, there should be reforms with human face and then only we will succeed. We can do something for the weaker sections. Even we have amended this National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. This Act applies to only 200 districts in the country. Before this Act came, there are already several programmes like Employment Assurance Programme; Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme. All these programmes extended to the whole country. In every district, if any unemployed person needs employment, we can provide

employment. We can provide work by this National Rural Employment Guarantee Act. It is good Act. After Independence, we have given a constitutional guarantee to the unemployed persons. But it will apply only to 200 districts. The Government should answer about the 400 districts which have been left. Suppose, some districts are not covered under this Act and there is poverty and employment there, who will approach those people?

If they approach the Collector, he would say that our district is not covered under this Act. Previously, so many programmes were there. In those programmes, we can cover it. So, my request to the Union Government is this. According to the UPA Common Minimum Programme, this is an assurance. It has been stated:

"The UPA Government will immediately enact a National Employment Guarantee Act. This will provide a legal guarantee for at least 100 days of employment, to begin with, on asset-creating public works programmes every year at minimum wages for at least one able-bodied person in every rural, urban poor and lower middle-class household throughout the country."

Now, it is restricted to 200 districts only. In the President's Address it is not mentioned that in this year, they would increase it to hundred districts. It is limited to the 200 districts only. That is why, I feel that the whole country, two-thirds of the country, will not get the benefit under this Act. My request to the Union Government is this.

According to the election promise, according to the UPA National Common Minimum Programme, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act should be extended to the whole country. It is my party's demand that this should be implemented. Otherwise, there is no use. The people will not get the benefit out of this Act.

Regarding Education and Health, what is the promise the UPA Government made in the election manifesto? You can go through their promise on Education and Health. It has been stated:

"The UPA Government pledges to raise public spending in education to at least 6 per cent of the GDP with at least half of this amount being spent on primary and secondary schools."

How much have they allotted in the Budget since the last two years? We have not achieved 6 per cent of

the GDP spending. It is your commitment that Education and Health need more attention. Even now, the people in the villages are not getting good medical facilities. People are dying due to lack of medical facilities. For major diseases, they cannot afford money to the tune of Rs. 1 lakh or Rs. 2 lakh. Even we are representing to the hon. Prime Minister to sanction money from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund but we are not getting it. That is why, Education and Health need more priority. We should allocated more money. Otherwise, it will not trickle down. The people are dying. So, you have to implement your promise.

About Education, what have you said? It says:

"The UPA Government will raise public spending on health to at least 2-3 per cent of the GDP over the next five years, with focus on primary healthcare."

It has to spend around 5 per cent of the GDP over the next decade. This is the commitment of the UPA Government. What happened now? We are not providing enough money. Everybody will appreciate if you do it. We are not feeling happy after seeing this growth and everything. More money should go for Education and Health, for the farming sectors. Otherwise, 80 per cent of the population in the villages will not benefit. More than 70 per cent people depend on agriculture and allied sectors. So, how will they get the benefit? That is why, my request to the Union Government is that more money should be allotted to Education and Health. Then only we can provide good health to the common man.

Regarding Women's Reservation Bill, this is the promise made by the UPA Government in the National Common Minimum Programme. It has been stated:

"The UPA Government will take the lead to introduce legislation for one-third reservation for women in Vidhan Sabhas and in the Lok Sabha."

This is the commitment of the UPA Government. Please go through the President's Address. In the President's Address, it is said:

"My Government will make every effort to see that 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament and the State Legislature is made possible in the near future."

There is a change. Immediately, they changed it. Every political party is ready to pass the Women's

Reservation Bill. Who will object it? You may better bring forward the legislation. We are all ready to support the Bill. What have they said at the time of elections? What have they mentioned in the UPA Common Minimum Programme? What is there in the President's Address? If you go through all this, you will find that they have now watered it down. They are not interested in giving 33 per cent reservation for women. They have categorically mentioned it in the President's Address. So, they are making dual policy. My party's demand is that this Bill should be passed. Even all the political parties like the CPI, CPM, the BJP, the Telugu Desam and all other political parties are ready to support the Women's Reservation Bill. But they are not bringing forward this Bill. Now, I would like to say something regarding backward classes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, this issue regarding these backward classes and these minorities is most important. If you go through the UPA Common Minimum Programme, they have identified six basic principles. Out of the six basic principles, fifth one is 'to provide for full equality of opportunity, particularly in education and employment for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs and religious minorities'. There is no reservation for OBCs in Central Government educational institutions. Even after two years of coming into power, the Government has not brought any legislation. The Government have not issued any GO. There is no reservation in educational institutions for the OBCs. What is your commitment? Two years have passed. They have given a promise even for the minorities also. They have given a promise in the Congress Party election manifesto. We have given reservations in Karnataka, we have given reservations in Kerala in education and in employment. We want to amend the Constitution, we want to provide the reservations for the minorities. What they said in the elections, they mentioned in the UPA Common Minimum Programme. Even in the recent Plenary Session in Hyderabad, there is no mention about the minorities. Is this not but cheating? Is this not but cheating to the minorities according to UPA Common Minimum Programme and the manifesto?

I would like to say something about National Development Council (NDC). According to the National Development Council and Inter State Council, if you go through all these things, what is the promise of this Government to the people of this country? The UPA

[Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu]

Government will make the National Development Council a more effective instrument of cooperative federalism. Where there are strong States, there is a strong Centre. With weak States, there is no strong Centre. What have they said? The NDC will meet at least twice a year and in different States. But what happened after two years? They convened a meeting only one time instead of four times. The NDC should take up the issue of financial help to States and arrive at a national consensus. Specific steps should be taken in this regard. The Inter State Council should be made active. All Centrally-sponsored schemes except national priority areas like family planning should be transferred to States. Many programmes under the Centrally-sponsored schemes are not transferred to the States till this day. Till this day many programmes are under control of the Government of India. What is the use? If you want decentralisation, if you want to give more power to the States, as per the Sarkaria Commission's Report, we have to transfer all the schemes to the States.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: I will cover two-three points. Sir, if you look at the UPA Government, there is no proper understanding in coalition among the UPA partners and their supporters. There is no unanimity. There is no unity in the decision-making at the Centre. One party is talking one thing and another party is talking another thing. In one State, the same party is criticising another party. In Andhra Pradesh, TRS is criticising Congress, and the Congress is criticising TRS. They are partners at the national level. The premier institutions like CBI are misused. The Bofors case is a good example of how they have misused the CBI in this thing.

The Governors have become agents of the Union Government. The latest examples are Bihar, Jharkhand and Goa. Everybody knows that the dissolution of the Bihar Assembly was unconstitutional. That is the verdict of the Supreme Court. But there is no response from the Government of India. Nobody took any steps even after the Bihar Governor said that he would take salute at the Republic Day celebrations. It is he who gave his resignation.

Why are we deviating from the non-alignment policy? This is the policy formulated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of this country. Why are you going against Iran? We want to make our independent foreign policy. We can also go for this atomic policy, Pokharan

test and everything. But we are against Iran. So, we should not deviate from the non-alignment policy and everything.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: So, finally I would like to request through you to this Union Government that more allocations should be there for the farming community, education and health.

With these words, I conclude.

*SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): Sir, in the Presidential Address, it is mentioned that the economical growth is likely to cross 8 per cent in 2005-2006. The proposed growth has to be viewed with the perspective how it would benefit the common man. The entire farming sector in the country is in doldrums. The suicide of farmers continues unabated. Whether in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala especially in Wayanad District and elsewhere—their problems are not address. The hon. Minister for Commerce, Mr. Kamal Nath, claims that the farmers' interests in this country are protected. After the WTO Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong, the compulsion on our Government not to initiate any policy which may help the farming community, either by giving subsidy or any other support measures, which will sustain our agriculture, which is the livelihood of more than 68 per cent of the Indian population, is mounting. America and European Common Market, as the terms are set now after Hong Kong meet, will reduce the export subsidy by 2013 which constitutes only less than 2 per cent of the total subsidy doled out to the multinationals and the richer sections of the society in the segment. The common farmers even in America are at the receiving end. Every day, subsidy in America and in ECM is above Rs. 4500 crore a day. The import to this country from U.S. and ECM is subsidized and for that reason, it is lesser than the cost of production. There is no level-playing field for India in this global scenario. With AOA, how will our agriculture sector survive? These questions are not addressed.

I want to bring out the point on GM crops in the President's speech. It is mentioned that the Government is planning to set up a biotechnology authority to deal with the release, import and monitoring of GM crops. Regarding the GM seeds, there are a lot of controversies

*The speech was laid on the Table.

and in our experience, in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, cultivation of BT cotton proved to be disastrous.

Andhra Pradesh Government has even moved the court for damages against Monsanto Corporation. The multinational companies take our Government and people for a ride, and they are above law.

Another alarming factor is that the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India has entered into an agreement with US Department of Agriculture to form a Board of the Indo-US knowledge initiative on Agriculture Research and Education. As reported in several media, this initiative has certain hidden agenda. In the recent meeting of the Board in Washington D.C., in December 2005, American side told Indians that there would be no US Government funding but India will have to allocate up to Rs. 400 crore over three years towards the initiative. The US-based multinationals are said to be keen on using initiative for retailing in agriculture. India, a country endowed with rich bio-diversity and huge bank of germ plasm and genetic resources in farm universities and national research institutions, should not give access to transnational and MNCs considering our food security and national security. This is very alarming.

The hon. President has mentioned about better water management. For WTO, World Bank and IMF, water is a commodity. They insist on pricing water and that subsidy should not be given even for drinking water. One of the conditions of IMF in advancing loans is public water taps must be closed. The multinational companies are draining out our ground water ruthlessly for commercial purposes. In many places, thirsty villagers are protesting against this unscrupulous exploitation of ground water. Plachimada in Kerala is an example. The Perumatty Panchayat has been fighting an unequal battle against the multinational Coco-Cola Company for three years to protect ground water. Our resources are being exposed to the exploitations of MNCs.

It is reported that the Government is going to open up education sector to Foreign Institutions including Universities and they will be allowed to enter the country. But why are America, Canada and Australia—who are pressing us for these reforms—not allowing entry of other countries into their domain? How are we going to ensure the purity and independence of our education sector? Are we to surrender everything to foreign interest strangling our cultural and educational existence? What will happen to our national identity?

The Government is going with full force for privatisation and allowing 100 per cent FDI on airports which will have far-reaching consequences for our national security. I want to point out what is happening in America. A political storm has been brewing in the US after the Committee on Foreign Investment approved the take-over of Ports in January. Following the approval, Dubai Ports World (DP World) a state-owned company in the UAE is entitled to run major commercial operations at the ports of Baltimore, Miami, New Jersey, New Orleans and Philadelphia. Now the US politicians including Congressmen want that the deal either be frozen or scrapped citing that the port security could be compromised if an Arab country that was hostile to Israel was in charge of managing key American Ports. Republican Senator Lindsey Graham on Sunday said on Fox Television, "It is unbelievably tone deaf politically at this point in our history, four years after 9/11, to entertain the idea of turning port security over to a company based in the UAE who avows to destroy Israel."

New York Governor George Pataki, on his part, said, "Ensuring the security of New York's port operations is paramount and I am very concerned with purchase." New Jersey Senator Robert Menendez said, he and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, both democrats, have said that they would introduce legislation that would prohibit the sale of port operations to foreign governments.

We are comfortably forgetting that there was a man born in Porbandar whom we respectfully call the Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. We have honoured him by erecting his statue in front of Parliament Building. Luckily for us, statues do not listen or speak. He was concerned about the Indian villagers and the downtrodden. Sir, we must feel comfortable that Mahatma Gandhi is not listening. We have coolly forgotten the Mahatma.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga): Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the debate on the Motion of Thanks on President's Address.

The President, in his Address, has mentioned and proposed a number of schemes and projects for the welfare of the farmers, for the welfare of the labour, for the welfare of the children, for the welfare of the school going children and for the welfare of all the sections of the society by setting up, introducing and proposing so many developmental schemes like National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Bharat Nirman,

[Shri Iqbal Ahmed Saradgi]

Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Yojana with universal mid-day meal programme, etc.

I would also like to draw the attention of the House that the Right to Education up to the age of 14 years and the Mid-day Meal Schemes attached with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan are very significant schemes. As per one calculation, around 12 crore children are being benefited under this Scheme. We have been asking for this Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan scheme for the last two-three decades to provide education in the rural areas, to control the child labour or to avoid child labour. This scheme is a very significant scheme introduced by the UPA Government and the Prime Minister. I congratulate the Prime Minister and the Government that around 12 crore students are being benefited under the Mid-day Meal Scheme and Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme.

Once the Finance Minister has promised on the floor of this House that two percent cess is charged out of this total budget, which comes to around Rs. 4,000 crore to Rs. 5,000 crore. That amount is earmarked for the education purpose, particularly for the rural education out of that budget. It has been assured that for the students belonging to minority communities, especially in the Urdu-speaking areas and in the rural areas, a proportionate Budget should be given to those minority or Urdu speaking areas. I suggest that that amount should be bifurcated or earmarked for the rural areas, for the Urdu speaking areas, as has been promised by the Finance Minister on the floor of this House.

Sir, then we have a National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

[Translation]

In the last 50 years, there would have hardly been a Government which have introduced so many schemes for farmers, rural areas, labourers and poor sections and these schemes being implemented currently are Central Scheme.

[English]

Already the funding of these schemes has been assured. Recently, our Prime Minister visited Andhra Pradesh and started the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. An apprehension is shown by other Parties that this scheme is not being implemented sincerely.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I have applauded the scheme and I said that it should be implemented throughout the country.

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Sir, there are so many schemes which are being proposed and implemented. I would not go into the details of these schemes because these have already been discussed.

I congratulate the Prime Minister for creating a new Ministry of Minorities Affairs. This is the first time that two new Ministries have been created for the welfare of the minorities and for the welfare of women and children.

16.29 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

Argument has come from the opposite bench. I would like to bring to your kind notice that some of the schemes are related to Commission for National Minorities Educational Institutions and there is a Standing Committee for the Education of Minorities. Hon. Members sitting in our opposite side have commented up on the 15 point programme in this regard and have said that there should not be any separate scheme for minorities, there should not be any discrimination. Malhotraji talked about common civil code. Referring to all these things I would like to say.

[English]

I would like to say on this occasion that there are different denominations of loyalty for the Indian citizens. There is loyalty to religion, there is loyalty to culture, there is loyalty to province and there is loyalty to so many other things. Keeping all these loyalties, keeping our identities, we have to maintain a national identity.

[Translation]

Ours is a multicultural society. We cannot enforce common civil code for Muslims only, there is Buddhism, Jainism and also hundreds of religions and customs and traditions. Talking about of common civil code and to bring it for all of them will only be a wicked act and not a good thing. BJP should forget it and they should not talk about such things in future that there should be a common civil code for the country as a whole. It can never suits to Indian society. If the common civil code is

brought then there will be clashes all over India and we will start quarrelling with each other. So it is not advisable for BJP and other parties. They have said so in reference to minority commission, National minority institutions. I would like to say that they should have a big heart for minorities. They should support the schemes meant for minorities because these schemes

[English]

they are not based on religion, they are based on the social economic conditions of the minorities the survey which has been done by Sachhar Commission is based on the socio-economic conditions of the minorities.

[Translation]

Regarding survey of minorities, I would like to ask about the number of people of minorities in Banking sector, in railways and their educational level? You will find that the education percentage of minorities is lower than the backward classes and economically deprived sections. If a commission is set up considering all these things

[English]

if any commission is set up to survey, based on the socio-economic condition of the minorities, I think there is nothing wrong in it. All these parties irrespective of their political ideologies should support this survey and this proposal.

[Translation]

That is why, I would like to say that if any person from a section or a religion is backward then to bring him forward

[English]

to make them compete with the other sections, to make them eligible to become literate, to make them eligible to get education, if any Commission is set up, any priorities are being given, any privileges are being given, I think there is nothing wrong extending this. I congratulate Prime Minister ji, UPA Government and the Chairperson, Sonia Gandhiji for proposing so many schemes for education and development of minorities.

[Translation]

The budget for the same is sufficient and the members of opposition are wrongly doubting it as the

implementation of the same is being done very fast during the last 20 months. There is sufficient funding, institution, implementing agency for this and process for rural employment guarantee scheme has been started.

[English]

They have started identifying the beneficiaries the process has already been started.

[Translation]

To make any doubt about it can only be a political view point and nothing else. The UPA Government has good schemes and these are for all sections.

The UPA Government has made very friendly relations with neighbourhood countries, as has been made with Pakistan. Buses have been started plying for Pakistan. People to people confidence is being build up. Delegations from Pakistan are coming to visit our country and our delegations are going to visit that country. With this a good atmosphere has been created in foreign policy and in foreign countries. I congratulate for this to our Prime Minister and UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi. A sense of security has build up, in this country after the UPA Government has come into the power. There was a fearful atmosphere, people were scared, there was a tension. The first achievement of UPA Government is that today there is an atmosphere of safety and security in the whole country. Alongwith that I would like to give some proposals. There are schemes for minorities such as Maulana Azad Education Fund, its budget should be enhanced. I demand that the financial assistance for this minority institution should be provided to the tune of rupees two hundred crore instead of rupees sixty crore as has been proposed. Thus, it should be enhanced. There should also be enhancement in the Budget of Financial Minority Development Corporation. This enhancement is not religion based. The budget should be enhanced on the basis of their educational condition, financial condition and this backwardness for due to which they come in this community. I once again congratulate the UPA Prime Minister and UPA Chairperson for taking up these subjects of minority and for preparing the good comprehensive plan for other castes, backward castes and schedule castes. With the request for enhancement in the budget of the schemes for minorities, I once again thanks Mr. Speaker for giving me the opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to make an announcement. It does not suit the convenience of the hon. Leader of the Opposition to participate in the debate today and he has requested me to allow him to speak tomorrow at 12 o' clock immediately after the Question Hour. He will speak for about 30 to 40 minutes and thereafter the hon. Prime Minister will reply. The discussion will end thereafter. After that, the other discussion will start.

I have been assured by Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra that on behalf on his Party and Opposition, there would be no notice for what we call 'Zero Hour' tomorrow.

Now, time has to be strictly maintained.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): How can it be possible? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If not possible then take action whatever you can.

Now, Shri Tek Lal Mahto.

[Translation]

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO (Giridih): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for allowing me to speak on the hon. President's Address. After 58 years of independence, the greatest achievement of the Government has been to provide Rozgar Guarantee Yojana for people living in villages in almost 200 districts. In this regard, I want to mention that I belong to the State of Jharkhand. The Deputy Commissioner in those districts has fixed a time limit that registration has to be done between 2nd to 9th only. How registration will be done for all in only 7 days? Therefore, an order should be issued from here that there should be no time limit until the registration of all the people is completed. There are 14 Members of Parliament from the State of Jharkhand and out of 14 Members, 13 Members are with UPA. However, no attention was paid towards the State while preparing the President's Address. The biggest problem of Jharkhand is displacement. I think that large scale displacement like Jharkhand has not taken place anywhere in the country. Near about 58 lakh people were displaced from the State. In my opinion, neither the State nor the Central Government know the whereabouts

of those displaced people? The Governments there, the earlier Government was closing down the factories and collieries. And so, we told the people of Jharkhand to remove the said Government and support the UPA Government. So, the NDA was uprooted from Jharkhand. Since then, 20 months have passed but the factories are still remaining closed. Not a single factory has started functioning. The Centre provided Rs. 2100 crore as grant for HEC in Ranchi but the State Government was not able to provide Rs. 700 crore only. Hence, the company is lying closed.

Coal India has framed a rule. Minister of Coal is distressed with such rules. Coal India has stated that they will not provide employment in exchange of land. Thus, production of coal will be affected. Until guarantee of employment is provided to the farmers for land, land is provided in exchange for land and economic rehabilitation is provided to the farmers, they will not give their land and there will be no production. Hence, development of the country will come to a standstill. Coal India should make change in such rule. There should be guarantee for land and employment for their land.

We are discussing the matter regarding farmers. Even though having several resources of electricity, arrangements have not been made to provide electricity in our State. Hydel plants could be set up. Power plants are also there, but people of the region are still deprived of electricity. On the one hand there is the Rojgar Guarantee Yojana under which we are talking to provide employment to the unemployed persons, while on the other hand the Government of Jharkhand has reduced the kerosene oil quota of the dealers, through whom people were selling kerosene. Hence, the dealers have now become unemployed.

Education and mid-day meal is being provided to the children through Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan, but teachers are not being appointed. Many schools are closed. Buildings are being constructed. Local teachers are running schools in villages but they are being paid a salary of Rs. 1000—1500 only. Government school teachers are getting Rs. 10,000 to 15,000 due to which there is resentment in local people. Their salaries should be increased.

Jharkhand is facing acute problem of drinking water. The reasons are CCL, BCCL and lack of water sources. Water table has decreased due to coal Mining. Government is not making arrangements for providing

drinking water. Funds provided by the Centre are being diverted. Proper utilization and monitoring of the fund should be done. Amount provided for drinking water is being diverted. Now, UPA Government is being questioned as prices of foodgrains, medicines and clothes etc. are getting increased. It is sad to listen that the same things which applies to the NDA Government, such as soaring prices, now apply on the UPA Government. Poor people are the worst sufferers. There should be control on price hike. State Government is not properly utilizing the funds sent from the Centre. The Officers are plundering the funds. I remember that Rajiv Gandhi once said that only Rs. 14 reach to the people out of the Rs. 100 given from the Centre. He had said this thing some twenty years ago. The Government should pay attention towards this aspect also. It should be investigated whether the money meant for poor is being spent on them. A monitoring team should be constituted to monitor the working of the State Government whether the money is being utilized properly? Indira Aawas Yojana is meant for the poor. There is planning to construct houses for the 60 lakh poor farmers. Planning to construct houses for the poor appears to be good. But only Rs. 15-16 thousand reach to the poor out of the Rs. 25 thousand. Many people construct their houses but could not complete the work like window, doors and plaster because 10-12 thousand rupees are taken away by the middlemen. A monitoring cell should be constituted to investigate the matter.

The Government have accepted that 1.50 per cent irrigation facility is being provided in Jharkhand. However, the UPA Government have neither constructed any pond nor dam till date. The names of big schemes like Shram Vikas Yojana are printed in books but our recommendations were not asked for the purpose. We are the representatives of people, Member of Parliament and this Government fund but our recommendation was not required for the purpose. We have been appointed as Chairman but D.Cs. are spending the funds as per their desire. We are not being asked for any recommendations. This is Government fund and hence, I want that there should be recommendation of the representatives of peoples so that the fund could be properly utilized.

Under the Shram Vikas Yojana, I want that specially the closed factories, should be made operational as the UPA Government had promised to start these factories. Thousands of unemployed labourers will be employed with the functioning of such factories.

With the words I conclude. I would like to thank you for allowing me to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Your speech was very good and we congratulate you for that.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I hope his speech is properly looked into.

Shrimati Neeta Pateriya.

[Translation]

*DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): The Address of hon'ble President is a news letter of the policies, achievements and special schemes of the Government.

While speaking on the vote of thanks on the address the introducer thanked himself by exaggerating the various schemes of the Government. If you will analysed it deeply you will find the fact. What is the position? Are we not in a dilemma. Economic progress has been much talked about in the address but if we see, we will find out that the condition of the poor became worse and the condition of rich improved even after said claim of progress. Have not we been incompetent to make a bridge between the poor and the rich people. What is the condition of the people who are living below poverty line? Are we able to bring equality between the standards of life of the cities and villages? Why the rural people are migrating towards cities in search of employment? The increasing population of the cities and the unemployment have created disorder. As a result thereof the youth are bound to lead the life by becoming someone's guest or by taking refuge in temporary shelters or on the footpaths or in jhuggies. This attraction of cities and the tendency to run towards cities has created such an atmosphere where the problems of water, power and residence are increasing day by day and are posing a challenge to the economic progress of the country. How can we bridge the gap between poverty and richness? How can we ensure employment opportunities in rural and urban areas and check migration so that the common man can be benefited by the economic progress?

*The Speech was laid on the Table.

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey]

There is a mention in the address about progress of agriculture and the facilities being provided to farmers. But on the other hand the condition of farmers are pathetic and they are unable to get suitable price for their product and are compelled to commit suicide. In such a situation how the farmers can progress. The loan being provided to farmers should be easy and the farmers should get suitable price for their product. There is a dire need to solve their problems at the earliest and to make sincere efforts in the direction of extending the benefits of the research of agriculture scientists to every farmer of the village. Today, the condition is so critical that we are going to import foodgrains and simultaneously we are claiming for self dependence. There is a need to promote modern technology in the agriculture sector of the country.

There is a mention of infrastructure for overall development and progress of the country in the address. If we will see then we may find that electricity generation and construction of roads for transport facility the infrastructure is a must. For industrial expansion sufficient water, land and related suitable environment is necessary. Are we able to provide these?

Sir, earlier Government of United Front had made efforts in this direction. In the direction of power generation proper attention has been given towards exploitation of non conventional energy sources apart from conventional energy sources and the scheme for new conventional and non conventional energy generation plants had been launched, but now there is lack of efforts, it must be increased. Sufficient attention was paid towards exploitation of hydro power generation from Non Conventional energy sources and from conventional energy sources and new schemes of conventional and non conventional energy generation plants were launched but there are lack of efforts now, it must be increased. On the one side water and power are a must for progress of industrial areas, on the other hand these are primary needs of farmers or agriculture as well. The efforts made by the Government during the last two years are very slow. Likewise, keeping in view the importance of road expansion for transport facility the earlier Government had made a detailed scheme and programme for golden quadrilateral scheme, Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojna and other schemes but its pace is very slow, there is a need to accelerate its pace. Sufficient allotment of funds are required. Though the discussion regarding expansion of airports have been made for industrial infrastructure,

but there is no progress appeared even after two years. Madhya Praesh is almost ignored. We are making bare declarations. Transport facilities are basis of agriculture and industrial development. Priority should be given to these areas and sufficient funds should be allotted for the purpose. Water also has an important contribution towards basic infrastructure. An ambitious scheme for inter linking rivers had been started by earlier Government but the pace of the said scheme is also low now. It is very necessary to accelerate the schemes by paying proper attention on the work position of the schemes. It will immensely contribute towards the progress and development of the areas where there are water crises like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan or Chhattisgarh.

Sir, the discussion regarding taking effective steps to check corruption has been made in the Address but while enacting Lokpal bill no step has been taken in the direction of appointment of Lokpals. In addition to that the lack of positive action of the Government to check corruption at various levels is really a matter of concern, which proves the incompetency of Government machinery.

Sir, the decision of Sacchar Committee in respect of counting of minority personnel in all the three armed forces is really an attack on the basic nature and character of the army and accordingly no mention to check the action is really a step to hurt national integrity and a matter of serious concern.

Sir, there is a mention of easy access to Sarva Siksha Abhiyan. Wide progress in education and equal opportunities of education at all levels have been made in the Address but there is no mention in respect of effective steps supposed to be taken to check the reservation on communal basis in various educational institutes of the country. It is directly hurting secular nature of the country. Apart from this, the silence of the Government on the said issue is a matter of wide unrest.

Sir, though there is considerable development in communication facilities across the country but the tribal dominated areas and the rural belts are still deprived of the benefits of said facilities. The people of said regions are deprived of these facilities and it is clear there from that these facilities are restricted to specific cities and colonies and if there is some facility in any rural area then it is almost nil. Their availability is most important.

In the address, the railway has been quoted as a pride but the tribal and far flung areas of the country are still deprived of this facility. Tribal dominated regions of

M.P. like Jhabua, Khargon as well as backward regions like Mandsour, Neemach, Rampura, Manasa etc. are not connected with rail link yet. The State of Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh are also demanding the rail facilities regularly.

Though the mention about certain measures for ensuring availability of employment opportunities and education to the SCs, STs and other academically and economically backward citizens of the country and National Rural Employment Guarantee schemes have been made but there is no mention about the measures to implement these effectively.

Our space programme has made rapid progress and each sector has availed its benefit. Defence as well as common man benefited with it. We are proud of our scientists. But, there is immense need to promote this programme.

Although some steps have been taken from the point of view of national security but some policy-oriented changes are necessary therein so that we are enabled not only to combat anti-national forces but also to implement effective action plan to wipe them out.

While mentioning various health schemes in the area of health, Rural Health Mission has also been mentioned and it is a step in right direction but not giving concrete form to the announcement of the establishment of medical Institute on the pattern of All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Madhya Pradesh and not sanctioning the establishment of Aurvedic colleges in Madhya Pradesh as announced by the erstwhile NDA Government are matters of concern.

We are lagging far behind in petroleum production and depend heavily on imports of these items. We are plenty of resources. There is availability of petroleum and crude oil in the country but they are yet to be exploited. We should enhance our capacity and complete our plans in a time bound manner to make ourselves self-dependent in this field.

Although certain mention has been made in the Address regarding transportation but it is necessary to expedite the construction of Nasirabad-Mau National Highway connecting Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and to develop the airport of Madhya Pradesh in order to connect them with other airports of the country.

From the point of view of power, it is necessary to provide adequate water and power to Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

It is necessary to ponder over our foreign policy again in the context of present changing political scenario. Although our relations with our neighbours have improved but from the point of view of changes in international political scenario, it should be our constant endeavour to strengthen our relations with Russia, America, Japan and European Union. Although our foreign policy is very sound and well-considered, it is necessary to have a wider concept in that context.

Hard labour, judicious use of resources and devotion to one's country are needed to make our country's economy strong, self-dependent touching new heights of development. We should march forward in that direction unitedly and use all our strength in the interest of the country.

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA (Seoni): Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. President of India has only repeated his speech of previous year regarding Bharat Nirman. Congress and U.P.A. Government talks about 'Bharat Nirman' repeatedly. But the speech is devoid of any concrete vision of 'Bharat Nirman'. They have made only empty promises. On the contrary, N.D.A. Government had brought India to the forefront of powerful countries. We fulfilled the promises made by our Government. In the speech of hon. President, it has been tried to make the constituent parties of U.P.A. government happy. An honourable Member from Jharkhand was mentioning the speech of ex Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi in which he used to say that out of every rupee sent by the Central Government to the States, only fifteen paise reaches the targeted group. In this context, I would like to say that his speech was delivered keeping in mind the prevailing situation of those times. He did not mean to say that fifteen paise would be received by the targeted group even in the year 2005-06. At that time the Central Government as well as most of the States were ruled by Congress Party. Presently, this statement can not be termed as true when the States like Jharkhand or Madhya Pradesh are ruled by Bhartiya Janta Party.

One more serious issue needs special mention in hon. President's Address. There is no concrete and effective policy to tackle the present problems of external or internal terrorism. The people of this country are worried about anarchical incidents taking place in the

[Shrimati Neeta Pateriya]

country. U.P.A. Government has failed completely in combating terrorism. It will be difficult to tackle the problem of terrorism if the Government talks about vote-politics, pseudo-secularism and religious appeasement and consequently such incidents will occur time and again in the country. The NDA Government enacted POTA to fight terrorism but the UPA Government repealed that Act the moment it formed the Government. The situation in UPA regime has deteriorated so much that ambassador of a foreign country writes letters to India dictating duties of the Chief Ministers of various States of our country. It is a matter of shame for our country and it shows the weakness of UPA Government.

No concern has been shown about the day to day problems faced by the common man in the hon. President's Address. There is a slogan 'Congress kaa hath, Gareeb ke Saath' but this is a slogan only for name's sake. In practice, the Government hand is directly on the pocket of poor persons on the pretext of dearness and this situation of constant high rocketing prices has made the masses scared. The rates of wheat, rice, oil, tea and LPG are increasing every year.

There is no mention of any policy for the welfare of the lacs of employees, the backbone of this country in the speech prepared by UPA Government. Due to anti-farmer policies of UPA Government, the farmers are committing suicide in the country and their number is constantly increasing. In the speech, there is no mention of any means to increase agricultural production. The farmers can get loan without any difficulty but there is no mention of any scheme to make repayment of this loan. The high prices of fertilizers and seeds have broken the back of the farmers. There is neither any mention of giving employment to the unemployed nor any policy for creating employment opportunities. There is no mention in the speech about reviving closed factories, small and cottage industries to provide employment to the people. There is no mention about giving relief to urban unemployed persons. It seems as if the Government does not care for the urban unemployed persons. The UPA Government does not pay any concern towards the lot of urban unemployed persons in any of its statements. There are rickshaw-pullers, cart-pullers and poor labourers who spend their night on foot-paths in towns and cities.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a mention about 'Reservation for Women' has been made in hon. President's Address

which is in itself ludicrous because the constituent parties of UPA are not unanimous on the issue of women's reservation. How can they implement it in that situation? They are just trying to mislead the people of this country by this statement.

There is no mention in the speech about protecting Indian culture. People are not viewing various television programme with their families due to obscene advertisements, serials and films being telecast on various T.V. channels. It is vitiating social and family atmosphere. We must ponder over the fact that these things will affect our children, who are the future of our country. It is a serious issue and this kind of obscene transmission should be stopped. But no concern has been expressed about it. We all will have to check the onslaughts to be made on the Indian culture with iron hand. Our culture is our identity. Our culture is not identified by Valentine Day. Similarly, conversion should also be tabooed with iron hand because foreign missionaries are converting the poor people of Christianity in every nook and corner of the country by taking undue advantage of their poverty and by alluring them which is a serious crime.

Everybody wants that minority should flourish and schemes should be made for their betterment. We should talk about betterment of all the people in the society. The Government have not bothered about all the people living in country but it has bothered how to get Muslim votes. Betterment does not have any caste or creed. It has its own one caste or creed and that is public interest. I humbly request the UPA Government not to divide betterment into caste and creed. The road never says that the Hindus will tread to me or the Muslim will tread on me. The tap never says that the water is only for the Hindus or the Muslims which I have. The sun never works in a discriminatory way and it never projects its rays profusely to the Hindus and scarcely to the Muslims. Nature does not treat someone high or low. Hence, do not divide the air, water, flood and betterment into caste and creed otherwise a discussion for the same will also be started as to who will think about the Hindus. Whether all the Hindus are educated and whether employment has been given to all the Hindus and whether all the Hindus have gone above the poverty line. Please, do not start a new discussion in the country. The majority has also its own feelings. The Government will have to take care of this that their feelings should not be hurt.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my last point is that there is massacre of pundits in Kashmir. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: There is no time left for our party. Your leader is also to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: These people are driven out from there, but no discussion is made about it. We condemn this that caricatures of Prophet Mohammad were made.... *There is a painter who makes nude portraits of Hindu deities. Has he ever been prohibited to do so or have they lodged any protest against him? When a nude portrait of Bharat Mata was made and auctioned, nobody's self respect was aroused in UPA Government to protest against it and ask as to why the nude portrait of Bharat Mata was made.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You ask the Government to do it. Why should you bring in an individual name?

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: We want to say whether the feelings of the Hindus are not feelings?
...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The reference made to Shrimati Sonia Gandhi will be deleted.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Nude portraits are made and auctioned.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, please conclude.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, mother, cow stands for faith of the Hindus. Hence, there should be a strict law against cow slaughter so that their slaughter could be checked.

MR. SPEAKER: That has been checked by the orders of the Court.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: The culture of our country is due to Lord Rama and Lord Krishna. But no body has bothered about constructing a temple in their names. That is the centre point of faith of the Hindu majority. Hence, efforts should be made to construct Lord Rama Temple ...(*Interruptions*). The temple should be constructed.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Next is Shri Ramchandra Paswan. Where is your seat? Please go to your seat.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN (*Rosera*): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the address of President on behalf of my Lok Jan Shakti Party. The discussion on President's Address is going on in the House. Before this Government there was NDA Government and the Government had made a promise to provide employment to 1 crore unemployed people, every year, but not to speak of providing employment to the people, the people already engaged in their work have also been rendered jobless. As many as machine factories/undertakings which were running into losses, were closed down and as many as profit making units were sold out.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please, no disturbance in the House.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you we demand that a provision of reservation in private sectors should be made because all assets through which dalits, backward, poor and economically poor people were getting reservation have been sold out by the NDA Government. We on behalf of Lok Jan Shakti Party demand from the Government that these assets which have been handed over to private sectors, a provision of reservation should also be made therein. Secondly, I want to say that Women should also be provided reservation. We are happy that this Government

[Shri Ramchandra Paswan]

is committed and President has also reiterated the same thing.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the hon'ble Member who is speaking. You are not a prompter for her.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Sir, through you, we demand that one-third seats in Lok Sabha should be increased for the women belonging to Dalit community, minority and other backward classes because their population has increased a lot and therefore, seats should be reserved for them.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, today there is provision of reservation in public sector, but in High Courts and Supreme Court under the judiciary there is no reservation of any kind in the appointment of Judges. Hence, our Party demands that there should be reservation in the appointment of judges in High Courts as well as in Supreme Court. We support the survey work going on in the army for recruitment of people from the minority.

17.00 hrs.

Survey about dalits and tribals in army must also be done alongwith it and they should be given reservation. Mr. Speaker, Sir, though time is short, I'll express myself in shortest time.

MR. SPEAKER: You have already taken five minutes.

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, no, not yet. I thank Mr. Prime Minister Sir, for Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Yojana, I congratulate UPA Government on behalf of Lok Janshakti Party because no government has worked on implementing 100 days Employment Guarantee Scheme as on date. This scheme will be very beneficial. I do not know, how much money has been invested in this scheme but as this scheme has been initiated by the Union Government then money will definitely be invested.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I come from State of Bihar where today NDA Government has been formed but the properties of the people are not safe. Maoists extremists have emerged in every district. I demand from the

Government to eradicate extremism. Whatever planning Bihar Government has done in this regard may be brought to the notice of the people. I demand that extremist activities be eradicated by sending more and more security forces in the extremism affected areas.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are acute problems of unemployment in Bihar which is critical. The people of Bihar are migrating to Kolkata, to Delhi but how much safe they are there, you all know. Now, Mr. Prime Minister, Sir, has guaranteed 100 days employment in a year but this is not suffice. We want the arrangements must be made to provide employment for the rest of 265 days also which have not been talked about. We also demand that the cartpullers, vegetables sellers, egg sellers, small traders; who have no money, they may be given free loans of 5 thousand to 10 thousand rupees so that they may start their own petty business. They do not get money from banks. The half of their income goes as interest for the money that they take from the money lender in village. We also demand that maximum number of poor people be given houses under Indira Awas Yojana. Mr. Speaker, Sir, benefits of Indira Awas Yojana are being reaped by the rich people, who can bribe, if bribe is not paid then the poor do not get the house.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, food for work is a scheme of Union Government, for which it provides money. The State Government is implementing it and taking its credit. In this scheme, head of village panchayats, officers, S.D.O., B.D.O. have been included but neither Member of Parliament nor member of Legislative Assembly is being given representation in this scheme. We demand that a team be constituted by the Union Government to oversee the use of that money in which Member of Parliament be included so that the money could be properly utilized.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, now Prabhunath Singhji is doing so.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: In some States, monitoring Committees have been formed. The Members of Parliament are Chairman of these committees.
.../(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have already given ample time to Shri Prabhunath Singh ji. .../(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have rightly said. I get scared from him.

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: Everyone says that there is some affection, when ever he stands up he gets time. ...(*Interruptions*) I have no problem from Prabhunath Singh.

I want to say that my region is surrounded with Kosi, Kamla and Balan rivers. For protecting this region from floods, a dam was constructed there in 1960. While constructing the dam a map was prepared to store the water. On one side the water would be stored there and at the same time this water would be used for irrigation work through canals. The dam was constructed but irrigation arrangements were not made because of which people are suffering from floods as well droughts.

MR. SPEAKER: You said well, you must speak more but today time is short, you may speak on some other day.

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN: I will conclude by mentioning one thing. Here, all members spoke about the problems of farmers. Today, glass manufacturers, soap manufacturers, oil manufacturers, or a person who manufactures any item, fixes the price of that item on his own but a farmer cannot fix price of his produce. When he goes to the market with his produce then the shopkeeper buys that item at low price and the farmer is not in a condition to oppose it. I want to say that the way a glass manufacturer, soap manufacturer or any other manufacturer fixes price for an item manufactured by him on his own in the same way we should allow our farmers to fix prices of their produce. For this, the Government should provide fertilizers, seeds at subsidized rates and make arrangements for irrigation and also provide markets for them, I make a demand for it.

You gave me an opportunity to speak, I thank you for providing me the same.

MR. SPEAKER: I congratulate you that you spoke very well. When you will speak on some other occasion then I'll give you time again but today time is short.

*SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS (Nagaur): Honourable Sir, the speech of the UPA Government addressed by the honourable President is totally unsatisfactory and disheartening. Therefore, I am against the motion of thanks brought in this regard.

In para 12 of page no. 5 of the address a reference about insurance of agricultural produce has been made

which is eyewash. The premium amount is being forcibly deducted from the loans provided on credit cards, which is highly unfair. This must be optional.

This insurance policy is also full of errors. In this policy, tehsil has been considered as a unit for estimation of the damage. Which means, if the loss which is incurred in the whole tehsil due to natural calamities or other reasons then only the affected farmer comes within the ambit of this policy. So, mostly it is not possible that the damage of crops take place in whole tehsil. Therefore, every revenue village should be considered as a unit in such matters.

In the para 13 of page no. 5 of the address, it is mentioned to make the water available in the drought prone areas from the flood affected areas by connecting rivers. A long time has passed since announcement of this plan but no progress has been made so far in this regard. This government has totally failed in this regard.

This Government claims to be well wisher of the farmers whereas it has been proved that this Government is an anti-farmer Government. Here, the farmers are producing wheat more than the nation's consumption which is being exported to many countries. This Government is importing wheat at Rupees 900 per quintal which is one and half times more than Rupees 600 per quintal of support price, and if transportation cost is added to it then it will cost Rupees 1100-1200 per quintal. This is a cruel step against the farmers.

Though, I do not consider the support price of Rupees 600 per quintal as proper one. If you add the cost of tilling, irrigation, seeds, fertilizer and labour then this amount will be more than Rupees 600 per quintal. The cost of irrigation in canal areas and through wells using electricity is quite different but while fixing the support price it is not taken care of and the support price is kept common in the whole country, which is totally unjudicious.

This UPA Government is creating hurdles in the development of those States where opposition is in power with a feeling of discrimination. The following proposals received from the Government of Rajasthan are pending for clearance but this Government is paying no attention. I urge the UPA Government not to do this and provide equal opportunities of development to all the States.

*The speech was laid on the Table.

[Shri Bhanwar Singh Dangawas]

Power

1. Power that comes within the jurisdiction of the State-Anandpur Saheb Hydel Power Project.
2. Mukerian Hydel Power Project.
3. U.B.D.C. Phase Two.
4. Thon Dam Project.
5. Rajasthan should be given its share from Shahpura Kandi Hydel Power Project. Besides, more shares should be given to the State from atomic power project.

In this connection, I would like to urge that the Head works at Ropar, Harike and Firozpur under the Control of Punjab should be transferred to Bhakhara Vyas Management Division and the remaining share of Rajasthan 0.60 M.A.F., also should be given to that State. Rajasthan's share in Yamuna water should be given to it.

Railways

Construction work of 1-Dausa-Gangapur city, 2-Ajmer-Puskar, 3-Ramganj Mandi-Bhopal, 4-Koliyat Faloudi and 5-Pushkar-Medata city should be completed earliest with full responsibility. Besides this, work on many gauge conversion Projects should be commenced. Out of these projects the work of laying railway tracks particularly from Ajmer Medata Road should be included in this Budget itself. The survey work for this railway line has been conducted several times.

Roads

Whereas two third part of Rajasthan is desert, a good portion of the State is a hilly region. It is imperative to construct roads there for transport connectivity. Though the construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana in Rajasthan is almost nil yet the villagers having the population of 250 persons should be provided road connectivity during this year. Though, there are number of issues, but due to the paucity of time I confine myself to the following issues only.

Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Power that there is a device of setting up power plants in which coal is burnt in the mine itself to create gases which generate electricity and the expenditure on this device is almost the same that of on

hydro power production. Such coal mines have been identified at Medata in Nagaur district of Rajasthan. Power plants with safe device have been established in Gujarat by O.N.G.C., Coal India Limited and Neyveli Lignite limited. The same should be done in Rajasthan also. I urge the U.P.A Government that only changing the name of projects on Gandhi family wouldn't bring any development. This scheme is the same that was formulated by N.D.A. Government and this Government has done nothing except changing its name. To sum up. I oppose this Motion of Thanks.

[English]

DR. C. KRISHNAN (Pollachi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the Address made by hon. President of India on the 16th of this month. I support the Motion on behalf of my party Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam headed by Mr. Vaiko, leader of the Tamilians in Tamil Nadu.

Our GDP has witnessed growth in spite of cross-border terrorism and the threats received from the neighbouring countries from time to time. During the period 1999-2005, the rate of growth of our GDP was 7.5 per cent. During 2005-2006, the rate of GDP so far has been about eight per cent, and it is expected to further increase. So, the country is progressing as stated by the hon. President of India.

I would like to thank the Government of India first of all for amending the Constitution of India to provide reservation in private unaided educational institutions taking into view the interest of the poor, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, socially and educationally backward classes. I also thank the Central Government for sanctioning enough funds for the Sethusamudram Kalvai Thittam which has been the dream of Tamils for the last 130 years.

The former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru C.N. Annadurai was very much in favour of the scheme. Now, right approach has been taken during the regime of our hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh ji.

On 15.09.2003, on the invitation of Shri Vaiko, the then Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited Chennai. He got the approval of the then Prime Minister at the *Seerani Arangam* at Marina, Chennai, where he announced the scheme of Sethu Samuthram Canal System, for which we are very thankful.

There has been a mention about the inter-linking of rivers in the President's Address. Inter-linking of rivers is a very good theme, thinking about the future of our farmers. This is the need of the hour as we are facing on the one side the floods and on the other side, the drought in many parts of the country. Inter-linking of peninsular rivers shall be the first step towards linking of rivers in India. This matter was also brought by Shri Vaiko through a Private Member's Bill in 2001.

The farmers of our country are to be protected by the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme. Seeds should be selected, streamlined and given to the farmers, who are placed in the rural areas, throughout the country. Water management should be main theme for the future of our country. I congratulate the Government for the new ventures for the future of our country—The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, under which 200 districts have been selected and employment is to be given for them. This is an innovative scheme appreciated by the whole world at this point of time. Water conservation project also has to be added to these 200 districts.

Sir, *Bharat Nirman*—rural infrastructure is being given focus. Electricity for the rural people, roads for the rural people, drinking water, telephone and irrigation facilities have to be provided. About six lakh houses are to be built for the poor and downtrodden.

The National Rural Health Mission focuses on nutrition of the poor people in the rural areas as well as providing sanitation and drinking water facilities. The National Urban Renewal Mission is going to improve the conditions of our cities.

The *Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan* is a very important scheme.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you have to complete.

DR. C. KRISHNAN: This is a very important scheme for the poor people who wanted to study. About 12 crore children are to be benefited by the mid-day meal scheme.

Finally, I want to make a request. There are about five ultra mega power projects to be constructed in India. The load is about 4,000 MW. They are going to be constructed along the coastal area as well as on the inland area. The principle of first come, first served should be followed. Hence, I would like to request that Tamil

Nadu should be protected by giving one out of these five ultra mega power plants.

MR. SPEAKER: When I speak for West Bengal, I am at number 2.

DR. C. KRISHNAN: I would request the Government to provide one ultra mega power plant to Tamil Nadu.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Krishnan, thank you for your speech.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE (Barasat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the All India Forward Bloc, I join in expressing our gratitude to our much respected President for delivering an Address to both the Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 16th February last.

While we certainly thank the President for delivering the Address, we know, it is not his Address but it is the Address of the Government as per the convention which outlines the policies adopted by the Government during its tenure and actions taken and to be taken in furtherance of its objectives and policies.

Sir, as the time is limited, I shall try to be as brief as possible. I must mention with regret that though the Address outlines ambitious projects and policies, yet it does not take into account the reality in respect of many of the situations prevailing in the country. On page 4, paragraph 11 of the booklet, it is stated: "My Government has given the highest priority to the welfare of our farmers." But it does not acknowledge that over the last few years, thousands and thousands of farmers have been led to commit suicide in various States of the country. This paragraph gives in detail about the credit facilities that will be given to the farmers. But, it has to be realised that the credit facility alone cannot improve the lot of the farmers. The availability of inputs at reasonable prices is also important. It should be ensured that the farmers get adequate prices for their produce. This will certainly go a long way in improving the conditions of the farmers. A very casual reference has been made to this aspect. In the last line, a brief mention has been made about the question of inputs and the market price of the products.

On page 2 of the printed booklet, the Government has outlined various projects which have been undertaken for rural development. I would certainly like to congratulate the Government for bringing the National Rural

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Employment Guarantee Act by which they have kept one of the commitments made in the National Common Minimum Programme which was accepted by the Government while entering the office. I would like to recall what the Mover of the Motion, hon. Shri Madhusudan Mistry had said in this respect. He has said that the States are still not actively cooperating to implement this very appreciable project. I think, it is too early to blame the States. This Employment Guarantee Act has become operational very recently. The Central Government has to ensure its implementation. It is their responsibility. It is their liability to ensure that all States implement this Scheme.

MR. SPEAKER: How would they ensure it?

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: It may be perhaps by appointing a monitoring committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Over the State?

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Yes, Sir. After all, it is a Central Act. It is a benefit which is given by the Central Act. The funds are going from the Central Government, and to that extent, I think, some machinery with the concurrence of the States should be devised to ensure that the real benefit comes to the unemployed people.

I endorse the views with the various hon. speakers that the scheme need to be expanded. But I think, it will take a little time, and I hope that a day will come when this scheme will be extended to include 365 days, and also perhaps to expand it, to make it effective and operative in all the districts of India. But we have to be patient, as this is not possible immediately. We have financial crunch and we have to appreciate that. But we can certainly look forward to the expansion of this National Rural Employment Guarantee Act in the future.

Sir, under this paragraph at page 2, the other very important policies of the Government including *The Bharat Nirman*, *National Rural Health Mission*, *The Jawaharlal Nehru Mission for Urban Renewal* have been outlined. But if we turn to page 3, at para 6, one of the objects which has been mentioned is about the scheme to provide electricity connection to every village in the country. It is a very laudable object. But we cannot forget that even hypothetically if electricity is provided to every village, we have to ensure that the people in the villages have the economic capability to accept their electricity.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, you have to wind up, please.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: The same thing applies to the telephone facility. Today, communication is very, very important and the telephone facility will be very useful, which is essential. But today, how many people in our villages are really economically sound to take the burden of having the telephone although they do feel the need. Sir, you have rung the bell.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I am sorry, Mr. Bose.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: As a disciplined Member of this august House, I know, there is a time constraint. I think, I have to obey your orders. I shall certainly comply with it.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: But as I do so, may I, Mr. Speaker, Sir, very humbly submit, without meaning any disrespect to any hon. Member, that this imposition of time limit should be done from the beginning itself.

MR. SPEAKER: Right.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: I am not saying that the important leaders should go on extending their time. But I expect that you will ensure that those whose turn comes late, they also have a minimum reasonable time to express their views.

MR. SPEAKER: that is right.

SHRI SUBRATA BOSE: Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Your time was three minutes, but I have given you nine minutes.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am very sorry, this is the fate of the Chair. Everybody is thanking each other but the Chair is only receiving punches.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I fully appreciate to what the hon. Member has said. He is absolutely correct. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You speak to your leaders also.

Now, Shri P.C. Thomas.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Sir, there should be equal justice in providing time. Why do small parties not get enough time to express their views? ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bwiswmuthiary, please take your seat. Otherwise, this time of disturbance will be deducted from your time when you speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, the hon. President who came recently to Kerala had given a call for the Second Green Revolution. He was inaugurating a grand *kisan mela*. He was very enthused with the organic farming and the modern techniques which have been used there.

He had given a call for transforming that into action throughout the whole nation. I find that he had—even in his speech at the Indian Science Congress at Hyderabad a month later to that—reiterated that and has again given a call for second Green Revolution. I find that hon. Prime Minister has also given a call for such a second Green Revolution in the field of agriculture. We are very happy that all such messages are coming out recently which we welcome. The whole nation was expecting a great leap, but I do not find that in the President's Address—which of course is not a speech given by him—there is a real thrust for a great change or a great leap to see that our agricultural production is doubled or our farmers are helped to that extent so that the price of their produces are hiked.

Many farmers are in great doldrums; we find from the answers given in Parliament as well as from other statistics or details which have been given from the Government that the suicides by farmers are on the increase. It has to be taken very seriously. We have to see that science and technology and other modern aspects which can be transformed into action are brought to the ground level so that farmers can be helped.

In para 11 of the President's Address, it is stated that an amount of Rs. 14,000 crore will be given for reforms in the cooperative sector. But we find that such things are not seen in the ground level, and farmers are not getting loans at low interest rates; they are really in difficulty to pay back the loan at the appropriate time to the banks.

We also find a reference to the common market for agricultural products, which is a welcome step. But I find that in spite of all these, the farmers are really finding it difficult because of low price of their produce. I am also very astonished to see that there is no mention about many of the plantations and plantation workers who are also in very great difficulties; you can see the plight of pepper, the plight of cardamom, vanilla; they are all products which are earning very high foreign exchange and they are really in a very bad shape now.

Even the coconut farmers, areca nut farmers, jute farmers, tobacco farmers are in difficulties and I feel that something has to be done to see that the real change occurs. Some change in the policy is required. That has not been given a thrust in the speech which has been delivered.

I would say that WTO is a big thing and the farmers marched ahead on their way to blocking them. There are also very many loopholes which have to be properly made use of and the farmers have to be taught as to how to make use of them. Even the Government and the Government bodies have to implement many of these policies in such a way that the loopholes are made use of for the benefit of the poor farmers.

Recently we have seen in the papers that—of course we expected a tariff policy—a sensitive list of agricultural products was to be given by our Government to the WTO so that many of the imports and import tariffs can be regulated. I would submit that many of the farmers—about whom I said, like pepper, cardamom, areca nut, vanilla, tobacco, cotton, etc.—are to be included in the sensitive list so that the import policy and import tariffs can be regulated in such a way that they are helped.

As far as farmers are concerned, the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme, which is a very good scheme has to be given a better share. I think a reference has been made in Para 12 of the Address saying that coverage is going to be increased. Though we get a lot of assurances, implementation of those assurances has yet to take place. Many of the farmers' produces do not come under this insurance scheme. Therefore, in places, especially Kerala if one acre of land is completely washed away in a flood or some other calamity the loss may not be calculated correctly. In other States maybe the loss is not the same because we have to take into consideration the nature of land, geography and also the nature of

[Shri P.C. Thomas]

plantation. I am not speaking for Kerala alone but as an example I may say that if one acre of land goes the loss cannot be calculated. So, the insurance has to take into account such aspects as geography, nature of plantation, etc.

I would now come to the other point—so far I have spoken about the farmers—which is one matter in which all the Members will be interested and it is regarding the Prime Minister's Relief Fund which is being given as an assistance for the poor patients. A number of patients were helped and the members also had a good feeling that they had been able to help many patients. I think PMO should take it seriously. Nowadays, we do not even get a reply for many of our letters. At least I feel so. I do not know why they do not reply to our letters.

MR. SPEAKER: Action is taken. My experience is that letters are addressed to the patients directly.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Not even that, Sir. That was being done but now we do not get the reply. Maybe, the paucity of fund is there. We have to find fund for this. A lot of fund is coming. We have gone for globalisation. For various other activities we have gone to private persons. Airports and so many other things are taken over by the private persons. Many of the public sector undertakings are going to be replaced or are being replaced. Why? When the Government was going in for privatisation we were told that other things like infrastructure, social development, social help, etc. would be taken care of. So, I think this is a matter which should be considered.

Young, Energetic Minister, Shri Murlidhar Deora is here.

MR. SPEAKER: is he young?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: He is very much present here. I congratulate him as well as other new Ministers including Shri Vasan and others who are here. Some of other very senior Ministers, who were not given their seniority, have been considered this time. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev is also here. I would only say that Rangarajan Committee Report has come. I think it is being studied only. We fear that several times the price of petroleum, which affects the common man has been increased for LPG Cylinder, petrol as also diesel. Now, the Committee's Report is to increase the LPG price by Rs. 75 per cylinder; increase the petrol price by Rs. 1.21 per liter and increase the price of diesel also accordingly. I think

this will be a big burden if it is accepted. I am sure that proper step will be taken and stern action will be taken to see that such things do not occur. If petroleum price increases we find the price of everything goes up. A poor man cannot go in a bus.

MR. SPEAKER: Keep your points for the time when the Minister does that.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: It affects everything. It affects transport, postage, services, everything.

So this is just a basic thing. I am limiting to that because of the paucity of time.

MR. SPEAKER: But I find that there is no restriction on the sale of cars. The roads are choked. The prices of fuel are increasing.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: The cars are being sold and the corporate sector is very happy. I think they will be more happier when the budget comes. I am not very sure but I hope that the poor man who is becoming poorer may be dealt with kinder hand.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your kind cooperation. I deeply appreciate your contribution.

Now Mr. Pachouri would be intervening in the debate.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your kind permission I raise to support this Motion of Thanks moved by Shri Madhusudan Mistry. In fact, the President's Address is such a document that reflects the policies and achievements of the Government. In my opinion this Address mentions common men's problems and their well being and that implies the message that the UPA Government is fulfilling its duties with determination to serve the common man and keep their interest in view.

I express it in unambiguous terms that there is no duplicity between government's policies and her intentions. The government is committed and determined to do what it says. There is no difference in words and deed of the government. Therefore, there is no exaggeration if we

say that this government is working to serve the interests of the downtrodden, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, minorities and the backward classes and not only this from formation of this Government in May 2004, we have witnessed a new confidence among the people of the above classes. In fact while performing this government is also keeping in her view the great cultural heritage of this country.

Sir, so far as infrastructure of this country is concerned, the government is functioning on the priority basis. Some Hon'ble Members have mentioned the statements of our Hon'ble colleagues in this regard. I would like to say that we believe in positive criticism and we always welcome it. If any Hon'ble Member draws our attention towards our shortcomings then we take it very seriously, thinking that Hon'ble Members are expecting improvement in our functioning.

I would like to mention that since when this government has come into power for last 20 months have taken a number of steps for the development in economic sector, for good governance and for strengthening the internal and external security of the country. Besides, it has taken a number of steps keeping in view the interests and welfare of the poor. I would like to mention only a few of them instead of describing all them.

As far as the problem of unemployment, the main problem of our youths is concerned; it has been dealt on priority basis by the government. Keeping in view this problem, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has been passed. Besides, the National Rural Health Mission has been started keeping in view to provide health facilities to the common man. 'Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan, and 'Mid Day Meal Programme' have been commenced to impart quality education. Government has also started Antodaya Scheme.

Under Bharat Nirman programme it was the target of the Government that there should be cent percent road connectivity. This target was also a fixed that Government should make cent percent arrangement for safe drinking water. This Government has made provisions under various schemes, that there should be cent percent telephone and electronic connectivity, also additional housing facilities for the common man should be provided. For agriculture sector, a provision of Rs. 13,000 crores has been done. Under Urban Renewal Mission 63 cities of the country have been selected for upgradation and their development,

The Second Administrative Reforms Commission has been constituted to suggest the improvement in our governance. The Right to Information Act was passed so that the all information pertaining to Union Government, State Governments and local bodies may be made available to common people. Concrete steps have been taken for women employment. As I have said government have also paid attention towards improving our relationship with Pakistan and other neighbouring countries. Government have also noticed that in some of our States terrorist activities are going on uninterruptly. Efforts are being made to solve this problem through dialogue. Under this process dialogue is going with the separatists in Jammu and Kashmir. These are some of important steps that have been mentioned by me. I would like to mention that in addition to above some important bills have been passed during reign of UPA Government which include the Protection from Domestic Violence Bill, the Hindu Amendment Bill and the National Disaster Management Bill. We had mentioned them in our Common Minimum Programme. We have taken steps to fulfil promises that made by us. As, has been said by a poet.

"Tere vade par jiye ham, to yah jhuth jana,
Yah khushi se mar na jate, Agar aitbar hota".

People have faith in that Congress Party which is being led by Smt. Sonia Gandhi ji and hon'ble Dr. Manmohan Singh ji is the Prime Minister of that party. I would like to state that there is no difference between the saying and doing of the Government.

I think, it would be necessary to mention some other issues also, which have been raised here. Earlier, some issues were raised regarding Bofors. By the time our deceased leader Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi ji was alive it was being said that somewhere he had a hand in the Bofors issue. But on 6 August 1987, he had clearly mentioned during a discussion in this House, and with your permission I would like to quote from that:

[English]

"I categorically declare in this highest forum of India's democracy that neither I nor any member of my family have received any consideration in these transactions that is the truth.

"I have repeatedly stated in both the Houses that if enquiries establish that any person has been guilty of receiving illegal payments, then the strongest action under law will be taken."

[Shri Suresh Pachouri]

[Translation]

This statement was made by our deceased leader late Shri Rajiv Gandhi ji in this House on 6th August, 1987. I would like to state that at that time also he had stressed upon that if anybody would be found involved in the Bofors issue then the law must take the stringent action against such person. I would like to strongly say that today the Government is committed to follow his statement word by word.

Three things have been mentioned here. As long as Rajiv Gandhi ji was alive, people use to say that he was involved. Now, during the tenure of NDA Government, the Delhi High Court gave its clear judgement in February, 2004, in which it was stated that there is nothing to indicate suspicion towards Shri Rajiv Gandhi and he is neither directly nor indirectly involved in this. That decision was taken independently by the Delhi High Court during the tenure of NDA Government. In those times when Rajiv ji was alive his name was being mentioned in the Bofors issue. The Delhi High Court gave its judgement when he was no more and he was proved innocent.

Now we are talking about Quattrochi. I would like to say it very clearly that be it Quattrochi or any one else, this Government will not hesitate in taking stringent action against such person who is found guilty, either directly or indirectly, in the eyes of law. ...*(Interruptions)* Please let me finish. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not yielding. Let me conclude my speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, it is not correct. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, Shri Swain.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: This is vary unfair. Shri Swain, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Please have patience, I am coming to that point. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Kharabela ji, please sit down. Let him speak. This is not fair.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The leader of the opposition was given full hearing.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: It was said as to what kind of circumstances developed. ...*(Interruptions)* Please keep patience I have some courage. He must listen to our views also. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me. It is very unfair. You please ask your Deputy Leader, Prof. Malhotra. He has himself said that Mr. Pachouri can intervene. You talk to your Deputy Leader and find it out from Prof. Malhotra. I want to put it on record that Prof. Malhotra himself requested me saying that if at all Mr. Pachouri wants to intervene, he can do so in the debate on the motion of Thanks but he should not give any statement in the ultimate reply on Quattrochi issue. Now he is making his intervention in the debate on the Motion of Thanks.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am putting it on record. You ask your Deputy Leader.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have put it on record what Prof. Malhotra has told me.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pachouri, please continue.

...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: One sided view only will not go, have some courage to listen to our views also.
...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You first please listen to his reply.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Mainly three things are mentioned—firstly, that what were the circumstances under which Quattrochi's account was freezed. I would like to state that Quattrochi's account was freezed on 25 July, 2003. It was done on the retention that whether the money deposited in London was the Bofors Pay off money? This possibility was expressed. Based on this suspicion, this was a temporary restrained order. I would again emphasise upon this fact that it was a restrained order only which was issued by the London High Court on 25 July, 2003. It was temporary in nature and not permanent. Thereafter the CBI and crown Prosecution service continuously remained in touch. The Crown Prosecution service repeatedly wanted to know from the CBI whether they had any facts available with them which could establish any link between the money deposited in Quattrochi's account in London and the money relating to Bofors pay off. I do not want to mention my tenure of service. I would later mention what the CBI said in its press conference on 16th July, 2006 regarding this issue. But before that, I would like to mention as to what the Additional Solicitor General himself said during the tenure of NDA Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this Mr. Tripathy? I am sorry. This is not fair.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You people are leaders. If you will not listen, then who else will? Pachouri ji, you please continue.

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Justice Kapoor delivered his judgement on 4th February, 2004. This fact was

mentioned in it. Who was in power on 4th February, 2004? While mentioning about additional Solicitor General, who appeared in the Court at that time, Justice Kapoor had stated in his judgement that:

[*English*]

"Even to the pointed query made by this Court as to the evidence showing the receipt of bribe money, if any, by the public servants either themselves or through the agents, namely, the Hindujas, Quattrochi and Win Chadha, Mr. Mukul Rohtagi, learned Additional Solicitor General of India, appearing for the CBI candidly and fairly said that till date there was none."

[*Translation*]

The Additional Solicitor General who appeared at that time. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: That was the judgement of justice Kapoor. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything except the Minister's speech.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, please continue now.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you talking?

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: I do not want to depend anyone but would like to mention as to what are the facts saying. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: What are you talking?

...(*Interruptions*)

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot disturb like this. You have no patience to hear the hon. Minister. You made allegation. Will the Government have no right to reply? Serious allegations were made.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: I do not want to go into extensive details. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do it at the proper time. It will not be recorded now.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): There was an understanding that the hon. Prime Minister will reply. ...(Interruptions) Since we are not allowed to put questions, we are walking out.

17.52 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy and some other hon. Members left the House)

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: There is no role of UPA Government in the ongoing investigations and the pending criminal trial against Quattrochi. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please keep quiet.

[English]

The hon. Minister is replying. No interruptions should be made. Mr. Minister, please go on replying.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All of you please sit down. This has become a habit with you people.

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: I would like to state that the UPA Government is not playing any role in the

ongoing investigations and the criminal trial which is pending in the court against Quattrochi. Hon'ble Sir, people are having misconceptions. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not reply to that. Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If any hon. Member speaks without my permission, it will not be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: I will come to that point. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kurup, he has not yielded. It is not to be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Sir, through you I would like to request the honourable Member that whatever points are there in his mind and whatever queries he wants to raise. I am ready to answer them. Give me an opportunity for that. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are methods of putting question. Unless the hon. Member who is speaking yields or unless you take the permission of the Chair, you cannot go on regulating the affairs yourself.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, you were the one who resigned from this House in 1989. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Therefore, what? Therefore, should I get away now? Therefore, you can put any question any time, Shri Kurup!

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: After his speech, we will put question. You should allow me.

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you take your seat now?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I will take my seat but you should allow me after his speech.

MR. SPEAKER: If you keep quite, I will. But you are not listening to me. How do you expect me to listen to you?

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Sir, it seems to me that perhaps there is an apprehension in his mind that the case against Quatrochi is over. The case against Quatrochi is still pending in tribal court, and the next date of hearing is 31 March, 2006. Our matter is related to the one case. The other matter is related to Quatrochi's account and a PIL is already filed in Supreme court and its next date has been fixed as 21st August 2006. Although both the matters are sub-judice. According to Kaul and Shakdhar, page 1069, only that matter is termed as sub judice, in regard to which writ petition is admitted or charge sheet is filed.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot go to the merits of the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: With your permission, I want to say that the two accounts of Quatrochi in London were temporarily frozen on 25th July 2003 by the order of London High Court. With regard to these two accounts the people of crown prosecution service frequently asked CBI to inform the former if CBI had got such evidences till date by which such a link could be established that this money is yours as per Bofors Pay offs and it has been transferred there. In this connection the Crown Prosecution Service and the CBI resumed mutual talks from time to time. There were E-mails and telephonic discussions were also held. I can not say anything about the information given by CBI because the matter is sub-judice. I do not want to tell in detail but CBI has.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will you place that correspondence before the House?

MR. SPEAKER: You need not reply to that.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): This is not the President's address. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is happening? I do not know.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: The Crown Prosecution Service frequently asked CBI if CBI has got any basis? *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have not kept your words.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: The logic based on which freezing order has been issued should survive. According to the information made available the CBI told that it has not been able to get the evidences till date which could prove this connectivity. The Crown Prosecution Service further told the CBI that if the latter is not able to produce any evidence, then it will be the duty of the Crown Prosecution Service to go to court and tell that according to the UK law, restrained order, which was temporary in nature, can't be allowed to continue for a long time. They also wanted more information in this matter, which was related to legal issues. And what were those legal issues are first, the verdict of Justice Kapoor of Delhi High Court of February 2004 and the second, the verdict of Justice Sodhi of 31st May 2005 and what will be the impact of legal issue, that information was also sought. And what was the applicability, the information sought about the sections 82-83-105 of Cr Pc, the legal opinion of Additional Solicitor General Mr. Dutta and Mr. Pathak which was taken from time to time. That information was to be given. To explain all these legal issues, the CBI took a decision to send a Law Officer there. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is so unfortunate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record anything.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not respond to that. You go on.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except Mr. Pachouri's speech.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: CBI clarified it in the Press Conference held on 16 January 2006 that the Law Officer, who had been sent to London, had gone there on the request of and briefing by the CBI and the discussion he held there with Crown Prosecution.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not respond to that. You carry on Mr. Pachouri.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: The Crown Prosecution Service was told that CBI has not been able to get any evidence till date. This information was given by the CBI to the Crown Prosecution Service.

Sir, as regards the statement given by the hon. Member about the visit of the Law Officer, he is not the only person to go over there for the first time in this case. Earlier also, Shri Soli Sorabji and Shri Arun Jaitley had gone there. If you allow me, I am ready to place the entire details on the Table of the House. I can tell the names of the law officers who have visited abroad in

regard to this case. I can even give the dates, which they visited abroad.

18.00 hrs.

The decision to send Law Officer is taken only after seeking the administrative and financial approval. This is not the first time that Law officer has gone over there. As far as the matter to remain in touch with CBI is concerned, the CBI and the Crown Prosecution Service has been in touch constantly and nothing has come to the notice based on which it could be stated that CBI has been kept in dark in this matter.

One more matter has been raised in regard to Red Corner Notice; this notice was issued in regard to Quatrochi. Actually that Red Corner Notice was issued by INTERPOL. It's objective was to produce the so-called convicts before the court. They were issued Red Corner Notice for pressurizing them for the same. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is now 6 O'clock. We will continue for one more hour till 7 o' clock.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: It has no relation with freezing and de-freezing of Quattrochi's accounts. Apart from it, I would like to clarify, that decision of freezing and de-freezing of accounts was the decision at CBI level. UPA Government has no relation with it. This decision was taken by CBI, after having advise from legal officers under established process. Sir, I would like to say one more point regarding entering SLP. The question has been raised on two fronts regarding SLP. Delhi High Court gave its decision in February 2004. Now, it is being asked that why SLP was not entered in Supreme Court? After the decision of May 2005, legal opinion was taken on the same and it was decided according to legally accepted agreement that there seems to be no need for filing SLP in such cases. As far as, UPA Government is concerned, this Government is committed to eliminate corruption. Whosoever, directly or indirectly engulfed in corruption, whether it is a HUDCO scam, DDA scam or related to defence deal, the Government is committed to take action against them. I would like to clarify this by remembering the statement of Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi that if anyone is found directly or indirectly engulfed in this, Then Government will not spare him. But how long

there will be politics in the matter. The question to be considered is that how many days will be taken to bring out their names. Who are directly or indirectly not related to it? I would like to say, that my NDA friends, when they were in power and had evidence then they should have initiated action. Why didn't they took action.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the point has come about extradition order in Malaysia; it was issued in March 2004. Malaysia's Supreme Court had quashed that and said that allegations on Quottrochi are vague allegations. Malaysian Supreme Court didn't take this decision during the tenure of UPA Government, this decision was taken during the tenure of NDA Government. There are many such things, I would. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You need not respond. That is not recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: There are few such decisions about which we are very sensitive. ...(*Interruptions*) Certain matters and incidents are very sensitive in nature. I mean to say that this matter is also very sensitive. Let CBI be entrusted with the responsibility of conducting investigations into the matter. Supreme Court's judgement in Vineet Narayan case has established that under any circumstances Government will not interfere in SBI investigations. I would like to repeat that whether it is this matter or any other incident, the Government does not desire to interfere in CBI investigations. Apart from it, I would like to say that till now only one-sided view had been received in this matter. There are few matters whose documents are sensitive, the Government can clear its stand about such matters, only when it gets opportunity. As it is a subjudice issue, Rule and Precedence says that there should not be discussion on the same, still I am ready to make a statement, in this regard so that I may get opportunity to clarify various misgivings about this issue and with the leave of House.

*Not recorded.

I am ready to apprise the House about all the facts related to the matter. People wants to know, that what were those circumstances under which the name of Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi has been brought in column two of Bofor's charge-sheet. It was whose's advice, under which Rajiv Gandhi's name was kept in column two of Bofor's charge sheet. I would like to know on whose advice it was done. If NDA has any such information in their knowledge, then they should tell. Else, when it is debated elaborately in House, then I will tell that what circumstances were developed under which no opinion of CBI officers was taken, then under whose directions, and compulsion and the name of our Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi was kept in column two. ...(*Interruptions*) therefore, I have humbly requested that few matters are sensitive. Bofor's matters has been continuously raised during various Government's tenure's. Earlier, the name of our late leader is being named in it. Now secondly, Quottrochi's name is being taken. We do not want to take his side. We are ready to take any legal action against him. Red Corner Notice is still issued. We are also ready to initiate any other legal proceeding.

Sir, our Hon. Member has mentioned about opinion of Additional Solicitor General, Mr. Pathak I would not like to quote that opinion. I would also not like to quote that opinion which Additional Solicitor General, Mr. Dutta gave on 9th December, 2004. That correspondence was not between Government and CBI, it was between CBI and Additional Solicitor General Shri Dutta. I would not like to put it into debate that what all he said, but according to his advice what could happen, could have happened on the basis of his advice, is not worth telling, still the case is going on and it is pending in the court to be heard on 31st March, 2006. I would stress that we should have faith on Hon. Court. We should have faith on CBI. Since, NDA doesn't have any matters. Hence, time and again such incidents should not be raised just for setting political scores, which shows that the opposition is acting quite irresponsibly. I would like to request opposition that kindly do not try to bring a bad name against whom the needle of suspicion has never been pointed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the address of the Hon. President is concerned, that address. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You speak.

SHRI HARIHAR SWAIN: JPIL's judgement has come.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not reply to that.

[Translation]

Leave that, you speak.

SHRI HARIHAR SWAIN: Please wait and see. Supreme Court will give its judgement.

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: As far as, President's address is concerned, it has been mentioned in it that the Government is committed for a transparent corruption-free and an accountable Government. Hence, I would like to reiterate that we are committed for ensuring accountability. We are committed to do away with corruption by exposing it and taking stern measures against the corrupt. With these words, I support the Motion of Thanks moved on the President's Address.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri S.K. Biswasmuthiary.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, are you prepared to answer some of the questions?

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: No, Sir. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He is not.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: he has got no answers to give. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have nothing to say on that. I have nothing to say on the merits. The only thing is that he is entitled to make an intervention, and he has made an intervention.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, this is the most outrageous act committed by the Government against a criminal on whom a red corner notice was served.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are not intervening in this debate.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, all of a sudden, the Government machinery moved swiftly. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your comments are noted.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I have called the hon. Member, Shri Biswasmuthiary to speak.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, you have allowed him to speak. Please allow me to speak. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It will not be recorded. Nothing will be recorded. I will not allow anything to go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfair. I have not allowed him. Do not impute motives.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, you said that you have recorded his statement. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have deleted it, expunged it because the Minister has not agreed, and the hon. Member continued to speak against my wishes.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, he has not agreed.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot dictate. What are you doing? You are trying to hold the House to ransom. There should be some minimum sense of responsibility. Already we are beyond time.

Now, Shri Biswasmuthiary.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: In a clever way, when not many Members from the Opposition were present in the House, he tried to reply on that issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Swain, I have put it on record. Please do not impute something.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I am not imputing. This is a fact. ...(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have put it on record that the hon. Deputy Leader of the BJP, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra has said that they have demanded a response on that issue only from the hon. Prime Minister. He said that if the Prime Minister is not replying today and if Shri Suresh Pachouri wants to intervene in the debate, he has no objection but he should not reply to that issue. The Minister has participated in the debate and he is entitled to. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, he told us that he would not raise this matter but he raised this matter. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am very sorry. You are a senior Member. You are behaving in this matter.

Now, Shri Bwiswmuthiary. Only Shri Bwiswmuthiary's speech will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

**SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (Jhalawar): Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the President's Address. I rise to speak against the Motion.

Sir, in the Presidential Address, the UPA Government has stated, "It is heartening to see that there is active discussion in the Government, media and civic society about options for growth, poverty reduction, education, health, employment, basic facilities, infrastructure, empowering people and helping the marginalized and weaker sections catch up." I must state that which political party has governed India for 50 years? What has the

political party provided for the common man in the last fifty years, which it has governed? I fail to understand. Whenever the Indian National Congress has come to power at the Centre, it has resulted in the price rise of essential commodities, which affects the *aam aadmi*. At the current moment, the common man has to toil hard to make ends meet.

The Government has mentioned about Bharat Nirman in the Presidential Address. But since the inception of the Congress rule in the last two years, there has been no work to uplift the downtrodden. The Government has only provided basic lip service. All the aspects of Bharat Nirman such as:

- (i) Providing electricity connection to every village in the country by 2009 is a very ambitious target set by the UPA Government. During the NDA rule, providing electricity to all was already a target in the Tenth Five-Year Plan.
- (ii) Providing an all-weather road to every habitation of over 1000 population and above, or 500 in hilly and tribal areas. During the NDA Government, these all-weather roads were already planned. Roads in the hilly tract were given emphasis to villages having 250 populations.
- (iii) Providing every village with a telephone was a motto of the NDA Government. It was during the regime of Shri Vajpayeeji that mobile connectivity was thought of about the villages. This dream became a reality.
- (iv) Creation of irrigation capacities was envisaged during the previous Government. There was a thought, which would have been a reality if we had gained the mandate. River linking was considered during the NDA regime.

Sir, the thought of PURA (Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas) was considered by our former Prime Minister Shri Vajpayeeji. The much-hyped National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has considered 200 less developed districts. But I must mention that other developmental works under the rural development such as Food for Work have been curtailed and the funds have now flowed from development work to this new Act. Furthermore, I need to note that this Scheme is for

*Not recorded.

**The speech was laid on the Table

[Shri Dushyant Singh]

the unskilled worker. While the skilled workers have to face severe hardship, this Scheme has no provision for the urban unemployed youth. There is severe hardship in the urban areas and they should have considered the urban cities.

Sir, should all the projects and schemes be named after one family and their relations? Numerous projects which have been set up by the UPA Government only has idol worshipped the family. Great country like India has produced many great men and women. But they do not figure in any of your new Schemes.

Sir, the Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission has been set up to bring in improvement for the urban infrastructure within 63 cities. It is great but what happens to the other cities in India. The much-hyped metro project talked about was brought about during the NDA Government rule. The friends find it a great idea and they are further transforming the idea to other metro cities.

The Indian population is predominately located in rural India. During the NDA regime, Kisan Credit Card was considered. The farmers were a priority of the former Government. At the present moment, I see that farmer suicide does not move or affect the Union Government. The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme was considered and brought about during the NDA regime. This was to protect the marginal farmers. The UPA Government has talked about the National Horticultural Mission. But what has this Mission accomplished in the last year or two? It is just a lip service for which the UPA Government is famous.

The infrastructure development during the NDA regime was on the right track for assisting future economic development. It was during the former Government's regime that joining of people's heart through roads was considered. Since the last Government lost power, this project has basically come to a standstill.

Airport revamping was on the cards during the NDA Government. The UPA Government has not considered other airports. The Railways has stagnated and progress is at a slow pace. Port infrastructure was already considered during the NDA regime. The Government is considering a 10-year National Manufacturing Initiative to make manufacturing sector the prime driving force for employment. I must mention, are we capable to produce goods for a cheaper price? Can we compete with our neighbour China?

The UPA Government wants to take an initiative in Tourism. It is a good idea. The Government wants to create a Tourism Board. It is great news but is the Government keen and interested in making tourism a part of the Concurrent List? Has the Government made investment in tourism sector? Has the Government decided the States where tourism thrust would be provided? I belong to Rajasthan State, rich and vibrant in tourism. Please help us in constructing an international airport so that tourist could come directly to Rajasthan.

The Government proclaims that they have passed a Right to Information Act. But, what are the details regarding the Bofors Case? Why has the Union Government let off the prime accused? Why is Union Government not stating anything about the famous Volcker Issue? Is it not proper that India need to know the truth?

The Union Government under the UPA has mentioned assistance to the socially and economically backward castes and the minorities. Why has the Government, in the last 50 years, under the Indian National Congress not worked out any proper schemes to uplift the SC/ST, OBC and Minorities within India? They have always played vote bank politics and given nothing back to the people who voted them in. The Indian sub-continent has faced severe hardship due to terrorism. What is the Government doing about it? Innocent people are dying every day and our Army is fighting a stiff battle to save the country from these terrorists.

I belong to the State of Rajasthan. This is the largest State in India. We need Central assistance by giving the State a Special Package status as has been given to the north-eastern States and the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Why cannot the States, which have a severe drought problem, be assisted with a Special Package?

I conclude by saying that the Government has not done enough for the common man. They are just paying lip service to the section of our community. They have tried to divide the country and break the country into different ethnic communities. We must be proud to be Indians and make our country the best place to be in the near future. I feel, the Congress has lost its vision and momentum. Let us come together and make our country a prosperous place in the future.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (Kokrajhar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me a chance to speak in the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. ...*(Interruptions)*

My first appeal to all the learned Members of this august House is that when a single Member Party starts speaking, please listen to him because they do have a lot of problems and grievances. They have come over here to ventilate their problems and grievances which are being faced by the people. I would like to appeal to the hon. Speaker and to all the learned Members of this august House that while we speak, please try to keep your patience so that we can also ventilate the problems and grievances of our people who have sent us to this august House.

18.14 hrs.

[Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, while speaking in the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, what I find is that the President has said very many points with regard to the problems and grievances being faced by the tribal people, downtrodden people, Scheduled Caste and other backward class people of this great country. He has failed to mention about the necessity of setting up some important and premier educational institutions in the tribal area particularly with special mention to our Bodoland territory. Therefore, I would like to appeal through you, Sir, to the Government of India to take appropriate steps to set up a Bodoland Central University at Kokrajhar, a Central Agricultural University at Kokrajhar, a medical college on the AIIMS model at Kokrajhar, a National Institute of Technology at Kokrajhar, an agricultural college at Udaiguri, and a Bodoland Regional Institute of Fashion Technology at Kokrajhar.

A Hotel and Tourism Management Institute, a National Institute of Biotechnology, 10 numbers of Polytechnic Institutes, 10 numbers of ITIs a Bodoland Regional IRI or Industrial Research Institute, a Forest Training College at Kokrajhar, an Engineering College at Kokrajhar, a Bodoland House in New Delhi should be established.

I would like to appeal to the Government of India to take appropriate steps to implement each and every clause of the new Bodo Accord which was signed on 10th February, 2003 between the leaders of the erstwhile Bodoland Liberation Tigers, the erstwhile Government of India headed by Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee and the State Government of Assam.

Here, I would like to mention one very serious situation which is prevalent within the State of Assam. A

lot of problems and grievances are being faced by the Tribal people of Assam and this relates to their developmental matters. All the tribal areas have not been taken care of over the last more than five decades since Independence. In this regard, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to take some concrete policy decisions to develop the backward tribal areas, tribal districts across the whole country with special mention to the Bodoland Territory in the State of Assam.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Here, I would like to appeal to the Government of India that under the jurisdiction of the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, all the districts within the Bodoland Territory and all other Tribal-dominated districts of the country should be included in that very Act so that the Government of India can provide employment opportunities to all the languishing Tribal people of our country.

Here, again I would like to appeal to the Government of India to enhance the reservation quota meant for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes in the Central Government services because as on today, the reservation quota meant for the Tribal is only 7.5 per cent, and it is only 15 per cent for the Scheduled Castes. This 7.5 per cent should be increased to 12.5 per cent and the present 15 per cent meant for the Scheduled Castes should be increased to 20 per cent. The Government of India should take a very concrete policy decision to ensure or to provide job reservation quota for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the private sector also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: My demand is that at least five central universities be established for the tribals of the country—Also, at least five central Medical Universities are needed for the tribals. Ten tribal hostels should be opened in Delhi and ten tribal houses be opened all over the country, this would help in their development.

[*English*]

A National Scheduled Tribe Development Authority should be set up and this Authority should be headed by the Prime Minister of the country himself and all the

[Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary]

Tribal MPs should be made members of that national level Scheduled Tribe Development Authority. Their rank and status should be not less than the rank of a Union Minister of State. If at the national level this kind of a Tribal Development Authority is set up, then only the future and the lot of the Tribal people can be improved.

Here, again I would like to appeal to the Government of India to enhance the budgetary allocation meant for the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

[Translation]

Funds allocated for the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is inadequate. It should be increased to Rs. 100 crore and a special fund should be created for Bodoland Territory.

[English]

The rate of scholarship meant for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students should be enhanced taking into account the present price index.

Nowadays the cost of living is increasing.
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Chaudhary Lal Singh let there be no running commentary.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY: Sir, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to take appropriate steps to provide proper relief and rehabilitation to the ethnic violence-affected Bodo people, the Karbi people and the Dimasas people who are living in Karbi Anglong, the autonomous district. This serious matter was mentioned by one of my colleagues, the hon. Member from Arunachal Pradesh. This is a very serious matter. The Government of India should take appropriate action to ensure the safety and security of the tribal people of the whole country.

[Translation]

They harp on the need for the development of the country. But they are yet to make laws for the security and welfare of the tribals.

[English]

Thank you, sir, for the opportunity.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri W. Wangyuh Konyak to speak now. Shri Konyak, you are given only five minutes. Please see the clock.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK (Nagaland): thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address which was delivered on 16th February, 2006. Before I start my speech I would like to say that discrimination of minorities starts from this House because we the lone Members do not get time to speak. We get hardly five minutes. All the Members of the major Parties speak from this side and that side and they take the maximum time, two-three days, whereas we the single Members are not getting time. I think this is wrong. The discrimination of minorities is starting from this House.
...*(Interruptions)*

The Address of the President is the details of the achievements of the Government and the policy to be implemented. Due to time factor I will point out only a few points. Sir, I would request you to kindly give me at least a few more minutes through your discretion.

I draw your attention to para 44 on page 14 of the President's Address where an announcement for the welfare of the North-East has been made by the President of India. I appreciate that. The second sentence in the paragraph says "Almost Rs. 10,000 crore of investment..." Why is it 'almost'? The hon. President said almost Rs. 10,000 crore of investment is being made for development in Bongaigaon, Dibrugarh in Assam and Tripura, especially in Arunachal Pradesh and other areas. I may mention that one in Kameng in Arunachal Pradesh and one power project in Mizoram have been stopped. Now the Government is telling the people of the North-East that the infrastructure and road development will be taken up. But neither infrastructure nor projects are mentioned for the State of Nagaland. The hon. Prime Minister has given an assurance to all the Members of Parliament of the North-East, when we called on him, that all the district headquarters will be connected with the State Capitals including upgradation of the State and National Highways and it has been reflected in the President's Address. I am happy that the Government of India is realising only now that road communication is the only way for the economic development of the region. However, according to the speech of the hon. President of India, it is only under consideration which means that this cannot be included in the 2006-2007 Budget.

I am also happy that the Government of India, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has declared four-laning of the road from Dimapur to Kohima and all the formalities have been completed long time back. But the work is yet to start due to non-floating of tenders. I would, therefore, appeal to the Government of India to immediately start the work.

In paragraph 45, the Address says that the Government is actively engaged in reviewing and streamlining of procedure for NLCPR. I want to mention here that 18 Ministries were exempted from contribution of ten per cent to the DoNER telling that those Ministries were not operating in the region, whereas the decision was to contribute ten per cent by all the Ministries. While streamlining and reviewing. I want that the Government should take a decision and issue directions to all the Ministries for contribution of ten per cent to the DoNER. Moreover, DoNER has been created to meet the demand of the North-Eastern States, but there is no Engineering Wing in the Department. All the schemes approved by the DoNER go to the allied Ministries, which cause delay of the work during implementation. Therefore, I would request the Government of India for creation of an Engineering Wing in the DoNER.

I appreciate the Government for taking up many welfare schemes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would request you to conclude your speech.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: Sir, kindly give me few minutes.

The Government has even announced that a new Industrial Policy for the North-East will be announced shortly, but I have one question. Where there is no industry in the States, how and where is the Government going to implement the new Industrial Policy? For example, in Nagaland, there is no industry. There is only one sick unit, that is, Tuli Paper Mill. I had requested the Ministry of Heavy Industries several times for revival of Tuli Paper Mill, but no action has been taken. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to immediately start that work.

Sir, I am happy that the Government has decided to open a 500-bed girls hostel in Delhi University and a 500-bed hostel for working women from the North-East. It has already been approved also. I want that this should

not remain only on paper, but they should start implementing it from this year onwards.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: Sir, lastly I want to focus on a political issue. Now, the political dialogue with two separate groups—NSCN (IM) and NSCN (K)—is going on for more than nine years. The ceasefire agreement with NSCN (IM) has been extended for six months and with (NSCN (K) for one year, which is wholly welcomed by the public, but the process of dialogue is going on for such a long time that it is giving rise to doubts in the minds of the public. It gives an impression that the dialogue is not meant for a political settlement but to kill time.

The Government of India is claiming that incidence of civilian killing and number of persons kidnapped in both Jammu and Kashmir and North-East have registered a decline during the last year.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Now, I would request Shri Ganesh Singh to speak.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: It may be true, but what about killing of innocent people by the Indian Army in Assam?

It is also mentioned that the Government is engaged in talks at the highest level with a large number of political groups in both the regions. These talks have progressed in a constructive manner and have contributed to relieving the sense of alienation among some of our people.

My understanding is that highest-level talks mean with NSCN. Why is the Government of India.
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Next speaker is Shri Ganesh Singh.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: Sir, every time the cease-fire has been extended from time to time. Where is the result of this measure? The Government of India

*Not recorded.

[Shri W. Wangyuh Konyak]

is claiming that talks are progressing in a constructive manner. What is the meaning of constructive manner? I would suggest that the Government of India should come out with an open policy of "yes" or "no" on the demand made by the demanding parties instead of fooling the people and the contending parties.

I also fully support the Government of India in combating terrorism, militancy, and ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Konyak, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK: Sir, lastly, I would like to mention that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Now, your speech will not go on record. Next speaker is Shri Ganesh Singh. Shri Singh, you would be allowed to speak only for five minutes.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all let me thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. The achievements of the UPA Government mentioned by His Excellency, the President are only on paper. This Government would complete its two years in May, 2006. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not give running commentary in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: This Government has no achievements to its credit so far during its rule of twenty months. It has no achievements worth mentioning. Even if the Government has any achievements it is not in a position to show it.

Sir, ask any man in any village or on the streets, the common refrain is that the UPA Government has

nothing to show for its twenty months rule. Let me list its achievement, if at all you can call it so. This Government, after twenty months has come out with what they have termed the National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme. It is unfortunate that this programme conceived after twenty years is flawed. No one is sure of its outcome. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, have I asked you to give your suggestions? Please do not give running commentary in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH: Sir, the Government is claiming the credit for achieving the growth rate of over 8 percent and it aims to surpass it. I want to ask them the reason for this. Let me remind you that this is due to the benign policies of the BJP Government. It is not due to their policies. I want to know on what basis have they arrived at the per capita income? Even today, 40 percent of the population lives below the poverty line. They do not get even two square meals a day. They go to bed hungry. Millions do not have any shelter. Even today, out of 6.5 lakh villages, there is no drinking water in 1.5 lakh villages. Lakhs of villages do not have roads. Poverty is not going down in our country.

Sir, growth rate is on the upswing and the sensex is soaring. However, the poor are yet to get two square meals a day. Lakhs of people go to bed hungry. Yet the Government claims to have made immense progress. It is evident for all to see where we stand even after 58 years of independence. If we fail to chalk out our priorities in a planned manner and the annual growth remains stagnant, Governments may come and go, the lot of the poor will not improve. Hence my request is to continue with the NDA schemes. If this is done a day will surely dawn when we can say our country is progressing and the poor have risen above poverty. We are going to celebrate 150th anniversary of our first fight for independence. Next year would be the 150th years of our first struggle for freedom. It found a mention in the Presidential Address.

Let us remember the principles which guided our freedom struggle. Can we claim to have made earnest efforts to take our country in the right direction? Have we removed poverty? The problem of food, clothing and

*Not recorded.

shelter remains today as it was during the freedom struggle. We have had enough of 'garibi hatao' slogans and talked much about our growth rate. We are going to sign the WTO treaty. Is it because our farmer stands on the same footing as that of the advanced country? Our farmers lack irrigation facility. The poor farmer somehow buys a motor pump by pledging his wife's mangal sutra. It becomes useless for want of electricity. Even if this problem is overcome he can not afford fertilizers and seeds. If his labour is added the returns are meagre. The farmers are thoroughly at the disadvantage. yet we want him to compete with the farmers of the developed nations.

I would like to state the condition of the farmers of other countries. They can compete with other farmers because they are being subsidized cent per cent. Our farmer is like a handicapped child who is being asked to compete with the well built youth. This is the condition of our country today. The new wave of globalisation is certainly proving to be detrimental to our interest. Our priority should be to uplift the poorest of the poor. Only after this can we think of making available the fruits of progress to all.

There is a wide gulf between the rich and the poor. The rich are becoming richer. Whereas the poor are sinking in poverty. We can never bridge this gulf. Considering the plight of the villages I fear the country may be divided between the rich and the poor.

Recently, the hon'ble President visited Chitrakoot. It really pains me that there is no mention of place visited by him in his address. A great social activist Shri Nanaji Deshmukh has set a model in almost 80 villages through different projects of 'Deendayal Shodh Sansthan' in Chitrakoot on the border of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh with the co-operation of villagers of these 80 villages and now there is no disputes, no unemployment in these villages. Irrigation facilities are available. All pending cases have been disposed of. Every villager have bank account. All the villages have been self-reliant. Hundred percent literacy is there, no migration of people, all are capable of earning their livelihood. His Excellency President himself, His Excellency Vice-President, Ex Prime Minister, Present Prime Minister have visited there. I want to say that when a single person's efforts can change the life of 80 or 100 villages in three years span then why we have not able to develop four lakh villages out of 6.5 lakh villages in 58 years, whereas Nanaji Deshmukh has again resolved that he will develop 500 such villages

by 2010. It has been mentioned in the President's address that 60 lakhs houses would be provided by 2009 and irrigation facilities will be provided for one crore hectare of land. Now I am making a serious submission that the Bansagar and Bargi Schemes were formulated for our area in 1977 which was scheduled to be completed by 1990. Still these schemes have not seen the light of the day. The farmers are still waiting and promise of Government to provide irrigation on one hectare of land is not fulfilled. It is really shocking.

The Country is not heading towards right direction. UPA Government has got the support of public but the Government is not heading towards right direction. They are saying that we are trying to provide a very honest Government. Right now a speech was delivered by a Minister. He was quite furious. I have not heard such speech before. Whether this is a way to answer any question. Hon'ble Minister should try to understand these things. He is saying that they believe in transparency. Government are defending the persons implicated in Volcker Committee and the persons facing the corruption charges directly. Quatrochi is not a big shot. He is involved in a case in which even if he is acquitted by the Court. Indian people will consider him a culprit as far as the way internal instruction were given to CBI to remove the ban on operating his account, is not proper. I want to say that a fraud is being committed against the Indian Public and it was never done before. The price inflation is so high that prices have increased by 40%. Nothing is being provided to the common people. There is no LPG and Prices of Diesel and Petrol are quite high. The foodgrains produced by farmers are purchased at cheap rates and it reaches in the godowns of businessmen involved in foodgrains business and thereafter it is sold to poor people at high price. There is a need to change the system. I want to ask whether Government will improve this situation? May things need to be amended in the Address by Hon'ble President. Our Colleagues have presented some motions for amendment and these are related to regional importance, national importance education, internal security and external security of the country. All these questions should be added in this address. A stringent law of this country has been amended. Now a days the infiltration is on increase. Despite fencing on our borders the terrorists are entering in our country but the Government is not taking cognizance of the matter. I remember the story of Rama wherein Hanumanji was trying to enter Lanka to search Sita Mata in the form of a mosquito but the security officer deputed there have spotted him and tried

[Shri Ganesh Singh]

to stop him. Here the terrorist are infiltrating in our country through Pakistan border but our Government are not able to check them. How it is happening? Whether the Government will take a decision to enact a stringent law or will sit idle just like the previous 58 years. If we want to make water available to our field we should take up interlinking of rivers. The Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh have agreed for linking Ken and Betwa rivers.

But it is unfortunate that the Union Government say's that State Governments should take a decision on this matter as reported in the newspapers. How it is possible that State Governments should bear all expenses? It is not possible. Some regions of our country remain inundated under flood waters and others are affected by drought. Our Colleagues from Bihar always mention about it and today Sitaramji was also saying that one third of his State gets submerged in floods and one third is affected by drought. In this situation, if the rivers are linked so as to utilize the rainwater, then I think this problem can be solved and we can find a solution to the problems of flood and drought. There are many serious problems which should be solved by this Government. Then only we will be convinced that the Government is heading towards right direction.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can make your speech now, you have three to four minutes.

*SHRI GANESH SINGH: Sir.

1. But regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures to be taken to check the suicides by farmers.
2. But regret that there is no mention in the Address about increasing the prices of crop in proportion to the increase in the cost of agricultural inputs.
3. But regret that there is no mention in the Address about the measures for making available diesel on subsidized rates to the farmers.
4. But regret that there is no mention in the Address about the ever decreasing contribution of Agriculture in Gross Domestic Product.
5. But regret that there is no mention in the Address about covering all the districts of the country under Gramin Rojgar Guarantee Yojana.

6. But regret that there is no mention in the Address about linking all the villages of the country with post offices.
7. But regret that there is no mention in the Address about making available the basic facility of toilets to the families living in villages under New Bharat Nirman Scheme.
8. But regret that there is no mention in the Address about making available houses to all poor families under Bharat Nirman Scheme.
9. But regret that there is no mention in the Address about setting up a Primary Health Centre in every village of the country having a population of 1000.
10. But regret that there is no mention in the Address about providing work to the educated unemployed as per their eligibility under Rojgar Guarantee Yojana.
11. But regret that there is no mention in the Address about any distinction between the skilled and the unskilled workers under the Employment Guarantee Scheme.
12. But regret that there is no mention in the Address about inclusion of country's all Nagar Panchayats, Municipalities and urban bodies in Jawahar Lal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission.
13. But regret that there is no mention in the Address about enhancement of quality of foodgrains being provided under Mid-Day-Meal Scheme.
14. But regret that there is no mention in the Address about Kasturba Gandhi Girls schools proposed to be launched in all development blocks of 21 states in the country.
15. But regret that there is no mention in the Address about reducing interest on agricultural loans as more than 70% of the farmers in the country are reeling under the heavy burden of the same and are committing suicide.
16. But regret that there is no mention in the Address about the schemes under which additional irrigation facility will be provided in one crore hectare land and the states identified for the purpose.

*This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

17. But regret that there in no mention in the Address about Satna Airport in Madhya Pradesh, developed during world war, which is in a dilapidated condition while it has been stated that so many airports of international level will be developed.
18. But regret that there in no mention in the Address about ensuring power supply in states as so many states like Madhya Pradesh are facing acute power crisis.
19. But regret that there in no mention in the Address about a concrete policy to check increasing prices of diesel, petrol and cooking gas.
20. But regret that there in no mention in the Address about improving the continuing worst conditions of the unemployed and the farmers while efforts have been made on foreign investment in order to improve economy.
21. But regret that there in no mention in the Address about any concrete policy to check increasing corruption in the country.
22. But regret that there in no mention in the Address about Lok Pal Bill which was proposed to be introduced in the current Session.
23. But regret that there in no mention in the Address about the settlement of the matter under consideration pertaining to leasing out land to the people of SCs, STs and OBCs residing in the forest areas.
24. But regret that there in no mention in the Address about setting up of agriculture training center in each district of the country.
25. But regret that there in no mention in the Address about setting up of a sports training center in all districts headquarters of the country to improve the talent of sports persons.
26. But regret that there in no mention in the Address about a concrete policy in order to identify the sports talents amongst rural areas.
27. But regret that there in no mention in the Address about concrete policy to convert play ground into stadiums in rural areas.
28. But regret that there in no mention in the Address about making separate provisions for providing reservations to the women of SC, ST and OBC community while ensuring 33% reservation for women in Parliament and state Legislative Assembly.
29. But regret that there in no mention in the Address about a concrete measures to check

on continuous increasing threats from neighbour countries apart from expressing deep concerns over national security.

30. But regret that there in no mention in the Address about enacting any concrete law in alternative to a stringent law like POTA in view of internal security.
31. But regret that there in no mention in the Address about time frame and programmes to solve so many serious problems like poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, under development of villages, shelterlessness, growing tendency of committing suicide in farmers drought, lack of power supply as well as lack of hospitals in far away areas.
32. But regret that there in no mention in the Address about extension of rural development works all over the country undertaken through the various projects of Deen Dayal Shodha Sansthan and visited by His Excellency Himself in Chitrakoota lying at the border of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to say a few words regarding the President's Address which was made on 16th to the Parliament. I support this address. The president has termed this session to be an important session. The people of our country have elected us as their representatives for which I would like to congratulate everyone. The President has said in his address that the UPA Government is concerned about progress of the country. Our colleagues sitting other side are talking without introspecting themselves. I would like to draw your attention to the article captioned 'Between the lines' penned by Shri Vajpayeeji, the former Prime Minister of the country which is published in so many newspapers today. It says the people of Congress have done a lot of works in the name of patriotism, but I would say the real patriots are none other than the people of Congress. This is my belief by taking the name of Shri Jawaharlal Nehru he said the country was becoming a great power by dint of the great work as well as the foreign policy made by Pandit ji. He said that he had no regret of assuming Shri Manmohan Singh as the most successful Prime Minister of the country. Shri Vajpayeeji has said so. They may not have read this article.

I would like to divulge more while talking to the press reporters for an hour. Shri Vajpayeeji narrated that he had once got an opportunity to sit on the Chair of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. That was the happiest day of his life. Even today he keeps the picture of Pandit ji in his bungalow. What are the Members of BJP talking! Vajpayeeji has already said it, which the whole country relies upon and we, too, assume Vajpayee ji speaks the truth. He further said that if Gandhiji was not assassinated, he would also be in Congress. With this fact you should

[Shri V.K. Thummar]

have considered who has got the country progressed. In his statement—Vajpayeeji has said that he expresses regrets on the incident of Babri Masjid demolition at Ayodhya. The Masjid was demolished only for the reason that they could do politics. This is the matter of great sorrow. Vajpayee was speaking to and the people along with him are not supporting him. I have nothing to say about those who see adulteration even in gold.
...(Interruptions)

In presidential Address, there is a mention of rupees 2300 Crore investment in agricultural works during the year 2005-2006. I would like to say that whenever there is a mention of payment of agricultural insurance credit to farmers, certain shortcomings are pointed out in it. Everybody says that today farmers are in problem. I would like to request the Government to consider about appropriate payment of insurance to farmers.

Today, India is leading in the production of cotton as compared to other countries and as a result the income of farmers has also increased. But B.T. cotton seeds are produced by only one company due to which farmers are getting these seeds at a very high price. I would like to say that other companies should also be authorized for selling of these seeds. The Government is talking about import of wheat. It could create problems for the farmers. Import of wheat should be stopped.

It was the dream of Rajivji due to which the country is making progress in the field of mobile facility. My friends who are in the opposition, do not take this fact into account. Today by giving rupees 900 only you can get connected to telephone for whole life. Whether it is not good. The credit for providing this facility goes to UPA Government. If NDA Government would not have come in the power, then this work would have been completed five years ago. ...*(Interruptions)* The progress of the country has been hampered by the NDA Government.
...*(Interruptions)*

With these words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Munshi Ram. Please conclude in five minutes.

SHRI MUNSHI RAM (Bijnor): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on behalf of Rashtriya Lok Dal, whose leader is Ch. Ajit Singh regarding motion of thanks on Presidential Address. The schemes of the Government are prepared by the officials of our country. Though, the

Government wants to formulate schemes for the benefit of poors and farmers, the schemes provide benefit to the officials rather than poors and farmers. Just now one of my colleague has said that bribe of rupees 5000 is taken at block level for providing housing loan—it is absolutely true. The entire House is aware that if farmer will be strong and self sufficient, our country will become stronger automatically. So you should keep the welfare of the farmers in your mind while formulating schemes relating to them.

But, how farmers will be strong and self sufficient? The Government have put check on the increase in prices of food stuffs which is produced by farmers whereas the production cost of this food stuff is very high. The farmer spend his own money on its production. He does not get water in his fields. New varieties of seeds have proved useless. You can see yourself that the production of our crops does not increase from these new varieties of seeds. All these seeds are useless. The Government is spending crores of rupees on research of these seeds. Thus the farmer neither get seeds and fertilizer nor he gets water on his land. How can you expect our farmers to become stronger and self sufficient when they do not get even suitable price for their crops produced by their own money?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk about Uttar Pradesh. Maximum sugarcane is grown there, particularly in the Western Uttar Pradesh. Today the price of sugar is rupees 2 thousand per quintal in the market. The scum of the sugar is sold at more than rupees 100 per quintal bagasse is sold at rupees 150 per quintal and molasses is sold at rupees 300 to 500 per quintal. I would like to request the Government that if the farmer gets atleast rupees 200 per quintal, the production cost of the molasses, then I believe, he will definitely make progress. You want to benefit the mill owners so that they don't incur any losses. My request is that the farmer should atleast get remunerative prices. If farming becomes unremunerative, farmers will give up farming. It is clear from Government data that the farmers have started looking for professions other than agriculture.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would take some more time because I always conclude in time. If we want to strengthen the farmers, then we have to give them suitable price for their production and have to provide them all facilities. Similarly, the Government provide annual grant of Rs. 15 thousand crore for kerosene oil but this grant does not reach up to the poors. A long time back,

Minister of Petroleum had accepted that 75 per cent amount of the grants is spent in unscrupulous activities.

Sir, through this House, I would like the Government to hand over the grants given in the name of poor people to them directly as a poverty allowance. Why do we provide grants in such a way that it goes to officials through black money? The Government should provide these grants to poor people directly in the form of poverty allowance. Today our unemployed youth are committing various crimes. Some youths become engineers, advocates but we do not have employment for them. When they do not get employment, their educated mind will engaged in various types of crimes. They opt the path of crimes. So, the Government should provide some kind of allowances to these educated unemployed to put a check on it.

Now, I would like to say about the problem of electricity. In our Bijnor district of Western Uttar Pradesh, farmers do not get electricity for two-three hours. They produce their crops by spending rupees 35 per litre on diesel to run their engine. It increases the cost of their production many folds. The Government should formulate a concrete policy in this regard.

I, through this House would like the Government to take action in this regard.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): I rise to speak on Motion of Thanks on President address. I want to speak on seven-points and limit myself to these points. The first is that there is a mention in the President Address that the U.P.A. Government have constituted a separate ministry for minorities. I welcome this. In this connection 40-50 Muslim members of parliament of this House and Rajya Sabha met the Prime Minister twice and demanded that formation of a separate ministry is necessary for welfare of the minorities. This is necessary because the matter of Muslim minorities for example Haj comes under Ministry of External Affairs.

15 programmes are under the ministry of Home Affairs, Minority Finance Corporation and Maulana Azad Education foundation are under the ministry of Social Justice. The matter of promotion of Urdu is under the ministry of Human Resource Development. Therefore, I think that if all these programmes are brought under one ministry, progress would be made in right direction. Government has taken a right decision and we welcome this. But along with this we would also like to know as

to which departments have been brought under this ministry. Till date we do not know as to which departments have been brought under this ministry.

The second point is that it was mentioned in the President Address, last year and was promised to bring a white paper on the condition of Muslims. Since then one year has passed but no white paper has been brought by the Government. I want to know the reasons of delay in bringing the said white paper. What are the reasons therefor? And I hope when the Prime Minister replies to the debate on Motion of Thanks of President's Address tomorrow, he will throw light on this also.

The third point is regarding Aligarh Muslim University. In this regard the High Court has given a decision that Aligarh Muslim University is not a minority institution. History is evident that the Muslims of India have established Aligarh Muslim University. Sir, Sayed Ahmed Khan collected money from door to door. Jouhar Brothers collected contributions from door to door and established Aligarh Muslim University. Under the Parliamentary Act 1920 it was given a status of minority institution. Today the High Court has given a decision that it is not a minority institution. I demand from the Government and want to know about its policy in this regard. Would you make any amendment in the constitution of India again and restore the minority status of Aligarh Muslim University for once and all. In this regard first time amendment was made in the constitution when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister of India. And we demand that this must be done. It is wrong and disturbing that the matter goes in the court and impasse continues.

Sir, the fourth point is about fifteen-point programme. It has been said that it would be brought in a new form. I would like to tell that there are many things in this new fifteen points programme, that are in the interest of the Muslims or minorities. For example Minority Finance Corporation and Maulana Azad Education Foundation are working well. Then, which new works are likely to be done in fifteen points programme? Through you, Sir, I demand from the government since today, 18 per cent population of the country is minorities and their major problem particularly Muslims is of houses. 80 per cent Muslim populations of India do not have their own houses. We demand our share in Indira Awas Yojana and other schemes as per ratio of our population. There are many schemes such as ICDS, Shahari Rojgar Yojana etc. provide us employment under rural employment schemes. It will be beneficial.

[Shri Asaduddin Owaisi]

My sixth point is regarding POTA Review Committee. What is your policy regarding POTA Review Committee. It was good that you have repealed POTA. Three POTA Review Committee were formed. No recommendations of the said committees have been submitted. POTA was imposed on more than two hundred Muslims in Gujarat. The recommendations of the POTA Review Committee of Gujarat are with you. What was the purpose of the POTA Review Committee. ...*(Interruptions)* I am concluding. In end, I want to know about recommendations of the POTA Review Committee? Kindly present those before the House and tell us about the number of persons about whom on the basis of POTA Review Committee you have recommended. That cases under POTA should be withdrawn against them. Even today, the poor Muslims are languishing in the jails of Gujarat. What is your policy?

In the end I would like to say that we were talking about C.B.I. When charge sheet filed at the time the leader of your party was the minister of home affairs, his name was withdrawn and the matter was discussed in the House. We was told by the then Government of your party that this was C.B.I.'s personal decision. No interference is done in the working of C.B.I. Today also, the same has been done. If you had no objection at that time why you are objecting now? It has been mentioned in the President's Address that a bill has been introduced to check the communal riots.

19.00 hrs.

Rs. 30 crores have been spent on extradition of Abu Salem by the C.B.I. and Government of India. I would like to ask if Abu Salem can be extradited then why not the recommendations of Justice Krishna Commission be implemented? Why does not Congress Government of Maharashtra implement the recommendations? Mr. Narayan Rane was against the recommendations of the Justice Krishna Commission and at that time he was threatening the Congress. Now, he is in the Congress Party, in the Congress Government why don't you talk with him. No compensation has been given to the dependent of the people killed in Gujarat riots. Compensation has been given to the dependents of Sikhs killed in Delhi riots. We support this but why are you adopting discriminatory policy. Compensation should also be paid to the dependents of Muslims killed in Gujarat, Bhiwandi and Meerut riots. Such wrong decisions will send wrong message.

A mention has been made about the Justice Sachchar Committee. An objection was raised on the counting of Muslims in the Army. What is wrong if Justice Sachchar wanted to know the ratio of Muslims therein? If I demand for formation of Muslim regiment and Christian regiment what is wrong in it. Are not there Sikh Regiment, Rajput Regiment, Gorakha Regiment and Dogara Regiment? We also belong to India and we have also contributed in the progress of India. It will send a good message.

Special attention should be paid to the education of Muslims otherwise one Abu Salem is already there and more Abu Salem will be created. Therefore, I urge you that we do not want more Abu Salems, we want to make Muslims like Abdul Kalam. Therefore, kindly listen to us. Merely words will not do, give some results. A constitutional bench has been constituted on the issue of reservation. What will be role of this Government of India, you should also be a party to it. You should make recommendations that the Muslims should be taken care of. It should be your policy.

I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Twelve hon'ble members are yet to speak. The time of the house may be extended by one hour if the house permits.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS: All right.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I request each member to conclude his speech within five minutes time.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN (Balamulla): Deputy Speaker, Sir, considering the paucity of time I want to raise some points regarding Kashmir. In my view those points should have been mentioned in this Presidential Address. I would like to express my thank for one or two points. The roots of the problems and the difficulties of the State of Jammu and Kashmir lie in the mistakes committed by the Governments in power which implemented those wrong policies and created big problems for the people of Kashmir. At present, I would not like to go in details. But I would like to say that our favourite leader Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Abdullah was our Prime Minister. He was arrested in 1953. After that a treaty was entered into with Pakistan in 1960, which is known as Indus Water Treaty. The problems which were created by that treaty still persist. Two of our rivers Jhelum and Chenab and the river which we call as Kishan Ganga

and the Pakistani call it as Neel Ganga which finds no mention in the treaty, was also added to the treaty in a cleverly manner and the flow of the river flowing into Jammu and Kashmir was blocked so that our hydel generation plans could not be implemented. We are still suffering from this problem.

Sir, it was promised at that time that those three rivers, which belong to the Punjab and these, were diverted for the development of our present Punjab. These three rivers are Ravi, Bias and Sutlej. It would be given to the State of Jammu and Kashmir, that is, the loss would be compensated but it did not materialize till date. Today we are unable to make progress due to unavailability of electricity instead we pay Rs. 360 crore annually on this account. Today, we pay such a heavy amount for purchasing electricity. I do not want to go into the details in this regard. I feel that even after being upper riparian State, we still have problems whether it is a Salal project or Baglihar project; a number of objections are raised. Today, the problem with the Salal project is that we will have to seek permission from the Pakistan authority for its desilting. By this problem our economy has completely ruined. We expected that the President would mention it in his address, as to how the loss caused, due to the Indus Water treaty would be compensated. A mention should have certainly been made in this regard. Besides, our State which was famous in the world for its beauty and hospitality, but now a days it is known for its terrorism and violence. In my view the loss caused due to violence, which unfortunately got spread in our State and as a result we suffered a loss, should have been mentioned in detail in the address by the present Government because terrorism has ruined our youths. They are suffering on account of their health. They go to Delhi so that they may get better treatment because here the government hospitals are charging a fortune for their treatment. We seek an assistance from the office of the Prime Minister and after great persuasion, 50 percent concession is pronounced and that too for eight persons only. It is not going to solve this problem. The address should have a mention regarding Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the area where violence is prevalent and the people are in distress for them. A health care package should have been given but there is no mention in this regard. Besides, Government had given facility under Rule SRO 43 for the people who were killed due to political enmity and they have left behind their orphan children but that facility has been taken back by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. How these people will survive? There is no mention in the address in this regard also.

Besides, I would like to say that the Union Government and the system here helped a lot to the earthquake-affected State, and particularly in my constituency. Undoubtedly the people got instant relief. Government played an important role along with Army and other non-government organizations and thus we got instant relief but the construction work in that area still remains to be done and I hope that it would be given full attention. Besides, there are some other problems which I would like to tell in brief is that the issue of unemployment of youth of Kashmir has taken a serious dimension. In this regard the State Government as well as the Union Government should take urgent steps so that the problem can be solved. It is very necessary and I hope that the present Government would surley pay attention in this regard.

In the end, I would like to thank the Government that Muslim members of Parliament had moved joint application that a ministry for minorities should be formed and it was accepted and I congratulate the Government, entrusting this job to a right person but at the same time, I expect that the scattered problems of the muslims and minorities would be entrusted to the ministry and the said ministry should be given full authority to solve those problems so that the problems can be sorted out.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR (Sagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the President's Address. President's Address is the reflection of the Government's achievements/work done by the Government. As the 70 per cent population of India lives in the villages and towns, priority should be given to provide basic amenities in the medium and small cities under Jawaharlal Nehru urban renewal mission. In many States, the condition of transportation is very bad. That is why the private transporters are acting in an arbitrary manner. Even today, the passengers are compelled to sit on the roofs or hang by the doors of the bus while travelling. It must be given serious thought.

Promises are made for the welfare of the farmers but unless the small scale agricultural markets are set up, small farmers cannot sell their produce in the big markets and even he will not get remunerative price for it. Farmers have to depend on the bank managers for the Kisan Credit Card. Even after completing all the formalities many farmers are refused by the banks for Kisan Credit Card. Unless the farmers are provided with the credit facilities how they can do their routine work. It is necessary to simplify the Crop Insurance Scheme. Even

[Shri Virendra Kumar]

a single farmer should be given benefit of crop insurance if his crop gets damaged and it should not be on the basis of survey of the crop of entire area.

Besides, one crore hectare land brought under Bharat Nirman for irrigation. Promises have been made to link the rivers but nothing has been done for the farmers whose lands are acquired under irrigation scheme due to which they are rendered unemployed because the alternate land they get is either non-fertile or it is illegally occupied by the musclemen. Even the farmers have to lose their lives in the conflict of taking possession of the land. In my constituency the farmers were allotted land under the Rajghat Project, when the farmers tried to take possession of the land, they entered into conflicts and resulted in the deaths of many farmers. To compensate the land so acquired under the large scale irrigation projects, the farmers should be allotted a reasonable land or an equal compensation should be paid so that they can buy that much piece of land.

The Government intend to construct airports having international standards in India and to modernise the Mumbai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chennai and Kolkata airports but unless the air services in small towns are augmented with smaller aeroplanes development would remain incomplete. There is a great difference between the demand and supply of electricity. The Government should work without any political consideration. Power projects should be undertaken on priority basis in the States which are socially and economically backward.

The people belonging to Scheduled Tribes living in the forests for thousands of years are very apprehensive about the schemes under which they are going to be displaced from the land of Sanctuary. Few days back, I visited Nauradehi Sanctuary. In the Sanctuary area the tribal people say that they do not need electricity or road. We just want to live on our native land. Some concrete policy should be formulated in this regard.

The literacy percentage is very low in the rural areas. Because of the distant location of middle and high schools the girls students cannot attend the schools after obtaining primary education. Especially, the percentage with regard to Scheduled Tribes is quite low. Kasturba Balika Vidyalayas have been sanctioned in the 1000 villages of 21 States only. This number should be increased.

Several Members have mentioned that Bharat Mata is depicted in an obscene manner. Likewise our deities

like Lakshmi, Saraswati have been depicted in the same fashion. No one can depict his mother in this manner. It should be considered seriously. A censure motion should be moved on this issue.

Keeping in view the national unity there should not be any head count on the communal line in the Army. In the Army each and every soldier is an Indian. He constantly safeguards our borders. He is deployed for the security of the citizens. We respect the Ashfaqullah Khan who sacrificed his life for the country. We respect Abdul Hamid who laid down his life securing our country from the enemies. We respect Mohd. Rafi who sang Ramayana, Mahabharat's verses and couplet with the same spirit as Hindus do.

We love Irfan Pathan because when he goes to Pakistan to play for India, he goes there to make India win as an Indian.

In the end, I would like to express my views on infiltration. The hon. Members are sitting here. There has been infiltration on a large scale in the bordering States of our country. For the sake of vote bank all these infiltrators have been accommodated here, they were given Indian citizenship. They have been issued ration cards. A concrete strategy is needed in this regard. Today, at many places in our country infiltration is going on, criminal incidents are on the rise and unemployment is also increasing. This way the facts have been misrepresented and we inherited a distorted and erroneous history. The previous Government had taken steps to rectify the errors and by extending this to schools and colleges we need to rectify the errors of the past and to show case the right aspect of glorified culture.

Sir, I conclude with this sentence. Today, shining imported cars cannot be a true model of the development of our country. High rise buildings also cannot depict the development of this country, increasing number of AIDS patients also cannot be a development model of this country. Import of food grains cannot show that we have made development whereas, our warehouses are full of food grains, the poor people of this country do not get food to satisfy their hunger, they do not get medicine on being ill, they do not get clothing to cover their body. We do not have doctors in rural areas, drinking water facilities are not made available in the villages. Hon. Minister was saying that we will eradicate corruption. Unless the scheme made by the Union Government are not implemented honestly by the States, the Bharat Nirman

will remain in elusive dream and our pledge to root out the corruption would remain unfulfilled.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to inform the hon. Members that after him I have nine Members in the list to speak. After this, Zero Hour would be taken up.

[English]

SHRIMATI K. RANI (Rasipuram): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I deem it a great honour, a proud privilege and a pleasant duty to participate in the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

The hon. President has mentioned that our economy has recorded a growth of 7.5 per cent in the year 2004-05 and is likely to cross 8 per cent in the year 2004-05 and is likely to cross 8 per cent in the year 2005-06. This is admirable because we have achieved this growth despite the fact the global oil prices are increasing day by day. I would say that we are able to achieve this growth because this Government has been able to manage the economy of the country under the able guidance of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and under the effective leadership of our hon. Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

The President's Address mentioned that the Government has been able to create a new architecture on the foundation of five pillars, namely, the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, Bharat Nirman, National Rural Health Mission, Jawaharlal Nehru Mission for Urban Renewal and *Sarva Siksha Abhiyan*.

Sir, under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme it is mentioned that it will cover 200 less developed districts. Here, I would like to know on what basis they are going to be selected and on what basis the employment is going to be given to the poor. Though BPL cards have been given to the poor, how will the Government verify that they are genuinely poor? It should be regularised properly so that those who are really below the poverty line get the benefit of the scheme.

The hon. President has mentioned about Bharat Nirman which deals with rural roads and houses for rural poor, among others. Roads play a vital role in any economy, whether rural or urban. In every constituency, I believe, there are 300 to 600 villages and roads are the sole link to the villages which are in a very bad shape. I strongly feel that the MPs should be given the authority to select and send the list of such roads to the Government for improvement.

Here I have a specific request to make to the Government. My Parliamentary constituency is a reserved constituency and most of the people belong to the Scheduled Castes community and are living below the poverty line.

There is no development since Independence. The previous Prime Ministers like Pandit Nehru, Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi had a vision to improve the condition of living of these people. Presently, our leader Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is also striving hard to improve the position in this regard. We have seen many schemes or programmes being introduced in the last two years for their upliftment. In this connection, I would like to make a specific appeal for the improvement of my constituency. If industries are set up in a particular place, the people in and around the area will be automatically developed. Hence, I request the Government to consider setting up of an Industrial Park in Namakkal which will go a long way in uplifting the downtrodden people of this very backward area.

Bharat Nirman talks about construction of 60 lakh houses for rural poor. In the earlier scheme of group housing, the beneficiaries were asked to deposit an amount of Rs. 35,000 so that a house can be given to them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you have a written speech with you, you may give it to the Table.

SHRIMATI K. RANI: When those poor people do not have food and water for their daily needs, how can we expect them to deposit such a huge sum to have a shelter?

Moreover, under this scheme, the Government will construct houses only when the person is having a *patta* over the land. Now the scheme is that one should get the *patta* separately and then he should get the house constructed. I feel that these two should be merged together and houses should be constructed in one-go.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you wish, you may give your speech to the officers here and that will form part of the proceedings.

SHRIMATI K. RANI: The President mentions about giving highest priority to the welfare of farmers and the development of rural economy. He further said that there had been a 60 per cent increase in credit to the agriculture sector. At present, the situation is that he will get some amount as advance loan. I feel that he should

[Shrimati K. Rani]

be given full amount as advance and that there should be flexibility in the sense that he should be allowed to repay the loan once he is able to sell his produce.

The President also mentions that the Government has approved a scheme for establishment of 30,000 creches for children under Rajiv Gandhi National Creche Scheme. The nitty-gritties of the scheme has not come out so far. I would like to know whether they are going to be in the cities only or they are going to be established at village levels, at taluka levels also.

The President says that telecommunications and IT revolution is one of the success stories in our reform programme. Here, I compliment the Government and the hon. Minister for having taken steps to bring down the prices of computers to about Rs. 10,000 which is the cheapest price at any point of time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now you should conclude. You cannot go on like this. I am calling the next Member to speak.

SHRIMATI K. RANI: Thank you, Sir.

DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL (Ernakulam): Sir, as a Member belonging to the supporting group, I am obliged to vote in favour of the Motion of Thanks. I would have done it gladly but for the intervention of the hon. Minister in the matter of Quattrochi. His statement has dampened my enthusiasm. The hon. President in paragraph 25 of his Address has stated that it is a proud attempt of this Government to make the administration transparent and accountable. But that transparency is yet to be seen as far as Bofors scandal is concerned. It will ever remain buoyant and the needle of suspicion will remain static unless explanations for various questions are given satisfactorily and in a proper manner. From the defreezing of Quattrochi account in London to the Iran vote in Vienna, the Government is contemplating and executing things in a most secrete manner. It is not befitting the functioning of a democratic Government. Otherwise, there are many things in the President's Address which can be a matter of legitimate pride for the UPA Government. But it is our constant endeavour as far as Left parties are concerned to remind the Government of the correct way and the correct road map which they should take recourse to in accordance with the National Common Minimum Programme.

The President has given very convincing fact and figures about the economic advancement but it is a reality

that economic growth need not result in economic development unless the concerns of the poor are properly addressed.

As far as the recent developments are concerned, the Left Parties, the supporting group, are much worried about the various decisions of the UPA Government like the privatisation move of the Delhi and Mumbai Airports, the decision of allowing FDI in retail sector and the rise in prices of essential commodities.

As far as the foreign policy is concerned, we have deviated from the time-honoured policy of Non-Alignment, an independent foreign policy. We are toeing the line of the United States which is not in consonance with our national honour as an independent, sovereign country. So, in all these areas, much more corrective measures are required. I hope the spirit evinced by the President's Address will be taken into account in a proper manner and corrective measures will be taken and proper administrative and legislative measures will be taken to implement fully the proposals and the promises made in the National Common Minimum Programme.

With this hope, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am supporting the Motion.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will speak on this issue tomorrow. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Tomorrow leader of the Opposition and Prime Minister will speak.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is my continuously ninth statement on the President's Address. I have been elected for the third time in Parliament, both sides take part in the lively discussion. Opposition criticises Government and when they form Government, they say that the Government is performing well. In this way, a lively discussion is going on.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is now almost one year and nine months since Dr. Manmohan Singh's Government is in Centre and the efforts are going on. In our country, efforts are being made to eliminate poverty. In our country, 26 percent of population is below poverty line and in that the number of SC and ST is more than

50 percent. We should support President's Address because we are with you and speech was also good but to implement it money will be needed. As far as availability of money is concerned, black money is increasing in our country and Government is making constant efforts to stop this. Though our party opposes to privatisation but Government has also its constraints. Hence, we demand that if you wish to privatise any Government undertaking then there is a need for having reservations in it for SCs and STs. UPA Chairperson Sonia Gandhi has given assurance. Though, they have included this subject in their manifesto, yet nothing has been done regarding reservations in private sector. I thank Government that they have made provision of reservation for SC and ST in private educational institutes.

It is a good thing and we thank Government for that. This Government has given assurance of providing electricity in every village of the country. When NDA Government was in power, they also included it in their manifesto, but they could not fulfil it. Owing to which villages were kept in dark and they themselves went into darkness. This Government has also decided to provide drinking water in every village. 60 lakh houses will be constructed for the poor. Every year additional one lakh hectare land will be irrigated. Government has made a law for tribals by which many people are expected to get land. I would like to make an appeal to the Government that 8 crore hectare land which is lying unused, should be allotted to ST people, Government needs to think in this regard. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now please conclude.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is difficult for me to speak in less time and it is your constraint that you cannot allow me more time. When in 1976, Smt. Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister, it was decided that special component plan will be made and budget will be allocated on the basis of SC and ST population, but it is seen that 4-5 per cent less allocation is being made every year. Hence, I appeal to Dr. Manmohan Singh and Smt. Sonia Gandhi that budget may please be allocated as per the decision of Late Smt. Indira Gandhi, I still remember that last year budget was of rupees four lakh twenty five thousand crore and which will be of more than rupees five lakh crore this year. Out of that rupees one lakh twenty five thousand crore budget should be for SC and ST because out of 26 per cent of BPL people 50 per cent belong to SC and ST. Hence, I demand that as there in independent

budget for railways, similarly there should be special budget for BPL and SC and ST people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will not take much time because you also have less time. Women Reservation Bill was introduced 7-8 years ago. I request that reservation for women should be made and out of it separate reservation should be made for SC and ST people. Apart from it, 10 per cent reservation should be given to Muslim community. Brahman's Rajputs and Marathas is higher class, who do not come under Mandal Commission should be given 10 per cent reservation in jobs and educational institutions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have written a poem but it seems that no one is interested in listening and there is no meaning of reciting a poem. ...(*Interruptions*)

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: You please recite.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I am tired of speaking about President's Address in Parliament. But has not bowed down in front of anyone, I was Minister for 5 years in Maharashtra and Member of Parliament for 9 years. But I never sold myself anywhere.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am moving forward with the ideology of Dr. Ambedkar. This UPA Government is not going to fall down. These people say that this Government will fall down but this will run for five years and we are with them. We do not have any differences with each other. Mr. Advani was going to become secular and an attempt was made to remove him from party. I would appeal to you that Mr. Advani should become secular.

You need to leave BJP and join us. When you have been removed from there, then you do not have any significance there. You are changing. There was a little change in Atalji also. You are also changing, which is a good thing for us. You did not come to us, but let us make efforts that when you are removed from there, then you should join us. You have your own inner disputes, but we are not worried about them. We will be in Government for five years. Dr. Manmohan Singh will remain Prime Minister, but I do not know when my turn will come. There is always a discussion of my name. I have been witnessing it for quarter to two years that my name is being discussed. Wherever I go, everyone asks when are you going to become Prime Minister. I say that I will become Prime Minister after five years.

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

With this, I thank you and support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for providing me an opportunity to speak. Every year President's Address is made in a ceremonial way. I rise to support it. I have gone through it attentively. The government's programmes enumerated in the Address are very good. This reflects the true picture of the country. The poor and downtrodden are going to make progress. This thing has been made clear in this document.

First of all, I would, through you, Sir, like to express my thanks to the army personnel. The Para military forces and the Air force Personnel who at the risk of their lives came to the rescue of people of J&K State, saved their lives and property when earthquake struck the State and avalanche fell down. The entire country is behind them. They made sacrifices for the State of J&K. The entire world knows it. These people have become martyrs, be it in Kargil war, in cross-border firing or in operation Raksak. Every day one or the other soldier's dead body is being sent to one or other part of the country. I express my thanks to the families of those martyrs whose sons are sacrificing their lives for the sake of the country.

Along with this, I would relate a sad story. The SPOs and BDCs who saved the people of J&K in far flung areas along with the security forces have not yet been made permanent. They have not yet been given the salary even of a constable. I have been saying all this time and again. Their names does not appear anywhere in the records. They are thousands in number. They include youth who have become martyrs. They have made sacrifices and are making sacrifices even now. Their families are passing through worst miserable condition. They have also served the country.

I would like to make a submission. I felt sad after listening to the discussion taking place in the House now. I hear in this august House somebody talking of some religion, some other talking of some creed and the third talking of some caste. The question before us is how to strengthen the country, how to raise the poor above. But people pay attention towards caste distinction. Today, people belonging to backward classes are sitting on

commissioner's chair. They are sitting at higher levels in administration. Today, they are eating away the share of SCs and STs. Nothing has so far been done for these SCs and STs. The poor SCs and STs who used to crush stones before 1947 are still engaged in the same job. They are still working as mazdoors. The point is that only a selected number of families are availing the benefits. If one family is availing the benefits now, it should be the turn of some other family next time. This is my submission. Somebody talks of Babri mosque while some other talks of temple. Some other tries to project himself as a true follower of some creed. I understand that we are Parliamentarians and should continue to remain the same always.

We should not make compromise with the security and the defence of the country. I am proud of having Shrimati Sonia Gandhi as the President of my Party. There is no Prime Minister other than Dr. Manmohan Singh having so tall stature. It is a matter of great pride for us. An act like National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme had never been made earlier. This Government have felt the pulse of the people. This act has come into effect from 2nd February. It has been enforced in each and every district. A person provided a job card will be granted unemployment allowance if work is not given to him within 15 days. Today is 22nd and 20 days have passed since this scheme was launched. I would like to request the Government to ascertain the number of people who are getting unemployment allowance. Are those people getting employment or this scheme is existent on paper only. This scheme must be made effective.

Now let me talk of Pradhan Mantri Sarak Yojana. Please pay attention to that and look at the situation in J&K in this regard. The hon'ble Minister said that villages having more than 500 population will be connected by roads. In J&K no such work is going on in villages having more than 500 population. There are several such villages. The Government should make planning. They say that work will be done in a phased manner and completed in such and such years. How many roads have been constructed so far and on how many roads work is underway. The Government have stated that they would complete the work in so many years, but is it the ground reality.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude. Your party's time is already over.

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Please extend the time of our party. Shri Handique, the leader of our party is sitting here. I would like to know the progress made in Bharat Nirman. I would like to make a few more submissions. Please pay attention towards farmers. If there has been any development anywhere in this world or in the country it is due to agricultural production only.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, until the farmer gets due price of his produces, until his productions increase, there is no use of growth rate increase or setting up of industries. Unless farmer becomes strong the country can not become strong. We say that farmer is the backbone of the country, but we break his backbone every year. Farmer is the sufferers on every point. He is not getting seeds at the time of need. He is not getting fertilizer. He is not getting water. Large amounts of our river water flows to Pakistan. Large amounts of water flows to Indian ocean. It is all right that we had made a treaty with Pakistan. It was a different time. The situation was different at that time. Today that, time is not there. So, if need be, we can break the old treaty. Today our economy depends on water. If our river water flows to Pakistan, our economy will be shattered. By not checking the river waters of the country, we are working for shattering the country's economy.

Sir, we commissioned the Salal project in J&K, but Pakistan passes one or the other comment on that and we cannot do anything in that regard. This attitude of their's won't work. It is all right that we are pursuing a peace treaty with Pakistan. We should continue the same, but Pakistan should be told in clear terms that Salal Project is made by us, it is our water, our land, our mountains, they should not interfere in it. Today, terrorists have been living in Doda, Punch, Kathua in J&K. Pakistan should be asked to call back the terrorists. Then only peace treaty should be made with them. It is all right that we should make peace treaty with our neighbouring countries for maintaining peace, but Pakistan should be told that peace process can proceed further only when protection to terrorism being given by them is stopped.

Sir, lastly I want to say one thing that no one has mentioned about Pandits of Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to say that Pandits of Jammu and Kashmir hold a special and prominent place. They represent the rich culture of that region. Due to their migration our culture has been deprived of this richness. That is why I want to ask about the action being taken by the Government

to call Kashmiri Pandits back to Jammu and Kashmir. When their condition will improve and how that culture would be brought back?

Sir, out of 60 lakh houses which are proposed to be provided most of them should be given to Jammu and Kashmir since the sate had to face earthquake, storm and due to which lakhs of people became homeless they are living their life in huts and in open. Their houses got demolished. They should get houses. I want to draw your attention towards the announcement of Rs. 600 crore as made by the Hon. Prime Minister for our State, but only Rs. 300 crore has been allocated so far. But out of this not a single rupee has been received by Uri, Punch, and my Parliamentary Constituency. People have been rendered homeless due to earthquake and storm and they are staying in open. My urge is that due attention should be paid in this regard. At last I would like to say that the things that should have been mentioned, are not being mentioned. ...(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with this I would conclude my speech and I would like to thank you for the time you have given me to speak on this subject.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Tapir Gao kindly conclude your speech in five minutes only.

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): I belong to a distant area and I belong to Schedule Caste. You are giving me very little time. How could I be able to conclude my speech in such a short time?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You start your speech.

[English]

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I cannot extend my thanks to the President for his Address because no words over the pains of the North East people have been expressed in his Address by the UPA Government.

Sir, we are lucky enough to have three Ministers from the North East in this UPA Government. I do not know how they are bearing the treatment meted out to the North Eastern Region by the UPA Government. We are public representatives and we have to voice the problems of the North East people. In spite of our three hon. Ministers from the North East, nothing has been reflected here for the North Eastern States.

[Shri Tapir Gao]

Sir, firstly I would come to foreign policy. Shortly the master of the Congress Party, the US President is arriving. Now, they are going to commit a mistake and the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh will say, "I do not know about it."

This country is having 'Do not know Prime Minister' today. We are so unlucky in this country.

Sir, I will directly go to the foreign policies. On 20th April, I raised an issue on this floor of this House regarding the Chinese claim, on 1st April 2005, Chinese claimed that Arunachal Pradesh is a disputed territory between these two countries. The hon. Prime Minister has not uttered even a single word on the disputed territory. Here, I would like to remind the Congress Government and the Government of India that there is confusion in India on the foreign policy relations with China. If the Government of India is accepting the TAR (Tibet Autonomous Region) as the integral part of China, then this is a great blunder mistake of this country because within this TAR (Tibet Autonomous Region) Arunachal Pradesh territory is totally included. If the Government of India is accepting it as an integral part of China, then this is a great mistake.

19.51 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

Today in Chinese political map. Arunachal Pradesh is totally depicted within China. Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of this Government that this should be cleared in their minds so that the TAR should be clarified when there is a bilateral talk between China and India.

Sir, in the field of civil aviation, there is no airport in Arunachal Pradesh. There is no telecommunication facility in the North-Eastern Region. Here, I would like to mention one very important point. The Minister of Communications and Information Technology has forgotten one thing that we, the Members of Parliament from North-East, are also equally elected by the people. The hon. Minister of Communications and Information Technology directed the North-Eastern Region MPs to attend a Secretaries level meeting in Guwahati. The hon. Members who attended the meeting are unlucky. If this is the attitude of the Minister of Communications, what could be the situation on the ground? There is no mobility. Totally, there is no mobile facility. There is nothing. There is no progress in the North-Eastern Region in the field of communication.

On top of that, the roaming facility of the North-Eastern Region has been centred within the North-Eastern Region. Why? The Ministries of Home Affairs and Defence are saying that it is because of the underground activist. It is known to the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Government of India that the underground activists and their organisations in the North-East are having the highest quality and highest frequency telecommunication equipment. They are not using the mobile that we are using today. So, it is a sorry state of affair on the part of the Minister of Communications as far as his treatment towards the MPs from the North-Eastern Region is concerned. That is why, on protest I had not attended that meeting. So, in the field of telecom and in the field of civil aviation, there is totally nothing and there is no reflection in the President's Address.

Hon. Member, Mr. Madhusudan Mistry is here. I hope and wish that he is a learned Member but on the subject of tribal facilities and tribal issues, Mistry *Sahab*, you have to take a re-orientation training to know all the details.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Your time is over. Only five minutes' time is given for every speaker. Otherwise, we would not be able to finish it.

SHRI TAPIR GAO: I will have to give the details within two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You co-operate.

SHRI TAPIR GAO: I am co-operating.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will have to finish it, at least, by nine o' clock.

SHRI TAPIR GAO: I will make short points. During the NDA's time, 142 tribals had been included.

MR. CHAIRMAN: On any account, I would not allow you.

SHRI TAPIR GAO: If you are directing me to conclude, I will not take part in this discussion and I would request you to delete all my speeches, and you liberate the North-East from the rest of this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI TAPIR GAO: This is the treatment given to the Member of Parliament from North-East!

Sir, during the NDA's time, we could include 142 tribals. In reply to yesterday's Starred Question, 1016 tribals have to be included in the Tribal List. What is going on this Congress Government for the welfare of Tribals?

On top of that, I may say that in the Tenth Plan, the Government of India has approved a fund of Rs. 790 crore every year to the North-East Council. But practically only an amount of Rs. 450 crore is given every year to the NEC. In addition, our sister-State, Sikkim, has been included and there is no enhancement of the funds for the NEC.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Tapir Gao, please conclude. Shri P. Mohan to speak now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TAPIR GAO: On top of that, the border fencing work between Bangladesh and India has been revitalized and it has been entrusted to the NEC. Then, where are the funds with the NEC for the development? With regard to NLCPR, the Government of India has decided.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry. Please conclude. We have eight more speakers.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TAPIR GAO: Sir, this is no good treatment to the Members of Parliament from the North-East.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: On any account I cannot allow you. Shri P. Mohan to speak now.

SHRI TAPIR GAO: Sir, we have got a lot of time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri P. Mohan.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you have got anything more to say, you give it in writing. You lay the rest of your speech on the Table.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TAPIR GAO: Sir, this is not correct. You are giving five minutes to other Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have been given ten minutes.

Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Mohan.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TAPIR GAO: Sir, in protest I am walking out of the House.

19.58 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Tapir Gao left the House)

*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Sir, Motion of Thanks to the President for this address to the Parliament is being debated and I thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion. Our Leaders of the left Parties including our CPI (M) leader Shri Basu Deb Acharya has expressed his views already and I want to reiterate our stand. Let me add a point or two that stand out to be recorded here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Mohan continue your speech.

*SHRI P. MOHAN: Hon'ble President has spelt out his vision for the country along with his ambitions and aspirations towards the welfare of the people of the country. He has laid particular stress on the welfare of women. ... (Interruptions)

More particularly it has been stated that there will be a ban on arresting or taking into custody women during the night hours. It is a welcome step. But it has also been stated that women shall not be arrested or taken into custody except in unavoidable circumstances. Here I would like to give a word of caution. This particular clause is enough for the brutal among the police force. I am afraid this exemption 'except in unavoidable circumstances' shall be misused by the unscrupulous elements among them. I would like to point out that for a long time that

*Not recorded.

*Not recorded.

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri P. Mohan]:

continues to be a practice to take women to police stations in the late night hours in the name of enquiry and custody. This particular announcement of the Government through the President aims at ending this atrocity against women. But this welcome measure shall be rendered meaningless if this exemption clause is to form part of this ban order that prevents women from being taken into custody during night hours.

Secondly, I would like to point out to the welcome announcement by the President that the process to legislate for women's reservation in legislatures is on. From my experience, from 1999, that is from the time when BJP led NDA government was in power I have been listening to this promise for legislation. There has been mention about this enactment in every session of Parliament. But this Bill is yet to see the light of the day. Every time they used to come out with a reason stating that they wanted a consensus.

During the NDA regime they legislated the draconian POTA despite the opposition from the Congress Party, Left Parties and Samajwadi Party. The NDA Government led by Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee passed the POTA Bill in the Joint Session of the Parliament. When a bad piece of legislation can go through a Joint Session of Parliament, why not we contemplate to legislate women reservation bill, a good piece of legislation, adopting it in a Joint Session of Parliament.

Though the President has mentioned about the process of legislating women reservation bill, it is rather paining to note that a time frame has not been given as to when this bill will be taken-up and passed in Parliament to provide for 33 percent reservation for women in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies.

I would like to point out that the President's address do mention about the farmers and their problems. But it fails to mention about the Land Reforms Act. In 1936, Mahatma Gandhi moved and passed a resolution in the Karachi conference of Indian National Congress to provide Land Holding Title to the Tillers. He said that the farmers who toiled and milled in the soil should get the land holding rights. He was talking about Gram Rajya and Ram Rajya. But I would like to point out that the land reforms were carried out only in States like West Bengal, Tripura and Communist-ruled Kerala. As far as Tamilnadu is concerned land reform measures have been given up now. In the name of developing dry land, thousands of acres of land have been given away to multi-nationals at

throw away prices. In Tamil Nadu, for that reason in many parts of the country mostly the Dalits and the backward class people remain landless. Land Reform measures aim at providing an acre or two to this landless masses to own and cultivate in those lands. But unfortunately it has been given a go by. I would have felt happy had the address by the President spelt out the measures to be taken to make the landless masses a land owning class through land reforms.

Thirdly and finally I would like to point out to the ban on recruitment and the measures to cut jobs. Unemployment is on the increase and in Tamil Nadu alone 50 lakhs educated unemployed have registered in employment exchanges. More than five crores of youth all over India are looking for jobs. The pity is that the youth educated here are left to fend for themselves and find jobs in foreign countries.

Apart from that they are forced to work in MNCs that is in Call Centres. This address by the President is silent on lifting the ban on recruitments and job cuts in the Government Service and in the Public Sector. In Tamilnadu, the Government led by Jayalalitha has withdrawn this ban after tasting defeat in all the Lok Sabha Constituencies and more particularly having an eye on the ensuring Assembly polls.

As a gesture of gratitude to the people who have elected them overwhelmingly, the UPA Government must initiate steps to take note of the ground realities and remove the ban on recruitment that is in vogue from 1996. At a time when government jobs are beyond the reach of many, the retail trade sector that provide jobs to about four crores of people is sought to be hampered with the move to allow FDI in retail sector. I would like to sound a word of caution that this particular move to permit foreign direct investment in retail sector would take away even the existing jobs. Emphasising the need to lift the ban on recruitment, let me conclude.

20.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now it is 8 o'clock. I have a list of six speakers more. If the House agrees, the time for discussion may be extended by half an hour. What is the sense of the House?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Every speaker may speak for five minutes each.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We extend the time by half an hour. Then, we will take up Special Mentions.

Shri Ram Kripal Yadav. He is not in his seat.

Shri Punnu Lal Mohale.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir I rise here to speak on the President's Address. I want to draw attention towards a few points. I want to quote President's Address here.

My Government is committed to the judicious management of Public finances, to the efficient management of Public utilities and enterprises and to the pursuit of reform, in all its dimension. At the same time there is a need for maintaining communal harmony and providing an inclusive society in which every section of society feels secure, empowered and confident about their future. My Government is committed towards creating such an environment so that the latent potential of our people can blossom and create a new India of our dreams.

I would like to discuss on these points only. First I want to say that:

Attankwad, Naxalwad Desh Ko Kar Rahe Barbad
Kaise Desh Acche Dhang Se Rehaga Azad.

There should be separate package to deal with the problem of terrorism. To stop the youth becoming terrorists they should be given employment or settled in family life. So they can be brought to the right path.

There is the Ram Mandir issue which is related to communal harmony. People have conflict with each other all the time. Government should formulate some plans specially some solution should be arrived at by including people of all the communities. I would like to say that this should also be included.

I would like to say about the reservation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As per the census of 2001, the delimitation set by the Election Commission in Chhattisgarh (where new Government has been formed

out of the total 90 legislative seats 34 seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes. Five scheduled castes seats are still short out of total 11 seats of Lok Sabha, a seat each of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is short.

I would like to urge the Government that such a provision should be made that upto 2026 no Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly seat should be reduced. The seats of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should not be reduced and *status quo* should be maintained. Government in its reply should mention as to what will be done in this regard. Due to shortage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes seats, the development of SC-ST people has come to a standstill in my State where the Legislative Assembly seats are 90. The people are feeling unsafe. They are apprehensive about their rights. Scheduled Castes should get reservation in army recruitment. I think that it should be Government's duty to give reservation in Judges recruitment and other institutions.

Mr. Chairman Sir, a Law was enacted regarding the registration of marriage. But there is no proper procedure how women should get married. My opinion is that provision of women's marriage should be made through mass-marriage and Government should give money for that. There should be proper care for women. Government are not thinking for the upliftment of widows destitute or literate-illiterate women. My point of view is that it is important to think in this regard because upliftment cannot be done alone only by giving reservation. Government should take measures in order to give support to the physically handicapped and other helpless people. Government provides rice at Rs. 3 per kg. and wheat at Rs. 2 per kg. For the people living below poverty line under the Common Minimum Programme, but the arrangements made by the Government are inadequate because pulses and vegetables are not distributed. I would like to urge the government to pay attention to the people living below poverty line by distributing 50 kg rice along with pulses and vegetables per month. I would also like to say that under the Poverty Eradication Programme there is no mention of removal of slums. Government should give more assistance in this regard. The problems of terrorism and naxalites are on the rise in Chhattisgarh. Government have implemented Employment Guarantee Scheme for the family at the rate of Rs. 60 per day. If one person earns Rs. 6,000 per month then what will be the amount needed for 40 crore people living below poverty line? The amount required would be Rs. 8400 crore. I want to ask as to what will be the Government's

[Shri Punnu Lal Mohale]

contribution to states and whether this money would be given as a special package? Implementing Employment Guarantee Scheme will not serve the purpose. I would request the Government to pay attention in this regard.

There is no mention regarding laying of railway lines. I hope that Government will sanction the Bilaspur-Mandla railway line, the survey work of which has already been completed. Government have introduced housing scheme to stop encroachment namely Valmiki Awas Yojana, Indira Awas Yojana, Ambedkar Awas Yojana but the amount of Rs. 20,000 provided for such housing schemes is very less. Even a toilet cannot be constructed by this paltry amount. Government are not paying enough attention towards building low cost houses there. I think that this amount should be increased. Today encroachment is going on in each and every village. Due to lack of toilets women and villagers are compelled to defecate in open in villages. No arrangement is available for them there. This encroachment is taking place all over the country. When no land has been left for encroachment how the Government will construct houses. The Government should think over it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mohale, please conclude your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: The Government should work out an action plan for removal of encroachments and provide amount of at least fifty thousand rupees for each house. I would like to add that the people indulge in many kinds of social evils like gambling, addiction to drinking, opium, charas, betting in society. The people play betting and become pick pockets, cut the throats. They indulge in betting and their families have to undergo acute poverty situation. What plan will government formulate for such people? Will the Government provide them any special package? Will the Government find any way to improve their condition? This is what I had to submit before you.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech. Next speaker is Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: There is a scheme under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana to connect villages having population from 500 to 2000 with metalled roads. My point is that this scheme should be implemented in villages having population of 300 people. I also would like to say that there is black soil in Chhattisgarh. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, you can give in writing whatever additional points you wish to mention in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Stone chips are laid on low level and thereby metalled roads are built. The chips and charcoal level should be increased.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not record anything.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, you can start your speech. I would allow you to speak only for five minutes.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, will I be given only five minutes to speak?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Yadav, you have only five minutes at your disposal. If you have anything more to speak, then you can give it in writing. You have exactly five minutes to speak. Thereafter, the bell will ring, and you must stop your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the President in his address has mentioned many schemes for all round development of the country. So far as the

*Not recorded.

basic needs of the country such as electricity, water, road, education, health and irrigation are concerned, I think our UPA Government and our Hon'ble Prime Minister are committed towards development of the country and addressing the problems of the people in order to ensure all round development of the people. The President has presented before the country the glimpse of this commitment in his address. Even after 58-59 years, there are problems like poverty, and starvation. I need not go into details. I would like to submit though many hon'ble Members have expressed their feelings on the issue but burning issues like price hike, unemployment and poverty. Perhaps we are not paying special attention to these issues. The way the price hike is sky-rocketing, it is getting out of hand.

Today the prices of food items and the consumer goods are soaring high. If the price rise is not controlled immediately, situation may worsen further in the country. Earlier a person would earn five rupees and sustain himself on daily basis. But today he is unable to sustain despite getting fifty rupees himself. All of us as well as the Government should take concrete steps in this direction.

Likewise people engaged in business are exploiting farmers and the people in small business. The market is beyond control. I think if they continue to be given relaxations like this it will prove to be detrimental for all of us. Not only this, under the new economic policy launched recently, foreign made goods are pouring in our country. The restrictions have been removed leading to adverse impact on market. Gandhiji was not in favour of big industries but small industries. His dream is not being materialized. Consumer goods of common man use are being imported from China. There are 39 such items on which new economic policy has not been applied but despite that their production is going on openly in the country. The people engaged in these sectors are unable to compete with foreign goods because imported items are available at cheaper rates and the demand of our indigenous goods is declining. So, I would request that Government should think seriously about it. If Government wants that common man should get employment, it should think seriously in this direction.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government that there are many such states where 30,000 people have committed suicides. Karnataka, Punjab etc. are such states where farmers are committing suicides. The Government should think seriously to improve the condition

of the farmers. The farmers are not getting back even the cost inputs they invest in agriculture. Then should they do farming? That's why the charm for agriculture among farmers is declining. The people have become disillusioned with villages. They are migrating to cities due to lack of employment there. But no arrangement has been made for them on your behalf. You are spending a lot on IT sector in cities. You are spending about 16 per cent. We also want that our country should develop. We support it. But if you spend 16 per cent on I.T. sector, how many people will get employment? You should think over it also. You should also ponder over how much you are spending on the 75 per cent people engaged in agriculture. You should pay attention to this also. If we don't enhance budget allocation for them, what will they do? So, the Government should make satisfactory budget allocation for them. When we pay attention to our agriculture, then the economic condition of our country will improve. As long as we don't strengthen these crores of people, there cannot be prosperity in our country.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: All parties have exhausted their time. I am here to give only five minutes to each Member.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will conclude in two minutes. We want that the schemes which are chalked out by the Government for the farmers and the poor should be implemented in true sense. Despite 59 years of independence, we are unable to renovate the canals constructed during British era. There is no provision of canals in Bihar. Such is the condition in the entire country. The arrangement of Urea, electricity, and water are not being made for the farmers. As long as these things are not provided and as long as no market is arranged for their produce, they will not get the price for their produce. Then, how will the farmers of the country be able to survive? You should pay attention to this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say that if you want to improve the economic condition of the country, you will have to pay attention to the farmers, the poor, people engaged in small industries of this country. Otherwise, you will not be able to strengthen the country despite your will to do so. If you don't do that, economic condition of the country will not improve and the country will not be on the path of progress. So, the Government should

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

be sensitive to the needs of the poor and the exploited people in the times to come.

Private companies are entering into the country. You have talked of providing reservation for SCs/STs in the private sector but OBCs have been left out, whereas crores of people living in this country are from backward communities. How will they get employment? So you should take concrete steps on these issue in the times to come and pay attention to the poor farmers, labourers and the exploited people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to make a last point. Malhotraji is not present in the House at this time. The kind of view they have about minorities, especially the Muslims, that is not proper. About 18 percent Muslims live in this country. They have same feeling towards the country as the people of other communities have. They have made significant contribution in the security, defence and dignity of the country. So, I would like to request you to change your mindset towards them and consider them as your brothers. If you don't do that, these people and the country will not be able to progress.

[English]

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL (Kurukshetra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address to the Parliament. The Address covers a large number of issues, all of them of vital importance to the country.

I would like to start with what the President has been pleased to remark in the last paragraph of his Address.

"The people of our country who have sent you here as their representatives sincerely hope that you will make the best use of the time available to represent their interests. Time is precious, please do not waste it."

It is his advice, which the President has thought it fit to give to us, the Members of Parliament. I completely agree with it. You have noticed that I never ever disturb any hon. Member of Parliament when he is speaking. I feel that, as the first time-Member of Parliament and as a youngster, this is a great institution. I always feel that it is a great learning experience to listen to great leaders of our party and every other party. We have to patiently listen to each other and debate and that is what the

people expect us, who send us to Parliament. Ultimately, we may be from different religions and different political affiliations but all of us are Indians and all of us want that the country should develop; all of us want that the people should be prosperous and people should be happy. I really feel that there are a lot of important issues. We should build consensus on those issues and work on that. For example, on the issue of national flag—whether we should be allowed to wear the national flag on the clothes and T-shirts. Both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha unanimously passed the Prevention of Insult to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2005. One really feels happy that we all should work together on some important issues. I feel that we should stop wasting time in Parliament and only work together because ultimately, our objective is the same and that we all want to work for the development of the country. I think that if we really want to thank the President, we should listen to his advice and work together on such issues.

Our economy, which was growing at a GDP growth rate of five per cent during 1999-2003 is now achieving nearly eight per cent GDP growth. Now, I am very very confident that under the dynamic leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh and under the dynamic leadership of the Chairperson of UPA, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, our country can easily achieve two digit GDP growth rate very soon for which every person will have to work very hard. There is no short cut to hard work. We all have to work very hard, very sincerely and we can achieve it.

I am one of those who are deeply concerned about the quality of governance in our country. We really need to improve the quality of our governance. I always feel that in our democracy, there is sometimes more of bureaucracy. Bureaucratic system is really ruling the country rather than democracy, which we need to change.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can place your speech on the Table of the House so that time can be saved.

SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: You said I can speak for five minutes. I have not even completed three minutes. I am asking you to allow me to speak for my five minutes. That is all.

I am very happy that in the Address, the President has made a pointed reference to reforming the instruments and the processes of governance. He also said that we have to end bureaucratism. I feel our democracy is going to be much more dynamic and vibrant if bureaucracy also supports that.

As a sportsman, I am very proud that sports has found a place in the President's Address when he mentioned that it is going to be a very proud moment for all of us, Indians, when we are going to host the Commonwealth Games. A lot more needs to be done to improve the level of sports in our country. Especially, Olympics sports because Olympic sports are played in more than 200 countries in the world. Whereas we give all the focus and attention to cricket, which is not even played by 10 countries in the whole world. Even though we spend hundreds of crores in organising these games, but the real plight of our sportsmen in the country really needs to be address. We really need to treat our sportsmen much better and to take care of them. In this country of a billion plus people, we really need to improve our performance at the international arena.

The UPA Government has done a great deal for the common man. I do not want to go into the details. We are all aware of the Rural Employment Guarantee Act and the National Rural Health Mission. I would just like to add that to make the National Rural Health & Family Welfare needs to also focus a lot on population stabilisation. I think, it is a burning requirement today. We need to give a lot of focus and we need to encourage people, through right means, to have small family so that we can look after the family and our country better.

I feel this issue is one issue which is very close to my heart. It is a very important issue. The Government should do something about this. Even though the Government is doing a great deal in this regard yet I feel that we need to bring about a new legislation called the 'Zero Hunger Act' so that there is no person in this country who sleeps hungry or who stays hungry throughout the day. In this regard, I would specially like to thank my Sikh brothers who through their Gurdwaras and *Langars* that they have, give free shelter and free food. We really need to have a legislation in place like we have a legislation for the Disaster Management. We need to bring in a legislation for 'Zero Hunger' so that no brother or sister in my country should sleep hungry.

In the end, I would just like to thank the President for his Address. I would like to thank you and all the Members of this House for their guidance and support. I am sure, if we all work sincerely, if we all work hard and if we all do our jobs well, we certainly can make the country of our dreams.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in his address the hon'ble President has tried to mention what our Government is doing. He stated that there has been continuous progress in the country's economy and the people of the country are also making progress continuously but we find that no progress has been made in the rural areas. The poor are becoming more poor. How can it be said that the country as well as the people of this nation are making progress.

Just now my colleague was speaking. He told that in rural areas people travel on the roofs of the buses. Over here we see that each day new aviation companies are entering into the market and people are travelling by aeroplanes. We neither have roads nor electricity. There is no facility over there. Hon'ble President has further stated in his address that a lot of excitement is felt after seeing all this and it encourages us. When we visit villages and see the condition of the poor there, tears roll down from our cheeks. How can the Government say that a feeling of excitement comes into our hearts and our country is progressing. The Congress Party has ruled the nation for over 50 years out of the total 58 years.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Are those tears genuine?

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Of course, they are genuine. They will never have genuine tears. They have only exploited the poor for 50 years. They will never have tears in their eyes. What have they seen. ...(*Interruptions*) Earlier they talked about poverty eradication. They shouted a very popular slogan. Now they are talking about Bharat Nirman. They have said that they will provide electricity in every village of the country. I would say that they should ensure 24 hours supply of power where it is already there. Children in Maharashtra are not studying because there is no electricity there at the moment. How can they appear in exams? The farmers are not able to sow seeds and are not able to cultivate their fields. They have said that they will make drinking water sources available to each locality. In 27 districts of Maharashtra, people are getting fluoride contaminated water. People are suffering from various diseases. Whenever the State Government demands funds from the Union Government, the Union Government refuses to sanction funds to the State Government. The State Government has not been paid even a single penny.

[Shri Haribhau Rathod]

Are they going to provide telephone facility in every village? These days I have been seeing how the BSNL is functioning, somewhere wrong numbers are being connected and somewhere there are some other problems. They say that there is no corruption, in fact biggest corruption is taking place in BSNL. Here the private companies are being given such rights so that people are discouraged from taking services of BSNL because they want to bring in other private companies. This is a conspiracy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, they are talking about irrigation of one crore acre additional land. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji had said that every acre land of this country should be irrigated, 100 crore acres of land should be irrigated but they are talking about only one crore acre land. Is this the progress they are talking about? Will they provide dwelling units to the 60 lakh rural people?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, it is already 8.30 p.m. now. If the House agrees we may further extend the time of the House by another half an hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, the time of the House is extended by another half an hour, that is till 9.00 pm.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: They are talking about 60 lakh housing units? Are they aware as to how many villages are there in this country. There are 60 lakh villages and 600 districts in this country. Can they provide 10 thousand houses to each district. They can only provide one or two houses in a single village, Do they know about the demand of a single village? There are nearly 50 or 100 people demanding houses in a single village, will they provide them with houses? Alongwith this they say that 60 lakh is quite a higher target? I would like to know that if they will provide 2 houses where there is a demand for 100 houses—like this, how many years will they take to eradicate poverty and to provide the housing units? How are they going to provide houses to the poor people like this? They would need 50 years for doing that whereas they have already ruled for 50 years.

As regard Maharashtra, it has been stated that the number of BPL card holders should not be increased

beyond 6 lakh. They have given data of all the states while sitting here in Delhi. Who are they to decide the BPL status? Is the BPL status decided in Delhi? They are deciding here as to who are BPL card holders and directing the State Government not to issue BPL cards beyond the number of 4, 5 and 6 lakhs. What kind of justice are they doing? It should be clearly defined as to who fall under BPL and who do not? They are deciding here and applying breaks over there, what kind of justice is this?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rathod, please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Sir, regarding electricity I would like to say that this problem is getting very serious day-by-day. This matter must be looked into. In Nandedh, Gurugaddi Century is being celebrated and the Government of Maharashtra has demanded funds for it. Development in Maharashtra should be done under J.N.N.U.R.M. I would like to urge that in this country there are 15 crore denotified Nomadic Tribes, and the arrangement of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, OBC and minorities in this country. ... (Interruptions) Sir, today I was viewing internet and I found out that I am the only Member of Parliament from Denotified Nomadic Tribes for whom not provision have been made till today. There is no development plan for them in this country.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rathod, please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: These people have played a lead role in getting freedom for this country. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rathod, please conclude now, You may give the remaining part of your speech, in writing. Now, I would call the next hon. Member to speak.

Now, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Dr. Barq.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rathod, please sit down. It is not going on record. You may lay the remaining part of your speech on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (Moradabad): Sir, I am greatly thankful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. I would like to start my speech with the following couplet—

"Jab para waqt to gulshan ko lahoon hamane diya,
ab bahar ayi to kahte hain tera kaam nahi".

How surprising it is that the Muslims, who made many sacrifices, underwent imprisonments, faced bullets on their chest and did everything for the sake of country's freedom, are being meted out injustice in the country. Minority status of Aligarh Muslim University has been withdrawn through an order of the court. Earlier also it so happened in 1965, but its minority status was restored in 1981 through an Act of the Parliament. Same situation has arisen today. Therefore, my submission is that the minority status of Aligarh Muslim University should be restored through an Amendment Bill. Aligarh Muslim University is associated with the sentiments of Muslims not only in India, but the world over. It is one of their largest educational institutions. Therefore, my said demand may please be met. The Muslims are getting step-motherly treatment in this country. Not even one percent reservation in services, be it the Police, PAC, military or any other service, exists for them. My submission is that they should be given reservation in proportion to their population. 30 crore Muslims live in this country, therefore, they should be granted reservation in services, be it police, PAC, military or any other service, in proportion to their population. In 1997, in my speech in Lok Sabha, I had

demand formations of a Muslim regiment in our Army as, we, already have regiments such as Sikh Regiment, Gorkha Regiment and Jat Regiment. Muslims are no less loyal to their country than anyone else and also do not lag behind if there is a need to make sacrifices. Therefore, Muslims should be trusted and they should be recruited in military, PAC, police or any other service.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Muslims have faced great injustice in this country. There have been thousands of riots, but no Muslim has ever been compensated. I am happy that Sikhs were given relief. Riots have taken place in Maliyana, Moradabad, Bhiwandi, Gujarat or elsewhere, but Muslims have never been given any compensation. Therefore, my submission is that they, too, should be given compensation. Further, POTA imposed in states like Gujarat, Maharashtra, where Muslims have been detained under it, should be withdrawn.

Muslim M.Ps of all the parties once met the Prime Minister and demanded the formation of a minority ministry for Muslims. We are thankful to him since the said ministry has been created and I am hopeful that all the problems and issues of Muslims will be solved through it.

So far as Urdu language is concerned, it is heart-throb of everyone and is spoken and understood all over the country. During Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's era it was promised to be made a second official language. My submission is that it should be declared as a second official language and an Amendment Bill may be brought in this very session with regard to Aligarh Muslim University and got passed, *mutatis-mutandis*, so that Muslims do not face any problem in future.

A Bill should be brought and minority status of Aligarh Muslim University restored so that no problem of this kind arises. Muslims of this country have made many sacrifices, laid their lives and did everything for the sake of the freedom of the country. Any kind of injustice to them will be harmful to the nation. If any community lags behind educationally, the country can not progress and would remain backward. And Muslims are most backward, so far as education is concerned. Therefore, they should be given every kind of facility so that they can educate themselves. Attention should also be paid towards opening of schools so that Muslims can study. Since the government propose to educate all, Muslims should also be included in it and their problem should be solved. ... (Interruptions) We want the country to progress. Muslims should also be given jobs. Muslims should be

*Not recorded.

[Dr. Shafiqur Rahman Barq]

deployed at borders to render service to the nation so that if the need arises, they can also sacrifice themselves and save country. And, they have done so. I hope, even B.J.P., which doubts the *bonafide* of Muslims, and prevents Muslims from getting justice would agree with me that each one of us live in this country and thus it belongs to all of us. We, too, have made sacrifices and we have legitimate equal rights. Therefore, my submission is that we should get our legitimate right in every field.

With these words, I conclude my speech and thank you once again.

[English]

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey): Sir, I rise to express my views on the President's Address. Even though the Government claims that it is pro-poor and it is for *aam admi*, most of the policies and programmes implemented in our country are for the rich people. I would refer to mainly two points.

Firstly, the economic policy followed in our country favours multinationals. It is not for the poor. The gap between haves and have nots have widened a lot. There are no measures in the President's Address to bridge the gap between haves and have nots. Most of the policies adopted by the Government and especially the recent declaration of the Government to invite FDI in retail sector are against the people. There are more than 3 million people involved in the retail sector. Even though the Government says that small scale industries are spared actually only single brand is allowed in our country. This will adversely affect the small scale industries as well as small and marginal farmers of our country. The Government is not thinking of the large section of the people.

Another point is regarding labour policy which is introduced in our country. That is against the labourers of our country. We have seen there are protests and struggles in many industries. The labourers are denied their rights. They are not even allowed to agitate for their rights.

Nothing is mentioned about how the Government proposes to safeguard the interest of the labourers, especially those who are engaged in the unorganised sector. I am very much concerned as well as deeply anguished to find that there was no mention of the fishing sector in the President's Address. One-third of India's

total length is dotted with a coastline and more than three million people are involved in fishing activity. Even the Government earns a revenue to the tune of Rs. 20,000 crore from export of fishes, but unfortunately, not a single mention about the fishing sector found a place in the Address of the hon. President. Most of the facilities available to other sectors, like subsidy on kerosene and such other things, are denied to fishermen. The Government now even proposes to issue licences for foreign deep sea trawlers and also there is a move to import fish from other countries. All these would adversely affect the fishing sector in our country. Again, the matters relating to fishing is not managed and monitored under one single Ministry. Many Ministries are involved in processing of requests of the fishing sector. Ministries like Agriculture and Commerce are involved in managing and monitoring the affairs of the fishing sector. Recently, the Government has created a new Ministry, namely the Ministry of Minority Affairs. I would like to humbly request the Government to constitute a separate Ministry to manage and monitor the affairs of the fishing industry.

Secondly, I would also like to refer to the farm sector and the traditional sectors. Most of the Members have mentioned about it and so I will not go into the details of it. I come from the State of Kerala where there are traditional industries like coir, cashewnut, handloom, etc. Lakhs of people are engaged in farming and in these traditional industries. The Government should take prompt measures to protect the interest of those engaged in these sectors. I would not take much of your time. I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The list of speakers have now been exhausted.

The House would now take up Special Mentions.

*DR. THOCKCHOM MEINYA (Inner Manipur): Sir, I support the motion of thanks to the address by the President of India to Parliament on the 16th February 2006 as moved by hon. Member Shri Madhusudan Mistry and seconded by hon. Member Shri J. Scindia.

At the very outset, I would like to place on record the fact that the address by the President of India to

*The speech was laid on the Table.

Parliament this year is a testimony par excellence about the performance of the UPA Government during the past about 20 months and about the tasks before the Government in the coming 12 months.

The President's Address contains as many as 62 paras. Every para has its own distinct directional objectives. The first para states about the sense of optimism. How correct it is? We are all humane. Sense of optimism is the only guiding force for everyone of us for obtaining a tangible result in the days to come.

Sir, the address enumerates all the ongoing activities of UPA Government. Mention may be made about the successful enactments of the historic Act—the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act; Bharat Nirman, a time bound plan to create better rural infrastructure; The National Rural Health Mission, to address gaps in rural basic health; the Jawaharlal Nehru Mission for Urban Renewal, to ensure a dynamic, visionary, inclusive and caring process of urbanization; and a strengthened Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan with a Universal Mid Day Meal programme.

For the success of these programmes and activities, the Union State and Local Governments and Panchayati Raj Institutions need to work together. While doing so, we have to collectively decide to sink the differences of the past. We have to restore to our polity a sense of healing. We have to restore to our society a sense of inclusiveness and we have to give to our economy a sense of purpose.

Sir, the passing of the Right to Information Act, 2005 is really historic. Every citizen of this vast country is empowered to know how Government programmes are being implemented. By ensuring greater transparency in the functioning of Government it will help reduce corruption.

Amendments have been carried out in the Hindu Succession Act, 1956 to give equal inheritance rights to women in property thereby fulfilling the commitment in the National Common Minimum Programmes of the UPA.

There are a number of projects undertaken by this UPA Government during its regime. The National Highways Development Projects. A National e-Government Plan, with 25 Mission Mode Projects has been prepared. Our space programme has been beneficial beyond our borders. A new Ministry of Women and Child Development

has been created to have focused attention on the problems of women and children.

Sir, While the problems of J&K and the North Eastern India have been properly addressed to and the results are forthcoming, still much more are yet to initiate towards securing an everlasting solution to the various problems faced by these special category states of the country. These people there are by and large very sentimental & emotional and quite naturally they feel neglected, which are known to everybody in the country by now. Hence, a very special treatment for these areas are to be proposed during the course of the National Planning process.

Sir, the President in the last para of his address expresses his desire for the best use of time in both the Houses. We must appreciate this. I, for myself, being a humble student of Mathematics do understand what the President means. Time is the only solid whole entity in the entire universe. We may wait for anything, but time does not.

Lastly Sir, I once again support the motion of thanks to the address by the President of India to Parliament.

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (Badagara): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this House about the proposal for a new Railway line between Mysore and Thalassery via Mananthavady. The Thalassery—Mysore Railway line proposal was declared by the late Lal Bahadur Shastri, the then Union Minister during this visit to Kerala. Later, three surveys were conducted at various times for this proposal. However, no follow up actions were taken to fulfil the dream of the people living in the two States, namely Karnataka and Kerala. After commissioning of this line direct travel to cities like Bangalore, Hyderabad, Tirupati and Howrah will be possible.

It will certainly benefit lakhs of students and employees of Kerala and Karnataka and will lead to promotion of tourism also. This new proposal is unique as it does not do any harm to the forest environment. Hence the Railway Ministry may please see that the survey is completed for Thalassery-Mysore railway line and fulfil the dream of the people of Kerala and Karnataka by starting the functioning of the line.

*SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Our Postal Department manages various savings schemes through all the Post Offices spread all over the country. Monthly income plan

*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri P. Mohan]

savings scheme is a popular one among the Post Office Savings Schemes. This scheme is for the benefit of retired employees and senior citizens. Those who retired from services were encouraged to deposit their entire life savings to earn an interest at the rate of 8 percent for an individual's savings account and at the rate of 9 percent for a joint account. Retired Employees and Senior Citizens had a sigh of relief as they were getting better returns than even the ones offered by Nationalised Public Sector Banks.

These elderly people were getting at least Rs. 2,400 more as monthly earning by way of depositing their hard earned life savings in Post Offices. Now they are being deprived of this promised returns. Such people were entitled to a 10 percent bonus after every six years as long as they live. Through an executive order with effect from 13th February this year, this bonus is sought to be denied to those who go for this scheme henceforth. When Budget is to be passed on 28th of this month, what is the need for such a move to deny an incentive benefit extended to the Senior Citizens.

This move on the eve of budget has sent a shock wave and has spread a panic among the hapless senior citizens and this move of the Finance Ministry through an executive order is nothing but cutting to size the bread of these senior citizens who can not win their bread on their own anymore. There are other savings schemes like Fixed Deposit schemes and Recurring Deposit schemes in the post offices. The depositors of these savings schemes wonder whether they should withdraw from these schemes. Postal Department must attract customers to savings instead of dissuading them.

Hence, I urge upon the Finance Minister and the Union Government to reconsider this move to take away the sixth year bonus for Post-Office Monthly Income Plan Savings Schemes causing deprivation to the elderly. With this I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (Satna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government have made a provision to grant approval to the construction of at least one road in every parliamentary constituency from the Central Road Fund, I would like to know the number of parliamentary constituencies of Madhya Pradesh where permission for road construction from said fund has been provided under the said provision? I would also like to know the reason

for not granting approval till date for construction projects of roads from Khamharia to Bardadeeh, Rehuta, road over bridge over Samrawal river on the stretch of 13 kilometres out of roads proposed by me in my parliamentary constituency, Satna. Similarly, wrong information is being furnished in regard to construction of national highways. National Highway No. 75 between Rewa and Satna, is always submerged with food water, due to small bridge near Madhavgarh and it adversely affects the traffic on said route, many times proposals for construction of said bridge has been submitted, but till now approval has not been accorded to any of the said proposals.

Similarly, there is railway crossing inside Mehar city on national highway No. 7. This road is very busy in view of both rail traffic and road traffic. People face heavy inconvenience due to continuous closure of railway crossing. The demand for construction of over-bridge is being made for last so many years. According to the Ministry of Railways, the Ministry of Road Transport should construct an over bridge on national highways. Sometimes it is said that the consideration to it would be paid in case the State Government deposits its 25 percent share? I would like to know whether a solution in this regard would be evolved or not? Whether people will continue to face this problem? I would like to demand that in view of this problem, the hon'ble Prime Minister should grant approval for construction of over-bridge on this national highway at the earliest.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the grave injustice is being committed against the Rajasthan. Due to low population density in Rajasthan, the cost per unit for making facilities available to public is more. Rajasthan has desert as well as hilly terrain, 60 percent area of Rajasthan is desert. The percentage of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe is also maximum in Rajasthan. The per capita income of Rajasthan is also very low in comparison to national average. Central Government offices in Rajasthan are being allocated very less center aid and funds.

I would like to demand from the Union Government to grant more economic packages and funds to Rajasthan under Gadgil Mukherjee formulae in which area, desert, index of development of infrastructure, the percentage of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population are taken into consideration. If funds are allocated to Rajasthan, it would be able to complete with other States.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the rail problem of Chhattisgarh. Raipur is the state capital of Chhattisgarh. Twenty years have lapsed since the survey of rail line from Bilaspur to Mandla to connect Raipur and Jabalpur was conducted. Its survey has also been conducted again. One-two crore rupees has been spent on this survey. The report has to be sent to Planning Commission. If the railway connectivity is provided between Bilaspur to Jabalpur, this area will get rail connectivity from Bilaspur to Mandla, Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Howrah and from Bilaspur to Durg and from Durg to Mumbai. People will be facilitated by it. This area is predominantly inhabited by people belonging to schedule castes and scheduled tribes. The Chhattisgarh State was constituted for the development of backward classes and it is inappropriate to ignore this State. I would also like to say that bauxite, dolomite mines exist in neighbouring areas of Bilaspur and coal mines exist in Mandla and Puroria area of Bilaspur. There is a abundance of mineral wealth. Much of this area is covered by forests. The railways will earn more revenue from it. In these circumstances, it is inappropriate on part of railways not to grant permission for Bilaspur Mandwa Railway Line after the survey. The Government is indifferent towards the area. I would like to demand from the Government that in view of above circumstances approval for Bilaspur-Mandla line should be granted without any delay.

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government with regard to some important issues of NRIs, the Non-Resident Indians. It is true that about 1.5 million Keralites are working in the Gulf countries. So, there are about 25 lakh Keralites who are working abroad including other countries. It is true that there are good numbers of people from other States also who are working in foreign countries. It is evident that it is not for mental pleasure or mental satisfaction that they are going abroad. Really the question is relating to lack of employment opportunities in our country.

Sir, when they are working abroad, they are investing in our country, and they are sending money to their families. They are really enriching our national economy and our nation. Though they are working abroad, they are not the citizens of those nations. At the same time,

they have no voting power in our country also. While we are getting all the benefits from these NRIs, it is our duty to give voting power to those NRIs. So, I would request the Government to take necessary steps because the election is coming within two or three months. We are going to face the elections. In this election itself, these NRIs can cast their voting rights. The Government has to take up this issue.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (Alleppey) Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of State for Defence and also the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, who is sitting here, regarding this serious issue. There are more than 20,000 ex-servicemen in my district. But there is no polyclinic in my district. Recently, the Government has sanctioned. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please be brief. You have already raised this issue. That is written here.

DR. K.S. MANOJ: I will finish it within two minutes.

Recently, the Government has sanctioned a polyclinic in my district. Usually, the polyclinics are sanctioned based on the number of ex-servicemen in the District.

21.00 hrs.

In my district, more than 20,000 ex-Servicemen are there. But the grade of the polyclinic that has been sanctioned is only that of "D". Actually, my district is entitled to have a "B" Grade dispensary but that has been denied there.

A few months back, I heard that a "B" Grade clinic has been sanctioned but it has been transferred from there to some other place. So, it is my humble request to the hon. Minister of State for Defence to kindly look into the matter and sanction an ECHS "B" Grade Polyclinic for my district which is entitled to have that type of a polyclinic.

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India to the frequent extension of cease-fire with the NSCN (IM) and (K) to bring peace to the North-Eastern Region. This is a long-pending case over a decade now. The cease-fires are frequently being extended. We welcome that move on behalf of the people of the North-East to bring peace to the North-Eastern Region.

[Shri Tapir Gao]

I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India to infuse political will to solve the problems of the Naga issue amicably so that there will be lasting peace in the North-Eastern Region. The underground activity has got links with all other States of the North-Eastern Region. So, unless and until the Government of India infuses a political will to solve this issue, there will be no peace. Therefore, I draw the attention of the Government of India to infuse a political will—like what happened in Mizoram—in respect of Nagaland also so that we can see peace in future.

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there was a time when a large number of tigers used to live in Sariska Sanctuary, located in my parliamentary constituency, Alwar and thousands of foreign and domestic tourists used to visit this sanctuary to see them. This is a bitter truth that due to negligence of Government and unhindered activities of poachers, not even a single tiger has been left in this area.

Sir, many times a meetings of Project Tiger had been convened under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister and it has been decided that male and female tigers from other areas should be brought to this area and elaborate arrangement for their security should be made. The Rajasthan Government has formulated a scheme in this context and has send it to the Ministry of Environment and Forests for sanctioning of funds.

I would like to request the Minister of Environment and Forests to sanction funds for Sariska Project at the earliest so that tourism industry of Alwar may flourish again.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your notice was received after 9.30 a.m. Anyhow, I will call you to speak. Shri Haribhau Rathod.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Sir, I want to raise one important and very sensitive issue of voluntarily retired employees of the Reserve Bank of India which has declared an Optional Early Retirement Scheme under which about 4500 employees retired in the year 2003-04.

Normally, this Voluntary Retirement Scheme should have enjoyed the relevant benefits under Section 10(10C) of the Income-Tax Act by way of Rs. 1.65 lakh of Income-Tax rebate. This benefit has been made available to more than one lakh employees of 18 Public Sector Banks.

However, the RBI preferred to deduct this Rs. 1.65 lakh per employee and now argues its scheme to be a Non-VRS one. Taking advantage of the stand, the CBDT also does not allow the refund to be issued. On the contrary, penalty notices have been served to the claimants of refund. Each and every clause of Section 10(10C) of the Income-Tax Act and Rule 2BA is complied with as per the employee's view.

I would, therefore, request the Government, through you, sir, to take cognisance of this matter and not to make further litigation take place on this issue. Instead, as a relief to VRS employees, the CBDT should issue appropriate instructions to allow this deduction under Section 10(10C).

Sir, recently, in the President's speech, it is mentioned that the Central Government is also thinking over the VRS scheme for Central Government employees. Therefore, my request is that the Government's decision should be in tune with the policy by supporting the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow the 23rd February, 2006 at 11.00 a.m.

21.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, February 23, 2006/Phalguna 4, 1927 (Saka).

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