

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourteenth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

(Interruptions)

Wednesday, December 3, 2003/Agrahayana 12, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot show with placard. I am ready to listen to you but don't show placard in the House in such a manner. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) : 30 children were killed in our area which is a very serious matters. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please keep the placard's away.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Secretary-General may now call the name of the newly elected Member in the recent by-election to take the oath or make the affirmation.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : The oath taking ceremony is due to take place now. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I would give you an opportunity to discuss the subject. You resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are a good Member of the House.

(Interruptions)

11.02 hrs.

MEMBER SWORN

Shri Pratapsinh Shankarrao Mohite Patil (Solapur).

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You have shown the placard and your job is over.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious matter. . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The permission to display such placards is not given. Now the oath taking ceremony will take place and the hon. Members are taking the oath.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, I have given a notice for suspension of Question Hour. I will tell you the reasons for my giving the notice. . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Let the hon. Member sign in the register.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Oath taking is yet to be completed. Please sit down. You know the rules.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member is still signing.

(Interruptions)

11.03 hrs.

[English]

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM UKRAINE

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

On my own behalf and on behalf of the hon. Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Volodymyr Lytvyn, Chairman of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine and the members of the

Parliamentary Delegation from Ukraine who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

They arrived in India on Monday, 1 December, 2003. They are now seated in the Special Box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the Verkhovna Rada and the friendly people of Ukraine.

11.04 hrs.

[English]

RE: SUSPENSION OF QUESTION HOUR

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, we, from the Opposition, gave the notice for suspension of Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : A number of notices for suspension of Question Hour have been received.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice of suspension and Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Let me make a small statement first.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my notice of suspension of Question Hour is regarding Judev episode.

MR. SPEAKER : The session is going to last for three weeks. You can raise this subject during this period. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have received a number of notices for Adjournment Motions and I have also received a number of notices for suspension of Question Hour from several Members. One is regarding alleged involvement of some hon. Ministers seeking favours from PSU Chiefs and involvement of the former Union Minister in a bribery case. I have received the notices from a number of hon. Members. I have gone through the notices. Shri Prabhu Nath Singh, Your notice is regarding the atrocities in Assam.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let me know what the hon. Member, Shri Prabhunath Singh wants to say.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Both of you have given Notices. Prabhunath Singhji, you tell me the reason as to why have you given the Notice to suspend the Question Hour.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request you that the Question Hour be suspended and the discussion be allowed to take place on a very important and the sensitive incident that has taken place in the country. The reason of this incident is the beating up of the candidates from all over the country including Bihar who had gone for appearing in the examination of group D vacancies for Assam Zone in Railways...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Discussion on this subject can be held in the House.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to narrate in brief and I am telling as to why such an incident during examination took place?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will refer the issue to BAC.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in regard to the reason of suspending question Hour, I would like to say that the candidates from Bihar who had arrived to appear in the railway recruitment examination to be held in Assam were beaten on 9.11.2003 and in reaction thereto the incident of roughing up the Assamese passengers in train took place which is being condemned by all of us. Thereafter, the way in which the people of Bihar living in Assam for so many years and through generations were killed and the manner in which their property was looted with the police remaining a silent spectator to the suffering and the cries of the people of Bihar, these points to the direction of it being a stage managed affair and* ... Hence, I would like to request you that...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not correct. ...*(Interruptions)* The hon. Member must withdraw his allegations. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Personal allegation should not be levelled.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : Sir, it is not correct. ...*(Interruptions)* He must withdraw his remarks. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It is very important. During the BAC meeting we can take it up for discussion.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, Question Hour be suspended.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Shri Ramji Lal Suman, what is your notice about?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request you that the way in which the people of Bihar are being beaten in Assam...*(Interruptions)* The manner in which the students of Bihar were beaten in A.P. ...*(Interruptions)* The manner in which the candidates from Bihar are being beaten in Maharashtra...*(Interruptions)* The way in which these incidents are taking place in the name of regionalism...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Prabhunath Singhji, I have already said that this is a very important matter and I am ready to hold discussion on the subject and the matter could be discussed in the BAC.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : This is an important matter...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Ram Vilasji, you can speak when the discussion on this subject is held.

11.08 hrs.

At this stage Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav and several other hon. Members came and stood near the Table on the floor of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : You can speak only if you resume your respective seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, such incident has taken place in A.P. also that the people of Bihar are being beaten up in wake of regionalism. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Pappuji, you can speak after resuming your seat. Your resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : As I had said in the beginning and would like to repeat that the issue of Bihar that the hon. Members want to raise is a very important subject.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, I have permitted you to speak because I believe that this issue is very important and should be discussed in the House. But the discussion has to be scheduled in BAC. It may take place today itself. The discussion may be held through an Adjournment Motion also. You may move a Motion for discussion on the issue and then BAC would decide.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to the hon'ble Minister. Please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issues for discussion will be decided in the BAC and not in the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Please do not divide Bihar...*(Interruptions)* Please do not defame Bihar...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know whether all notices for suspension of Question Hour and Adjournment Motion are being taken up. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Yadav ji, a foreign delegation is also present in the gallery. It is not proper, please go back to your seats. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji, please sit down. All of you please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, this is a very sensitive matter. I appeal to all the Members ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, we do not want to divide the country, we do not want to divide the House. ...*(Interruptions)* It is the ruling party BJP which is trying. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Important issues can be discussed in the House. Please go back to your seats. Hon'ble Minister, you may continue.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This is not proper. You are not ready to listen to the hon'ble Minister. Please go back to your seats. I have decided to take up your matter also, please give me a chance for that. This is not the right way. You cannot speak with placards in your hands.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Arrah) : They are bent upon breaking the nation. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You may ask the Government on the issue. Go back to your seats. Why are you speaking from there?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, when you have given the permission, you may as well listen to everyone's views on Assam. Other issues may be raised on other days. Today, you may listen to everyone's views on Assam.

11.14 hrs.

At this stage Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav went back to his seat

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea) : They are responsible for many murders ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) : Sir, so many kids died in Daman and three months have passed since then. A judicial inquiry should be ordered and responsible persons should be punished. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Union Government have caused regionalism. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : They partitioned Bihar. They are responsible for the death of the state...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I admit that the issue is very serious. I will allow discussion on it.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, discussion is essential on the issue ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Pappu Yadav ji, please speak from your seat. I will allow discussion only after the current discussion is completed. You please go back to your seat.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you gave the chance to Shri Prabhunath Singh and we did not object to that. It is a serious issue that has been reported. But you have got to hear us; it cannot be a one-sided affair...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : That is what I am doing.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to have your protection. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Pappuji, please go back to your place.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, judicial inquiry should be ordered in the bridge accident in Daman. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. There are two important issues before me.

[Translation]

Two important issues are before me.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Daman issue is very serious...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Your issue is also serious. Three subjects are before me. But all three cannot be discussed simultaneously. The issue raised by Shri Prabhunath Singh, is of national importance and Congress Party have given their opinion that they would participate in the discussion. If we agree to hold the discussion today then it could be decided in the BAC meeting scheduled at 10'clock. The discussion could start immediately after it. I do not have any objection to it. Lok Sabha can discuss whatever issues it may desire. But we have three issues to discuss and I would like to listen to the views of all. I would allow you to speak too, right now I am permitting Shri Sumanji. But first, let me know what the subject is. I would like to say one thing to all the hon'ble Members.

[English]

The Question Hour is also equally important to some members of the House, and I would like to go to the Question Hour.

[Translation]

I would like to hear the views of the Members on all the three issues and to do that I need to know the subject

itself. House also needs to know it. Thereafter I will decide as to what needs to be done. Please cooperate with other Members also. If you insist that the issue you are raising should be taken up immediately, it won't do. Please keep that in mind.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been published in various newspapers. ...*(Interruptions)*

11.19 hrs.

At this stage Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav came and stood near the table.

MR. SPEAKER : I will allow you to speak only when your subject is under discussion.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House may be adjourned till the BAC has taken a decision. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We may discuss all the three issues today itself. But let me hear first. Lok Sabha will have to function in a dignified manner. I will not allow it. I have requested you thrice. All the Members are on their legs. Please go back to your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, both issues need to be discussed...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am ready for discussion on all the three issues. But it can be done only one by one.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am pondering as to what subject may be raised by the hon'ble Members.

[English]

Please go to your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Yadav, please do not misbehave in the House. *[Translation]* Please do not behave like this. Lok Sabha functions with a laid down procedure. This House is most important. Its work is carried out under certain rules, by consensus and by the decision of Speaker.

[English] Please sit down. [Translation] The issue raised by the hon'ble Member and on which Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh wish to speak, is very important. Discussion may be allowed on it, but first I would like to listen to Shri Suman on the notice he has given. After that I will take a decision and then you will get the opportunity to speak.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : All others should sit down. Please sit down.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : This is such a sensitive issue. Unfortunately, the Members from different States are so agitated that they are fighting against each other. Let us know from the Government what the Government's view is on this issue. Senior Ministers are sitting here, and they are keeping quiet.

MR. SPEAKER : The Government is ready to speak, if the Members allow it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been published in the newspapers that the Central Vigilance Commissioner Shri Shivshankar had met hon'ble Prime Minister and in his report had complained that money is being drawn illegally from six public sector enterprises under the control of various Ministries. All these things have been published in the newspapers. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Sumanji, you have to move a Motion. And discussion may take place on it. But this issue is not fit for adjournment Motion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, let the Question Hour be adjourned first and then the two issues may be discussed. ... (Interruptions)

MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE (Sheohar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first Question Hour may be adjourned and the two issues may be discussed then. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may be able to speak only if there is order in the House. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, 30 children died. This is a case of criminal negligence... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I would like to have discussion on all the three issues. I said at the outset that discussion is possible on all the three issues.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : But it is not possible to discuss all the three issues on the same day and at the same time.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you seriously want to discuss your issues then I am ready.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I prepone the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee to 12.30 hours. The Business Advisory Committee will meet at 12.30 hours.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Eradication of Dengue

*21. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA :

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

(a) the number of dengue cases reported in various parts of the country particularly in Delhi during the last three months, State-wise;

(b) the number of deaths caused in the country, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has convened a high level review meeting of officials of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), National anti Malaria Programme (NAMP), National Institute of Communicable diseases (NICD) and other hospitals to take immediate steps to check dengue cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

Government to check its outbreak?

(e) whether the Government has received any co-operation from State Governments for eradication of dengue;

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) The number of dengue cases and deaths reported during the months of August, September and October, 2003, State-wise, are as under:-

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action plan formulated by the Union

States	August		September		October	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Andhra Pradesh	4	0	19	0	15	0
Goa	4	1	1	0	NR*	NR
Gujarat	54	0	51	3	53	6
Karnataka	295	1	88	0	238	1
Kerala	808	6	312	2	217	4
Uttar Pradesh	0	0	10	0	503	0
Delhi	10	0	362	1	1861	29
Maharashtra	69	1	3	2	205	15
Rajasthan	26	0	102	2	NR	NR
Tamil Nadu	119	0	248	1	17	0
Punjab	38	2	3	1	NR	NR
Total	1427	11	1199	12	3109	55

*NR – Not Reported.

(c) and (d) Meetings under the Chairmanship of Union Health Secretary with the representatives from the Government of NCT of Delhi, MCD, NDMC, ICMR, NAMP, NICD and neighbouring States of Rajasthan, U.P., Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh and from Kerala and Maharashtra was held on 29.7.2003 to review the state of preparedness for prevention and control of dengue fever, malaria and other vector borne diseases. The recommendations in the meeting, inter-alia, envisaged capacity building for outbreak investigations and control, involvement of the community through various

communication channels, circulation of guidelines for clinical management and ensuring availability of diagnostic kits.

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare reviewed the dengue situation in Delhi and other parts of the country with the representatives from MCD, NDMC, Government of NCT of Delhi, NAMP, NICD, ICMR, AIIMS and Medical Superintendents of the Central Government Hospitals in meetings held on 9.10.2003. In the said meetings, emphasis was laid on intensive IEC campaigns, localized fogging and massive cleanliness drive.

A meeting was also convened under the Chairmanship of Union Health Secretary on 31.10.2003 which was attended by the concerned officers from the MCD, NDMC, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, DGHS, Central Government Hospitals, NAMP and NICD. The meeting focussed on review of the action taken by various authorities for controlling Dengue/DHF and state of preparedness for combating the spread of the disease in Delhi.

(e) to (g) Government of India and the endemic States are working together on controlling the dengue epidemic. While preventive measures and control of outbreaks is the responsibility of the State Governments, technical support for investigation, prevention and control of dengue outbreak in different parts of the country is provided by the Government of India to the States through Directorate of National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP) and National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), Delhi. Directorate of NAMP and NICD provide laboratory diagnostic support for confirmatory etiological diagnosis. They also organize training programmes on prevention and control of dengue fever for State and district level health functionaries. The Government of India provides insecticides, larvicides and other equipments and materials as per requirements of the States. The State Governments on their part undertake surveillance activities, IEC campaigns, fogging to control adult vectors during outbreaks and case management in various hospitals and health care centres.

A National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) by converging prevention and control programmes for Dengue and Japanese Encephalitis with three ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely, National Anti Malaria Programme, National Filaria Control Programme and Kala-azar Control Programme has been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 15th October, 2003. For controlling Dengue, Central support would be need based and would be provided in the event of an outbreak.

Visit of Foreign Dignitaries/Delegations to India

*22. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) details of the foreign dignitaries/high level delegations who visited India since August, 2003;

(b) the issues on which deliberations were held with each of them;

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

(d) if so, the details thereof and the benefits likely to accrue by these agreements; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the relations with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (e) Following foreign dignitaries/high level delegations visited India since August 2003;

Bangladesh :

(a) Ties with Bangladesh were strengthened through efforts by both sides to reactivate existing institutional mechanisms for cooperation in diverse areas of bilateral relations. The Bangladesh Minister of Water Resources visited India for the 35th meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission which was held on 28-29 September, 2003 after a gap of nearly three years. The entire range of issues in the water sector was discussed during the meeting.

(b) In connection with the visit of Bangladesh Minister of Water Resources, the entire range of issues in the water sector was discussed during the meeting. The Ministerial level Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) was also held on 28-29 September, 2003, after a gap of nearly three years.

(c) No agreement was signed during the visit of Bangladesh Minister of Water Resources.

(d) Does not apply.

- (e) Ties with Bangladesh were strengthened through efforts by both sides to reactivate institutional mechanisms existing for cooperation in diverse areas of bilateral relations. In this context, the Ministerial level Joint Rivers Commission (JRC) held on September 28-29, 2003 after a gap of nearly three years was useful.

Maldives:

- (a) (i) Mr. Ibrahim Hussain Zaki, Minister of Planning and National Development of Maldives visited India from 26 and 27 August 2003 as a Special Envoy of President Gayoom of Maldives to deliver a letter to Prime Minister. During his stay in India, Mr. Zaki met Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Digvijay Singh. He also met Foreign Secretary.
- (ii) Mr. Midhath Hilmy, Minister of Communication, Science and Technology of Maldives paid an official visit to India from 7-12 September 2003 at the invitation of Shri Arun Shourie, Minister of Communications and Information Technology.
- (b) (i) The visit of Mr. Zaki, Minister of Planning and National Development of Maldives was in the context of India's support to Maldives UN fora.
- (ii) Mr. Midhath Hilmy, Minister of Communication and Science Technology held discussions with Indian dignitaries on bilateral cooperation in information technology. Mr. Hilmy visited places of interest in Information Technology (IT) sector in India.
- (c) An MoU on cooperation in the field of

Information Technology was signed during the visit of Mr. Midhath Hilmy, Minister of Communication and Science Technology. The MoU specifies cooperation in development of human resources in the IT Sector, IT education and formulation of legal instruments including cyber laws.

- (d) Benefits out of the India-Maldives MoU on Information Technology will not only showcase our expertise in a sector in which we have a worldwide reputation but also help create a large reservoir of Maldivian IT experts with a friendly disposition towards India.
- (e) Relations with Maldives were strengthened through high level dialogue and economic cooperation in diverse projects. To this end, India has committed to cooperate in new areas of information technology, tourism, agriculture and environment apart from strengthening cooperation in existing areas of health and education with Maldives.

Myanmar :

- (a) The Deputy Foreign Minister of Myanmar Mr. Khin maung Win visited India for Foreign Office Consultations from 23-25 October, 2003. During the consultations, the entire range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest were discussed. A Credit Agreement was signed during his visit making available a credit line of US\$25 million to the Government of Myanmar for import of Indian goods and services. This agreement will accelerate Indian exports to Myanmar.
- (b) During the consultations between Deputy Foreign Minister and Foreign Secretary in the India-Myanmar Foreign Office Consultations, the entire range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest was discussed.

- (c) A Credit Agreement was signed during visit of Deputy Foreign Minister making available a credit line of US\$25 million to the Government of Myanmar for import of India goods and services.
- (d) The Credit Agreement signed during the visit of Deputy Foreign Minister will accelerate Indian exports to Myanmar.
- (e) In order to strengthen relations, the Government is following a policy of constructive engagement with Myanmar and in recent months a number of high level exchanges have taken place including the visit of the Vice President of India to Myanmar from November 2-5, 2003, the first visit at such a high level in 16 years. A number of projects covering diverse sectors are also under various stages of consideration and implementation with Indian assistance.
- (b) (i) The August visit of the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka was a private one and therefore there was no interaction with Indian Government representatives.
- (ii) During the October 12-22, 2003 visit, his third official visit to India, the Sri Lankan Prime Minister's discussions with the Indian Political leadership were substantive, held in a cordial atmosphere reflective of the close relations between the two countries. In response to Sri Lankan Prime Minister's request for India's support to the efforts of his Government on the peace process, a Joint Statement was issued. It reiterated GOI's commitment to the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka and to the restoration of a lasting peace through a peaceful negotiated settlement that meets the just aspirations of all elements of Sri Lankan society.

Sri Lanka :

- (a) (i) Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka visited India to deliver the Millennium Lecture 2003 of M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation at Chennai on 23 August 2003. The main theme of Sri Lankan Prime Minister's lecture "Making Our People Rich" dealt with closer economic integration amongst the South Asian countries.
- (ii) The Sri Lankan Prime Minister made a working visit to India from 19-22 October 2003 as part of his efforts to seek India's and the international community's support for the peace process. The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka held wide-ranging discussions with Prime Minister of India. Deputy Prime Minister and Ministers of External Affairs, Commerce and Industry, Civil Aviation and Petroleum and Natural Gas called on Prime Minister Wickremesinghe.
- (c) No.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) The steps taken by India to strengthen relations with Sri Lanka include high level political exchanges and deepening economic cooperation. India has a close political dialogue with Sri Lanka and is regularly briefed by the senior political leadership in Sri Lanka on developments in the peace process. The India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement has been successful in bringing bilateral trade to the US\$ 1 billion mark. Its success has promoted the two Governments to commence discussions on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

Bhutan :

- (a) to (e) His Majesty King Jigme Singye Wangchuck of the Kingdom of Bhutan paid a State visit to

the Republic of India from September 14 to 18, 2003. During the visit, President and Vice-President held talks with the King. PM, DPM, EAM and Minister of Finance also held talks separately.

During the visit of His Majesty the King, Government of India agreed to an assistance package in respect of Indian contribution to Bhutan's 9th Five Year Plan – 2002-2007. A Memorandum of Understanding for the preparation of a Detailed Project Report on the 900 MW Punatsangchu Hydroelectric Power Project in central Bhutan was also signed.

The opportunity of the visit was used for exchange of views on a wide range of issues of mutual interest and concern, including the presence of Indian insurgent groups in Bhutan, and the measures being undertaken by the Royal Government of Bhutan to persuade the militants to leave Bhutan's territory. Both sides agreed to continue working closely to resolve the issue. The two Governments reiterated that as close friends and allies they will not allow their territories to be used by anyone for carrying out activities inimical to each other's national interests.

Nepal:

- (a) H.E. Mr. Surya Bahadur Thapa, Prime Minister of Nepal from November 23-25, 2003.
- (b) PM of Nepal visited India for consultation visit to SAARC Countries.
- (c) No.
- (d) and (e) Does not arise.

Iran :

- (a) The following Iranian dignitaries leading high level delegations visited India since August 2003;
 - (i) H.E. Mr. Seyed Safdar Hosseini, Labour and Social Affairs Minister of Iran, 28-31 August 2003.

- (ii) H.E. Mr. Ishaq Jahangiri, Minister of Industry and Mines, 1-5 November 2003.

- (b) During these meetings, India and Iran discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation. The Iranian Labour and Social Affairs Minister held discussions with Union Minister of Labour on the follow up on MoU on cooperation in Vocational Training signed between the two countries in January 2003.

Iranian Minister of industry and Mines participated in the 19th World Mining Congress held at New Delhi from 1-5 November 2003 organized by Ministry of Mines. He also held discussions with Minister of State for Steel on the functioning of the MoU on supply of iron ore to Iran by Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd.

- (c) No.
- (d) Does not arise.

(e) India has been taking steps to expand and strengthen relations with Iran through regular high level political exchanges and security and strategic consultations. During the visit of President Mohammad Khatami of Iran to India from 24-28 January 2003, the two countries issued the New Delhi Declaration signed by Prime Minister and President Khatami. The Declaration puts forth the vision of strategic partnership between India and Iran for a more stable, secure and prosperous region and for enhanced regional and global cooperation. All aspects of bilateral cooperation identified by the New Delhi Declaration – bilateral economic cooperation, cooperation in the field of hydrocarbons, science and technology, information technology, education and training, India-Iran cooperation in reconstruction of Afghanistan, international terrorism, and other global issues, are under active follow up by the two sides.

China

(a) to (e) "During Prime Minister's visit to China in June 2003, the two sides agreed to each appoint a Special

Representatives to explore from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship the framework of a boundary settlement. Mr. Dai Bingguo, Executive Vice Foreign Minister visited India to hold the first meeting of the Special Representatives in New Delhi on October 23-24, 2003. The meeting was held in a cordial, constructive and cooperative atmosphere. Mr. Dai called on Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister.

Mr. Jia Qinglin, Chairman of National Committee of Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference paid an official visit to India from November 23-27, 2003. This was his first visit abroad after taking over as the Chairman of CPPCC. His visit to India continues the process of high level exchanges with China, which was carried to a qualitatively new stage by the Prime Minister's recent visit. His visit contributed to the process of building up of mutual trust and understanding between the two countries and strengthened our parliamentary exchanges with China.

Mongolia

(a) to (e) The Defence Minister of Mongolia Mr. Jugderdemid Gurragchaa visited New Delhi on November 11, 2003 leading a delegation from the Ministry of Defence of Mongolia. He held discussions with Raksha Mantri, Minister of State for External Affairs called on him. The discussions covered bilateral relations including defence exchanges. No agreements were signed during the visit.

ROK

(a) to (e) The Chief Justice of the Republic of Korea Mr. Choi Jong Young visited India on November 2-5, 2003 at the invitation of Chief Justice of India. He held discussions with the Chief Justice of India and also called on the President and the Speaker of Lok Sabha. No agreements were signed during the visit.

Algeria :

- (a) Mr. Abddmalek Sellal, Minister of Transport led an official/business delegation to India from October 8-10, 2003.

(b) Bilateral relations specially focussing on areas like political, economic and trade, science and technology were discussed during the visit.

(c) and (d) Agreements were signed for:

- (1) MoU on Cooperation in Small Scale Industry.
- (2) Cultural Exchange Programme
- (3) Cooperation Agreement between PTI and ANS

(e) These Agreements would further increase our linkages with Algeria.

Djibouti :

(a) A 7-member Djibouti Defence delegation, led by Gen. Fathi Ahmed Hussein visited India from October 14-21, 2003.

(b) Bilateral relations specially focussing on areas like political, economic and trade, science and technology were discussed during the visit.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) N.A.

Egypt :

(a) (i) A high level inter-Ministerial delegation from Egypt led by Dr. Hamdy Al Syed Chairman of the Health Committee of People's Assembly (Parliament) visited India in August, 2003 to examine and report on the banned Meat exports to Egypt.

(ii) A Ministerial delegation led by Dr. Hassan Ali Khedr, Minister of Supply and Internal Trade and including Mr. Fayza Abou

El-Naga, MOS for Foreign Affairs visited New Delhi in October, 2003. Mr. Khedr carried a letter from President Mubarak which was handed over to PM during a call on him.

- (b) Bilateral relations specially focussing on areas like political, economic and trade, science and technology were discussed during the visits.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) N.A.

Israel :

- (a) (i) Prime Minister of Israel Ariel Sharon paid a State visit to India from September 8-10, 2003. He was accompanied by Dy PM and Minister of Justice Yosef Lapid, Minister for Education, Culture and Sport Ms. Limor Livnat and Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Yisrael Katz and a large group of Israeli businessmen.
- (ii) Earlier Israelie Foreign Policy Advisor to PM Sharon visited India from August 11-15, 2003 to prepare for the above visit.
- (b) Bilateral relations specially focussing on areas like political, economic and trade, science and technology were discussed during the visits.
- (c) and (d) Agreements were signed for:
 - (1) Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Protection of the Environment.
 - (2) Agreement on Cooperation in the fields of Health and Medicine.
 - (3) Agreement on Cooperation in combating

illicit trafficking and abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

- (4) Agreement on Waiver of visa requirements for holders of diplomatic, service and official passports.
- (5) Exchange Programme on Cooperation in the field of Education.
- (6) Exchange Programme on Culture Education.
- (e) These agreements would further increase our linkages with Israel.

Palestine :

- (a) Foreign Minister of Palestine Nabil Shaath visited India from 29 August to September 1, 03.
- (b) Bilateral relations specially focussing on areas like political, economic and trade, science and technology were discussed during the visit.
- (c) and (d) Agreement was signed with Palestine during the high level visit for :

MoU on Cooperation between Foreign Service Institute.
- (e) This Agreement would further increase our linkages with Palestine.

Tunesia :

- (a) Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Tunisia Madame Saida Chtioui visited India for bilateral consultations from October 13-16, 03.
- (b) Bilateral relations specially focussing on areas like political, economic and trade, science and technology were discussed during the visit.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) N.A.

South Africa :

- (a) President of South Africa accompanied by spouse, 12 Ministries and other senior officials visited India from 15th to 18th October, 2003.
- (b) Strengthening bilateral cooperation on trade, economic and other matters of mutual interest.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Following agreements were signed with South Africa:-
 1. Agreement for cooperation in the field of Hydrocarbon Sector.
 2. Mutual legal Assistance Treaty.
 3. Extradition Treaty.
 4. MoU for Cooperation in the field of Power.
- (e) Keeping in contact with these countries by way of exchange of high level visits, establishment of an institutional framework for bilateral cooperation, interaction in multilateral and UN fora.

Lesotho :

- (a) Prime Minister of Lesotho accompanied by spouse, from Ministries and other senior officers visited India from 31.7.2003 to 8.8.2003.
- (b) Strengthening bilateral cooperation on trade, economic and other matters of mutual interest.
- (c) No.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) Keeping in contact with these countries by way of exchange of high level visits, establishment of an institutional framework for bilateral cooperation, interaction in multilateral and UN fora.

Mauritius :

- (a) His Excellency the Rt. Hon'ble Paul Raymond Beregnier, G.C.S.K., Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, accompanied by Lady Berenger, Paid a State visit to India from 18-24 November 2003 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of India.
- (b) Deliberations were held on the issue of Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) to strengthen and enhance economic, industrial trade and investment cooperation between the two countries, in the field of Defence and Security, in Hydrographic Surveys and Oil and Gas Exploration, Drug Trafficking and other Criminal Matters, Inauguration of Cyber tower, World Hindi Secretariat, International Convention centre etc.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Following Agreements were signed with Mauritius.
 - (1) MOU on Cooperation in the field of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.
 - (2) Treaty on Extradition.
 - (3) Agreement on World Hindi Secretariat.
 - (4) Agreement for purchase of one HAL-DO-228-201 aircraft for the Government of Mauritius.
- (e) Keeping in contact with these countries by way of exchange of high level visits, establishment of an institutional framework for bilateral cooperation, interaction in multilateral and UN fora.

Senegal :

- (a) The President of Senegal, H.E. Mr. Abdoulaye Wade paid a State visit to India from October 12-16, 2003.

- (b) Strengthening bilateral cooperation on trade, economic and other matters of mutual interest.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) The following agreements were signed during the State visit:-
- (5) Cultural Exchange Programme.
 - (6) Avoidance of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion.
 - (7) Bilateral Investment Promotion and protection agreement.
 - (8) Cooperation in the field of Tourism.
 - (9) Protocol on cooperation between PTI and Senegal press agency.
- (e) Keeping in contact with these countries by way exchange of high level visits, establishment of an institutional frame work for bilateral cooperation, interaction in multilateral and UN fora.

Nigeria :

- (a) The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Ambassador Oluyemi Adeniji accompanied by a delegation of officials from different Ministries paid an official visit to New Delhi from 29th 31st of October, 2003 in connection with the Fourth India-Nigeria Joint Commission.
- (b) The two Ministers Co-chaired the fourth session of the JCM exchanging views on utilateral and bilateral subjects.
- (c) No.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) Keeping in contact with these countries by way of exchange of high level visits, establishment of an institutional frame work for bilateral cooperation, interaction in multilateral and UN fora.

Armenia :

- (a) President of Armenia, Mr. Robert Kocharian from October 29-November 1, 2003.
- (b) Wide range of issues covering international, regional and bilateral questions.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) (i) Double Taxation Avoidance Convention. This will give sound legal basis to our economic and commercial ties in conjunction with BIPA signed earlier in the year.
- (ii) Agreement on Exemption of Visa Requirement for Holders of Diplomatic Passports. This will facilitate travel for Diplomatic Passport holders.
- (iii) MoU on Cooperation in Information Technology and Services. It will give a boost to cooperation in this area given the existing potential in both countries.

- (e) Government attaches importance to further strengthening the warm and friendly ties with Armenia. A grant of US\$ 5 million was announced by the Prime Minister during the visit of the Armenian President to give a fillip to bilateral trade.

Romania :

- (a) Romanian Economy and Commerce Minister Mr. Dan Ioan Popescu, 20 October 2003.
- (b) The 16th Session of the Indo-Romanian Joint Commission was held in New Delhi on 20 October 2003. The discussions focused on enhancing bilateral trade and economic cooperation by measures such as financial and banking arrangements and diversification of trade basket.
- (c) No
- (d) NA.

- (e) Increasing trade and Industrial links, sustaining high-level bilateral visits, signing bilateral agreements for mutual benefit, encouraging liberal visa regimes, strengthening parliamentary linkages, encouraging joint ventures and research and development, increasing cultural contacts, providing technical and educational cooperation, maintaining Institutional links for all round development of bilateral relations such as Foreign Office Consultations, Joint Commissions, etc.

- II. (a) Special Representative of the Government of Romania, Prince Radu, 16-22 November 2003.
- (b) Expansion of bilateral relations in the fields of culture, commerce and trade was discussed.
- (c) No.
- (d) N.A.
- (e) N.A.

Czech Republic :

- (a) Parliamentary Delegation of the Czech Republic led by Senator, Josef Jarab, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security Committee of the Czech Senate, 15-21 October 2003.
- (b) Discussions with the Czech Parliamentary delegation were focussed on strengthening of parliamentary linkages, exchange of information regarding issues of national and international concerns, increase of trade and commerce and expansion of cultural links.
- (c) No.
- (d) N.A.

Hungary :

- (a) Prime Minister of Hungary H.E. Mr. Peter Medgyessy paid a State Visit to India from 2-8 November 2003.
- (b) Talks covered a wide range of bilateral, regional

and international issues. Business interaction was another prominent component of the visit.

- (c) Yes.
- (d) Seven documents signed during the visit include:
- (i) Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement,
- (ii) Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement,
- (iii) Agreement on Defence Cooperation,
- (iv) Agreement on Exemption of Visa Requirement for Diplomatic and Official Passport Holders.
- (v) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Information Technology and Services,
- (vi) Cultural Exchange Programme and
- (vii) Educational Exchange Programme,

In addition, EXIM Banks of the two countries signed an Agreement of Cooperation and two other documents extending a Line of Credit of US\$ 10 million for exports from each other country. The thrust of these documents is to reinforce the legal framework for enhancing bilateral trade and investment and also cooperation in key areas for mutual benefit, such as defence, culture and education.

- (e) Efforts are being made to promote trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. Existing institutional mechanisms between the two sides like Joint Commission, Foreign Office Consultations etc. are being actively used. Foreign Office Consultations were held in Budapest in July 2003 and the 11th Session of the Joint Commission was held in Budapest in October 2003. The Indian delegation was headed by Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Arun Jaitley. As part of the effort to maintain regular high-level interaction, Minister

of State for External Affairs Shri Digvijay Singh held bilateral meeting with his counterpart during his visit to Budapest in mid-July 2003 for chairing the second.

Conference of India's Heads of Missions to Central and Eastern European countries.

Serbia and Montenegro :

- I (a) Foreign Minister of Serbia and Montenegro H.E. Mr. Goran Svilanovic paid an official visit to India from 20-22 October 2003.
- (b) Bilateral issues in political, economic and cultural spheres were discussed. Views were exchanged on international issues of mutual interest.
- (c) No.
- (d) N.A.
- (e) Efforts are being made to further strengthen our long-standing and close relations with Serbia and Montenegro (Formerly Federal republic of Yugoslavia). For promoting bilateral trade and investment, a Joint Business Council has been established during the visit of Mr. Svilanovic. Steps have been taken to maintain regular high level interaction between Foreign Offices and other concerned Ministries of the two countries.
- II (a) Ms. Pave Zupan Ruskovic, Minister of Tourism, visited India from 27 to 30 September 2003.
- (b) Bilateral cooperation in the field of tourism was discussed. Ms. Ruskovic visited 'India Travel and Tourism Mart'.
- (c) No.
- (d) N.A.
- (e) Steps such as holding regular interaction at the level of Ministers and senior officials and promoting the exchange of bilateral trade delegations have been undertaken for steadily

expanding relations in all areas. President of Croatia had paid a State visit to India in November 2003.

Ukraine :

- (a) Foreign Minister of Ukraine.
Mr. Anatoly Zlenko.
- (b) Wide range of bilateral issues and international matters.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) (i) Agreement on Cooperation in Tourism. This is aimed at promoting tourism between the two countries.
- (ii) Agreement on Mutual Protection of Classified Information. It will facilitate exchange of information on crucial issues of bilateral interest by ensuring the protection of information exchanged.
- (e) Government attaches importance to strengthening India's multi-faceted cooperation with Ukraine. Besides the visit of Ukrainian Foreign Minister to India in August 2003, Raksha Mantri visited Ukraine from 17-19 October 2003 and held useful discussions with senior Ukrainian dignitaries. Foreign Office Consultations were held in New Delhi in April 2003 and the 3rd session of the Indo-Ukrainian Inter-Governmental Commission was held in Kyiv in July 2003. A business delegation visited Ukraine in September 2003, under the auspices of the Confederation of Indian Industry. A high-level Ukrainian Parliamentary delegation, headed by their Speaker is scheduled to visit India in the first week of December 2003.

Kyrgyzstan :

- (a) The President of Kyrgyzstan Mr. Askar Akæev visited India on 10-11 November 2003 in connection with the UNESCO-sponsored "Education for All" conference. The Kyrgyz

Minister for Foreign Trade and Industry Mr. S.M. Dijenbekov visited India from 4-6 November 2003 in connection with the 3rd Session of the Indo-Kyrgyz Joint Commission meeting in New Delhi.

- (b) During his visit to attend the "Education for All" Conference, the President of Kyrgyzstan also met the President and the Prime Minister of India. Indo-Kyrgyz bilateral relations and issues of regional and international interest were also discussed.
- (c) and (d) No agreement was signed during the Kyrgyz President's visit. But at the conclusion of the Joint Commission meeting, a Protocol was signed.
- (e) India and Kyrgyzstan have close bilateral relations. From 4-6 November 2003, the 3rd Indo-Kyrgyz Joint Commission meeting was held in New Delhi and the discussions included identification of new areas of cooperation. At the request of the Kyrgyz Government, India has agreed to restructure the outstanding amount on the credit line of US\$ 5 mn. extended to Kyrgyzstan. Ten four-wheel drive TATA Safari Jeeps were gifted to Kyrgyzstan in 2002. India Proposes to establish an IT centre and a potato chips plant in Kyrgyzstan. In addition, India provides annually 50 training slots to the Kyrgyz nationals under Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation [ITEC]. Industrial and consumer goods exhibitions from India have also been held in Kyrgyzstan over the last two years.

Switzerland :

- (a) Swis President Mr. Pascal Couchepin from 6-12 November, 2003.
- (b) He met Rashtrapati, PM EAM and Minister of Human Resource Development. Discussions focused on bilateral regional and on international issues.

(c) and (d) Agreements on cooperation on Disaster Management and on cooperation in Science and Technology.

(e) Both the Agreements define the detailed procedures for cooperation between the two countries.

U.K.

- 1 (a) A 10-member Conservative Parliamentary Friends of India(CPFIN) delegation from the UK, led by its Chairman Mr. Peter Luff, MP, visited India from 23 September – 3 October 2003.
- (b) The delegation had an extensive and multi-faceted programme which included visits to Mumbai, New Delhi, Jammu, Srinagar and Agra.
- (c) No.
- (d) N.A.
- (e) N.A.
- 2(a) The Prince of Wales, Prince Charles, visited India at the invitation of Vice-President from 28th October-5th November 2003.
- (b) The Prince called on Rashtrapatiji. Vice-President hosted a banquet in honour of the Prince. He also briefly met Prime Minister. The Prince of Wales also visited Haryana, Rajasthan and Mumbai.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) N.A.
- (e) The India-UK bilateral relationship has been enriched by the intensification of economic co-operation. Several initiatives adopted in the last couple of years seek to make the relationship future oriented by increasing co-operation in promising areas such as IT technology and other knowledge based sectors. Recent years have also seen an increase in political interaction at the highest levels. There have also

been regular meetings of institutionalised mechanisms for dialogue and bilateral co-operation.

Canada :

- I (a) Mr. Bill Graham, Foreign Minister of Canada, October 11-4, 2003.
- (b) Bilateral issues including trade, cultural exchange, supply of no-lethal defence equipment, and international issues including nuclear proliferation, disarmament, Indo-Pak relations, cross border terrorism, Iran, Afghanistan, and Sri Lanka.
- (c) An MOU between the Indian Foreign Service Institute and the Canadian Foreign Service Institute was signed.
- (d) The MOU provided for exchange of information on the structure and content of diplomatic training programmes and for providing training to employees both at headquarters and at missions. It also provided for designing of e-learning course contents and joint research in mutually agreed areas. This will help India to benefit from the Canadian experts in these fields and will help in understanding each other's system.
- (e) Promoting better mutual understanding through regular dialogue and increasing commercial and economic interaction between the two countries.
- II (a) Mr. Jeen Chretien, Prime Minister of Canada from October 24-25, 2003.
- (b) Bilateral trade, fight against terrorism, UN reforms, situation in Iraq, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, G-8 meeting.
- (c) No.
- (d) Does not arise.
- (e) Does not arise.

Guyana :

- (a) H.E. Mr. Bharrat Jagdeo, President of the Republic of Guyana from August 24-28, 2003.
- (b) Deliberations were held on various bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) The following agreements were signed during the visit:-
- a. Cultural Exchange Programme between India and Guyana.
 - b. Agreement on Education Exchange Programme between India and Guyana.
 - c. Agreement on waiver of outstanding loan of first line of credit extended to Guyana by India.
- These Agreements are aimed at providing Indian expertise to developing countries in the region in areas identified for cooperation in these agreements with a view to strengthening South-South Cooperation and in return to benefit from the individual strengths and levels of skills and excellence in areas where India lags behind in expertise or technology.
- (e) Steps taken by the Government to strengthen relations with Guyana are:-
1. Promotion of high level bilateral visits.
 2. Encouraging exchange of business delegations and participation in exhibitions, buyer-seller meets and specialized trade fairs.
 3. Exchange of cultural troupes and holding of Festivals of India.
 4. Maintaining of regular contacts and deliberations through institutional mechanism such as Joint Commission, Foreign Office consultation, Joint Business Councils, etc.

5. Coordination of positions on important issues of concern to India in the multilateral forum.

Brazil :

- (a) H.E. Mr. Celso Amorim, Minister of External Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil to India from October 20-22, 2003.
- (b) Deliberations were held on various bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern.
- (c) No.
- (d) N.A.
- (e) N.A.

Cuba :

- (a) H.E. Mrs. Martha Lomas Morales, Minister of the Republic of Cuba from November 24-26, 2003.
- (b) Deliberations were held on various bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) An Agreement on Work Plan on Agricultural Cooperation between India and Cuba was signed.

These Agreement is aimed at providing Indian expertise to developing countries in the region in areas identified for cooperation in these agreements with a view to strengthening South-South Cooperation and in return to benefit from the individual strengths and levels of skills and excellence in areas where India lags behind in expertise or technology.

- (e) Steps taken by the Government to strengthen relations with Cuba are:-
 1. Promotion of high level bilateral visits.

2. Encouraging exchange of business delegations and participation in exhibitions, buyer-seller meets and specialized trade fairs.
3. Exchange of cultural troupes and holding of Festivals of India.
4. Maintaining of regular contacts and deliberations through institutional mechanism such as Joint Commission, Foreign Office consultation, Joint Business Councils, etc.
5. Coordination of positions on important issues of concern to India in the multilateral forum.

Caribbean Community :

- (a) Visit of CARICOM (Caribbean Community) delegation headed by H.E. Mr. K.D. Knight, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Jamaica and Chairperson of the Council of Community Ministers from November 25-30, 2003.
- (b) Deliberations were held on various bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) The following agreement was signed during the visit:-

Agreement to establish "a standing joint commission on consultation and coordination" between the Caribbean Community and India.

The Agreements is aimed at providing Indian expertise to developing countries in the region in areas identified for cooperation in these agreements with a view to strengthening South-South Cooperation and in return to benefit from the individual strengths and levels of skills and excellence in areas where India lags behind in expertise or technology.

(e) Steps taken by the Government to strengthen relations with these countries are:-

1. Promotion of high level bilateral visits.
2. Encouraging exchange of business delegations and participation in exhibitions, buyer-seller meets and specialized trade fairs.
3. Exchange of cultural troupes and holding of Festivals of India.
4. Maintaining of regular contacts and deliberations through institutional mechanism such as Joint Commission, Foreign Office consultation, Joint Business Councils, etc.
5. Coordination of positions on important issues of concern to India in the multilateral forum.

SAARC :

- (a) The following foreign dignitaries and high level foreign delegations visited India to participate in the Third meeting of the SAARC Information Ministers at New Delhi from 10 – 12 November 2003 and; the First SAARC Health Ministers Conference at New Delhi from 13 – 15 November 2003.

*Third SAARC Information Ministers Meeting,
New Delhi 10 – 12 November 2003*

Country/ Organisation	Delegation
1	2
Bangladesh	His Excellency Mr. Tariqul Islam, Minister of Information
Bhutan	His Excellency Mr. Lyompo Leki Dorji, Minister of Information and Communication
Nepal	His Excellency Mr. Kamal Thapa, Minister for Information and Communication,

1	2
Pakistan	His Excellency Mr. Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, Minister for Information and Broadcasting
Maldives	Mr. Ahmed Zaki Nafiz, Assistant Director General Ministry of Information, Arts & Culture.
Sri Lanka	Mr. Mangala Moonesinghe Sri Lanka's High commissioner to India represented Sri Lanka in this meeting.

SAARC Secretariat Mr. Q A M A Rahim, Secretary General of SAARC.

*First SAARC Health Ministers Conference,
New Delhi 13 – 15 November 2003*

Country/ Organisation	Delegation
Pakistan	His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Nasir Khan, Federal Minister of Health,
Nepal	His Excellency Mr. Kamal Thapa, Minister for Health,
Sri Lanka	His Excellency Mr. Wijewantha, Provincial Minister of Health, Southern Province,
Bhutan	His Excellency P.M. Lyonpo Jigmi Singay, Minister of Health.
Bangladesh	Mr. Md. Shahadat Hossain, Acting High Commissioner, Bangladesh High Commission, New Delhi
Maldives	Ms. Aminath Rasheeda, Assistant Executive Director, Department of Public Health.

SAARC Secretariat Mr. Q A M A Rahim, Secretary General of SAARC

(b) These delegations were in Delhi to attend the concerned SAARC Ministerial Meetings.

(c) No bilateral agreements were signed during these meetings.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) India remains committed to the SAARC process and it has shouldered a major share of responsibility for SAARC activities and has vigorously promoted trade and other forms of economic, social, and technical cooperation within SAARC. India also actively supports people to people initiatives aimed at fostering greater mutual understanding and goodwill in the region.

ASEAN :

(a) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) jointly organized 2nd India-ASEAN Business Summit on 4-6 August, 2003 in Delhi and Mumbai. Following Dignitaries visited India for the Business Summit.

1. H.E. Mr. Ong Keng Yong, Secretary General of ASEAN
2. H.E. Dato Seri S. Samy Vellu, Minister of Works, Government of Malaysia.
3. H.E. Dato Seri Mohammed Nazri Abdul Aziz, Minister of Entrepreneurial Development, Government of Malaysia.
4. H.E. Datuk Seri haji Mohd. Ali Bin Mohad., Rustan, Chief Minister of the State of Melaka, Government of Malaysia.
5. H.E. Brig. Gen. Pyi sone, Minister of Commerce, Government of Myanmar.
6. H.E. Dr. Vivian Balakrishnana, Minister of State for Trade and Industry, Government of Singapore.

(b) The deliberations centered on augmenting the private sector linkages further between India and ASEAN member countries.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) As part of "Look East" policy, India has launched various initiatives to develop a multi-faceted relationship with ASEAN member countries. At the 2nd India-ASEAN summit held in Bali, Indonesia on October 8, 2003, India signed a Framework Agreement for Comprehensive Economic Cooperation with ASEAN. India and ASEAN also adopted a Joint Declaration on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism and India acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation as a non-Member.

Declining Sex Ratio

*23. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU :
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the United Nations Population Fund's finding about India's declining child sex ratio in the age group 0-6 years as reported in the 'Economic Times' dated October 23, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the statistics mentioned by the UN agency are reasonably accurate;

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to take up the issue with the United Nations Population Fund; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The report refers to the child sex ratio at the national level, which has declined from 945 girls per 1000 boys in 1991 to 927 girls per 1000 boys in 2001. The situation is reported to be even worse in some States like Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Gujarat where this ratio has declined to less than 900 girls per 1000 boys.

The above statistics are based on the Census 2001 figures. They are also reflected in a booklet 'Missing – Mapping the Adverse Child Sex Ratio in India' recently brought out by the office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

(d) and (e) Questions do not arise.

[Translation]

**Promotion of Hindi and Cultural
Activities**

*24. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of the Hindi Officers and Cultural Officers posted abroad;
- (b) the details of the duties assigned to them;
- (c) the details of their achievements; and
- (d) the amount spent for the promotion of Hindi and Cultural activities abroad during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (d) There are no officers designated specifically as Hindi Officers and Cultural Officers posted abroad. However, there are *three* Attaches (Hindi and Culture), *three* Second Secretaries (Hindi and Culture), *fifteen* Directors (Cultural Centres) and *ten* Visiting Professors (Hindi) posted abroad in different countries, by the Ministry of External Affairs and the ICCR. (A list of the countries is given at statement-I.

2. The activities carried out by Attaches/Second Secretaries (Hindi and Culture) include implementing the Official Language Policy in the Missions, as well as, promotional and Propagational activities of Hindi Language and Indian culture in respective countries. They develop contacts with the Universities, Institutions; voluntary

organizations and groups of people engaged in Hindi teaching and cultural activities, under the guidance of the Missions. They have helped to organize Hindi Weeks/ Fortnights, in distributing Hindi books and other reading material to the local schools, colleges and NGOs. Baatchet Clubs have also been established in some countries with a considerable number of persons of Indian origin participating in them. Local Radio and Television broadcast programmes on Hindi and Indian culture.

3. The activities carried out by the Directors (Cultural Centre), posted at Indian Cultural Centres abroad, under the aegis of Indian Council for Cultural Relations, include organising cultural evenings, exhibitions of Indian books, photographs, paintings and other art forms; film shows, performances of dance and music, seminars and discussions on India; maintaining contacts with educational, cultural and creative organisations and publishing houses, providing accurate information on all aspects of Indian civilization, culture and contemporary developments to interested individuals and organisations; and promoting and propagating the knowledge and use of Hindi.

4. The activities carried out by the Visiting Hindi Professors deputed at chairs of Indian Studies abroad, under the aegis of Indian Council for Cultural Relations, include teaching Hindi courses at the respective University/ Institution, drawing up necessary curricula and course contents for the Hindi teaching programmes introduced by the University; liaison activities between university and the respective Indian Mission, developing references and reading material for the Hindi department of the respective University; and propagating Hindi by promotional activities including the organisation of events, such as, Kavi Sammelan, Hindi Divas etc.

5. The achievements made by these various officers and schemes can be summarised as the overall propagation of Indian culture in various fields and the promotion of Hindi abroad.

6. Total amount spent on the above activities by the Ministry and ICCR during the last three years was Rs. 6,28,61,987 in the year 2000-2001, Rs. 7,57,64,857 in the year 2001-02 and Rs.8,09,61,212 in the year

2002-03. (The break-up of expenditure is given at statement-II.

7. In addition to the above offices and schemes which have been set up specifically for propagation of Hindi and Culture in various countries, there are, in several of our Embassies and High Commissions abroad, officers from the Ministry of External Affairs who handle, among other duties, the work pertaining to promotion of Indian culture and Hindi abroad. For instance, in some of our larger Missions where there are no cultural centers, or Hindi and Culture Officers posted, specific Officers are designated to look after Culture along with other activities such as Information, Media and Education. Even in the smaller Missions, one of the officers is generally given the responsibility for handling cultural matters along with other general duties. In that sense, all Indian Missions abroad are, to some extent, involved in the propagation of Indian Culture and Hindi abroad, which forms an integral part of their activities.

Statement-I

List of Missions where Attache/Second Secretary (Hindi and Culture) have been posted.

1. Suva, Fiji (Second Secy.)
2. Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago (Second Secy.)
3. Port Louis, Mauritius (Second Secy.)
4. London, U.K. (Attache)
5. Paramaribo, Suriname (Attache)
6. Kathmandu, Nepal (Attache)

Indian Cultural Centres set up by ICCR in different countries, where Directors have been posted

1. Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre (JNCC), Moscow, Russia.
2. Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture (MACIC), Cairo, Egypt.

3. Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture (IGCIC), Port Louis, Mauritius.
4. Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Georgetown, Guyana.
5. Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Paramaribo, Suriname.
6. Jawaharlal Nehru Indian Cultural Centre (JNICC), Jakarta, Indonesia.
7. The Nehru Centre (TNC), London, U.K.
8. The Tagore Centre, Berlin, Germany.
9. Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Almaty, Kazakhstan.
10. Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Tashkent, Uzbekistan.
11. Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation (MGICC), Port of Spain,inidad and Tobago.
12. Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Johannesburg (South Africa).
13. Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Durban (South Africa).
14. Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) Colombo, Sri Lanka.
15. Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

List of Chairs set up in foreign Universities/Institutions by ICCR, in different countries, where Visiting Professors have been posted

1. Warsaw University, Warsaw, Poland.
2. Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest, Hungary.
3. Sofia University, Sofia, Bulgaria.
4. Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul, South Korea.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 5. University of West Indies, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. | 8. Beijing University, Beijing, China |
| 6. Bucharest University, Bucharest, Romania | 9. Indian Cultural Centre, Paramaribo, Suriname. |
| 7. Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey. | 10. Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre, Moscow, Russia. |

Statement-II

	Year 200-01	2001-02	2002-03
1. Expenditure booked by the Ministry under Head of Propagation of Hindi abroad.	Rs. 50,32,825	Rs. 74,22,076	Rs. 42,35,062
2. Expenditure booked by the six Missions on Hindi and Cultural activities, where Attache/Second Secretary (Hindi and Culture) have been posted; :	Rs. 1,35,67,162	Rs. 1,80,05,781	Rs. 2,03,42,150
3. Expenditure booked by the ICCR for propagation of Indian Culture abroad through Indian Cultural Centres :	Rs. 4,42,62,000	Rs. 5,03,37,000	Rs. 5,63,84,000
Total Expenditure	Rs. 6,28,61,987	Rs. 7,57,64,857	Rs. 8,09,61,212

Immigration Racket Unearthed in UK

*25. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have asked the CBI to investigate a case of immigration racket unearthed in the Indian Embassy in UK;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the CBI has made any investigation in the said matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) if not, the time by which the investigations are likely to be completed;

(f) whether the British Government propose to

examine the process of issuing passports and visa in India themselves; and

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

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

(b) to (e) The information provided by U.K. authorities has been handed over to CBI to conduct an investigation into the matter.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

[English]

Indo-China Border Issue

*26. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether talks were held recently to resolve the Indo-China border issue;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard and the outcome thereof;
- (c) the total area of Indian territory under the Chinese occupation at present;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to get back these areas; and
- (e) the reaction of the Chinese Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : **Indo-China Border Issue :**

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) to (e) China continues to be in illegal occupation of approximately 38,000 square kilometres in the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir. In addition, under the so-called Sino-Pakistan Boundary Agreement of 1963, Pakistan illegally ceded 5,180 square kilometres of Indian territory in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir to China. China also illegally claims approximately 90,000 square kilometres of Indian territory in the Eastern Sector of the India-China boundary in Arunachal Pradesh.

2. In the Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation issued on June 23, 2003 during Prime Minister's visit to China, India and China reiterated their readiness to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution of the boundary question through consultations on an equal footing. It was agreed that pending an ultimate boundary settlement, the two countries would work together to maintain peace and tranquility in their border areas and continue to implement the agreements signed for this purpose, including for the clarification of the Line of Actual Control. India and China also agreed to each appoint Special Representative to

explore from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship the framework of a boundary settlement. The National Security Adviser has been appointed the Special Representative from the Indian side. China has appointed its Executive Vice Foreign Minister as his counterpart.

3. The Special Representatives of the Governments of India and China on the Boundary Question held their first meeting in New Delhi on October 23-24, 2003. The meeting was held in a cordial, constructive and cooperative atmosphere. On October 24, 2003, the Chinese Special Representative called on Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister. The Special Representatives agreed to meet again on mutually acceptable dates in Beijing.

Recognition of Medical Colleges

*27. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI :
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

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

- (a) whether the Supreme Court had in its judgement passed on September 23, 2003, directed the Government not to bypass the Medical Council of India in the matter of recognition of Medical Colleges or increasing the number of seats in them;
- (b) if so, the details of the case, the colleges involved and the circumstances leading to such orders by the apex court; and
- (c) the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) The Central Government in exercise of the powers vested with it under section 10A(4) of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 renewed the permission for admission of fresh batch of students for the academic session 2003-04 in the existing medical colleges as per the enclosed list (statement) after taking into account all the relevant factors including the written submissions made by the State Governments and the Institutions concerned.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in an interim order dated 23.9.2003, while observing that the Colleges might have given admissions on the basis of the permission for renewal of the increased intake capacity granted by the Government, has asked Medical Council of India to carry out further inspections in these colleges to find out whether there is compliance of all the requirements by these colleges, as per the Act and the rules, within a period of

four weeks. In the meanwhile, the Central Government was directed not to grant further permissions without following the procedure prescribed under section 10 A(1), (2), (3) and (7).

The response of the Government in the matter has been filed before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the matter is presently sub-judice.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the College	State	Nature of Permission
1	2	3	4
1.	Kurnool Medical College, Kurnool	Andhra Pradesh	Renewal of permission against increased intake from 130 to 150 for the academic year 2003-04.
2.	Rangaraya Medical College, Kakinada	Andhra Pradesh	Renewal of permission against increased intake from 100 to 150 for the academic year 2003-04.
3.	S.V. Medical College, Tirupati	Andhra Pradesh	Renewal of permission against increased intake from 100 to 150 for the academic year 2003-04.
4.	Kakatiya Medical College, Warangal	Andhra Pradesh	Renewal of permission against increased intake from 100 to 150 for the academic year 2003-04.
5.	Government Medical College, Anantapur	Andhra Pradesh	Renewal of permission for the admission of fresh batch of 100 MBBS students for the academic year 2003-04.
6.	Government Medical College, Jammu	Jammu and Kashmir	Renewal of permission against increased intake from 100 to 120 for the academic year 2003-04.
7.	Government Medical College, Aurangabad	Maharashtra	Renewal of permission against increased intake from 100 to 150 for the academic year 2003-04.
8.	Indira Gandhi Medical College, Nagpur	Maharashtra	Renewal of permission against increased intake from 60 to 100 for the academic year 2003-04.

1	2	3	4
9.	Rajendra Prasad Medical College, Tanda	Himachal Pradesh	Renewal of permission for the admission of fresh batch of 50 MBBS students for the academic year 2003-04.
10.	Sikkim Manipal University Medical College, Gangtok	Sikkim	Renewal of permission for the admission of fresh batch of 100 MBBS students for the academic year 2003-04.
11.	R.D. Gard Medical College, Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh	Renewal of permission for the admission of fresh batch of 100 MBBS students for the academic year 2003-04.

Mashelkar Committee Report

*28. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY :
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :

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

(a) whether the Mashelkar Committee set up on spurious drugs and drug regulatory revamp has submitted its final report to the Government;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations/ observations made by the Committee;

(c) whether the Government have since examined the report;

(d) if so, the follow-up action taken by the Government thereon; and

(e) if not, the time by when the Government are likely to examine the report and take a final decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (e) The Expert Committee headed by Dr. R.A. Mashelkar has submitted its report to Government in two parts. An interim report was submitted in August 2003, dealing with penalties for various offences under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. A summary of the recommendations contained in the interim report is enclosed as statement.

Government has initiated steps to bring forth a legislation for amending the Drugs and Cosmetics Act on the lines suggested by the committee.

The committee has submitted the final report to the Government in November, 2003. The report is under examination.

Statement

As regards penalties for offences provided in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1954, the Committee has recommended that :

(a) The penalty for sale and manufacture of spurious drug that causes grievous hurt or death should be enhanced from life imprisonment to death. Even the penalty for manufacture and sale of spurious drugs that do not cause grievous hurt or death should also be made more severe.

(b) The offences related to spurious drugs should be made cognizable and non-bailable. The bail, if considered by the court should be granted only after a period of three months.

(c) The penalty for not disclosing the source of purchase of drugs by a dealer should be made stringent.

(d) A provision should be included in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to enable the Central and State

Governments to designate special courts for speedy trial of spurious drugs cases.

- (e) A provision for compounding of offences should be included in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.
- (f) Under Drugs and Cosmetics Act, besides the Drug Inspectors, Police should also be authorized to file prosecution for offences related to spurious drugs.

[Translation]

Performance of Village-Public-Telephone Scheme

*29. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :
SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH :

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

- (a) whether the Village-Public-Telephone-Scheme has proved a failure;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the State-wise targets fixed and achieved in this regard during the last three years;
- (d) the reasons for failure to achieve the targets; and
- (e) the concrete measures taken/being taken by the Government to improve the rural telephone services?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) No, Sir. Out of 6,07,491 villages, Village Public Telephone (VPT) has been provided in 5,17,814 villages as on 31.10.2003.

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

(c) The State-wise targets fixed and achieved for Village Public Telephone (VPT) by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Private Operators during the last three years is furnished at enclosed statement-I and statement-II respectively.

(d) The shortfall in achieving the VPT targets is due to the following reasons :-

- (i) After discontinuation of procurement of MARR system in 1998 there was no proven technology available for the provision of VPTs in the country. During this period, most of the VPTs were provided on existing spare capacity of MARR system and landlines. WLL technology could be inducted into the network after field trial only during 2001 for providing VPTs.
- (ii) Most of the VPTs in North-Eastern Region and Jammu and Kashmir have been planned on WLL technology. Part of WLL equipment planned in these areas was diverted to other needy circles as permission was not available for commissioning WLL system in these areas due to security reasons till August, 2002.
- (iii) VPTs can be provided in some of the remote and inaccessible villages only by using satellite media, which is costly.
- (iv) Private Operators have been reluctant to provide VPTs since the VPTs are non-remunerative.
- (e) The following measures are being taken by the Government to improve the rural telecom service:-
 - (i) Relief and concessions have been extended to the Government Operator (BSNL) to spread rural telephony.
 - (ii) WLL technology is being used to improve reliability and faster roll out of rural telephony.
 - (iii) USO Fund is being established for implementing Universal Service Support Policy to provide rural telephone access.
 - (iv) About 8000 villages have been covered by the introduction of Gramin Sanchar Sewak Scheme.
 - (v) VPTs working on MARR technology are being replaced with proven technology.

(vi) The Government has recovered LD (Liquidated Damages) charges from private operators on account of delay in providing VPTs. Government

has also asked them to complete the unfilled committed roll out obligations against submission of additional performance Bank Guarantee.

Statement-I

Circle-wise VPTs targets and Achievements for the last three years (BSNL)

Sl. No.	Circles	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	8	8	0	0	4	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0	4	0	18	0	0
3.	Assam	5000	336	4135	2501	1000	1007
4.	Bihar	24651	2276	17829	15612	9061	9061
5.	Jharkhand			9840	9980	9645	9197
6.	Gujarat	0	0	0	0	0	0
7.	Haryana	4	4	0	0	0	0
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4000	4002	4948	4507	205	205
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	2000	229	842	50	100	177
10.	Karnataka	1265	1255	10	4	6	6
11.	Kerala	0	0	0	0	0	0
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5680	1527	315	312	3	0
13.	Chhattisgarh			2980	3677	216	248
14.	Maharashtra	0	0	0	0	0	0
15.	North East-I	5110	309	1547	368	904	389
16.	North East-II			761	147	200	135
17.	Orissa	14000	2037	12850	10392	5714	5078
18.	Punjab	0	564	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19. Rajasthan		0	98	0	33	0	0
20. Tamil Nadu		55	53	1	1	0	0
21. Uttar Pradesh (E)		18000	14643	10085	8179	6793	6651
22. Uttar Pradesh (W)]			2239	2402	0	0
23. Uttaranchal		9000	3167	2268	2162	1463	1627
24. West Bengal		11000	3805	13200	10357	4125	3147
25. Calcutta		47	0	53	53	0	0
26. Delhi		0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		100000	34317	83903	70755	39439	36929

Statement-II

*Circle-wise PVTs Targets and Achievements
for the last three years
(Private Operators)*

S No.	Circle	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	*Target
				Achievement	
1.	Madhya Pradesh	348	-	-	16500
2.	Andhra Pradesh	5	102	1207	9635
3.	Maharashtra	-	160	1859	25760
4.	Gujarat	-	2	3937	8635
5.	Rajasthan	169	40	807	31834
6.	Punjab	-	20	811	5442
	Total	522	324	8621	

*The target was to be met by 30.9.1998 in case of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Punjab and by 30.9.99 in case of Maharashtra. For Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan

the target was to be completed by 30.9.2000 and 4.3.2001 respectively. The target was subsequently extended upto December, 2003, However, consequent upon migration to Unified Access Service Licence, the obligation gets modified to coverage of 50% of District HQ or any other town in a District in lieu of, instead of providing a fixed number of telephone connections including VPT.

Indo-Pak Peace Process

*30. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has proposed a package of confidence building measures to Pakistan to resolve the disputes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Pakistan thereto;

(c) whether Pakistan has proposed extension of the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which these measures will be fruitful in normalising relations between the two countries?

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

(b) In continuation of Prime Minister's initiative of April 18, and as a part of the step-by-step approach to normalize relations with Pakistan, India on 22 October, 2003, announced a series of steps to further promote people to people contacts between the two countries.

The proposals included—resumption of civil aviation links to be followed by resumption of the rail link; resumption of bilateral sporting encounters including cricket; permission to senior citizens (above 65) to cross at Wagah on foot; holding of visa camps in different cities to benefit the people; increasing the capacity of the Delhi-Lahore-Delhi bus service by running more buses; the establishment of links between the Coast Guards authorities of the two countries; the non-arrest by either side of fishermen of the other country within a certain band on the sea; provision of free medical treatment to a second lot of 20 Pakistani children; resumption of passenger shipping services between Mumbai and Karachi; commencement of a bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad, and a bus or rail link between Khokrapar and Munabao, and further increase in size of the respective Missions after resumption of civil aviation and as technical level talks begin for resumption of the rail link. These proposals were substantive, far reaching, and designed to be of genuine benefit to people on both sides.

Pakistan's initial response on 29 October, 2003 was inadequate. While welcoming some of the proposals, like allowing senior citizens to cross Wagah on foot; establishing links between Indian Coast Guards and Pakistan Maritime Security Agency; and resumption of bilateral sporting contacts, Pakistan opted to politicize the humanitarian gestures and attached impractical, extraneous and delaying conditions to others.

However, on 23 November 2003, Pakistan Prime Minister Jamali responded positively to the Indian proposals of 22nd October, and agreed to a number of

measures. He also announced that Pakistan armed forces along the Line of Control (LOC) have been issued instructions to ceasefire along the LOC with effect from Eid-ul-Fitr. Subsequently, the Director General Military Operations (DGMOs) of the two countries agreed to observe ceasefire on the International Border, LOC and Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL) in Jammu and Kashmir with effect from the midnight of November 25, 2003.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Prime Minister's initiative has generated positive resonance amongst the people in both countries. India would continue with the normalization process that has been set in motion since April 18, building upon the successes achieved and support generated, so that lasting peace is established between the two countries.

[English]

Standard Set for Drinking Water

*31. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA :
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU :

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

(a) whether the Government have decided to set standards for drinking water;

(b) if so, whether any concrete proposals in this regard have been worked out;

(c) the names of the laboratories which are competent to test and detect all types of pesticides in drinking water;

(d) whether the standards set for pesticides in drinking water are exactly the same as European Standard;

(e) if so, whether the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) has been following EU standard for pesticides in bottled water instead of Codex guidelines; and

(f) if so, the merits for opting to follow EU standard?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (f) The Central Government has not specified any standards for drinking water since 'water' is not included within the definition of 'food' under the PFA Act, 1954. However, the Central Government had declared packaged drinking water as an item of food in exercise of its powers under section 2 (v) (c) of PFA Act, 1954, vide Notification GSR 202 (E) dated 21.3.2001. Government has laid down standards for Mineral Water and Packaged Drinking Water vide Notification No. GSR 759(E) dated 29.9.2000 (with effect from 29.3.2001) and GSR 760(E) dated 29.9.2000 (with effect from 29.3.2001) respectively. The standards for pesticide residues in packaged drinking water have been revised vide Notification GSR 554(E) dated 18th July, 2003 and the limits notified are the same as those prescribed by the EU. The revised standards would come into effect from 1st January, 2004.

Central Food Laboratories, Mysore and Kolkata under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are competent to test and detect all types of pesticides in both mineral and packaged drinking water. In addition, BIS has approved the following laboratories for testing of packaged drinking water for pesticide residues :-

- (A) Shriram Institute for Industrial Research, New Delhi.
- (B) SGS India Pvt. Ltd., Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- (C) Vimta Labs Ltd., Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
- (D) Choksi Laboratories Ltd., Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- (E) Reliable Analytical Laboratory, Mumbai
- (F) Sargam Metals Laboratory, Chennai.

The issue was examined by the Central Committee of Food Standards which is a statutory body under the PFA Act, 1954. The CCFS recommended adoption of EU norms in respect of pesticide levels in packaged drinking water.

Domestic Telephone Tariff

*32. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the domestic telephone tariff is higher than that of mobile phones;

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

(c) the percentage of the people using mobile services?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) It is extremely difficult to compare domestic telephone tariffs for basic and mobile phones because of the large number of tariff packages offered by operators. Moreover, there is no uniform rate of domestic tariff either in basic or in cellular service. The call charges vary between different operators and also depend on Alternative Tariff Packages chosen by a particular subscriber.

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India recently conducted a study on the comparative effective charge per minute for 400 minutes of usage per month in local calls. The result of the study showed the following effective charge per minute in respect of operators with the lowest tariff in each of the categories for fixed service, WLL(M) and cellular service. This is based on data furnished by service providers on 30.6.2003 in their Quarterly Report to TRAI.

Fixed	Re. 078
WLL(M)	Re. 067
Cellular	Re. 1.12

Cellular operators are offering a variety of long distance tariff packages. The lowest rate per minute for a domestic long distance call from a mobile phone is less than the rate applicable for calls from fixed phones.

(c) The percentage of people using mobile services in the country is around 2.3%. This includes both cellular services and WLL(Mobile) services.

Anti-Diabetic Drug Phenformin

*33. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :

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

(a) whether the anti-diabetic drug 'Phenformin' was banned in the United States in 1971 and subsequently it was withdrawn from 188 of the 191 WHO member countries because of its risk to human beings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this drug is continued to be manufactured and sold in India;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore;

(e) whether the Government have now prohibited the manufacture, sale or distribution of this drug in India; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (f) The drug 'Phenformin' was withdrawn in USA in 1977 because of occurrence of lactic acidosis with the use of the drug. The matter was then examined in consultation with experts in India and it was opined by the experts that lactic acidosis reported in the West is not common in Indian Population and the drug was effective as an oral anti-diabetic drug. The drug remained available in Spain, Italy, Mexico and some other parts of Europe and continued to be marketed in India also.

The drug Phenformin has, however, been now prohibited for manufacture and sale in the country with effect from 1st October, 2003 vide Gazette Notification GSR 780 (E) dated 01.10.2003 on the recommendations of Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) which on

reconsideration of the matter opined that as large number of oral drug for treatment of diabetes are now available in the country, the continued marketing of Phenformin may be stopped.

Literacy Rate

*34. SHRI T .M. SELVAGANPATHI :
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the status of literacy rate of male and female in rural and urban areas of the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) the efforts and achievements made in increasing literacy rate through various schemes in every State as on date;

(c) the number of educationally backward blocks and places identified so far having low female literacy in the country, State-wise;

(d) the specific steps, if any, taken to improve literacy rate among the female children;

(e) the total amount spent on National Literacy Mission/campaign during the last three years and as on date, year-wise, scheme-wise and State-wise;

(f) whether the entire amount allocated to each State for National Literacy Mission was spent and the results achieved were commensurate with the expenditure incurred; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) A statement as statement-I is enclosed.

(b) The aim of National Literacy Mission (NLM) is to attain a sustainable threshold level of 75% literacy rate by 2007. Basic teaching learning and application of literacy to daily life is covered under the scheme of Literacy

Campaign and Operation Restoration while life long learning opportunities are provided under the Continuing Education Programme. These schemes have been restructured to achieve continuity, efficiency and coverage in the implementation of the Literacy Campaigns, expansion in the scope of the Continuing Education Programme, strengthening and expanding the role of Jan Shikshan Sansthan (which provides vocational training) and State Resource Centres for improved quality of training.

Literacy rates are also expected to rise due to the universalisation of elementary education under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). The goals of SSA are as follows:-

- All children in school/Education Guarantee Scheme (EGS) centres, Alternative School, back to school camp by 2003.
- All children complete five years primary education by 2007.
- All children complete eight years of schooling by 2010.
- Focus on Elementary Education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life.
- Bridge all gender and social gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010.
- Universal retention by 2010.

The Constitution (86th Amendment) Act 2002, seeks to make the right to education for children between 6-14 years a Fundamental Right.

A statement giving State-wise achievements in literacy between 1991 and 2001 is enclosed as statement-II.

(c) A statement is enclosed as statement-III.

(d) The Government has taken several steps to improve the literacy rate among female children. These include :

- (i) Launching of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for Universalisation of Elementary Education.

(ii) Special interventions for the girl child include:

- Schools/EGS like alternative facility to be set up within one kilometer of all habitations and upgradation of EGS to regular schools.
- Special mainstreaming camps for out-of-school girls/SC/ST children under the Alternative and Innovative education component.
- Provision of process based community participation with a focus on the participation of women and SC/ST children.
- Mid-day Meal programme.
- Adequate teaching learning equipment for all primary and upper primary schools.
- At least 50% of the teachers to be appointed have to be women and special need based teaching support.
- Provision of free text books to all girl/SC/ST children at primary and upper primary level with an upper ceiling of Rs. 150/- per child.

(iii) A new programme called 'National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level' (NPEGEL) has been launched as an amendment to SSA for providing additional benefits for education of girls at elementary level. NPEGEL focuses on education of underprivileged/disadvantaged girls from Class I to Class VIII.

(iv) NLM has taken up innovative schemes in low female literacy districts of the country with active participation of NGOs and the local communities.

(e) Statement IV(A) to IV(D) are enclosed.

(f) and (g) Year-wise allocations are not made for any State. Funds for literacy projects are sanctioned and released in a phased manner, depending upon the progress of implementation of these projects and settle-

ment of accounts in respect of funds sanctioned and released earlier. The result of the Census 2001 has indicated that significant progress has been made during the decade 1991-2001. Some of the outstanding achievements are as follows:

- All States and UTs have shown increase in literacy rate during 1991-2001.
- The 13.17 percentage points increase in literacy rate is the highest in any decade.

- For the first time, absolute number of non-literates has declined by 31.91 million.
- The number of literates has increased by 203.61 million during the decade.
- The male-female literates gap has reduced from 24.84 per cent in 1991 to 21.7 percent in 2001. However, in 2001 in 23 States/U.Ts. the male-female literacy gap was even below 21.7 percent.

Statement

Sl. No.	India/States	Areas	Literacy Rate 1991 Census		Literacy rate 2001 census	
			Male	Female	Male	Female
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	India	Rural	57.87	30.62	71.4	46.7
		Urban	81.09	64.05	86.7	73.2
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Rural	47.28	23.92	66.13	44.36
		Urban	75.87	56.41	83.21	69.34
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Rural	47.00	25.31	58.09	37.56
		Urban	77.99	62.23	85.61	70.60
3.	Assam	Rural	58.66	39.19	69.02	52.25
		Urban	84.37	73.32	89.88	81.03
4.	Bihar	Rural	48.31	17.95	57.70	30.03
		Urban	77.72	55.94	80.80	61.30
5.	Jharkhand	Rural	—	—	61.57	30.33
		Urban	—	—	87.73	70.71
6.	Delhi	Rural	78.46	52.15	87.15	68.23
		Urban	82.39	68.54	87.38	75.49
7.	Goa	Rural	71.71	62.87	87.69	71.55
		Urban	86.33	73.38	90.06	79.65

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Gujarat	Rural	66.84	38.65	70.71	45.75
		Urban	84.56	67.70	85.40	72.23
9.	Haryana	Rural	64.78	32.51	76.15	49.77
		Urban	81.96	64.06	86.58	72.05
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Rural	73.89	49.79	82.58	65.23
		Urban	88.97	78.32	92.49	85.91
11.	Karnataka	Rural	60.30	34.76	70.63	48.50
		Urban	82.04	65.74	86.85	74.87
12.	Kerala	Rural	92.91	85.12	93.54	86.79
		Urban	95.58	89.06	96.07	90.87
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Rural	51.04	19.73	72.10	42.96
		Urban	81.32	58.92	87.78	70.62
14.	Chattishgarh	Rural	—	—	74.58	47.41
		Urban	—	—	89.87	71.63
15.	Maharashtra	Rural	69.74	40.96	82.17	59.12
		Urban	86.41	70.87	91.42	79.25
16.	Manipur	Rural	67.64	43.26	74.50	55.88
		Urban	82.11	58.67	88.72	71.47
17.	Meghalaya	Rural	44.83	37.12	59.90	54.02
		Urban	85.72	77.32	89.90	84.30
18.	Mizoram	Rural	77.36	67.03	84.38	76.17
		Urban	95.15	91.61	96.97	95.69
19.	Nagaland	Rural	63.42	50.36	67.73	57.87
		Urban	85.94	79.10	89.01	82.09
20.	Orissa	Rural	60.00	30.79	73.57	47.22
		Urban	81.21	61.18	88.32	72.68

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21.	Punjab	Rural	60.71	43.85	71.70	57.91
		Urban	77.26	66.12	82.97	74.63
22.	Rajasthan	Rural	47.64	11.59	72.96	37.74
		Urban	78.50	50.24	87.10	65.42
23.	Sikkim	Rural	63.49	43.98	75.11	59.05
		Urban	85.19	74.94	88.61	80.19
24.	Tamil Nadu	Rural	67.18	41.84	77.47	55.84
		Urban	86.06	69.61	88.40	75.64
25.	Tripura	Rural	67.07	44.33	78.89	61.05
		Urban	89.00	76.93	93.51	85.36
26.	Uttar Pradesh	Rural	52.05	19.02	68.01	37.74
		Urban	69.98	50.38	78.13	62.05
27.	Uttaranchal	Rural	—	—	82.74	55.52
		Urban	—	—	87.21	74.77
28.	West Bengal	Rural	62.05	38.12	73.75	53.82
		Urban	81.19	68.25	86.49	76.14
29.	A and N Islands	Rural	75.99	61.99	83.90	72.23
		Urban	86.59	75.08	90.35	81.65
30.	Chandigarh	Rural	65.67	47.83	81.54	67.17
		Urban	84.09	74.57	86.16	77.53
31.	D and N Haveli	Rural	50.04	23.30	67.13	34.08
		Urban	86.35	68.42	91.57	75.67
32.	Daman and Diu	Rural	75.23	46.70	86.48	63.31
		Urban	91.14	72.35	92.72	79.14
33.	Lakshadweep	Rural	88.66	68.72	92.56	79.86
		Urban	91.32	76.11	93.85	83.60

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
34.	Pondicherry	Rural	76.44	53.96	83.87	64.63
		Urban	87.70	71.98	91.40	78.78
35.	Jammu and Kashmir	Rural	—	—	60.34	35.09
		Urban	—	—	80.30	62.22

— Excludes Jammu and Kashmir where 1991 census was not held.

Statement-II

Literacy Rates

Sl. No.	States/Uts	1991	2001
1	2	3	4
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	41.6	54.74
2.	Andhra Pradesh	44.1	61.11
3.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	73.0	81.18
4.	Assam	52.9	64.28
5.	Bihar	38.5	47.53
6.	Chandigarh	77.8	81.76
7.	Chhatisgarh	—	65.18
8.	Delhi	75.3	81.82
9.	Daman and Diu	71.2	81.09
10.	Dadara and Nagar Haveli	40.7	60.03
11.	Gujarat	61.3	69.97
12.	Goa	75.5	82.32
13.	Himachal Pradesh	3.9	77.13
14.	Haryana	55.8	68.59
15.	Jharkhand	—	54.13
16.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	54.46

1	2	3	4
17.	Karnataka	56.0	67.04
18.	Kerala	89.8	90.92
19.	Lakshadweep	81.8	87.52
20.	Mizoram	82.3	88.49
21.	Maharashtra	64.9	77.27
22.	Madhya Pradesh	44.2	64.11
23.	Manipur	59.9	68.87
24.	Meghalaya	49.1	63.31
25.	Nagaland	61.6	67.11
26.	Orissa	49.1	63.61
27.	Pondicherry	74.7	81.49
28.	Punjab	58.5	69.95
29.	Rajasthan	38.5	61.03
30.	Sikkim	56.9	69.68
31.	Tamilnadu	62.7	73.47
32.	Tripura	60.4	73.66
33.	Uttar Pradesh	41.6	57.36
34.	Uttaranchal	—	72.28
35.	West Bengal	57.7	69.22
	India	52.2	65.38

*Census was not held in Jammu and Kashmir in 1991.

Statement-III*State-Wise No. of Educationally
Backward Blocks
(1991 Census)*

Sl. No.	State	No. of Districts	No. of Blocks
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19	356
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	5
3.	Assam	NA	NA
4.	Bihar	30	343
5.	Jharkhand	13	145
6.	Gujarat	14	36
7.	Haryana	9	38
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3	7
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	12	104

1	2	3	4
10.	Karnataka	9	31
11.	Madhya Pradesh	36	236
12.	Chattishgarh	7	116
13.	Maharashtra	16	46
14.	Manipur	1	1
15.	Meghalaya	1	4
16.	Orissa	13	150
17.	Punjab	4	33
18.	Rajasthan	27	210
19.	Tamil Nadu	5	12
20.	Uttar Pradesh	53	649
21.	Uttaranchal	9	36
22.	West Bengal	10	98
Total		296	2656

Statement-IV (A)*State-wise Releases by National Literacy Mission during 2000-2001*

Rs. in Lakhs

Sl. No.	Name of the State/UT	Literacy Campaigns and OR	Voluntary Organisation	Continuing Education	Jan Shikshan Sansthan	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25.00	44.72	379.99	102.75	552.46
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	94.62	40.52	10.00	21.00	166.14
4.	Bihar	211.28	118.96	12.50	55.25	397.99

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Chattisgarh	—	—	—	10.00	10.00
6.	Goa	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Gujarat	—	29.25	879.04	72.61	980.90
8.	Haryana	20.06	35.36	7.50	40.75	103.67
9.	Himachal Pradesh	—	25.49	34.35	—	59.84
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	47.12	—	26.00	73.12
11.	Jharkhand	35.00	—	—	20.00	55.00
12.	Karnataka	—	38.00	2367.23	100.75	2505.98
13.	Kerala	—	31.00	606.25	69.00	706.25
14.	Madhya Pradesh	98.65	86.75	12.50	117.05	314.95
15.	Maharashtra	90.79	75.70	12.50	110.00	289.00
16.	Manipur	—	2.61	—	—	2.61
17.	Meghalaya	—	18.00	7.50	—	25.50
18.	Mizoram	—	—	59.40	—	59.40
19.	Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—
20.	Orissa	45.00	46.77	12.50	76.00	180.27
21.	Punjab	10.00	39.93	10.00	20.00	79.76
22.	Rajasthan	25.00	45.00	233.90	94.00	397.90
23.	Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	36.00	48.99	12.50	75.00	172.49
25.	Tripura	—	23.00	7.50	—	30.50
26.	Uttar Pradesh	353.86	75.75	148.14	273.06	850.82
27.	Uttaranchal	18.31	40.70	—	—	59.01
28.	West Bengal	25.00	43.75	573.14	66.25	708.14
29.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	26.00	26.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
30.	Delhi	—	142.56	20.00	24.25	186.81
31.	Pondicherry	—	—	31.92	—	31.92
32.	Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—	—
33.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	—
34.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—
35.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—
Total		1089.42	1100.00	5438.38	1399.72	9027.52

Statement-IV (B)*Adult Education Programme Scheme-wise Releases to States: 2001-2002*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	State/UT	Literacy Campaigns and	Support to NGOs	Continuing Education	Jan Shikshan Sansthan	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	273.16	527.28	257.28	1057.72
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	22.69	50.44	10.00	23.20	106.33
4.	Bihar	570.10	165.89	477.73	50.22	1263.94
5.	Chattisgarh	60.15	0.00	0.00	22.67	82.82
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.50	16.50
7.	Gujarat	0.00	29.00	230.94	138.76	398.70
8.	Haryana	25.80	35.12	7.50	48.83	117.25
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	37.07	107.50	0.00	144.57
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	69.24	0.00	15.09	84.33
11.	Jharkhand	119.43	0.00	0.00	69.16	188.59
12.	Karnataka	0.00	40.30	628.82	169.53	838.65

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	Kerala	0.00	40.88	623.75	110.73	775.36
14.	Madhya Pradesh	75.38	100.98	12.50	213.91	402.77
15.	Maharashtra	76.18	109.46	1742.67	196.69	2125.00
16.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	7.50	0.00	7.50
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	26.38	7.50	0.00	33.88
18.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	118.80	13.00	131.80
19.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	155.98	43.14	585.83	140.97	925.92
21.	Punjab	0.00	27.00	10.00	22.20	59.20
22.	Rajasthan	40.63	42.92	412.50	162.36	658.41
23.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	18.00	55.18	1911.38	153.06	2137.62
25.	Tripura	0.00	38.00	383.05	0.00	421.05
26.	Uttar Pradesh	673.09	113.59	815.90	511.59	2114.17
27.	Uttaranchal	44.47	65.14	237.11	16.00	362.72
28.	West Bengal	118.10	34.22	650.84	96.37	899.53
29.	Chandigarh	0.00	6.00	21.99	26.88	54.87
30.	Delhi	0.00	96.89	0.00	25.00	121.89
31.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	31.92	0.00	31.92
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
Total		2000.00	1500.00	9563.01	2500.00	15563.01

Statement-IV (C)

*Adult Education Programme Scheme-wise Releases to
States: 2002-2003 As on 31.3.2003*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	State/UT	Literacy Campaigns and	Continuing Education	Support to NGOs	Jan Shikshan Sansthan	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	701.48	164.02	209.39	1074.89
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	171.00	0.00	0.00	15.25	186.25
3.	Assam	48.65	0.00	25.00	37.05	110.70
4.	Bihar	808.24	0.00	97.23	56.06	961.53
5.	Chattisgarh	252.98	10.00	0.00	21.78	284.76
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.01	24.01
7.	Gujarat	0.00	1720.35	29.35	130.26	1879.96
8.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	42.78	39.43	82.21
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	26.40	0.00	26.40
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	39.99	21.42	61.41
11.	Jharkhand	307.54	12.50	0.00	54.14	374.18
12.	Karnataka	20.37	1810.79	34.50	150.86	2016.52
13.	Kerala	0.00	119.40	32.92	117.31	269.63
14.	Madhya Pradesh	88.21	3475.80	89.25	172.49	3825.75
15.	Maharashtra	10.00	10.00	80.00	193.84	293.84
16.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.25	15.25
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	32.00	0.00	3.00
18.	Mizoram	0.00	74.40	0.00	14.00	88.40
19.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Orissa	282.45	0.00	36.84	146.80	466.09

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
21.	Punjab	43.14	0.00	25.00	24.24	92.38
22.	Rajasthan	77.47	2328.30	48.61	137.08	2591.46
23.	Sikkim	36.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	36.60
24.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	530.70	60.72	150.29	741.71
25.	Tripura	0.00	155.00	10.00	0.00	165.00
26.	Uttar Pradesh	247.97	2262.28	1168.27	441.89	4120.41
27.	Uttaranchal	11.63	0.00	37.00	12.00	60.63
28.	West Bengal	50.00	0.00	53.00	98.79	201.79
29.	Chandigarh	0.00	91.40	0.00	26.99	118.39
30.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	68.57	20.93	89.50
31.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total		2456.25	13302.40	2201.45	2331.55	20291.65

Statement-IV (D)

Scheme-Wise Releases to States: 2003-04

(As on 27.11.2003)

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S. No.	State/UT	Literacy Campaigns and OR	Continuing Education	Support to NGOs	Jan Shikshan Sansthan	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	295.35	1842.71	48.42	77.65	2264.13
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Assam	0.00	0.00	39.62	16.00	55.62
4.	Bihar	361.35	0.00	82.47	26.21	470.03
5.	Chattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.65	14.65
6.	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	6.00
7.	Gujarat	0.00	1492.20	10.60	58.00	1560.80
8.	Haryana	15.02	0.00	11.50	23.66	50.18
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	53.62	20.00	0.00	73.62
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	0.00	43.29	8.00	51.29
11.	Jharkhand	60.31	0.00	0.00	14.00	74.31
12.	Karnataka	50.00	881.37	22.00	60.00	1013.37
13.	Kerala	0.00	485.60	39.98	49.63	575.21
14.	Madhya Pradesh	89.33	1730.50	69.80	80.81	1970.44
15.	Maharashtra	0.00	176.76	25.00	73.61	275.37
16.	Manipur	151.10	7.50	0.00	10.00	168.60
17.	Meghalaya	18.31	0.00	28.00	0.00	46.31
18.	Mizoram	0.00	2.00	0.00	6.00	8.00
19.	Nagaland	153.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	153.42
20.	Orissa	131.42	0.00	460.89	87.45	679.76
21.	Punjab	39.00	0.00	0.00	6.00	45.00
22.	Rajasthan	9.83	1977.66	37 .90	75.71	2101.10
23.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Tamil Nadu	0.00	839.19	43.00	90.99	973.18
25.	Tripura	0.00	31.13	18.00	0.00	49.13
26.	Uttar Pradesh	31.94	527.75	735.49	267.67	1562.85
27.	Uttaranchal	6.61	0.00	25.00	6.00	37.61

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
28.	West Bengal	31.03	3763.04	0.00	85.95	3880.02
29.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	22.00	14.00	36.00
30.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	32.64	6.00	38.64
31.	Pondicherry	0.00	32.63	0.00	0.00	32.63
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Andaman and Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Lakshadweep	0.00	11.75	0.00	0.00	11.75
Total		1444.02	13855.41	1815.60	1163.99	18279.02

[Translation]

Unified Licensing System

*35. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL :

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

(a) whether the proposal of unified licensing system for all kinds of telecom services has not come into effect;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to harmonise the interests of various stake holders?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) The first phase of introducing a Unified Licensing/Authorization Regime has come into effect. The regime is to be established in a two-stage process with the Unified Access License Regime for Basic and Cellular Service in the first phase, to be followed up with a process to define the guidelines and rules for fully Unified License/Authorisation Regime. The Government

has approved the recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) in this regard and Unified Access (Basic and Cellular) services regime has already been implemented. Some of the existing service providers have already migrated to Unified Access License Regime. New service providers have also been issued Letters of Intent under Unified Access License Regime.

An addendum to New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99) has been issued in November, 2003 to provide for the following categories of licenses for telecommunication services:

- (i) Unified Licence for Telecommunication Services permitting Licensee to provide all telecommunication/telegraph services covering various geographical areas using any technology;
- (ii) Licence for Unified Access (Basic and Cellular) Services permitting Licensee to Provide Basic and/or Cellular Services using any technology in a defined service area.

(b) TRAI in its recommendations had mentioned that recommendations on Unified Licensing for all telecom services will be provided to the Government following a consultation process. TRAI has issued a Preliminary

Consultation Paper on Unified Licensing Regime on November, 15, 2003. Based upon the comments received, discussions with various Stakeholders and its own analysis, the TRAI will issue a more detailed Consultation Paper on the matter.

(c) The consultative process of TRAI and the recommendations based thereon, which would form the basis for the Government decision, are expected to take care of the need to harmonise the interests of various Stakeholders.

[English]

Target Fixed for Disinvestment

*36. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed a target of Rs.13,000 crores from disinvestment during this year;

(b) if so, the adopted or being adopted by the Government to achieve the target; and

(c) the extent to which target has been achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) Yes, Sir. A sum of Rs.13,200 crore has been targeted for the year 2003-04 towards disinvestment receipt.

(b) Government has planned disinvestment of Government equity through Strategic Sale alongwith the transfer of management control as well sale of shares through Public Offer including sale of residual shares of the PSUs already disinvested for the current year. There are apprehensions, however, about meeting the target in the face of serious constraints arising as a fallout of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement relating to disinvestment of HPCL and BPCL.

(c) A sum of Rs.1,335.40 crore has been realised till 20th November 2003.

Setting Up of Institutes on the lines of AIIMS

*37. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a number of institutes on the pattern of All India Institute of Medical Sciences all over the country;

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

(c) the funds allocated/released for respective institutes during the current financial year;

(d) the time by which the execution work of these institutes is likely to be completed.

(e) whether the Government has any plans to set up an upgraded medical College or Post Graduate Hospital in Kolkata on the pattern of AIIMS; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (f) In order to correct regional imbalances in provision of specialist healthcare services as well as in specialized medical education, Government has decided in principle to set up six superspeciality hospitals on the pattern of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi under "Pradhanmantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana" at the following places:-

1. Patna (Bihar)
2. Bhubaneswar (Orissa)
3. Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)
4. Jodhpur (Rajasthan)
5. Raipur (Chhattisgarh)
6. Rishikesh (Uttaranchal)

These States have been identified for the purpose on the basis of their being under served in terms of medical

infrastructure, high incidence of mortality and morbidity, need for superspeciality services, etc. The project cost is estimated to be Rs.1680.00 crores at the rate of Rs.280.00 crores per institute, which is proposed to be met by the Central Government. The concerned State Government will provide land for the institute, and also arrange for provision of water and electricity and approach roads. Budget provision will be made after requisite clearances are obtained for the project.

In addition, the Government has also decided in principle to upgrade one existing medical institution in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. One such institute will be identified in each State for upgradation. The capital cost of upto Rs.120 crores per institute is proposed to be provided by the Ministry. The recurring cost for running the facilities of these upgraded institutes will be borne by the respective States.

In West Bengal, the Calcutta Medical College has been identified for upgradation on the AIIMS pattern. Government Medical Colleges at Trichy and Jammu have also been identified for upgradation in the States of Tamil Nadu and Jammu and Kashmir respectively.

Opening of UAE Consulates in State Capitals

*38. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN :
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received proposals from States for setting up of Consulate of UAE in their capitals to mitigate the difficulties of job seekers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up this matter with the UAE authorities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir. While it is a fact that there is a sizeable population of Indian expatriates living and working in UAE, it is a sovereign decision of the Government of UAE to determine whether they wish to open Consulates in various capital of States in India to mitigate the difficulties of job seekers. It would not be appropriate for the Government of India to initiate any action in this regard since the Government of UAE is fully cognizant of the composition of Indian community resident in their country and the problems faced by Indian job seekers from different States.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Identification of Backward Districts

*39. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL :
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether 100 most backward districts in different States of the country have been identified under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (R.S.V.Y.);

(b) if so, whether funds are being provided to these districts under the said scheme as per the criteria laid down by the Planning Commission during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the number and the details of the funds provided to such districts so far. State-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide funds to the remaining districts during the current financial year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs.15 crore will be provided to each of the 50 districts identified for coverage in the current year.

(c) A Statement is enclosed.

(d) No, Sir. The remaining districts will be covered from next year onwards.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the State	No. of Districts	First instalment of SCA released (Rs. in crore)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	15.00
2.	Chhattisgarh	2	15.00
3.	Gujarat	1	7.50
4.	Jharkhand	3	22.50
5.	Karnataka	1	7.50
6.	Kerala	1	7.50
7.	Madhya Pradesh	3	22.50
8.	Maharashtra	2	15.00
9.	Rajasthan	2	15.00
10.	Tamil Nadu	1	7.50
11.	Uttar Pradesh	5	37.50
12.	West Bengal	2	15.00

[English]

AIDS Vaccine

*40. YOGI ADITYA NATH :
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY :

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

(a) whether the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) has ranked India second in the World with regard to the spread of HIV positive cases;

(b) whether it is also a fact that India is likely to have 25 million cases by 2006;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up AIDS prevention units in various parts of the country in view of the number of AIDS patients;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government are making any study to prepare AIDS vaccine;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the remedial steps taken / being taken by the Government to control AIDS / HIV?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (h) The National AIDS Control Organisation, Government of India, conducts nation wide HIV sentinel surveillance every year during the period August-October, to monitor the trends of HIV infection in different risk groups and to estimate the burden of HIV infection in the country. The estimated number of HIV infections in the country is about 4.58 million at the end of year 2002, which is second highest in the world after South Africa. However, the overall prevalence of HIV infection remains less than 1% in the general population. There is no estimate that India is likely to have 25 million HIV infections by 2006.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in December, 2000, with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) to provide and accelerate efforts to develop an indigenous AIDS Vaccine that will address the strain of the HIV-1 subtype C predominant in India. This work is being carried out by two ICMR institutions namely, National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune and National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases (NICED), Kolkata.

For the effective implementation of the National AIDS Control Programme, Government of India has already established 38 State AIDS Control Societies in each of the State and Union Territories and three Municipal Corporations namely, Chennai, Mumbai and Ahmedabad. The programme has following components:

- Preventive interventions for high-risk populations through targeted interventions adopting a multi-pronged strategy including peer counseling and behaviour change communication.
- Preventive interventions for the general population through programmes for blood safety, voluntary counseling and testing services, information education and communication (IEC), provision of prevention of Parent to Child Transmission for preventing HIV among new born children and awareness building among adolescents.
- Provision of low cost care and support services by providing community care services, treatment of opportunistic infections and prevention of occupational exposure.
- Collaborative efforts to promote inter-sectoral programme activities including interventions and public-private partnerships.
- Building technical and managerial capacities for programme implementation through surveillance, training, monitoring and evaluation, technical resource groups, operational research and programme management.

Trauma Centres

142. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the answer given to USQ No. 1318 dated 30.07.2003 regarding Trauma Centres and state :

- (a) whether the information has since been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (c) The information is still awaited from the Government of NCT of Delhi.

Accidents on NH-2

143. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether road accidents are taking place regularly on NH-2 and NH-60 specially Gandhi More, D.G.C. More, Bhiringee More and Muchipura of Durgapur;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to construct flyovers to tide over the accidents; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) 59 accidents are reported to have occurred from January, 2003 to October, 2003 in between Muchipara Junction and Bhiringee More, out of which 4 were fatal. These were primarily due to violation of traffic rules and lack of road user awareness.

(c) and (d) Feasibility study for providing flyovers at the locations of DVC More and Gandhi More is presently in progress. National Highways Authority of India has provided traffic signals at Gandhi More. A diamond interchange at Muchipara has also been provided, (except

for a slip road in south-east quadrant due to non-availability of land from State Authority). Steps have also been taken for providing traffic signals and illumination at the DVC More, Bhiringee More and other locations with the assistance of municipal authorities which is expected to reduce the incidence of accidents to a great extent.

Inspection of Passport Offices in Bihar

144. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH :
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any inspection on the working of Passport Offices in Bihar has been carried out during the last three years;

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

(c) the number of pending applications for issue of passport as on date; and

(d) the efforts made to clear the pending applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) and (b) Several inspections on the working of Passport Office, Patna have been carried out by the senior officers in the Ministry/Government during the last three years, the details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The number of applications pending after receipt of clear report as on 27th November, 2003 is 5414 which is not on the high side.

(d) All efforts are made to clear pending applications including by working on weekends and holidays.

Statement

- (i) Shri A.K. Sharma, Director (PV) on 5-6 September, 2001.
- (ii) Shri S.R. Tayal, JS(CPV) on 26 and 27 February, 2002.

(iii) Shri S.N. Nagar, PRO(PG) on 6 to 13 June, 2002.

(iv) Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs on 9th December, 2002.

(v) Shri S.K. Srivastava, Deputy Secretary (Hindi) on 10 to 14 October, 2003.

Committee on Haj Yatra

145. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Committee of eminent persons to make Haj Yatra comfortable and more pleasant; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including making the pilgrimage less expensive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) No, Sir. However, a new Haj Committee has been constituted on 15th September, 2003 under the new Haj Committee Act, 2002 which continuously overlooks all the arrangements to make Haj Yatra comfortable and more pleasant for the pilgrims going through the Haj Committee of India.

(b) Does not arise.

Telephone Exchanges in West Bengal

146. SHRI ALAKESH DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of telephone exchanges set up in rural areas of all the districts of West Bengal;

(b) whether there are any more pending Telephone Exchanges to be set up in different districts of West Bengal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) Sir, 1066 Telephone Exchanges have been set up in rural areas of all the districts of West Bengal.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Following steps are taken to improve rural connectivity:-

(i) Opening of new exchanges where techno-economic viability is there.

(ii) Providing WLL to rural populace progressively by installing at least one number of BTS in each SDCA.

(iii) Details of new exchanges planned are as under:-

S. No.	Name of district	No. of telephone Exchanges to be set up
1.	Murshidabad	02
2.	Cooch Behar	06
3.	Nadia	04
4.	Malda	01
5.	Midnapore	04
6.	Howrah	04
7.	Hooghly	01
8.	24 Parganas (North)	02
9.	24 Parganas (South)	02
Total		26

Land-Slides along the National Highway-44

147. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether massive land-slides along the National Highway-44 in this season caused large-scale damage to the highway and cut-off smooth run of traffic;

(b) if so, the number and details of cases of land-

slides and the damages caused thereby to human lives and property, in each case;

(c) whether the emergency measures to prevent land-slides were taken;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Promotion of Naturopathy

148. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the Government Policy for promotion of Naturopathy in the country;

(b) the steps taken by the Government so far to promote the Naturopathy;

(c) whether the Government have laid down any procedure for the empanelment of Naturopathy Hospital under the Central Government Health Scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have recognized any Naturopathy Hospital in India so far;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether any new proposal from any other hospital has been received for empanelment under CGHS; and

(h) if so, the action taken by the Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The Government are committed to promote Naturopathy in the country. Two national level institutions i.e. the Central

Council for Research in Yoga and Naturopathy (CCRYN) at New Delhi and the National Institute of Naturopathy (NIN) at Pune have been set up for development, promotion and propagation of Naturopathy. These institutions are providing support to various organizations for promoting and popularizing Naturopathy in the country.

(c) and (d) The Government have not laid down any separate procedure for the empanelment of Naturopathy Hospital under the Central Government Health Scheme.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Government have recognized Naturopathy hospitals of Krishna Dutt Health Centre, New Delhi and Bapu Nature Cure Hospital and Yogashram, Delhi under the CGHS.

(g) and (h) A proposal has been received from Sunrise Naturopathy and Health Resort, Jaipur for empanelment under CGHS recently.

[Translation]

Telephone Facilities to Gram Panchayats

149. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :

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

(a) whether all the village Panchayats across the country have been provided with telephone facilities;

(b) if so, the total number of village panchayats which have not been provided telephone facilities alongwith the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide better telephone facilities to the village panchayats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Details of 7189 Village Panchayats which have not been provided with telecom facility by BSNL are given in the enclosed statement. Reasons for not providing telecom facilities in these Village Panchayats are as under:

- (i) Panchayat lying in remote and isolated areas have been planned on satellite technology. Satellite telephones shall be provided subject to availability of resources.
- (ii) Earlier the permission for commissioning of WLL system in North Eastern region and J and K Telecom circles was not available due to security reasons. In the meantime, part of the WLL equipment was diverted to other needy Circles. The permission has now been given for commissioning of WLL System and fresh WLL equipment has already been ordered.
- (c) Following steps have been taken to provide better telecom facilities to Village Panchayats:
 - (i) Village Public Telephone (VPT) holders have been asked to book their faults in office of JTO in-charge of concerned Telephone Exchange.
 - (ii) Testing of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) is being carried out daily from Exchange to identify the faulty Village Public Telephone (VPT).
 - (iii) Meter readings are checked fortnightly and low meter reading is taken as an indication of the system not performing properly.
 - (iv) Village Public Telephones (VPTs) provided on Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) technology have been decided to be replaced mainly be Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) technology, as these were not performing satisfactorily.
 - (v) The Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) telephones have been provided with a rechargeable battery back up of two hours. Subscribers are facing difficulty in charging the battery back up adequately because of erratic and prolonged power cuts in rural areas. There is a proposal to augment the battery capacity.
 - (vi) The performance of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) provided is monitored regularly.

- (vii) Proposal for awarding post warranty annual maintenance contract for providing maintenance support is in progress.

Statement

Village Panchayats without Telecom. Facilities to be provided by BSNL

Sl. No.	Circle	Panchayat Villages without telecom facilities
1.	Assam	391
2.	Himachal Pradesh	18
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	547
4.	Jharkhand	156
5.	North East-I	619
6.	North East-II	4434
7.	Orissa	133
8.	Uttaranchal	891
Total		7189

Note : BSNL has already provided telecom facility in village panchayats of its share in Andhra Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Gujrat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan Telecom. Circle.

[English]

Survey by TRAI

150. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has conducted any survey regarding the quality of voice for international calls offered by the internet service providers (ISPs) and the speed of internet access;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to provide improved service to the customers by ISPs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) As per the TRAI Act 1997, as amended by TRAI (Amendment) Act, 2000, TRAI is mandated to lay down standard of Quality of service to be provided by to service providers. TRAI has also to ensure the quality of service and conduct periodical survey of such service provided by service providers so as to protect interest of the consumers of telecommunication service. Accordingly an online survey has been conducted by TRAI to find out the customers perception of quality of Internet Service (including Internet telephony) rendered during the period from May to June, 2003. The relevant summary of the findings is given in the statement.

(c) Government has permitted ISPs to set up international gateways for Internet using satellite medium as well as submarine cable medium so as to increase the availability of international bandwidth for use of Internet services. This will facilitate improved services to the customers.

Statement

Summary of Findings

- How frequently do people use internet telephony?

About 40% of the respondents are using Internet telephony out of which 20.75% use it once, 5% have use it twice, 2.75% used it thrice, 2% used it four times and 9.5% used it five times in the last one month

- How many people are not satisfied with the voice transmission?

About 20% of the users discontinued once, 4% twice, 2.5 trice, 1.5% four times and 6% have discontinued the call 5 times for not being able to communicate properly, in the last one month.

- Country wise breakup of total callers.

Countries	Customers using Internet Telephony
USA	808
Gulf	70
Europe	148
Others	610

4. How satisfied are people making the Internet Telephony calls ?

80% of users are satisfied.

5. Are the ISPs satisfying the expectation of a minimum speed of 28.8 Kbps.

ISP Name	% of Users that AE not able to get minimum speed of 28.8 KBPS
VSNL	65.37
Satyam/SIFY	16.4
Dishnet	46.17
BSNL/DOT	71.4
Mantraonline	31.57
MTNL	73.13
Others	51.1

6. Variation in the night and day time performance of the service provided by various ISPs.

Most of the users claim to have faster night time access than the daytime.

Efforts to Get Back POK

151. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have asked Pakistan to vacate Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (POK);

(b) if so, the reaction of Pakistan thereto; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to get back POK?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) The State of Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. A portion of the State is under forcible and illegal occupation of Pakistan. Government's consistent approach has been that the issue that remains to be resolved in Jammu and Kashmir is the vacation by Pakistan of the area under its illegal occupation. Government remains committed to resolving all issues with Pakistan bilaterally and peacefully in accordance with the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration.

Population Control

152. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Kerala and Tamil Nadu have successfully brought down population growth rates;

(b) if so, the measures taken by the Government in these States; and

(c) the new thrust proposed to be adopted by the Union Government to control the population of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Norms for financial assistance to all the States for implementation of various schemes under National Family Welfare Programme are the same. The political commitment in the States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala for improved access to education and health services, including availability of contraception services, has enabled the State Government to bring down population growth.

(c) A comprehensive package of services relating to mother and child health, and contraception are being

provided under the RCH Programme. Efforts are being made to make Family Welfare Programme a people's programme through increased involvement of the NGOs, Self Help Groups and members of Panchayati Raj Institutions. Intersectoral convergence for improving delivery of family welfare services at field, levels is also being pursued. An Empowered Action Group has been constituted to address the unmet needs of the demographically weaker States. A Janani Suraksha Yojana is being launched in the country to address the issues of institutional delivery and promotion of sterilization. A National Commitment Campaign has been launched for generating greater political commitment for the Family Welfare Programme.

Allocation of Central Assistance to Karnataka

153. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether during 2003-04 Karnataka Government had been allocated an amount of Rs. 1106.51 crores as Central assistance;

(b) if so, the quantum of assistance released by the end of May, 2003;

(c) the extent to which the State Government has utilized the assistance;

(d) whether Karnataka has requested for further release of assistance; and

(e) if so, the total amount up to December, 2003, released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) The amount of Central assistance allocated to Karnataka Government for the Annual Plan 2003-04 was Rs.3966.35 crores.

(b) The amount of assistance released to Karnataka till end of May 2003 was Rs.167.08 crores.

(c) The actual Plan expenditure upto end of September, 2003 was Rs.3268.28 crores.

(d) No request had been made by Karnataka for further release of Central assistance.

(e) Till 27th November, 2003 an amount of Rs.1155.37 crores had been released to the Karnataka Government under Central assistance.

Agreement for Free Trade with ASEAN Countries

154. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether as a part of its Look East Policy the Government propose to sign a major framework agreement for free trade with ASEAN member countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the agreement is likely to be signed; and

(d) the main benefits likely to be accrued by this agreement in the economic sector for India and the ASEAN countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) to (d) India signed a Framework Agreement for Comprehensive Economic Cooperation with the ASEAN Countries during the second ASEAN-India Summit on 8 October 2003, in Bali Indonesia. The Framework Agreement envisages the establishment of an Indo-ASEAN Regional Trade and Investment Area, which includes a Free Trade Area in goods, services and investment.

2. Negotiations on the Free Trade Area in goods are expected to commence in January 2004 and be completed by June 2005. The negotiated FTA would come into force from January 2006. Tariff reduction/elimination will be completed by December 2011 between Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand and India. Tariff reduction/elimination between the Philippines and India will commence on January 2006 and be completed by December 2016. Tariff reduction/elimination

between Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam ((CLMV countries) and India would commence from January 2006, to be completed by the CLMV countries by December 2016 and by India by December 2011.

3. For trade in services and investments, the negotiations on the respective agreements shall commence in 2005 and be concluded by 2007.

4. The Framework Agreement includes an Early Harvest Programme (EHP) on trade in goods under which progressive tariff reduction on 105 agreed items shall commence from November 2004. Tariff elimination/reduction shall be completed by Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and India by October 2007, and by Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam by October 2010. In addition, India has also given unilateral tariff-concessions to Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam on 111 items.

5. The Agreement provides the roadmap for negotiating a Free Trade Area Agreement (FTA) with ASEAN that would give further impetus to India-ASEAN linkages in trade, investment, services and other areas of economic cooperation, and would facilitate a closer economic partnership between India and ASEAN in the 21st century.

World Bank Assistance In Health Sector

155. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had submitted in November 2001 any proposal for the World Bank Assistance for upgradation of Food and Drug Administration Headquarters, Drug Control Laboratory at Mumbai and Aurangabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether approval/sanction has since been accorded; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) A World Bank Assisted Capacity Building Project for Food Safety and Quality Control of Drugs has been launched in October, 2003. Under the Project, the Food and Drugs Administration Headquarters in the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health Family Welfare, New Delhi, is being strengthened by way of provision of a new well equipped building. The State Drug Testing Laboratories at Mumbai and Aurangabad are also being strengthened under the Project through provision of laboratory equipments, chemicals, furniture and incremental staff, along with a provision for maintenance of laboratory equipments. The total amount of assistance is Rs.37.00 crores. Further, the Food and Drugs laboratory in Mumbai in the Central sector is being provided with a new building, equipments, chemicals, furniture, incremental staff, and provision for maintenance of laboratory equipments and building.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) This is a Central Sector Project. Procurement and supply of equipments will be done by HSCC(India) Limited who have been appointed as the Procurement support Agent under the Project. To meet the expenditure on chemicals, furniture, appointment of incremental staff, funds will be released by the Ministry to the Special Purpose Vehicle i.e. the States AIDS Control Societies (SACS) which will reimburse the States on a quarterly basis. In regard to construction of the Food and Drug Administration Bhawan, necessary approvals have been sought from the concerned authorities.

Disinvestment of PSU in Kerala

156. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken action to disinvest a public sector undertaking in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) The

Government have taken action to disinvest the following public sector undertakings with units in Kerala:-

- (i) Disinvestment of 51% of Government equity in The Fertilizer and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT). The process of disinvestment is under progress. FACT has manufacturing units at Cochin and Udyogmandal.
- (ii) The Government has decided in April 2003 to sell 51% of the equity of M/s Instrumentation Control Valves Ltd., Palakkad in favour of M/s Larsen and Tubro Ltd., for Rs.16.20 crores. This sale of shares is subject to the approval of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) and the proposal is currently pending BIFR approval.
- (iii) Disinvestment of 32.61% of the equity in Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. (HOCL). HOCL has one of its manufacturing units at Cochin, Kerala. The process of disinvestment is under progress.
- (iv) Disinvestment of 74% of equity of Hindustan News Print Limited located at Kottayam, Kerala. The process of disinvestment is under progress.

**WLL Connections in Sundarban
Areas, West Bengal**

157. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of WLL connections so far given in the Sundarban areas of West Bengal;
- (b) the target set by the Government by the end of the year;
- (c) whether the Government have any plans to set up a separate WLL-based telephone exchange in the area;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) According to available information 1192 WLL connections are working in Sunderban Areas of the West Bengal.

(b) Each Service provider is free to enroll customers on any media and no target is set by the Government. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. has reported the target to provide 354 more WLL connections by the end of the year.

(c) to (e) As per Government's technology neutral policy, there is no restriction on any of Basic Service Operators/Unified Access Services Operators to provide connections with the specific technology. Therefore Government does not draw plan to set up a separate WLL based telephone exchange in the area.

Sending Children to Schools

158. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have written to some of the States of not fulfilling the backlog of sending the children between age group of 6-14 to the schools;

(b) if so, the name of the States which are lagging behind in this regard and the reasons therefor;

(c) the financial assistance provided to the States during the year 2003-2004 for opening of new schools in the States, appointment of teachers, construction of additional rooms alongwith the extent to which the assistance provided to the States have been utilized by them; and

(d) the reasons advanced by the State Governments for not utilizing the financial assistance provided to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) Yes.

(b) As per District Elementary Education Plans received from States under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in the current financial year, out of total 2.4 crores of out-of-school

children in the country, three States, namely, Bihar (44 lakh), Uttar Pradesh (43 lakh) and West Bengal (40 lakh) accounted for more than half of such children, for a variety reasons.

(c) Details pertaining to the above three States are given in the statement.

(d) Four months of the current financial year still remain for utilisation.

Statement

2003-2004	Uttar Pradesh	Bihar	West Bengal
Total Outlay approved under SSA and DPEP (Rs. in Crores)*	1058.84	764.77	595.08
Release under SSA and DPEP (Rs. in Crores)	301.71	224.49	31.40
Expenditure till 30.9.2003 SSA and DPEP (Rs. in Crores)	100.39	68.47	52.13
No. of New School approved	8464	2268	5000
No. of New Teachers approved	86281	64624	70738
No. of New School Building approved	9533	2561	459
No. of New Classrooms approved	4282	11490	12435

* — SSA -Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

* — DPEP- District Primary Education Programme.

[Translation]

Closure of CGHS Dispensaries

159. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that some

CGHS Dispensaries in Delhi and other areas of the country have been closed;

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

(c) the reasons therefor alongwith the time by which these dispensaries are likely to be made functional again?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) None of the dispensaries functioning under CGHS Delhi have been closed.

However, an additional CGHS dispensary was opened in Chandigarh by the Joint Director of CGHS in that city for which there was no Government sanction. Hence, the Government directed the closure of this dispensary.

[English]

National Human Development Report

160. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have examined the National Human Development Report, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to address the development activities in different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) The Planning Commission had prepared the National Human Development Report(NHDR) 2001 which was released in March, 2002. The human development index for each State has been worked out based on health, education and economic indicators, which are widely recognized as the most important components of total human development. The Government, both in the Centre and in the States, have initiated a number of programmes to improve the

health and educational status of the people, as also to provide opportunities for employment and enhanced incomes. These concerns have been given a place of prominence in the Tenth Five Year Plan. Monitorable targets covering social, economic and environmental dimensions of human development have also been set out for the Tenth and subsequent Plans.

Funds for Family Welfare Programme

161. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the funds allocated to Rajasthan for various Central Government sponsored schemes relating to the Health and Family Welfare during the last two years;

(b) the funds utilized by the State during the said period;

(c) whether the funds allocated for the purpose have been diverted for other development schemes by the States;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The details of allocation/releases and expenditure incurred for important Centrally Sponsored Schemes relating to health and family welfare for the State of Rajasthan during the last two years is at enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) No such report has been received from the State Government of Rajasthan.

Statement

*Allocation/Releases and Expenditure for the State of Rajasthan
for Health and Family Welfare during
2001-02 and 2002-03*

In Rs. lakhs

Sl. No.	Name of the Programme	2001-02		2002-03	
		Allocation/ Release	Exp.	Allocation/ Release	Exp. *
1.	National Anti-Malaria Programme	534.04	924.92	303.37	925.90
2.	National Leprosy Eradication Programme	123.07	98.62	52.32	118.36
3.	National Programme for Control of Blindness	1131.21	703.29	526.93	402.43
4.	National Tuberculosis Control Programme	1072.53	744.87	598.74	497.23
5.	National AIDS Control Programme	317.50	297.01	358.50	247.39
6.	National Cancer Control Programme	82.50	82.50	185.00	185.00
7.	Family Welfare Programme	20059.65	17448.31	22678.36	18588.16

* Provisional

WLL in Rural Areas

162. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rural connectivity programme has been hampered after the formation of the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase connectivity network in rural areas;

(d) whether the WLL technology is restricted to urban areas and rural areas are not covered by this technology;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) steps taken by the Government for extension of WLL facility to rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) Steps taken by the Government to increase connectivity network in rural areas are given below:

(i) Conversion of C-DOT (Centre for Development of Telematics) 256 PRAX (Primary Rural Automatic Exchange) into V-5.2 AN RAX (Access network Rural Automatic Exchange) to provide more number of connections;

(ii) Provision of satellite based VPTs (Village Public Telephones);

(iii) To create more capacity in rural exchanges so as to provide telephone connections on demand;

(iv) Introduction of Gramin Sanchar Sewak Scheme to provide access to rural people not having telephone connections;

(v) Expansion of existing rural WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) BTS Terminal Station) capacity from present 500 lines to 1000 lines;

(d) No, Sir.

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

(f) The procurement of 5 Lakh lines of WLL CDMA (Code Division Multiple Access) (Urban), 5 lakh lines WLL CDMA V 5.2 (Urban and Rural), 5.77 lakh lines of WLL Cordect system (Urban and Rural) and 3.925 WLL CDMA (Rural expansion) has been initiated which is being deployed in both Urban and Rural areas. In addition the tender for 7.45 lakh lines of WLL CDMA with MSC (Main Switching Centre) has also been finalized which will be also deployed in both urban and rural areas.

Non-Implementation of ACP Scheme

163. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the orders for Assured Career Progression (ACP) issued by the Government in 1999 are applicable to CGHS employees;

(b) if so, whether these orders are not being implemented in CGHS;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which these orders are likely to be implemented in CGHS department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The employees of CGHS are granted financial up-gradation in accordance with the conditions laid down in the ACP Scheme as and when they become eligible for it and this is a continuous process.

(c) and (d) In view of (b) above, the questions do not arise.

Post Offices in Rented Buildings

164. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of existing post offices functioning in rented buildings, State-wise or Circle-wise; and

(b) the number out of these proposed to be shifted to departmental buildings during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Su THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) and (b) The Circle-wise information is as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of Circle	Number of existing post offices functioning in rented buildings	The number of post offices tentatively proposed to be shifted in departmental buildings during the current year
1	Assam	466	2
2	Andhra Pradesh	2081	Nil
3	Bihar	758	Nil
4	Chhattisgarh	530	Nil
5	Delhi	274	2
6	Gujrat	1280	2
7	Haryana	399	Nil
8	Himachal Pradesh	394	2
9	Jammu and Kashmir	228	Nil
10	Jharkhand	385	Nil
11	Karnataka	1478	Nil
12	Kerala	1153	1

1	2	3	4
13.	Madhya Pradesh	555	Nil
14.	Maharashtra	1931	5
15.	North East	240	Nil
16.	Orissa	1032	1
17.	Punjab	679	2
18.	Rajasthan	1073	Nil
19.	Tamil Nadu	2591	2
20.	Uttar Pradesh	2167	2
21.	Uttaranchal	306	Nil
22.	West Bengal	1524	3
Total		21524	24

Reduction of Cash Reserves of IIMs

165. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have suggested to all Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) to reduce their cash reserves to Rs.25 crores only;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that IIMs were asked to sign a specific MoU with MoU;

(d) if so, the details of this MoU; and

(e) the steps taken/likely to be taken to ensure that IIMs contribute to the welfare of country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The matter regarding Corpus Fund was discussed with the Directors of all IIMs in the meeting held on 16th April, 2003 under the

chairmanship of Education Secretary. It was suggested to the Directors of IIMs at Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Calcutta that they should have a Corpus Fund upto a upper limit of Rs.25.00 crores and Directors of other three IIMs at Lucknow, Indore and Kozhikode were also advised to have a Corpus Fund upto a limit of Rs.25.00 crores with the approval of their respective Boards of Governors.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As per the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC), the organizations which receive budgetary support of more than Rs.5.00 crores will sign an MoU with the Government clearly spelling out input requirement and output target.

(e) The major activities of the IIMs, that contribute to the country's welfare are teaching, training, research, publication, and consultancy in the field of management education.

[Translation]

Closure of Passport Collection Centre

166. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the passport collection centre at Aurangabad (Maharashtra) has been closed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the arrangements being made to cater to the need of affected persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Passport Application Collection Centre (PACC), Aurangabad was opened in July 1998. With the introduction of decentralisation scheme, the passport applications are now being received at District Passport Cells (DPCs) at district level in all seven districts covered by PACC Aurangabad i.e. Aurangabad, Beed, Jalna, Latur, Nanded, Osmanabad and Parbhani in Maharashtra. In addition, Speed Post Centres have also been authorised to received passport applications. Therefore, PACC in Aurangabad has been closed as there are now several

locations to receive passport applications. The DPCs are working smoothly and no problem has been noticed with regard to their functioning.

[English]

Opening of Post Offices

167. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra and local representative have requested the Union Government for opening of new Post Office in Panvel and Raigarh in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has also requested the Union Government for modernization of existing post office in the State particularly in Panvel; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Su THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra has not requested the Union Government for opening New Post Office in Panvel and Raigad areas of Maharashtra. However, one proposal, for opening a new Post Office has been received from the local representatives. This request is for opening of a Post Office at Khanda Colony in New Panvel.

(c) and (d) No request has been received from the Government of Maharashtra for modernization of existing Post Offices in the State including Panvel. The Government, has modernized Panvel Head Post Office (1996-1997), Roha (1996-1997) and Janijira Murud (1997-98), all three located in the Panvel - Raigad areas as of its ongoing modernization programme.

Coronary Diseases

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

(a) whether a study by the World Bank has revealed that fatalities from coronary diseases are likely to increase in India; and

(b) if so, the remedial steps taken/being taken to launch an awareness programme in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) According to a study conducted by the World Health Organization, World Bank and other institutions, it is projected that the number of deaths due to coronary heart disease is expected to rise in the coming years. This increase is suggested to be linked to changes in lifestyle such as decreased physical activity, change in food habits, increase in fat and sugar consumption, increasing urbanization and low intake of fibre and micronutrients (folic acid, antioxidants). Since the CVD is life style related disease, the Government is spreading health messages to increase public health awareness about heart diseases and healthy living practices.

Promotion of Bal Sahitya

169. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme or strategy has been evolved by the Government to promote children literature (Bal Sahitya);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have introduced any award for promoting Bal Sahitya; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) The National Book Trust, India, [NBT] is an autonomous organization set up under this Ministry to produce and encourage production of good literature, and to make such literature available at moderate prices to the public. The NBT has been working to produce and promote meaningful literature for children.

It has developed a rich collection of children's literature. With this objective, the National Center for Children's Literature [NCCL] was set up in the NBT in 1993 as a coordinating agency to promote children's literature in all Indian languages. Following activities are undertaken under NCCL:-

(i) Seminars/workshops for authors, publishers, illustrators, publishers involved in development of children's literature.

(ii) Reader's club movement – More than forty thousand Reader's clubs are established in schools, non-formal education centres, libraries all over the country. The NCCL provides books worth Rs.250/ as an incentive to each new club.

(iii) NCCL library – The NCCL has set up a reference library of children's literature with a stock of more than ten thousand books from about thirty six countries in eleven Indian & sixteen foreign languages.

(iv) Organization of exhibitions of children's books in the country to popularize them.

(c) Presently, the Government has no award scheme for children's literature.

(d) Does not arise.

Indian Citizens in Bangladesh Jails

170. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Indian citizens from West Bengal are often caught in Bangladesh on the charge of trespassing and are set to jails there;

(b) if so, whether the information about their arrest is sent to the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh;

(c) if so, whether the Government are also aware that none of the Indian Government authorities contact these prisoners and they are compelled to continue in Bangladeshi jails even after expiry of their term; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) and (b) Yes. However, information regarding arrest of Indian nationals is not received promptly from local authorities.

(c) and (d) Immediately after receipt of information about arrest of Indian nationals, all necessary action is taken by the Indian High Commission in Dhaka for their speedy repatriation to India after confirmation of their identity.

Amendment in Major Port Trust Act

171. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of S. Venkiteswaran to make amendment in the Major Port Trust Act (MPTA) 1963;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said Committee is likely to submit its report to the Government;

(d) whether major ports do not have the requisite infrastructure for salvage operation currently;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) The infrastructure available for salvage operation at Major Ports is for handling the grounding of smaller vessels, etc. with their own craft, cranes.

(e) and (f) The salvage operations are undertaken at Major Ports in accordance with the provisions of Indian

Ports Act 1908. In this regard, a Committee has prepared the guidelines for wreck removal and the Government is in the process of finalizing the same for uniform adoption by Major Ports.

Mobile Phone Services

172. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of companies which have been permitted to provide mobile phone services in the country;

(b) whether the Government are aware that Bharti cellular Limited (Airtel) has arbitrarily started charging caller identification charges from its customers of Total Freedom Plan; and

(c) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check such fleecing of customers by the companies which provide mobile phone service in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and laid on the Table of the House.

Recognition of Private Hospitals

173. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of private hospitals recognized by the Government under the CGHS for the medical treatment of Central Government Employees in Karnataka;

(b) whether the Government propose to recognize more such hospitals for the benefit of Central Government Employees in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) 36 private hospitals and 15 diagnostic centres have been

recognized under CGHS Bangalore vide Department of Health's O.M. No. S-11011/34/2001-CGHS-Desk-II/CGHS(P) dated 14.2.2003 which has already been circulated to all the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India. These hospitals/diagnostic centres have been recognised for enabling CGHS cardholders (both serving and retired) to avail medical facilities in them after following the prescribed procedure.

(b) There is no proposal to recognize additional private hospitals/diagnostic centres under CGHS Bangalore at present.

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

[Translation]

CBI Raids

174. SHRI MANSINH PATEL :
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any provision to assess the value of assets and to do proper accounting following the seizures made after the CBI raids;

(b) whether the Government are aware of the cases of showing less seizures as compared to the actuals by the CBI officials;

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

(d) the number of such cases detected during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) In a search conducted by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) after registration of

a Regular Case, the approximate value of property seized/ detected is specified in the list, prepared on the spot as per the provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and a copy handed over to the person(s) searched. The property whose precise value is not known at the time of search is subsequently valued by the Government approved valuers and other experts.

(b) to (d) As per the information provided by the CBI, so far no such case has been detected.

[English]

Shifting of Base by International Terrorist

175. SHRI AMBAREESHA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether after the declaration of Dawood Ibrahim as an international terrorist, the Mafia Don, has shifted his base from Karachi to Islamabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have made fresh initiatives to pressurise Pakistan to hand over the Mafia Don to India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) There have been reports in Pakistani media that Dawood Ibrahim is trying to dispose off his properties in Karachi and elsewhere, and has taken up residence in Islamabad.

(c) and (d) From time to time, Government has asked Pakistan that Dawood Ibrahim may be apprehended and handed over to the Indian authorities. On 31 December 2001, India had handed over a list of the fugitives from Indian law to Pakistan, which included his name. On 17 October 2003, Government once again reiterated the request to Pakistan.

- (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Setting Up of Post Offices

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

- (a) the number of Gram Panchayats in Himachal Pradesh without Post Offices; and
- (b) the time by when the Government propose to set up post offices in these panchayats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Su THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) There are 626 Gram Panchayats in Himachal Pradesh without Post Offices.

(b) Post Offices are opened subject to fulfillment of distance, population and income norms and availability of resources and targets under Plan. Hence, no time limit can be specified for setting up post offices in these Panchayats.

[English]

Breakdown of Hospital Services in West Bengal

177. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the complete breakdown of hospital services in West Bengal and prevalence of serious malpractices;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government have sought State Government's stand on them;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the corrective steps being contemplated by the Union Government and the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) Health being a State subject, it is the responsibility of the respective State Government to ensure satisfactory functioning of the hospital services in that State.

Visa Restrictions imposed by Russia

178. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Russia has recently imposed visa restrictions on countries that pose a threat of illegal immigration;
- (b) whether India is one of these countries; and
- (c) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) As per new visa procedures, stemming from a new Law for Foreigners adopted by the Russian Federation, before issuing visas to travellers to the Russian Federation, including Indian travellers, the Embassies and the Consulates General of the Russian Federation seek clearance from the Russian Ministry of Interior. They also require the visa applicants to produce an invitation from recognised Russian institutions. The invitation itself has to be processed through the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Moscow. These procedural requirements, along with some others, result in delays in issuance of visas and cause difficulties for travellers to Russia, including from India. These difficulties have been pointed out to the Russian authorities.

[Translation]

Conversion Proposal from Jharkhand

179. SHRI PRADIP YADAV : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether any proposal for conversion of Deoghar-Godda-Sahibganj Highway into National Highway has been received from Jharkhand State Government;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to approve conversion of the said highway into National Highway at the earliest;

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Do not arise.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Due to fund constraints.

Performance of WLL Services

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

(a) whether the WLL telephone services is not working properly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the WLL services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Sir, the WLL telephone services of BSNL and MTNL are working satisfactorily. However, in rural areas, there are interruptions in WLL service due to acute shortage of AC main supply resulting in non-charging of WLL handset subscriber terminal battery.

(c) BSNL has taken action to enhance the present two hours talk time and 24 hours stand-by-time of WLL

terminals to 8 hours talk time and 100 hours stand-by-time. This will allow the subscribers in rural areas to use the WLL service for 3 to 4 days even if there is no A/C main supply. The field trial of such enhanced battery back up has been done successfully and its commercial deployment is under process.

To improve the WLL service further, MTNL have upgraded the earlier system of IS-95 technology to CDMA 2000 1X technology in Delhi. Similarly, MTNL, Mumbai has taken several initiatives like introduction of toll-free help-lines and separate centers for dealing with handsets problems, new schemes for corporate customers, calling line presentation (CLIP) feature etc.

Apart from the above, the procurement case for 400 lines of CDMS 1X technology each for Delhi and Mumbai is in advance stage of finalisation.

Bridges on Rivers in UP

181. YOGI ADITYA NATH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the rivers in respect of which proposals for construction of bridges touching national highways in Uttar Pradesh are under consideration of the Government; and

(b) the time by which these proposals are likely to be accorded final approval and the time by which work is likely to start thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) The State Government have sent the draft terms of reference for engagement of Consultants for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for reconstruction of bridges across the rivers East Begul and Gomti on NH-24. The question of final approval does not arise at present. In addition, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is considering proposals as per list enclosed as statement. The status of these works is also given in the statement enclosed.

Statement*List of Proposals under consideration with National Highways Authority of India*

Sl. No.	NH No.	Name of river	Location (Km.)	Present status	Likely date of start of work
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	75	Pahunch river	10	Detailed project report being prepared.	March, 2005
2.	26	Ghurari Nala	18	Detailed project report being prepared.	March, 2005
3.	26	Betwa river	39	Detailed project report being prepared.	March, 2005
4.	26	Pisnet river	61	Detailed project report being prepared.	March, 2005
5.	26	Shahjad river	92	Detailed project report being prepared.	March, 2005
6.	26	Bayana Nala	93	Detailed project report being prepared.	March, 2005
7.	28	Kalyani river	69	Detailed project report being prepared.	March, 2005
8.	28	Sarayu river	146	Detailed project report being prepared.	March, 2005
9.	28	Rapti river	Gorakhpur bye pass	Detailed project report being prepared.	March, 2005
10.	28	Rapti river	262	Tenders received.	Proposal is subject to the approval of Cabinet (CCEA).
11.	87	Bhakhra river	31	Detailed project report being prepared.	

Tenders invited by National Highways Authority of India

of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

182. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister

(a) whether the National Highway Authority invites

tenders on a large scale for constructing national highways;

(b) if so, the number of tenders invited during the last three years, State-wise alongwith the names of companies which participated in these tenders;

(c) whether the National Highways Authority has awarded contract on a large scale to the undertakings owned by the Government of India and State Governments for constructing national highways;

(d) if so, the number of works for which contract has been awarded to those Government Undertakings during the last three years:

(e) whether these Government Undertakings sub-contract their works to other private companies after securing contract; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The information is contained in Statement-I enclosed.

(c) to (f) Two civil work contracts have been awarded to Undertakings, owned by Govt. of India and State Governments The details are contained in Statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I

State	Number of tenders invited during last three years (2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03)	Names of companies who participated in the tender
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. M/s. Bridge and Roof Co. Ltd. 2. M/s. Dolomite Berhad – ALS Ltd. (JV) 3. M/s. Gayatri Projects Ltd. 4. M/s. Ho Hup-simplex (JV) 5. M/s. Land T Ltd. 6. M/s. Limak-Soma (JV) 7. M/s. Venkata Rao Engineering Contractor 8. M/s. Maytas Infra Ltd. 9. M/s. Madhucon-Binapuri (JV) 10. M/s. Patel-KNR (JV) 11. PATI-BEL (JV) 12. M/s. Punj Lloyd Ltd.

1	2	3
		13. M/s. Transtroy Corporation
		14. BSCPL/BHEL (JV)
		15. M/s. Gamuda Berhad
		16. M/s. Kaverner Cementation India Ltd.
		17. M/s. Sheprorji-Pullangy and Co. Ltd.
		18. SPCL-IVCLL (JV)
		19. MVR-Transtroy (JV)
		20. M/s. You-One Maharia (JV)
		21. M/s. Unitech-NCC (JV)
		22. M/s. China Coal Construction
		23. M/s. Prasad-SEW (JV)
		24. AEE-USHA (JV)
		25. M/s. BSPCL
		26. M/s. KMC Construction Ltd.
		27. ACM-Mahilsah-Bharatnam (JV)
		28. KMC-Tarmat
		29. IJM-SCL (JV)
		30. M/s. WBHO Construction (Pty.)
		31. M/s. Affcons-APIL (JV)
		32. WCT-LAN Co. Ltd. (JV)
		33. IJM-Maytas (JV)
		34. M/s. DS Constructions
		35. M/s. Oriental Structural Engineering Ltd.
		36. 38. PCL-PLL (JV)
		37. M/s. Afcons Infrastructures
		38. M/s. Ranjit Construction Co.

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39. UP State Bridge Corporation.
40. M/s. Progressive Construction Ltd.
41. M/s. Gammon India Ltd.
42. M/s. H.C.C. Ltd.
43. MVR-ECI (JV)
44. M/s. Navyug Engineering Co. Ltd.
45. PCP-RKD (JV)
46. Gammon India-Punj Lloyd Consortium
47. Adani Exports-Adani Ports Consortium
48. GVK-Lanco Infratech Ltd. Consortium
49. Oriental Structural Engineers – Delhi Brass Consortium
50. Gamuda Berhad-BSPCL Consortium
51. IL&FS-CTNL Consortium
52. Consortium of GMR Power Corporation
53. Consortium of IJM Corpn. Bhd and Maytas Infra Ltd.
54. Consortium of BEL & Gayathri Projects Ltd.
55. Consortium of GVK Inds. & BSCPL
56. Consortium of Madhucon Projects Ltd., Adani Exports & Adani Ports
57. Consortium of KMC Constructions Ltd. & SREI International Ltd.
58. Consortium of Lanco Kondapalli Power Ltd.
59. Consortium of Soma Enterprises & Navayuga Engg. Ltd.
60. M/s. GMR Group-United Engineers Berhad Consortium
61. M/s. Gammon-Atalanta (JV)

1	2	3
		62. M/s. Soma-Navayuga (JV)
		63. M/s. L&T ECC Division
		64. M/s CCAP-JMC (JV)
		65. M/s. Simplex Concrete Piles (I) Ltd.
		66. M/s. Tantia-TBL (JV)
		67. M/s. CWHEC-HCIL (JV)
		68. M/s. Bhagheeratha Engineering Ltd.
		69. M/s. Prakash Construction & Engineering Co.
		70. Lanco Constructions Ltd.
		71. Desert Line Project – Bhooratnam & Co. JV.
Assam	1	1. ECI Engineering & Construction
		2. Tantia-TBL (JV)
		3. Soma Enterprises Ltd.
		4. Valecha Engineering Ltd.
		5. BLA-CISC-C&C JV
Bihar	5	1. BSCPL – SCL (JV)
		2. Gammon India Ltd.
		3. Lanco-Rani (JV)
		4. Progressive Constructions Ltd.
		5. M/s. Centrodorstory, Russia
		6. M/s. L&T – HCC (JV) India
		7. M/s. LG Engineering, Korea
		8. M/s. Ssangyong, Korea-OSE, India (JV)
		9. M/s. OSE-Gammon, India (JV)
		10. M/s. PCL, India-Suncon, Malaysia (JV)
		11. M/s. PATI, Malaysia-BEL, India (JV)

1	2	3
Delhi	<p style="text-align: center;">2 (One contract common between Delhi and Haryana)</p>	<p>12. M/s. Som Dutt-NCC, India (JV)</p> <p>13. M/s. China State Construction Engg. China</p> <p>14. M/s. Italian Thai Development Company, Thailand</p> <p>1. Soma Enterprises Ltd.</p> <p>2. Tantia-MBE (JV)</p> <p>3. Patel-KNR (JV)</p> <p>4. Prasad & SEW (JV)</p> <p>5. Nagarjuna Construction Co. Ltd.</p> <p>6. BRA-TRG-Bharat JV</p> <p>7. You-One – Maharia JV</p> <p>8. National Buildings Construction Corporation Ltd.</p> <p>9. M/s. IJM Corporation Berhad, Malaysia</p> <p>10. M/s. Larsen & Toubro & Oriental Structural Engineers Ltd.</p> <p>11. M/s. Gamuda Berhad, Malaysia</p> <p>12. M/s. Road Builders (M) Sdn. Bhd. (RBM)-RBH, Malaysia</p> <p>13. M/s. Jaiprakash Industries Ltd. & D.S. Construction Ltd. (JV)</p>
Gujarat	5	<p>1. Larsen & Tourbo Ltd.</p> <p>2. SEL-RCPL</p> <p>3. Afcons Infrastructure Ltd.</p> <p>4. Transtroy-BLK (JV)</p> <p>5. EB-JSR (JV)</p> <p>6. IREKA-JMC (JV)</p> <p>7. Mudajaya-IRB (JV)</p> <p>8. Pati Sdn Bhd</p>

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9. UEM-ESSAR (JV)
10. Oriental Structural Engg. Ltd.,
11. Shapoorji Structrual Engg. Ltd.
12. Suncon-Soma (JV)
13. Backbone-Tarmat Projects Ltd.
14. Gayatri Ranjit (JV)
15. PATEL-KNR Const. Ltd., (JV)
16. Unitech-Ltd.-KIPL (JV)
17. WBHO Constn. Pvt. Ltd.
18. Kvaerner Cementation India
19. BEL-ABL-TBL (JV)
20. ELSAMEX-TWS-SNC (JV)
21. Simplex Concrete Piles(I) Ltd.
22. Ray KCL Consortium
23. PATEL KCL Consortium
24. Gammon Atlanta (JV)
25. Somdatt Builders Ltd. New Delhi
26. Valecha-MTD (JV), Bombay
27. Progressive-Mostootryad-19 (JV), New Delhi
28. Protech India Ltd., New Delhi
29. Oriental Structural Engineer & Relaiance Industries Ltd. (JV) N.D.
30. PATI-HCC-JV, Mumbai
31. Patel Engineering Co. Ltd., Bombay
32. STFA-GAMMON JV, Bombay
33. Progressive Const. Ltd. New Delhi

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34. Bridge & Roof Co. (India) Ltd., New Delhi
35. Ashoka Buildcon Ltd., Nasik
36. Continental Constructions Ltd., New Delhi
37. Name not mentioned Bricc McNally JV
38. IJM Corpn. Berhad Malaysia
39. Daelim Indl. Co. Ltd., Seoul, Korea
40. Ircon, New Delhi
41. Bayindir Insaat AS, Ankara
42. ASCON, Dubai
43. B. Engineers & Builders Ltd. Bhubaneswar
44. Group Five Ltd, Rivoni, Boulevard
45. JMC Projects (India) Ltd. Ahmedabad
46. UPSBC, Lucknow
47. United Gulf Const. Co. WLL, Kukwait
48. IRDO, Ima
49. Mudhucon Binapuri JV, New Delhi
50. Binapur Holdings BHD, New Delhi
51. LGE & C-NCC JV, New Delhi
52. Tyazhpromexport-Centrodor stroy-Mukund Ltd. Consortium (JV)
53. PT. Sumber Mitrajaya-IVRCL, Chennai
54. Jog Engineer Ltd., Pune
55. UP Rajkiya Nirman Nigam Ltd. Lucknow
56. L&T-ECC Const. Group, Chennai
57. L&T Colas, JV Chennai
58. SKEC Dodsai JV, Mumbai

1	2	3
		59. Road Builders (M) SDN BHD, Kulalumpur
		60. Bharat Construction Co. JV with JMC Projects (I) and B.D. Patel & Co.
		61. Unity Infraprojects Ltd.
		62. Dhorajia Construction Co. Uan Raju Construction Ltd. (JV)
		63. Jagdish Prasad Agrawal Surya Construction Co. (JV)
Haryana	2 <i>(One tender common between Delhi and Haryana)</i>	1. Valecha Engineering Ltd.
		2. Bhageeratha Engineering Ltd.
		3. Ketan-RCC (JV)
		4. Prakash Building Associates Ltd.
		5. Prasad & SEW JV
		6. Patel-KNR JV
		7. Madhucon Projects Ltd.
		8. Tantia Construction Co. Ltd.
		9. NBCC Ltd.
		10. Birla GTM Entrepose Ltd. JV with IVRCL Infrastructure & Projects Ltd.
		11. Backbone Projects Ltd.
		12. BRA-TRG-Bharat JV
		13. Nagarjuna Construction Company Ltd.
		14. Maharai-Raj JV
		15. Bridge & Roof Co. Ltd.
		16. Villaiti Ram Mittal
		17. M/s. IJM Corporation Berhad, Malaysia
		18. M/s. Larsen & Toubro & Oriental Structural Engineers Ltd.

1	2	3
Jharkhand	2	<p>19. M/s. Gamuda Berhad, Malaysia</p> <p>20. M/s. Road Builders (M) Sdn. Bhd. (RBM)-RBH, Malaysia</p> <p>21. M/s. Jaiprakash Industries Ltd. & D.S. Construction Ltd. (JV)</p> <p>1. M/s. L&T – HCC (JV) India</p> <p>2. M/s. PATI, Malaysia-BEL, India (JV)</p> <p>3. M/s. SDB-NCC-NEC, India (JV)</p> <p>4. M/s. Centrodorstroy, Russia</p> <p>5. M/s. PATI-RBM, Malaysia (JV)</p> <p>6. M/s. OSE-GAMMON, India (JV)</p> <p>7. M/s. LG Engineering, Korea</p> <p>8. M/s. PCL, India, Suncon, Malaysia (JV)</p> <p>9. M/s. PATI Sdn-Bhd, Malaysia</p> <p>10. M/s. Kayson Construction Company, Iran</p> <p>11. M/s. China Geo Engineering, China</p> <p>12. M/s. China Sichuan, China</p>
Karnataka	12	<p>1. M/s. GMR Power Corporation Pvt. Ltd.,</p> <p>2. M/s. Larsen & Toubro Ltd.,</p> <p>3. M/s. IL&FS Ltd. & PIL JV,</p> <p>4. M/s. Garmuda Berhad,</p> <p>5. M/s. Adani Consortium</p> <p>6. Soma Enterprises Ltd.,</p> <p>7. WBHO Construction (P) Ltd.,</p> <p>8. Bhageeratha Engineering Ltd.,</p> <p>9. Ranjit Construction Ltd.,</p> <p>10. Ashoka Buildcon Ltd.-AD Agarwal & Co. JV</p>

1	2	3
		11. Bhumi Highway-Mahalaxmi JV,
		12. Atlanta-Iratibha JV,
		13. R.N. Shetty & Co. JV with M/s. Sunway Construction Bhd.,
		14. Bridge & Road Co. (India Ltd.)
		15. M. Venkat Rao-Engineering Construction,
		16. Punj Lloyd Ltd.,
		17. BSC-C&C JV
		18. M/s. SADBHAV-PRAKASH (JV)
		19. M/s. Gamuda Berhad,
		20. Dolomite Berhad (JV) ALS Limited,
		21. M/s. Ketan Construction-RAY Consortium (JV),
		22. M/s. Backbone Project Limited,
		23. M/s. Oriental Structural Engg. Limited,
		24. M/s. KMC Construction Limited,
		25. M/s. McNally Bharat,-JOG (JV),
		26. M/s. UP Bridge Corporation,
		27. M/s. Transstroy Corporation,
		28. M/s. IRCON International Limited,
		29. M/s. Sunway Construction & RN Shetty (JV),
		30. M/s. Shaktikumar M. Sanchetti Ltd. (JV), Bholasingh Jaiprakash Cons.
		31. M/s. PATI-BEL (JV),
		32. M/s. Hohup-Simplex (JV),
		33. M/s. BSCPL-SCL (JV),
		34. M/s. BG Shirke & Afcons infrastructure,
		35. M/s. Madhucon Binapuri (JV)

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36. PLL-PCL (JV),
37. M/s. MVR-NCC (JV),
38. M/s. SPCL-IVRCL (JV),
39. M/s. BSCPL-SCL (JV),
40. M/s. Road Builder (M) Sdn. Bhd.,
41. M/s. Elsamex-TWS-SNC JV,
42. M/s. Limak-Soma JV,
43. M/s. Patei-KNR-ALSCCL JV,
44. M/s. Afcons-Apil JV.
45. M/s. Kværner Cementation Ltd.
46. M/s. WTC-LANCO-RANI JV.
47. M/s. Daewo Engineering & Construction Ltd.,
48. M/s. MAYTAS Infra Ltd.,
49. M/s. ECSB-JSRC JV,
50. M/s. Italian-Thai Development Public Co. Ltd.
51. M/s. Hindustan Construction Co. Ltd.,
52. M/s. Sunway Construction Bhd, M/s. RN Shetty & Co. and M/s. Naveen Mechanised Construction Co. Ltd., (JV)
53. M/s. CWHEC,
54. M/s. KMC-TDCL, JV,
55. M/s. Shapoorji Pallonji & Co, Ltd.,
56. M/s. United Engineers (Malaysia) Bhd. & M/s. Essar Projects Ltd.,
57. M/s. Scangyong Eng. & Construction Co. Ltd.,
58. M/s. Patel-KNR JV,
59. M/s. HCM-Muhibbah-Bhoorathnam,

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		60. M/s. B Seenaiiah & Co.,
		61. M/s. LG Engineering & Construction Corp.,
		62. M/s. Ssanyong-BSCPL JV,
		63. M/s. IJM-SCL JV,
		64. M/s. SK Engineering & Construction Col Ltd.
		65. M/s. Backbone-JK, JV,
		66. M/s. J&P-L&T JV,
		67. M/s. Somdutt Builders-NCC JV,
		68. M/s. Madhucon-Bina Puri JV,
		69. M/s. YUKSEL-SDSX-MAKIMSAN-ENER JV,
		70. M/s. HO HUP-Simples JV,
		71. M/s. Afcons Infrastructure Ltd., & M/s. Shapporji Pallonji & Co. Ltd., JV,
		72. M/s. Sadhbav Engineering Ltd.
		73. M/s. L&T-ECC Division,
		74. M/s. Ajwani & Ameja JV,
		75. M/s. Consolidated Engineer Enterprises.
		76. M/s. United Engineers (Malaysia) Bhd. & M/s. Essar Projects Ltd., (JV)
		77. M/s. Tarmat-NAPC-SPL JV,
		78. M/s. Birla GTM Entrepouse Ltd., JV,
		79. M/s. YUKSEL-SDSX-MAKIMSAN-ENER JV,
		80. M/s. DS Construction Ltd.,
		81. M/s. China Road & Bridge Corporation.
		82. M/s. Bharat Construction, M/s. JMC Projects (India) Ltd. JV,
		83. M/s. R.N. Shetty & Co. Sunway JV,

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		<p>84. M/s. Maheshwari Brothers Ltd.,</p> <p>85. Tarmat PBI JV,</p> <p>86. M/s. Bhardwaj Construction Co.,</p> <p>87. M/s. Supreme Asphalts Pvt. Ltd.,</p> <p>88. M/s. Shaktikumar M. Sanchetti Ltd.,</p> <p>89. M/s. Rani SNC JV,</p> <p>90. M/s. AL Sudershan Construction Co. Ltd.,</p> <p>91. M/s. Unity Nayak JV,</p> <p>92. M/s. BSC-C&C JV,</p> <p>93. M/s. Simplex Concrete Piles Ltd.,</p> <p>94. Jayaswals Consortium,</p> <p>95. Essar Projects Ltd.</p> <p>96. Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.- Wade Adams Ltd.,</p> <p>97. Nandi Engineering Ltd.-Unitech Ltd.</p> <p>98. Prakash – Atlanta (JV)</p> <p>99. SMJ-NCC (JV)</p> <p>100. BEL-ABL (JV)</p> <p>101. Valecha-MTD (JV)</p>
Kerala	2	<p>1. M/s. Mecon Ltd.-Gea Energy System(I) Ltd., (JV)</p> <p>2. M/s. GIL-BEB-RAY (JV)</p> <p>3. M/s. L&T-ECC Division</p> <p>4. M/s. Afcon Infrastructure Ltd.</p> <p>5. M/s. Oriental-Vijay Mistry & Raj Kamal (JV)</p> <p>6. M/s. PBA-PC&EC-Petron (JV)</p> <p>7. M/s Tarmat-Geo Tech (JV)</p> <p>8. M/s. Gayatri-UPSBCL (JV)</p>

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		9. M/s. BEL-TBL (JV) 10. M/s. Simplex Concrete Piles(I) Ltd. 11. M/s. Transstroy Corporation 12. M/s. Valecha Engineering Limited 13. M/s. BLA-CISC JV 14. Tantia-TBL (JV) 15. Bhageeratha Engineering Ltd.
Madhya Pradesh	2	1. M/s. SEC-VTMS JV 2. M/s. Bharat Constructions (JV) with JMC Projects (India Ltd. & B.D. Patel & Co.) 3. M/s. BVSrk Constructions (JV) 4. M/s. Techni-Bharati Ltd. 5. M/s. Unity Infra Projects Ltd. 6. M/s. Ketu Constructions (I) Ltd. 7. M/s. Ajwani & Ameya (JV) 8. M/s. Prasad & SEW (JV) 9. M/s. Backbone-Projects Ltd. 10. M/s. Prakash-Mahavir (JV) 11. M/s. Maheshwari Brothers Ltd. 12. M/s. The Braithwaite Burn & Jessop Construction Co. Ltd. 13. M/s. You-One Maharia JV 14. Prasad & SEW JV 15. Kamala Construction Co. 16. Unitech Limited 17. Jayaswals Neco Ltd. & Maheshwari Brothers Ltd.

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Maharashtra	6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Afcons Infrastructure Co. 2. Progressive Construction Ltd. 3. Bridge and Roof Co. (India) Ltd. 4. Larsen and Toubro Ltd. –ECC Division 5. Sadbhav Engineering Ltd. 6. Road Building (M) SDM Bhd. 7. NCC-DSC (JV) 8. B. Seenaiiah & Co. (Projects) Ltd. 9. Somdatt Builders Ltd. 10. S.C. Thakur & Sataav Construction Pvt. Ltd. (JV) 11. Simplex Consultants Valecha Engineering (JV) 12. Oriental Structural Engineer Ltd. 13. IRCON Structural Engineers Ltd. 14. Prasad & Sew (JV) 15. EB-JSRC 16. Mytas Infra Ltd. 17. Mahalaxmi-Bumihway (JV) 18. Gaytri Projects Ltd. 19. Birla GTM Entrepose Ltd. and BG Shirke Construction Technology Ltd. (JV) 20. Bbhagirati Engineering Ltd. Techni Bharti Ltd. Joint Venture. 21. Ashoka Buildcom JV with PD Agarwal and Co. 22. Ketan Construction Ltd. 23. LG Engineering and Construction Crop. 24. Backbone-JK Transport and Construction Co. (JV) 25. Gammon India Ltd.

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		26. Atlanta Infrastructure Ltd. – JMC Project Indian Ltd. (JV)
		27. Lanco Construction Ltd. – Rani Construction Ltd. JV.
		28. Vijay Mistry Construction and Rajkamal Builders P. Ltd.
		29. KNR – Patel (JV)
		30. B- Seenaiah & Company (Projects)–Srinivas Construction Ltd.
		31. Jog Engineering Ltd. and National Building Construction Corp. (JV).
		32. M. Venkata Rao-JM Mitra
		33. Madhucon Binapuri JV
		34. S.K. Engineering and Dodsai
		35. Prakash Bldg. Associates Ltd. JV with Ameya Developers Pvt. Ltd. Lead Partner Prakash Bldg. Associates Ltd.
		36. Dolomite Berhad-AL Sundersha Ltd. (JV)
		37. Pati Sdn Bhd.
		38. Suncon-Some (JV)
		39. Shapoorji Pallonji & Col. Ltd.
		40. Ray - KCL
		41. Chawal Interland Construction Co. - Mohite RM Mohite & Co. JV Co.
		42. UEM–ESSAR JV
		43. Grinaker International Ltd.
		44. Elsamex – TWC – SNC JV
		45. Punj Lloyd Ltd.
		46. Ketan Construction Ltd. Kamavati Infrasrtructure Pvt. Ltd. (JV).
		47. Gayatri-Ashoka (JV), Hyderabad

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48. Valeecha Engineering Ltd., - Ashoka Buildcon I.td., (JV), Nasik
49. Afcons-APIL (JV), Mumbai
50. UNITECH - KIPL (JV)
51. Atlanta - JMC JV
52. Prakash - Ameya JV, Mumbai
53. Satav Constructions Pvt. Ltd. & Dena Rahsaz JV
54. Prakash - Puri JV
55. SPML - TANTIA JV, Calcutta
56. Avtomagistrali - Tcheno More JSC (JV), Bulgaria
57. Ray Constructions-Engineers & Contractors, Mumbai
58. M. Venkata Rao-Engineering Contractor, Navi Mumbai
59. HCM-Muhhibbah-Bhoorathnan (JV), Secunderabad
60. PCL-STICCO (JV), New Delhi
61. Kayson Construction Co., Secunderabad
62. WBHO Construction (P) Ltd.
63. Transstroy Coporation RUSSIA
64. You One - Maharia JV, Delhi
65. DSC-NCC JV, Hyderabad
66. HOHUP-Simplex (JV), Calcutta
67. HANIL - CECONS (JV), New Delhi
68. MVR-Transstroy (JV), Navi Mumbai
69. MVR-ECI (JV), Navi Mumbai
70. Transstroy-PC (JV), Hyderabad
71. BSCPL-SCL (JV), Hyderabad
72. Mudajaya - IRB (JV)

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		73. Elsamex – Thanomwongse Services, Bangalore
		74. BSC – BHE JV, Hyderabad
		75. Ssangyong Engineering & Construction Co. Ltd., Korea
		76. B. Seenaiiah & Co. (Projects) Ltd., Hyderabad
		77. Bin Hafeez General Contracting & Transport Establishment, U.A.E.
		78. Avtomagistrali – Teheno More JSC (JV), BULGARIA
		79. Mudajaya – IRB (JV)
		80. B.G. Shirke Const. Technology Ltd. & Birla GTM entrepose JV, New Delhi
		81. HCM-Muhhibbah-Bhoorathnan (JV), Secunderabad
		82. DSC – NCC JV, Hyderabad
		83. BG Shirke & Hindustan Construction Co., (JV), Pune
		84. CH Karnehang Public Company Ltd., Thailand
		85. Konkan Railway & Shakti Kumar M Sancheti Ltd., (JV), Mumbai
		86. Shaktikumar M Sancheti Ltd., Nagpur
		87. RN Shetty & Co. & Sunway Construction (JV), Hubli
		88. Ashoka Buildcon Ltd., & Continental Construction Ltd., New Delhi.
		89. Soma-BT Patil (JV)
		90. Ideal Road Builders Pvt., Ltd.
		91. BEB-Vanraju-Thakur (JV)
		92. M/s. Nagarjuna Construction Company
		93. M/s. Valecha Engg. Ltd.
		94. M/s. IVRCL Infrastructure Projects Ltd.
		95. M/s. VEE-SCPL (JV)

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Orissa	9	<p>96. M/s. BEB-Ray-National (JV)</p> <p>97. M/s. Thakur-Mhatre-Unity (JV)</p> <p>1. M/s. Kavamer Cementation India Ltd.</p> <p>2. M/s. PATI-BEL (JV)</p> <p>3. M/s. Gayatri-Ashoka (JV)</p> <p>4. M/s. Desert Line Project + B Engineers Builders (JV)</p> <p>5. M/s. Madhucon Binapuri (JV)</p> <p>6. M/s. Bumi Highway-DDB Ltd. (JV)</p> <p>7. M/s. BSCOP-SCL (JV)</p> <p>8. M/s. DSC-NCC (JV)</p> <p>9. M/s. Gayatri-Patel-KNR (JV)</p> <p>10. M/s. PCL-STICCO (JV)</p> <p>11. M/s. WBHO Construction Ltd.</p> <p>12. M/s. SMJ-RK-SD (JV)</p> <p>13. M/s. Dolomite Berhad – ALS Ltd. (JV)</p> <p>14. M/s. Gammon – Atlanta (JV)</p> <p>15. M/s. Maytas – NCC (JV)</p> <p>16. M/s. Bridge & Roof Co. Ltd.</p> <p>17. M/s. Som Dutt Builders Ltd.</p> <p>18. M/s. Choeng IL Engg. & Const.</p> <p>19. M/s. Elsamex-TWS-SNC (JV)</p> <p>20. M/s. IJM-SCL (JV)</p> <p>21. M/s. Centrodorstroy</p> <p>22. M/s. Gamuda-WCT (JV)</p> <p>23. M/s. Econ-CEH-Backbone (JV)</p> <p>24. M/s. LGE-NCC (JV)</p>

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		25. M/s. Afcons Infrastructure Ltd.-Afcons Pauling (JV) 26. M/s. KMC Construction Ltd. 27. M/s. Afcon-Apil (JV) 28. M/s. D.S. Construction Ltd. 29. M/s. AFCONS Infrastructure Ltd. 30. M/s. U.P. State Bridge Corporation Ltd. 31. M/s. Gammon Indian Ltd. 32. M/s. IRCON International Ltd. 33. M/s. Hindustan Construction Co. Ltd. 34. M/s. Unitech-NCC (JV) 35. M/s. Skanska Cementation India Ltd. 36. M/s. CWHEC-HCIL (JV) 37. M/s. Soma-Navayuga (JV) 38. M/s. Gammon-Sadbhav (JV) 39. M/s. Gayatri-Simplex (JV) 40. M/s. L&T ECC Division 41. M/s. KMC-Prasad (JV) 42. M/s. BSCPL-SCL-MVR (JV) 43. M/s. Kolin – NBCC (JV) 44. M/s. Corporation Transstroy 45. M/s. HCM-Muhibbah (JV)
Punjab	2	1. Shaktikumar M. Sancheti Ltd. & Gannon–Dunkerey & Co. Ltd. 2. Sadhbhav – JMC J.V. 3. Gammon India Ltd. 4. Tantia-BSBK JV 5. Ideal Road Builders Pvt. Limited

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		6. PBA Infrastructure Ltd.
		7. PNC Construction Ltd.
		8. Birla-GTM-Enterpose Limited and Ashoka Buildcon-JV
		9. Simplex-CCAP JV
		10. DRA-BLA (Joint venture)
		11. PUNJLOYD Limited.
		12. M/s. Nagarjuna Construction Company Limited.
		13. Valecha-Venkata Rao (Joint venture)
		14. Ketan Construction JV with Back bone enterprises Ltd.
		15. Gayatri-MBL-BCL-JV
		16. UP State Bridge Corporation Ltd.
		17. IRCON internation Ltd.
		18. Bridge and Roof Co. (India) Ltd.
		19. Madhucon Projects (India) Ltd.
		20. M/s. Oriental Structural Engineering Pvt. Ltd.
		21. Unitech LTD-BRC-JV
		22. Som Datt Builders Ltd.
		23. M/s. Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.
		24. China National Water Resources & Hydropower Engineering Corporation-Harish Chandra (India) Ltd. (Joint Venture)
		25. SOMA Enterprises Ltd.
		26. M/s. Satyaprakash & Bros. Pvt. Ltd.
		27. HANIL-CE CONS (JV)
		28. D.S. Constructions Ltd.
		29. Bumihway(M) SDN. BHD

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		30. Road Builders(M) Sdn. BHD 31. Valecha Engineering Ltd. 32. BSC-C&C Joint Venture 33. Backbone Projects Ltd. 34. Unitech Limited. 35. Daljit Singh & Bros and Jaswant Singh & Co. 36. Villaiti Ram Mittal
Rajasthan	10	1. KMC Construction Ltd. 2. Kvaener Cementation (I) Ltd. 3. Punj Lloyd-Adhikarya (JV) 4. Sadhbhav Prakash 5. WBHO Construction Pvt. Ltd. 6. Larsen & Tourbo Ltd.-ECC Division 7. Patel-KNR (JV) 8. Madhucon-Binapuri (JV) 9. RAY-KCL Consortium 10. Unitech-KIPL (JV) 11. Oriental Structural Engineers Ltd. 12. Mudajaya-IRB (JV) 13. Gammon-Prakash (JV) 14. Gayatri-Ranjit (JV) 15. M/s. L&T and J&P Consortium 16. M/s. GVK Intl. NV and B. Seenaiha and Co. Projects Ltd. Consortium. 17. M/s. Shaktikumar M. Sancheti Ltd. 18. M/s. Gammon India Ltd.-Atlanta (JV) 19. M/s. CWHEC-HCIL (JV)

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		20. M/s. DSC-ABL (JV)
		21. M/s. Corporation Transstroy
		22. M/s. Pati-BEL (JV)
		23. M/s. U.P. State Bridge Corporation Ltd.
		24. M/s. MVR-PCC (JV)
		25. M/s. B&R-MBL (JV)
		26. M/s. Shapoorji Pallonji & Co. Ltd.
		27. M/s. B.G. Shirke Construction Tech. Pvt. Ltd.–Birla GTM (JV)
		28. M/s. Punj Lloyd Ltd.–PCL (JV).
		29. M/s. Ashoka – Prakash (JV)
		30. M/s. Gayatri Projects Ltd.
		31. M/s. Sadbhav Engineering Ltd.
		32. Elsamex-Thanomwongse Services-Shankamarayan Co.
		33. M/s. Afcon Infrastructure Ltd.
		34. M/s. Afcons-APIL (JV)
		35. M/s. Ssangyong Engineering & Construction Co. Ltd.
		36. M/s. Unitech-NCC (JV)
		37. M/s. DSC-NCC (JV)
		38. M/s. Backbone-Tarmat-JK (JV)
		39. M/s. PCL-STICCO (JV)
		40. HOHUP-Simplex JV
		41. Hanil const. No. Ltd.
		42. MVR-Transtroy
		43. M. Venkata Rao–Engineering Contractor
		44. MVR-ECI (JV)

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45. You One-Maharia (JV)
46. Somdatt Builders Ltd.
47. Punj Lloyd Ltd.
48. Transstroy Corporation
49. Transstroy-PC (JV)
50. Agrawal-Basix (JV)
51. Unitech-KIPL (JV)
52. LG Engg. & Const. Corp.
53. BSC-BHE (JV)
54. B. Seenaiah & Co. (Project) Ltd.
55. M/s. BSCPL-SCL (JV)
56. Oriental Structural Engrs. Ltd.
57. Grinaker International Ltd.
58. Atlanta-JMC (JV)
59. Road Builder (M) Sdn Bhd.
60. Bin Hafaz General Contracting & Transport Establishment
61. SKEC-DODSAL (JV)
62. Kayson Const. Co.
63. M/s. ECSB-JSRC (JV)
64. M/s. Elsamex – TWS – SNC (JV)
65. M/s. Hindustan Construction Co., Ltd.
66. M/s. Gamuda Berhad
67. BSC-BHE (JV)
68. Grinaker International Ltd.
69. M/s. IRCON International Ltd.

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Tamil Nadu	12	<p>70. IJM – SCL (JV)</p> <p>71. M/s. Punj Lloyd – Progressive (JV)</p> <p>1. M/s. Afcons Infrastructure Ltd., Mumbai</p> <p>2. M/s. Dolomite Berhad-ALS (JV), Secunderabad</p> <p>3. M/s. Gammon India Ltd., Mumbai</p> <p>4. M/s. GAMUDA, Malasia</p> <p>5. M/s. Ho-Hup Simplex (JV), New Delhi</p> <p>6. M/s. IJM-SCL (JV), Hyderabad</p> <p>7. M/s. KMC Const. Ltd., Hyderabad</p> <p>8. M/s. L&T Ltd., New Delhi</p> <p>9. M/s. MTD-Valecha Engg. Ltd. (JV), Mumbai</p> <p>10. M/s. OSE, New Delhi</p> <p>11. M/s. PATI SDN BHD, Malaysia</p> <p>12. M/s. Progressive Const. Ltd. New Delhi</p> <p>13. M/s. Setegap-Soma (JV), Hyderabad</p> <p>14. M/s. SMSL-BJCL (JV), Nagpur</p> <p>15. M/s. TARMAT-NAPC-SPL (JV), Chennai</p> <p>16. M/s. UPSBC Ltd., Lucknow</p> <p>17. M/s. UGCC-Patel (JV), Mumbai</p> <p>18. M/s. WCT-LANCO (JV), Hyderabad</p> <p>19. PRASAD-SEW (JV)</p> <p>20. Gammon-Atlanta JV, Mumbai</p> <p>21. IREKA-JMC (JV)</p> <p>22. Punj Lloyd-Rani (JV), New Delhi</p> <p>23. Limak-Soma (JV)</p>

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25. M/s. WBHO, South Africa
26. M/s. Madhucon Biapuri (JV), New Delhi
27. M/s. Kayson Const. Co., Iran
28. M/s. Transtroy Corp., Mosco
29. M/s. BSCPL-SCL (JV),
30. M/s. MVR-ECI (JV), Mumbai
31. M/s. PATI-BEL (JV), Malaysia
32. M/s. Kvaerner Cementation India, Mumbai
33. Consortium of Gamuda – Afcons Ltd.
34. Consortium of Oriental Structural Engg. Ltd. & Delhi Brass Works Ltd.
35. Consortium of IJM-SCL (JV)
36. Consortium of GMR Power Corp.
37. M/s. BSPCL
38. ACM-Mahilsah-Bharatnam (JV)
39. PCL-PLL (JV)
40. M/s. L&T ECC Division
41. M/s. Navayuga Engineering Co. Ltd.
42. M/s. RDS Projects Ltd.
43. M/s. Sree Bhavani Builders
44. M/s. Kaikara-Geotech (JV)
45. M/s. Aban Construction Pvt. Ltd.
46. M/s. Engineering Project (India) Ltd.
47. M/s. Vijai Engineering Enterprises
48. M/s. SKANSKA Cementation India Ltd.
49. M/s. Bridge & Roof Co. (India) Ltd.

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		50. M/s. SOMA-KGL (JV)
		51. M/s. AS-KA and ASCON (JV)
		52. M/s. Bharat-CCAP-JMC (JV)
		53. M/s. LOH & LOH-SPL (JV)
		54. M/s. Satyam-Shankamarayana (JV)
		55. M/s. M. Venkata Rao
		56. M/s. AZSB-Maheswari Brothers (JV)
		57. M/s. PBA-PC&EC-Petron (JV)
		58. M/s. SIMPLEX-GAYATRI (JV)
		59. M/s. P.T. Sumber Mitra Jaya
		60. M/s. MECON-Gea Energy System (I) Ltd. (JV)
		61. M/s. UE Construction SDN BHD.
		62. M/s. Greenhands Construction SDN BHD
		63. Bhageeratha Engineering Ltd.
		64. Tarmat-NAPC-SPL JV
		65. Backbone – JK (JV)
		66. Rani-Marthanda Rao (JV)
		67. BLA-CISC JV
Uttar Pradesh	15	1. P.T. Sumber Mitra Jaya – Essar Projects Ltd. JV
		2. SEC-VTMS JV
		3. Backbone Projects Ltd.
		4. Patel-KNR JV
		5. PNC Construction Co. Pvt. Ltd.
		6. Unitech Limited
		7. Villayati Ram Mittal
		8. Kamal Construction Co.

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9. Bridge & Roof Co. (I) Ltd.
10. Bhageeratha Engineering Ltd.
11. Mackintosh Burn Ltd. - Raitani Construction Co. (JV)
12. Rana Projects International Ltd.
13. BRA-TRG-Bharat
14. Jayeswal Neco Ltd. – Maheshwari Brothers Ltd. JV
15. BEL-TBL (JV)
16. Prakash-Atlanta (JV)
17. CPB-JSR (JV)
18. Soma Enterprises Ltd.
19. UP State Bridge Corporation, Lucknow
20. M/s. TRG, New Delhi.
21. M/s. Radhey Shyam Bhakhar, Gwalior
22. M/s. Centrodorstroy, Russia
23. M/s. LG Engineering, Korea
24. M/s. L&T-HCC (JV) India
25. M/s. Ssangyong, Korea-OSE, India (JV)
26. Italian Thai, Thailand-Som Dutt Builders, India (JV)
27. M/s. DAEWOO, Korea
28. Group V, South Africa
29. M/s. IRCON, India
30. M/s. STF, Turkey-Gammon India (JV)
31. M/s. PLANUM, Yugoslavia
32. M/s. S.K. Engineering, Korea
33. M/s. OSE-GAMMON, India (JV)

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		34. M/s. SDB-NCC-NEC, India (JV) 35. M/s. PCL, India-Suncon, Malaysia (JV) 36. M/s. PATI, Malaysia-BEL, India (JV) 37. M/s. Som Dutt-NCC, India (JV) 38. M/s. China Coal Construction Group Corpn. China 39. M/s. China State Construction Engg., China 40. M/s. Italian Thai Development Company, Thailand 41. M/s. Karanchang, Thailand
West Bengal	8	1. M/s. Prasad & SEW (JV) 2. M/s. PCP-RKO (JV) 3. M/s. RBM-RBH, Malaysia 4. M/s. Gamuda-WCT, Malaysia 5. M/s. IRCON International Ltd. 6. M/s. Punj Lloyd Ltd. 7. M/s. Consortium of Jaiprakash Inds. Ltd.-DS Construction 8. Consortium of RBM & RBH Berhad 9. Consortium of GMR Power Corpn. Ltd., GMR Infrastructure Ltd. & GMR Technologies & Inds. Ltd. 10. Consortium of Gamuda Berhad & WCT Engg. Berhad 11. Consortium of Hindustan Construction Co. Ltd. & Aban Lloyd Chiles Offshore Ltd. 12. M/s. BSCPL-BHE (JV) 13. M/s. Gamuda-WCT (JV) 14. M/s. PCL-STICCO (JV) 15. M/s. Wade Adams Middle East Ltd.

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		16. M/s. RBM-PATI (JV)
		17. M/s. LG Engineering & Construction Corp.
		18. M/s. Gammon-DSC-Atlanta (JV)
		19. M/s. Centrodorstroy
		20. M/s. Spoorji Pallanji & Co.
		21. M/s. Hindustan Construction Co.
		22. M/s. Bhaghiiratha Engineering Ltd.
		23. M/s. Gammon India Ltd.
		24. M/s. UP State Bridge Corporation
		25. M/s. RBM Malaysia
		26. M/s. PCL-SUNCON (JV)
		27. M/s. Larsen & Toubro Ltd.
		28. M/s. Gamuda Berhad
		29. M/s. IJM-MAYTAS (JV)
		30. M/s. B. Seenayah & Co. (Projects) Ltd.
		31. M/s. Consortium of GVK Inds. Ltd. & BSCPL
		32. M/s. Consortium of ILFS & CTNL
		33. M/s. Oriental Structural Engineers Ltd.
		34. M/s. Skanska Cementation India Ltd.
		35. M/s. Shapoorji Pallonji & Co. Ltd.
		36. M/s. KMC Construction Limited
		37. M/s. PLL-PCL (JV)
		38. M/s. GPL-GDC-MBL (JV)
		39. M/s. CWHEC-HCIL (JV)
		40. M/s. Road Builders (M) Sdn Bhd
		41. M/s. SIAC-Cleveland (JV)

Statement-II

Contracts awarded to undertakings owned by Government of India/States Government during last three years for constructing National Highways and completion of their construction	Whether work has been subcontracted to private parties by these Undertakings	Reasons for subcontract
Four Laning of Satara-Kolhapur to Maharashtra State Border Section of NH-4 (Km 592.24 to Km 725.000) in Maharashtra on BOT Basis	BOT Concessionaire M/s. MSRDC appointed 5 Engineering Project and Construction (EPC) contractors, which may not be considered as sub-contracting.	
Contractor : M/s. Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (M/s. MSRDC) (A Government of Maharashtra Undertaking)		
Four laning of Khaga-Kokhraj section of NH-2 (km 115 to km 158)	Yes	As per Contract Agreement, Contractor can sub-contract the work up to specified amount (as in bid document) with the approval of Engineer and Employer.
Contractor : M/s. IRCON International Ltd. (A Government of Indian Undertaking)		

[English]

Disinvestment of Cottage Industries Corporation

183. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the present performance of the Central Cottage Industries Corporation;

(b) whether the Government have a proposal for the disinvestment of the Central Cottage Industries Corporation;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the disinvestment of the company will have adverse impact on the export of handloom and handicrafts; and

(e) if so, the steps taken to mitigate the adverse impact?

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) The performance of Central Cottage Industries Corporation (CCIC) in 2002-03 was as follows:

Turnover	Rs. 54 crore
Profit before tax Reserves	Rs. 1.18 crore
(as on 31.03.2003)	Rs. 6.82 crore

(b) A recommendation has been received from the Disinvestment Commission that CCIC should be disinvested. No decision has been taken by the Government as on date

(c) The decision to disinvest in a particular Public Sector Undertaking is taken in terms of the declared disinvestment policy of the Government. According to it, in generality of the cases, Government will bring down its equity to 26% or below in all non-strategic Central Public Sector Undertakings. The strategic public sector enterprises are those in the areas of arms and ammunitions

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND

and allied items of defence equipments etc.; atomic energy except in the areas relating to generation of nuclear power and applications of radiation, radio isotopes to agriculture, medicine in non-strategic industries; and railway transport.

(d) No conclusion has been reached in this regard.

(e) Does not arise.

Food Safety Levels

184. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any comprehensive system to monitor the food safety levels in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ICMR report in 1993 exposed alarming level of contaminants in food;

(d) whether the report also included recommendations for drastic changes in the Government policies;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the recommendations were considered for implementation;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) In order that the contaminants in food products do not exceed the safe limits, the Ministry of Health has prescribed Maximum tolerance limits for pesticides and heavy metals in food products under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955.

The State/Union Territories Governments are responsible for monitoring and implementation of the provisions of PFA Act, 1954 and PFA Rules, 1955 in the country.

In addition surveys to study the presence of pesticide residues have been conducted from time to time. During the period, 1979-2001, the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have conducted five surveys to ascertain presence of residues of different pesticides in food commodities. From 1992-2001 the All India Coordinated Research Project on Pesticide Residues also monitored this issue. The Ministry of Agriculture is now launching a system to monitor pesticide residues at national level.

(c) to (h) A study on food contaminants in various food was conducted by ICMR in 1993. The report was not found to be accurate in analysis interpretation, method of reporting and conclusions drawn. In view of this, the report was withdrawn in 1994.

FDI Policy for Telecom Sector

185. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce FDI policy in the telecom sector;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the extent to which the Government and private service providers are likely to be benefited by this policy;

(d) whether the Cellular Operators have raised some apprehensions regarding debts that can have an impact on foreign institutional investment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy for telecom sector is already in place. The salient features of this policy are given at statement enclosed. The telecom sector as a whole has

attracted FDI amounting to about Rs. 9,595 crores till August 2003.

(d) No such apprehensions regarding debts having impact on Foreign Institutional investment have been received from cellular operators.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

FDI Policy in Telecom Sector

Present FDI Policy for the Telecom sector is as under:-

1. In Basic. Cellular Mobile, National Long Distance, International Long Distance, Value Added service, and Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite, FDI is limited to 49% (under automatic route) subject to grant of license from Department of Telecommunications and adherence by the companies (who are investing and the companies in which investment is being made) to the license conditions for foreign equity cap and lock-in period for transfer and addition of equity and other license provision.
2. Foreign direct investment upto 74% permitted, subject to licensing and security requirements for the following :-
 - (i) Internet Service (with gateways)
 - (ii) Infrastructure Providers (category-II)
 - (iii) Radio Paging Service
3. FDI upto 100% permitted in respect of the following telecom services:-
 - (i) ISPs not providing gateways (both for Satellite and submarine cables);
 - (ii) Infrastructure Providers providing dark fibre (IP Category I);
 - (iii) Electronic Mail; and
 - (iv) Voice Mail

The above would be subject to the following conditions:-

- (i) FDI upto 100% is allowed subject to the conditions that such companies would divest 26% of their equity in favour of Indian public in 5 years, if these companies are listed in other parts of the world.
 - (ii) The above services would be subject to licensing and security requirements wherever required.
 - (iii) Proposals for FDI beyond 49% shall be considered by FIPB on case to case basis.
4. In manufacturing sector 100% FDI is permitted under automatic route.
 5. Foreign Direct Investment upto 49% is also permitted in an investment company, set up for making investment in the telecom companies licensed to operate telecom services. Investment by these investment companies in a telecom service company is treated as part of domestic equity and is not set off against the foreign equity cap.
 6. Non-convertible preference shares do not attract sectoral cap.

[Translation]

UDISHA Project

186. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have enhanced the honorarium and other annual budget for the 'Sevak' working in Anganwadi Centre under the 'Udisha' project w.e.f. April 1, 1999;

(b) if so, the States where the above project has already been launched and implemented; and

(c) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA) : (a) The World Bank-assisted ICDS Training Programme – Project Udisha, is concerned with the training of ICDS functionaries including Anganwadi Helpers and not with working of 'Sevak' in Anganwadi Centres. No separate honorarium is paid to any functionaries during training.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Below Poverty Line Scheme

187. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any State Government and Union Territory has represented to lift the restriction on enrolment of number of people under the Below Poverty Line (BPL) scheme; and

(b) if so, the action taken to include those who had been deprived of the benefit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) The Ministry of Rural Development has been receiving communications from various State Governments/UT Administrations seeking advice to finalise the BPL Census (2002) results.

(b) The Ministry of Rural Development has advised the State Governments/UT Administrations to complete the BPL Census (2002) by June, 2003, within certain guidelines. However, due to the ruling of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) Writ Petition No. 196 of 2001, the concerned authorities have been advised not to finalise the results of the BPL Census (2002) until the next hearing and till then the results of the BPL Census conducted in 1997 may be utilised for the purpose of implementation of the programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development.

[Translation]

Changes in the Licensing System

188. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI :

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

(a) whether the Government have effected changes in licensing system in respect of cellular phone operators many times during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details and the reasons for making these changes; and

(c) the benefits accrued/likely to accrue to consumers, Government and operators following these changes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) Sir, certain amendments have been made in the Licences for Cellular Mobile Telephone service (CMTS). The details of salient amendments made are given in the statement enclosed. These changes have been made as a result of informed and institutionalized decision in best public interest making pragmatic adjustments warranted by ground realities in relation to the telecom industry.

As a result of these changes there has been phenomenal growth in the telecom sector. Today more than 19.3 million subscribers are being served by the cellular service operators across the length and breadth of the country. The last two years have seen an annual growth rate of the order of 80%-100% in cellular services. Initially, the call charges for Cellular Phones used to be upto Rs. 16.80/- minute which have now been reduced in general to the order of Rs. 1.80/- minute. This steep fall in tariffs has made CMTS affordable even for the low income group of our country. Thus subscribers have benefited on many counts such as easy availability of telephones, reduced tariff, availability of various value added services/features and facilities on telephone instrument, choice to the consumer for selecting an operator, etc., thereby making consumer a winner, which is the ultimate goal of the policy. The Government as well as operators have also benefited due to fast growth in the Cellular Service Sector.

Statement

Salient Amendments in the CMTS Licence Agreements

Sl.No.	Date of effect	Item	Amendment
1	2	3	4
1.	23.10.1997	Transfer of Licence	The written consent for transfer or assignment will be granted as per terms and conditions of the tri-partite agreement if duly executed amongst Licensor, Licensee and Lenders.
2.	23.10.1997	Commercial International Borrowing	This limitation applies to both short term and long term financing, provided the said condition shall stand modified in accordance with the guidelines issued on the subject from time to time by the Ministry of Finance. Restrictions imposed by RBI/Securities and Exchange Board of India/ Finance Ministry shall be complied by Licensee.
3.	15.01.1999	Delivery of Service	Any town with in the District other than DHQ may be covered in lieu of DHQ.
4.	1.8.1999 (offer made on 22.7.1999)	Migration Package	<p>(a) The licence period was extended from 10 years to 20 years.</p> <p>(b) Change from duopoly to multipoly regime with effect from 1.8.1999 i.e. the Licensees surrendered their right to operate in a duopoly regime (of only two private operators) with the condition that any number of additional private operators can be inducted.)</p> <p>(c) Change from fixed licence fee as committed at the time of grant of licences to licence fee as percentage of revenue earned. Revenue Sharing Regime i.e. of 15% of Adjusted Gross Revenue 'AGR' on provisional basis with effect from 1.8.1999.</p> <p>(d) Notional extension of effective date by six months in the case of Circle Operators.</p> <p>(e) Migration Packages is deemed as a full an final settlement of all disputes whatsoever, upto the cut-off date of migration irrespective of whether they are related with the Migration Package or not.</p>
5.	5.10.1999	Applicable Systems	By an Order dated 1.10.1999 the Cellular License was made technology-neutral; earlier to this it was mandatory for the Licensees to use Global System of Mobile Communications (GSM) technology.

1	2	3	4
6.	29.1.2001	Migration to Revenue Sharing	<p>(i) FBG of an amount equal to estimated dues of licence fee for two quarters valid for minimum one year in place of fixed FBG.</p> <p>(ii) Circle Licences who cover 50% of DHQs, permitted to reduce value of PBG by 50% of applicable PBG as per Service Area. No change in case of Metro licences except PBG shall be valid for one year, instead of fixed PBG.</p> <p>(iii) Sharing of Infrastructure permitted between one Service Provider and other Service Providers in their Areas of Operations subject to prescribed conditions.</p> <p>(iv) Interconnectivity between Licensees' network and network of any licensed Service Provider (including CMSP) in the same Service Area permitted.</p>
7.	25.9.2001	Migration to Revenue Sharing	<p>(i) Licence fee payable was made 12%, 10%, 8%, of 'Adjusted Gross Revenue' for Category 'A', 'B' and 'C' Service Areas respectively with effect from 25.1.2001 subject to prescribed conditions.</p> <p>(ii) Spectrum charges on revenue sharing basis of 2% of AGR towards WPC charges covering royalty payment upto 4.4 MHz-4.4 MHz. For additional bandwidth 1% additional revenue share for bandwidth allocated upto 6.6 MHz-6.6 MHz.</p> <p>(iii) Transfer or assignment of licence is permitted whenever merger of two Licensee companies is approved by a High Court but no compromise in competition occurs in the provision of Telecom Service.</p>
8.	1.2.2002	Additional Cellular Radio Frequency	<p>(i) Additional spectrum upto 1.8 MHz+ 1.8 MHz to be assigned to CMTS operators after a customer base of 5 lakhs or more. Beyond already allocated 6.2 MHz + 6.2 MHz, the additional spectrum of 1.8 MHz +1.8 Mhz would be assigned in 1800 MHz band.</p> <p>(ii) Spectrum Charges shall be on revenue share basis @ 2% of AGR for spectrum upto 4.4 MHz + 4.4 MHz, 3% for 6.6 MHz + 6.6 MHz and 4% beyond 6.6 MHz.</p>

1	2	3	4
9.	12.8.2002	Security conditions	Security Clauses as applicable in the case of Licenses granted in 2001 which are more updated, are made applicable to the old licences granted for metro cities and circles in the year 1994 and 1995.
10.	11.12.2002	Schedule of payment of Licence Fee	(i) Quarterly licence fee payable within 15 days of the relevant quarter in place of Annual Licence fees paid quarterly in advance. (ii) After first year of licence in case of 4th Cellular Operator, the amount of FBG shall be reduced to 10% of their initial value. (iii) Performance Bank Guarantee on completion of roll-out obligation shall be reduced to a level of 25% of their original value.
11.	20.11.2002	Schedule of payment of Licence Fee	Licence fee for first three quarters of financial year shall be paid within 15 days of the completion of the relevant quarter. For the last quarter licence fee shall be paid by 25th March on the basis of expected revenue for the quarter.
12.	02.06.2003	Transfer of assignment of Licence	Transfer/assignment of Licence permitted at any point of time subject to certain conditions.

[English]

Visit of Senegalese President

189. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU :
DR. B.B. RAMAIAH :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Senegalese President visited India recently;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held between the two countries;

(c) whether Indian investors have been invited to tap the Senegal market;

(d) if so, the action proposed to be taken by the Government;

(e) whether the Senegal Government have sought India's help to set up a university there; and

(f) if so, the response of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes.

(b) Both sides discussed measures to increase bilateral cooperation as well as cooperation between India and African Union.

(c) Yes.

(d) Government of India would encourage Chambers of Commerce as well as private companies to tap Senegalese market.

(e) Senegalese Government has sought Government of India's help in the field of Education.

(f) Government of India has offered all possible assistance in this regard.

[Translation]

**Supply of Medicines by
Blacklisted Companies**

190. DR. M.P. JAISWAL :
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that some blacklisted companies are supplying medicines in the hospitals, dispensaries and medical depots of the Government;

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

(c) the action taken against those found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No such case has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Opening of New Post Offices

191. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalized their plan for opening of new post offices in Punjab;

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

(c) whether the Government have conducted any survey regarding the requirement of Post Offices in Punjab; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Su THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) to (d) There is a target for opening five Branch Post Offices in Punjab and Union Territory of Chandigarh during the year 2003-04. Two Branch Post Offices have been opened in the districts of Kapurthala and Sangrur. However, opening of post offices is subject to fulfillment of norms.

Examining the justification of opening of Post Offices, as per needs and demand from the Public and prioritizing them to the extent of targets allotted is an ongoing process, undertaken annually. Based on the prioritization, during the current year, justification has been found to open three more Branch Offices in Amritsar, Faridkot and Gurdaspur, as per Plan target allotted to Punjab Circle.

[Translation]

**Expenditure on National Highway
No. 80**

192. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the lanes of National Highway No. 80 alongwith per kilometre expenditure on the above highway;

(b) the amount spent by the Union Government on above highway till date alongwith the amount proposed to be spent; and

(c) the position of the National Highway in Bihar from Lakhi Sarai to Ghorghat alongwith the factual details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) Total length of NH-80 is 282 km,

out of which, 93 km is double lane and the rest is single/intermediate lane. The per kilometre expenditure for the above is about Rs. 16.45 lakh.

(b) Works amounting to Rs. 4474.38 lakh have been sanctioned for development and maintenance of this road, since its declaration as National Highway.

(c) The condition of National Highway No. 80 from Lakhisarai (km 25) to Ghorghat (km 93) is generally traffic worthy.

[English]

Villages without Phones

193. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of villages in Gujarat are still without telephones till date;

(b) if so, the number of such villages district-wise;

(c) whether the Union Government have chalked out any plans to cover all the villages in the State with Public Telephones; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, 92 villages in the State are remaining to be covered with Village Public Telephones.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) BSNL has already completed its share of planned VPT's. Out of its share of 4206 Villages Public Telephone (VPT's) 4114 Village Public Telephone (VPTs) have already been provided by M/s Reliance Infocom. Remaining 92 villages will be covered using Universal Service Obligation (USO) funds during 2004-2005.

Licence Fee

194. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA :
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :

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

(a) whether the private sector was allowed to operate in the cellular and basic telephone services sectors on licence fee basis for bringing expansion in communication system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that at later stage revenue sharing was fixed in place of licence fee;

(d) if so, the facts thereof including the date of its introduction;

(e) the amount of licence fee outstanding against such companies at the time of the above decision;

(f) the percentage of revenue sharing fixed at that time and the existing percentage thereof; and

(g) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Prior to implementation of New Telecom Policy, 1999. Licences were awarded to 8 Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) operators in the 4 Metro service areas, 14 CMTS operators in 18 Telecom Circle service areas, 6 Basic Telephone Service operators in 6 Telecom Circle service areas after a competitive bidding process.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) Revenue sharing regime was introduced with effect from 01.08.1999 after an offer of migration package was made to the operators in July 1999. The percentage of revenue as licence fee was provisionally fixed at 15%

initially. Finally the revenue share has been fixed at 12%, 10% and 8% of adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) for category A, B and C Service Areas respectively, apart from separate charges for use of Wireless frequency spectrum. The details of outstanding License fee at that time are given in the statement enclosed.

(g) With the migration of operators to revenue sharing regime, tremendous growth in the number of Telephones and steep reduction in tariffs could be achieved. Thus, the customer has been benefited to avail the New Technological advancements in this Sector at affordable price.

Statement

Details of Licence Fee Outstanding from Cellular Mobile Service Providers as on 31.7.1999

Sl. No.	Name of Company	Service Area	Licence fee due as per Migration package (As on 31.7.1999) (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3	4
1.	Bharti Cellular Ltd.	Delhi	34.68
2.	Sterling Cellular Ltd.	Delhi	27.94
3.	Hutchison Max Telecom Ltd.	Mumbai	19.69
4.	BPL Mobile Communications Ltd.	Mumbai	40.39
5.	Skycell Communication Ltd.	Chennai	5.74
6.	RPG Cellular Services Ltd.	Chennai	5.87
7.	Modi Telstra P. Ltd.	Calcutta	9.19
8.	Usha Martin Telekom Ltd.	Calcutta	3.02
9.	Bharti Telenet Ltd.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00
10.	Birla Communications Ltd.	Gujarat	109.10
		Maharashtra	100.80
11.	Escotel Mobile Communication Ltd.	Haryana	6.20
		Kerala	13.35
		Uttar Pradesh (W)	10.49
12.	Fascel Ltd.	Gujarat	60.19

1	2	3	4
13.	Hexacom India Ltd.	North East	00.00
		Rajasthan	44.45
14.	J.T. Mobile Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	58.14
		Karnataka	90.76
		Punjab	293.60
15.	Modicom network P. Ltd.	Karnataka	114.13
		Punjab	103.71
16.	Srinivas Cellcom Ltd.	Tamilnadu	0.00
17.	RPG Cellcom Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	2.19
18.	Reliance Telecom Ltd.	West Bengal	1.86
		Assam	0.06
		Bihar	26.11
		Himachal Pradesh	0.65
		Madhya Pradesh	2.22
		Orissa	17.06
		North East	0.01
19.	Tata Cellular Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	59.17
20.	BPL US West Cellular Ltd.	Kerala	20.43
		Tamil Nadu	33.22
		Maharashtra	63.04
21.	Aircell Digilink India Ltd.	Haryana	20.67
		Rajasthan	54.41
		Uttar Pradesh (East)	99.34
22.	Koshika Telecom Ltd.	Bihar	56.73
		Orissa	38.09
		Uttar Pradesh (East)	94.77
		Uttar Pradesh (West)	29.76
		Total	1771.23

*Details of Licence Fees outstanding from Basic Service
Providers as on 31.7.1999*

Sl. No.	Name of Company	Service Area	Licence fee due as per Migration package (As on 31.7.1999) (Rs. in Crores)
1.	M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh	16.85
2.	M/s Bharta Telenet Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	6.48
3.	M/s Hughes Telecom Ltd.	Maharashtra	55.54
4.	M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd.	Punjab	18.55
5.	M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd.	Rajasthan	0.00
6.	M/s Reliance Telecom Ltd.	Gujarat	60.83
Total			158.25

Brain Drain

195. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the UK is alluring doctors and nurses from India and other developing nations as reported in the 'Asian Age' dated October 20, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the measures being taken by the Government to stop the brain drain?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) The Department of Health, Government of United Kingdom had communicated its desire to Government of India in 2002 to recruit medical personnel for their health services. As there are no restrictions on Indian doctors/nurses being engaged by foreign Governments, the Government of India took note of their requirement.

Besides, it is estimated that from Indian institutions about 14,000 MBBS – (medical graduates) and an estimated 16,000 to 18,000 nurses qualify every year. Whereas as per the information provided by British Government the number of doctors to be recruited is around 200 and number of nurses to be recruited is only a few hundred. Considering that the Government sector is not in a position to absorb a large number of trained doctors and nurses and the capacity of the private sector to attract these personnel is limited, no need was felt to stop the recruitment exercise undertaken by the British Government in India.

Opening of Post/Telegraph Offices

196. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of post/telegraph offices opened during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether post offices in rural areas do not have adequate number of staff;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to review the norms and open more post/telegraph offices; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Su THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) The details of post offices opened during the last three years, State-wise is given in the statement-I. The details of telegraph offices opened during the last three years, State-wise is given in statement-II.

(b) No Sir. Post Offices in rural areas have adequate staff, as there is facility to redeploy staff from post offices that do not have adequate workload.

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

(d) and (e) Norms for opening post offices are reviewed from time to time in consultation with Planning Commission and Ministry of Finance, taking into account the status of postal facilities, demand for business, extent of Government support required to provide services etc. As regards telegraph facilities, telegraph offices are opened on the basis of demand and justification of traffic. Wherever public telephones facility is provided in rural post offices, telegraph facility is also provided.

Statement-I

Circle-wise Post Offices opened during last three years

Sl. No.	Circle	Number of Post Offices		
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	3	3
2.	Assam	33	37	16
3.	Bihar	71	38	15
4.	Chhattisgarh	26	26	21

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Delhi	6	4	2
6.	Gujarat	12	20	15
7.	Haryana	3	1	1
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3	5	2
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	6	13	5
10.	Jharkhand	1	1	8
11.	Karnataka	23	15	9
12.	Kerala	5	3	3
13.	Madhya Pradesh	18	24	17
14.	Maharashtra	67	75	38
15.	North East	6	15	10
16.	Orissa	12	16	11
17.	Punjab	14	14	6
18.	Rajasthan	22	24	20
19.	Tamil Nadu	17	7	6
20.	Uttar Pradesh	45	40	19
21.	Uttaranchal	7	16	4
22.	West Bengal	10	59	35
Total		415	456	266

Gujarat includes Daman and Diu

Maharashtra includes Goa

Kerala includes Lakshdweep Islands

North East includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura

Punjab includes Chandigarh

Tamil Nadu includes Pondicherry

West Bengal includes Sikkim

Statement-II

Details of Telegraph Offices newly opened during the last three years—State-wise

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of Telegraph Offices			
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	—	—	—	—
2.	Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—
3.	Assam	—	—	—	—
4.	Bihar	—	—	—	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—
6.	Gujarat	—	—	—	—
7.	Haryana	—	—	—	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	—
10.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—
11.	Karnataka	—	—	—	—
12.	Kerala	—	2	1	3
13.	Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	—
14.	Maharashtra	1	—	—	1
15.	North East-I	—	—	—	—
16.	North East-II	—	—	—	—
17.	Orissa	—	—	—	—
18.	Punjab	—	2	—	2
19.	Rajasthan	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	1	1
21.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	—	—	—	—
22.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	—	—	—	—
23.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—
24.	West Bengal	—	—	—	—
25.	Delhi	—	—	—	—
Total		1	4	2	7

[Translation]

Illegal Trading of Human Organs

197. SHRI SUBODH ROY :

SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that illegal trading of human organs particularly kidneys are on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the number of such cases reported during each of the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to stop this menace?

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

[English]

Setting Up of University

198. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Senegal Government has sought India's help to set up an University there; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Iodine Deficiency

199. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether ten per cent Indians suffer from bloated thyroid due to iodine deficiency;

(b) if so, the percentage of people suffering from bloated thyroid during 1980s and 90s;

(c) whether consumption of iodised salt has any effect in reducing iodine deficiency; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) As per surveys conducted in 316 districts covering all the States/UTs, the prevalence of goitre/Iodine Deficiency Disorders in 254 districts was found to be more than 10% of the population. The resurvey studies conducted after consumption of iodized salt in certain district have demonstrated significant reduction in prevalence of goitre/Iodine Deficiency Disorders. Iodized salt is considered to be very effective in controlling the problem of goitre/Iodine Deficiency Disorders.

Streamlining Teaching Standards/Methods

200. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to streamline the teaching standards/methods;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any analysis has been undertaken by the Government to assess the recent situation pertaining to the teaching methods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) and (b) The National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) has been set up under an Act of Parliament with a view to achieving planned and coordinated development of teacher education system throughout the country and for ensuring maintenance of norms and standards prescribed for it. Besides, State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), District Institutes of Education and Training (DIET), and Block and Cluster level Resource Centres also exist to provide training and academic support to teachers with a view to improving teaching standards. Efforts are being made to streamline teaching standards and methods in a contextual manner. Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, States are evolving activity based teaching strategies in their own contexts. Teacher training, textbook renewal processes and academic support are being geared in this direction. This shift has led to changes in teaching methods in terms of creating more space for the expression of the child, use of multiple teaching-learning materials other than textbook, group learning, building on the existing experiences outside the classroom and community participation. States have also evolved their own standards to review and monitor progress. Andhra Pradesh's grading system and indicators developed in Uttar Pradesh are a case in point.

(c) and (d) Studies are carried out from time to time at various levels to review and analyze the situation in teaching methods alongwith various other pertinent components of pedagogical renewal.

Visa Restrictions by Indonesia

201. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indonesia has recently imposed stringent visa restrictions on Indians as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated November 13, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the matter was discussed between the officials of the two countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) Yes. Indonesian authorities decided in September 2003 to ensure compliance with existing guidelines for the grant of visas to ordinary passport holders for around 20 countries regarded as sensitive for immigration purposes, including India.

(b) and (c) Yes. The matter has been taken up with the Indonesian Embassy in New Delhi and with the Indonesian authorities in Jakarta, with a view to ensure that there are no difficulties for Indian nationals in obtaining visas for Indonesia.

(d) The Indonesian authorities have assured us of their full cooperation.

Four Laning of National Highways

202. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY :

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

(a) whether the National Highways Nos. 48 and 9 carries heavy traffic like tankers, lorries and other heavy vehicles;

(b) if so, whether NH 48 qualifies for conversion to four lane in accordance with the IRC guidelines;

(c) whether there is any proposal with the Union Government to make National Highways Nos. 48 and 9 into four lane for the smooth flow of traffic;

(d) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) There are a number of stretches of National Highways including those of NH-48 which qualify for conversion to four lanes. These are being taken up for four laning depending upon availability of funds and inter-se priority of works. Four laning in 82 km. length of NH-9 is in progress.

Conversion of Educational Institutes

203. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :
COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to convert the Allahabad University into a Central University and propose to give the status of National Institute of Technology to Engineering College, Patna;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the status is likely to be accorded to the abovesaid educational institutes and the details of the amount likely to be spent thereon during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) The Government has, in principle, decided to restore the Central University status to the University of Allahabad and to take over Bihar College of Engineering (BCE), Patna as a fully funded Institute of the Central Government and its conversion into National Institute of Technology (NIT) with deemed University status.

(b) and (c) The Details in this regard are being worked out.

Life Saving Drugs

204. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY :
SHRI PRABODH PANDA :

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

- (a) whether several life saving drugs have not been included in the list of Essential Medicines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps being taken for inclusion of these drugs in the list of Essential Medicines; and
- (d) the details of the drugs which have been included in the list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) There is no separate list of life saving drugs. From the perspective of medical science, the drugs used in critical care or emergency care i.e. life threatening situations are generally construed as life saving drugs.

The National list of essential medicines consists of medicines meant for management of a wide variety of conditions as well as for life threatening – emergency situation and for critical care.

There are 83 such drugs in the list of essential medicines.

Herbal Contraceptive Pills

205. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Indian Scientists have developed world's first herbal contraceptive pills;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to patent and popularize the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) The

Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, an autonomous organization under the Department of AYUSH is developing herbo- mineral female Oral contraceptive drug 'Pippalyadi Yog'. The drug is under clinical trial.

(b) After the formulation has been found effective in intra mural research of the Council, the project has been taken up by the Department of Family Welfare, Government of India to further access the efficacy. The Phase-I Clinical trial was conducted at AIIMS-New Delhi, JIPMER-Pondicherry, KEM Hospital-Mumbai and PGI-Chandigarh, after due approval from Drug Controller General of India and the medicine is found to be safe. Now the Phase-II clinical trial will be initiated in the above said institutes. The NIPER Mohali will supply the capsules after ensuring quality and will simultaneously carry out the shelf-life studies and estrogen assay.

(c) Government is vigilant to protect the patent rights of this drug.

[Translation]

Companies Engaged In Works of National Highways

206. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of the different domestic and foreign companies engaged in the construction and reconstruction works of National Highways;
- (b) the company-wise funds released during the last three years;
- (c) whether some of the foreign companies are not functioning properly; and
- (d) if so, the action being taken by the Government to improve the working of these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) The names of foreign and domestic companies engaged by the National Highways Authority of India and the company wise fund released for

the National Highway Development Project and other Projects are given in statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) Progress in some of the projects undertaken by foreign companies as well as in some of

the projects undertaken by Indian companies is not as per the target. The National Highways Authority of India is constantly monitoring the progress of work being executed by these companies, by holding regular meeting with their top Management.

Statement

Sl. No.	Contractor	Name of the contract package as per award	Amount (Rupee in Crore)
1	2	3	4
CONTRACTS THROUGH FOREIGN CONTRACTORS			
1.	Bumi Highway (M) SDN. BHD.	4-laning of Km. 4.23 to Km.26.00 of Jalandhar-Pathankot section of NH-1 A in the State of Punjab, Contract Package NoNS/16(PB)	22.53
2.	Centrodorstroy, Russia	Handia-Varanasi (TNHP-4 Package III-C (UP) WB	56.09
3.	Centrodorstroy, Russia	Fatehpur-Khaga (TNHP-2) Package II-C (UP) Km 38-115-NH2	49.43
4.	China Coal Const. Group. Corp.	Shikohabad-Etawah (GTRIP-2) Package I-B (Km 250.50-Km 307.50)	21.17
5.	CIDB Malaysia	Nandigama-Vijayawada (ADB, Pkg-IV)	26.40
6.	Gamuda-WCT (JV)	Panagarh-Palsit	Nil*
7.	Gamuda-WCT (JV)	Palsit-Dankuni Durgapur Expressway	Nil*
8.	LG Engineering and Const. Corporation, Korea	Mohania-Sasaram (TNHP-5) Package IV-B (Bihar) (WB)	53.30
9.	P.T. Sumber Mitra Jaya	4-laning of Km. 156.000 to Km. 163.400 of Thoppur Ghat Section of NH-7 in the State of Tamil Nadu.. {Contract Package No. NS/14(TN)}	20.19
10.	PT Sumber Mitra Jaya (Indonesian Company)	Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway-I (including Mahi Bridge, Shedhi, Watrak Bridge, Chain Link Fence along AV Expressway Phase-I and payment to UPSBCL)	194.38
11.	RBM - PATI (JV)	Dhankuni-Kolaghat WB-I	160.22
12.	CIDBI Malaysia	Tada - Nallore (AP-7 and 8)	Nil*

1	2	3	4
CONTRACTS THROUGH JVs WITH FOREIGN COMPANIES			
1.	BSC-RBM-PATI(JV)	Raniganj-Panagarh (ADB Pkg-II)	105.70
2.	BSC-RBM-PATI(JV)	Gurgaon Kotputli (ADB Pkg-I)	145.80
3.	Bumihway (M) Sdn. Bhd. - DD Builders (JV)	Ichapuram - Ganjam OR-VIII Km 233-284	39.03
4.	CWHEC - HCIL (JV)	Port Connectivity Pdg-III (Calcutta-Haldia) Phase-I	19.00
5.	Dolomite Berhad-AL Sudershan (JV)	Tumkur-Haveri (Chitradurga section) Pkg-III	19.15
6.	ECSB-JSRC (JV)	Gulabpura - Bhilwara Bypass (KU-III)	64.06
7.	ELSMEX - TWS - SNC (JV)	Bhadrak-Balasore OR-III	39.64
8.	GMR	Tuni-Ankapalli Km 300-359 BOT [A]-III	
9.	HOHUP - Simplex (JV)	Kavali-Ongole (AP-12)	93.24
10.	HUNDAI - HCC (JV)	Naini Bridge, Allahabad	151.43
11.	IJM-Gayatri (JV)	Ongole-Chilakaluripet (AP-13)	103.35
12.	IJM-Gayatri (JV)	Chilakaluripet-Vijayawada Package(I-III) Km 355 to 420.5	130.50
13.	IJM-SCL (JV)	Chennai Bypass Phase-I	70.89
14.	ITD-Som Dutt Builder (JV)	Sikandra-Bhaunti (TNHP-1) Package II-A	10.35
15.	LGE and C-Nagarjuna Construction Company JV	Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway-II	204.62
16.	LGE and C-Patel JV	Surat-Manor Package-II	120.81
17.	Limak - Soma (JV)	Rajahmundry - Eluru AP-18 (Eluru-Gowthami) (Km 80-165) AP-18)	207.09
18.	Madhucon Binapuri (JV)	Vijayawada-Eluru (ADB, Pkg-V) (Km 3.4 to 75)	210.80
19.	Madhucon-Binapuri (JV)	Kishangarh-Udaipur (Chittorgarh-Mangalwar) Pdg (KU-V)	52.49
20.	Mudajaya-IRB (JV)	Udaipur-Ratanpur-Chiloda (Ratanpur-Himatnagar) Km 388.4-Km 443 UG-III	46.92

1	2	3	4
21.	P.T. Sumber Mitra Jaya-Punj loyd (JV)	Four laning of Karur Bypass including additional bridge across river Amravati in the State of Tamil Nadu (Karur ROB) M/s SMJ-PLL (J.V.)	9.18
22.	PATI-BEL	Etawah-Raipur (GTRIP-3) Package I-C (Km 321. 1 - Km 393)	62.93
23.	PCL-Suncon (JV)	Varanasi-Mohania (GTRIP-5) Package IV-A (WB)	88.23
24.	Progressive Straco	Ganjam - Sunakhala OR-VII Km 284-338	31.11
25.	Progressive-Suncon (JV)	Aurangabad-Barwa-Adda (TNHP-8) [Gorhar-Barwa Adda] (V-C) Km 320 - Km 320 - Km 398.75	81.11
26.	Satav Constt. Pvt. Ltd. and Dena Rehsaz	Pune-Satara (Katraj-Sarole) Km 797-Km 825.5 (PS-3)	18.92
27.	SKEC-Dodsai JV	Surat-Manor Package-I	170.33
28.	SMJ-RKD (JV)	Sunakhala-Khurda OR-VI Km 338-388	41.48
29.	Ssangyong, Korea-Oriental SE, India [JV]	Dehri-on-sonne-Aurangabad (TNHP-6) Package IV-D (WB)	96.95
30.	Sunway Construction Berhad and RN Shetty and Co.	Belgaum Bypass	30.47
31.	Sunway Construction Berhad and RN Shetty and Co.	Dharwad-Belgaum (KT) NH 4 Pkg-III	7.58
32.	Tambaram-Tindivanam Expressway Pvt.Ltd (GMR and UE Malaysis Consortium	Tambaram-Tindivanam (BOT/ANNUITY)	Nil*
33.	UEM- ESSAR (JV)	Tumkur-Haveri (Harihar-Haveri) Pkg-V	24.80
34.	UEM- ESSAR (JV)	Tumkur-Haveri (Chitradurga-Harihar) Pkg-IV	49.56
35.	UEM (Malaysia) - ESSAR (India) (JV)	Tumkur-Haveri (Sira-Chitradurga) Pkg-II	47.06
36.	You One - Maharia	Champavati-Srikakulam (Kms 49-Kms 97) AP-I	41.18
37.	You One - Maharia	8- Laning of Km. 16.50 to Km.29.295 of NH-1 in the State of Delhi, Contract Package No.NS/18(DL) Phase-II)	11.59
38.	You One - Maharia	Four laning of Km.464.00 to Km.474.00 of Nagpur-Hyderabad section and Km 9.40 to Km.22.30 of Hyderabad-Bangalore section of NH-7 in the State of Andhra Pradesh Package NS/23/AP Phase-II	31.35

1	2	3	4
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CONTRACTS THROUGH INDIANS CONTRACTORS

1.	A L Sudershan and Co.	Tumkur Bypass	14.41
2.	A L Sudershan and Co. Ltd	Four laning of km. 447.000 to Km. 464.000 of Nagpur – Hyderabad section of NH-7 in the State of Andhra Pradesh. {Contract Package No. NS/8(AP)}	34.73
3.	Afcons Infrastructure Ltd.	Chennai-Ranipet-kishanagiri (Poonamlee-Kanchipuram) Km 70.2 - Km 13.8 Package I (RC-I)	31.69
4.	Afcons Infrastructure Ltd.	6-laning of Km.556.00 to Km.539.00 and Km.535.00 to Km.527.00 of Hyderabad-Bangalore section of NH-7 in the State of Karnataka No. NS/24(KN) Phase-II	19.43
5.	Afcons-APIL (JV)	Hubli-Haveri	10.76
6.	Agarwal-Sadbhav-Backbone JV	Samakhlyali-Gandhidham Package II [GJ]	40.13
7.	Ashoka Buildcon and Birla GTM	Westerly Diversion (Pune bypass)	130.32
8.	B. Seenaiah Co. Ltd.	Bhilwara Bypass to Chittorgarh (KU-IV)	81.48
9.	B. Seenaiah Co. Ltd.	Laxmannath-Kharagpur WB-IV	103.30
10.	Backbone Projects Ltd. Ahmedabad	Four laning of Km.85.00 to Km.103.0 of Agra-Gwalior Section of NH-3 in the State of Madhya Pradesh, Contract Package No.:NS/21(MP) Phase-II	29.63
11.	Backbone-Tarmat-NG	Udaipur-Ratanpur-Chiloda (Himatnagar-Chiloda/Gandhinagar) Km 443 - Km 495 UG-IV	Nil
12.	BEL-ACC (JV)	Etawah Bypass NH2	2.97
13.	BEL-Techni-Bharti Ltd. (JV)	Four laning of Karur Bypass including additional bridge across river Amravati in the State of Tamil Nadu	25.12
14.	Bhageeratha Engg.	Dhankuni-kharagpur WB-III (Bridges) Km 17.6 - Km 136	42.69
15.	Bhageeratha Engineering Ltd.	4-laning of Km.180 to Km.199.20 of BSM Section of NH-7 in the State of Tamil Nadu, Contract Package No.NS/26(TN) Phase-II	31.06
16.	Bhageeratha Ltd.	Six laning of Km. 524.000 to km.527.000 and km. 535.000 to Km. 39.000 including km 538.000A in Hyderabad-Bangalore section of NH-7 (Near Devanhalli) in the State of Karnataka. {Contract Package No.NS/10(KNT)}	18.83

1	2/	3	4
17.	Birla GTM and BG Shrike Constt. Tect Ltd.	Pune-Satara (Sarole-Wathar) Km 760-Km 797 (PS-2)	33.75
18.	Birla GTM Enterpose Ltd.	4-laning of Km. 372.700 to Km. 387.100 of Jalandhar Bypass of NH-1 in the State of Punjab. {Contract Package No. NS/1(PB)}	55.50
19.	BLA-CISC-C&C (JV)	4-laning of Km. 146.00 to Km. 156.50 of Guwahati Bypass section of NH-37 in the State of Assam, Contract Package No.EW/14(AS) Phase-II	31.72
20.	Border Roads Orgn.	4-Laning of Km 80.00 to Km 97.20 of Jammu-Pathankot section of NH-1 A in the State of Jammu and Kashmir (Contract Package No. NS/15/J and K Phase-II)	10.96
21.	BRA-TRG-Bharat (JV)	Four laning of Km.44.00 to KM.59.50 of Lucknow-Kanpur section of NH-25 in the State of Uttar Pradesh, Package No.EW/9(UP) Phase-II)	11.03
22.	BRO & Mormugoa Port Road Co. Ltd.	Port Connectivity (Murmugao Port)	9.50
23.	BSC-RBM-PATI(JV)	Barwa Adda-Barakar (ADB Pkg-III)	81.75
24.	Dinesh R. Agrawal	Four laning of Km. 340.00 to Km. 350.000 of Abu Road-Disa Section near Palanpur of NH-14 in the State of Gujarat. {Contract Package No. EW/1(GJ)}	17.00
25.	Dineshchandra R. Agarwal Deesa, Gujarat	Four laning of Km. 60.000 to Km. 70.000 of Agra-Gwalior Section of NH-3 in the State of Madhya Pradesh. {Contract Package No.NS/6(MP)}	21.25
26.	Dineshchandra R.Agrawal	4-laning of Km.350.00 to Km.372.70 (near Palanpur) of NH-14 in the State of Gujarat, Contract Package No.EW/11(GJ) Phase-II	49.99
27.	Gamman-Atlanta (JV)	Bhubaneswar-Khurda OR-1	38.03
28.	Gammon India Ltd.	Bridges Balasore-Kharagpur OR-WB-I	25.35
29.	Gammon India Ltd.	Chandikhol-Balasore (Bridges) OR-V	40.68
30.	Gayatri-Ranjit (JV)	Udaipur-Ratanpur-Chiloda (Kesariaji-Ratanpur) Km 340 - Km 388.4 UG-II	29.81
31.	GVK International-BSCPL (Consortium)	Jaipur-Kishangarh	Nil*
32.	Hindustan Construction Co.	Kolaghat-Kharagpur NH 6 WB-II	208.08

1	2	3	4
33.	IRCON	Jaipur Bypass Zone-C	73.89
34.	IRCON International Ltd.	Khaga-Kokhraj (TNHP-3) Package III-A (UP)	57.50
35.	IVRCL-SPCL	Srikakulam-Palasa (Kms 97-Kms 171) AP-II	119.93
36.	Jaiprakash Ind.-DS Construction (JV)	Delhi-Gurgaon (Access controlled 8/6 Lane)	Nil*
37.	Jas Toll Road Co. Ltd. (Consortium of Jayaswals- Ashoka Buyildcon-SERI Intl.), India	Neelamangla - Tumkur (BOT)	16.85
38.	KMC Constructions Ltd.	Udaipur-Ratanpur-Chiloda (Udaipur-Kesariaji) Km 278- Km 340 of NH-8 UG-I	88.27
39.	KMC Constructions Ltd.	Jagatpur-Chandikhol (IDP-100)	106.89
40.	KNR-PATEL (JV)	Kavali-Nellore (AP-11)	84.49
41.	L&T Ltd. (ECC Construction Group)	Surat-Manor Package-III	170.15
42.	L&T-HCC (JV)	Aurangabad-Barwa-Adda (GTRIP-7) (V-B) [Barachati-Gorhar]	60.79
43.	Lanco Construction Ltd.	Four laning of Km 476.150 to 500.000 of Dalkhola to Islampore sub-section-2 of NH-31 in the State of West Bengal (Contract Package No.EW/6(WB))	31.51
44.	Lanco- Rani (JV)	4-laning of Km. 419.00 to Km.447.00 of Purnea-Gayakota section of NH-31 in the State of Bihar, Contract Package No.EW/12(BR) Phase-II	18.16
45.	Larsen & Toubro Ltd.	Chennai-Ranipet-kishanagiri (Valelapet-Kanchipuram) Km 70.2 - Km 106.2 Package II (RC-2)	79.03
46.	Larsen & Toubro Ltd.	Tumkur-Haveri (Tumkar-Sira) Pkg-I	28.03
47.	Larsen & Toubro Ltd.	Chandikhol-Bhadrak OR-II	166.91
48.	Larsen & Toubro Ltd.	Balasore-Laxmanannath OR-IV	75.77
49.	Larsen & Toubro Ltd.	Eluru - Rajahmundry (Bridges - II) AP-19	56.58
50.	Larsen & Toubro Ltd.	Eluru - Rajahmundry (Bridges - I) AP-20	46.14
51.	Larsen & Toubro Ltd.	Chennai - Tada (TN-1)	74.81

1	2	3	4
52.	Madhucon Projects Ltd.	Near Eluru (Rajahmundry - Vijayawada) (Km 75-80)	13.61
53.	Madhucon Projects Ltd.	8-laning of Km. 8.200 to Km. 16.200 of NH-1 in Delhi. (Contract Package No. NS/3(DL))	8.65
54.	Maharia Resurfacing & Construction Company Pvt. Ltd.	Four laning of Km. 22.300 to Km. 34.800 of Hyderabad section of NH-7 in the State of Andhra Pradesh. {Contract Package No. NS/9(AP)}	21.35
55.	Maharia-Raj (JV)	6-laning of Km.44.00 to Km.66.00 of NH-1 in the State of Haryana, Contract Package No.NS/17(HR) Phase-II)	13.27
56.	Maheshwari Brothers Ltd., Calcutta	Four laning of Km. 41.000 to Km. 51.000 of Agra-Dholpur section of NH-3 in the State of Rajasthan. {Contract Package No. NS/5(RJ)}	20.49
57.	Maytas Infrastructure Ltd.	Sira Bypass	43.35
58.	MSK Project Ltd.	ROB Kishangarh	Nil*
59.	MSRDC	Satara-Karnataka Border (Satara-Kagal) [MSRDC] (KM 592 to 725)	33.30
60.	Nagarjuna Construction Co.	6-laning of Km.29.300 to Km.. 44.300 of Delhi Border to Samalkha Section of NH-1 in the State of Haryana. {Contract Package No. NS 2(HR)}	34.17
61.	Nagarjuna Construction Company	Amravati Bypass in maharashtra	38.36
62.	Navyug Engg. Construction	Ichapuram-Champavati (Bridges Section Km 98-233) AP-VI	29.50
63.	NCC-KNR (JV)	Ghaziabad-Hapur and Hapur Bypass .	108.43
64.	North Karnataka Expressway Pvt. Ltd.	Belgaum-Maharashtra Border (Pkg-IV)	Nil*
65.	NYSE Ltd.	Nellore bypass	Nil*
66.	Oriental Structural Ltd.	4-laning of Km. 9.200 to Km.22.850 and Km. 24.000 to 36.600 Nagpur - Adilabad Section of NH-7 in the State of Maharashtra {Contract Package No. NS/7(MH)}	69.10
67.	OSE-Gammon (JV)	Aurangabad-Barwa-Adda (TNHP-7) Package (V-A) [Aurangabad-Barachati]	58.09
68.	OSE-Gammon (JV)	Agra-Shikohabad (GTRIP-1) Package I-A (Km 199.96 - Km 250.50)	65.30

1	2	3	4
69.	Patel Engineering Ltd.	Four laning of Km.33.015 to km.48.600 of Hathipalli Hosur section of NH-7 in the State of Tamil Nadu. {Contract Package No. NS/11(TN)}	34.95
70.	Patel-KNR (JV)	Chennai-Ranipet-Kishanagiri (Krishnagiri-Vaniyambadi) Package III (KR-1)	58.50
71.	PBA-PCE&C JV	Samakhyali-Gandhidham Package II [GJ]	70.64
72.	PLL-PCL (JV)	Nasirabad - Gulabpura (KU-II)	74.82
73.	PNC Construction Co.	Four laning of Km.24.00 to Km.41.00 in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan (6.885 Kms are in State of Uttar Pradesh) Package No.NS/19(UP/RJ) Phase-II	52.79
74.	PNC Construction Co.	Four laning of Km. 8.000 to Km.24.000 of Agra-Gwalior section of NH-3 in the State of Uttar Pradesh. .{Contract Package No. NS/4(UP)}	42.39
75.	Prakash-Atlanta (JV)	Construction of segment of Lucknow Bypass connecting NH-25 and NH-28 via NH-56 passing through Lucknow city in the State of Uttar Prades. Package No.: EW/15(UP) Phase-II	58.70
76.	Prakash-Mahavir (JV)	Four laning of km.70.00 to Km.85.0 of Agra-Gwalior section of NH-3 in the State of Madhya Pradesh, Contract Package No.: NS/20(MP) (Phase II).	32.45
77.	Prasad - SEW (JV)	Visakhapatnam-Champavati (Bridges section Km.49-97) AP-V	38.86
78.	Progressive Constructions Ltd.	Four laning of Km.410.000 to 419.000 & Km. 470.000 to 476.150 of Purnea-Gayakota Section of NH-31 in the State of Bihar. {Contract Package No. EW/4(BR)}	23.36
79.	Progressive Constructions Ltd.	Four laning of Km.447.000 to Km.470.000 of Dalkhola to Islampore sub-section 1 of NH-31 in the State of West Bengal. {Contract Package No. EW/5(WB)}	38.74
80.	Punj Lloyd Ltd.	Rajahmundry - Eluru AP-17 (Gowthami - Rajahmundry) (Km 200-165)	38.28
81.	Punj Lloyd Ltd.-Gammon (JV)	Dharmavaram-Tuni AP-16) Km 254-300 BOT [A]-II	Nil*
82.	Punj Lloyd-PCL (JV)	Jaipur Bypass, Phase-II, Zone-D (including Payments to RSRDCC)	42.51

1	2	3	4
83.	Rajahmundry Expressway Ltd. Jammon (I) Ltd.	Rajahmundry-Dharmavaram AP-15 Km 200-254 BOT [A]-I	Nil*
84.	Rana Projects International Ltd./ Villayati Ram Mittal (for Balance Work)	Four laning of Km.59.500 to Km.75.500 of Lucknow-Kanpur section of NH-25 in the State of Uttar Pradesh. {Contract Package No.EW/3(UP)}	12.83
85.	Sadbhav Engineering Limited	Kishangarh-Nasirabad [KU-I]	61.71
86.	Sadbhav Engineering Limited	Samakhlyali - Gandhidham Package I [GJ]	13.74
87.	Sadbav-Prakash (JV)	Kishangarh-Udaipur (Mangalwar-Udaipur) Km 172-Km 113.825 Pkg (KU-VI)	47.47
88.	SDB-NCC (JV)	Sasaram-Dehri-on-sona (GTRIP-6) Package IV-C (WB)	33.28
89.	SDB-NCC-NEC (JV)	Bhaunti - Fatehpur GTRIP-4) Package II-B	109.54
90.	Shakti Kumar M. Sancheti Ltd.	Pune-Satara (Katraj Bypass), Katra realignment (PS-4)	5.28
91.	Shakti Kumar M. Sancheti Ltd.	Durg Bypass on NH-6 (Sub-ordinate Debt)	Nil*
92.	Skansa Cementation India Ltd.	Chennai-Ranipet-Kishanagiri (Vankyambadi-Pallikonda) Km 49 -Km 100 Package III (KR-2)	47.54
93.	Skansa Cementation India Ltd.	Chennai-Ranipet-Kishanagiri (Pallikonda-Ranipat Road) Km.100- Km 145 Package III (KR-3)	49.50
94.	Skanska Cementation India Ltd.	Pune-Satara (Wathar-Satara) Km 760- K 725 (PS-1)	44.45
95.	Skanska Cementation India Ltd.	Ichapuram-Visakhapatnam Package IA (Korlam-Palasa) Km 171 -Km 200, AP-IVA	27.74
96.	Skanska Cementation India Ltd.	Ichapuram-Visakhapatnam Package IB (Ichapuram-Korlam) Km 233-Km 200 AP-IVB	25.43
97.	SMSL-BJCL (JV)	Hosur-Krishnagiri	88.17
98.	Sri Ranganathar & Co.	Four laning of Km 199.200 to Km. 207.600 of Salem Bypass section of NH-7 in the State of Tamil Nadu, {Contract Package No. NS/12(TN)}	26.91
99.	Tantia-TBL (JV)	4-laning of Km. 332.60 to Km. 316.00 (Aluva to Angamali) of NH-47 in the State of Kerala, Contract Package No.NS/28(KL) Phase-II	42.22

1	2	3	4
100.	Tarmat-Backbone (JV)	4-laning of Km. 143.00 to Km. 160.00 of Gondal to Ribda section of NH-8 B in the State of Gujarat, Contract Package No.EW/10(GJ) Phase-II	37.33
101.	Thakur-Mhatre-Unity (JV)	Port Connectivity Pkg-I (Mumbai - JNPT) Phase-I	56.00
102.	Unitech - NCC (JV)	Visakhapatnam-Champavati River Km.2.8-49 NH 5 (AP-III)	86.10
103.	UPSBC	Chilkaluripet-Vijayawada Package IV (Krishna Bridge)	37.52
104.	UPSBC	Investment in MTRCL (Moradabad Bypass)	61.00
105.	Valecha Engineering Ltd.	Four laning of Km 156.000 to 163.895 of Guwahati Bypass section of NH-37 in the State of Assam {Contract Package No. EW/7(AS)}	45.44
106.	Venkata Rao Engg.	Port Connectivity (Vishakhapatnam Port) Phase-I	21.00
107.	Vijay Engineering Enterprises	4-laning of Namakkal Bypass of NH-7 in the State of Tamil Nadu, Contract Package No.NS/27 (TN) Phase-II	9.95
108.	Villayati Ram Mittal	Four laning of Km. 11.380 to Km. 21.800 of Lucknow-Kanpur section of NH-25 in the State of Uttar Pradesh. . {Contract Package No. EW/2(UP)}	33.19
109.	Villayati Ram Mittal	Four laning of Km.21.80 to Km.44.00 of Lucknow-Kanpur section of NH-25 in the State of Uttar Pradesh, Package No.EW/8(UP) Phase-II)	33.35

[English]

Pending Passport Applications

207. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :
SHRI MANSINH PATEL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of passports issued by the Regional Passport Offices in the country during each of the last three years and till date, Regional Passport Office-wise and State-wise;

(b) the average time taken by passport offices in issuing passports;

(c) the number of applications pending for issuance

of passports in the different passport offices during the current year; and

(d) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to dispose of these applications expeditiously and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) Statement-I is enclosed. States covered are also indicated.

(b) Passports are normally issued within 6(six) weeks provided clear Police Verification Report has been received and all other documents are in order.

(c) A statement-II enclosed.

(d) Measures taken to reduce pendencies include computerisation, decentralisation, training, machine writing of passports and expediting police verification.

Statement-I

Number of Passports issued by various Passport offices, office-wise and State-wise during the last three years and upto November 2003 during the current year

Name of RPO/PO	State covered	2000	2001	2002	2003 (till Nov.03)
1	2	3	4	5	6
Ahmedabad	Gujarat				
	Diu-UT	146977	188904	200067	235872
Bangalore	Karnataka	123542	130670	140936	117688
Bareilly	11 districts of Uttar Pradesh	19407	24534	17369	15603
	13 districts of Uttaranchal	11843	15033	12371	12018
Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	32855	38095	32930	29925
	Chattisgarh	5476	4768	3069	3864
Bhubaneswar	Orissa	14636	17112	16265	15030
Chandigarh	11 districts of Punjab	72118	103047	89344	94189
	14 districts of Haryana	22139	34240	32346	32587
	Himachal Pradesh	5597	7880	7395	6641
	Chandigarh-UT	1459	15687	13284	11330
Chennai	17 districts of Tamil Nadu Pondicherry-UT except districts of Mahe and Yanam	150143	168860	179506	178003
Cochin	5 districts of Kerala Lakshadweep-UT	100874	129827	128387	137738
Delhi	Delhi 5 districts of Haryana	167394	193189	177833	167394
Ghaziabad	11 districts of Uttar Pradesh	32575	36140	31894	
Guwahati	Assam	9876	11931	10823	8522
	Arunachal Pradesh	186	501	565	369
	Manipur	980	1118	1120	907

1	2	3	4	5	6
	Meghalaya	1602	2293	1669	1310
	Mizoram	805	1219	1132	1009
	Nagaland	244	304	320	230
Hyderabad	20 districts of Andhra Pradesh				
	Pondicherry-UT district of Yanam	208156	244795	231530	286643
Jaipur	Rajasthan	65613	88178	95005	82943
Jalandhar	6 districts of Punjab	120545	149432	126248	144301
Jammu	6 districts of J and K	7984	11727	10143	7443
Kolkata	West Bengal				
	Sikkim				
	Tripura	96436	114309	82882	86585
Kozikode	7 districts of Kerala				
	Pondicherry-UT (district of Mahe only)	130854	163339	186476	171042
Lucknow	48 districts of Uttar Pradesh	89801	100116	104912	109553
Mumbai	Dadra and Nagar-Haveli Daman				
	5 districts of Maharashtra	149974	211984	206318	168194
Nagpur	18 districts of Maharashtra	19275	21047	18034	
Panaji	Goa	18730	22959	25518	24572
Patna	Bihar				24715
	Jharkhand	43603	53454	38849	
Pune	6 districts of Maharashtra	35947	50567	48648	45434
Ranchi	Jharkhand	Nil	Nil	990	7770
Srinagar	8 districts of J and K	5651	8364	9995	
Surat	8 districts of Gujarat	Nil	Nil	Nil	3982
Thane	7 districts of Maharashtra	42416	70229	63194	62969

1	2	3	4	5	6
Trichy	16 districts of of Tamil Nadu	147305	201514	180364	
Trivandrum	3 districts of of Kerala	75488	90388	92428	92733
Vishakhapatnam	5 districts of Andhra Pradesh	45273	51445	45777	43951
Total		2233779	2779199	2665936	2433059

Actual pendency is counted from the date, the clear police report is received.

Passport Office at Ranchi (Jharkhand) was opened in July, 2002.

Passport Office at Surat (Gujarat) was opened in August, 2003.

Statement-II

Number of Passport applications pending during the current year till November, 2003

Name of RPO/PO	State covered	Pendency
1	2	3
Ahmedabad	Gujarat	
	Diu-UT	39651
Bangalore	Karnataka	12903
Bareilly	11 districts of Uttar Pradesh	
	13 districts of Uttaranchal	5197
Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	
	Chattisgarh	2219
Bhubaneswar	Orissa	4889
Chandigarh	11 districts of Punjab	
	14 districts of Haryana	
	Himachal Pradesh	
	Chandigarh-UT	38695
Chennai	17 districts of Tamil Nadu	
	Pondicherry-UT except districts of Mahe and Yanam	11117

1	2	3
Cochin	5 districts of Kerala	
	Lakshadweep-UT	13600
Delhi	Delhi	
	5 districts of Haryana	5374
Ghaziabad	11 districts of Uttar Pradesh	5539
Guwahati	Assam	
	Arunachal Pradesh	
	Manipur	
	Meghalaya	
	Mizoram	
	Nagaland	1133
Hyderabad	20 districts of Andhra Pradesh	
	Pondicherry-UT district of Yanam	1685
Jaipur	Rajasthan	15485
Jalandhar	6 districts of Punjab	18614
Jammu	6 districts of J and K	9165
Kolkata	West Bengal	
	Sikkim	
	Tripura	216
Kozikode	7 districts of Kerala	
	Pondicherry-UT (Districts of Mahe only)	7934
Lucknow	48 districts of Uttar Pradesh	3351
Mumbai	Dadra and Nagar-Haveli Daman	
	5 districts of Maharashtra	398
Nagpur	18 districts of Maharashtra	
Panaji	Goa	633

1	2	3
Patna	Bihar	5467
Pune	6 districts of Maharashtra	4999
Ranchi	Jharkhand	2977
Srinagar	8 districts of J and K	.
Surat	8 districts of Gujarat	11207
Thane	7 districts of Maharashtra	Nil
Trichy	16 districts of Tamil Nadu	
Trivandrum	3 districts of Kerala	2624
Vishakhapatnam	5 districts of Andhra Pradesh	5769

**Allocation of Funds to Sarva
Shiksha Abhiyan**

208. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government had expressed dissatisfaction over the allocation of funds to the prestigious Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) programme by the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Planning Commission had omitted the programme from the priority agenda;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the funds allocated for the said programme by the Planning Commission;

(e) whether the Government have impressed upon the Planning Commission that the poor allocation could put the SSA and the literacy mission under jeopardy;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to get accorded priority status for SSA from the Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) to (g) The total allocation under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for the Tenth Plan Period is Rs.17,000 crore against the total requirement of Rs. 32,000 crores projected by the Working Groups on Elementary Education and Literacy for the Tenth Plan, set up by the Planning Commission. Against this allocation, the total release for the first two-year of the Plan period has been Rs.3619 crores. Government of India is pursuing with the Planning Commission for a higher outlay in the current year and for the coming three years of the Plan period.

Disinvestment of SCI

209. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether that Government have decided not to go in for disinvestment in the Shipping Corporation of India for which bids have already been received;

(b) if so, the details of the bids received and the reasons for stalling the process; and

(c) the profit earned by SCI during the last two financial years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Shipping Corporation of India earned a profit (after tax) of Rs.241.56 crore during the year 2001-02 and Rs.274.78 crore during the year 2002-03.

**Common Entrance Test for
Medical/Dental Colleges**

210. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to conduct the combined All India examination for selection of candidates for admission to various Government and private medical/dental colleges in different States; and

(b) if so, the guidelines issued in this regard for Common Entrance Test?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) As the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement dated 14.8.2003 in the case of Islamic Academy of Education has directed that the seats in the private unaided professional institutions, including the Medical and Dental colleges, shall be filled up State-wise in the manner specified in the judgement, presently, the Government is not pursuing any proposal in this regard. However, in respect of 15% of MBBS/BDS seats and 25% PG seats in Government Medical/Dental colleges, All India Entrance Examinations are conducted by CBSE and AIIMS respectively as per the scheme devised and approved by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

**Pak Demand for Weapons
from U.S.**

211. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has demanded weapons and

aircraft from U.S.A. to restore the balance in South Asia in the context of India acquiring Phalcon radar system from Israel as reported in the Statesman dated September 22, 2003;

(b) if so, whether this matter was discussed with the U.S. by our PM during his recent visit to New York; and

(c) if so, the outcome of the said discussion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Government has seen several statements by Pakistan regarding its interest in acquiring weapons and other defence equipment from the United States. Government is also aware that, in addition to military aid worth U.S. \$ 375 million between U.S. fiscal years 2002 and 2004, the U.S. Government is considering a five-year military aid package of U.S. \$ 1.5 billion from U.S. fiscal year 2005.

(b) Government has conveyed to the U.S. Government on a number of occasions, including during Prime Minister's meeting with President Bush in September 2003 in New York, that the United States must take into account India-U.S. relations and India's security concerns in deciding the scope and nature of its military relations with Pakistan.

(c) So far, major U.S. defence sales to Pakistan have been restricted to transport aircraft, radars and helicopters. The United States has not announced the actual size and composition of the proposed military aid to Pakistan.

Disinvestment of Hotels

212. KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether process for disinvestment of the Samrat, the Ashok and the Janpath Hotels is going on;

(b) whether the process of disinvestment of these hotels was stopped earlier after initiating the same;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reasons for starting the disinvestment process of these hotels once again?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (d) Advertisements inviting Expressions of Interest (Eols) for leasing out Ashok Hotel and Samrat Hotel, New Delhi were issued on 11.12.2000 and 8.2.2001 respectively. Financial bids for Ashok Hotel were invited in November 2001 and again in January 2002 but there was no complaint bid for this property. Financial bid for Samrat Hotel was not invited due to security related concerns. For Hotel Janpath, New Delhi, advertisement inviting Eols for sale of 100% Government shareholding was issued in February 2001; financial bids were invited in January 2002 but there was not bidder for this property. In March 2002, it was decided to exclude Ashok Hotel and Janpath Hotel, New Delhi from the disinvestment process pending formulation of fresh proposals by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture. It was also decided to issue re-advertisement for Hotel Samrat after addressing the security related concerns but the re-advertisement has not been issued due to non-resolution of certain issues. The Department of Tourism proposes to revive Ashok Hotel. As regards Hotel Janpath, the Department of Tourism had initially planned to utilise the hotel to establish Bharat Paryatan Bhawan to house the offices of Department of Tourism and Culture. But, after analysis and examination, the Department of Tourism has shelved the proposal. No decision has been taken by the Government for re-starting the process of disinvestment of these three hotel properties.

Construction of A New National Highway

213. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISW-MUTHIARY : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have contemplated to construct a new National Highway starting from Lalai in Bhutan to NH-31, Bijni (eastern side of Aie river bridge) via Amteka, Kailamaila, Subhajibhar, Dogorpara and Mongolian bazaar as a measure of opening a new link road between Bhutan and India through tribal dominated areas of Assam;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have proposals to convert the link roads, viz. Gaylegphu-Samtaibari, Shorbhang-Bismuri, Sandrupjunker-Rangia and Bhairabkhunda-Udalguri into National Highways;

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

(f) if not, the reasons therefor;

(g) whether the Ministry of External Affairs has received the adequate amount of the requisite fund from the Government to complete the new National Highway project to be constructed from Nanglam in Bhutan to Pathsala connecting at NH-31 in Assam;

(h) if so, the amount of the Central Fund received so far for the project and the present status of the implementation of the project works; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal to declare any new National Highway due to fund constraints.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) There is no proposal to declare any new National Highway due to fund constraints.

(g) to (i) An amount of Rs. 28.47 crores has already been allocated for construction of Bhutan portion of Pathsala-Nanglam Road with single lane specification.

Illegal Occupation of Indian Mission Building in Pakistan

214. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH :
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian consulate building in Karachi has been encroached upon by some unidentified people;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been taken up with the Pak authorities; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes. The Government of India property at 63 Clifton, Karachi, was illegally encroached upon, and the trespasser had reportedly cut down trees and initiated some works on the premises.

(b) to (c) The matter of encroachment was immediately taken up with the Government of Pakistan through Pakistan Foreign Office in Islamabad on October 8, 2003 and Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi on October 8 and 13, 2003. A FIR on criminal trespass was also registered in Karachi. Pakistan Government had informed on October 18, 2003 that the encroachment of the property had been removed, and security guards posted to avoid recurrence of trespassing in the future. This matter has also become the subject of a court case.

Delay in Attending Complaints of Customers

215. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) takes long time in attending to the complaints of the customers;

(b) if so, the steps taken to strengthen the complaints cells of MTNL;

(c) whether any review is being made by MTNL to improve the working of the complaints cells; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) The telephone faults are attended promptly in MTNL. Only few faults get delayed where there is fault in underground cables.

(b) to (d) (i) All FRS (Fault Repair Service) Centres have been fully computerized.

(ii) PG (Public Grievances) Cells have been created in all the areas as well as Head Quarters.

(iii) Complaints as well as complaints cells are being monitored at the highest level.

(iv) Line staff has been provided with pagers to ensure quick transmission of faults from booking position to field staff.

(v) All fault prone paper core underground cables are being replaced with Jelly Filled Cables/ OFC (Optical Fibre Cable).

(vi) All E-10B type exchanges based on old technology are being scrapped and replaced with state-of-the art new technology digital switches.

[Translation]

Appointment on Compassionate Grounds

216. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of applicants waiting to be employed on compassionate ground in various circles of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd., Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. and Postal Wing as on November 15, 2003; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government for speedy disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

**Services Provided by BSNL
and MTNL**

217. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :
SHRI SUBODH ROY :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that frequency of BSNL's and MTNL's Cellular Service and their roaming facility and SMS service in the country are not up to the mark as compared with that of private operators and that MTNL/BSNL are lagging far behind in respect of number of subscribers and quality of service;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to improve these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : BSNL (a) and (b) BSNL is providing national roaming and Short Messaging Service (SMS) right since its launch of cellular services across the country and same are comparable to its competitors. The mobile subscribers base on BSNL network as on 31.10.2003 is 4372026.

(c) BSNL is taking several measures to improve the facilities. International roaming and additional SMS based services is expected to be available to Cell One subscriber of BSNL during the current financial year.

MTNL

(a) and (b) MTNL has roaming agreement with BSNL which has connectivity all over the country and also with many private operators for its Cellular mobile service. Its SMS services are also up to mark. Quality of Service (QoS) parameters of MTNL's Cellular service are mostly within the benchmark specified by TRAI. MTNL Cellular Mobile

Service was launched after the other private operators had already established considerable subscriber base. MTNL's subscriber base as on 31.10.2003 was 1,56,316 in Delhi and 165,721 in Mumbai. The growth of MTNL Cellular Mobile Service has not been as fast as that of some of the private operators due to several constraints including non-availability of capacity for pre-paid service and value added services such GPRS, MMS etc.

(c) MTNL is taking several measures to improve their services such as expansion of capacity by 4 lakh lines each in Delhi and Mumbai with GPRS facility. Continuous monitoring through drive tests is being carried out and RF optimization is done to improve RF signal strength. MTNL is also offering competitive/affordable tariffs to its customers beside improving customer care service.

[Translation]

Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana

218. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether new scheme is being implemented to boost the development of Backward areas during the Tenth Five Year Plan Period under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY);

(b) whether the provision of economic Package to be given to Bihar in the aftermath of the division of Bihar has been made under this scheme;

(c) if so, the quantum of assistance given to Bihar as an economic package till date; and

(d) the year-wise, State-wise details of target fixed and expenditure incurred in terms of implementing RSVY?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Special Central Assistance of Rs.50.53 crore has so far been released to the Government of Bihar for the Special Plan of Bihar under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana.

(d) The Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana initiated by the Planning Commission has three components, namely, (i) Special Plan for Bihar, (ii) Special Plan for the KBK districts of Orissa and (iii) Backward Districts Initiative. A statement showing allocations made and funds released during the current financial year 2003-04 is enclosed.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the State	Allocations made (Rs. in crore)	Funds released (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4
	Special Plan for Bihar	500.00	50.53
	Special Plan for the KBK districts of Orissa	250.00	70.00
Backward Districts Initiative			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	75.00	15.00
2.	Assam	30.00	—
3.	Bihar	60.00	—
4.	Chhattisgarh	60.00	15.00
5.	Gujarat	30.00	7.50
6.	Himachal Pradesh	15.00	—
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	15.00	—
8.	Jharkhand	120.00	22.50
9.	Karnataka	30.00	7.50
10.	Kerala	30.00	7.50
11.	Madhya Pradesh	90.00	22.50

1	2	3	4
12.	Maharashtra	60.00	15.00
13.	Manipur	15.00	—
14.	Orissa	30.00	—
15.	Rajasthan	45.00	15.00
16.	Sikkim	15.00	—
17.	Tamil Nadu	30.00	7.50
18.	Tripura	15.00	—
19.	Uttaranchal	15.00	—
20.	Uttar Pradesh	150.00	37.50
21.	West Bengal	60.00	15.00

Old Rabies Injections

219. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that old injections of "rabies" are being used in Government hospitals in place of using new improved injections;

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

(c) if so, the outcome of the inquiry and the action taken against the persons found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Two types of vaccines, namely Neural Tissue Vaccine (NTV) and Tissue Culture Anti Rabies Vaccine (TCARV) to prevent rabies are in use by the Government hospitals. The neuro-paralytic reactions due to the old vaccine, i.e. NTV are very rare, as no death has been reported after administration of this vaccine. In view of WHO's recommendations to prefer the use of TCARV, a decision has been taken to phase out NTV gradually.

(b) No, Sir.

- (c) Does not arise.

[English]

Welfare of Women Workers

220. SHRI ALAKESH DAS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Central assistance is provided to social organisations and Institutions which are engaged in Welfare of Women workers in the country, State-wise;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the amount of assistance provided to each of them so far during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Vallarpadam International Container Terminal

221. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

- (a) the present status of Vallarpadam International Container Terminal proposed to be constructed in Cochin; and
- (b) the reasons, if any, for the inordinate delay being caused to the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI) :

(a) and (b) The process of selection of the Operator for the Vallarpadam Container Terminal commenced in October, 2002 with the invitation of 'Request for Qualification' and based on the request received, two firms, (i) M/s. CSX World Terminals, UK and (ii) M/s. Maersk, Denmark were qualified for bidding. The Draft License

Agreement was issued to the two bidders in February, 2003 and after detailed discussions and negotiations, the finalised draft License Agreement was issued to them in July 2003 for submitting the price proposal on 12.9.2003. Even though they had confirmed that they would submit the price proposal on the due date, i.e, 12.9.2003, they did not submit the same and they submitted counter proposals seeking more concessions and relaxations to the conditions in the License Agreement. The conditions put by the bidders were considered by the Cochin Port Trust Board and found that they are not acceptable. The matter was examined in detail by the Port Trust Board and the Ministry of Shipping. Subsequently, an interacting meeting was held with the 13 prospective bidders/Terminal Operators/shipping lines at Mumbai on 18.11.2003 and 19.11.2003. On the basis of suggestions/views expressed by the participants of this meeting, Cochin Port is working on the re-designing of the project and re-defining the Concession Agreement in consultation with the Government of India and the Project Consultants, i.e, M/s. Infrastructure Development Finance Company Ltd., Mumbai. The process of selection of the Operator for the Vallarpadam International Container Terminal could not be finalised as per schedule due to the above reasons.

[Translation]

Science Schemes and Projects

222. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of schemes and projects running in the country under the Department of Science and Technology at present;
- (b) the details of States which have been given funds, grants, loan and other items under the said schemes and projects during 1998 to July 2003, State-wise;
- (c) the details of schemes and projects which have contributed to rural development; and
- (d) the details of other schemes which the Government propose to implement in the field of science and technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA") : (a) The following schemes and projects are running in the country under the Department of Science and Technology at present :-

1. Research and Development Programme.
2. Technology Development Programme.
3. Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development.
4. Science and Society programme.
5. S&T Communication and Popularisation programme.
6. International Science and Technology Co-operation Programme.
7. Support to Science and Technology Councils.
8. Seismology Programme.
9. Technology for Bamboo Products.
10. Support to sub-ordinate offices like Survey of India and India Meteorological Department and aided-institutions.

(b) The Department does not provide grants/loans to the States.

(c) The science and Society Programme of the Department contribute to rural development through dissemination of scientific and technological knowledge for rural applications.

(d) The schemes mentioned in part (a) are the schemes being implemented during the 10th Five Year Plan i.e. year 2002-2007.

Launch of Cartosat-I

223. COL (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL :
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle. PSLV (C-5) has been launched successfully;

(b) if so, the areas which are likely to be benefitted by this satellite;

(c) the total expenditure incurred thereon;

(d) whether the Government propose to launch Cartosat-I;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION. MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) Yes Sir. The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C5) has launched successfully the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite IRS-P6 (Resourcesat-1) on October 17, 2003 from Sriharikota.

(b) The Resourcesat-I satellite is expected to assist the natural resources and environment management related applications such as integrated land and water resources management, agriculture and disaster management.

(c) The total expenditure incurred on the Resourcesat-1 satellite mission was RS.141.58 crores.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. The Government is planning to launch the Cartosat-I satellite with the capability to have 2.5 metres spatial resolution and 30 Kms. swath.

(f) The Cartosat-I satellite is expected to be launched during the second half of 2004.

[English]

Review of VPT

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

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the working of Village Public Telephone (VPT) in various States;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof and the remedial measures to be taken, if any, shortcomings have been found; and

(c) the date of last review alongwith the period covered under it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The circle-wise working of the VPTs is reviewed every month.

(b) The VPTs provided on MARR technology have not been performing well. Since January 2003 to September, 2003, the average fault rate of MARR based VPTs has been 36.77% in comparison to overall average fault rate of 13.77%. The VPTs provided on MARR technology were decided to be replaced progressively mainly by WLL technology. BSNL has already replaced 54,971 MARR based VPTs as on 31.03.2003. BSNL has planned to replace 80,000 MARR based VPTs during the current year subject to the availability of resources. 13,921 MARR based VPTs have been replaced during 01.04.03 to 31.10.03. And private operators have replaced 879 MARR based VPTs as on 31.10.2003.

(c) The last review for the month of September, 2003 was completed by 28.10.2003.

[Translation]

Arrest of Indian Citizens in Iran

225. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Iranian Officers have arrested Indians illegally entering Iran;

(b) if so, the number of people arrested;

(c) whether the Union Government have taken any initiative for release of such Indians;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of Indians released so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes.

(b) to (e) Two Indian nationals were arrested by Iranian authorities in 2003 while illegally entering Iran from Turkey. They were released ten days later. Government invariably take up with Iranian authorities the question of early release and repatriation of apprehended Indian nationals.

[English]

Establishment of Regional Centre

226. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plans to start a Regional Centre at Chennai for foreign aspiring students from south to get their certificate endorsed/attested by the Ministry of Human Resource Development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the other steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to mitigate the difficulties of students coming from Down south to Delhi for certificate endorsement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) By deploying extra staff an additional counter has been opened and the rush of people is being catered to successfully.

Medical Education Standard

227. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to change the Medical Education Standard to suit the change in genetic profiling, pharma cogenctics, Novll diagnostics and gene therapy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present standard of medical education in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal with the Government.

(c) The Medical Council of India with the approval of the Central Government have framed various Regulations to ensure the maintenance of the standard of medical education imparted in the country. These Regulations are reviewed from time to time to keep pace with the developments in the field of medicine. The Medical Council of India while carrying out inspections of the medical colleges also verifies the compliance of the various regulations of the Council including the availability of the minimum required infrastructure facilities and teaching staff for maintenance of the standard of education.

Passenger Service Between Cochin and Gulf Countries

228. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce passenger shipping service between Cochin and various Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no viable proposal for operating

passenger shipping service between Cochin and Gulf countries.

Losses in Postal Department

229. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a boon in telecom internet expansion and growing fax usage have dented the conventional letter delivery business of the Postal Department;

(b) if so, the amount of losses incurred during the last two years by the Postal Department; and

(c) the steps being proposed to avoid the losses and improve the services of Postal department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The deficit was Rs. 1549.76 Crores in 2000-01 and Rs. 1411.51 Crores in 2001-02.

(c) Though the mail traffic has decreased, the Department has taken many initiatives to generate additional revenue. A number of premium products and services like Speed Post, Business Post, Greeting Post, Media Post etc. to cater to the needs of business and corporate clients have been introduced. The Department has introduced new financial services with other organizations such as 'Money Transfer Service' in collaboration with Western Union, 'Electronic Fund Transfer' in collaboration with UTI Bank and E-Post Project. All efforts are being made to reduce costs.

Disinvestment of Oil Companies

230. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether despite the Government's decision to go in for disinvestment in respect of non-strategic Public

Sector Undertakings, the Government have agreed to the demand from Assam and other North-Eastern States not to disinvest Oil India Limited (OIL), Indian Oil Corporation, ONGC and Gas Authority of India Limited; and

(b) if so, the profit or loss incurred by each of their units operating in Assam during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 and their production and turn-over during each of these years and the current year so far?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) No, Sir. However, disinvestment is a continuous process and Government keeps considering proposals for disinvestment of PSUs through inter-Ministerial consultations and takes a final decision after considering all relevant factors. Currently, there is no decision to disinvest in Oil India Limited (OIL), Indian Oil Corporation, ONGC and Gas Authority of India Limited.

(b) In view of reply to (a) above, does not arise.

Upgradation/Modernisation of Hospitals

231. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR :

DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

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

(a) whether the Government had received several requests from various State Governments for grant of assistance for the upgradation of hospitals in respective States during the last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of funds released and the total number of hospitals upgraded/modernised in the country during the Ninth Five Year Plan period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) State Health System Development Projects are being implemented by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with the World Bank Assistance aimed at improving/upgrading secondary level health facilities in the States. The details of the project implemented in various States w.e.f. 1995 is given in statement I enclosed.

The details of status of the proposal in the pipeline is given in statement II enclosed.

Statement-I

State	Projected Period	Project Outlay (Rs. in crores)	Status
Andhra Pradesh	w.e.f. 1.3.95 for 6½ years	608.00	Completed on 30.6.2002.
West Bengal	w.e.f. 26.6.96 for 5½ years	701.46	Extended upto 31.3.2004.
Karnataka	w.e.f. 27.6.96 for 5½ years	546.00	Extended upto 31.3.2004.
Punjab	w.e.f. 27.6.96 for 5½ years	425.00	Extended upto 31.3.2004.
Orissa	w.e.f. Sept. 98 for 5 years	415.57	Under Implementation.
Maharashtra	w.e.f. 14.2.99 for 5½ years	727.00	Under Implementation.
Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal	w.e.f. 1.7.2000 for 5½ years	520.00	Under Implementation.

Statement-II*Details of Status of the Other
Proposals in Pipeline*

1. Assam with outlay of Rs.382.16 crores.
2. Rajasthan with outlay of Rs.338.22 crores.
3. Tamil Nadu with outlay of Rs.650.00 crores.
4. Madhya Pradesh with outlay of Rs.629.62 crores.
5. Kerala with outlay of Rs.810.47 crores.

Sagar Mala Programme

232. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have finalised the guidelines for the implementation of Rs.100,000 crore Sagar Mala programme;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to involve both the public and the private sector in the implementation of this programme; and

(c) the details of the shipping policy so formulated by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI) :

(a) The outline of the 'Sagarmala' scheme is being finalised. After finalisation, the scheme will be placed before the Competent Authority for approval.

(b) The 'Sagarmala' scheme envisages involvement of both public and private sectors.

(c) As indicated in reply to part (a) of the question, the outline of the scheme, which would also include policy interventions, are being finalised.

Child Rights

233. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN : Will the Minister of

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission for Women has recently visited Tamil Nadu to investigate the incidents pertaining to abuse of child rights;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to taken by the Union and State Governments to protect the child rights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA) : (a) and (b) The National Commission for Women in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu State Commission for Women conducted a public hearing on violation of the rights of the girl child on 29.10.2003 in Chennai. The discussion pertained to violence against girl children, such as caning by school teachers, sexual harassment in class rooms and rape. A number of measures have been recommended particularly for the State Government, for the protection and welfare of children.

(c) Action to protect child rights is undertaken by several Ministries/Departments in the Government of India such as:

- (i) Department of Women and Child Development.
- (ii) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- (iii) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- (iv) Ministry of Labour.

Poor Postal Delivery in Orissa

234. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the poor mail delivery in KBK districts of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the mail delivery system in those parts of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) No Sir. Mail delivery in KBK districts of Orissa is satisfactory.

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

Setting Up of A Digital Science and Technology Library and Information Resource

235. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the efforts are being made to seek UNESCO cooperation in setting up of a Digital Science and Technology Library and Information Resource in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the site of the proposed institute; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA") : (a) Yes Sir. Efforts have been made by India to seek UNESCO cooperation for Digital Science and Technology Library and Information Resource initiative.

(b) With a view to strengthening open and equitable access to scientific and technological knowledge, information and civilizational knowledge for world class higher science education and advanced research in Asian region, by way of "Digital Science and Technology Library", Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore submitted a proposal seeking UNESCO's cooperation and role in :

— Procuring published scientific and technical books, research monographs, civilizational knowledge for the "Digital Science and Technology Library" as gifts; and

— Mobilizing voluntary/ discounted permission of publishers and purchase of subsidized copyrights by UNESCO to digitize upto 10,000 selected scientific books and research monographs/journals to be put on the "Digital Science and Technology Library".

(c) UNESCO has expressed difficulty in supporting this initiative due to (i) the unresolved issues and concerns about copyrights and its implications for the publishing community and (ii) constraints in availability of adequate infrastructure at user end in Asian region for effective use of Digital Science and Technology Library.

Central Assistance to Karnataka

236. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Karnataka Government had identified some schemes for securing optimal Central Assistance during the current year 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total allocations made during 2003-04 to the Karnataka for implementing these schemes;

(c) whether Karnataka has utilised the assistance;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the remaining assistance is likely to be allotted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Upgradation of Health Services

237. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

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

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status of the proposal;

(c) whether there is any delay in clearing the proposal;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The proposal seeking financial assistance of Rs. 21.45 crore from Japan for Upgradation of Health Services at Government Medical Colleges and Civil Hospitals at Kolhapur, Latur, Gadchiroli, Chandrapur and Amravati received from the Government of Maharashtra was posed to the Government of Japan in February 2002. It may also be mentioned that on the request of Embassy of Japan, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Company Affairs has prioritised some proposals and this proposal is one of them.

Opening of a CGHS Dispensary in Chandigarh

238. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sole CGHS Dispensary at Chandigarh is found to be inadequate to meet the rush of eligible persons visiting it for treatment;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up another dispensary at Chandigarh to meet the requirement of the people;

(c) whether the beneficiaries who have already retired, a lump-sum amount equivalent to 10 times the

annual contribution, irrespective of the age, is being charged; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The existing CGHS dispensary in Chandigarh is working to its capacity and the dispensary services are being managed with the available strength of doctors and other staff members. However, due to constraints of resources and manpower, there is no proposal to open an additional CGHS dispensary in Chandigarh at present.

(c) No, Sir. The pensioner beneficiaries of CGHS are required to pay their monthly CGHS contribution only on an annual basis (12 months at a time). However, for the sake of convenience of the pensioners, they have been given an option to pay a lump sum CGHS contribution for 10 years (120 months). Whatever option the pensioner chooses, the CGHS authorities issue a Permanent/Whole life CGHS Pensioner card only after the CGHS contribution for 120 months has been received from the pensioner where after no further CGHS contribution is charged from the pensioner.

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

Re-Evaluation of Maritime Security Measures

239. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have re-evaluated maritime security measures keeping in view the warning of international Maritime Organisation in the wake of rising terrorist threats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the measures adopted for inspection of cargo before and after shipment;

(d) whether these measures are causing delay in shipment of cargo; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Following the tragic events of 11th September, 2001 the International Maritime Organization adopted new provisions in the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, 1974 and the International Code for the Security of Ships and Port Facilities (ISPS Code) to enhance maritime security. The enhanced security measures will be applicable to foreign going merchant ships and port facilities which will become effective from 1st July, 2004. It has been evaluated that about 200 foreign going ships, 12 major ports and about 30 minor ports in the country are required to comply with the provisions of IMO's ISPS Code. The Government has nominated Director General of Shipping as the "Designated Authority" to oversee the implementation of new security regulations.

(c) and (d) The inspection of cargo in ports is done by Customs Department based on their assessment of the need of doing so. Since the time required for the examination is in the knowledge of the shipper, the cargo is generally brought well ahead of shipment and the examination formalities are completed. Therefore, there is no delay in shipment of cargo.

(e) Does not arise.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

240. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than 10 lakh children in Karnataka do not go to school, the figure being the highest among the South Indian States;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have approved an outlay of about Rs.336 crore for Karnataka as part of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and out of this Rs.19.5 crore has already been released;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have

ascertained that the amount granted to State Government has been utilized properly; and

(d) if so, the time by which the full amount is likely to be released to the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) The position stated in the Question obtained in February, 2001, but, as per latest information furnished by Government of Karnataka, the number of out-of-school children in the State in September, 2003, was about two lakh.

(b) For the year 2003-04, Rs.336.05 crore was approved for implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in Karnataka, out of which first instalment of central share amounting to Rs.84.39 crore has been released.

(c) State Government has informed that funds are being utilized properly.

(d) Release of 2nd instalment of central share is contingent upon the progress of expenditure of the first instalment, release of State share, and receipt of specific request from the State Society.

[Translation]

Telephone Exchanges in Rajasthan

241. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the system of telephone exchanges installed in Rajasthan during 2003-2004;

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

(c) the number of telephone exchanges upgraded during the last three years; and

(d) the telephone exchanges proposed to be upgraded during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is a plan to expand net switching capacity (wired Lines) by 38,000 lines during 2003-04. SSA (Secondary Switching Area) wise details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) All the 2320 telephone exchanges working in Rajasthan as on 1.11.2003 have been upgraded to electronic digital exchanges having reliable media.

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

Statement

Expansion of Switching Capacity in Rajasthan for 2003-04

S.No.	Name of SSA	Switching Capacity
1	2	3
1.	Ajmer	5900
2.	Alwar	4980
3.	Banswara	1000
4.	Barmer	600
5.	Bharatpur	1200
6.	Bhilwara	2048
7.	Bikaner	1840
8.	Bundi	584
9.	Chittorgarh	1232
10.	Churu	2000
11.	Jaisalmer	992
12.	Jaipur	-10696
13.	Jhalawar	1720

1	2	3
14.	Jodhpur	-1240
15.	Kota	4272
16.	Nagaur	3080
17.	Pali	5624
18.	Sawaimadhopur	3000
19.	Sikar	4152
20.	Sirohi	5240
21.	Sriganganagar	-6656
22.	Tonk	304
23.	Udaipur	6824
Total		38000

Note:- In Jaipur, Jodhpur and Sriganganagar Net switching Capacity is negative due to reason that life expired E-10B exchanges (Jaipur-20 K, Jodhpur -10K and Sriganganagar-7K) are being scrapped at these places and telephone connections working from these exchanges are being shifted to other exchanges already installed there.

[English]

Cellular/Mobile Phone Facility in West Bengal

242. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that Cellular Phone/ Mobile Phone facility is not available in various districts of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the names of such districts; and

(c) by when the above facility is likely to be provided in all the districts of West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) Sir, as per terms and conditions of the Licence for Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS), the licensees for Telecom Circle Service areas are required to cover atleast 10% of the District Headquarters (DHQs) within first year and 50% of the District Headquarters within three years of effective date of Licence. The Licensee is also permitted to cover any other town in a District in lieu of the District Headquarter. The choice of District Headquarters / town to be covered and further expansion beyond 50% District Headquarters/ towns in a Service Area lies with the Licensee depending on his business decision. There is no mandatory requirement for coverage of 100% of the Service Area. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited which has CMTS licence for Andaman and Nicobar and West Bengal Telecom Circle Service Area and Kolkata Metro City Service Area, have intimated that they are providing CMTS in all the District Headquarters in West Bengal State.

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

Port Policy

243. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
SHRI C.N. SINGH :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Port Policy has failed to attract investors;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether 38 projects worth Rs.7640 crore have been identified by the Government but only 45 per cent of them have received commitments of Rs.3247 crore and the remaining 21 projects remain uncertain;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Participation of the private sector in various port development projects is an ongoing process. As part of its policy to attract and encourage private sector investment in port development, the Government has issued comprehensive guidelines for private sector participation in the major ports. So far, Government has approved 17 private sector/captive port development projects involving an investment of Rs.3247 crore, as per list given in statement-I enclosed. Further, 21 private sector/captive port development projects involving an investment of Rs.4394 crores are under consideration or for which bids have been invited, as per list given in statement II enclosed. The response to the Government's efforts to increase private sector participation in port development is fairly satisfactory.

Statement-I

Approved Private Sector/Captive Port Projects

Sl. No.	Project Name	Port name	Capacity (Million Tonnes)	Project Cost (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Container Terminal	Jawaharlal Nehru	7.20	800.00
2.	Liquid Cargo Berth	Jawaharlal Nehru	5.50	200.00

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Fifth Oil Jetty (Iffco Jetty)	Kandla	2.00	21.50
4.	Oil Jetty awarded to M/s IOCL.	Kandla	2.00	20.70
5.	Development of Container Freight Station	Kandla	3.00	41.07
6.	Oil Jetty and related facilities	Vadinar (Kandla)	10.00	250.00
7.	Container Terminal	Tuticorin	3.60	100.00
8.	Captive berth to Oswal Fertilisers Ltd.	Paradip	2.5	100.00
9.	Construction of a berth at Pir Pau for handling inter-alia coal on BOOT basis	Mumbai	1.5	200.00
10.	(a) Container Terminal at Chennai Stage-I	Chennai	5.6	490.50 in 5 years
	(b) Container Terminal at Chennai Stage-II 285 Mtrs. Berth	Chennai		
11.	Multipurpose General Cargo Berths 5A and 6A	Mormugao	5.0	224.00
12.	Multipurpose Berths at Visakhapatnam Port EQ 8 & EQ 9	Vaizag	1.80	175.00
13.	Container Terminal at Multipurpose Berth Outer Harbour	Visakhapatnam	4.80	100.00
14.	Allotment of Multipurpose berth No.12.	Haldia Dock Complex (HDC).	0.5 million tonnes in case of mixed cargo including 0.5 MT containers/ 35,000 TEUs in case of exclusive handling of container	30.00
15.	Multipurpose Berth No.4 A at Haldia.	Haldia Dock Complex (HDC).	1.5	150.00
16.	Handling of LPG at No.8 Jetty of Budge Budge Petroleum Wharves	KoPT	0.025	94.18
17.	BOT Coal Berth at New Mangalore	New Mangalore	5.0	250.00
Total			61.525	3246.95

Statement-II

Private Sector Port Projects under Consideration or Bids Invited

Sl. No.	Project	Port Name	Capacity (Million Tonnes)	Project Cost (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Development of International Container Terminal at Vallarpadam.	Cochin Port.	5.0	600.00
2.	International Bunkering Terminal.	Cochin Port	1.00	170.00
3.	Redevelopment of existing Bulk Terminal into Container Terminal.	JNPT	14.00 MTPA	900.00
4.	Development Operation, Maintenance and Management of 4 Container Terminals on BOT basis in Indira Dock.	Mumbai Port		89.00
5.	Construction of a Second liquid chemical/POL products berth at Pir Pau on BOT basis	Mumbai Port	2.00	75.00
6.	Development, Operation and Maintenance of 2 general cargo terminals in Indira Dock on B.O.T. basis	Mumbai Port		15.00
7.	Licensing of 2 Dry Docks for Operating and Managing Ship Repair activities on commercial basis	Mumbai Port		2.00
8.	Developing a Container Freight Station (CFS) at Cotton Depot on BOT basis	Mumbai Port		46.70
9.	Licensing of Multipurpose cargo terminal in Victoria Dock	Mumbai Port		—
10.	Construction of 2 New Off-shore Container berth and development of Container Terminal berth on BOT basis in Mumbai Harbour	Mumbai Port	7.53/0.62 million TEUs	958.00
11.	Development of Passenger Cruise Terminal at BPX	Mumbai Port		
12.	Construction of a berth for Clear Cargo on BOT basis	Paradip Port	1.0	100.00
13.	Construction and license out berths at for handling captive cargoes on BOT basis -	Visakhapatnam Port.		
	(a) M/s. Utkal Alumina International Limited (WQ 6)		0.9	40.00
	(b) M/s L&T (WQ7 berth)		0.9	33.13

1	2	3	4	5
14.	Development and Operation of Container Terminal	Kandla Port.	3.36	175.00
15.	Conversion of Oil Jetty into Dry Cargo Berth	Kandla Port.	0.80	20.00
16.	Mechanization of 11th Cargo Berth	Kandla Port.	—	—
17.	Construction of an Iron Ore Berth (including equipment)	Ennore Port	12.00	350.00
18.	Construction of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Jetty	Ennore Port	2.5	200.00
19.	Construction of Coal Berth for Users other than TNEB (including equipments)	Ennore Port	8.00	300.00
20.	Construction of Jetty for POL Products/Chemicals	Ennore Port	3.00	200.00
21.	Construction and Operation of Cruise Vessel-cum- Container Berth in Mormugao Port on BoT basis.	Mormugao	—	120.00
Total			61.99	4393.83

**Decline in Small Savings in
Post Offices**

244. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether small savings in post offices have been showing a sharp decline in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years particularly with regard to Maharashtra;

(c) whether the Government have undertaken any survey to find out the reasons for this declining trend;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the remedial measures proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) No, Sir.

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

**Reducing Internship Period for
MBBS Course**

245. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the present duration of Internship for MBBS course;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to reduce it to six months; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) As per Medical Council of India Regulations on Graduate Medical Education, 1997, every candidate will be required to undergo compulsory rotational internship to the satisfaction of the college authorities and the University concerned for a period of 12 months after passing the final MBBS examination to be eligible for award of MBBS degree and full registration.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal with the Government.

**Infrastructure Development in
Telecom Sector**

247. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

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

- (a) whether the BSNL has made any action plan for infrastructure development in telecom sector in Maharashtra;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the investment to be made therein; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) BSNL, in Maharashtra has planned expansion of the following:-

- (i) Wireless in Local Loop Service for providing Telephone Services to subscribers in far flung areas and Cellular Mobile services in the entire State apart from expansion of its Fixed line Switching Network.
- (ii) Value added Services such as Intelligent Network which offers a host of associated services such as Freephone, Virtual Private Network and Premium Rate Service etc.
- (iii) Internet Services including DIAS and CLI based Services.
- (iv) Managed Lease Line Network and Broadband Services.

(c) A provision of Rs. 993.54 Crores has been made for investment in Maharashtra Circle under Budget Estimate for the year 2003-04.

(d) The targets set and achievement made by BSNL during the year 2003-04 are as under:-

S. No.	Parameter and Unit	Target	Achievement upto 31.10.2003
1.	Direct Exchange Lines (Lakh lines)	5.96	2.07
2.	Switching Capacity (Lakh lines)	5.90	3.24
3.	TAX (Kilo Ckts.)	145	18.6
4.	Optical Fibre Cable (R Kms.)	6500	952.52
5.	Microwave (R Kms.)	119	145.51

**Performance of Indian Council of
Philosophical Research**

248. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have Indian Council of Philosophical Research under its aegis;

(b) if so, the aims and objectives of the council alongwith other details;

(c) its recent contributions to India's academic advancement alongwith its annual budget for the last three years;

(d) whether there is a proposal to allow such bodies to operate in a totally autonomous atmosphere simultaneously with efforts by it to raise its own funds by printing and publishing and other allied works and initiatives; and

(e) if so, the details of steps proposed by the Government to allow such bodies to be independent of Government patronage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI

KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR) was set up in 1977 with its main objectives to review the progress of research in Philosophy from time to time; to sponsor or assist projects or programmes of research in Philosophy; to provide financial assistance to institutions/organisations and individuals engaged in research in Philosophy and allied disciplines; to organise/ sponsor seminars/ conferences and to bring out/ sponsor publications relating to Philosophy.

The ICPR functions through its Research Project Committee (RPC), Governing Body and Council in accordance with its Memorandum of Association and Rules.

(c) Important programmes undertaken by ICPR during the last 3 years are indicated below:-

- (i) The Council continued its efforts in regard to the recovery of Indian Philosophy through various programmes aiming at the promotion of research in Indian Philosophy (Classical as well as contemporary) and comparative study of Indian and Western thought under its schemes of fellowships/conferences/seminars etc.
- (ii) An international conferences on the theme Spirituality, Science and Technology was organised in December 2000-2001.
- (iii) A National Seminar on Philosophy of Value Oriented Education was organised in January 2002.
- (iv) An international conference on Indian Philosophy, Science and Culture was organised in March – April 2003.
- (v) 4 eminent scholars were deputed for a study and training programme at Paris under Indo-French Cultural Programmes.
- (vi) Lectures of 6 eminent national philosophers and 5 eminent overseas philosophers were organised in different parts of the country.

(vii) A round table on the philosophy of Sri Aurobindo was organised in the XII World Congress of Philosophy held in Istanbul, Turkey in August 2003.

(viii) 15 books relating to Indian Philosophy, Epistemology, Ontology, Axiology and Bhakti were published.

(ix) ICPR continued its collaboration with the Project of History of Indian Science, Philosophy and Culture.

The grants in aid as indicated below was provided by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to ICPR during the last 3 years :-

Year	Plan (Rs. in lakhs)	Non-Plan (Rs. in lakhs)
2001-2002	226.00	217.00
2002-2003	216.00	217.00
2003-2004 (Budget estimates)	240.00	240.00

(d) and (e) ICPR is already autonomous in its functioning. Government has advised ICPR to increase its revenue from other sources by sale proceeds of publications etc. so as to reduce dependence on Government funding.

[Translation]

Using of Mobile by Terrorists

249. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :

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

(a) whether mobile services are being use by terrorists and anti-national elements in Jammu and Kashmir and other border areas;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to keep mobile service out of the reach of terrorists and anti-national elements alongwith the outcome thereof so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

**Waiting List of Telephone
Connection in Orissa**

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

(a) the number of people waiting for telephone connection in each scheduled district in Orissa;

(b) whether here is a great delay between submission of application and sanction of telephone;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is an inordinate delay between issue of OB and installation of telephone in these districts;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to expedite the installation of telephones in those scheduled districts and particularly in Keonjhar where such cases are on the increase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) The number of people waiting for telephone connection in each scheduled district in Orissa is given in statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) Telephones are being provided within prescribed period for almost all the applicant. However, some delay occurs in few places, which are T.N.F. (Technically Non Feasible). Efforts are made to overcome the problems of T.N.F. cases.

(e) A total of 1,37,000 direct Exchange Lines (DELs) have already been planned by BSNL in Orissa during

2003-04 of which 93,313 have been provided upto 31.10.2003. BSNL is making out efforts for provision of telephones in the scheduled districts by expansion of landline, Mobile and Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) telephones.

Regarding Keonjhar District, 6600 DELs have been planned to be provided during 2003-04. Out of this target, 6528 lines have already been provided upto October, 2003.

Statement

*District-wise Number of Persons Waiting for
Telephone Connections in Orissa*

Sl. No.	Name of Telecom District	Name of Revenue District	Waiting List
1	2	3	4
1.	Balasore	Balasore	1152
		Bhadrak	1235
2.	Baripada	Mayurbhanja	724
3.	Berhampur	Ganjam	157
		Gajapati	53
4.	Bhawanipatna	Kalahandi	480
		Nuapada	0
5.	Bhubaneswar	Puri	2678
		Nayagarh	162
		Khurda	1624
6.	Bolangir	Bolnagir	8
		Sonepur	20
7.	Cuttack	Cuttack	784
		Kendrapada	341
		Jajpur	525

1	2	3	4
		Jagatsinghpur	1490
8.	Dhenkanal	Dhenkanal	121
		Anugul	339
9.	Keonjhar	Keonjhar	826
10.	Koraput	Koraput	76
		Rayagada	0
		Malkangiri	0
		Nowrangpur	0
11.	Phulabani	Phulabani (Kandhamal)	23
		Boudh	13
12.	Rourkela	Sundergarh	252
13.	Sambalpur	Sambalpur	320
		Jharsuguda	349
		Deogarh	6
		Bargarh	270
Total			14028

Medical Reimbursement

251. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether considerable delays are caused by DGHS in reimbursement of medical claims of retired Government employees causing immense hardships to them;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether complaints have been received in this regard including from the Members of Parliament;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter;

(e) the number of reimbursement of medical claims filed before September 10, 2003 still pending with the DGHS;

(f) the reasons for delay; and

(g) the time by which all medical claims are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The medical reimbursement claims of CGHS pensioner beneficiaries are cleared within 4 to 6 weeks' time except in those cases which involve relaxation of rules; require the opinion of the Expert Committee; or in the event of budgetary constraints.

(c) Some complaints were received in the recent past for early settlement of the medical claims of CGHS beneficiaries.

(d) The necessary follow-up action has been taken by settling all the said medical claims.

(e) None of the medical claims of CGHS beneficiaries pertaining to the period prior to 10.9.2003 are pending with the DGHS.

(f) and (g) The positions has already been explained in reply to (a) and (b) above.

Special Dairy Cooperative Committees

252. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of projects sanctioned under Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP) in the country, State-wise;

(b) the funds sanctioned and released to the States for those projects during 2003-2004;

(c) the locations where these projects are being

implemented alongwith the number of beneficiaries under the said projects;

(d) whether there is any proposal to sanction more such projects in the country, during the current year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA) : (a) Statement I is enclosed.

(b) A Statement II is enclosed.

(c) A Statement III is enclosed.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. However it will depend upon the suitability of the proposals and the schematic norms.

Statement-I

State wise break-up of Projects sanctioned and the number of Beneficiaries during 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-03 under STEP Scheme

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State	No. of Approved Project			No. of Approved Beneficiary			Grants Released		
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	2	—	600	3000	—	37.38	50.70	12.036
2.	Assam	—	2	3	—	10000	10600	—	153.80	232.2
3.	Bihar	1	—	—	625	—	—	20.73	—	—
4.	Chattishgarh	—	1	1	—	3375	4500	—	40.87	49.725
5.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Himachal Pradesh	—	1	—	—	1500	—	—	72.88	5.86
7.	Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.00	75.41
8.	Kerala	—	—	1	—	—	10000	4.82	4.26	160.51
9.	Karnataka	1	2	1	10000	11200	600	235.12	444.92	18.53
10.	Manipur	1	2	—	500	1000	—	24.64	26.91	15.456
11.	Nagaland	2	3	1	1250	1500	3750	32.95	35.44	77.59
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1	—	—	5400	—	—	93.54	—	—
13.	Meghalaya	—	1	—	—	500	—	—	9.03	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14.	Mizoram	—	—	1	—	—	3000	—	—	64.56
15.	Maharashtra	1	1	1	9975	500	9975	106.35	54.83	168.212
16.	Orissa	—	2	3	—	9775	23000	245.04	138.09	285.385
17.	Punjab	—	—	2	—	—	19860	—	—	183.492
18.	Rajasthan	—	—	2	—	—	20000	—	—	157.77
19.	Sikkim	—	1	—	—	1000	—	—	39.43	—
20.	Uttar Pradesh	3	5	3	18800	16350	17200	499.79	373.17	390.87
21.	Uttaranchal	1	1	1	5400	3000	3046	40.43	121.44	113.6
22.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	1	—	—	3000	—	—	15.00	59.85
23.	Tripura	—	1	—	—	840	—	94.58	17.55	22.6
24.	Tamil Nadu	—	1	—	—	10000	—	—	132.48	—
25.	West Bengal	—	2	1	—	10600	7600	—	125.68	18.31
26.	NIPCCD (Not State/UT)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.02	—	—
27.	NIC (Not State/UT)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.45	—
Total		12	29	21	52550	87140	133131	1436.39	1856.93	2111.966

Statement-II

Details of funds sanctioned and released to the States for those Projects during 2003-04

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released
Karnataka	379.40	84.17
Manipur	36.02	9.47
Nagaland	183.575	20.33
West Bengal	360.62	69.38

Statement-III

State-wise details of locations where these Projects are being implemented along with the number of Beneficiaries

State	Name of the Project implementing agency	Project Area	No. of beneficiaries
1	2	3	4
Karnataka	Karnataka Coop. Milk Producers' Fed. Ltd., Bangalore	27 Districts of Karnataka	1000
Manipur	Gorkha Socio Economic Dev. Association, Manipur	12 blocks of Senapati District	500
Nagaland	Longkama Multipurpose Coop. Society Ltd., Mokokchung	Mokokchung Distt. comprising 57 villages	500
	Kohima Distt. Coop. Milk Producers' Fed. Ltd., Dimapur	Dimapur/Kohima	750
	Alileko Piggery Cooperative Society Ltd., Nagaland	A cluster of villages around Merangkong village, Distt. Mokokchung	500
West Bengal	West Bengal Cooperative Milk Producers' Fed. Ltd., Kolkata	Midnapore (West), Malda, Darjeeling and Burdwan	7600

Telephone Connectivity in Rural Areas

253. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :

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

(a) whether the Government have any plans to provide affordable telecom connectivity to the people living in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government's decision to permit basic telephone operators to enhance monthly rental

reduce the number of free calls and pulse rate is likely to adversely affect the extension of telecom connectivity to rural areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of total 607491 villages in the country, 517814 villages have been provided with village public telephone facility leaving 89677 villages without telephone facility. 27704 villages are depopulated and 5931 villages are infested by naxalites, this leaves a net figure of 56042 villages to be provided with village telephone facilities. It

is planned to connect remote and far flung villages of the country by Satellite technology as these villages are not possible to connect with any terrestrial technology by using Indian Satellite to make telecom services affordable. It is also planned to provide one BTS (Base Terminal Station) in each SDCA (Short Distance Charging Area) during the next financial year.

(c) No, Sir. TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) vide its 24th Amendment to TTO' 99 (Telecom Tariff Order) had allowed increase in rental, reduction in free calls and the pulse rate for local calls. However, BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) vide its new tariff w.e.f. 1.5.2003 neither increased the rental for any category of subscriber nor reduced the local call duration (fixed to fixed) from 3 minutes to 2 minutes as recommended by TRAI but allowed higher free calls @ 75 per month for rural subscribers against TRAI's recommendation of 50 calls per month. Currently, the TRAI regulates the tariff for subscribers in rural areas. The forbearance in tariff granted vide TRAI's 28th Amendment to TTO'99 is not applicable to rural subscribers and it has prescribed standard monthly rental, free calls and unit call charges for rural subscribers.

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

[Translation]

Expenditure on PM Visit

254. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of Ministers, officers and others who accompanied the Prime Minister during his visit to Russia in November, 2003; and

(b) the total expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The names of Ministers, officers and others who accompanied the Prime Minister during his visit to Russia in November 2003 in the statement enclosed.

(b) The Prime Minister's visit to Russia

concluded on 13 November 2003. The local agencies in Russia are in the process of submitting their bills to our Embassy in Moscow and have been requested to do so at the earliest. The figure on total expenditure on Prime Minister's visit to Russia can be arrived at only after these bills are submitted by the concerned Russian agencies and processed and settled by our Embassy in Moscow.

Statement

List of Ministers, Officers and Others who accompanied Hon'ble Prime Minister on his visit to Russia from 11-13 November 2003

1. Shri Yashwant Sinha, External Affairs Minister.
2. Shri Brajesh Mishra, Principal Secretary to PM.
3. Shri Kanwal Sibal, Foreign Secretary.
4. Prof. V.S. Ramamurthy, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology.
5. Shri G. Madhavan Nair, Secretary, Department of Space.
6. Shri R.K. Das, Director, SPG.
7. Shri Anil Wadhwa, Joint Secretary (Central and Eastern Europe Division), Ministry of External Affairs.
8. Shri P.S. Raghavan, Joint Secretary, Prime Minister's Office.
9. Shri Navtej Sarna, Joint Secretary (XP), Ministry of External Affairs.
10. Dr. Randeep Guleria, PP to PM.

II. Accompanying Delegation

1. Shri Ashok Tandon, OSD(A), PMO.
2. Shri Sudheendra Kulkarni, OSD(SK), PMO.
3. Shri R.P. Singh, PS to PM.
4. Shri V.P. Sharma, Director (OL), PMO.

5. Shri Pavan Kapoor, Deputy Secretary, PMO.
6. Shri Vikram Doraiswami, Deputy Secretary, PMO.
7. Shri R.K. Sharma, OSD(S), PMO.
8. Shri Sunjay Sudhir, DCP(C), MEA.
9. Dr. Naveet Wig, Alt. PP to PM.
10. Dr. R.S. Mohil, Surgeon.
11. Shri Sunil Joon, Comptroller, CHO.
12. Shri Kanchan Mittal, Physiotherapist.
13. Shri L.R. Ahuja, Addl. PS to PM.
14. Shri Himank Kothiyal, AIO, PIB.
15. Shri Harihar Mishra, Section Officer.
16. Shri Baljeet Singh, Sr. Private Secretary (Hindi).
17. Shri K.C. Raju, Private Secretary.
18. Shri Rajendra Prasad, Private Secretary (Hindi).
19. Shri V. Somasundaram, Assistant.
20. Shri R. Parthasarthy, Personal Assistant.
21. Shri G.T. Moorthy, Personal Assistant.
22. Shri K.V.S. Yadav, Personal Assistant.
23. Shri Amba Dutt, Personal Assistant.
24. Shri Gopa Kumar M.R., Personal Assistant.
25. Shri Harish Rajpal, Personal Assistant.
26. Shri Sanjay Kumar, Jr. Translator.
27. Shri M.P. Singh, Jr. Translator.
28. Shri D.K. Sharma, Paramedic.
29. Shri Dukh Haran Mehto, Attendant.
30. Shri Mahender Kumar, Attendant.

31. Shri Mahesh Kumar Yadav, Attendant.
32. Shri Jai Prakash, Attendant.
33. Shri Mannu Raj, Attendant.

III. Security Component

S/Shri

1. Devendra Kumar, AIG.
2. O.S. Thakur, SO.
3. P.K. Bhati, SO.
4. Satish Bharadwaj, SO.
5. B.K. Rai, SO.
6. Vikas Marwah, SO.
7. Sukumar Sarangi, AIG.
8. M.C. Joshi, SSO.
9. V.K. Tomar, SO.
10. Amarjeet Singh, SO.
11. P.S. Negi, SO.
12. K.K. Pandey, SO.
13. Siddharth Singh, SSO.
14. M.N. Pandey, SO.
15. Vineet Kumar Sagar, SO.
16. S.K. Mirakhur, OSD (Comn.).
17. G.T. Lepcha, Special Assistant.
18. Rajesh Prasad, Special Assistant.

IV. Media Component

1. Shri Ajay Agarwal, Doordarshan Correspondent
2. Shri Nelson John, Cameraman -do-

3. Shri N.K. Sharma, Sound Recordist	Films Division	23. Shri Sudhir Pathak, Editor	Tarun Bharat
4. Shri RU Kapekar, Chief Cameraman	-do-	24. Shri TJS George, Editorial Adviser	New Indian Express
5. Shri Akshay Rout, Director (News)	AIR	25. Shri Manoj Joshi, Political Editor	Times of India
6. Shri Suresh Kumar, Transmission Exe.	-do-	26. Shri Vir Sangvi, Editor	Hindustan Times
7. Shri Ashish Maitra, official Photographer	Photo Division	27. Ms. Shobori Ganguli, Asstt. Editor	Pioneer
8. Shri M.K. Razdan, Editor in Chief	PTI	28. Shri Harish Khare, Chief of Bureau	The Hindu
9. Shri Ramesh Bhan, Spl. Correspondent	UNI	29. Shri Bharat Bhushan, Editor	The Telegraph
10. Shri S.C. Malhotra, Editor (Photo)	PTI	30. Shri B.S. Arun, Chief Correspondent	Deccan Herald
11. Shri MK Sathey, Editor	Univarta	31. Shri Prabhu Chawla, Editor	India Today
12. Shri NB Nair, Spl. Correspondent	ANI	32. Shri Tarun Vijay, Chief Editor	Panchjanya
13. Shri Akshay Joshi, Cameraman	-do-		
14. Shri Rezaul H Laskar, Asstt. Editor	IANS		
15. Shri Peeyosh Jain, News Editor	Rajasthan Patrika		
16. Shri Prashant Mishra, Bureau Chief	Dainik Jagran		
17. Shri Ajay Singh Umat, Executive Editor	Dainik Bhaskar		
18. Shri Satya Prakash Aseem, Pol Editor	Aaj		
19. Shri B. Manoj, Staff Corres.	Mathrubhumi		
20. Shri Atanu Bhattacharya, Chief of Bureau	Bartman		
21. Shri Girish Sanghi, Editor	Vaaritha		
22. Shri Mohd Ahmed Khan, Bureau Chief	Munsif		

[English]

Tamper Proof Number Plates

255. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce tamper proof number plates for new vehicles as well as the existing ones;

(b) if so, whether the estimated cost for the introduction of new tamper proof number plates has been assessed;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the grounds on which the new system of number plates are being introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKIRISHNAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The cost of High Security Registration Plates would be known only after the competitive process through which the selection of the vendors is to be made by the States/ Union Territories, is completed.

(d) The Technical Standing Committee on Central Motor Vehicles Rules had recommended the introduction of High Security Registration Plates having a number of security features which would make removal, tampering or counterfeiting of such plates difficult, thereby enhancing the security of motor vehicles.

Conjunctivitis Cases

256. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether red-eye disease or the conjunctivitis cases were reported in the metropolitan cities in August-September, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in 1996 also this disease had taken the shape of an epidemic;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there are institutes in the country for research and study of communicable diseases and virology;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether after the break out of conjunctivitis in the country in 1996 the Government had approached these institutes for doing research on it;

(h) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(i) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The conjunctivitis cases were reported from Mumbai (1286), Delhi (2621), Chennai (540) and other cities during August – September, 2003.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In 1996, conjunctivitis cases were reported from Mumbai (955) and New Delhi (807).

(e) to (i) Yes, Sir. Institutes which carry out research in this area including National Institute of Virology, Pune, Centre for Research in Medical Entomology, Madurai, Virus Unit Kolkata, Enterovirus Research Centre, Mumbai, National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, Calcutta, National AIDS Research Institute, Pune, National Institute of Communicable Diseases, New Delhi, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi and Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh. These Institutes carry out research on Viral Conjunctivitis from time to time. Virus associated with the conjunctivitis cases in 2003, as isolated by Indian Council of Medical Research, was Coxsackie Virus-A 24.

Golden Quadrilateral from Delhi to Kolkata

257. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI KAMAL NATH :

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

(a) whether the Golden Quadrilateral Highway Construction scheme from Delhi to Kolkata is facing rough weather;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have taken any remedial steps in this regard in order to complete the project within the scheduled time; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKIRISHNAN) : (a) to (d) Progress of some of the packages on the Delhi-Kolkata section of the Golden Quadrilateral has been affected due to various reasons such as law and order problems, difficulty in obtaining quarries for aggregates, poor performance of some of the contractors, etc.

The Union Government has taken the following steps to complete the work within the scheduled time:

- (i) Taking up issues at the highest level of the State Governments.
- (ii) Nomination of senior officers as nodal officers by the State Governments to co-ordinate issues relating to execution of the projects.
- (iii) Official level meetings with the State Governments concerned to resolve problems.
- (iv) Regular monitoring through daily and weekly progress reports.
- (v) Regular meetings at the level of Minister to review the progress and performance of Contractors/Consultants/officials of NHAI.

Replacement of MARR Telephones

258. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to replace all the MARR telephones both landline and WLL in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which all MARR telephones are likely to be replaced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Out of a total of 200751 MARR VPTs, 54971 MARR VPTs have been replaced by WLL technology up to 31.3.2003. It is planned to replace 80,000 MARR VPTs during the current year 2003-04 subject to availability of resources. Out of this, 13921 MARR VPTs have also been replaced from 1.4.2003 to 31.10.2003.

(c) All MARR based VPTs are planned to be replaced by landline and WLL technology by 2004-05 progressively.

[Translation]

Anganwadi Centres

259. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

- (a) the State-wise number of Anganwadi centres opened in the country under Integrated Child Development Scheme (ICDS) and the State-wise number of proposals for opening such Anganwadi centres pending with the Ministry for approval;
- (b) the names of blocks in Himachal Pradesh which have been included in the Integrated Child Development Project but the post of programme officer has not been created for these blocks; and
- (c) the reasons for not creating the said posts so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA) : (a) The State-wise number of functional Anganwadi Centres under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, as on 30.6.2003, is given in the Statement enclosed.

Requests have been received from the States of Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra for sanction of additional Anganwadi Centres. However, in view of resource constraints, the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is being continued within the existing sanction of 5652 projects with no further expansion in the X Plan. This position has been intimated to all the States.

(b) As per schematic norms, there is provision for a post of "Programme Officer" at the District level. In Himachal Pradesh, the posts of Programme Officer have been sanctioned for all 12 districts.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement		
Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of functional Anganwadi Centres (as on 30.6.2003)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	52517
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1319
3.	Assam	19719
4.	Bihar	17683
5.	Chhattisgarh	20149
6.	Goa	1011
7.	Gujarat	33135
8.	Haryana	13546
9.	Himachal Pradesh	7349
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	10125
11.	Jharkhand	13495
12.	Karnataka	40288
13.	Kerala	24368
14.	Madhya Pradesh	47048
15.	Maharashtra	56749
16.	Manipur	4497
17.	Meghalaya	2209
18.	Mizoram	1193
19.	Nagaland	2576
20.	Orissa	32013
21.	Punjab	14017

1	2	3
22.	Rajasthan	35625
23.	Sikkim	495
24.	Tamil Nadu	31713
25.	Tripura	3635
26.	Uttar Pradesh	57333
27.	Uttanchal	3989
28.	West Bengal	51819
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	429
30.	Chandigarh	300
31.	Delhi	3842
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	138
33.	Daman and Diu	87
34.	Lakshadweep	74
35.	Pondicherry	677
All India		605162

[English]

Poor Service of 197 and 198

260. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the poor service rendered by 197 and 198 of MTNL;

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

(c) the steps being taken to bring about the desired improvement in these services on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir. 197 and 198 services are working satisfactorily. While 198 is fully computerised service with IVRS (Interactive Voice Response System), 197 Service is being catered to through recently inducted Call Centre.

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

(c) Following measures have been taken to further improve 197 service by MTNL;

- (i) Call center based solution for 197 service to handle the enquiries more efficiently has been introduced in Delhi.
- (ii) The connectivity between computer enquiry centres located at dispersed locations in the city has been improved.
- (iii) Automatic Call Distributor (ACD) has also been planned at four locations namely, Fountain, Charai, Goregaon and Prabhadevi in Mumbai to improve/ monitor 197 services.

Completion of Golden Quadrilateral Project

261. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Golden Quadrilateral and North-South and East-West road corridor is likely to be completed on time;
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the total fund allotted to the project; and
- (d) the funds utilised till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKIRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) The targeted time for completion of the Golden Quadrilateral component of the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) is December, 2004 and for the North-South and East-West Corridors is December, 2007. It is expected that these targets will be substantially adhered to.

(c) The Government has approved, in-principle, the 4/6-laning of all the sections under NHDP at an estimated cost of Rs. 54,000 crores (at 1999 prices), out of which so far the Government has sanctioned NHDP Phase-I and a few other projects at an estimated cost of Rs. 30,300 crores (at 2000 prices) and another stretch of 507 km on the East-West Corridor at an estimated cost of Rs. 2573 crores (at 2002 prices).

(d) The total expenditure incurred by NHAI upto October 2003 on the NHDP phase-I and other projects is Rs. 17,414.19 crores.

All India Common Entrance Examination

262. SHRI AMBAREESHA :

COL(RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL :
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any provision to hold an All India common entrance examination for admission to the various institutes imparting engineering, vocational, computer, MBA and other technical education/training as per the recent decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government so far to fully implement the above decision of the Hon'ble Court;

(d) the time by which it is likely to be implemented effectively; and

(e) the amount likely to be spent on its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) Yes, in pursuance of the Judgement on August 14, 2003 of the Supreme Court it has been decided that the admission to all professional Educational Institutions (both minority and non-minority) shall be held on the basis of merit determined through common entrance test(s).

(b) to (d) Accordingly all admissions for the seat to be filled up on all India basis to the under graduate programmes in Engineering, Architecture / Planning and Pharmacy in all Institutions in the country shall be made through an All India Engineering, Architecture / Planning and Pharmacy entrance examination (AIEEE). This exam is being conducted from 2002.

Admissions on all India basis to the Master of Computer Applications (MCA or equivalent) programmes in all Institutions in the country shall be made through an All India MCA Common Entrance Test (AIMCET) from the academic year 2004 – 2005.

For MBA / PGDM (or equivalent) programmes the admissions on all India basis in all Institutions in the country shall be made through a Common All India Test from the academic year 2005-2006. For the year 2004-2005 admissions shall be made through one of the five (5) National Entrance Tests, namely – Common Admission Test (CAT, conducted by IIMs), Joint Management Entrance Test (JMET, conducted by IITs), Management Aptitude Test (MAT, conducted by AIMA), AIMS Test for Management Admissions (ATMA, conducted by Association of India Management Schools) and Xavier Admission Test (XAT conducted by XLRI).

(e) The amount to be spent on these examinations will depend on the number of candidates, number of examination centres and various other factors.

Privatisation of Oil Companies

263. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the Public Sector Oil companies proposed to be privatized;

(b) the reasons for their privatisation; and

(c) the present status with regard to Privatisation, PSU-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) The

Government's declared policy on disinvestment of PSUs is that in generality of cases, Government would bring down its equity holding in non-strategic PSUs to 26% or lower. In pursuance of the above policy, Government decided to (i) disinvest 35.2% of equity shares of BPCL through offer for sale; (ii) disinvest 34.01% of equity shares of HPCL through strategic sale; and (iii) offer 5% of equity shares each of BPCL/HPCL to the employees of BPCL/HPCL respectively at a concessional price. In addition, Government has also decided to sell its residual equity holding of 26% in IBP Co. Ltd. through domestic public offer.

(c) Supreme Court in its judgment dated 16.9.2003 on HPCL/BPCL disinvestment has restrained the Central Government from proceeding with disinvestment resulting in HPCL and BPCL ceasing to be Government companies without appropriately amending the relevant statutes suitably. In compliance with the above judgment of the Supreme Court, the disinvestment process in HPCL and BPCL has been suspended. The process of disinvestment through public offer in IBP is currently on. The Joint Coordinator-cum-Advisors appointed for the transaction have commenced their due-diligence.

Central Council of Homoeopathy

264. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the inquiry has been ordered into the affairs of the Central Council of Homoeopathy (CCH) by the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The matter is under examination.

Shortage of Medicines in AIIMS

265. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :

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

(a) whether any complaints have been received regarding short supply of medicines to AIIMS and illegal

sale of AIIMS store medicines meant for internal use within the AIIMS in the open market outside;

(b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government against the officials involved in this racket; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) yes, Sir. The Institute received two complaints regarding illegal sale of AIIMS store medicines in the open market in the recent past.

(b) and (c) On receipt of these complaints, the preliminary internal enquires were conducted by the Vigilance Department of the Institute and thereafter, the matter was referred to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (South) for investigating the matter. A team of Anti-Corruption Branch of NCT Delhi and CBI Team also conducted surprise checks in the stores of AIIMS main hospital on 17.10.2003 and 30.10.2003 respectively. The Institute has not received any report from CBI till date. The instructions of Anti-Corruption Branch to develop foolproof system and methodology to ensure proper receipt and issue of drugs to various departments have been complied and various measures initiated to check recurrence of such practices in future.

Exorbitant Prices for Drugs

266. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the patients in the country have to pay exorbitant prices for the common drugs particularly drugs like nimesulide, citragen, paracetamol and amlodipine;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have any mechanism to monitor the pricing of such medicines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of House.

Mid-Day Meal Scheme

267. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK :
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend Mid-Day-Meal scheme for school children upto class V and later upto class X in the entire country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the irregularities in the implementation of Mid-Day-Meal Scheme in some States;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to revamp the Mid-Day-Meal Scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) and (b) The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (NP-NSPE), popularly called the Mid-day Meal scheme, is already being implemented upto primary level (Classes I-V) throughout the country except in Jammu and Kashmir where the State agency is yet to lift foodgrains during the current year.

In pursuance of the announcement made by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 15th August, 2003, States/UTs have been requested to give their views about the cost and logistics of extending the programme upto class X.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) According to the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the period ending March, 2000, 1.40 lakh quintals of foodgrains under NP-NSPE were misappropriated by transporters and distributing agencies during 1995-1998 in five States namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Maharashtra, Nagaland and Uttar Pradesh. The report also stated that in four other States namely Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, foodgrains worth Rs.31.07 crores were distributed to ineligible students.

Whenever instances of irregularity or shortcoming in implementation of the scheme come to notice, the matter is taken up with the concerned State Government/UT Administration for ascertaining facts and remedial action.

(e) and (f) At present, no, Sir.

Uranium Project

268. SHRI Y.V. RAO :
SHRI RAJAIHA MALYALA :
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Environment clearance has been obtained for the location of Uranium Corporation of India Limited in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by when the said project is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Uranium Corporation of India Ltd. (UCIL) has submitted application for obtaining requisite clearances from the authority concerned.

(c) The Project would commence only after obtaining all requisite statutory clearances including Environmental clearances.

Reliance Infocomm

269. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the Reliance Infocomm violating the limited mobility licence norms;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not the steps taken/ being taken to resolve the problems arising out of Reliance Violating the limited Mobility licence norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) An inspection of services provided by M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. was carried out. It was noticed that service being provided had a combination of certain features/facilities which changed the nature of the service thereby blurring the difference between limited mobility facility and full-fledged cellular mobile telephone service. A notice to discontinue the features/facilities was issued to them accordingly. Further, the Government accepted the TRAI recommendations on Unified Access Services Licence (UASL) enabling licensee to provide wireline and wireless services including full mobility services. M/s Reliance have migrated to UASL after paying the penalty.

Deployment of Troops to Iraq

270. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI G. PUTTASWAMY GOWDA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received another

request from the U.S. and UK to send Indian troops to participate in restoration of peace in the war-torn Iraq;

(b) whether the U.S. has made it clear that the restoration forces will continue to be under U.S. command and has asked India to spell out its concerns about sending the troops; and

(c) if so, the response of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Grant of Visa by US

271. DR . SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

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

(a) whether drastic changes made recently by USA in granting visa will adversely affect IT trained Indian youths seeking jobs in USA;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made an assessment in this regard;

(c) whether USA Government intends to regulate IT industry by bringing about certain administrative changes;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) Yes, Sir, to some extent.

(b) The Government is aware of the situation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Government in association with National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) is constantly reviewing the situation.

Courier Services

272. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Courier Companies functioning in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether these courier companies are providing parallel postal services too;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether these companies are violating the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 by doing such thing;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether quantum of work in the Department of Post has decreased due to the working of courier companies; and

(g) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) The Department of Posts does not maintain a list of Courier services.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Under the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 the Department of Posts has the exclusive privilege to carry and deliver letters only.

(f) and (g) In the express mail segment there is no decrease in the traffic and revenue earned by Department

of Posts. The traffic and Revenue earned by Speed Post Services during the last 3 years is as mentioned below:

Year	Traffic (in lacs)	Revenue (Rs. in crores)
2000-01	377.77	151.44
2001-02	527.97	196.53
2002-03	634.07	243.01

[English]

Powers to Coast Guards

273. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

- whether many ships sunk in the vicinity of Indian ports during the period May-August, 2003;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether the existing system is inadequate to properly check the ships before these enter our ports;
- if so, whether the Government have considered bringing in new legislation giving powers to coast guards to inspect the vessels before their entry into our ports; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI) :

(a) and (b) Details of ships sank in the vicinity of Indian Ports during May, 2003 to August, 2003 are given below:

Sl. No.	Name of vessels/ships	Date of incident location
1.	Panamain tanker M.T. UPCO-III	10.05.2003 near Mumbai Port
2.	Indonesian vessel M.V. Segtiga Biru	19.05.2003 near Kolkata Port
3.	Belize registered vessel M.V. Fortune Carrier	11.06.2003 near Kolkata Port

(c) The existing system is adequate as per international practice.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Modernisation of Post Offices

274. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- the total amount spent by the Union Government for modernization/upgradation of post offices in Gujarat;
- the number of Post Offices, location and category-wise modernized/upgraded during the last three years in Gujarat, district-wise; and;
- the steps being taken to modernize/upgrade remaining post offices in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) During the last three years, a total sum of Rs. 50 lakhs were spent by the Union Government for modernisation of Post Offices under the Plan Scheme 'Modernisation of Post Offices (improving ergonomics)' in Gujarat. The break up of expenditure is as under:

Year	Expenditure
2000-2001	Rs. 25 lakhs
2001-2002	Rs. 25 lakhs
2002-2003	No funds were allotted as the proposal for the Tenth Five Year Plan was under processing for approval.

(b) The details of Post Offices which were modernised are given in statement-I enclosed.

(c) During the current year (2003-04), ten Post Offices have been earmarked for modernization at an estimated expenditure of Rs.18 lakhs. Details are given in statement-II enclosed. During the remaining 3 years of the Tenth Plan, more Post Offices will be modernised subject to availability of funds.

Statement-I

Details of Post Offices modernised during the last three years

S. Year No.	District	Name of Post Offices and category (H.O./S.O.)*
1. 2000-2001	Mehasana District	Mehasan HO
2.	Rajkot District	Wankaner SO
3.	Bharuch District	Palej SO
4.	Vadodara District	Fatepura SO
5.	Valsad District	Valsad HO
6.	Navsari District	Navsari HO
7. 2001-2002	Ahmedabad District	Revdi Bazar HO
8.	Surat District	Surat HO
9.	Kheda District	Kheda HO
10.	Amreli District	Amreli HO
11.	Jamnagar District	Jamnagar HO
12.	Junagadh District	Junagadh HO
13.	Bhavnagar District	Bhavnagar HO
14. 2002-2003	Nil	Nil

Statement-II

Details of Post Offices proposed to be modernised during the current year

S. Year No.	District	Name of Post Offices and category (H.O./S.O.)*
1. 2003-2004	Ahmedabad District	Ambawadi Vistar SO Naranpura Vistar SO Virangam SO
2.	Vadodara District	Race Course SO
3.	Valsad District	Vapi SO Silvassa SO
4.	Godhra District	Godhra HO
5.	Surendranagar District	Thangadh SO
6.	Kutch District	Mundra SO Ghandhidham SO

* (H.O. : Head Post Office, S.O. : Sub Post Office).

Private Sector Participation in Port Sector

275. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI :
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR :

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the private sector has been permitted to participate in port sector;

(b) if so, since when private sector participation has been invited by the Government;

(c) whether some projects have been taken up by the private sector during the Tenth Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Private sector participation in development of major ports is an ongoing process. So far, the Government has approved 17 private sector/captive port development projects involving an investment of Rs.3247 crores. Further, 21 private sector/captive port development projects involving an investment of Rs.4394 crores are either under consideration or under bidding process. According to the report of the Working Group for Port Sector for the Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07), private sector investment in port development projects is expected to be around Rs.11257 crores during the Tenth Plan period.

Preventing Sex Tourism in India

276. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Commission for Women (NCW) has called upon the Government to prevent, what is called "Sex Tourism", the practice of tourists, particularly foreign tourists, taking short term brides:

(b) if so, the details of the NCW's request; and

(c) the reaction of the Government to the said matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) to (d) The matter is under examination of the Government and a report will be placed on the table of the House.

Unspent Amount of Grants

277. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether substantial amount of grants allocated to States for improvement of National Highways remains unspent; and

(b) if so, the details of grants made to the States during the last three years and the amount spent by the States therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKIRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) Details of State-wise allocation and expenditure of funds for improvement of National Highways during the last three years are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Details of Funds for Development of Highways

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03	
		Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11188.26	10781.94	10379.70	9455.81	10880.00	10880.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	45.00
3.	Assam	5253.64	4874.05	7605.19	7489.83	7300.00	7290.68
4.	Bihar	6927.56	6015.11	6532.00	4914.62	6230.00	5829.41
5.	Chandigarh	144.00	139.57	150.00	144.62	270.00	234.11

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Chhattisgarh	1227.80	472.08	3228.00	3228.00	6100.00	6236.80
7.	Delhi	483.00	483.00	600.00	482.25	600.00	593.14
8.	Goa	2300.00	2138.45	2000.00	1975.05	800.00	1110.58
9.	Gujarat	9099.97	8675.49	7042.71	5396.60	7530.00	7530.00
10.	Haryana	5800.00	4951.97	6300.00	6300.00	5500.00	5362.57
11.	Himachal Pradesh	4415.00	3893.44	5500.00	4415.72	3000.00	2152.23
12.	Jammu and Kashmir	250.00	51.59	230.00	222.73	400.00	399.99
13.	Jharkhand	2200.00	1188.78	3500.00	2670.15	3200.00	2678.84
14.	Karnataka	8104.00	7451.90	10946.56	10607.17	8540.00	9035.66
15.	Kerala	8724.03	4136.91	8460.00	7811.83	7000.00	7000.00
16.	Madhya Pradesh	7272.11	6538.92	6761.00	7120.77	8300.00	8267.21
17.	Maharashtra	12236.20	11402.20	13826.00	13826.00	11200.00	11199.98
18.	Manipur	851.31	535.22	1452.59	1046.71	1400.00	1398.90
19.	Meghalaya	1708.34	1563.01	2270.00	1684.47	2100.00	1615.85
20.	Mizoram	1000.00	994.51	2600.00	2167.15	2200.00	2012.73
21.	Nagaland	1500.00	1489.52	1500.00	1496.94	1200.00	1200.00
22.	Orissa	6799.89	6388.14	6140.00	4791.69	4400.00	4343.54
23.	Pondicherry	200.00	146.65	212.00	199.26	200.00	191.89
24.	Punjab	3865.00	2615.38	5158.00	4791.98	4500.00	4484.84
25.	Rajasthan	8700.00	8401.08	8745.00	8367.82	9120.00	9119.06
26.	Tamilnadu	10342.21	8264.40	9739.00	9679.28	10000.00	9742.92
27.	Uttar Pradesh	13970.76	13441.05	13173.00	11757.57	12200.00	12199.73
28.	Uttanchal	199.35	123.88	2500.00	2102.29	1990.00	1947.53
29.	West Bengal	8800.00	6983.46	7000.00	6385.22	8200.00	8062.61
Total		143562.43	124141.70	153550.75	140531.53	144405.00	142165.60

**Appointment of Teachers in Central and
Navodaya Schools**

278. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of teachers appointment in Central Schools and Navodaya Schools in the country during the past five years, subject-wise;

(b) the categories of teachers for whom knowledge of Hindi is made compulsory;

(c) whether demands have been made for doing away with knowledge of Hindi as compulsory for seeking teaching job in Central Schools/Navodaya Schools; and

(d) if so, the view of the Government on this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI

KATHIRIA) : (a) Statement showing the number of teachers offered appointment in Central Schools (Kendriya Vidyalayas) in the country during the years 1999 to 2003 subject-wise is given in the statement enclosed. Information in respect of Navodaya Schools is being collected.

(b) The knowledge of Hindi is compulsory for all categories of teachers in Kendriya Vidyalayas. In Navodaya Schools as per Recruitment Rules proficiency in teaching through English & Hindi is essential in respect of PGTs. In case of TGTs competence to teach through English & Hindi/concerned regional language is required. In case of Art Teachers, Music Teachers & Librarians working knowledge of Hindi/Regional Language and English is prescribed as desirable qualification only. No such stipulation is made in respect of Physical Education Teachers.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

*The Number of Teachers offered Appointment in Central Schools
(Kendriya Vidyalayas) in the Country during the
years 1999 to 2003, Subject-wise*

Name of the Post	Subject	Number of Candidates offered Appointment during the year				
		1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Post Graduate Teachers (PGT)	Mathematics	13	—	32	—	40
	Physics	22	—	49	88	82
	Chemistry	23	—	69	103	97
	Biology	31	—	18	—	30
	English	35	—	31	178	07
	Hindi	24	—	37	109	06

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	History	14	—	—	—	17
	Geography	05	—	—	—	06
	Economics	16	—	14	58	06
	Commerce	17	—	71	54	36
	Total	200	—	321	590	327
Trained Graduate Teacher (TGT)	Mathematics (PCM)	—	—	40	—	243
	Science (CBZ)	—	—	22	78	06
	English	—	—	211	251	115
	Hindi	—	—	25	—	48
	Sanskrit	—	—	22	53	23
	Social Studies	—	—	31	109	103
	Total	—	—	351	491	538
Primary Teachers (PRT)		—	—	205	—	1399

**Agreement with United States
in Space Sector**

279. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of agreement entered into with US in high-tech space trade; and

(b) the manner in which the agreement would be fruitful for India's space launch equipment and programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) Discussions are going on with the U.S. on high technology trade; no agreement has been signed so far on high technology space trade.

(b) In view of answer to part (a), does not arise.

Collapse of Bridges

280. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of bridges on different National Highways, which collapsed, under their own weight, due to floods etc. during 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and the current year so far;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to restore them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKIRISHNAN) : (a) to (c)

Statement

Number of Bridges Collapsed during last three years and steps taken by the Government to restore them

Sl. No.	Name of States/UTs	NH No.	No. of bridges Collapse	Steps taken to restore
1	2	3	4	5
1	Assam	52	1	Already rehabilitated.
2	Bihar	19	1	Restored for traffic.
		77	3	Traffic is moving through diversion for bridges in km 16 and 19. At km 26 new Bailey bridge has been restored for traffic.
		80	1	New bridge construction work is in progress. A Pontoon bridge was constructed for movement of traffic.
		81	2	On bridge at Km. 47 only light vehicles are allowed and bridge at Km.36 collapsed during current year State Road Construction Department has been directed to provide diversion.
		104	13	9 bridges are restored 1 bridge was reconstructed and for 2 bridges traffic is moving through diversion. Regarding collapsed bridge at Km. 46, the traffic movement is disrupted and traffic is allowed to pass by boat.
		105	3	All are restored.
		106	1	Traffic is moving through diversion.
3	Chhattisgarh	43	1	Reconstruction of bridge is in progress.
4	Haryana	65	1	Collapse bridge has been relaunched by State PWD
5.	Orissa	215	2	Traffic is moving through diversion for both the bridges. For bridge at km 42 the work is included in the Annual Plan 2003-04. Home pipes are inserted in the damaged span and filled up for bridge at location km 146.

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Nation Highway Development Project	9	1	No completed bridge collapsed during last three years under its' own weight, due to floods. The span(s) of the bridges collapsed due to staging failure during construction. All spans were restored.
		5	1	
		31	1	
		3	1	
		2	1	
		6	1	
Total			35	

Closure of Eastern Court Post Office

281. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to close down the Eastern Court Post Office; and

(b) if so, the details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) and (b) The Eastern Court Post Office has been relocated and merged with Janpath Post Office, which is located at a distance of merely 1 km. from the Eastern Court premises. This step was taken as the Eastern Court Post Office was functioning from premises owned by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited for which the rent was to the tune of around Rs. 56 lakhs per annum, whereby it was not found viable to have two post offices in close proximity to each other.

Central Plan Assistance to Rajasthan

282. COL.(RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from Government of Rajasthan to increase Central Plan Assistance and review of two fold loan grant pattern of the assistance.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. In its Memorandum for Annual Plan 2003-04, the Government of Rajasthan, inter alia, suggested restructuring the pattern of Central Assistance by giving due weightage to area, distance over which services are delivered, special problems such as deserts etc and changing the loan: grant ratio to 50:50 from the present 70:30.

(c) The existing pattern of allocation of Normal Central Assistance and Loan: Grant ratio of Plan

assistance to States is based on the Gadgil Formula as approved by the National Development Council (NDC) in December, 1991. Any change in the Formula requires the approval of NDC. Further, a change in the existing Loan: Grant ratio has implication on Centre's revenue and capital receipts and thereby on plan assistance to States.

Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor

283. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH :
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to build a Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam;

(b) if so, the estimate cost and capacity of the PFBR; and

(c) the time by which the construction of the PFBR is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The approved completion cost of PFBR is Rs. 3492 crore. The capacity of PFBR is 500 MWe.

(c) The project is scheduled for completion by September 2010 and the commercial operations will commence within six months of completion of construction.

Upgraded WLL Mobile Services

284. SHRI C.N. SINGH :
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

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

(a) whether the MTNL has launched an upgraded WLL mobile service Garuda;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether people can access internet on their handsets;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which this MTNL service is different from the other telephone services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. MTNL has launched upgraded Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) service i.e. MSC-based CDMA 2000 1X having capacity of 150K lines in Delhi on 24th March, 2003.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. In Delhi, the subscriber can access internet using a "Data Cord" connected to Laptop/Desktop PC. This feature is available in handsets compatible with 1X technology.

(e) The Garuda WLL Mobile Service provides mobility throughout the city area almost at the cost of landline services. In addition, the subscriber can also connect to the interconnect at higher speed even while on move.

Refund of Security Deposit

285. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that BSNL is delaying inordinately in settling refund of security deposit of surrendered telephone connections;

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

(c) the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) Sir, there is some delay in the settlement of refund claims by BSNL. This is on account of large increase in the number of requests received in the regard, many of which relate to old connections for which records may not be readily available in some units. It is submitted that about one third of the pending cases only are over two months old, and BSNL is making all efforts to expedite their settlement. A new software module has already been introduced in billing system to expedite the process of settlement. This module is under implementation across all the Circles. Field units have also been asked to expedite these cases.

Replacement of English Language

286. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to abolish the English language and introduce national language or one's own mother tongue as medium of instruction at secondary level education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the impact of such a proposal has been assessed/reviewed in view of the present scenario; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Internet Service

287. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any study has been conducted recently by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India on the quality of Internet Service in the country;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken to improve the existing internet service and to meet the burgeoning demand of internet users in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) As per the TRAI Act 1997, as amended by TRAI (Amendment) Act, 2000, TRAI is mandated to lay down standard of Quality of service to be provided by the service providers. TRAI has also to ensure the quality of service and conduct periodical survey of such service provided by service providers so as to protect interest of the consumers of telecommunication service. Accordingly an online survey has been conducted by TRAI to find out the customers' perception of the quality of Internet service rendered during the period May 2003 to June, 2003. The relevant summary of the findings is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Based on the inputs received after the online survey, further technical study has been undertaken by TRAI to identify the bottlenecks contributing to poor quality of internet services. Based on the study, TRAI has proposed to take steps for increasing the international bandwidth reducing the frequent disconnections and improvement in the help desk service being given by different ISPs.

Statement

Summary of Findings

1. Whether ISP customers are able to start Internet within 6 hours after getting connection from ISP?

ISP	% of Users that are not able to be connected even after 6 hrs
1	2
VSNL	18
Satyam/Sify	3.05

1	2
Dishnet	9.1
BSNL/DOT	37
Mantraonline	2.63
MTNL	9.75
Others	20.51

2. Are customers able to get connected to ISP node within 4 attempts?

ISP	% of Users Needing >4 attempts
VSNL	14.68
Satyam/Sify	3.52
Dishnet	0.604
BSNL/DOT	21.23
Mantraonline	10.52
MTNL	24.39
Others	36.07

3. How many times customers are facing no reply condition when dial up connection is attempted in a month?

ISP	% that met no reply >4 times Last Month
1	2
VSNL	49.03
Satyam/Sify	8.21
Dishnet	20.14
BSNL/DOT	49.03

1	2
Mantraonline	23.68
MTNL	42.68
Others	19.31

4. Public has an easy Internet access through cyber cafe/information kiosks 62.45% of the respondents believe that cyber cafes are easier and better means of Internet Access.

5. The frequency of disconnection in the service provided by various ISPs.

ISP	1	2	3	4	>4 Times
VSNL	10.71	11.81	13.46	5.22	51.24
Satyam/Sify	50	16.20	5.40	1.64	11.73
Dishnet	29.45	17.44	11.26	5.78	24.37
BSNL/DOT	8.88	13.90	10.42	5.79	52.89
Mantraonline	41.67	19.44	8.33	0	26.31
MTNL	13.41	9.76	10.98	4.88	51.21
Others	18.77	13.05	7.32	4.93	33.52

6. Are the ISPs satisfying the expectation of a minimum speed of 28.8 Kbps.

ISP	% of Users that are not able to get Minimum Speed of 28.8 KBPS
VSNL	65.37
Satyam/Sify	16.4
Dishnet	46.17
BSNL/DOT	71.4
Mantraonline	31.57
MTNL	73.13
Others	51.1

7. Variation in the night and day time performance of the service provided by various ISPs. Most of the users claim to have faster night time access than the daytime.
8. Break up of user satisfaction for each ISP

ISP Name	Unsatisfied Customers
VSNL	34.06
Satyam/Sify	5.86
Dishnet	10.51
BSNL/DOT	50.19
Mantraonline	28.94
MTNL	42.68
Others	20.73

[Translation]

Waiting Lists

288. SHRI RAMSHAKAL :
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :

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

(a) the number of persons in the waiting lists for telephone connections under various categories in the country as on October, 2003, State-wise;

(b) whether special efforts have been made to clear the waiting list; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the telephone connections are likely to be provided or proposed to be provided to all the persons in the waiting list?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) The number of persons in the waiting lists for telephone connections under various categories such as OYT (Own Your Telephone), General and Special in the country as on 31.10.2003, State-wise is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The efforts taken by MTNL (Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited) and BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) to provide the connections expeditiously are as follows:

- (i) BSNL has planned to deploy wireless in Local Loop (WLL) system to meet the scattered demand in rural and far flung areas.
- (ii) BSNL has planned to provide 60.61 lakhs DEL's (Direct Exchange Lines) during 2003-2004 and a tentative plan of 100 lakh DEL's has also been proposed during 2004-2005.
- (iii) Extensive use of wireless technology in the customer access network like WLL, PAS (Personal Access system), opening of more number of exchanges and laying of underground cables in technically non-feasible areas.

The waiting list is expected to be cleared progressively by the end of year 2004-2005 subject to availability of resources particularly for rural areas where these services are unremunerative.

Statement

State/Circle/Metro District-wise Waiting List under Various Categories as on 31.10.2003

S. No.	Name of the Circle/State/ Metro Districts	Category			
		OYT	General	Special	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andaman and Nicobar	0	240	0	240

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Andhra Pradesh	0	36756	2	36758
3.	Assam	0	17084	0	17084
4.	Bihar	2	112083	2306	114391
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	4419	0	4419
6.	Gujarat	0	60754	0	60754
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1	50191	991	51183
8.	Haryana	3	102103	671	102777
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	265	38359	4704	43328
10.	Jharkhand	0	9309	10	9319
11.	Kerala	356	402418	50976	453750
12.	Karnataka	0	92420	3973	96393
13.	Maharashtra*	6	188835	1879	190720
14.	Madhya Pradesh	0	17189	0	17189
15.	North East-I**	0	8366	2	8368
16.	North East -II ***	0	5618	0	5618
17.	Orissa	0	13318	9	13327
18.	Punjab	2	102242	2318	104562
19.	Rajasthan	8	142193	2362	144563
20.	Tamil Nadu	0	59272	183	59455
21.	Uttaranchal	0	7361	154	7515
22.	Uttar Pradesh(E)	0	103217	0	103217
23.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	0	55035	318	55353
24.	West Bengal #	32	149278	2282	151592
25.	Chennai	0	1092	0	1092

1	2	3	4	5	6
26.	Calcutta	0	2533	0	2533
Total		675	1781685	73140	1855500

* Maharashtra includes the W/L of Goa State.

** NE-I includes the W/L of Meghalaya, Mizoram and Tripura States.

*** NE-II includes the W/L of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and Nagaland States.

West Bengal includes the W/L of Sikkim State.

[English]

Private Participation in Running Secondary Schools in Rural Areas

289. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the working group private participation in running secondary schools in rural areas is virtually nil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said group has stressed the need to launch schemes based on access with equity accepted by the Planning Commission while formulating 10th Plan;

(d) if so, whether the Government have launched any such programme in any part of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to promote private participation in running secondary schools in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (f) Education being on concurrent list, providing secondary education to students is mainly the responsibility of State Government. In this regard, a large number of secondary schools having private participation in the country are aided by the State Governments.

Working Group on Secondary Education for 10th Plan deliberated upon the need to strengthen the secondary education sector. Based on the recommendations of the Working Group, Planning Commission has already approved, in principle, the launching of the new scheme of Access with Equity.

Health Ministers Conference

290. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of South East Asian Countries' Health Ministers Conference was held in New Delhi in the first week of September, 2003;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed during the said conference;

(c) whether eleven countries of this region have agreed to fight tobacco threat; and

(d) if so, the broad consensus reached in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes Sir, a meeting of Ministers of Health of countries of the South East Asian Region was held in New Delhi on 8-9 September, 2003.

(b) The following issues were discussed during the conference:

(i) Declaration on Health Development in the South East Asia Region in the 21st Century: Review of Progress,

- (ii) Follow up on Framework Convention on Tobacco Control,
- (iii) Prevention and Control of SARS,
- (iv) Purchasing Quality Essential Medicines,
- (v) Need for a regional Alcohol Action Plan,
- (vi) Traditional Systems of Medicine.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, after detailed deliberations, the conference recommended the following:

- (i) WHO should continue to provide technical support for capacity building in countries in the implementation of Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC). A regional workshop on the process of ratification and implementation of the Convention should be organized.
- (ii) WHO should also continue to support countries in mobilizing resources for national tobacco control;
- (iii) Countries should expedite the process of signing and ratification of FCTC as soon as possible. This may need full coordination with and cooperation of related Ministries, Parliament and other relevant bodies.
- (iv) Countries should establish a national tobacco control cell as well as a multisectoral national tobacco control committee and national comprehensive tobacco control policies.
- (v) Countries should facilitate and speed up the enactment of antitobacco control laws, confirming to the provision of FCTC.
- (vi) Countries should establish sustainable financial mechanism for tobacco control by, inter alia, using the experience of other Member Countries.

Indians Killed in Riyadh Blasts

291. SHRI J.S. BRAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Indians were killed in the Riyadh blasts on November 9, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring their bodies to the country and provide compensation to the families of the victims?

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

(b) Two Indian nationals: (1) Meraj Khalid and (2) Naeem Ahmed Jameel Ahmed Khan died in the Riyadh bombing on 9th November 2003. Their relatives have identified the bodies at the mortuary in Riyadh.

(c) Necessary action has already been taken in consultation with their next of kin to complete formalities for disposal of the mortal remains. Indian Embassy is also extending help to the next of kin so that they get entitled benefits in accordance with Saudi laws and regulations.

Surrendering of Telephone

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

(a) the number of BSNL and MTNL subscribers who surrendered their landline telephone till date;

(b) the losses suffered by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide more facilities to landline subscribers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) Sir, the number of BSNL and MTNL subscribers who surrendered the landline telephones during the current year till 31.10.03 are as under:

BSNL	17.9 lakhs,
MTNL	2.039 lakhs

(b) There is no overall revenue loss as during these years, there has been overall increase in Direct Exchange Lines (including WLL and cellular mobile telephones), despite surrender of telephones.

(c) Following additional facilities to landline subscribers have been provided by BSNL:

- (i) Free Intra and inter-city shifting.
- (ii) Phone plus facilities such as CLI (Calling line Identifications), fixed line SMS (Short Messaging Service) etc.

MTNL has initiated the following measures:

- (i) Additional thrust has been given on marketing Garuda (WLL) Services;
- (ii) CDMA IX version has been launched in Delhi.
- (iii) Bill payment has been made easy through pay-in-slips. Credit Cards, Banks, ATMs, Internet and Mobile vans etc.
- (iv) Commercially important subscribers have been given graded volume discount and other various facilities like CLIP, phone plus facilities, (call waiting voice mail service, automatic hunting facilities, answering machine etc.)
- (v) CLIP based Express Internet Service has been provided which is billed along with regular bill.
- (vi) SMS and email services to land line subscribers of Delhi have been provided.
- (vii) Incoming only facility has been launched with a monthly rental of Rs.100/- where customers can make outgoing calls by using MTNL prepaid cards.

Degrees Awarded by Central Universities

293. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the Central Universities awarded degrees without the approval of the University Grants Commission;

(b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the names of such universities;

(c) whether none of the above mentioned Central Universities could fully use the development resource allotted to them;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken by the Government against such universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Polio Vaccine Scheme

294. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Polio has made a comeback in Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for effective implementation of polio vaccine scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) The initiative to eradicate polio from India started in 1995. There was remarkable progress in polio eradication effort and in limiting the spread of virus to certain areas in western and central Uttar Pradesh and Bihar only till 2001.

However, the polio eradication effort suffered a major setback during 2002 due to large scale outbreak in Uttar Pradesh and spill over of the transmission in to other neighboring States. The number of cases has increased from 268 in 2001 to 1600 in 2002. However, supported by the Government of India, the UP program presently

demonstrates very strong commitment and highest level monitoring. This has resulted in clear improvements in performance with total missed houses in UP, coming down to around 7% from 12% during the past 6 months.

There has been substantial improvement in polio situation this year and polio eradication has reached a crucial stage, as only 190 confirmed cases have been reported till 22.11.2003 as against 1320 cases reported during last year up to November. Number of reported cases in UP and Karnataka during 2003 till 22nd November, 2003 are 70 and 31 respectively.

Karnataka which has reported zero cases during 2001 and 2002 has reported 31 cases during 2003. This is because of the large immunization gap due to poor coverage under routine immunization in the northern districts of the State. In UP there is substantial improvement in controlling the spread of the virus in the State and only 70 cases have been reported till November as against 1242 cases reported during the year 2002.

India is committed to obtaining polio free certification by 2007. The meeting of the ninth India Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) was held on 18-19th November, 2003 at New Delhi with an objective to review the status of polio eradication in India and to recommend the strategy to be adopted in the country for Polio Eradication during 2004-06. In order to contain the spread of the virus and to eradicate polio, the India Expert Advisory Group for Polio eradication have recommended the strategy to be adopted for the year 2004. Salient feature of recommendations are submitted below.

1. Polio immunity gaps in endemic and risk states and also within states at district level should be addressed.
2. Recommended strategy for year 2004 Five NIDs in January, February, April, October and November.

One SNID in May in 11 States namely UP, Bihar West Bengal, Haryana, Uttaranchal, Delhi, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Assam.

Mop-up round

3. Quality in chronically low performing districts to be improved.
4. The next 6 months is the critical window of opportunity and needs high level of monitoring at all levels.
5. There should be political engagements from the highest level, especially in Uttar Pradesh.
6. Endemic states should report quantifiable data on routine immunization.

Additional Space for Indian Mission in US

295. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have a proposal to acquire additional space for Indian Mission at Washington;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the same;
- (c) the total land under the occupation of the Union Government at Washington;
- (d) the additional space acquired/proposed to be acquired for Indian Mission there; and
- (e) the amount spent/being spent for the purchase of this additional space?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Yes. The Ministry is processing a proposal for purchasing a built-up property to locate the proposed Indian Cultural Centre in Washington DC.

(b) It is proposed that the Cultural Centre based in Washington DC would promote cultural activities, conduct study of modern India through lectures and seminars, maintain linkages with American cultural and educational institutions, interact with think-tanks and policy research bodies and render assistance to Indian artists, academics and students.

(c) The Ministry owns 19 (nineteen) properties in Washington DC which are utilized for office and residential use.

(d) and (e) The proposal for the purchase of build-up property in Washington DC for an India Cultural Centre is being processed. Pending conclusion of the deal, it would not be advisable to publicise the purchase price offered.

Imposition of Uniform Licence Fee

296. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have accepted the recommendations of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for imposition of uniform licence fee for telecom service providers both cellular and WLL;

(b) whether undue delay in enforcing a uniform licence fee both for cellular and WLL operators has helped WLL operators to a mass fortunes due to lack of clear-cut guidelines on limited mobility of WLL providers;

(c) if so, the facts thereof;

(d) whether any of the WLL operators have been found to have violated the ground-rules of the limited mobility clause;

(e) if so, whether any penalty has been imposed on them;; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. At the time of permitting Limited Mobility to Basic Service Operators on 25.1.2001, the licence fee for Cellular and Basic Service Operators was brought at par.

(d) to (f) Two of the Basic Service Operators have been

providing combination of certain facilities which changed the nature of the service thereby blurring the difference between limited mobility facility and full-fledged cellular service. A notice to discontinue the features /facilities was issued to them accordingly. Further, the Government accepted the TRAI recommendations on Unified Access Services Licence (UASL) and these Basic Service Operators have migrated to UASL after paying the penalty.

Fast Track Initiative Scheme

297. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have launched the fast track initiative scheme for fast disbursement of educational aid under Education for all programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which the educational institutions are likely to benefitted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) to (c) The Fast Track Initiative is an effort by International funding agencies to mobilize international funds for Education for All programmes of targeted countries, and not a Government of India initiative.

Government of India has on its part launched the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in 2001-2002, as a Centrally sponsored scheme to universalize elementary education by 2010.

[Translation]

Condition of National Highways

298. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the road between the first to 25th and also between the 42nd kilometre to 45th kilometre and

bridge on the 38th kilometre of NH- 77 are damaged and in bad shape;

(b) if so, whether the road between Hazipur to Muzaffarpur and also between Muzaffarpur to Sitamarhi on this highway is in poor condition;

(c) whether pot holes have developed on this National Highway and NH No. 102 and 103 and the side of the road;

(d) whether NH-77 is the most important highway of North Bihar passing through 17 districts and it connects Nepal to the State capital but still remains ignored;

(e) if so, whether senior officers of the Ministry recently submitted its report after inspection and despite this no fund has been released during this year; and

(f) if so, the action being taken to convert it into four lane and the amount released/proposed to be released for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKIRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) The condition of NH-77 except for a stretch from km 26 to 41, is generally bad.

(c) to (f) NH-77 is not being ignored. Works amounting to Rs.385.35 lakh for development, and works amounting to Rs.1643.15 lakh for maintenance and repair, have been sanctioned on NH-77 since its declaration as a National Highway in the year 1999. Besides, sanctions amounting to Rs.1506.00 lakh have been approved from the Central Road Fund (CRF) for the completion of two bridges which were incomplete at the time of its declaration as a National Highway. Despite constraints of availability of funds during the current year, it is proposed to take up improvement works in the worst affected stretches of Hajipur - Muzaffarpur section of NH-77. A feasibility study and preparation of a Detailed Project Report have been taken up for four laning of Hajipur - Muzaffarpur sections of NH-77. The repair of pot holes in affected section of NH-77, NH-102 and NH-103 are generally attended under normal maintenance.

[English]

WTO Draft Agreement on Generic Drugs

299. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Pharmaceutical Alliance has in its reactions to the WTO draft agreement on generic drugs stated that if the draft gets through, it would impose conditions on Indian generic pharmaceutical companies making it tough for them to supply medicines;

(b) if so, the details of the main difficulties expected to arise and the modifications, if any, proposed in the draft by the IPA; and

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Licence Agreement with Private Operators

300. SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Licence Agreement with private operators stipulated that basic telecom service operators were to provide a minimum of 10% of their total commitments as VPTs;

(b) if so, whether the private operators have fulfilled their obligations since their operations commenced; and

(c) if not, the loss of amount incurred by the Government in this regard alongwith the action taken against the defaulting operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The quoted

percentage was translated to actual number of VPTs subject to maximum number of uncovered villages in Service area at the time of tendering.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Some VPTs were provided by Department of Telecommunications(DoT)/Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited as a successor organisation in Rajasthan, Punjab, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra service areas. Licence agreement stipulated that if all the villages in the service area have been provided with at least one public telephone by the DoT or the private operator, in such cases this obligation will cease to be applicable. Since both the DoT and the Licensee will be providing Village Telephones in the same service area, a mutually agreed procedure shall be evolved to avoid infructuous efforts on the part of either as well as to avoid some villages getting left out by both. Liquidated Damage Charges to the tune of Rs. 53.75 crores have been recovered from six Private Basic Telephone Service Operators for delay in commencement of service as well as delay in provisioning of VPTs and Direct Exchange Lines and as such it cannot be termed as loss of amount incurred by the Government.

[Translation]

**Fee Structure for Private
Educational Institutes**

301. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has given verdict regarding fee structure in private educational institutes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether as a result of this verdict every institute will be free to decide its own fee structure; and

(d) if so, the names of the institutes and colleges on which this verdict is likely to be applicable along with the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI

KATHIRIA) : (a) to (d) As per the information furnished by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Judgement delivered on 31.10.2002 in *T.M.A Pai case* held *Inter-alia* that fixing of a rigid fee structure in an education institution would be unacceptable restriction. Subsequently, a Five Judge Bench of Hon'ble Supreme Court, interpreting the majority Judgment, directed that in order to give effect to the Judgment in TMA Pai's case, respective State Governments shall set up, a Committee headed by a retired High Court Judge. Each educational institute is required to place before the Committee its proposed fee structure with all relevant documents. The fee fixed by the Committee shall be binding for a period of three years. The High Court of Delhi in CWP No. 1993/2003 and CMs No. 10978-79/2003 in the Educate India Society case delivered on October 21, 2003 held that the Society shall be free to collect fee proposed by it till such time as it is modified by the Committee for Determination of Fee Structure, set up in the State as per the Supreme Court direction.

[English]

Visit of PM to Syria

302. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether our PM visited Syria recently;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held between the two countries;

(c) whether the recent crisis in west Asia came up for discussion; and

(d) if so, the response of the Syrian Government in the said matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) Yes.

(b) to (d) Both sides had comprehensive exchange of views on a wide range of important bilateral, regional and international issues, in a way that reflects the deep historical relations between India and Syria. They expressed their satisfaction at the steady and comprehensive

growth in bilateral relations. They, however, emphasized that enormous potential for further bilateral cooperation needed to be tapped for mutual benefit. They committed themselves to further strengthening and expanding their bilateral cooperation, especially in political, economic, commercial, cultural and science and technology sectors.

The two sides identified fields such as Biotechnology, Information Technology, hydrocarbons, Railways, Education and Agriculture where existing complementarities could be exploited for mutual benefit. They agreed to encourage the private and public sectors to expand the scope of mutual trade and investments.

The two delegations held an in-depth exchange of views on the emerging international and regional security environment. Both sides condemned all acts of terrorism, of which they have been victims. Both delegations agreed that terrorism should not be linked to any religion and no attempt be made to tarnish any religion in the name of terrorism. India and Syria called for the establishment of a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the Middle East.

Syria welcomed the initiative taken by the Prime Minister of India aimed at fostering friendship and good-neighbourly relations between India and Pakistan. Syria supported resolution of India-Pakistan issues bilaterally through dialogue based on the Simla Agreement of 1972 and the Lahore Declaration of 1999. Both sides supported strong cooperation for combating international terrorism according to the international law and the stand of the Non Aligned Movement taken in this regard.

[Translation]

Cumbersome Procedure in Government Hospitals

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

(a) whether the patients seeking treatment in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and other parts of the country face

a lot of problems due to cumbersome procedure followed during treatment;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. In All India Institute of Medical Sciences, all medical tests of indoor patients needing emergency care are conducted without avoidable delay. Routine investigations of OPD patients are conducted every day. However, the OPD patients requiring specialized test have to wait for these tests for some time. In other Central Government hospitals including Dr. RML Hospital also all the urgent investigations are done immediately. Strengthening of laboratory services in AIIMS and other Central Government hospitals is a continuous process within the resources available.

Facilities to Employees

304. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of employees assigned the job of mail distribution in rural areas in the country and the facilities provided to them alongwith their pay scale;

(b) whether these employees are not satisfied with the terms and condition of their service; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to redress the complaints received with regard to rural areas and due the problems of the said employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Su THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) to (c) The mail distribution in rural areas is assigned to following two categories of employees:

(i) Regular departmental postmen

(ii) Gramin Dak Sevaks Mail Deliverer

Mainly Gramin Dak Sevak Deliverers who are part time employees effect the delivery of mails in the rural areas. However, in single handed extra departmental post offices the duty of mail delivery is entrusted to Gramin Dak Sevak Sub Postmasters/Branch Postmasters. The Gramin Dak Sevak Mail Deliverers get Time Related Continuity Allowance (TRCA) Rs.1375-25-2125 (for those with work load upto 3 hours 45 minutes) and Rs. 1740-30-2640 (for those with work load of more than 3 hours 45 minutes upto 5 hours of workload.)

Government of India constituted, on the analogy of V Central Pay Commission for regular Govt. employees, a one man committee known as Justice Talwar Committee (JTC) to examine the system of extra departmental agency in the Department of Posts, their conditions of employment, wage structure etc. The recommendations of the JTC were examined in the Department. The staff unions were also consulted on the recommendations. The recommendations of the committee were duly considered by the Government and orders issued on 17.12.98 in full and final settlement of the recommendations of Justice Talwar Committee, extending among others, the following facilities:

- (i) Leave: Gramin Dak Sevaks have been granted paid leave at the rate of 10 days for every half year without the facility of carry forward or encashment of the unavailed leave.
- (ii) Ex-gratia gratuity: Amount of ex-gratia gratuity has been increased from Rs. 6,000/- to Rs.18,000/-.
- (iii) Office Maintenance Allowance: This allowance has been increased from Rs.25/- to Rs.50/- per month.
- (iv) Severance Amount on discharge/death/absorption: A lump sum Severance amount of Rs. 30,000/- is paid on discharge of a Gramin Dak Sevek at the age of 65 years or on the death on completion of 20 years of continuous employment. Gramin Dak Sevek who complete 15-20 years of continuous employment on discharge or death get Severance amount of RS. 20,000/-. On absorption to regular depart-

mental post, the severance amount will be Rs.20,000/- after continuous employment of 15 years.

Complaints received in regard to rural areas and problems of postal employees are looked after by the functionaries at various levels.

[English]

Anti-Cancer Product

305. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether EMR has been granted to M/s Novartis for its Anti-Cancer Product, GLIVEC;
- (b) whether M/s NATCO Pharma is already marketing the same product at 1/10th the price of Novartis;
- (c) if so, whether M/s NATCO has challenged the grant of EMR; and
- (d) if so, response of the Government thereto including the steps proposed to be taken to maintain its price as it is meant for cancer patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

India's Entry Into OIC

306. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether India is trying for admission to the Organisation of the Islamic Conference;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the countries from which support is being lobbied for entry into OIC?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Software Parks

307. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the name and locations of software parks set up so far in the country, State-wise;

(b) the performance of each software parks in IT export growth during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the software park at Bangalore has set higher target for IT export during 2003-2004; and

(d) if so, the IT export growth expected during current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) The names and locations of Software Technology Parks set up so far are detailed in statement enclosed.

(b) Software Exports by STPI registered units Centre wise (including sub-centres), during the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 are given in statement-II enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) With a projected growth of about 26%, software export of Rs.17,000 crore is estimated during the year 2003-04 from STPI, Bangalore.

Statement-I

State-wise STPI Centres

Sl.No.	States	STPI Centres
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
2.		Thirupati

1	2	3
3.		Vijayawada
4.		Vizag
5.		Warangal
6.	Assam	Guwahati
7.	Chhattisgarh	Bhilai
8.	Gujarat	Gandhinagar
9.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar
11.	Karnataka	Bangalore
12.		Hubli
13.		Mangalore
14.		Manipal
15.		Mysore
16.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram
17.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore
18.	Maharashtra	Aurangabad
19.		Nagpur
20.		Nasik
21.		Navi Mumbai
22.		Kolhapur
23.		Pune
24.	Orissa	Bhubaneswar
25.		Rourkela
26.	Pondicherry	Pandicherry
27.	Punjab	Mohali

1	2	3
28.	Rajasthan	Jaipur
29.	Tamilnadu	Chennai
30.		Coimbatore
31.		Madurai
32.		Thirunavelli
33.		Trichy
34.	Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur
35.		Lucknow
36.		Noida
37.		Allahabad
38.	Uttaranchal	Dehradun
39.	West Bengal	Kolkatta

Statement-II

Software Exports through STPI for the last 3 years.

(Rs. in Crores)

Name of the Centre	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1	2	3	4
Bangalore	7475	9904	12350
Bhubaneswar	200	213	260
Chennai	2956	5020	6320
Gandhinagar	102	122	105
Hyderabad	1990	2805	3668
Kolkata	250	604	1200
Navi Mumbai	1610	2603	2708

1	2	3	4
Noida	4420	6093	7600
Pune	960	2000	2800
Thiruvananthapuram	88	159	165
Total	20051	29523	37176

Main Centers	SubCentres
Bangalore	Mysore, Manipal, Mangalore, Hubli,
Bhubaneswar	Rourkela
Chennai	Coimbatore Madurai, Thirunavelli, Trichy, Pondicherry
Hyderabad	Vizag, Warangal, Thirupati Vijayawada
Noida	Allahabad, Lucknow, Kanpur, Bhillai, Srinagar, Shimla, Indore, Mohali, Jaipur, Dehradun
Pune	Aurangabad, Nagpur, Nashik, Kolhapur

Cellular Phone Service in N.E. States

308. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether lack of communication facilities is a major drag on the developmental aspects of the North-Eastern States;

(b) the reasons for the delay in providing cellular phone services to the North-Eastern States by the licence holders;

(c) whether the present licence holders for North-East for mobile(Cellular) service are indulging in restrictive trade practices by not expanding the capacity of their network and selectively seeking high-end customers for existing cellular services in Guwahati and Shillong;

(d) if so, the fact thereof;

(e) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has any plans to provide cellular connectivity to North-Eastern States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir. Communications facilities are in existence in North Eastern States. The telecom infrastructure provided by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited upto October, 2003 to provide communications facilities are as follows:

- | | | |
|-------|--|---------------------------|
| (i) | Direct Exchange Lines | 8.45 lakhs |
| (ii) | Optical Fibre Cable laid | 6333 Route
Kilometers |
| (iii) | Microwave Systems | 9115 Route
Kilometers. |
| (iv) | No. of Village Panchayat
Telephones | 24051 |

In addition, Cellular Mobile Telephone Service has also been launched by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited starting from Kohima on 27.10.2003.

(b) Prior to August, 2002 there was a ban on fresh start or expansion of Cellular Mobile Telephone Service in North Eastern States due to security considerations. Subsequently, the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS) Operators have planned to expand their network for provision of the service in the North Eastern States.

(c) No, Sir. The present licence holders for North East Telecom Circle for mobile (cellular) service could not expand their services earlier on account of the said ban.

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

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has planned to provide cellular connectivity in North Eastern States. The details of Cellular Mobile Telephone capacity planned in each State of North Eastern Region is as below:-

S.No.	State	Capacity (Lines)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	14,300
2.	Assam	42,550
3.	Manipur	8,300
4.	Meghalaya	7,300
5.	Mizoram	8,300
6.	Nagaland	8,300
7.	Tripura	6,300

Licensing Power

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

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission, in an order issued in 1999, recommended that the centre examine the possibility of taking over the entire system of licensing *i.e.* taking over the States power of granting licence for drug manufacturing units;

(b) if so, the reasons for the matter hanging fire since then; and

(c) the present status in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), New Delhi vide its order dated March 31, 1999, recommended to Government of India to examine the entire system of licensing etc. under effective Central Government.

(b) and (c) Government of India have constituted a Committee of experts on January 27, 2003 under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Director General, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) to undertake a comprehensive review of the drugs regulatory system in the country including the problem of spurious and substandard drugs and recommend remedial measures to deal with this problem effectively. The possibility of Central Government assuming the responsibility of granting manufacturing licences was also examined by the

Committee. The Committee has submitted its final report in November, 2003 which is under examination for taking further necessary action.

Plan Allocation to N.E. States

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

(a) whether the Chief Ministers of the North-Eastern States had requested for a hike in Central allocation for these States during the Tenth Plan period; and

(b) if so, the total allocations made to the NE States during the Ninth Five Year Plan and the hike sought for during the Tenth Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) Central assistance for the Plans of the States is decided mutually in the meeting between Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission and Chief Ministers of the concerned States. A statement showing Central Assistance provided during the Ninth Five Year Plan and projected allocation of Central Assistance for the Tenth Five Year Plan as also hike given over Ninth Plan for the North Eastern States is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Central Assistance to North Eastern States during Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plan

(Rs. crore)

Sl. States No.	Ninth Plan (1997-02 Agreed)	Tenth Plan (2002-07) Projected	%hike (col. 4 over col.3)
1	2	3	4
1. Arunachal Pradesh	2,806.59	3,396.25	21.01

1	2	3	4	5
2. Assam	7,761.58	9,527.60	22.75	
3. Manipur	2,493.61	3,166.42	26.98	
4. Meghalaya	1,931.37	2,323.15	20.29	
5. Mizoram	1,866.83	2,399.44	28.53	
6. Nagaland	1,989.19	2,594.47	30.43	
7. Sikkim	1,334.48	1,560.24	16.92	
8. Tripura	2,940.13	4,008.45	36.34	

Financial Services Centre

311. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop Pilot Post Office Project as financial services centre;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such Pilot Projects are being considered at Ghatkopar, Mulund, in Mumbai; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI Su THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Heads of Postal Circles have given guidelines and instructions for converting existing post offices into Savings Bureau for providing Post Office Savings Bank services, including new financial services.

(c) and (d) Nehru Road Office situated in Mulund area of Mumbai has been identified for development as Savings Bureau.

Road Works in West Bengal

312. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated cost of construction of bypass on NH-31 from Falakata to Pundibasi and a bridge over river Torsha in West Bengal and respective dates of starting the works;

(b) the amount spent on this project as on 31.3.2003 and separate share of Central and State Governments therein;

(c) the reasons of works not been completed on scheduled time;

(d) the expected date when the works are likely to be completed;

(e) whether the Government have fixed the responsibility for delay; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKIRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) The construction of bypass on NH-31 from Falakata to Pundibari and bridge over river Torsha in West Bengal was originally sanctioned for Rs. 13.71 crores in November 1988. The work was started in November, 1991 and bridge over river Torsha was started in December, 1992. The first revised cost estimate for this whole work has been sanctioned for Rs.36.71 crores in March, 1996. The expenditure incurred on the whole project up to 31.3.2003 is Rs.35.87 crores which is entirely borne by the Central Government.

(c) to (f) There was delay of about 42 months in finalisation of tenders / award of work by the State PWD and there were further delays due to contractual problems. The work has been stopped by the contractors since 2001. The 2nd revised cost estimate received in July, 2003 for Rs.69.58 crores is under examination. After award of balance work it will take about 20 months for completion.

Disinvestment in NFL

313. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken the decision for disinvestment of the National Fertilizer Limited (NFL) and called the bids;

(b) if so, the number of bids received by the Government so far;

(c) whether the Government have decided to defer their decision of disinvestment of NFL for two years; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to revitalize the working of NFL?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has received three compliant bids for 51% of its equity in National Fertilizers Limited.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Foreign Visits by PM

314. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI :
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :
SHRI T. GOVINDAN :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY :
SHRI G. PUTTASWAMY GOWDA :
SHRI C.N. SINGH :
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :
DR. ASHOK PATEL :
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :
SHRI A. NARENDRA :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :
SHRI PRABODH PANDA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of countries visited by our PM during the last six months and till date;

(b) the details of the issue discussed with each of these countries;

(c) the details of the agreements signed and the outcome thereof;

(d) the names of countries that have decided to set up joint working group on counter terrorism with India: and

(e) the benefits likely to be obtained by such a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) The names of countries visited by our PM during last six months are:-

Germany, Russian Federation (St. Petersburg) and France (Evian) – May 27- June 3, 2003;

People's Republic of China – June 22 – 27, 2003.

Turkey and USA (New York for only UNGA) – September 16-28, 2003;

Indonesia (For ASEAN Summit) and Thailand – October 5-12, 2003;

Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Syria – November 11-16, 2003.

(b) to (e) **Germany and France**

PM visited Germany, St. Petersburg and Evian from 27th May - 3rd June 2003. No agreements were signed during the visits. The discussions focused on review of bilateral relations and exchange of views on regional and global issues of mutual concerns. In Germany, there was emphasis on enhancing bilateral trade and investment linkages with greater scientific and technological cooperation. In a meeting with French President Chirac on 30th May there was emphasis on bilateral cooperation in the energy sector. British Prime Minister Tony Blair in a meeting

on 31st May demonstrated sensitivity and understanding for India's core security concerns. In meetings with Mexican President Vincente Fox and the Brazilian President Mr. Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva in Evian on 2nd June there was common understanding and need for developing strategic alliance on WTO issues, reviving the G15 and strengthening the UN so as to effectively articulate developing countries' concerns.

2. There was no proposal for setting up of Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism with India.

Russian Federation:

PM visited the Russian Federation from 29 May-1 June 2003 at the invitation of the President of the Russian Federation H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin to attend the Tercentenary Celebrations of the city of St. Petersburg, and the Russian Federation from 11-13 November 2003 for holding the bilateral annual Summit with the Russian President.

2. In his meetings with the President of the Russian Federation during both these visits, Hon'ble Prime Minister discussed a wide range of bilateral issues, including measures to enhance bilateral trade and investment and cooperation in defence, science and technology, defence, space and culture. The two leaders also exchanged views on important regional and international issues such as the role of the UN, global challenges like international terrorism, organised crime, etc.

3. Documents signed during the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister to the Russian Federation from 11-13 November 2003, with their details are:

(i) **Declaration of the Republic of India and the Russian Federation on Global Challenges and Threats to World Security and Stability** is a major political document and outlines the main challenges and threats in the contemporary world and sets out the framework for the cooperation of India and Russia for addressing them. It enumerates international terrorism,

promotion of multilateralism and developmental and environmental challenges as the issues high on agenda in this regard, and recognises the developing Indo-Russian strategic partnership as a crucial factor for world security and stability. The Declaration was signed by Hon'ble Prime Minister and the President of the Russian Federation.

- (ii) **Agreement between the Government of the State of Andhra Pradesh of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Tatarstan of the Russian Federation on Trade, Economic, Scientific, Technological and Cultural Cooperation:-** The Agreement was proposed by the Russian side. The Agreement will add one more chapter to the growing cooperation between regions of the Russian Federation and States of India. It will enable the Republic of Tatarstan, an important constituent of Russia industrially and culturally and Andhra Pradesh, a fast growing state of India with a rich cultural heritage, to cooperate in mutually beneficial areas. From the Indian side, External Affairs Minister and from the side of the Republic of Tatarstan, its Prime Minister signed the Agreement.
- (iii) **Agreement on Scientific Cooperation and Scientific Exchange between the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) and the RAS** seeks to promote their
- (iv) Cooperation through exchange of scientific information and publications and other scientific material, exchange of scientists for research visits and for exchange of scientific knowledge, organising bilateral workshop, etc. This is envisaged to be achieved through promotion of direct contacts between research teams, with the help of inter-institution agreements. The Agreement was signed from the Indian side by Secretary, Department of Science and Technology and from the Russian side, by the President of the Russian Academy of Sciences.
- (v) **Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Russian Aviation and Space Agency (Rosavikosmos) on Cooperation in Exploration and Use of Outer Space for Peaceful Purposes** The proposed MoU between ISRO and Rosaviakosmos (RSA) charts out the course of future cooperation between these two agencies in the field of peaceful use of space. It encompasses cooperation in important areas such as India's lunar mission, use of tracking facilities, mission analysis, cooperation in advanced propulsion systems, cooperation in electric propulsion system for satellite operations, development of synthetic aperture radar satellite missions for remote sensing of the earth's natural resources. The MoU was signed from the Indian side by secretary Department of Space and Chairman of Indian space Research Organisation (ISRO) Prof. G. Madhavan Nair, and from the Russian side by the Chairman of Rosaviakosmos.
- (vi) **Protocol on Scientific Cooperation between the Department of Science and Technology of the Government of the Republic of India and the Russian Academy of Sciences** seeks to reinforce the ongoing fruitful cooperation between these agencies in diverse areas, including high-technology. The Protocol was signed from the Indian and the Russian sides, respectively, by Secretary Department of Science and Technology and the President of the Russian Academy of Sciences.
- (vii) **Protocol between the Ministry of External Affairs of the Republic of India and Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on Joint Publication of Bilateral Archive (Diplomatic) Documents** is in pursuance to the understanding reached at the last Summit (December 2002), which was mentioned in the Joint Statement as well. Joint publication of Indo-Russian documents will be an effective to create an important reference source for

important bilateral documents and will also showcase the dynamic development of multi-faceted Indo-Russian strategic partnership. The Protocol was signed by EAM and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

- (vii) **Report on the Implementation of Steps Enunciated in the Joint Declaration on Strengthening and Enhancing Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation signed during the Visit of President of the Russian Federation H. E. Mr. Vladimir Putin to India in December 2002** This is in accordance with Para 20 of this Declaration, a report needs to be submitted to the leaders of the two countries before their next Summit (the forthcoming Summit) on the measures taken and progress achieved in implementing the provisions and road map envisioned in the Declaration for development of Indo-Russian cooperation in economic, scientific and technological sectors. At present, the text of the Report is close to being finalised in consultations with the Russian side. The Report was signed by Foreign Secretary, as Co-Vice Chairman of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission (IRIGC), and his Russian counterpart Mr. Mikhail Dmitriyev.

- (viii) **Memorandum of Understanding between Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) of India Ltd. and Vneshtorgbank (VTB)-** It seeks to strengthen interbanking cooperation, which is vital for enhanced trade and investment and was signed by the Chairmen of the two Banks. Beside these documents, a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Science and Technology of the Government of the Republic of India and the Russian Academy of Science for Establishment of Indo-Russian Centre for Gas Hydrates Studies and another Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Science

and Technology of the Government of the Republic of India and the Russian Academy of Science Establishment of Indo-Russian Centre for Earthquake Research were also signed from the Indian and the Russian sides, respectively, by Secretary Department of Science and Technology and the President of the Russian Academy of Sciences. These MoU are pursuant to the ongoing implementation of Integrated Long term Plan for cooperation in the sphere of science and technology between India and Russia. The establishment of the proposed joint science centres on study of gas hydrates and seismology in India will further strengthen our bilateral cooperation in technologies which have important applications.

4. **Indo-Russian Joint Working Group on Combating International Terrorism** already exists. It was set up under the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, signed during the visit of President Putin to India in December 2002 and held its first meeting in Moscow on 29-30 September 2003.
5. The existing Indo-Russian Joint working Group on Combating International Terrorism has contributed to further strengthen close cooperation between India and the Russian Federation in this regard, both bilaterally and in multilateral fora. This is sought to be done with the help of regular consultations and interaction between concerned agencies of the two countries, exchange of information and sharing of experience in dealing with international terrorism and related phenomena including illicit drug and arms trafficking, organised crime, etc. The Joint Working Group has also reconfirmed the close identity of views India and Russia have on dealing with the threat posed by international terrorism, including their common stand on the need for the international community to fight terrorism everywhere and in every form, in a concerted and sustained manner.

China :

"At the invitation of the Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China (PRC), Mr. Wen Jiabao, Prime Minister paid an official visit to the PRC from June 22 to 27, 2003. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation, including External Affairs Minister, Minister of Commerce and Industry (in Beijing), Minister of Communications, Information Technology and Disinvestment (in Shanghai), and the National Security Adviser. The business delegation accompanying PM on this visit was one of the largest of all his visits abroad.

2. In Beijing, PM held talks with Premier Wen Jiabao and had separate meetings with President Hu Jintao, Chairman Jiang Zemin of the Central Military Commission, Chairman Wu Bangguo of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and Vice President Zeng Qinghong. He also interacted with the provincial leaders of Henan Province at Luoyang and Shanghai. These meetings with the top leadership of the PRC were both cordial and fruitful.
3. Ten agreements and a Joint Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation between India and China were concluded on June 23. The agreements, which reaffirmed the desire and efforts of the two countries to diversify bilateral cooperation into new areas, are the following:
 - i. MOU on Simplifying Visa Procedures;
 - ii. MOU on Expanding Border Trade through Nathula Pass;
 - iii. MOU on Cooperation between the Ministry of Law and Justice of India and the Supreme People's Prosecution Service of China;
 - iv. Executive Programme for Educational Cooperation and Exchanges (2003-06);
 - v. Executive Programme for Cultural Exchanges (2003-05);
 - vi. MOU for the Reciprocal Establishment of Cultural Centres in Capitals;
 - vii. MOU for Enhanced Cooperation in the field of Renewable Energy;
 - viii. MOU for Cooperation in the field of Ocean Science and Technology;
 - ix. MOU for Cooperation between the Department of Science and Technology of India and the National Science Foundation of China; and
 - x. Protocol on Phytosanitary Requirements for Exporting Mangoes from India to China
4. The twin objectives of Prime Minister's visit were to establish close relations with the new leadership of China and to impart fresh momentum to the ongoing cooperation between our two countries, which has been diversifying. These objectives were fulfilled and as Prime Minister said, the journey ahead is long but a good beginning has been made. All of Prime Minister's interlocutors underlined that his visit had opened a new chapter in India-China relations.
5. During the visit of Prime Minister to China, the two sides exchanged views on the India-China boundary question and expounded their respective positions. They reiterated their readiness to seek a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution through consultations on an equal footing. The two sides agreed that pending an ultimate solution, they should work together to maintain peace and tranquillity in the border areas, and reiterated their commitment to continue implementation of the agreements signed for this purpose, including the clarification of the Line of Actual Control.
6. The two sides agreed to each appoint a Special Representative to explore from the political perspective of the overall bilateral relationship the framework of a boundary settlement. The National Security Adviser has been appointed the Special Representative from the Indian side while Mr. Dai Bingguo, the

senior-most Vice Foreign Minister will be the Special Representative from the Chinese side. The appointment of Special Representatives will not, however, supplant the existing mechanisms of the Joint Working Group and Expert Group, which will continue the joint work on the clarification of the Line of Actual Control and Confidence Building Measures, among other things.

7. Government remains concerned at certain aspects of the China-Pakistan relationship, which adversely affect our security. This includes Sino-Pak defence cooperation including in the nuclear weapons and missile development programme. We have made known our concerns to the Chinese side from time to time.
8. **The main focus of discussions during Prime Minister's visit to China was on bilateral issues.**
9. Agreement to establish the India-China Dialogue Mechanism on Counter Terrorism was reached between the two Prime Ministers during the visit of Premier Zhu Rongji to India in January 2002. During the visit of the External Affairs Minister to China in March 2002 it was agreed that the dialogue would be held annually, with the first meeting in New Delhi in April 2002. The first meeting of the India-China Dialogue Mechanism on Counter Terrorism was held in New Delhi on 23rd April, 2002. The second round of dialogue was held on June 13, 2003 in Beijing. Both sides shared their national experiences on dealing with the phenomenon of terrorism, and exchanged views on the international counter terrorism situation including developments in the region, cooperation at the United Nations and possibilities of bilateral cooperation.
10. Government of India is committed to the development of friendly and good neighbourly relations with China on the basis of the principles of Panchsheel, mutual sensitivity to each other's concerns and equality."

USA (UN General Assembly Meeting):

Prime Minister led the Indian delegation to the 58th

Session of the UN General Assembly in New York in September 2003. He addressed the General Assembly on September 25, 2003. Prime Minister held bilateral meetings with ten leaders at the Head of State/Government level (He met the Presidents of Russia, USA, Afghanistan, Nigeria and Zimbabwe and Prime Ministers of Sri Lanka, Mauritius and Portugal.). He had informal meetings with the Presidents of Brazil and South Africa as part of the India-Brazil-South Africa trilateral dialogue forum.

2. International issues including the situation in Iraq, Middle-East, Afghanistan etc. were discussed in the meetings.
3. During his visit to New York for the UNGA in September 2003, Prime Minister met U.S. President George W. Bush.
4. The two leaders reviewed India-U.S. bilateral relations and exchanged views on international developments of mutual interest.
5. No agreement was signed during the meeting.
6. India has Joint Working Groups on Counter-terrorism with Canada and the United States.
7. These Joint Working Groups have led to better understanding in Canada and the United States of India's concerns on terrorism and has also strengthened mutually beneficial counter-terrorism cooperation, including in the areas of capacity building, training, intelligence sharing and investigative cooperation.

Thailand :

PM visited Thailand from October 8-12, 2003 and the details of issues discussed are :

Bilateral issues :

to enhance bilateral cooperation in all areas, to give full support to private sector enterprises to establish joint ventures in promising areas such as autoparts, food processing, construction, IT and fisheries,

security cooperation, to joint efforts with us in combating terrorism., closer coordination and sharing of intelligence under the existing Joint Working Group on Security Cooperation, to facilitate bilateral commercial interaction by liberalizing the visa regime for business travelers, to establish a twinning arrangements between Port Blair and Phuket in Thailand to develop Port Blair as a tourist destination and to assist Thailand in its plans to develop Phuket as an IT city, and to set up cultural centers in each others's countries to reinvigorate our age- old cultural ties increased air services to the four metropolitan cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai and reciprocal Indian flights to Bangkok and other cities.

Regional issues :

Thailand's to coordinate with us in preparing an ASEAN-India Vision 2020 document mapping out a long term strategy of cooperation.

1. to intensify cooperation within the framework of BIMST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand - Economic Cooperation).
2. to push for early progress on trilateral transportation projects between India, Myanmar and Thailand for which we have offered to host a Ministerial meeting on this in December 2003,
3. to continue working closely after the collapse of WTO meeting in Cancun. Five bilateral Agreements were signed in the presence of the two Prime Ministers: (i) Framework Agreement for Establishing a Free Trade Area; (ii) Agreement for Exemption of Visas for holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports; (iii) MoU on Cooperation in the field of Agricultural Science, Technology and Economy; (iv) Agreement on Tourism Cooperation; and (v) Programme of Cooperation in Biotechnology.

Outcome :

- (i) **Framework Agreement for Establishing a Free Trade Area :** The framework Agreement for Establishing a

Free Trade Area (FTA), the first that India has signed with an ASEAN country, is an important milestone between the two countries. The FTA will come into force in March 2004 with an Early Harvest Package of 84 items and is expected to double bilateral trade from the current US\$1.2 billion by next year.

- (ii) **Agreement for Exemption of Visas for holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports: The signing of the Agreement for Exemption of Visas for holders of Diplomatic and Official Passports would facilitate the visit of officials from both the sides.**
- (iii) **MOU on Cooperation in the field of Agricultural Science, Technology and Economy :** The MoU on Cooperation in the field of Agricultural Science, Technology and Economy promotes bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture through joint activities and exchanges in the areas of agricultural and forestry research; post harvest technology; plant biotechnology; soil and water conservation and watershed management; soil survey and land use planning; agro-forestry and farming systems; crop production and processing; sericulture; horticulture; livestock production and health; seed storage and packing; farm mechanization development and extension; promotion of joint ventures in agri business; irrigation and drainage, etc.
- (iv) **Agreement on Tourism Cooperation :** The Agreement on Tourism Cooperation shall facilitate both countries to set up a Representative Office for Tourism in the other country. Both countries shall encourage their respective designated authority to coordinate in tourism activities in accordance with the rules and regulation in force in each country by exchanging information, expertise and experience regarding inventory of tourism resources, prevalent legislation and regulations on tourism activities and measures for preservation as well as sustainable development of both natural and cultural tourism resources and also encourage the exchange of expertise

regarding the organisation, management and operation of tourism business, and shall assist each other in training their staffs in the field of tourism. They shall also consider exchange of curriculum and methodology on tourism teaching, studies and research.

- (v) Programme of Cooperation in Biotechnology : The signing of the Programme of Cooperation between the two sides facilitates to promote, develop and facilitate co-operative activities in the field Biotechnology on the basis of common interest and mutual benefit.

The following countries have decided to set up joint working group on counter terrorism with India:

- (a) Thailand (The Joint Working Group on Security with Thailand addresses, inter-alia, the problem of terrorism).
- (b) Singapore has set up a Joint Working Group on Terrorism with India.
- (c) Australia (There is an India-Australia Joint Working Group on Terrorism).

Such Joint Working Groups would address the problem of combating terrorism by exchange of information on terrorism and related issues in a more focussed manner so as to control terrorist activities which threaten the stability of the region. Recent terrorist acts in various parts of the world have demonstrated that terrorism is a global phenomenon, which requires concerted international action.

Indonesia :

Prime Minister visited Bali, Indonesia from October 6-8, 2003 to attend the second India-ASEAN summit.

2. As part of "Look East" policy, Prime Minister proposed a new road map for India-ASEAN relationship that would eventually lead to an Asian community. He offered "Open Skies" air connectivity

with ASEAN countries, laid emphasis on the on-going trilateral highway project between India, Myanmar and Thailand and the proposed New Delhi-Hanoi rail link. Prime Minister proposed an India-ASEAN Motor Car Rally as a demonstration of India's geographical proximity to ASEAN that would promote road connectivity. He also reiterated India's commitment for cooperation with ASEAN in several sectors and referred to the India-ASEAN vision 2020 document that is currently under preparation by the Indian think Tanks.

3. India signed The Framework Agreement for Comprehensive Cooperation with ASEAN countries towards establishing the free trade area by 2011 for 5 ASEAN countries and by 2016 for Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Myanmar and Philippines. (ii) India and ASEAN adopted a Joint Declaration on cooperation in Combating International Terrorism. (iii) India acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation as a non-member.
4. The visit has been part of our "Look East" policy. The signing of the Framework Agreement for Comprehensive Cooperation with ASEAN countries has paved the way for eventual Free Trade with ASEAN countries in a phased manner. The Joint Declaration in combating International Terrorism is a major boost to India's efforts in its war against terrorism.
5. There are no joint working groups so far.

Turkey and Tajikistan :

During the last six months till-date, Prime Minister visited Turkey [16-19 September 2003] and Tajikistan [13-14 November 2003].

2. During PM's visit to Turkey, following important issues were discussed : bilateral relations between the two countries; ways and means to augment bilateral economic and trade relations, including in the fields of energy, IT etc.; cooperation in security issues, including through the Joint Working Group on Combating Terrorism, and; defence cooperation.

Other issues such as the situation in Iraq were also discussed.

3. During Prime Minister's visit to Tajikistan, review of bilateral relations, economic cooperation programme, and ways and means of developing further bilateral economic and defence cooperation were discussed. International issues and regional situation, including Iraq and Afghanistan were discussed.
4. Yes, Sir. During the visit to Turkey an Agreement on Cooperation in the field of Science and Technology, a Protocol on setting up of a Joint Working Group on Combating Terrorism and another Protocol on Cooperation in the field of Information Technology and Computer software were signed. In addition, Instruments of Ratification of Extradition Treaty and Agreement on Tourism were exchanged.
5. During PM's visit to Tajikistan, a Treaty on Extradition, Agreement on Exemption of Visa Requirements for Holders of Diplomatic Passports, Agreement on Cooperation in Tourism, MOU on Establishment of Indo-Tajik IT Centre, and another MOU on Cooperation in Information Technology and Services were signed. Instruments of Ratification of Agreement on Encouragement and Protection of Investments and Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters were exchanged. In addition, a Joint Declaration on Friendship and Cooperation between India and Tajikistan was also issued at the end of the visit.
6. During PM's visit to Turkey, Protocol was signed between India and Turkey for setting up of a Joint Working Group on Combating Terrorism.
7. It is expected that through interaction at the Joint Working Group, both the countries can undertake concerted action for combating terrorism. The authorities in both the countries can share their experience concerning, organized crime and illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as well as their financial linkages.

Syria :

During the PM's visit to Syria, the official discussions with Syrian leadership centered upon bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of concern.

2. The following nine documents on bilateral cooperation were signed during Syria Visit by the Prime Minister:-
 - (i) Executive Programme for Cultural Cooperation,
 - (ii) Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperation in Information Technology and Services;
 - (iii) Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors,
 - (iv) Memorandum of Understanding on Technical Cooperation,
 - (v) Exchange Programme in the field of Education,
 - (vi) Cultural Cooperation Agreement between the Arab Writers Union in Syrian Arab Republic and the Sahitya Academy in India,
 - (vii) Agreement of Mutual Cooperation between National Small Industries Corporation, India and Ministry of Industry of Syrian Arab Republic,
 - (viii) Executive Work Plan: Department of Biotechnology, Government of Republic of India and the Ministry of Higher Education, Syrian Arab Republic, and
 - (ix) Programme of Cooperation in Science and Technology.
3. Israel decided to set up Joint Working Group on counter terrorism with India.
4. The mechanism of Joint Working Group provides a useful forum for exchange of views, information and

techniques as well as promote bilateral cooperation in combating the terrorism.

**Agreement with Hungarian Association
on IT Companies**

315. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Electronics and Computer Software Exports Promotion Council has signed an agreement with the Hungarian Association of IT companies to work in Europe jointly;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the benefits likely to be accrued to both the countries by this agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The above said Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed on 4.11.2003 at New Delhi between Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) and the Hungarian Association on IT Companies (IVSZ) for the purpose of promoting the development of business relations between India and IVSZ in the field of Electronics and Computer Software Services in general and development of Information and Communication Technologies business in particular.

(c) It is felt that Indian industry could advantageously utilize the geographical proximity of Hungary to the rest of Europe and its forthcoming EU market. The Hungarian companies are expected to benefit from their likely participation in joint projects with Indian companies in identified areas of Hungarian focus i.e. e-security, e-governance applications, e-commerce etc.

Recognition of Medical and Dental Colleges

316. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Medical and Dental Colleges

which obtained Government recognition during the mid and at the end of session after admission of the students during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 till date, State-wise; and

(b) the names of such colleges which were not accorded recognition till March, 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The Medical and Dental Colleges permitted to start during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 (till date) will become eligible for recognition only when the first batch of students admitted in the respective colleges appear for the final year examination. The MBBS and BDS course being 4½ years and 4 years duration respectively, the question of recognition of these colleges in respect of the under graduate courses run by them will arise only on completion of the full duration of the course by the first batch of students admitted in these colleges as specified in the respective Regulations.

VPT by Private Companies

317. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether private sector companies have not been able to install the village public telephones as per their commitments within the stipulated period in the rural areas of the country;

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

(c) the names of the companies which have installed the villages public telephones during the extended period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details are enclosed as statement. The Private Sector companies did not expand in rural areas.

Statement

VPT Status of Private Basic Service Operators

VPTs	Bharti Telenet Ltd. Madhya Pradesh	Tata Teleservices Andhra Pradesh	Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd.	Reliance Telecom Gujarat	Shayam Telelink. Rajasthan	HFCL Infotel. Punjab	Total
Month of commencement of service	June 1998	March 1999	October 1998	May 2000	June 2000	September 2000	
No. of uncovered villages as on 15.8.2000	19168	6096	11091	6911 (4202)#	17338	NIL	60604
No. of VPTs Committed in first 3 years from effective date*	16500	9635	25760	8635	31834	5442***	97806
Cumulative No. of VPTs provided by**	31-3-2001	348	5	NIL	169	NIL	522
	31-12-2002	348	1314	1140	2894	693	7123
	31-10-2003	611	1408	2643	4114	3010	12665

* These commitments were to be met by 30.9.1998 in case of AP, Gujarat, Punjab and by 30.9.99 in case of Maharashtra. For MP and Rajasthan the same were to be completed by 30.9.2000 and 4.3.2001 respectively.

** Figures are as reported by the licensees.

*** As all villages have been covered in Punjab by BSNL, the faulty MARRs are replaced by the private licensees.

In Gujarat 4202 are the villages which do not have a telecom facility. 2709 villages have phones but not a public phone.

[Translation]

Visit of Pakistani Information Minister

318. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the officials/Union Ministers with whom the Pakistani Minister of Information had discussion during his visit to India in November, 2003; and

(b) the details of the deliberations held and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (b) The Pakistan Minister of Information, Mr. Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, visited India in November 2003 in context of the Third Meeting of the SAARC Information Ministers that was held in New Delhi. However, no bilateral meetings were held.

[English]

Ban on Conversion of Petrol Cars to CNG

319. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have imposed ban on conversion of private old cars from petrol to CNG;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to revoke the ban; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKIRISHNAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Cess on Petrol

320. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have imposed a cess of Rs. 1.50 per litre on both petrol and diesel for the road sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount so far collected and likely to be collected in this way; and

(d) the amount out of this cess so far distributed or proposed to be distributed to each State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKIRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The cess on petrol and diesel has been increased from Rs.1.0 per litre to Rs.1.50 per litre through the budget of 2003-04.

(c) The amount so far collected this year 2003-04 from cess on petrol and diesel is Rs.2874 crore upto August, 2003 (provisional figure) and total amount likely to be collected this year is Rs.9,000 crore.

(d) The amount distributed during the current financial year to the States so far out of Central Road Fund for development and maintenance of State Roads is given

in the statement enclosed. Central Road Fund constitutes nearly 18 per cent of the total cess amount.

Statement

*Release of funds out of Central Road Fund (CRF)
for the year 2003-04
(As on 28.11.2003)*

S. No.	Name of the State/UT	Release of funds from CRF during the year 2003-04 (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	35.55
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.62
3.	Assam	6.03
4.	Bihar	7.79
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00
6.	Goa	0.00
7.	Gujarat	28.12
8.	Haryana	10.47
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3.19
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	4.37
11.	Jharkhand	9.72
12.	Karnataka	21.67
13.	Kerala	0.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	27.29
15.	Maharashtra	34.95
16.	Manipur	1.50
17.	Meghalaya	2.60

1	2	3
18.	Mizoram	2.01
19.	Nagaland	0.85
20.	Orissa	0.00
21.	Punjab	14.33
22.	Rajasthan	9.44
23.	Sikkim	0.37
24.	Tamil Nadu	25.99
25.	Tripura	0.88
26.	Uttranchal	3.98
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00
28.	West Bengal	22.92
	Sub Total	275.61
	UTs.	Nil
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	0.00
30.	Chandigarh	2.02
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli .	0.41
32.	Daman and Diu	0.00
33.	Delhi	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.73
	Sub Total	3.15
36.	NITHE	Nil
	Total	278.76

Indo-Turkey Agreement Against Terrorism

321. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
SHRI BHASKARARAO PATIL :

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have signed an agreement to set up a Joint Working Group against terrorism with Turkey;

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

(c) whether Turkey has extended any help to the Union Government for its fight against terrorism;

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

(e) whether our PM visited Turkey recently; and

(f) if so, the details of issues discussed between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA) : (a) Yes. During Prime Minister's visit to Turkey from 16-19 September 2003, a Protocol between the Ministry of External Affairs of India and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey was signed for setting up of a Joint Working Group on Combating Terrorism.

(b) The Joint Working Group intends to share experience concerning terrorism, organized crime and illicit trafficking of humans, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances as well as their linkages. This Group will work towards coordinating and extending cooperation on matters relating to ongoing global campaign against terrorism in the United Nations and other specialized institutions.

(c) and (d) The first meeting of the Joint Working Group on Combating Terrorism is scheduled to take place shortly, subject to mutual convenience.

(e) Yes. Prime Minister visited Turkey from 16-19 September, 2003.

(f) During Prime Minister's visit, a review of the present status of bilateral relations between the two

countries took place. The ways and means of augmenting bilateral economic and trade relations, including in the fields of energy, IT, etc. were discussed. Cooperation on security issues, including through Joint Working Group on Combating Terrorism, and defence cooperation was also discussed. In addition, the situations in Iraq and Afghanistan also figured in the discussions between the two sides.

Conference of SAARC Health Ministers

322. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN :

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA :

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

(a) whether the Conference of Health Ministers of SAARC countries had been held recently;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed at the conference;

(c) the decisions taken at the conference and the steps taken to implement the same; and

(d) the strategy formulated by SAARC Ministers to meet the situation that is likely to emerge following the introduction of a product patent regime in the drug sector in 2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the first conference of the Health Ministers of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Countries was held at New Delhi on 14th – 15th November, 2003. Issues related to Traditional Systems of Medicines, Emerging and re-emerging diseases (SARS/HIV/AIDS/TB), Drugs, Pharmaceuticals and Food Certification and Standardization, Population Stabilization and Reproductive Child Health and Immunization were discussed.

(c) As per statement enclosed.

(d) Keeping in view the introduction of product patent regime w.e.f. 1.1.2005, the Member States expressed their readiness to facilitate policy coherence

among themselves to maximize opportunities under TRIPS agreement to ensure affordable drugs for public health needs.

Statement

The important decisions taken in the first conference of the SAARC Health Ministers held on 14-15th November, 2003 are as follows :-

- (i) The Member States agreed to set up a rapid response health deployment system to deal with emerging and reemerging diseases for SAARC Region.
- (ii) To set up a networking of malaria institutions within the SAARC Region with National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) being the coordination center on malaria and other vector borne diseases.
- (iii) To allocate adequate resource for development of Traditional Systems of Medicine and their mainstreaming in national health programmes and national healthcare delivery systems and to survey and document traditional knowledge so as to safeguard the Intellectual Property Rights.
- (iv) To strengthen cooperation among themselves to conduct collaborative drug and clinical research and to promote trade of standardized raw material, Traditional Medicines and therapies.
- (v) To take appropriate measures for preservation of endangered medicinal plants and promote their cultivation.
- (vi) Agreed to strive towards establishment of an efficient mechanism for exchange of information on regulation policies and procedures concerning drugs and food, exchange of regulation personnel involved in enforcement and quality assurance of food and drugs (through workshops and training programmes) among SAARC States.
- (vii) To work toward developing policies and effective partnership to check illegal trade and cross

border movement of spurious/substandard drugs and food.

- (viii) To develop a database for food contaminants and food borne disease surveillance, and also to take up the issues relating to food certification, standardization and trade in a harmonious manner with Codex Alimentarius Commission/ WTO and at other forums.
- (ix) To strengthen their policies and programmes to attain respective goals in health and population sector, in keeping with the outcomes of ICPD and ICPD+5 Conferences and the World Summit for Children + 10 as well as the relevant Millennium Development Goals.
- (x) To request the international organization/initiatives, including multilateral agencies, UN Specialized agencies, Funds and Programmes, to complement the Region's efforts in addressing its health and population concerns.
- (xi) To share best practices, models of governance, research projects and training and to facilitate educational exchange programmes and networking of national institutions.
- (xii) To strive towards making health central to the national development strategies, to set up National Commissions on Macro-economics and Health and to allocate greater resources to health.

Works on National Highways In Orissa

323. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of National Highways in Orissa on which works relating to their widening, extension and repair have been undertaken since March, 1998 till date and the time by which such works would be started on remaining National Highways passing through Orissa; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) Development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process. There are 12 National Highways (NH No. 5, 5A, 6, 23, 42, 43, 60, 200, 201, 203, 215 and 217) in the State of Orissa with a total length of 3175 kms. Out of which the work of widening to 4-lanes has been undertaken in 444 km. length on NH 5 and NH 60 under National Highway Development Project (NHDP). Further, works on 2188 km. length of National Highways have been sanctioned under various development schemes during this period. 25 works in an aggregate length of 388 km. have been sanctioned during the current year 2003-04, and these works are either in progress or at tendering stage.

(b) The estimated expenditure/allocation during this period on National Highways was Rs. 1308.10 crores for development works and Rs. 294.82 crores for maintenance works. The actual expenditure during this period on National Highways was Rs. 1250.37 crores for development works and Rs. 249.77 crores for maintenance works.

Indian Institute of Information Technology

324. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state : the total number of Indian Institute of Information Technology at present in the country, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : At present there are two Indian Institutes of Information Technology set up by Central Government one at Gwalior, M.P. and one at Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh. In addition there are Institutes set up and funded by the State Governments.

Financial Assistance to Engineering Colleges

325. SHRI AMBAREESHA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any decision to provide financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 3.10 crores to some States for the modernisation of their Engineering Colleges;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to extend any financial assistance to some other States for the above purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme of Government of India

(TEQIP) is being implemented with the financial assistance of International Development Association (World Bank). In the 1st Cycle of TEQIP, 35 State institutions and 5 Centrally funded institutions (National Institutes of Technology) from six States namely, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh are participating in TEQIP. A sum of Rs. 309.59 crore has been approved for the above said institutions for Institutional Development activities like modernization of laboratories, staff/faculty development, networking of institutions, services to community and economy, refurbishment of laboratories and library etc. The details of financial assistance approved State-wise and Institution-wise is given in the Statement enclosed.

For the 2nd cycle of TEQIP, the seven States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal and West Bengal have been approved for participation by the Government of India.

Statement

Details of Financial Assistance approved State-wise/Institution-wise under TEQIP

Sl.No.	States-wise Engineering Colleges	Amount approved (Rs. in lakh)
1	2	3
I. Haryana		
(i)	National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra,	1042.86
(ii)	CR State College of Engineering, Murthal	585.85
(iii)	Guru Jambheshwar University, Hissar,	444.80
(iv)	Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra	407.70
(v)	YMCA Institute of Engineering, Faridabad	497.92
II. Kerala		
(i)	College of Engineering, Trivandrum,	1416.65
(ii)	College of Engineering, Chengannur	474.00
(iii)	Model Engineering College, Kochi.	431.30

1	2	3
(iv)	Sree Chitra Thirunal College of Engineering, Trivandrum	487.85
(v)	National Institute of Technology, Calicut,	1406.15
(vi)	MES College of Engineering, Kuttipuram	493.62
(vii)	LBS College of Engineering, Kasargod	478.82
III. Madhya Pradesh		
(i)	Shri Govindram Sakseria Institute of Technology & Science, Indore.	972.31
(ii)	Ujjain Engineering College, Ujjain	495.75
(iii)	Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal	1407.97
(iv)	Madhav Institute of Technology & Science, Gwalior	636.60
(v)	Samrat Ashok Technological Institute, Vidisha	565.50
(vi)	Jabalpur Engineering College, Jabalpur	1109.00
(vii)	Rewa Engineering College, Rewa	547.84
(viii)	University Institute of Technology, Rajiv Gandhi Proudhogiki Vishwavidyalaya, Bhopal	522.92
IV. Maharashtra		
(i)	Government College of Engineering, Pune	1538.19
(ii)	Government College of Engineering, Aurangabad	558.80
(iii)	KES Rajaram Babu Institute of Technology, Sangli	570.06
(iv)	University Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai	1440.20
(v)	Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Technological University, Distt. Raigarh	460.35
(vi)	Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute, Mumbai	1486.55
(vii)	Walchand College of Engineering, Sangli	582.70
(viii)	Yashwantrao Chavan College of Engineering Nagpur	586.07
(ix)	Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur	1279.34
(x)	Shri Guru Gobind Singhji College of Engineering & Technology, Nanded	626.65

1	2	3
(xi)	Shri Sant Gajanan Maharaj College of Engineering, Shegaon	528.30
V. Uttar Pradesh		
(i)	Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, Kanpur	1413.10
(ii)	Institute of Engineering & Technology, Lucknow	773.10
(iii)	Bundelkhand Institute of Engineering & Technology, Jhansi	542.98
(iv)	Government Central Textile Institute, Kanpur	518.00
(v)	Madan Mohan Malviya Engineering College, Gorakhpur	693.61
(vi)	Shri Ram Murthi Smarak College of Engineering & Technology, Bareilly	365.48
(vii)	Motilal Nehru National Institute of Technology, Allahabad	1430.75
(viii)	Babu Banarasi Das National Institute of Technology & Management, Lucknow	543.85
(ix)	Kamla Nehru Institute of Technology, Sultanpur	595.10
Total		30958.59

Filaria Cases

326. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the spreading of Filaria cases in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government provided assistance to Orissa for the above purpose during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Cases of Filariasis have been reported from 15 districts of Orissa. As per the reports received from the State Health Authorities, number of cases treated during the last three years and during 2003 (upto October) are as follows:-

Year	No. of Cases
2000	1464
2001	1347
2002	1569
2003 (upto October)	1743

(c) and (d) Control of Filariasis is the responsibility of State Governments. The Central Government provides technical guidance and drugs for treatment of patients and larvicides for use in the urban areas. 150 lakhs (50 mg.) and 120 lakhs (100 mg.) of DEC tablets were supplied to Orissa during the year 2001-02. 2200 Ltrs. of larvicide was provided to the State in 2003.

A Programme for Mass Drug Administration of DEC to interrupt transmission of the disease was launched in two districts of the State during 1997. This programme was

taken up again in four districts during 2002. However, due to public interest litigation filed in the Orissa High Court, the programme has been suspended since 2002 and the matter is sub-judice.

**Disinvestment of HPCL,
BPCL and IOC**

327. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY :
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :
SHRI SUNIL KHAN :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared any paper on the disinvestment in HPCL, BPCL and IOC stalled by the Supreme Court verdict on 16 September, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have sought a legal remedy for the disinvestment process in the light of the Supreme Court Judgement;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which the Government propose to deal with the situation arising out of court cases pertaining to disinvestment process?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) Government is exploring different options to address the situation arising out of the judgement of the Supreme Court dated 16.9.2003 regarding HPCL and BPCL disinvestment.

(c) to (e) Government, as a part of its reply to the Special Leave Petition (SLP) filed against the disinvestment of Jessop and Co. Ltd., has raised before the Supreme Court issues arising out of its judgement on

HPCL and BPCL. The case came up for hearing in the Supreme Court on 17.11.2003. The Petitioners were given time of four weeks to file their rejoinder, if any, on the counter affidavit filed by the Union of India in the SLP. Government has also filed a Transfer Petition for transferring some of the cases filed against the disinvestment of Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), Burn Standard Company Ltd. (BSCL) and Hindustan Copper Ltd. (HCL) to the Supreme Court so that the issues raised in those petitions are decided by the Apex Court.

**Kasturba Gandhi Swatantra
Vidyalaya Scheme**

328. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have planned to set up residential schools for girls in backward areas under the Kasturba Gandhi Swatantra Vidyalaya Scheme;

(b) if so, the number of residential schools for girls likely to be set up in various backward districts in the country, State-wise and location-wise;

(c) the amount earmarked for the said purpose during the last three years; and

(d) the time by when these schools are likely to start working?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) to (d) The Government of India proposes to launch Kasturba Gandhi Swatantra Vidyalaya (KGSV) Scheme for opening of 500-750 residential schools for girls belonging to Scheduled Castes, Schedule Tribes, Other Backward Classes and minorities, in (i) educationally backward blocks where rural female literacy is below the national average and the gender gap is above national average, (ii) districts where SC female literacy is below 20% and SC population is above 10% and (iii) districts where ST female literacy is below 10%. As per 1991 Census, there are about 2656 such blocks in 21 States

namely Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal. The number of blocks are subject to change once the block-wise 2001 census data becomes available.

The total project outlay for the 10th Five Year Plan is Rs. 427.00 crores. The scheme is under finalization in Government of India.

NCERT Text Books

329. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether several excerpts lifted from a seminal US book, "World civilization, Their History, Their civilization" were included in the NCERT Textbook for class XII as reported in the Indian Express dated October 10, 2003;

(b) if so, whether this amounts to plagiarism; and

(c) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) No, Sir. There are similarities in a couple of sentences in the first chapter "beginning of the modern age". There is, however, not the remotest hint of lifting of several excerpts from the US book, "World Civilizations" as has been reported in the Indian Express.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Secret deal between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia

330. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a secret agreement on nuclear co-

operation was entered into by Pakistan and Saudi Arabia as reported in the 'Indian Express' dated October 23, 2003;

(b) if so, the details regarding the said matter;

(c) the impact on India's security and regional imbalance likely to be caused by the said agreement; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) Government have seen the reports regarding agreement between Pakistan and Saudi Arabia on transfer of nuclear technology in exchange for oil; and denials thereof by Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

(c) and (d) Government carefully monitors such developments and remains committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security based on a realistic assessment of the country's security environment.

[Translation]

Post Offices in Country

331. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of post offices functioning in urban areas of the country;

(b) the number of employees working therein;

(c) the number of post offices functioning in rural areas of the country indicating the number of employees working therein; and

(d) the others details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) to (d) There are

16,537 post offices functioning in urban areas and 1,39,081 post offices functioning in rural areas. There are in all 5,65,922 employees functioning in the postal network, including 3,03,170 extra departmental employees who primarily work in the rural areas.

[English]

**Purchase of Life Saving
Medical Equipments**

332. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several proposals received from Gujarat regarding purchase of life saving medical equipments from abroad for several hospitals are pending with the Union Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status of each of them;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for early clearance of these proposals; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Venture Capital Funds

333. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has set up a high-powered committee to suggest policy changes for attracting venture capital funds for the entertainment sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a report has been finalized in this regard; and

(d) if so, the main recommendations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

WLL Landline Phone Connections

334. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public sector companies viz. MTNL and BSNL are considering to start WLL landline phone connections based on CDMA on the lines of private sector companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) The Public Sector companies viz. MTNL and BSNL are already providing WLL landline phone connections based on CDMA.

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

[English]

**Performance of Basic Telecommunication
Service**

335. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to repaid increase in use of mobile phone, the services of basic telecommunication sector are deteriorating;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the remedial action being taken by the Government to counter the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

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

New Postal Policy

336. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :

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

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to bring about sweeping changes in the existing postal system in the country;

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

(c) whether corporatisation of the entire postal sector within a specific period would be undertaken;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which a new postal policy would be announced and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) to (e) There is no proposal to bring about sweeping changes in the existing postal system in the country. However, the 10th Five Year Plan approved for the Department envisages a number of policy reforms to be undertaken, along with the investments proposed under various Plan schemes, to empower the Department to compete effectively with other service providers in providing services to its customers, while continuing to fulfil its Universal Service Obligation. The major reforms that have been cited in the Plan document for being addressed during the Plan period

2002-07 is contained in Agenda for Reforms (in statement enclosed)

Although the task of developing and involving a credible roadmap for the corporatisation of the operational network of the Department of Posts within the Tenth Plan is included in the agenda for reforms spelt out in the Plan document, it has been decided to examine this issue in depth, before any action is taken in the matter. Meanwhile, the Department is focussing its efforts on the goal of achieving financial self-sufficiency by 2007.

Statement

Agenda for Reforms

- To develop and evolve a credible road map of the corporatisation of the operational network of Department of Posts as India Post within the Tenth Plan.
- Progressive induction of the private sector in the provision of selected postal services.
- Tariff fixation needs to be separated from policy making function by setting up an independent regulatory authority.
- Tariff of non-UPSO services should be fixed on commercial principles and revision carried out from time to time.

Free Education

337. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have directed the public and private schools to admit at least 20% of their total strength of students from the students living below poverty line and to provide them free education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have decided to bear the education expenditure of these students; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the Government have decided to manage the funds for this extra burden?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) No.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Special Gift to Backward Districts

338. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister has offered a special gift to people living in 25 most backward districts in the country by providing them Rs.15 crore per year;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to develop 132 poorest and Naxalite infested districts in the country;

(c) if so, the places where this development work is likely to be started; and

(d) by when the development of these districts is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) The Planning Commission has launched a new initiative in the Tenth Plan, namely, the Backward Districts Initiative under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana. Under this Initiative, 100 most backward districts in various States have been identified. In addition 32 districts affected by left wing extremism have also been identified. The District Plans in respect of 25 districts were approved during the year 2002-03. However, the funds for these districts could not be released as the modalities of this scheme were yet to be approved by the Government. Out of the annual allocations of Rs.15 crore for the current year for each district, first instalment of Special Central Assistance i.e. Rs.7.50 crore for each of

the 25 districts has been released. Each of the districts will receive Special Central Assistance @ Rs.15 crore per district for three years.

(c) List of 132 districts, including 32 districts affected by left wing extremism, identified under the Backward Districts Initiative is enclosed as statement.

(d) During the current financial year, a total of 66 districts, including 16 districts affected by left wing extremism, are being covered. The remaining districts will be covered from next year.

Statement

*Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana :
Backward Districts Initiative*

List of Districts

S. No.	Name of the State	Name of the District
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1. Adilabad 2. Warangal 3. Chittoor 4. Mahbubnagar 5. Vizianagaram
2.	Chhattisgarh	1. Bastar 2. Dantewada 3. Kankar 4. Bilaspur
3.	Gujarat	1. Dangs 2. Dohad 3. Panchmahals

1	2	3
4. Haryana		1. Sirsa
5. Jharkhand		1. Lohardagga
		2. Gumla
		3. Simdega
		4. Saraikela
		5. Singhbhum West
		6. Goddha
6. Karnataka		1. Gulburga
		2. Bidar
		3. Chitradurga
		4. Davangere
7. Kerala		1. Palakkad
		2. WYNAD
8. Madhya Pradesh		1. Mandla
		2. Barwani
		3. West Nimar
		4. Seoni
		5. Shahdol
		6. Umaria
		7. Balaghat
		8. Satna
		9. Siddhi
9. Maharashtra		1. Gadchiroli
		2. Bhandara
		3. Gondia

1	2	3
		4. Chandrapur
		5. Hingoli
		6. Nanded
		7. Dhule
		8. Nandurbar
		9. Ahmednagar
10. Punjab		1. Hoshiarpur
11. Rajasthan		1. Banswara
		2. Dungarpur
		3. Jhalawar
12. Tamil Nadu		1. Tiruvannamalai
		2. Dindigul
		3. Cuddalore
		4. Naggapattinam
		5. Sivgangai
13. Uttar Pradesh		1. Sonbhadra
		2. Raebareli
		3. Unnao
		4. Sitapur
		5. Hardoi
		6. Banda
		7. Chitrakoot
		8. Fatehpur
		9. Barabanki
		10. Mirzapur

1	2	3
		11. Gorakhpur
		12. Kushinagar
		13. Lalitpur
		14. Jaunpur
		15. Hamirpur
		16. Jalaun
		17. Mahoba
		18. Kaushambi
		19. Azamgarh
		20. Pratapgarh
14. West Bengal	1. Purulia	
	2. 24 South Parganas	
	3. Jalpaiguri	
	4. Midnapur West	
	5. South Dinajpur	
	6. Bankura	
	7. North Dinajpur	
	8. Birbhum	
	Special Category States	
15. Assam	1. Kokrajhar	
	2. North Lakhimpur	
	3. Karbi Anglong	
	4. Dhemaji	
	5. North Cachar Hills	
16. Arunachal Pradesh	1. Upper Subansiri	

1	2	3
17. Himachal Pradesh	1. Chamba	
	2. Sirmaur	
18. Jammu and Kashmir	1. Doda	
	2. Kupwara	
	3. Poonch	
19. Manipur	1. Tamenlong	
20. Meghalaya	2. West Garo Hills	
21. Mizoram	1. Lawngtlai	
22. Nagaland	1. Mon	
23. Sikkim	1. North Sikkim	
24. Tripura	1. Dhalai	
25. Uttaranchal	1. Champavat	
	2. Tehri Garhwal	
	3. Chamoli	
Total		100

List of Extremist Affected Districts

1. Andhra Pradesh	1. Karimnagar
	2. Khammam
	3. Medak
	4. Nalgonda
	5. Nizamabad
2. Bihar	1. Aurangabad
	2. Gaya
	3. Jehanabad
	4. Rohtas

1	2	3
		5. Nalanda
		6. Patna
		7. Bhojpur
		8. Kaimur
3. Jharkhand		1. Hazaribagh
		2. Palamu
		3. Chatra
		4. Garhwa
		5. Ranchi
		6. Latehar
		7. Giridih
		8. Koderma
		9. Bokaro
		10. Dhanbad
4. Madhya Pradesh		1. Dindori
5. Chhattisgarh		1. Kawardha
		2. Rajnandgaon
		3. Sarguja
		4. Jashpur
6. Orissa		1. Ganjam
		2. Gajapati
		3. Mayurbhanj
7. Uttar Pradesh		1. Chandauli

Note : Districts in bold are being covered in the current year.

Banning on Jobs Abroad

339. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have permitted certain retired nuclear scientists to take up jobs abroad;

(b) if so, the names of such nuclear scientists permitted during the last five years;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to ban their nuclear scientists from taking up jobs abroad; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Seeking Government approval by retired scientists for taking up jobs abroad within two years from the date of retirement is already provided for under the Service Rules.

Medical Courses

340. SHRI Y.V. RAO : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Medical Council of India (MCI) has recommended for inclusion of orientation of English, Communication skills, medical ethics and computers in medical courses;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations and the decisions taken in the matter; and

(c) the time by when the decisions are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to

(c) No, Sir. The MCI has not made any recommendation for inclusion of orientation of English Communication skills, medical ethics and computers in medical courses. However, the issues pertaining to medical ethics, although not directly named as such, have been covered under the curriculum of Community Medicine and Humanities.

Increase in Staff Strength

341. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India had proposed to Pakistan for an increase in the staff strength of their respective High Commissions by eight on reciprocal basis;

(b) if so, whether Pakistan has accepted India's proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) to (c) In continuation of Prime Minister's initiative of April 18 and the step by step approach adopted to normalise diplomatic and other links with Pakistan, India on 23 September 2003, proposed to Pakistan an increase in the staff strengths of the respective High Commissions by 8 on a reciprocal basis Pakistan has agreed to the Indian proposal.

[Translation]

VRS In MFIL

342. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Modern Food Industries Employees Union has submitted any memorandum before the concerned committee with regard to the plight of workers after disinvestment;

(b) if so, whether the workers are staging a "dharna" in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of employees at the time of disinvestment and their number in August, 2003;

(e) the number of units of Modern Food Industries Limited closed down due to disinvestment after take over of Modern Food Industries Limited by the Hindustan Lever Limited;

(f) whether voluntary retirement scheme has been imposed on the workers; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There is no information about any "dharna" by the workers in this regard.

(d) The number of employees in MFIL at the time of disinvestment were 2037 and as on 31st August, 2003 there were 1007 employees as intimated by the company.

(e) Three units of Modern Food Industries Limited were closed down after disinvestment as intimated by the company. The units were located at Ranchi, Rasika Delhi Fruit Juice Bottling Plant and SNF production factory at Lawrence Road, Delhi. However, sales in the first year were 52% higher than the previous year and increased by a further 20% in the second year after disinvestment. The company is also bearing the entire cost of financial restructuring and has spent approximately Rs.12 crore on safety and hygiene, quality control, new equipment and computers at various manufacturing locations.

(f) and (g). The company has informed that it offered a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) to employees in June 2001 after due discussion with the Federations representing the workers. The VRS was entirely optional and voluntary. The terms of VRS were much more beneficial to the workers than the earlier schemes offered under public sector management. As against the norm of exgratia compensation of 45 days for every completed year of service offered earlier under public sector management, the company offered workmen an exgratia compensation on the basis of 65 days for every completed year of service. About 900 employees opted for the VRS.

[English]

Development of Water Transport System

343. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to develop water transport system between Kolkata and Patna for transporting cargo to Nepal;

(b) if so, the amount of investment proposed in this regard; and

(c) the details of the plan formulated for the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI) :

(a) There is no specific proposal for development of Kolkata-Patna sector for transportation of cargo to Nepal. The stretch from Kolkata-Patna, however, is a part of River Ganga, which has been declared as National Waterway from Haldia to Allahabad. Basic infrastructure facilities such as navigable channel navigational aids and terminals are being provided by Inland Waterways Authority of India in a phased manner to facilitate inland water transport system on this waterway.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Violation of Trade Mark Act

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

(a) whether the drug markets across the country are flooded with the drugs phonetically similar to the existing famous brands and packed exactly in the same packaging and colour combination in violation of the Trade Mark Act as reported by the "Indian Express", dated August 18, 2003;

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

(c) whether the Hon'ble Delhi High Court has directed the Government to constitute a Committee of

experts to ensure that no new drug is allowed to be launched in the market without its approval and to monitor the quality of the drug;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the concrete action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) The issue of manufacture of look-alike products of well established brands in terms of design pattern, packaging and having phonetically similar names was examined by a Committee constituted in July, 2001 by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services. The committee took note that State Drugs Controllers are empowered under Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder for grant of product permission, therefore it was recommended that they should exercise adequate care not to allow or encourage look-alike product to the licensed companies. The findings of the report of the said Committee were also sent to all State Drugs Controllers for adaptation and implementation.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The relevant portion of the order is reproduced below:

"54..... We recommend to Union of India that a suitable legislation be enacted so that severe punishment be given to people who are involved in the manufacture, distribution, trade and business of spurious drugs. The Ministry of Health and the Director General of Health Services and other concerned agencies without further loss of time must ensure that the drug manufacturers should not be permitted to market their drugs unless the quality of the drug is approved by a high level committee or body consisting of doctors and other experts of impeccable integrity and eminence....."

(e) Every manufacturer is required to test every batch of a drug before its release in the market, and a check on quality is further kept by drug regulatory authorities by random testing of drugs from market. The

GMP norms adopted by manufacturing firms is also checked through inspection of manufacturing facilities and process. In respect of new drugs, approved in other countries, apart from detailed evaluation of its safety and efficacy data, consultation with renowned subject experts is held. For a New Molecular Entity (NME), a multidisciplinary group of experts under DG, ICMR has been constituted to evaluate pre-clinical data as well as the data at different phases of clinical trial.

Launching of Insat-3E

345. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether INSAT-3E Satellite had been successfully launched on September 28, 2003;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total expenditure incurred thereon;
- (d) the main benefits likely to be derived by launching this satellite in the communication and IT sector;
- (e) whether the satellite is functioning properly;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the other satellite in this series, which is in the pipeline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) Yes, Sir. INSAT-3E satellite was successfully launched on 28th September, 2003.

(b) INSAT-3E was launched on Ariane-V Rocket from Kourou, French Guyana on September 28, 2003. The Orbit raising, deployments and In Orbit Testing (IOT) were successfully carried out from MCF, Hassan during October-November, 2003. The satellite is now at its designated geo-stationary orbital slot of 55 deg.E.

(c) The total expenditure on the fabrication, launch and insurance of the INSAT-3E satellite is about Rs.620 crores.

(d) INSAT-3E will increase the C and Ext-C band transponder capacity in the INSAT system substantially for use by the communication, TV broadcasting and IT Sector.

(e) and (f) The satellite is functioning normally.

(g) INSAT-3D, which will be the last in the INSAT-3 series of satellites, essentially a meteorological satellite, is under fabrication.

Licensed Postal Agents

346. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government have revived the scheme of Licensed Postal Agents;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the revival of the said Scheme;
- (c) the number of Postal Agents given licence under various Postal Circles as on date; and
- (d) the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However a scheme to set up Dak Sewa Kendras, which will provide the facility for sale of stamps and stationery and for booking of registered articles, speed post articles etc. through existing outlets providing various public facilities in urban areas, is on the anvil. The scheme seeks to provide basic postal facilities in emerging urban areas where post offices are not justified as per norms, cannot be provided due to want of convenient accommodation etc., and also to extend access to these services beyond working hours of a post office or on holidays.

(c) and (d) No licenses have been issued for Dak

Sewa Kendras till date as the scheme has not yet been announced.

UNESCO Aid for Girls Education

347. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chief Executive Director, UNESCO paid a 3-day official visit from September 4, 2003 for a review of the girls education programme;

(b) if so, whether it was pointed out that Girls' education in different States like U.P., Bihar and Chhattisgarh was far behind the targets during the 9th Five Year Plan and was concerned about the diversion or misuse of the UNESCO aid given for girls' education during the said plan period;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the aid promised for girls' education during the 10th Five Year Plan Period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) No Sir. However, Mr. John Daniel, Assistant Director-General, UNESCO, Paris visited India to attend a National Seminar on 6-7 September, 2003 on "Education For All-State Level Perspectives on EFA Goals and Strategies" jointly organised by UNESCO New Delhi Office and National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), New Delhi.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Question does not arise.

Supply of Medicine to African and Caribbean Countries

348. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether three Indian Pharma Conglomerates Cipla, Ranbaxy and Matrix Laboratories have decided to

supply anti-retrovirals to the parts of Africa and the Caribbean, ravaged by HIV/AIDS at a third of the existing costs;

(b) if so, the number and names of poor countries likely to be beneficiaries;

(c) whether R&D is also proposed to be provided to these countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Three Indian Pharmaceutical companies, namely Cipla Ltd., Mumbai, Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd., Delhi, and Matrix Laboratories Ltd., Hyderabad, have reached an agreement with the Clinton Foundation to supply anti-retrovirals to South Africa, the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean. More specifically these countries are Tanzania, Mozambique, Rwanda, Haiti, The Dominican Republic, The Eastern Caribbean States and Bahamas.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Honorarium of Anganwadi

349. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had announced any increase in the honorarium of anganwadi workers in the Union budget of 2002-2003;

(b) if so, whether the Government had released any additional fund on this account to State Governments;

(c) if so, whether the fund for Gujarat is yet to be released till date; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of India decided to increase the honoraria of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers with effect from 1.4.2002 (in January 2003). Funds towards the increased honoraria have been released to all the States, including Gujarat.

Electro-Homoeopathy System

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

(a) whether the Government have announced the National Policy on Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have recognized the electro-homoeopathy system of treatment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Policy on Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy, *inter alia*, seeks to provide for the growth and development of these systems to their potential. It also seeks to integrate ISM&H in health care delivery system and National Programmes.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The "Standing Committee of Experts" appointed by the Government for the purpose, did not recommend recognition to any system other than the already recognized traditional systems of medicine viz. Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy, which fulfilled the essential and desirable criteria developed by the Committee.

[Translation]

**Committee on Anganwadi
Workers/Sahayikaas**

351. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have set up a National Committee in the Department of Women and Child Development to take stock of the service conditions and work of the Anganwadi workers and Sahayikaas and also to identify the Ministries/Departments/States who agreed to provide additional benefit to the Anganwadi workers and Sahayikaas under the centrally sponsored ICDS scheme;

(b) if so, whether the said committee has submitted its report to the Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including the implementation of its recommendations by Government of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA) : (a) to (c) A National Committee was set up in 1998 to review benefits/facilities provided to Anganwadi Workers and Anganwadi Helpers under the ICDS Scheme. The Committee submitted its Report in 2001. The recommendations made by the National Committee, *inter-alia*, included enhancement of honorarium of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers; maternity leave benefits at par with women employees of organised sectors; scheme of Awards to dedicated Anganwadi Workers and Helpers; community contribution for raising their remuneration; setting up of Anganwadi Workers' Welfare Fund and provision for contributory Group Insurance by the State Governments.

The Central Government has increased the honoraria of Anganwadi Workers by Rs.500/- p.m. and that of Anganwadi Helpers by Rs.240/- p.m. w.e.f. 1.4.2002; Anganwadi Workers and Helpers have been allowed paid absence of 135 days on maternity; Scheme of Awards to dedicated Anganwadi Workers has been introduced.

All the State Governments, including Bihar, have been requested to take action on other recommendations of the Committee. Some State Governments viz. Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Goa, Punjab, Tripura and Union Territory Administration of Chandigarh, Daman and Diu and A&N Island have intimated that they are providing additional honorarium to Anganwadi Workers and Helpers from their own resources.

[English]

Israel-Palestine Conflict

352. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN :
SHRI ALAKESH DAS :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian representative in the UN General Assembly raised the issue of the reported remark made by Israeli Dy. PM regarding intended assassination of Palestine President being an option; and

(b) if so, the details and outcome in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) In a Statement at the U.N. Security Council on 15 September 2003, the Indian Permanent Representative referring to this issue inter alia stated ".....India has consistently regarded President Arafat as the elected leader of the Palestinian people and symbol of their cause. His expulsion and removal from the scene would be indefensible in international law. It represents an affront to the Palestinian people as well as the international community at large and must attract the severest condemnation world-wide. Apart from serving no constructive purpose, it would negate all efforts towards reconciliation. More important, it is likely to lead to an increased wave of anger and resultant violence in the region. Such a move is bound to exacerbate the situation and could prove politically counterproductive. It would definitely have a negative impact on the Middle East peace process.....".

**NGOs Working for Women and
Child Welfare**

353. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals received from NGOs working for women and child welfare in the country particularly in Nalgonda (A.P.);

(b) the number of proposals received from NGOs in Andhra Pradesh for funding during the last three years;

(c) the number of proposals sanctioned; and

(d) the amount released particularly in respect of NGOs working in Nalgonda district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Funds for Girls Education

354. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have embarked on programme at the elementary school level to offer special funds for girls education to develop 'Innovative Activity' and for 'Supportive' early childhood care facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this programme would be implemented in all elementary schools; and

(d) if not the names of the elementary schools in which it would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Under the national programme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), provision upto Rs.50 lakhs per district per year has been made for innovative activities, under which Rs.15.00 lakhs per district can be utilized for one activity. Girls education and early childhood care and education, are some of the type of activities that are being taken up by the districts under SSA under this provision. The concerned district SSA implementation authorities utilize these funds in the district as per their own District Elementary Education Plan for SSA.

**Submission of Report by
Expert Group**

355. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Expert Group set up to advise on the methodology and criteria to identify Below Poverty Line (BPL) families has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the recommendations of the Expert Group; and

(d) the status of their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir, the Expert Group to advise on the criteria methodology and Survey Schedules for BPL Census (2002) has submitted its report in September 2002. The report has recommended that thirteen scorable socio-economic indicators namely, Size group of operational holding of land, Type of house, Average availability of normal wear clothing, Food security, Sanitation, Ownership of consumer durables, Literacy status of the highest literate adult, Status of the household in labour force, Means of Livelihood, Status of children, Type of indebtedness, Reasons for migration from household and Preference for assistance, each having scores 0,1,2,3,4 depending on the status of the household, are to be used for working out a composite score for each rural household.

(d) On the basis of the recommendations of Expert Group the State Governments/UT Administrations were issued instructions to carry out the BPL Census, which was to be completed in June, 2003. However, due to the ruling of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, in People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) Writ Petition no. 196 of 2001, the results of the BPL Census have not been finalized.

Eradication of TB

356. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that TB attacks more people than AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, malaria, leprosy and tropical diseases combined together each year;

(b) if so, the data available with the Union Government in this regard;

(c) the specific steps taken by the Government for the control and eradication of TB;

(d) the reasons for not controlling TB effectively;

(e) whether there is any proposal to involve the private sector to control the disease;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the success achieved by the Government in controlling the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) and (b) There are early indications of reduction of TB incidence and deaths in India. In addition the epidemiology of some of the other diseases like HIV/AIDS is changing. Therefore, at this stage, although TB is a major public health problem in the country, it does not attack more people than AIDS, STD, malaria, leprosy and tropical diseases combined together each year.

Every year an estimated 18 lakh people in India develop TB and about 4.17 lakh people die of it. TB kills more people in India than any other infectious disease.

(c) and (d) To control Tuberculosis, National TB Control Programme (NTCP) has been in operation since 1962. As the programme did not make any significant epidemio-

logical impact in its almost three decades of implementation, it was reviewed by an Expert Committee in 1992. Major shortcomings found in the Programme were as under:

- Inadequate budget and insufficient managerial capacity
- Shortage of drugs
- Emphasis on x-ray diagnosis resulting in inaccurate diagnosis
- Poor quality sputum microscopy
- Multiplicity of treatment regimens

On the recommendations of the above Committee, Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) widely known as DOTS which is a WHO recommended strategy, is being implemented in a phased manner, with the objective of achieving a cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases. It takes care of the above shortcomings. The emphasis is on diagnosis by sputum microscopy instead of by X-ray. This helps in detecting and curing infectious cases on priority. Drugs are provided for full course of treatment in patient-wise boxes. Treatment of all patients is monitored closely. To make the Programme more effective, NGOs, Private Practitioners and Medical Colleges are being involved.

(e) and (f) Under Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) to increase the access to TB care services in the country guidelines for involvement of NGOs and private practitioners have been evolved and widely disseminated. At present more than 550 NGOs and more than 2000 Private Practitioners (PPs) are involved in RNTCP.

(g) RNTCP districts have reported treatment success rate of more than 85% which means that 8 out of every 10 TB patients diagnosed and put on treatment under revised strategy are being successfully treated as against less than 4 in the previous programme.

Till date more than 25 lakh patients have been put on treatment under DOTS Programme resulting in saving

of more than 4.5 lakhs additional lives. More than 740 million population in 414 districts have already been covered and it is envisaged to cover 850 million by 2004 and the entire country by 2005 under RNTCP.

Medical Colleges in Karnataka

357. SHRI KOLURBASAVANAGOUD : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Government and Private Medical Colleges functioning in Karnataka;

(b) the number of MBBS and Post-Graduate seats in these medical colleges;

(c) the number of new medical colleges granted recognition in the State during 2003-2004;

(d) the number out of them that had been barred from taking admissions same period;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether there is any proposal to increase the intake of the Government and private medical colleges in Karnataka; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) 4 Government and 26 Private Medical Colleges are functioning in the State of Karnataka.

(b) As per the Medical Council of India about 3800 seats at under graduate level and about 1414 seats at post graduate level are available in these medical colleges.

(c) to (e) No new medical college has been given recognition during 2003-04 in Karnataka. However, renewal of permission has been given for admission of fresh batch of students during 2003-04 in respect of the following medical colleges in Karnataka:

(i) Yenepoya Medical College, Mangalore

- (ii) Fr. Muller Medical College, Mangalore
- (iii) K.S. Hedge Medical Academy, Mangalore
- (iv) K.V.G. Medical College, Sullia
- (v) Vedehi Institute of Medical Sciences, Bangalore
- (vi) A.J. Institute of Medical Sciences, Mangalore
- (vii) S. Nijilingappa Medical College, Bagalkot
- (viii) M.R. Medical College, Gulbarga (against increased intake 100-150).

The permission for admission of fresh batch of students during 2003-04 has, however, not been renewed in view of infrastructural deficiencies in respect of the following medical colleges:

- (i) K.B.N. Medical College, Gulbarga
- (ii) Basaveshwara Medical College, Chitradugra
- (iii) M.V.J. Medical College, Bangalore
- (iv) Navodaya Medical College, Raichur.

(f) and (g) Increase in admission capacity is an ongoing process. However, at present there is no proposal for increase in admission capacity in any of the medical colleges in the State of Karnataka.

Transfer of NH-52 to the Border Roads Organisation

358. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4427 on December 18, 2002 and state :

- (a) whether even after transfer of maintenance, repairs, augmentation and improvement of NH-52 to the Border Roads Organisation, the National Highway continues to be highly dilapidated;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the sum of money allocated for repairs and

maintenance of NH-52 during 2002-2003 and the current year (2003-2004) and the expenditure incurred till date; and

(d) the scheme, if any, for thorough repairs of this highway, especially that between Tezpur and Lakhimpur including the estimated cost therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The condition of NH-52 has substantially improved after handing over the same to Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in May/June, 2002.

(c) The details of funds allocated and expenditure incurred on NH-52 for its maintenance are as follows:-

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Allocation	Expenditure
2002-03	4.17	4.17
2003-04	3.88	3.06

(d) BRO have planned improvement of riding quality works in a length of 155 km. at a cost of Rs. 29.75 crore including a length of 132 km. between Tezpur and Lakhimpur during 2003-04.

Delhi-Agra Corridor

359. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the National Highways Authority of India has appointed M/s Internall ICS Cecons D&M Co. Pvt. Ltd. as its agent for developing, maintaining and managing the affairs relating to Development of NH-2, Delhi-Agra corridor;
- (b) if so, the terms and conditions thereof;
- (c) the total amount paid by the Government to the said company so far, year-wise;

(d) whether any discrepancies have been noticed in the working of said company; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN) : (a) and (b) M/s Internal ICS CE Cons. O&M Pvt. Ltd. has been awarded the work of operation and maintenance of NH-2 (Delhi-Agra section) by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) w.e.f. 8.8.2002. The scope of work includes road maintenance, asset management, route operation and user fee collection. It is a performance based contract.

(c) The year wise amount paid to the above company is given below :

(i) Financial year 2002- : Rs. 11.44 crore
2003

(ii) Financial year 2003- : Rs. 11.06 crore
2004 till date.

(d) and (e) Some deficiencies were noted in their performance relating to maintenance for which show cause notices have been issued to the company.

Bio-Technology Research Projects

360. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether 1375 projects on bio-technology research were undertaken between 1996-2002;

(b) if so, the total cost thereof alongwith the number out of them completed so far;

(c) whether some projects out of them are proposed to be transferred to any agency/industry; and

(d) if so, the amount to be accrued as royalty by the transfer of each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA') : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Biotechnology is the nodal agency for promotion and support of biotechnology activities in the country. Besides, Department of Science & Technology, Indian Council for Agriculture Research, Council for Scientific & Industrial Research and Indian Council for Medical Research also supplement the efforts. The Department of Biotechnology has supported R&D projects amounting to Rs. 364.78 crores and 650 projects have been completed.

(c) and (d) The promising research leads obtained in these research projects are transferred to industry for up-scaling, validation and commercialization. About 51 technologies have been transferred to industry. On an average, the percentage of royalty varies from 1-7% of sales/revenue for a period of 5-10 years depending upon technology. However, as per instructions approved by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India during the year 2000, institutions shall take necessary steps for commercial exploitation of technologies patented and retain benefits and earnings arising out of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and technology transfer. These rules are to encourage the institutions to file patent applications on their innovations, motivate them to transfer their technologies for commercialization and facilitate rewards for the inventors.

Improvement in the Customer Care Service of MTNL and BSNL

361. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI :
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :

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

(a) whether the Government have asked MTNL and BSNL to improve its customer care service in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a large number of MTNL and BSNL subscribers have applied for disconnection of basic telecom services;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to fix responsibilities on MTNL and BSNL officials who fail to put a check on the rise in number of complaints of subscribers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Sir, improvement of services including customer care is continuous process. As such MTNL and BSNL strive hard for providing better customer care. Further, Telecom Commission reviews the performance of these PSUs on quarterly basis.

(c) and (d) During the current year from 01.04.2003 to 31.10.2003 number of telephones surrendered are as follows:

BSNL	–	17.94 Lakhs
MTNL	–	02.03 Lakhs

(e) and (f) Number of complaints per 100 customers per month have come down. No instance has come to notice where service complaints have increased due to deliberate act of any official. However, any complaint against the staff is dealt with as per the conduct rules.

Restructuring of IIMS Fees

362. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :
SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that IIMS in the country are charging high fees per year from every student at admission time;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken a decision and directed IIMS to restructure their fees; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken by IIMS in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR.VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) The fees charge from the students at the time of admission is as per the Common Admission Test (CAT) Bulletin published before conducting the Common Admission Test and admissions of students. It includes room and board charges.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Establishment of MTNL Subsidiary in Mauritius

363. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT :

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

(a) whether the Government propose to establish a subsidiary of MTNL in Mauritius to start telecom services;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the purpose of establishing the subsidiary in the island country and the extent to which the MTNL would be benefited;

(d) whether the Government propose to establish such subsidiaries in other countries also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) MTNL has registered a company on 14th November, 2003 with the name of Mahanagar Telephone (Mauritius) Ltd. with an equity capital of Rs. 100 crores.

(c) The purpose is to roll out fixed telephony, mobile telephony and international long distance service in

Mauritius, as well as being a good opportunity to invest and extend the foot prints overseas through this project.

(d) and (e) MTNL is proposing to go to other countries like Kenya, Malawi and Armenia. At present, there is no proposal to establish a subsidiary but in case, the local conditions make it mandatory, new subsidiaries will be set up.

Shortage of Drugs in Government Hospitals

364. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN :
SHRI SUBODH ROY :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that emergency departments of Government hospitals run by Central or State Governments are short of basic drugs, viz. intravenous fluids and even bandages;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether patients are asked to purchase medicines from outside for their treatment in emergency departments;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (e) Health being a State subject, it is the responsibility of respective State Government to provide basic drugs in the emergency departments of Government hospitals run by the State Governments.

So far as Central Government hospitals are concerned, there is no shortage of basic drugs including intravenous fluids and bandages in the emergency departments. All the essential and vital medicines as per the Hospitals formulary are available in emergency departments. The provision of local purchase for non-

availability drugs, for poor patients, in emergency condition, is also available.

Polio Campaigns

365. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY :
DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO :
DR. B.B. RAMAIAH :

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

(a) whether despite success of Polio campaigns, the country has not been able to eradicate the polio virus completely from the country, while its neighbouring countries have achieved the goal in this regard;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of polio cases actually reduced during the current year as compared to last year; and

(d) the details of further programmes to eradicate polio virus completely from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (d) The initiative to eradicate polio from India started in 1995. There was remarkable progress towards achieving this goal till 2001. The number of polio cases declined from 1934 in 1998 to 1126 in 1999 and 265 in 2000. During 2001, although the number of cases remained almost the same as in 2000 (268), the number of polio endemic districts in the country came down from 314 in 1998 to 192 in 1999, 89 in 2000 and 63 in 2001. Thus, by the end of 2001, significant progress was achieved in limiting the spread of virus to certain areas in the Western and Central Uttar Pradesh and Bihar only.

However, the polio eradication effort suffered a major setback during 2002 due to large scale outbreak in Uttar Pradesh and spill over of the transmission in to other neighboring States. The number of cases has increased from 268 in 2001 to 1600 in 2002.

There has been substantial, improvement in polio situation this year and polio eradication has reached a

crucial stage, as only 190 confirmed cases have been reported till 22nd November, 2003 as against 1600 cases reported last year.

India is committed to obtaining polio free certification by 2007. The meeting of the ninth India Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) was held on 18-19th November, 2003 at New Delhi with an objective to review the status of polio eradication in India and to recommend the strategy to be adapted in the country for Polio Eradication during 2004-06. In order to contain the spread of the virus and to eradicate polio, the India Expert Advisory Group for polio eradication have recommended the strategy to be adopted for the year 2004. Salient feature of recommendations are submitted below.

1. Polio immunity gaps in endemic and risk States and also within States at district level should be addressed.
2. Recommended strategy for year 2004 Five NIDs in January, February, April, October and November;

One SNID in May in 11 States namely UP, Bihar, West Bengal, Haryana, Uttaranchal, Delhi, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Assam.

Mop-up round

3. Quality in chronically low performing districts to be improved.
4. The next 6 months is the critical window of opportunity and needs high level of monitoring at all levels.
5. There should be political engagements from the highest level, especially in Uttar Pradesh.
6. Endemic States should report quantifiable data on routine immunization.

[Translation]

U.S. Support to India on Fencing Issue

366. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the U.S.A. has supported India's move of fencing along the Indo-Pak border;

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

(c) whether the support extended by the U.S.A. to the said move is likely to result in deterioration of Indo-Pak relations; and

(d) if so, the reaction at the international level in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) On 03 July, 2003 the United States State Department spokesman rejected the contention that India's project to erect a fence to stop infiltration and cross-border terrorism was similar to the fence being built by Israel, on which the United States had expressed some concerns, and added that "It doesn't mean fences are bad all over the world".

(b) Government has noted that the United States recognises the difference between the fencing being done by India and other countries. However, Government's initiative is based on its own strategy to contain cross-border infiltration and terrorism and is not determined by the views of other countries.

(c) The U.S. position on fencing has no adverse bearing on India-Pakistan relations.

(d) Government is not aware of any adverse reaction to the border fencing programme.

[English]

Setting Up of Group for Telecom Sector

367. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :

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

(a) whether the Government have set up a six member Group of Ministers to look into the wide ranging

issues in the telecom sector including WLL and unified licence regime;

(b) if so, the main issues thereof; and

(c) the time by which the committee is likely to give its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Group of Ministers on Telecom Matters was required to make recommendations on eight Terms of Reference relating to release of adequate spectrum needed for the telecom sector, measures for realization of New Telecom Policy-1999 (NTP-99) targets of rural telephony, resolution of issues regarding the Convergence Bill, charting the course to a Universal License, enforcement of limited mobility within the SDCA (Short Distance Covering Area) for Wireless in Local Loop [WLL (Mobile)] services of basic operators, Foreign District Investment limits (FDIs) in telecom sector, mergers and acquisition and imposition of trade tax on telecom services.

(c) The Group of Ministers on Telecom Matters gave its recommendations on 30.10.2003.

[Translation]

National Medicinal Plant Board

368. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :
SHRI KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH :

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

(a) whether the Government had established National Medicinal Plant Board (NMPB) to promote the medicinal plants;

(b) if so, the objects and functions of the Board and achievements made so far;

(c) whether the sufficient number of officers/staff has been provided for its proper functioning;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken/being taken to provide adequate staff to the Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Medicinal Plants Board has been established for coordination of all matters relating to medicinal plants including drawing up policies and strategies for conservation, proper harvesting, cost effective cultivation, research and development, processing, marketing of raw material in order to protect, sustain and develop this sector. The achievements made so far include coverage of 10,500 acres under medicinal plants during the last two years through 324 projects.

(c) and (d) The Board has a sanctioned post of Chief Executive Officer. Besides 15 officers and staff have been deployed to the Board from various organizations under the Department of AYUSH.

(e) The Internal Work Study Unit of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare after assessing the requirement of the Board has recommended 17 posts in addition to that of the C.E.O. to cope up with the work load of the Board.

[English]

Setting Up of IIT Abroad

369. SHRI Y.V. RAO :
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :
SHRI MANJAY LAL :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any planning to allow their IITs to set up branches abroad;

(b) if so, the names of countries being selected for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) There is no proposal to set up IITs abroad.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Passing out of I.T. Graduates

370. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of I.T. Graduates passing out in the country every years; and

(b) the number of English knowing I.T. graduates pass outing in the country every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) A large number of IT Graduates pass out every year from Institutes/Universities administered/maintained by the Central Government, State Governments and Private bodies. Details in this regard are not maintained centrally. However, as per Interim Report of the Task Force on HRD in IT, there are 1032 colleges offering IT courses with an intake capacity of 66214 students. In addition IITs, IIITs, IISc Bangalore have an intake capacity of around 1200 students in IT courses.

[English]

Indian Prisoners in PAK Jails

371. SHRI KAMAL NATH :
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :
SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN :
SHRI ALAKESH DAS :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Indian fishermen and labourers languishing in Pak jails as on date;

(b) the number of Indian prisoners released by Pakistan during the current year and till date; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for the release of the remaining prisoners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) As per available information, 28 Indian fishermen are currently under detention in Pakistan.

(b) and (c) Pakistan, till date, has released 623 Indian fishermen and 38 civilian prisoners during the year 2003. Government continues to take appropriate and necessary steps to secure the release of Indian prisoners languishing in Pakistani Jails.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned till Thirty Minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

11.25 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty Minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

12.30 hours

The Lok Sabha Re-assembled at Thirty Minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

(Interruptions)

12.31 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the table)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will take up Papers to be laid on the Table now.

(Interruptions)

12.32 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : On behalf of Shri L.K. Advani, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Foundation for Communal Harmony, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Foundation for Communal Harmony, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 8051/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : On behalf of Shri Arun Shourie, I beg to lay on the table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 (No.7 of 2003), under Rule 71(2) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 8052/2003]

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Ordinances (Hindi and English versions) under article 123 (2)(a) of the Constitution of India:-

- (i) The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 (No. 2 of 2003) promulgated by the President on the 8th September, 2003, together with a corrigendum thereto (in Hindi version only).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 8053/2003]

- (ii) The National Tax Tribunal Ordinance, 2003 (No.3 of 2003) promulgated by the President on the 16th October, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 8054/2003]

- (iii) The Prevention of Terrorism (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 (No.4 of 2003) promulgated by the President on the 27th October, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 8055/2003]

- (iv) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 (No.5 of 2003) promulgated by the President on the 29th October, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 8056/2003]

- (v) The Delimitation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 (No.6 of 2003) promulgated by the President on the 31st October, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 8057/2003]

- (vi) The Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 (No.7 of 2003) promulgated by the President on the 5th November, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 8058/2003]

- (vii) The Indian Medicine Central Council (Amend-ment) Ordinance, 2003 (No.8 of 2003) promul-gated by the President on the 7th November, 2003 together with a corrigendum thereto (in Hindi version only).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 8059/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHHATRAPAL

SINGH) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1148(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 2003 directing that the manufacturers specified in the Notification shall sell the fertilizers to the registered fertilizers dealers in the States or the Union Territories mentioned in the Notification during the Rabi season 2003-2004 under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 8060/2003]

(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK) : On behalf of Shri I.D. Swami, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Central Reserve Police Force, Combatised (Group 'C' and Group 'D' Posts) Recruitment Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 342 in Gazette of India dated the 4th October, 2003, under sub-section (3) of section 18 of the Central Reserve Police Force Act, 1949.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 8061/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Economic Growth, Development of Planning Centre, Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Economic

Growth, Development of Planning Centre, Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 8062/2003]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Atomic Energy Education Society, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Atomic Energy Education Society, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 8063/2003]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 8064/2003]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Plasma Research, Gandhinagar, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Plasma Research, Gandhinagar, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 8065/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI) : I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Administrative Report (Hindi and English versions) of Vishakhapatanam Dock Labour Board Vishakhapatanam for the year 2002-2003 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Vishakhapatanam Dock Labour Board, Vishakhapatnam for the year 2002-2003

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 8066/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Electronics Service and Training Centre, Nainital, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Electronics Service and Training Centre, Nainital, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 8067/2003]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Hand Tools, Jalandhar, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Hand Tools, Jalandhar, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 8068/2003]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Tool Design, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Tool Design, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 8069/2003]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Tool Room and Training Centre, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 8070/2003]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo-Danish Tool Room, Jamshedpur, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indo-Danish Tool Room, Jamshedpur, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 8071/2003]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indo-German Tool Room, Indore, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of

the working of the Indo-German Tool Room, Indore, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 8072/2003]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tool Room, Ludhiana, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Tool Room, Ludhiana, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 8073/2003]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Design of Electrical Measuring Instruments, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Design of Electrical Measuring Instruments, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT- 8074/2003]

(Interruptions)

12.33 hrs.

ASSENT TO BILLS

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following four Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Thirteenth Session of Thirteenth Lok Sabha and assented to by the President since a report was last made to the House on 22nd July, 2003:-

1. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 2003;

2. The Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2003;
3. The Appropriation (Railways) No. 4 Bill, 2003; and
4. The Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 2003.

I also lay on the Table copies, duly authenticated by the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, of the following nine Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament and assented to by the President:-

1. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2003;
2. The Airports Authority of India (Amendment) Bill, 2003;
3. The Sixth Schedule to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2003;
4. The Election and other Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003;
5. The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2003;
6. The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Amendment) Bill, 2003;
7. The Repatriation of Prisoners Bill, 2003;
8. The Constitution (Eighty-ninth Amendment) Bill, 2003; and
9. The Constitution (Ninetyth Amendment) Bill, 2003.

12.33½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND CULTURE

Seventy-first, Seventy-second and
Seventy-third Reports

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports

(Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture:-

- (3) Seventy-first Report on the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2003 and a copy of oral evidence on the Jallianwala Bagh National Memorial (Amendment) Bill, 2003;
- (2) Seventy-second Report on Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in its 60th Report on the Development of Tourism in the Country; and
- (3) Seventy-third Report on Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in its 66th Report on the Demands for Grants (2003-04) of Department of Tourism.

(Interruptions)

12.34 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

National Shipping Board

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI) : I beg to lay the following resolution on behalf of Shri Shatrughan Sinha :-

"That in pursuance of Clause 4(2)(a) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 read with Rule 3 of the National Shipping Board Rules, 1960, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves, to serve as members of the National Shipping Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder."

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That in pursuance of Clause 4(2)(a) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 read with Rule 3 of the National Shipping Board Rules, 1960, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves, to serve as members of the National Shipping Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted

—————
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will listen to you. First go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Prabhunath Singh ji, I will listen to you, but, first you go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, why do you not go to your seat?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Prabhunath Singhji, I will listen to you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You go to your seat. I will listen to you. Unless you go to your seat how will I be able to listen to you.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 14.00 hours.

12.36 hours

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Fourteen of the Clock*

14.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha Re-assembled at
Fourteen of the clock*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : This Government is involved in corruption. ...*(Interruptions)*

14.01 hrs.

(Interruptions)

(At this stage Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

14.02 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

Fourteenth Report

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, I beg to present a copy of the *Fourteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways on 'The Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Bill, 2003' and 'The Railways (Second Amendment) Bill, 2003'.

*Presented to the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha on 03.10.2003, under Direction 71A of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha when the House was not in Session. Hon'ble Speaker ordered the printing, publication and circulation of the Report under Rule – 280 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we shall take up Matters under Rule 377.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : If they go to their respective places, only then I can hear you. How can I hear you when all of you are talking?

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Please listen to me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Though I want to listen to you but these people do not want.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Mohan, I will listen to you, but first you go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mohan, please go to your place. How can I hear you?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I should be listened to this Government is deeply involved in corruption. Money is being extorted from public sector under taking ...*(Interruptions)*

14.03 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The matters under Rule 377 listed for the day be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

- (i) **Need to Clear the proposals sent by the Government of Himachal Pradesh for development of sports in the State**

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, H.P.) : Sir, through you, I would like to draw attention of the Government towards my Parliamentary Constituency, Hamirpur. Though Himachal Pradesh is a hilly and backward State, yet it is not devoid of potential sportsmen. They need only facilities so that they can excell in sports.

I would like to bring to your notice that Commissioner and Secretary (Youth Affairs and Sports), Government of Himachal Pradesh had forwarded 67 proposals relating to construction of 400 meter long Atheletic Track in Bilaspur, indoor stadium in Hamirpur, indoor stadium in Toni Devi, district Bilaspur, Swimming Pool in Una, establishment of Sports Academy in Hamirpur and construction of sports grounds in the schools of rural areas in the State of Himachal Pradesh to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India for approval. But all the proposal are still pending. I would like to request the Government for expeditious approval of all these proposals.

- (ii) **Need to Start Air Services from Raxaul Airport in North Bihar**

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah) : Sir, air service is not available from any of the airport in northern Bihar, though there is an airport in Raxaul, on Bihar-Nepal border. There are many tourist centres in this region but in the absence of an air service, foreign tourists do not prefer visiting these centres. There are ample opportunities of setting up trade and industries but leading traders and industrialists stay away from this region solely in the absence of any air service in north Bihar. As road travel takes a lot of time. Private air service can be operated from Raxaul airport but I do not know why the Government are not granting permission for the same.

I would like to request the Central Government either to start air service from Raxaul airport or private airliner should be encouraged to start air service.

- (iii) **Need to provide a halt a Mandi on Jogendra Nagar-Pathankot narrowgauge railway line and construct an overbridge at Passal with the assistance of Public Works Department of Himachal Pradesh**

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandi) : There is an unmanned railway crossing on the Jogendra Nagar-Pathankot narrow gauge railway line in my Lok Sabha constituency district Mandi. The engine of the train has to be given a regular halt on this place for cooling as this is a hilly area having upward slope. The passengers have been demanding for years to provide for a halt of the train at this place so that the local passengers could get the facility of railway journey. It would also be a source of income to the Railways. The people who board the train from this place travel ticketless as it is not a regular stoppage.

Sir, the railway administration has been demanding from the Himachal Pradesh Government to provide Rs. 35 lakhs for constructing an overbridge at Passal even though the Public Works Department, Himachal Pradesh has offered to construct the same overbridge as per the satisfaction of the engineers of railways at the cost of Rs. 11-12 lakhs. I have requested the hon. Railway Minister and railway officers several times but no progress has been made so far. The land on which the overbridge is proposed to be constructed belongs to the Public Works Department, Himachal Pradesh, Hence I request that the permission for constructing the overbridge be granted to the Public Works Department of Himachal Pradesh as per the satisfaction and modalities fixed by the engineers of railways.

- (iv) **Need to review the functioning of Dugda Coal Washery and others Units of Bharat Coking Coal Limited**

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih) : Sir, the various coalwasherries especially the Dugda Coal Washery of Bharat Coking Coal Limited has not been functioning as per the procedure laid down under various provisions for their functioning. I have written several letters to the department in this regard but of no avail. A large number

[Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey]

of vehicles are in breakdown condition in Dugda Coalwashery and the number of the sanctioned vehicles is coming down. The coalwashery is facing several problems including the shortage of the workers and raw coal, absence of the measurement and weighting office, lack of coordination between trade union and management, shortage of power, lack of industrial relationship and the deplorable condition of the houses of the employees and workers.

Similarly the matter of providing employment and compensation to the dependents of the deceased employees of BCCL is also pending. The fire is raging in coal mines but no appropriate steps have been taken to control it. Hence I urge upon the Union Government that the action be taken against the guilty officers after conducting a high level probe into the said matter.

(v) Need to clear the pending projects providing for civic amenities to the tribal people in Bharuch Parliamentary constituency, Gujarat.

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (Bharuch) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the tribal people living in the Narmada Reserve Forest in my parliamentary constituency Bharuch are bereft of some basic civic amenities. There is a dearth of good roads for traffic movement and also lack of the irrigation facilities and educational facilities in this area. The reason for this lack of development is the existing forest protection laws due to which the construction of roads, schools and dams for irrigation facilities in the reserved forest areas is prohibited, the Union Government denies any delay in development projects but the Union Government is yet to clear the various construction works meant for providing basic amenities and development of the tribal people due to which the tribal people of these areas are deprived of civic facilities like those provided in urban areas.

Hence through the House, I would like to request the Union Government to clear the pending projects meant for providing civic facilities to the tribal people in Bharuch parliamentary constituency at the earliest.

(vi) Need to establish an Oil Refinery at Barmer in Rajasthan

[English]

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer) : There is an urgent need for establishing an oil refinery at Barmer (Rajasthan). In this connection, I may mention that Scottish exploration firm "CAIRN ENERGY" has struck 20 million tonnes of oil and gas reserves in Guda Malani area of Barmer district. Earlier, the Saraswati discovery has found 14 million tonnes of oil and gas reserves, and a combined rate of 250 million barrels of oil and 7.3 million standard cubic feet of gas a day. Additional wells were also struck in Jaisalmer and Sanchore belt of Jalore district.

In the recent past, wells drilled by ONGC in Kharatar South have found, fine quality of oil and huge quantity of gas. The most prospective areas in Miajalar are to be drilled after getting environmental clearance which may kindly be got expedited.

In view of heavy oil and gas deposits in Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jalore areas of Rajasthan, there is a definite need to establish oil refinery at Barmer for carrying out necessary tests and refining of oil. This will go a long way to reduce transportation charges for carrying oil and gas to far off refineries for tests and refining. This will also generate employment opportunities in this most backward, under developed, drought prone area of Western Rajasthan.

I request the Central Government to set up an oil refinery at Barmer and necessary ground work should be done immediately for this purpose.

(vii) Need to provide pension to ex-soldiers compulsorily retired from Army on Medical grounds

[Translation]

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH PAL (Nainital) : Sir, I would like to say that the soldiers are recruited in army only after conducting all medical tests and the doctors of the Army

Medical Corps also give fitness certificate to the new recruit recommended for appointment in the Indian Army. However if a person serving in army develops some medical problem during his service he is declared medically unfit and is relieved from his army service. He is not being given any pension despite the judgements of the High Court and Supreme Court stating that a person becoming sick and declared medically unfit during his service-period in military is entitled to get pensionary benefits. However the Ministry of Defence has yet to implement decisions and rules framed in this regard due to which several persons declared medically unfit during their service tenure in military are not getting pensions and are forced to lead a life of despondency and destitution. Hence I demand from the Government to provide pension to ex-servicemen compulsorily retired from Army on medical grounds.

- (viii) Need to provide adequate financial assistance to the Government of Karnataka to tackle the drought situation in the State**

[English]

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI (Gulbarga) : The Karnataka Government had appealed to the Centre for a relief to tackle the drought situation in the State. In spite of various reminders and repeated requests, the Centre has not provided any financial assistance to the State. The State has sought Rs.1,880 crores and 9.90 lakh tonnes of foodgrains. Of the *ad hoc* demand of one lakh tonnes of foodgrains, the Union Government had released only 80,000 tonnes. The State Government had expressed concern over the failure of the Centre to help the State although a team deputed by it to study the drought in the State had submitted a report.

Sir, as the demand of the State Government is genuine and has been fully approved by the Central team, I would urge upon the Government to provide all the assistance, as demanded by the State Government, so that the Karnataka State will be in a position to meet the drought situation where a large number of people are suffering.

- (ix) Need to Provide Central Assistance for early completion of Ganga Pump Canal Project at Bateshwar in Bhagalpur, Bihar**

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH ROY (Bhagalpur) : Sir, construction work of Ganga Pump Canal Project at Bateshwar in Bhagalpur is pending for many years. After completion of this project it will be possible to irrigate nearly twenty thousand acres of land in the eastern part of Bihar and the border area of Jharkhand State. Besides, there will be development in agriculture and it will provide sufficient facilities to the farmers and agriculture labourers. It will also accelerate the development of both the States.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to implement the project at the earliest in the interest of the development of agriculture area of the States.

- (x) Need to declare minimum support price of chillies**

[English]

SHRI Y.V. RAO (Guntur) : Chilli is cultivated as one of the important commercial crops throughout India. On an average, it is cultivated in 8.77 lakh hectares producing 7.46 tonnes of dry chillies. Among all the cash crops under the Ministry of Commerce, this is the only crop which does not have the Minimum Support Price though it is the largest crop in volume among the cash crops. Andhra Pradesh is the major producer of chillies in India with 3.26 lakh tonnes and Guntur district occupies the first position in the State. From Guntur District nearly 1.5 lakh tonnes of chillies is exported to other States, namely West Bengal, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, etc.

Guntur District also has an important position by earning foreign exchange through export of 30,000 tonnes of chillies to other countries like Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Singapore. More than 50,000 farmers are involved in cultivating this crop in Guntur District and it may increase in future because of reduction in tobacco-growing area owing to various factors. However, these farmers are experiencing difficulties as they are not getting

[Shri Y.V. Rao]

remunerative prices for their produce in the market. I request that the Government of India to consider fixing minimum support price for chillies so that farmers get remunerative price for their produce.

(xi) Need for four-laning of National Highway No.3 between Nasik and Mumbai

[Translation]

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (Nasik) : Sir, Nasik city is growing very fast. Nasik city holds 4th position in Maharashtra and 26th in the country among the cities having the population of 90 lakhs. This city is located at the distance of 200 k.m. from Mumbai, 100 k.m. from Gujarat and 200 k.m. from Pune. Mumbai-Agra Highway No.3 passes through this city. In view of the heavy traffic on this route my submission to the Central Government is that there is a need for four laning of National Highway No.3 between Nasik and Mumbai.

So, I urge upon the Central Government that the National Highway No.3 from Nasik to Mumbai should be made 4 lane express Highway.

(xii) Need for construction of a Road underbridge at Avadi railway crossing in Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur) : In my constituency, Avadi is one of the thickly populated cosmopolitan municipality which consists of many Defence establishments like HVF, CVRDE, OCE, CVD, IAF and also Tamil Nadu Special Police Training Centres.

The general public and employees of these establishments face many difficulties to cross the Avadi railway level crossing. Near Avadi Railway Station, there are seven railway tracks and traffic jam is caused due to stoppage of goods and local EMU trains.

I urge upon the Minister of Railways to remove the difficulties being faced by the people of Avadi by approving

construction of a road under bridge or at least a sub-way there.

(xiii) Need to Release funds for repair of the National Highway No. 101 on Chhapra-Mohammadpur Section in Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar) : Sir, it was on account of the last year flood that along with other district, my parliamentary constituency also remained submerged by the flood. It was due to the devastating flood that the National Highway No.101 between Chhapra-Mohammadpur got severely damaged. Presently there are only remains of the said highway. The National Highway No.101 besides connecting two highways is also extremely important with a view to trade. Being the National Highway its repairing and construction will be undertaken by the central grant completely. That is why the State Government has stopped repairing and maintenance of the said highway.

I have been raising this question time and again under the rule 377. However everytime only assurance is given by the Ministry. Funds are not allocated for the construction of the National Highway.

Through you, I would like to request the Government that next installment for the construction of National Highway No.101 should be released at the earliest.

(xiv) Need to clear Achankovil Pamba-Vaiparu river link scheme in Tamil Nadu

[English]

SHRI S. MURUGESAN (Tenkasi) : Achankovil Pamba-Vaiparu river link scheme has been drawing attention in the recent past. It is an important scheme and it will benefit farmers living in Tirunelveli, Tuticorin and Virudhu districts of Tamil Nadu. In fact, this scheme was planned 20 years back. The Kerala Government are intending to shelve this river link plan and they have already made a request to the Central Government in this regard. If implemented, this scheme will not only irrigate about 2½ lakh acres of land

but also provide drinking water to people living in these districts. In fact, there is no reason for Kerala Government to oppose this scheme. There is a huge potential of electricity generation to the tune of 1114 million units of power with a value of Rupees two hundred and forty crore per annum. Kerala will stand to benefit to fulfil its power demands. I urge upon the Central Government to give its acceptance for the proposed river link scheme.

- (xv) **Need to provide unemployment allowance to all the registered unemployed youth in the country.**

SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA (Bhatinda) : It is a well-known fact that even after so many years since Independence, our country has to bear the burden of having the largest army of unemployed youths, both educated and otherwise.

Time and again, tall promises were made by the Government to solve the problem. Even after the present Prime Minister's assurance to create one crore job opportunities every year, the problem of unemployment has grown more instead of coming down. The half hearted measures dragged it to the present situation.

I would, therefore, request the Government that all the registered unemployed youths be given the unemployment allowance from the Central fund till they are provided with the gainful employment, as all the successive Governments at the Centre have failed miserably to end this problem.

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(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will here you, Shri Mohan, You go back to your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

14.04 hours

(At this stage, Shri Rajen Gohain came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Papu Yadav, you go back to your seat. I will give you the floor.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I am appealing to all of you to go back to your seats. I can hear you one by one.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats. I can call all of you. I can hear you. But they are not going back to their seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have already resumed our seats...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There should be conducive atmosphere for discussion in the House. Is there such atmosphere of discussion? First of all, all of you please resume your seats. Thereafter I will permit whosoever wants to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You please resume your seats only then I will give you time to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Ramdas ji, you please resume your seat, only then I will listen to you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Pappu Yadavji, you please resume your seat only then I will listen to your.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : How will I listen to you if you donot resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Ramdas, please go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will hear you. Pl ease go to your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11 a.m.

14.06 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, December 4, 2003/ Agrahayana 13, 1925 (Saka)

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