

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Fifth Session
(Eleventh Lok Sabha)



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**Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)**

Wednesday, August 6, 1997/Shravana 15, 1919 (Saka)

Col./line	For	Read
20/5 (from below)	SHRIMATI BHAWNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA	SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA.
26/23	SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKER RAWAT	SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT
29/6 (from below)	SHRI CHATTAR SINGH DARBAR	SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR
35/8	PROF. OMPAL SING NIDAR	SHRI OMPAL SINGH NIDAR
68/7	SHRI K. PRASURAMAN	SHRI K. PARSURAMAN
113/1,2	(SH. S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN)	(SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN)
128/24 173/14	SHRI PRADEEP BHATTACHARYA	SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA
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235/30	Bhargave, Shri Girdhari Lal	Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal
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302/26	SHRI D. SULTANPURI	SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI
302/35	SHRI SIRBALLAV PANIGRAHI	SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, August 6, 1997/Shravana 15, 1919 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

HOMAGE TO VICTIMS OF ATOMIC BOMBS DROPPED ON HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, fifty two years ago on this day, the Japanese city of Hiroshima was destroyed by an atomic bomb. Three days after, Nagasaki, another Japanese city suffered the same tragic fate. Thousands of people were killed and millions maimed, depicting to the world how dangerous could be the wars and how harmful were the unbridled ambitions of human beings and nations. Todate, the after-effects of radioactivity released by the two atomic bombs continue to haunt the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki stand as reminders to the world's conscience that weapons of mass destruction such as nuclear weapons should never be used. The dangers of the nuclear weapons and modern devices of war now have multiplied. If the nuclear arsenal that exists in the world today is not reduced and eliminated, the human race cannot become free from the fears of devastating destruction.

Since independence, disarmament has been an important component of India's foreign policy. We have repeatedly emphasised that nuclear weapons must be eliminated from the earth. The principles that can be adopted to reduce and eliminate nuclear arsenal and other conventional weapons of mass-destruction should be non-discriminatory and reassuring of prosperity and peace for all peoples of the world. The tragedy caused by the atom bombs should make us all compassionate, just and humane so that these qualities inform us in handling human affairs.

This House may now observe a minute's silence in memory of the victims of the atomic holocaust of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a minute.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : The entire area of my Parliamentary constituency is flooded. No efforts have been made by the Government for their rescue and relief, and the people have been in the water for more than 16 hours.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We are discussing the natural calamities at the moment. I think, while the hon. Minister replies, he may kindly make a reference to that particular issue.

11.03 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

HUDCO

+
*201. LT. GENERAL PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI:
SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE:

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited allot commercial space to builders in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details of such allotments made during 1995;

(c) whether the builders are violating the norms of agreement laid down by HUDCO;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) No, Sir. However, in Community Centre Complex, Andrews Ganj, New Delhi, being developed by HUDCO on behalf of Government, M/s. Ansal Properties and Industries Limited (APIL) has been auctioned space on 10.03.95 for building Shopping Arcade over the car

parking basement constructed by HUDCO.

(c) to (e): According to HUDCO, norms as laid down in the agreement of sub-lease have not been violated.

As per the terms of allotment, possession of the space for construction of Shopping Arcade was to be handed over by HUDCO to M/s. APIL after payment of first instalment, on completion of the legal formalities and execution of agreement.

M/s. APIL was given possession after complying with all requisite formalities. However, the payment of second & third instalments were held up due to delay in sanction/regularisations of plans of car parking basement constructed by HUDCO. As a result of this, plans for Shopping Arcade to be built by M/s. APIL were not entertained by Municipal Corporation of Delhi for processing and approval.

Consequently, M/s. APIL approached HUDCO for grant of extension of time (interest free) for a period of 13 months each for the payment of second and third instalments, which were due on 9.3.96 and 9.9.96 respectively.

Considering relevant factors, HUDCO allowed extension of time for payment of 2nd instalment upto 17.01.97 (interest free) i.e. 10 months 8 days and with interest upto 17.04.97. APIL has paid the second instalments with interest on 17.04.97.

In respect of 3rd instalment, HUDCO allowed extension of time i.e. 8 months 4 days for making payment (interest free) upto 13.05.97 (and with interest upto 13.08.97). APIL has requested for corresponding extension for payment of third instalment (interest free) upto 17.07.97 and with interest upto 16.10.97, so that the original time gap of 6 months between the dates of payment of second and third instalments is maintained.

[Translation]

LT. GENERAL PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, HUDCO entrusted this task to Messers Ansal Properties and Industries Ltd. on 10-3-95. Its second instalment was to be given after a year i.e. on 10-3-96. This instalment was not given. There was a provision that it would be cancelled if the instalment is not given within three month's time. Moreover, if it is not cancelled, instalment should be given with interest. After a gap of one year and some months on instalment of Rs. 50 crore and 64 lakh was given in 1997. It included the instalment of 8 months and a few day's without interest and that of three months with the interest. The third instalment was also on the same pattern. If the instalment is not given, it should be cancelled. But it is much more important that unless the entire payment is not made, that space for shops and

offices can not be given onwards. They were given in discriminately. You must have read it in the newspapers that these are being sold. That follows the HUDCO statement which says that the prescribed norms of the sub-lease agreement have not been violated. I would like to ask you the statement of the Government in this regard and whether Government are satisfied with it? If it is not, whether Govt. propose to conduct any inquiry into the matter?

[English]

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Sir, the issue is not as simple as the hon. Member has tried to make out in this House. Though it is a fact that the payments of the instalments have not been made on the due dates, the other facts which govern this case have also to be taken into consideration. The HUDCO granted this land to Ansals and certain periods had been specified for payment of money.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, the concerned Minister should reply.

MR. SPEAKER : He is not here.

SHRI RAM NAIK : If there is any problem, the House must be informed as to why he is not present here.

MR. SPEAKER : He is not well. He is in the hospital. He had a very serious accident.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : When the land was allotted to these people, there was a delay in handing over the possession of this place. In fact, it is not a piece of land but a space above the parking lot constructed by HUDCO. There was a dispute so far as the plans relating to the basement were concerned. So, whatever time was taken for giving the final sanction by the MCD had to be considered as per the request of Ansals for the purpose of payment of instalments on the due dates. This has been done.

Now, I may inform the hon. Member the latest position. Yesterday, on 5th August, 1997, HUDCO have informed Ansals that they are advised to pay the third instalment with interest on or before 30th August, 1997 failing which the allotment will stand automatically terminated as categorically stated in the letter of 11th April, 1997. They have also been advised to furnish the disclaimer released in the form provided as per letter dated 11th April, 1997 or the revised format sent with letter dated 4th June, 1997. Now, the option is being given to them to decide which one of the two they may accept. They are also directed to make the payment of ground rent of Rs. 7.85 crore alongwith third instalment. This is the latest position.

[Translation]

LT. GENERAL PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the question was to come-up today and all of a sudden HUDCO had realised yesterday of taking up of all the works. We were not so much surprised on that account. This case is pending since 10th March, 1995. I recall that this is the same person, who is connected with the Uphar Cinema Tragedy. Such pattern and tendency has developed through which D.D.A. was functioning earlier and now the HUDCO is doing such type of works, which had given rise to the prices of the land. Today people are not able to purchase land or construct homes here. HUDCO was constituted for the help of public in this matter. This was not formed for the purpose of erecting multi-storeyed buildings or slum cluster. Today the situation has reached such a point where a man who is having money can construct a big house but poor men live in jhuggi-jhopdis. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the manner in which the HUDCO is to be utilised in Delhi city or Delhi-state so that a commoner or a middle class person can live by purchasing land or house? Whether Government would like to think over it and make provision for money?

[English]

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Sir, the Government is aware of the housing problem in the country and particularly in the city of Delhi. As a result of this acute shortage of accommodation, the Government launched this pilot project in the city of Delhi whereunder this 60.6 acres of land was allotted by the Government to HUDCO to develop this land on a commercial basis and this entire 60.6 acres have been divided into three portions. The first portion is of 17.6 acres on which this Community Centre is to be constructed; another 18 acres had to be reserved for development as a Green Zone which should be an integrated development for the entire project and on the remaining 25 acres a housing project would come up out of the resources generated by the sale of this 17.6 acres whereupon all this entire project is going to come up.

As a result of this, today the position is, the Government has received about Rs. 412 crore as proceeds out of this sale. So, compared to the entire money available for the housing projects at the national level, this project has proved that given a proper planning and given a proper foresight the Government can generate enough money by dividing the land available for various projects, particularly by handing it over to private organisations like A.P.I.L., that is, Ansal and others, and generate sufficient money out of which the Government can construct houses for the people and for the Government servants. So, on the 25 acres plot, a huge residential complex is going to come

up. An amount of Rs. 412 crore is already available; much more money will come after the other aspects of this project are auctioned and put to sale.

[Translation]

SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now hon'ble Minister has told the House about the HUDCO that the Government has provided Rs. 324 crore to HUDCO upto 31-12-96 out of the total provision of rupees 385 crores for HUDCO. The task of housing and urban development could not take place in Delhi as per the agreement. But the Government allotted space to Ansal Property and Industries Ltd. in Andrews Ganj area of Delhi. The Government laid down the terms and conditions for this entire process but company did not do so. The Government has not seen that thing yet. In 1995 the fifty percent amount was Rs. 168.80 lakh...

MR. SPEAKER : What is your question?

SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the two instalments which were to be given afterwards, have not been given so far. Not only that, this company had floated an advertisement in the newspapers through which the bookings were also made but no construction has yet been started. My question is that what the Government have thought in respect of this company and when the company has not completed the terms and conditions then why the Government are assisting them?

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : I think the allegation is not true.

[English]

The Government has been directing this Ansal Group of Companies to adhere to the conditions by which they are bound. The allegation that they have put up some of the portions of this complex for sale also has to be looked from the angle of the methodology which this builder is going to utilise for completion of this project. If he raises the money from the market by advertising the space inside this project, I do not think there is any contravention of any condition under which this has been granted to them. Even if they accept the money, there is an agreement on sale, they cannot in fact transfer the property because until HUDCO transfers the property to Ansal, they cannot transfer the property to whoever wants to buy from them. Now that aspect of raising the money from the market is a concern between the prospective buyer and this builder, that is, Ansal Group of Companies.

So far as HUDCO is concerned, so far as the Government is concerned, we shall see to it that the conditions which they have agreed upon shall be adhered

to. No doubt, some time gap or some time overrun has taken place. These factors have taken place because as I said earlier that the construction of the underground parking lot had to be completed. These licenses and sanctions for the purpose of this parking lot had to be granted by the MCD and the DDA. Now, these things have not come in time. The DDA is not the only organisation that is dealing with it. These sanctions had to be obtained from the MCD also. The time which was spent is over and above the time limit which was there initially for the payment. In this case, the first instalment has already been paid. So, whichever time lag that took place had to be considered as per the request. If we go to terminate it at a stage like this, we end up in a litigation. As you all know, once the matter goes to the court and supposing the court stays this matter, then neither the project comes up nor the money comes up. So, proper consultations were held with the legal luminaries and this time was granted to them only as per the advice of the legal luminaries in this country including the law officers.

MR. SPEAKER : Please be brief both in asking the question and while answering it. Shri Jag Mohan may ask the next question now.

SHRI JAG MOHAN : The point is that the Government gave this land to HUDCO for development and for raising the resources. This land was further leased out to the private party. My question is, whether the Government or the HUDCO have paid for the peripheral services on which the load would increase because of this construction. This Andrews Ganj is in the heart of the city. You have given land at a fabulous price. Whatever it is, it is perfectly understandable. Now the question is, all the traffic that is going to be generated by this complex should be taken by the same road, that is the Niti Bagh road, which is a very narrow road. Then comes the water supply, electricity etc. Have you taken care of it while sanctioning this project or while approving this project? If you have not done so, who is responsible for this omission? Who is responsible for the hell-hole that will be created in this area? Will you rectify that omission now by issuing direction or asking the HUDCO to deposit the money for the peripheral services, that is, the extra load that will be generated on water, electricity, sewer and roads? Who is responsible for this piecemeal development ?

The other issue is this. Is it a fact that you are giving water from the Government colonies to this area now? This Sadiq Nagar area is already short of water. Now, the connection is being given through this. The hon. Prime Minister is aware of this background of Delhi's development. I would request him to kindly give us an assurance that whatever omission has taken place in not paying for the community services or the extra load that will be generated

in the services that will be made good by the HUDCO by whatever means it has. The hon. Minister said that it had made a profit. Then, it should pay for this. Who will pay for this?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : I see a great deal of validity in what my friend, Shri Jag Mohan, is saying. As a matter of fact, the problems of urbanisation in Delhi are becoming very serious. As he said, there are several dimensions to it. Since the hon. Member, Shri Jag Mohan, himself is an expert on this, I respect him for that.

Therefore, I am quite willing to sit with him, the Delhi Administration and others to look into the problems.

Population Control Co-operation

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*202. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made an appeal to the industrial sector to co-operate in controlling the increasing population in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also offered any action-plan in this regard;

(c) if so, the detailed outlines thereof; and

(d) the nature of co-operation sought by the Government from the Industrial Sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

Statement

While addressing the Seminar organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry at Delhi on 10th July in connection with the World Population Day, Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare urged the Corporate Sector to support Family Welfare Programmes and to take up responsibility for implementation of Family Welfare Programmes at a scale commensurate with their capacity. The Government has been approaching the Industry similarly in the past.

2. This exhortation to the Industry is in keeping with the Government thinking that population is a critical problem before the country today and it requires a very large effort to be tackled effectively. Also, a massive programme of this nature cannot succeed unless it becomes a national

programme in which Government and non-Government Organisations as well as community actively participate. Government's resources and effort alone will not be sufficient in view of the very large requirement and, therefore, the Non-Government Sector including the Industrial Sector should agree to participate in the effort and take responsibility for Family Welfare Programme within the means available to it. The Government has not suggested any specific programme or financial outlay to the Industrial Sector in this regard.

3. The Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry has a Committee for Family Welfare Programmes and it is implementing one project for Integrated Family Welfare Programme in the districts of Agra, Kanpur & Meerut and another project in collaboration with the Population Foundation of India in Ghaziabad District of Uttar Pradesh. The PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry is implementing 7 projects for Family Welfare Programmes. Many other industrial undertakings, both in the private and public sector, are making available health services including population control services for their workers and their families. The effort of the Government is to motivate the Industrial Sector for taking on a larger responsibility for family welfare, including population control programme, in view of their sizeable resources.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : I seldom get a chance in Zero Hour.

MR. SPEAKER : Very very seldom indeed !

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister deserves congratulations. Shrimati Renuka Chawdhury is the Minister of Health. She is a dynamic lady. . .*(Interruption)* I am congratulating Renuka Chawdhury. Mr. Speaker Sir, our question is based on the speech delivered by the Hon'ble Minister in a Seminar in FICCI. I would like to congratulate her again for this view. But I would like to know from the Government as to whether it has formulated any action plan to implement the views of the Minister. You have requested the Industries, the Corporate Sector to contribute for the Family Planning programmes to population control. Have you formulated any action plan for such a contribution so that industries could implement it? Because I read a statement in one newspaper and on the basis of that statement I have asked a question and Mr. Speaker, Sir, today itself I read a news published in the Times of India. . .*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.L. KANAUIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, hon'ble Minister should allow us to listen to the Prime Minister because this question is related to health.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Yes, the Department of Health also relates to Prime Minister. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said that I have asked a question based on the statement given by the Minister, this idea is good. But I would like to know as to whether Government have chalked out any action plan for corporate sector to this effect; how and what kind of help should it give and the manner in which it should spend money? If it takes up any other scheme whether any area would be given or any target would be fixed for them? Because on the one hand the hon. Minister has said and it has been published as an appeal. On the other hand today I read in newspaper that Renuka Chawdhury is doing well, I got worried after reading it, today a news is published in the Times of India.

[English]

"Bureaucrates rush to P.M.O. to stall Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury's order."

[Translation]

Then what is the position? On the one hand she is doing well but I would like to know whether government have any scheme and on the other hand I would like to know about her position that if she issues any order, are they implemented or not. Therefore, on this account, I get more worried. You are present here, therefore, we would like to know from the government whether it really wants to launch any special programme to population control by involving corporate sector in it?

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : When my friend Shri Nitish Kumar gets worried, I get more worried. On the main point, I must submit this. The question of Minister's authority in the Government and in the Ministry is absolute. There is no question of anybody or any bureaucrat having any authority not to obey what the Minister orders. . .*(Interruptions)*. So far as the involvement of the corporate sector is concerned, ultimately family planning movement in India will make an impact if we widen the scope of cooperation. Various segments of society can cooperate. For instance, if you think in terms of corporate sector, most of the corporate sector runs on Labour Acts, unions and all these things. If even in the factory that they work, if workers get educated on this issue, this can be helpful. It is not only a question of raising money. It is a question of cooperation and implementation of the policies. After all, population issue is a national issue. It is not a party issue. That is why, when my hon. colleague has made an appeal, it is in that context he has been talking.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble

Minister has said it in her speech and in a ways he gave a little threat and said that :

[English]

"She plan to bring in a Charter wherein getting a health clearance would be as important as getting an environmental clearance before setting up an industry."

[Translation]

She said like that. I would like to know whether the government is serious in this matter? The second thing I would like to know through you is this that today itself government have stated in reply to a question that the amount released by the centre to State Government is not sufficient to meet their requirement. Whether government propose to involve industries in this matter so that they can help the state governments in their respective states? Besides, another question is that one thing came into light and discussed during the tenure of Tenth Lok Sabha that Politicians who are carrying out the responsibility of the country should control population and it was also proposed that a Bill will be introduced in this regard so that elected representatives also comply with the norms of family planning. . . (Interruptions) They should also plan their family, whether the government is yet serious in this regard and any such Bill would be introduced in the House. . . (Interruptions) I am not talking about the persons who have already more children. I would like to ask about future planning. Don't take this question otherwise. I am saying that it should not be given retrospective effect. The Prime Minister should not get worried about it, I am not deviating from the subject. Whether there is any such proposal before the Government?

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, his idea is that it should not be given retrospective effect. . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, through you, I would like to inform the hon. Member that, firstly, we are involving the corporate sector to take part in this population control programme because they have a controlled group of people to whom any kind of information, education and communication will be much more effective. [Translation] It is a fact that funds fell short to States.

[English]

Secondly, I seek the support of the House that all of you should influence the Government to see that in the Ninth Plan adequate allocations are made to family welfare because this is the most important thrust area for us as a nation. [Translation] The second question you have asked is about two child norms.

[English]

Thirdly, he has referred to the two-child norm Bill. The Bill is very much active and alive. We are applying our minds to it. I will be bringing forward it to this House for support.

There is one clause about which I would like all of you to guide me when I bring forward this Bill to this House. The point is that this Bill did not take into consideration the widow re-marriage, divorce and adoption laws whereby a woman would be discriminated again if I were to rush this Bill through the House. But I am optimistic that in the very near future, we will bring it before this House and that it will enjoy the support of this House.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Mr. Speaker Sir, the country is celebrating 50th anniversary or golden jubilee of our Independence and today the main issue before the country is population control about which serious concern is being expressed. I would like to congratulate you as some days ago you have announced to hold discussion on this main issue in the Special Session. This issue is very important on the 50th year of Independence and the Hon'ble Minister has appealed to industrial sector in FICCI semihar to give cooperation so that industries could also be involved in main problem of the country. As per my information, during these 50 years of Independence till the completion of Eight Five Year Plan 35 thousand crore rupees have been spent on the family welfare scheme; But it is unfortunate that only 32 percent families have been covered under family planning programme so far and it has not been implemented successfully even in those 32 percent families. After 50 years of Independence and inspite of spending 35 thousand crore rupees it is a matter of serious concern for us till today.

I would like to know whether the Government have formulated any scheme to control population on the basis of the views expressed by our hon'ble Minister in FICCI? The government had conducted a survey wherein it was stated that India has a black money of about 36,786 crore rupees upto the year 1983. The amount of black money must have increased since then as 14 years have lapsed when a survey in this regard was conducted. Now the Minister of Finance have announced a scheme to convert black money into white money. I would like to know whether government propose to place any new scheme before the industrial sector by clubbing this scheme with population control programme so that the problem of population control may be resolved simultaneously.

[English]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL: On the point of the hon. Member,

I would say that the issue of population is not so much due to lack of funds. It has several dimensions. One, of course, is the status of women. You will see that all those States which are lagging behind are the ones where the position of women is not good. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : We are going to have a Special Session of Parliament on this issue..

[English]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : That is why, the central point that I have been making several times is that unless we change our social attitude about the women and their status as also that of the girl child, till then family planning will not reach the mark that we want it to. Education is a very important part of women's education. That is why, the total picture has to be kept in view.

The second point we have to keep in mind is the fact that particularly in backward States, poverty and family planning are the two sides of the same coin. That is why, the total attitude of the Government of India follows from that. Not only of this Government but my preceding Governments also have been following that and we primarily feel that we treat the whole thing as a total one. So the question of white money or black-money is not a relevant issue, but the social attitude is the issue. That is why, you see that the figures that my hon. friend has given to you, show that more backward a State is, the bigger the population will be. Since my friend comes from a State which is not too bright in this, I do hope that he will lead a movement in this. When we look at these things, only then things can improve because we, in politics and in public life, have a social responsibility in this context as well.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already announced the other day that we are going to have a Special Session of Parliament and the main topic of discussion is going to be the Population Control. You will have an adequate opportunity to discuss this matter on the floor of the House.

Let me make one small remark. In your reply, you have stated that you are involving the FICCI, the PHD and the ASSOCHAM. It is very good. What is more important in this area is to involve the trade unions because they are the organisations who are working with the workers. Trade unions have to be involved in this movement. In fact, in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, you have a Tripartite Committee. I do not know how many times the meeting of that Committee has been held. In my seven years as the Labour Minister, I think, hardly twice the meeting had taken place. So, please activate that Tripartite

Committee and involve the trade unions in this.

Chemical Weapons

*203. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistan Government are continuing to build chemical weapons with the help of China and other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the chemical weapons under the possession of Pakistan;

(d) the details of other military hardware supplied by China to Pakistan;

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Indian Government to highlight the issue of transfer of weapons and technology by China to Pakistan; and

(f) the extent of success achieved by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) to (c) Government are aware of press reports about Pakistan having a suspected chemical weapons programme. However, the Pakistan Government has in an official statement stated *inter-alia* that "Pakistan has always been an ardent advocate of a complete ban on the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons".

(d) China is reported to have supplied Pakistan weapons, tanks, warships, aircraft, missiles and related technologies for the past four decades.

(e) and (f) Government have highlighted in bilateral and multilateral fora its concern at the continuing supply by China of sophisticated weapons and related technology to Pakistan beyond its legitimate requirements. Government have made it clear that this poses a threat to India's Security and is not conducive to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region. Government have been taking necessary steps to safeguard the security and national interest and will continue to do so in keeping with its assessment of developments pertaining to India's security environment.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a strange coincidence that the day on which Parliament has paid homage to the persons killed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, on the same day we have to have a discussion

on chemical weapons. India has signed on Chemical Weapons Convention and ratified its support. It has opened its chemical weapons stock for inspection and the inspection has already started in Pune. Chemical weapons are increasing in Pakistan. Such type of news has published in the newspapers and the Government has accepted this fact in its reply. But the Government has added that the Pakistan Government has said this that they are in favour of total ban on chemical weapons. But from the reply of the Government it does not seem that Indian Government has faith on this assurance of Pakistan Government or not. This statement of Pakistan Government is trust worthy or not. Because it seems to me that Pakistan has signed the Chemical Weapon Convention but till date has neither supported nor ratified it and therefore has not opened the weapon stock for inspection. I would like to know from the Prime Minister that in such situation, when we have the biggest danger from Pakistan and they have not ratified the Chemical Weapon Convention and are not allowing the inspection to be carried out and we have opened our doors for inspection, whether we give any time bound period for it to Pakistan that in such period if they ratified, then only inspection will be carried out? It will be better for both the countries not to have weapons. But till Pakistan not ratify this and both sides not allow their weapons stock to be inspected, then in such a situation whether we will reconsider our commitment and support over it ?

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : Sir, this issue had been raised here earlier as well. Two points, I had made and I want to repeat them. One, the Convention itself provides that we can walk out of it whenever we feel that our national interests so demand.

So far as the declaration and ratification are concerned, now it is an open thing that we have this capacity and we can look after ourselves. That does not mean immediate destruction, that means, we have the weapons and we have shown to the world. Like us, 60 or more countries have submitted their declaration. Therefore, this by itself is a deterrant that we have it. We have the capacity also to make it. That was also a national capacity. That destruction process is very gradual.

At every stage of its growth, we keep a watch on possible adversaries. Therefore, if at any stage, we feel that our security is in danger, we will have a second look at the whole thing.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, my second question is related with weapons given to Pakistan by China. I would like to know from the Prime Minister that China has not

only given weapons to Pakistan but is also transferring the Technology and know how to them. This is an open secret that China has not only given M-11 to Pakistan but also transferred the technology of M-9. Because of this, they have improved M-11 and made HATF-III which could not be manufactured according to their knowledge and Power.

In such situation by transfer of M-9 technology and helping in manufacture of HATF-III, whose range is upto 700-800 kilometer, has posed a great danger or the security of India. In such situation there are my two supplementaries that whether keeping in view this situation Government of India will take a formal decision to deploy 'Prithvi' and increase the range of 'Agni'? Defence Minister has talked about deployment of 'Prithvi' and increasing the speed of 'Agni' manufacture in public meeting of Kanpur. But I would like to have a reply from Hon'ble Prime Minister in the Parliament.

[English]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, I agree with my hon. friend. He was himself a Defence Minister. He knows our security situation. I hope his brief tenure in the Defence Ministry must have persuaded him to believe that India has the capacity to look after itself. It is not only that China is giving weapons to Pakistan which he has mentioned, there is a long list of it. If my friend wants it, I can read it but I would not take your time.

MR. SPEAKER : Having been the Defence Minister, he must be having this list.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, he is reading a statement which everybody knows it.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : The main point that I would like to respond is that India has the capacity to look after itself and I think, whether we call it in terms of 'Prithvi' or in terms of 'Agni', we are taking care of ourselves. I hope my hon. friend does not want me to spell out the details.

The second point that he has made is about deployment. Deployment is only in response to a situation. Having a weapon is one thing. If one has a gun, one does not load it all the time and carry it in the bazaar also. One responds to a situation.

So, we feel that at the moment, the situation is not such that such weapons need to be deployed. But we have it, we have exhibited it and we have the capacity to make it.

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA : Mr. Speaker Sir, we all know that China is helping Pakistan and supplying them nuclear weapons, the details of which have already

been given by Shri Mahajan. They are supplying them M-11, the technology, tanks, etc. Now recently, it is very disturbing to know that a new factory is being set up near Islamabad where the Chinese engineers are working. Technologists are there to help Pakistan, to sharpen their nuclear weapons. I would like to seek a clarification about it from the Government since the Government of India is aware of this fact.

Secondly, in the statement, it has been mentioned that the Indian Government has approached China on bilateral basis as well as on multilateral basis to express our concern in this regard.

Recently, only yesterday, I suppose Mr. Tang, the Vice-Foreign Minister of China was here. He had met the officials as well as he had called on you. I would like to know from the Government if any serious concern had been shown to them. What has been the result of the bilateral talks, multilateral talks and the talks which Mr. Tang had with you?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : As far as the talks - including yesterday's - with China on bilateral basis are concerned, our concern has been pointed out about the supply of arms and transfer of technology every time. That is a point which I am making. China has its routine reply, as you know. As a former Foreign Minister you know the type of reply you get. But the key issue is not that. The issue basically is our own strength and about that I want this House to be sure, particularly in this 50th year of Independence. I can assure this House that India has the capacity and the will to look after itself.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I have taken note of what the hon. Prime Minister has said about the country's capability as also the country's preparedness to meet any contingency. The clarification I seek falls within the ambit of this and refers particularly to chemical weapons as also to missile technology development. The hon. Prime Minister is surely aware that notwithstanding the capability of producing chemical weapons since about the late 50s, till date, till inspection, never has any military doctrine for the employment of chemical weapons ever been developed. The Military is in fact totally unaware of the fact that there are any chemical weapons. Now, therefore, for the Prime Minister to say, 'it does not matter, we are ready for any contingency', notwithstanding the signature on the Convention - similar is the case with missile technology - is beguiling of him. A casual reading of the history of the military affairs of the past fifty years would tell us that this kind of statement from high offices that we are ready for any contingency' has made India face any many kinds and all any variety of adverse contingencies. That hold even today the hon. Prime Minister talks of Prithvi deployment. It is a technical point and is not worthy of pursuing. But certainly his predecessor has said that Agni is merely a

technology tester, a technology developer. If it is a technology developer, how are you going to use the Agni in the absence firstly of a clear enough doctrine, a clear enough concept; secondly of sufficient military preparation, whether it is chemical weapons or it is missile or it is nuclear weapons.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Unfortunately my previous experience and that of hon. Member Jaswant Singh may be different. I had never been in the Army. So, his technical knowledge is definitely superior to mine, which I concede. But the point I am trying to make is, the Defence preparedness and a doctrine are two different things.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : How can there be preparedness without a doctrine?

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : I am coming to your point. A doctrine of deployment of nuclear or chemical weapons or such weapons in today's context, particularly at the level of preparedness that we have, I hope he does not expect me to express that in so many words.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Not at all.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Yes, you are welcome.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : I am grateful to the hon. Prime Minister for yielding.

It is not a question of enunciation. It is an elementary question of the military, Take the example of chemical weapons. It is no good for any Government to stand up and say, yes, we have chemical weapons, we have the capability', but the military does not know about it. Since late 50s till date when we have signed the Convention, the military has neither knowledge of it nor any doctrine for its use, nor any doctrine about how to prevent the consequences. There is no civil defence about the use of chemical weapons. Therefore, when the hon. Prime Minister says 'I am suggesting the doctrine to be made public', I am in fact suggesting exactly that.

If the military is unaware of the doctrine for the employment of these weapons, it is disingenious of the hon. Prime Minister to say that he cannot declare the doctrine. These are weapons of mas destruction. The military's preparedness is going to be measured by the employment and the knowledge of the military in these fields. Therefore, for the hon. the Prime Minister to say, 'I have got a doctrine but I am not going to disclose it', I am sorry, this is not satisfactory.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : I am sorry if I have upset my friend.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : You have not upset me.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : I will try to meet his points. . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : He has already rolled up his sleeves! He is coming with rolled up sleeves! . . .
(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : After all, he is an Army man!

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : I said, the manufacturing of the chemical weapons did not start after I became the Prime Minister. This was there when my hon. friend was also a Minister. . .*(Interruptions)* This was there when many of us occupied positions here. That is one point.

I stand by the policy that successive Governments have followed. That policy was and continues to be that weapons of mass destruction need not be deployed at this stage of our defence preparedness. That is why, in our country, I think for good reasons, Governments including their own Government have not handed over weapons of this type to the Army. I stand by that because I do not think that it would be a good policy for India to go on doing it at a level where civil control is not complete, particularly on weapons of this type. I can understand his difficulties and concerns because I appreciate those concerns. I am not differing with him. But, at this stage, my perception is that that stage has not come and when it comes, it does.

For instance, Prithvi has been deployed to an extent that Army exercises are going on; the Army knows how to use it. We have done it at a particular stage.

About Agni, a statement has been made. We have come to a stage when re-entry is possible; we have come to a stage when we are expanding its range. But that stage has not come when we should militarise it.

MR. SPEAKER : Let me give a chance to an hon. Member who has no background of the defence services, Shri George Fernandes.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Prime Minister has repeatedly stated that we are capable of facing any situation. I would like to know from the Prime Minister that while Pakistan is getting weapons from China, whether his thinking is limited to this extent that Pakistan is the only purchaser of weapons from China and gets arms from China only? The intention of China towards India, is clear to us in many spheres. When he is answering this question today, the length of 11 military airports in Tibet are being increased. The new Sukhoi aircraft which they have purchased will be operated therefrom and for which destination they will use those aircraft from Tibet? Since

it is said that they can fly back those aircraft after reaching Rameswaram, so the viewpoint of China, is clear from this instance.

Recently in the first week of April, Chief Minister of one of our state got a invitation to attend a conference in China. He was asked to get the visa and 'simple visa' word was used in an English letter. That Chief Minister went to the Chinese Embassy. There he was told to come next day and when he went there he was told that he will not get a visa. . .*(Interruptions)* I am coming to the question. Because these things are the basis of that question. . .*(Interruptions)* Second day when he went there he was told that his invitation stands withdrawn. He asked as to how it is withdraw. Thereupon, he was told that visa is not necessary for him. He can go there. Because he was the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh and China considers that state as part of its territory. In view of import of arms by Pakistan in the present situation, I would like to know as to whether these arms are essential for the defence of Pakistan. In his reply the hon. Prime Minister has mentioned that Pakistan is receiving more arms than they actually require. In this context, I would like to know whether this matter is not linked with the great design China has over us. It has been mentioned here time and again that we are ready to face the challenge. What measures have been taken to counter this challenge?

[English]

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : My hon. friend, Shri George Fernandes has very often discussed this situation both in private and in public about India's relations with China, particularly with reference to the area that he has referred to. The main question is not what China's policy is, but it is the question of what India's policy is. India's policy is to try to preserve peace, if possible. But we are ready for the worst. That is what we are working for. We do not want to be offensive. We do not want to use aggressive language. But I can assure my hon. friend that ever since he was in the Government things have changed a lot. Therefore, I can assure him that all the Governments that have come in office have been conscious of this responsibility and we will discharge it, if ever, God forbid, the situation arises.

Training Institutes

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*204. SHRI HARIN PATHAK:
 SHRIMATI BHAWNABEN DEVRAJBHAI
 CHIKHALIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Vocational Training Institutes functioning in different parts of the country particularly in

Gujarat and the assistance provided during the last three years to these institutions;

(b) whether there is a demand for setting up more Regional Vocational Training Institutes in different States particularly in Gujarat;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decision taken by the Government and communicated to the State Governments in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Vocational training is provided through Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) which are established and managed by the concerned State Governments. As on 31.07.1996, there were a total of 3083 ITIs of which 201 are in Gujarat. Government of India does not provide financial assistance for setting up these ITIs. However, financial assistance for setting up ITIs for women is being given to the States under the World Bank assisted Vocational Training Project. Under this project financial assistance for establishment of four such ITIs is being provided to the State of Gujarat. The year-wise expenditure during the last three years under the World Bank Project for establishing new ITIs for women and for modernising a total of 565 existing ITIs, 50% of which is given by way of Central assistance, is indicated below:-

1.	1994-95	Rs. 5196.007 lakh
2.	1995-96	Rs. 5310.655 lakh
3.	1996-97	Rs. 6085.840 lakh

The corresponding figures for Gujarat are as follows:-

1.	1994-95	Rs. 194.880 lakh
2.	1995-96	Rs. 313.654 lakh
3.	1996-97	Rs. 337.447 lakh

In addition, Regional Vocational Training Institutes for Women are established and run by the Central Government through the Directorate General of Employment & Training. At present a total of ten such Regional Vocational Training Institutes, including one in Gujarat and one National Vocational Training Institute, have been established.

(b) Demands for setting up three more Regional Vocational Training Institutes for Women, have been received from State Governments of Orissa, Bihar and Punjab.

(c): Does not arise.

(d): Setting up of these Institutes depends on availability of funds during the Ninth Plan and therefore, at present no view with respect to these proposals has been taken.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question relates to an important subject and it directly relates to crores of educated, semi-educated unemployed youth. The Union Government has shifted its responsibility to State Governments. The main reason for unemployment in the country is that even today we are following the education system of Macaulay and as a result of it the educated youth try to get Governmental jobs after completing their education. They do not have another avenues for them whereas the Government have only limited number of jobs for them. This question directly relates to the future of the country. Now the Government have tried to shift its responsibility to I.T.Is. under the State Governments. Though the Government is concerned over the issue of imparting vocational education to youth but I would like to know whether in place of relying on ITIs only the Government propose to set up more institutions for imparting vocational education in the country?

[English]

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Sir, I fully share the feelings of the hon. Member. The training programmes are run by the ITIs and the ITIs are run by the State Governments. We do not aid or fund the ITIs. We have a curriculum and a Broad scheme of things in ITIs. We have given them some infrastructure facilities under the world bank & project. So, there are a very few Centrally-funded institutions. The ratio between private and State sponsored ITI is 2:1 and there are about one thousand institutions which are run by the State Governments.

Then, regarding the role of the Central Government, there are Centrally funded institutions. There are ten RVTIs for women. Another scheme is run with the assistance of the world Bank. We receive assistance from the World Bank. Twenty-three per cent of that fund is used for Centrally-funded institutions and 77 per cent is used for the institutions run by the States on 50:50 basis. Probably it is inadequate. We understand the enormity of the problem. Infrastructure deficiencies are there. I hope the Ninth Five Year Plan will give more thrust on these issues. We will try to find out what could be done.

The hon. Member mentioned that imparting training skills is necessary. This is what essentially the ITIs and other Centrally-funded institutions are doing. They are

imparting training on engineering and non-engineering skills. We do have a scheme especially for women. When the ITIs were affiliated to NVTIs, they are running efficiently,

Though it is inadequate, the system is functioning. That is all I can say.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You must have got complete reply to your question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : The rest is in the papers. We impart vocational training through I.T.I. . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the second question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : My question relates to the Government's policy for providing employment to youth. Every time announcement is made that ten lakh youth will be given employment in one year. This was highlighted in the Congress Budget of 1991. So far I have not received the reply to my question regarding that.

.(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask the second question otherwise time will be over.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : My second question is
(Interruptions)

[English]

My second supplementary is very specific.

[Translation]

Several Public Sector Undertakings are being closed due to the new Industrial policy and lakhs of workers are being rendered jobless. The Ministry of Labour is making arrangements for imparting training to those workers at a slow pace. With financial assistance from N.R.F., some of them are sent to get vocational training and they are given forty rupees. I would like to know whether the Government propose to set up vocational training centres throughout the country especially for the workers of Public Sector Undertakings who had been rendered jobless. . .

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : Generally speaking, I can say only this much.

Rate of growth of labour force entering the market is 2.5 while rate of growth of population per annum is 2.1 percent. This means that more people are entering the job market every year than that what the market is capable of absorbing this results in unemployment.

It is true that we will have to give them more training and equip them for the jobs. But the concern of the Labour Ministry alone would not solve the problem. It is a nodal agency as you all know. It is the concern of the whole Government and the nation; and it is not the concern of the Labour Ministry alone. Whatever we could do within our parameters, we are doing.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, the specific question asked by him is this. Do you have any programme to retrain the workers who lose their jobs in the public sector undertakings due to retrenchment or voluntary retirement so that they get an alternative employment? I think, this is the specific question which he has asked.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : We have some schemes. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : What are those schemes?
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister would inform you separately about those schemes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, he has stated that there are some ITIs for the tribal youth. One such proposal has come from the State of West Bengal for the district of Purulia. May I know from the hon. Minister as to what has happened to that proposal to open an ITI for the tribal youth?

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : I will collect the details and inform the hon. Member since I do not have the details now.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, there are very a few opportunities for women in ITIs. I want to know from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, whether he would make a special attempt, either with the internal help or with the help from outside, at least to see that every State has one ITI specially for women, to begin with? . . .(Interruptions) ITIs are for all; they should give training to women also.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR : We have ten Centres of Regional Vocational Training for Women alone. Anyway, I will look into it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Incomplete Project

*205. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether many central projects of the Eighth Five Year Plan remained incomplete due to the inadequacy of funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof, Statewise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to complete the incomplete projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Right of Women in J&K

*206. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that women who are born in J&K State are denied their rights if they get married to a person outside the State as stated in the news-item captioned "where do I belong" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated December 8, 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it does not amount to the violation of Article 15 of the Constitution of India; and

(d) the remedial steps the Government propose to take in this regard and to provide basic rights to women of Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Government are aware of such reports.

(b) The rights of permanent residents of J&K, are governed by pre-constitution laws, which provide that wife or a widow of a Permanent Resident shall acquire the status of her husband so long as she resides in the State and does not leave the State for permanent residence outside the State. The women born in J&K lose their status as Permanent Residents on marriage to a person who is not a Permanent Resident.

(c) and (d) Article 35(A) of the Constitution of India, as applicable to the State of J&K, specifically provides that no law defining the class of persons who are or shall be permanent residents of the State of J&K or conferring on them any special rights, shall be void on the ground that it is inconsistent with or takes away or abridges any rights conferred on the other citizens of India.

Profit Sharing in AIIMS

*207. SHRI K.S. RAYADU :
DR. M. JAGANNATH :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved the proposal for introduction of the concept of profit in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for commercialization of this institution?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

ESI Hospitals

*208. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKER RAWAT :
SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government plan to construct new ESI hospitals at the cost of Rs. 200 crores in the country;

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

(c) the time by which the new hospitals are likely to be constructed alongwith cost of each hospital; and

(d) the steps being taken to provide specialised medical treatment in the existing hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) There are 19 ESI Hospitals at various stages of construction. A Statement showing the details of these hospitals (Statewise) is given in the Statement enclosed. These new hospitals are scheduled for completion during the current financial year.

The responsibility for administration of medical care under the ESI Act, 1948 vests in the State Governments/

U.T. Administrations except in Delhi and NOIDA where it is being administered by the ESIC direct. However, the expenditure on medical care is shared between the ESIC and the State Governments in the ratio of 7:1. In order to provide proper medical care to the ESI beneficiaries, the Corporation has prescribed norms for staffing and equipment of ESI hospitals/dispensaries and forwarded the same to the State Governments for implementation. The Corporation has asked the State Governments to review and assess their requirement for upgrading existing hospitals as well as replacement of old obsolete equipments. The proposals as and when received from the State Governments in this regard and considered and sanctioned as per the policy of the Corporation. For Super Speciality treatment which are not available in ESI Hospitals, the State Governments have been advised to refer the cases of insured persons to the renowned Medical Institutions.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	Name of the Hospital.	Estimated cost of the Hospital.
1	2	3	4
(Rs. in Crores)			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	50 bedded ESI Hospital, Tirupati.	2.61
2.	-do-	50 bedded ESI Hospital, Nizamabad.	2.57
3.	Chandigarh (U.T.)	50 bedded ESI Hospital, Chandigarh.	3.10
4.	Delhi	262 bedded ESI Hospital, Okhla.	15.79
5.	-do-	270 bedded ESI Hospital, Rohini.	17.61
6.	Gujarat	50 bedded ESI Hospital, Jamnagar.	3.22
7.	Haryana	50 bedded ESI Hospital, Bhiwani.	2.04
8.	Karnataka	50 bedded ESI Hospital, Belgaum.	4.86
9.	-do-	50 bedded ESI Hospital, Shahbad.	2.92
10.	Maharashtra	100 bedded ESI Hospital, Chinchwad.	9.14
11.	-do-	100 bedded ESI Hospital, Kohlapur.	8.71

1	2	3	4
12.	Maharashtra	50 bedded ESI Hospital, Bibewadi.	5.51
13.	Madhya Pradesh	50 bedded ESI Hospital, Nagda.	2.79
14.	Orissa	50 bedded ESI Hospital, Rourkela.	3.43
15.	Punjab	50 bedded ESI Hospital, Mandigobindgarh.	2.42
16.	Rajasthan	50 bedded ESI Hospital, Bhilwara	2.92
17.	-do-	50 bedded ESI Hospital, Pali.	2.00
18.	Tamilnadu	50 bedded ESI Hospital, Tirucharapally.	2.11
19.	West Bengal	100 bedded ESI Hospital, Dargapur	8.02
TOTAL:-			101.77

Shelter for all

*209 SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the latest figure in shortfall in providing housing in the context of Government target for providing shelter for all;

(b) the total shortfall in urban areas during the last six years;

(c) whether the percentage of shortfall in housing units exceeds the percentage of population rise; and

(d) if so, the funds required and the steps being taken to achieve the target of shelter for all?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) As per our estimates the housing shortage currently in India is 21.23 million dwelling units comprising 7.57 million in urban areas and 13.66 million in rural areas.

(b) The estimates of housing shortage in urban areas on the basis of census data on the rates of growth in housing stock and households over the last six years are as follows:-

Year	Housing Shortage in Urban Areas (in million units)
1991	8.23
1992	8.01
1993	7.97
1994	7.91
1995	7.82
1996	7.71

(c) As per the census data available, the urban population grew @ 36.4% between the decade 1981-91. During the same period, the housing shortage has been estimated to have grown @ 17.57%. So the percentage of shortfall in housing units actually was estimated to be less than the percentage of population rise during the decade.

(d) The Working Group on Urban Housing set up in the context of formulation of the Ninth five Year Plan has estimated that an investment of Rs. 1,21,371 crores (Rs. 34,000 crores from formal sector + Rs. 87,371 crores from private sector) will be needed to meet the requirement of 16.76 million unit's in the urban areas during the Ninth Plan. The break up of the estimated 16.76 million units is as under:-

(i) For clearing the backlog at the beginning of Ninth Plan	-	7.57 million units
(ii) Upgradation of Semi-pucca units	-	0.32 million units
(iii) Incremental need of pucca units	-	8.87 million units
TOTAL	:	16.76 million units

To encourage the private sector for making more investment in housing, the Government is acting as a facilitator for creating a conducive environment in the financial, fiscal, technological and legal regime influencing the housing activity.

Facility to Heart Patients

*210. SHRI CHATTAR SINGH DARBAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the number of heart patients is increasing constantly in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether a large number of heart patients die for want of assistance by doctors and medical aid;

(c) whether the Government has made any study to find out the causes of increasing incidence of heart disease in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) There is no data on time trends to indicate constant increase or otherwise in the number of patients suffering from these diseases.

(b) No, Sir. Facilities for treatment of heart diseases are available at the various health care institutions.

(c) and (d) Some studies have been carried out by ICMR and other institutions which indicate a range of prevalence from 1.4% to 9.7% for Coronary Heart Diseases. There are no studies to indicate the change in incidence of Heart diseases.

(e) A public awareness programme on causes, symptoms and control of Rheumatic Heart Disease, Coronary Heart Diseases, Hypertension etc. has been started. A pilot project on Control of Cardiovascular Diseases has also been initiated by DGHS, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare during 1995-96 in five States of India. During this project, various activities like training IEC, Surveillance & Monitoring for heart diseases are being initiated.

Non Payment of Wages in PSUs

*211 SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the Central Public Sector Enterprises where payments of wages/salaries is not made regularly and timely;

(b) whether this does net amount to violation of payment of Wages Act; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to make regular payments of wages/salaries in those units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) According to information available with the Ministry of Labour, the names of the Central Public Sector Enterprises where there are outstanding dues on account of non-payment of wages/salaries is given in the Statement. The Ministry of Labour has been taking up the issue of such non-payment of wages/salaries with the concerned

Ministries/Departments of defaulting CPSUs and in other concerned fora to ensure prompt and regular payment of such dues.

Statement

Names of CPSUs which have been irregular in payment of wages/salaries.

Department-wise CPSUs
Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers D/o Chemicals & Petrochemicals IDPL Manipur State Drugs & Pharma. Ltd. U.P. Drugs & Pharma. Ltd.
Ministry of Coal Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. Eastern Coalfields Ltd.
Ministry of Industry Deptt. of Heavy Industries Cement Corporation of India (CCI) Hindustan Cables Ltd. (HCL) (Roopnarainpur) Jessop & Co. Ltd. National Instruments Ltd. NEPA Ltd.
Ministry of Railways IRCON International Ltd.
Ministry of Textiles NTC (Holding Company)

Note : Based on information received from various Ministries & updated as on date (4.8.1997)

Delay in payment of wages and salaries for the above units varies from one month to a few months.

Family Planning Programme

*212. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA:
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the total grant-in-aid given for family planning programme during the year 1996-97 State-wise;
- (b) Whether the State Governments have utilised the given grant-in-aid in full;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA

CHOWDHURY) : (a) A statement is laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

(b) to (d) The grant-in-aid to States is both in Cash and in Kind. The assistance in kind includes drug kits, dispensary kits, contraceptives etc. It is given on the basis of utilisation requirement and so there is no surplus. The assistance in Cash is initially given on the basis of assessed requirement for salaries etc. and is thereafter finally settled on the basis of audited accounts. The funds released to States are normally short of their actual requirements.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

		Grants-in-aid released during 1996-97		
		In cash	In kind	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	7880.31	2398.43	10278.74
2	Assam	2026.07	824.06	2850.13
3	Bihar	4660.49	2851.93	7512.42
4	Gujarat	3408.15	1957.01	5365.16
5	Haryana	1439.48	859.66	2299.14
6	Himachal Pradesh	1613.92	294.88	1908.80
7	J&K	863.14	268.35	1131.49
8	Karnataka	7599.98	1784.70	9384.68
9	Kerala	2456.74	735.58	3192.32
10	Madhya Pradesh	5689.22	4066.67	9755.89
11	Maharashtra	8383.02	3351.69	11734.71
12	Manipur	418.72	56.61	475.33
13	Meghalaya	300.07	87.40	387.47
14	Nagaland	211.63	47.62	259.25
15	Orissa	2960.32	1149.21	4109.53
16	Punjab	1958.20	776.12	2734.32
17	Rajasthan	6545.74	3084.52	9630.26
18	Sikkim	237.71	22.25	259.96
19	Tamil Nadu	5350.47	2077.61	7428.08
20	Tripura	346.41	100.96	447.37
21	Uttar Pradesh	10536.91	7721.73	18258.64
22	West Bengal	7046.22	1909.68	8955.90
23	Arunachal Pradesh	146.82	33.86	180.68
24	Goa	141.81	53.24	195.05
25	Mizoram	197.57	45.35	243.42
Total (States)		82419.13	36559.62	118978.75

1	2	3	4	5
1	Pondicherry	93.61	33.66	127.27
2	Delhi	1475.25	388.14	1863.39
3	A&N Island	90.20	16.12	106.32
4	D&N Haveli	29.47	6.02	35.49
5	Chandigarh	93.50	26.12	119.62
6	Lakshdweep	11.75	2.77	14.52
7	Daman & Diu	32.55	6.25	38.80
Total (UTs)		1826.33	479.08	2305.41
Grand Total		84245.46	37038.69	121284.16

Delhi Development Authority

*213. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to hand over the DDA to the Government of NCT of Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any request from the Government of NCT of Delhi has been received by the Union Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereto; and

(e) the time by which the DDA is likely to be handed over to the Government of NCT of Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) No, Sir.

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

(c) No formal request in this regard has been received from the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

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

Rehabilitation Scheme for Gulf Returnees

*214. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problem of rehabilitation of the Gulf-returnees;

(b) if so, the names of the States where this

problem is being acutely faced?

(c) whether it is a fact that the Kerala Government have submitted to the Union Government a scheme for the rehabilitation of people returning from Gulf countries; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) Government have received representations on the problem of rehabilitation of Gulf returnees from the State of Kerala.

(c) and (d) Government of Kerala have requested that the unclaimed amounts in the deposits made by Kerala emigrants prior to emigration to the Gulf for employment and presently lying with the Protector General of Emigrants be made available to the Kerala Government to undertake relief measures for rehabilitating Gulf returnees. The proposal is under the consideration of Union Government.

[Translation]

Shortage of Essential Medicines

*215. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government hospitals/State Government hospitals and rabies centres in the National Capital are facing acute shortage of several essential medicines particularly antirabies vaccine despite the fact that cases of dog bite are on increase;

(b) if so, the reasons for not providing rabies vaccine to the hospitals/rabies centres by the Central Medical Store; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure the availability of all essential medicines including anti-rabies vaccine in the hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) As far as Central Government hospitals and those of National Capital Territory of Delhi are concerned, no specific shortage of essential medicines including anti-rabies vaccines has been reported. All the Central Government hospitals have been authorised to make local purchases of essential life saving drugs as and when required.

(b) The Government Medical Store Depots do not supply any vaccine to any indentors. Nervous Tissue Rabies vaccine is supplied by nine production centres in

the country based on the demand projected by the State Govts./indentors.

(c) The hospital authorities review the position periodically and ensure that there is no shortage of essential medicines including anti-rabies vaccine.

[English]

Norms for Fixing of Wages

*216. PROF. OMPAL SING NIDAR : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to include production and productivity in the norms for fixing wages of labourers in all sectors of Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Wages in the organised sector are determined through a process of collective bargaining. In some establishments the concept of productivity also finds place as one of the determinants of wages. In the case of Central Public Enterprises, wages are fixed as per the guidelines issued by the Government from time to time. As per the latest guidelines issued on 12.04.1993, wage increases have been linked to :

(a) generation of resources by individual enterprises;

(b) a condition that wage increase will not result in automatic increase in administered prices of goods and services; and

(c) a condition that wage increases will not result in labour cost per unit of output.

In the unorganised sector for the scheduled employments minimum wages are fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. These being the bare minimum wage below which no employer can pay the concept of productivity can not be reflected therein.

Sex Determination Test

*217. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been reported that there are large number of cases where sex determination test continues;

(b) if so, the major States where such tests are still continuing;

(c) whether the pre-natal Diagnostic Technique (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 has not been fully implemented in many States;

(d) if so, whether the Government have issued any instructions for applying this Act vigorously; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that sex determination tests are banned and the guilty are punished severely ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) There are general reports from time to time that pre-natal diagnostic techniques are still misused in India for determination of the sex of the foetus. However, no specific reports to this effect have been made to the Government.

(c) The Act and the Rules have been made applicable in the whole country from 1st January 1996. The statutory machinery for implementation of the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 has been already appointed/constituted in 19 States and 6 Union Territories.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The importance of the matter is being impressed upon the State Governments and the NGOs are being motivated to take responsibility for detecting specific cases.

[Translation]

Payment of Minimum Wages

*218. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of minimum wages prevailing in different states;

(b) whether most of the industries in Delhi are not paying minimum wages to their workers and they have completely failed in their duty to implement various labour laws and judgments of labour courts;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial steps proposed to be taken to ensure strict implementation of various labour laws by the industrialists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) Under the Minimum Wages Act 1948 both Central and the State Governments are the appropriate Government for the fixation/revision of minimum rate of wages for the scheduled employments under their respective jurisdiction. A Statement indicating the range of minimum wages for the unskilled category of workers in different States Union Territories is annexed. As per the information received from the Government of Delhi, majority of industries in Delhi are paying minimum wages, though from time to time a few complaints regarding non-payment of minimum wages by the employers are also received.

2. During the year 1996, 7194 complaints regarding non/less payment of minimum wages were received by the Government of Delhi. In 1187 cases, the employers rectified the shortcomings and an amount of Rs. 48,36,495/- was got paid to the workers. The prosecutions were launched against 429 defaulting managements for violation of various provisions of the Minimum Wages Act. The enforcement machinery in order to secure effective implementation of Minimum Wages Act makes regular inspection of the establishments covered under the Act and takes necessary action whenever any violation of the Act comes to their notice.

Statement

S. No.	Name of State Govt./U.T. Administration	Range of minimum rates of wages & date of last revision	Remarks
1	2	3	4
I.	STATE		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 11.00 to* Rs. 42.40 p.d. (12.2.96)	Rates vary from employment to employment.
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Rs. 21.00 to Rs. 23.00 p.d. (1.1.94)	Rates vary from employment to employment and areas to areas.
3.	Assam	Rs. 33.00 to* Rs. 44.30 p.d. (1.4.95)	Rates vary from employment to employment..
4.	Bihar	Rs. 27.30 to Rs. 29.70 p.d. (21.12.95)	Rates vary from employment to employment.
5.	Goa	Rs. 21.00 to Rs. 46.00 p.d. (1.4.95)	Rates vary from employment to employment..
6.	Gujarat	Rs. 34.00 to* Rs. 57.90 p.d. (1.4.96.)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to Zones).
7.	Haryana	Rs. 51.52 to* Rs. 55.52 p.d. (1.1.96)	Single rate for all employment Except agriculture.
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Rs. 26.00 to Rs. 45.75 p.d. (1.3.96)	Single rate for all employment Except Tea Plantation.
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Rs. 30.00 p.d. (13.3.95)	Single rate for all employment.

1	2	3	4
10.	Karnataka	Rs. 26.00 to* Rs. 37.32 p.d. (28.3.94)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones).
11.	Kerala	Rs. 19.50 to* Rs. 76.40 p.d. (31.3.92)	Rates vary from employment to employment.. (according to Zones).
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 22.50 p.d.* Rs. 43.96 p.d. (29.1.94)	Rates vary from employment to employment..
13.	Maharashtra	Rs. 9.25 to* Rs. 80.35 p.d. (29.6.94)	Rates vary from employment to employment.. (According to Zones).
14.	Manipur	Rs. 44.65 p.d.* (for plain) Rs. 47.65 p.d. (for Hill) areas) (8.7.95)	Double rates for all employment.
15.	Meghalaya	Rs. 35.00 p.d. (16.3.94)	Single rate for all employment.
16.	Mizoram	Rs. 28.00 to Rs. 35.00 p.d. (11.6.93)	Double rate for all employment.
17.	Nagaland	Rs. 25.00 p.d. (6.7.92)	Single rate for all employment.
18.	Orissa	Rs. 30.00 p.d.* (15.8.96)	Single rate for all employment.
19.	Punjab	Rs. 55.73 to* Rs. 55.28 p.d. (1.7.95)	Single rate for all employment, except agriculture.
20.	Rajasthan	Rs. 32.00 p.d. (1.1.95)	Single rate for all employment.
21.	Sikkim	NIL	Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is yet to be extended and enforced.
22.	Tamil Nadu	Rs. 10.00 to* Rs. 56.25 p.d. (21.7.95)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones).
23.	Tripura	Rs. 17.70 to Rs. 36.00 p.d. (7.6.96)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones).
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 36.00 to* Rs. 49.30 p.d. (13.6.96)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones).

1	2	3	4
25. West Bengal		Rs. 27.70 to* Rs. 59.20 p.d. (2.11.95)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones).
26. Andaman & Nicobar		Rs. 37.00 to Rs. 40.00 p.d. (15.8.94)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones).
27. Chandigarh		Rs. 54.60 p.d.* (4.11.95)	Single rate for all employment, except agriculture.
28. Dadra & Nagar Haveli		Rs. 35.00 to Rs. 40.00 p.d. (18.5.94)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones).
29. Daman & Diu		Rs. 35.00 p.d. (8.5.95)	Single rate for all employment.
30. Delhi		Rs. 64.50 p.d.* (1.2.94)	Single rate for all employment.
31. Lakshdweep		Rs. 30.00 p.d. (1.1.96)	Single rate for all employment.
32. Pondicherry		Rs. 19.25 to Rs. 40.20 p.d. (24.7.95)	Rates for agricultural workers.
II. *Central Government		Rs. 34.96 to* Rs. 63.09 p.d. (12.7.94)	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones).

Note : 1. *Indicates the provision of Variable Dearness Allowance alongwith minimum rates of wages.

2. Figure in bracket under column (3) indicate the date of revision for the last revised scheduled employment.

[English]

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Workers Education Camps

*219. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of camps organised by Central Board for Workers Education for different categories of workers;

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

(c) the total fund spent and allocated for this purpose, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to organise more camps in 1997 to educate the labourers about their rights; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (e) The Workers Education Scheme is a centrally sponsored Scheme and as such the allocation of funds to States does not arise. The Board conducts training programmes for workers engaged in organised/unorganised, rural and informal sector through a network of 48 Regional Centres and 15 Sub-Regional Centres spread all over the country. Information about the camps organised by the Board for Rural workers and for workers from Unorganised/ Small Scale Industries/Weaker Sections/Special Seminars separately for the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 and the targets of camps proposed to be conducted for these categories of workers during 1997-98 as well as funds allocated and spent during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

The total Number of Camps Organised by Central Board for Workers Education
For Rural and unorganised workers for the period from 94-95 to 96-97.

Name of the State	Sr. No. the centre	Camps for workers												Funds spent (in rupees)				Funds allocated				Targets allocated during 97-98
		Rural Workers			from Unorganised/ Small Scale Industries Including Weaker Section/ Special Seminars									94-95	95-96	96-97	94-95	95-96	96-97	94-95	95-96	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17						
Assam	1.	Tinsukia	34	36	27	23	10	12	236510	202320	161400	262440	258620	162540	24	9						
	2.	Tezpur	51	51	40	14	5	16	237810	213120	231130	286560	377550	282520	40	24						
Andhra Pradesh	3.	Hyderabad	60	59	31	35	18	29	390780	320750	262840	390780	359800	317600	24	40						
	4.	Vijaywada	60	53	30	13	18	15	264660	294260	197520	348300	387450	375400	40	12						
	5.	Visakhapatnam	15	76	37	18	20	22	351600	387700	266230	348300	384150	312250	32	20						
Bihar	6.	Dhanbad	40	38	29	17	8	13	218860	182060	171800	215560	182060	162540	36	29						
	7.	Jamshedpur	51	80	44	33	21	24	341850	379250	261350	341850	379250	275920	50	15						
	8.	Muzaffarpur	75	68	48	18	22	19	351600	360710	259050	348300	390750	262720	60	27						
	9.	Ranchi	41	42	40	14	9	16	212510	209940	225940	212510	258620	147360	40	28						
Gujarat	10.	Ahmedabad	50	70	36	30	16	21	328400	342820	243310	328400	384150	244680	40	29						
	11.	Baroda	50	66	41	36	18	16	348200	345600	219110	328400	345600	304400	40	24						
	12.	Rajkot	75	75	54	12	22	35	228080	390750	385050	329700	390750	338650	50	23						
Goa	13.	Goa	30	39	28	10	14	24	149880	210600	199360	149880	246990	190920	30	25						
Haryana	14.	Faridabad	72	65	30	27	25	30	370650	365150	267780	416640	365150	328750	30	23						
Jammu & Kashmir	15.	Srinagar	30	30	24	6	10	20	136680	160260	203100	136680	160260	144270	24	18						
Karnataka	16.	Bangalore	50	54	21	31	14	9	331700	295100	125010	400680	289800	250350	30	17						
	17.	Hubli	50	42	24	15	11	15	268520	216540	165840	382260	216540	151640	24	13						
	18.	Mangalore	40	30	40	16	12	24	215560	177240	241960	215560	177240	95860	30	14						
Kerala	19.	Cochin	83	75	29	26	17	21	437540	374250	208555	437540	364350	314300	30	24						
	20.	Kozhikode	60	68	30	11	20	23	270000	359300	213540	270060	313920	382350	40	28						
Maharashtra	21.	Mumbai	-	-	-	33	28	24	160880	139110	120720	160800	150900	154200	-	19						

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Maharashtra	22.	Kanpur	90	90	41	22	22	24	423240	454380	271460	416640	454380	289600	28	25
	23.	Pune	50	60	44	32	21	27	335000	334200	338720	335000	334200	310070	49	24
	24.	Thane	40	55	36	30	12	19	287710	276370	268350	338300	279920	203830	25	14
Madhya Pradesh	25.	Ehilai	50	55	44	38	13	22	354800	284860	291080	344900	332400	233789	40	21
	26.	Indore	75	65	50	18	15	27	351600	332150	344450	351600	265720	330250	48	24
	27.	Jabalpur	60	55	48	18	14	25	308730	272590	315180	279960	313920	251280	28	20
Manipur	28.	Gwalior	34	41	43	12	10	18	186250	209690	258760	340290	209690	166090	30	16
	29.	Imphal	75	54	53	20	20	24	373770	309600	288110	471360	612490	675620	60	84
	30.	Rourkela	50	62	33	18	7	20	262850	263960	214290	262350	321750	292900	40	28
Orissa	31.	Cuttack	27	48	23	19	12	21	189690	261900	202850	262850	318200	288600	20	30
	32.	Chandigarh	95	75	25	22	16	28	435800	370950	248620	348300	370950	286300	35	27
	33.	Jaipur	75	75	44	13	22	13	329910	390750	230240	331800	313920	341950	40	18
Rajasthan	34.	Jodhpur	53	42	43	11	10	16	245210	208050	246970	266760	215790	131070	30	15
	35.	Coimbatore	31	42	45	15	11	17	175120	216540	267750	215560	216540	196750	40	18
	36.	Madras	50	75	45	40	20	31	392540	384150	339900	335000	384150	286650	40	24
Tamilnadu	37.	Madurai	68	71	40	23	14	25	369200	339770	291970	369200	346100	191560	40	28
	38.	Agra	71	60	44	17	12	13	334100	273360	219860	348300	273360	242920	40	27
	39.	Allahabad	90	90	65	26	18	22	436440	441180	339680	436440	441180	425220	48	29
Uttar Pradesh	40.	Bareilly	75	75	30	17	20	20	348300	384150	208830	348300	384150	337720	40	27
	41.	Kanpur	50	75	50	32	13	26	335000	335100	315200	335000	335100	279700	40	26
	42.	Gorakhpur	92	60	41	19	22	21	415250	316740	240800	416640	417150	179290	40	33
Delhi	43.	Delhi	60	75	50	38	24	32	400680	487730	376520	400680	407730	305520	-	39
	44.	Asansol	40	54	36	24	8	25	241960	238860	215490	241960	238860	253120	40	39
	45.	Barrackpore	79	70	35	33	38	21	441250	430990	200630	471680	474180	417480	40	31
West Bengal	46.	Calcutta	55	65	39	34	18	11	359350	342050	223800	428580	345600	272850	50	20
	47.	Siliguri	50	66	29	20	14	24	269450	332400	187340	269450	332400	345250	30	32
	48.	Shimla	60	58	43	12	11	17	262980	261320	234700	263000	286560	174100	30	22
Himachal Pradesh			2722	2830	1802	1061	775	1023	14718370	14680620	11812645	15541100	15610290	12908400	1696	1208
										41211635	44059790	2904				
			7354	2859	10213											

Reviews of Population Policy

*220. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed performance of the efforts of population control under new population policy;

(b) if so, the details of the results achieved and deficiencies noticed, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government are working out new strategies for different regions based on performance and identification of problems to bring the population growth to a desirable level in urban and rural areas integrating child and women health and package of incentives under poverty alleviation programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action plan for the current year and Ninth Plan period; and

(e) the details of performance of Maharashtra in implementation of population policy and programme during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a), (b) and (e) Performance under the Family Welfare Programme is being continuously reviewed Statewise performance, in terms of birth rate, infant mortality rate, couple protection rate and fertility rate is given in the Statement enclosed.

The States of Goa and Kerala show the lowest birth rates, while Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan have the highest birth rates. In, infant mortality rates, Goa and Kerala are again the lowest, while Orissa and Madhya Pradesh had the highest infant mortality rates. In total fertility rates, among the major States covered by the Sample Registration System (SRS), Kerala and Tamil Nadu had the lowest, while Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were the highest.

With birth rate of 24.5, infant mortality rate of 55 and total fertility rate of 2.9, Maharashtra is one of the midperforming States. The couple protection rate in Maharashtra was 51.0% in 1997, against the national average of 45.4%.

(c) and (d) Under the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme, a differential strategy has been adopted for various districts, in respect of reducing the mortality and morbidity among women and children. The Reproductive and Child Health Programme provides for a set of interventions common to the whole country, and additional interventions depending on the status of RCH in the district

concerned. This will be supplemented by enhancement of local capacity through district or city specific projects. In addition, distinct needs of population in urban slums, tribal areas and adolescents will be addressed through special additional programmes. For contraceptives, the reliability and regularity in availability particularly through social marketing of contraceptives, is being emphasised. At all levels upgradation of skills and quality of services will be the highest priority during the IX Plan.

No individual incentives are proposed under the Family Welfare Programme.

Statement

Statewise Performance in Family Welfare

Sl. No.	Name of State/ UT	Crude Birth Rate (per 1000 population)	Infant Mortality Rate (Per 1000 live births)	Couple Protection Rate (% as on 31.03.97)	Total Fertility Rate (1993)
1	2	3	4	5	6
	INDIA	28.3	74	45.4	28.5
	STATES				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	24.2	67	46.9	2.7
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	23.8	63+	12.1	NA
3.	Assam	29.3	77	19.1	3.3
4.	Bihar	32.1	73	21.1	4.6
5.	Gujarat	26.7	62	57.4	3.2
6.	Goa	14.7	14+	32.9	NA
7.	Haryana	29.9	69	53.9	3.7
8.	Himachal Pradesh	25.2	63	55.3	2.8
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	NA	NA	17.6	NA
10.	Karnataka	24.1	62	55.6	2.9
11.	Kerala	18.0	15	46.7	1.7
12.	Madhya Pradesh	33.2	99	47.4	4.2
13.	Maharashtra	24.5	55	51.0	2.9
14.	Manipur	20.6	27+	23.7	NA
15.	Meghalaya	29.0	45+	4.0	NA
16.	Mizoram	NA	NA	44.2	NA
17.	Nagaland	20.1*	6+	8.1	NA
18.	Orissa	27.8	103	39.5	3.1
19.	Punjab	24.6	54	76.9	3.0
20.	Rajasthan	33.3	86	32.6	4.5

1	2	3	4	5	6
21. Sikkim		22.5	47+	23.7	NA
22. Tamil Nadu		20.3	54	51.7	2.1
23. Tripura		18.9	45+	26.3	NA
24. Uttar Pradesh		34.8	86	37.2	5.2
25. West Bengal		23.6	58	34.2	3.0
Union Territories					
1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands		18.7	32+	40.9	NA
2. Chandigarh		19.5	42+	38.3	NA
3. Dadra & Nagar Haveli		29.7	78+	35.6	NA
4. Daman & Diu		21.8	36+	36.8	NA
5. Delhi		23.3	39+	33.9	NA
6. Lakshadweep		25.5	37+	9.6	NA
7. Pondichery		20.1	25+	65.7	NA

Source : Col (3) and (4), Sample Registration System (SRS) data for 1995. Col (6) SRS data for 1993. Col (5) Programme Data.

NA : Not Available.

* : Figures related to SRS 1994.

+ : Three year moving average (1993-95).

[Translation]

Survey of Houses of Kashmiri Pandits

2236. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted regarding the displaced Kashmiri Pandits;

(b) if so, the number of houses of Kashmiri Pandits lying vacant;

(c) the number of such houses illegally occupied by other people;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to evict these houses from the illegal possessions; and

(e) whether the Union Government propose to provide any economic assistance for reconstruction of these houses of Kashmiri Pandits if damaged?

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

OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c) As per information made available by the State Government, there are 19,288 houses of Kashmiri migrants in the Valley out of which 13,840 are lying vacant. Of the remaining houses, some are occupied by the security forces and rent, as fixed by the State Government, is given to the owners. There are also some cases of illegal occupation of these houses.

(d) The Government of J&K have enacted 'The Jammu and Kashmir Migrants Immovable Property (Preservation, Protection and Restraint of Distress Sales) Act, 1997 on 2.6.1997, which provides for taking over of properties of migrants by the District Magistrate concerned. Provision has been made to take necessary action for eviction of illegal occupants. The Act also provides for payment of compensation to the owner which will be charged from the unauthorised occupant.

(e) The Government of India will provide all necessary and possible assistance, to the State Government in this regard.

[English]

Development of Slums

2237. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether six slums are being developed under Slum Improvement Project of the British aided Overseas Development Authority in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether more funds were sanctioned by Overseas Development Authority for the development of other slums in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof and work undertaken so far; and

(e) the time by which the slum under the Slum Development Projects in the State are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) The Overseas Development Authority is supporting three slum improvement projects in Andhra Pradesh. Details are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) No, Sir, but the Government of Andhra Pradesh

submitted a project proposal covering 32 Class-I towns of the State seeking ODA (UK) assistance which has been forwarded to ODA (UK) for consideration.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The completion dates are mentioned given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

I. HYDERABAD SLUM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PHASE-III:

1. Total approved cost of the project - Rs. 42.75 crores
2. Duration of the Project - 1989-90 to December, 1996 (Accounts are being finalised)
3. No. of slums proposed to be covered - 300
4. No. of persons proposed to be covered - 4.50 lakhs

II. VISAKHAPATNAM SLUM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT :

1. Total approved cost of the Project - Rs. 28.59 crores
2. Duration of the Project - 1988-89 to March, 1996 (Completion report submitted to ODA)
3. No. of slums proposed - 198
4. No. of persons proposed to be covered - 2.00 lakhs

III. VIJAYAWADA SLUM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT :

1. Total approved cost of the Project - Rs. 49.15 crores.
2. Duration of the Project. - 1990-91 to June, 1997
3. No. of slums proposed to be covered - 136
4. No. of persons proposed to be covered - 2.47 lakhs

Metro Rail Service

2238. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Metro Rail Service in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith route

suggested therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to link ISBT to Central Secretariat under the Scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the estimated cost to be incurred thereon; and

(f) the time by which the work on the project is likely to be commenced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) Delhi MRTS Project was approved by the Union Government in September, 1996. The first phase of the project covers route length of 55.3 Kms. which includes surface/elevated Rail System from Shahadara to Nangloi, Subzi Mandi to Holambi Kalan and underground rail from Central Secretariat to Vishwa Vidyalaya. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 4860 crores at April, 1996 prices.

(c) and (d) Underground Metro Rail is proposed to be introduced from Central Secretariat to Vishwa Vidyalaya via Connaught Place, New/Old Delhi Railway Station, Chawri Bazar, ISBT, Old Secretariat measuring about 11.0 Kms.

(e) The total estimated cost for the Underground Metro Corridor is Rs. 2319 crores.

(f) Work on the project is likely to commence by January, 1999.

[Translation]

Per Capita Income in Bihar

2239. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been constant decline in the per capita income in Bihar since 1990-91;

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

(c) the directions proposed to be given by the Union Government to remedy the situation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOR) : (a) to (c) No Sir. There has been no constant decline in the per capita income of Bihar as seen from the following table:

Year	Per Capita Net State Domestic Product At constant (1980-81) Prices (Rs.)
1990-91	1204
1991-92	1119
1992-93	1025
1993-94	1034
1994-95	1098 (Provisional)
1995-96	1149 (Quick estimate)

[English]

Foreign Mercenaries

2240. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of foreign mercenaries working in Jammu and Kashmir to terrorise the people and the Government as a whole;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) It is a well known fact that Pak ISI has been actively involved in sponsoring, aiding and abetting terrorist and secessionist violence in J & K. For this it has continued to try and infiltrate armed and trained terrorists including, Pakistani nationals and other foreign mercenaries in J & K. It is not possible to indicate the precise number of foreign mercenaries in J & K. According to available information, 553 foreign mercenaries have been killed and 135 arrested till June 1997.

(c) Close watch is continuously kept on the activities of the militants including foreign mercenaries. The steps taken to contain terrorist activities include sustained vigilance/patrolling on the border/LOC and in the hinterland, active operations to flush out militants, establishment of pickets in vulnerable areas, strengthening and reactivation of the local Police, strengthening of the intelligence machinery, streamlining of the arrangements for coordination among the various security agencies etc.

[Translation]

Vacancies of SC/ST

2241. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of appointments made in the Department of Ocean Development during the last three years, till date, categorywise;

(b) the number out of them belong to SC/ST, category-wise;

(c) the number of vacancies reserved for SC/ST lying vacant in the Department, category-wise;

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to fill these reserved vacancies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) The number of appointments made in the Department of Ocean Development and the number of SC/ST candidates appointed category-wise during the last three years is as detailed below.

	No. of appointments made	No. of SC/ST appointments
Group A	12	1(SC)
Group B Non-Gazetted	2	NIL
Group C	4	2(1 SC; 1 ST)
Group D	10	3 (SC)
Total	28	6

(c): NIL

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Rocks from Mars

2242. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been invited to the news-item captioned "Martian gift to India lies ignored" appearing in the "The Hindustan Times" dated July 10, 1997;

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

(c) the reasons for conducting studies on collection of rocks from MARS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Shergotty meteorite which fell in Shergotty village in Gaya district of Bihar on 25th August, 1865 is kept in the archival collection of Geological Survey of India (GSI) as GSI is the custodian of all meteorites found in India. The original weight of this meteorite was 4890 grams. Main bulk of this sample weighing 3600 grams is kept in GSI and small quantities of this meteorite were given to the following institutions by GSI as per exchange programme on meteorites;

- (i) The United States Natural History Museum, Washington
- (ii) Natural History Museum, Vienna
- (iii) Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago
- (iv) American Museum of Natural History, New York
- (v) British Museum of Natural History, London

Exhaustive scientific study on the meteorite was conducted by a Consortium of scientists (called Shergotty Consortium) from GSI, Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) (Ahmedabad) from India and those from reputed international institutions like National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of USA, Max Plank Institute (MPI) of Germany and other scientific institutions. The findings have been published from time to time and an exhaustive account is available in the well known journal "Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta", Vol.50, No.4, p.875-1091, 1986.

Martian origin of this Shergotty meteorite has been deduced from the results of the studies indicating a strong similarity of major element composition of Shergotty with Martian soil determined by the Viking Spacecraft, especially by the indicator element Ferrous Oxide (FeO) and from the evidence of trapped noble gas and nitrogen composition in glasses in the meteorite.

(c) There are a number of scientific studies which are possible to carry out using Martian rocks. These include the origin and evolution of the Solar System, comparison of the evolution and development of Martian terrain, soil & atmosphere with those of the Earth and search for possible existence of life beyond our planet. These studies also help in improving the understanding of the Solar System and various geological and atmospheric processes on planets, including Earth.

Transfer of Schemes

2243. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a major initiative to devolve power to States, the Planning Commission has proposed that funds for 115 Centrally Sponsored development schemes be given directly to State Governments and they be made incharge of managing and implementing these schemes;

(b) if so, the schemes likely to be brought under jurisdiction of the State Governments;

(c) the Union Government's role in these schemes;

(d) whether some of the State Governments have been diverting the funds from one scheme to the other and important schemes are delayed due to this diversion; and

(e) if so, whether the Union Government will have any direct control to ensure that these schemes are fully implemented and the funds allocated for them are not diverted for other purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOR) : (a) to (e) An exercise has been done in Planning Commission on the question of transfer of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) to the States. A note on the subject has been sent to concerned Central Ministries/Departments and all States/UT Governments for their comments. On receipt of the same, a revised and detailed note on the issues involved will be prepared for consideration of the Full Planning Commission and National Development Council (NDC). In line with the Approach Paper, a process of joint plan formulation and joint monitoring would also be evolved between the Planning Commission and the State Governments.

Use of Electronic Voice Sensor

2244. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether experiment of implant an electronic voice sensor in the inner ear of a totally deaf person has become successful and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) Implant of an electronic voice

sensor, known as cochlear implant, has been found successful in patients who have no serviceable hearing in both ears and who are not benefited by conventional hearing aids. The implant is surgically inserted into the inner ear and after wound healing, the patient usually gets benefit in six weeks to one year's time with the help of some training. Individual users report different levels of benefit from the implant.

[Translation]

Filaria Patients

2245. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of filaria patients in Delhi at present;
- (b) the number of filaria eradication centres functioning in Delhi;
- (c) the nature of assistance provided by the Government to each centre during each of the last three years; and
- (d) the assistance proposed to be provided to these centres during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (d) Delhi is known to be free from Filariasis and no Filariasis Control Programme is being implemented in Delhi.

However, under the Urban Malaria Scheme necessary antilarval measures are undertaken for the control of mosquito vectors.

[English]

Industrial Training Institutes

2246. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether a number of applications for affiliation from the Industrial Training Institutes in Maharashtra are pending with the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) for decision since long;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government are aware that due to non-affiliation, a large number of trainees from Maharashtra is likely to be deprived of the opportunity to appear for the examination; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken to

ensure that the trainees are allowed to appear for the examination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir. The last meeting of the Sub-Committee of National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) dealing with affiliation was held on 18.6.97. In that meeting, 45 cases which had been recommended by the Standing Committee, comprising of representatives of Central and State Governments and also representatives of Industry and labour and received in DGET till 31.5.97, were examined and disposed off.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. The State Director dealing with Craftsman Training Scheme should have permitted only the management of those institutes to admit trainees in the trades which have been recommended for affiliation by the Standing Committee. The problem has arisen as number of Industrial Training Institutes/Centres had admitted trainees prior to the inspection by the Standing Committee.

(d) Considering the administrative delays and difficulties in conducting inspections by the Standing Committees, a decision was taken in July, 1997 that the trainees of the institutes which have been inspected by the representatives of the respective State Council for Vocational Training (SCVT) and found fulfilling the norms of NCVT, be allowed to appear provisionally in the July, 1997 of All India Trade Test, conducted by NCVT. However, the results of trainees from such institutes will not be declared till they secure affiliation of trades/units from NCVT. This was a one time relaxation extended to all the States for July, 97 examination.

[Translation]

Maternal Mortality Rate

2247. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the pregnant women are dying in a large number during delivery due to malnutrition and other reasons;
- (b) if so, the number of women died during the last three months in various parts of the country, State-wise particularly in Gujarat;
- (c) whether the Government are contemplating any concrete steps to deal with the situation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (d) There is no regular and standard estimation of Maternal Mortality in India. A National Family Health Survey conducted in 1992-93 provides the estimate of MMR as 437 per 1,00,000 live births. Despite the large size of the sample, sampling errors or maternal mortality estimates are quite large. The 95% confidence interval for the maternal mortality rate ranges between 334 to 540 per 1,00,000 live births. Because of the large sampling error, reliable maternal mortality rates cannot be calculated for individual States.

The Registrar General of India, in its survey of causes of death (Rural) has been compiling specific causes of death due to child-birth and pregnancy (Maternal Deaths). In 1994, death due to bleeding of pregnancy and puerperium were 23.7%, anaemia 19.3%, toxæmia 13.1%, abortion 12.6%, puerperal sepsis 10.6%, malposition of child 6.4%, non classifiable 14.2%. The survey also reports that the maternal deaths are rare events, reported in very small numbers. Hence, no specific conclusion can be drawn. The ongoing maternal and child health programme has been strengthened with the launching of Child Survival and Safe Motherhood (CSSM) Programme in August, 1992. The objective is to improve the health status of women and children and reducing maternal and infant mortality and morbidity. The interventions include tetanus toxoid immunization of pregnant women, iron and folio acid tablets for prevention and treatment of anemia among pregnant women, training of dais, provision of Dai kit to ensure clean delivery, promotion of birth spacing and strengthening of the health care institutions at the sub-district level for providing emergency obstetric care to pregnant women referred with maternal complications.

[English]

Group Housing Societies

2248. SHRI PRADEEP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Group Housing Societies which were allotted land but could not deposit the requisite amount with DDA within the stipulated time and later on their cases were reconsidered within the framed policy of the DDA;

(b) if so, the details of such societies which were allowed such opportunities since 1991 onwards;

(c) the details of other similar cases pending with the DDA; and

(d) by when the decision on the pending cases is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As reported by DDA, the names of these societies are:-

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Nav Rattan CGHS | 2. Aarti CGHS |
| 3. Sukhi Parivar CGHS | 4. Dabas CGHS |
| 5. New Jhota CGHS | 6. Ravi Shankar CGHS |
| 7. Home Living CGHS | 8. Great Lyallpur CGHS |

(c) and (d) DDA has received requests from 24 such societies which had failed to deposit the initial amount towards 35% land premium within the stipulated period. The names of these societies are given in the enclosed Statement. No specific time frame can be given for taking decisions on the pending cases.

Statement

List of 24 Coop. Group Housing Societies

Sl. No.	Name of the Society
1.	Batukji CGHS
2.	Agbros CGHS
3.	Youngsters CGHS
4.	Taruna CGHS
5.	Sanchar Vihar CGHS
6.	Arihant Sidhartha CGHS
7.	Bharat Petroleum CGHS
8.	Sapna Ghar CGHS
9.	The Kunj Vihar CGHS
10.	Satkartar CGHS
11.	The Air India Employees CGHS
12.	The Homely Woodland CGHS
13.	Himachal Imauladhar CGHS
14.	Manocha Vihar CGHS
15.	Sant Sunder Dass Ji CGHS
16.	The Khattar CGHS
17.	New Rajput CGHS
18.	Seth Vihar CGHS
19.	Pragya CGHS
20.	Hamdam CGHS
21.	The Modest Ketki CGHS

22. Mandakini CGHS
 23. The Veg Sanchar CGHS
 24. Media CGHS

Trade with Bangladesh

2249. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had a proposal to allow trade with Bangladesh through the Haldibari-Chilahati route by road;
- (b) if so, the final decision taken in this regard; and
- (c) by when this route is likely to be opened in the interest of export of Indian goods to Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) to (c) Government have a proposal to open a land route for trade with Bangladesh through Land Customs Station at Haldibari-Chilahati. This route would require a proper road connection between the two Land Customs Stations which will facilitate road traffic. It is not possible to fix a definite time-frame for opening the road route at this stage.

Dental Treatment

2250. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news entitled "Safdarjung Aspatal: Dant Rogon Ke upchar ke liye na Kursi hai na upkaran" appearing in "Dainik Jagaran" dated April 9, 1997;
- (b) if so, whether there are no 'dental chair' and no equipments to treat the patients suffering from dental illness in Safdarjung Hospital;
- (c) if so, the steps being taken by the government to provide dental chairs and other equipments and to strengthen the dental department; and
- (d) the time by which the equipments and dental chairs are likely to be provided to the dental department so that patients may not suffer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Dental Department of Safdarjung Hospital has 4 dental chairs out of which 3 are functional. The Deptt. is adequately equipped to treat patients suffering from common dental illness.

(c) and (d) Two more chairs and more equipments are in the process of being purchased to strengthen the Department.

[Translation]

Benefits of Privatisation to Labour

2251. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the man-power has been benefited because of privatisation of industries by the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of corporation and industries privatised in Gujarat so far; and
- (d) the norms followed to safeguard the interest of the labour class?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Privatisation of industries, if done selectively and sequentially in a favourable economic environment is expected to improve the productivity of labour and ensure greater employment of workers in the long run. However, there is no conclusive empirical evidence to quantify the benefits of privatisation of labour in the Indian context.

- (c) The number of corporations and industries privatised so far in the State of Gujarat is not available with the Union Ministry of Labour.
- (d) A number of labour laws have been enacted to ensure that the interest of labour is adequately protected. These includes the Industrial Disputes Act, the Payment of Wages Act, the Minimum Wages Act etc.

[English]

Bajaj Electricals Limited

2252. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Bajaj Electricals Limited, Mumbai have been violating Provident Fund rules concerning its employees;
- (b) whether the RPFC, Mumbai has taken any initiative to protect the employees and worksmen;
- (c) whether the company has not been releasing accumulated Provident Fund dues of its employees for years together; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Company is reported to have been settling P.F. Claims regularly once in a month through its Private Provident Fund Trust.

Addition in Government Accommodation

2253. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow the allottees of B-type Quarters in Delhi to add one more room temporarily or to cover verandahs as the accommodation in the said type is not sufficient;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal to allow the allottees of B-type Quarters in Delhi to add one more room temporarily. However, provision already exist for creation of additional enclosed space by covering verandah on payment of 10% of the cost by the allottee.

Allotment of D.D.A. Flats

2254. SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hardoi) : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Unallotted DDA flats for the last 15 years in "Dilshad Garden" appearing in the "Dainik Jagran" dated July 25, 1997;

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

(c) whether the flats constructed and made ready for allotment in 1990, 1991 and 1992 were allotted in 1997 inspite of their being without electricity and water;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the prices of flats of DDA in 1990, 1991 and 1992 were around Rs. 2 lakh while in 1997 the prices were increased to about Rs. 7 lakh;

(f) whether the flats were held up by DDA to earn more money; and

(g) if not, the reasons for not allotting the ready flats and the action taken against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As reported by the DDA, 100 MIG and 100 LIG houses were taken up for construction by DDA in Dilshad Garden, Block-R, East Delhi, in the year 1981. During currency of the contract, some major defects were observed. The contract was rescinded and the contractor was debarred/black listed for further tendering in DDA.

Disciplinary action has been completed against the following staff:-

- (i) The Executive Engineer concerned has been imposed penalty of compulsory retirement.
- (ii) The Asstt. Engineer concerned expired and hence no action.
- (iii) 2 Junior Engineers were removed from service and penalty of reduction by four stages was made in the pay scale of one JE.

A premier Government institution i.e. CBRI, Roorkee, was approached to examine these houses and suggest suitable rectification measures, which has since been completed. CBRI, Roorkee, has again been approached to re-examine these houses and certify their structural stability before these houses are released for allotment.

(c) Yes, Sir. However, in the absence of MCD water supply interim arrangement has been made through tubewell. However, these can be commissioned only when electricity is provided by Delhi Vidyut Board.

(d) Flats were allotted on the basis of the target dates given by the Delhi Vidyut Board.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) No, Sir, the prices of flats are fixed by DDA on the basis of an approved policy on 'No Profit No Loss' basis.

(g) The main reasons for non-allotment of ready flats is the non-availability of basic amenities like water, electricity and sewerage facilities to be provided by the local bodies concerned.

[Translation]

Conversion of Saline Water Into Drinking Water

2255. SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to make use of nuclear energy in converting the saline water into drinking water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be started; and

(d) the amount likely to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) A nuclear desalination demonstration plant of 6300 cubic and metre per day capacity, based on combined Multi Stage.

(b) Flash - Reverse Osmosis desalination process and using power and low-pressure steam generated by the Madras Atomic Power Station, Kalpakkam is proposed to be set up at Kalpakkam in Tamil Nadu during the IX plan.

(c) The Plant is expected to be completed during the calendar year 2001, subject to approval for the project being received expeditiously and adequate Plan outlay being available during the IX Plan period.

(d) The estimated expenditure of the project is Rs. 3097 lakh.

[English]

Nuclear Thermal Rockets

2256. SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Scientists have worked on Nuclear Thermal Rockets;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government propose to launch their own space satellite like INSAT-2D?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) with a capability to launch Indian National Satellite

System-2 (INSAT-2) class of satellites in the required orbit is under development. The first development flight of GSLV is planned during 1998.

MPLADS Subsidiaries

2257. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether as per guidelines of MPLADS, Member of Parliament can give financial assistance for repairs, renovation and construction of schools even if the land on which the building is built belongs to a Trust;

(b) whether the Member of Parliament can also give financial assistance for procurement of benches for sitting of students of a school which belongs to a Trust;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the Government propose to review the guidelines and make necessary provision for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA. D. SAVANOOR) : (a) to (d) As per guidelines of MPLADS, the scheme funds cannot be spent on repairs and renovation unless it is a special repair for restoration/upgradation of any durable asset. The guidelines also do not permit purchase of inventory or stock of any type. The benches for sitting of students of a school, therefore, cannot be procured under the scheme.

(e) the guidelines were recently revised in February, 1997. There is no proposal at present with the Government to revise these further.

[Translation]

Review of Functioning of CBI

2258. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI V.V. RAGHVAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation in the recent past has failed to substantiate the charges of corruption against several charge-sheeted persons;

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

(c) whether any review of the functioning of C.B.I. has been made; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) Recently, a few persons charge-sheeted in the Jain Hawala Case have been discharged by the Courts. A Special Leave Petition, has already been filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the order of the Hon'ble Delhi High Court and a few more Petitions are being filed in the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the orders of the Trial Court. The matter, therefore, is sub-judice.

(c) and (d) Review of functioning of the Central Bureau of investigation, as in the case of any Government organisation, is a continuous process and appropriate action is taken accordingly.

[English]

MPLADS

2259. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work relating to digging of proposed pumps through Members of Parliament local area development fund in Satna and surrounding area is not being undertaken;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any guidelines for execution of such work has since been laid down;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps the Government propose to take to get the works done through Member of Parliament local area development fund at cheaper rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOR) : (a) and (b) The District Collector Satna had expressed some practical difficulties in executing the work relating to digging of handpumps under MPLADS in Satna through Gram Panchayat as suggested by Hon'ble Member of Parliament Shri Sukh Lal Kushwaha. He has been informed suitably by the Government.

(c) to (e) As per the revised guidelines the implementing agencies under the scheme can be either Government or Panchayati Raj Institutions or any other

reputed non-government Organisation who may be considered by the District Head as capable of implementing the work satisfactorily. The District Head is required to select the implementing agency keeping in view the cost and quality of the proposed work.

Chicory in Coffee Products

2260. SHRI K. PRASURAMAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether daily consumption of chicory even in small quantity is injurious to health;

(b) whether larger percentage of chicory is mixed in the coffee products like 'Bru', 'Sunrise', 'Tata Coffee' etc; and

(c) if so, the action the Government propose to take to prevent large-scale use of chicory in coffee products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Chicory conforming to the specifications laid down under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 is not injurious to health.

(b) to (c) Standards for coffee and chicory mixture have been laid down under Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955. The quantity of chicory for mixing with coffee has been restricted while laying down the specifications of coffee-chicory mixture. However, enforcement of the provisions of PFA Act and Rules there under is the direct responsibility of the concerned State Governments/Union Territories.

[Translation]

Legislation of Family Planning

2261. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not bringing before Parliament the Bill covering Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assembly under Family Planning, after its introduction in the House and subsequent reference to the Standing Committee of the Health Ministry;

(b) whether a provision has been made in the proposed Bill regarding electoral reforms for disqualifying the Member of Parliament and Legislators having more than two children; and

(c) if so, the time by which the said Bill is likely to be passed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (c) The Constitution Amendment Bill introduced in the Rajya Sabha in December, 1992 is still pending consideration there. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resources Development had recommended consultations with leaders of political parties in Parliament for smooth passage of the Bill. A meeting of leaders of political parties for evolving consensus in favour of the Bill has not taken place so far.

(b) No, Sir. The proposed provision for making those with more than two children ineligible for election to Parliament or State Legislatures is envisaged to take effect only prospectively.

[English]

Guidelines for PSEs

2262. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government have issued fresh guidelines recently for filling up the post of Chief Executives and Functional Directors in public sector enterprises; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. guidelines have been issued with a view to cutting down delays in filling the Board level posts in public sector enterprises.

(b) A copy of the guidelines is attached as a Statement.

Statement

Guidelines for Processing cases of Board Level Appointments in Public Sector Enterprises

(a) The PESB shall keep an accurate record regarding the dates on which the vacancies are likely to arise and their up to date job descriptions, so that action for filling up the posts can be initiated six months before each of the vacancies arise. In case an Administrative Ministry fails to respond within ten days to a request made by the PESB to notify a vacancy and furnish updated job descriptions, etc., action shall be taken *suo motu* by the PESB to circulate the vacancy.

- (b) There is often a delay at the level of the Administrative Ministry in advertising the vacancy. PESB is, therefore, authorised to bring out the advertisement through the DAVP, with the bill being sent to the Administrative Ministry/PSE for payment, in order to obviate such delay.
- (c) An extensive and up-to-date data bank shall be maintained by PESB regarding the particulars of the officers, working in the various PSEs who may fall within the zone of consideration for various posts.
- (d) The entire selection procedure of the PESB shall be completed within a maximum period of 60 days.
- (e) Participation by the Administrative Ministries/ Departments in the Selection Committee constituted by the PESB shall be at the level of Additional Secretary and above only.
- (f) The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), while sending its recommendations to the Administrative Ministry, shall endorse a copy to the Central Vigilance Commission so that the latter can initiate advance action for obtaining vigilance clearance. The CVC shall obtain necessary information from the Administrative Ministry and shall convey its views to the Administrative Ministry in regard to the vigilance position ordinarily within a fortnight, and, in any case, within one month from the receipt of the panel from the PSEB. The CVC may separately review its procedure with the CVOs to ensure that the requisite clearances are sent in time.
- (g) If the CVC does not get the desired cooperation from the concerned Administrative Ministry in obtaining information, it shall bring the same to the notice of the Cabinet Secretary. The Cabinet Secretary shall suitably take up the issue with the Secretary of the Administrative Ministry. If the Administrative Ministry fails to provide necessary information to CVC, it shall be deemed that the former has nothing to say in this regard and if anything is brought to notice about the officer at a subsequent date, the responsibility for not bringing it before the ACC shall squarely be on the Administrative Ministry.
- (h) The CVC, while examining the antecedents of an officer already working for the Government/

PSU, need not necessarily review/enquire into the officer's record from the very beginning. If a person is functioning in a particular post, the appointment to which was done after vigilance clearance, the CVC shall then limit its inquiry to the period spent in that particular post without going into the officer's entire past career.

- (i) There are sometimes a spate of complaints against individuals whose names are being considered/finalised by the PESB. CVC should normally not take cognizance of anonymous or pseudonymous complaints received upto six months prior to the initiation of the selection/promotion process. Further, petty complaints, if any, against such officers should be disposed of quickly.
- (j) A total time of 30 days is hereby fixed for approval/processing by the Administrative Ministry/Department. On expiry of ten days after this period, the Establishment Officer (E.O) shall remind the Administrative Ministry/Department. If even after another 20 days (i.e. a total of 60 days after submission of panel by the PESB) the Administrative Ministry/Department is unable to finalise its recommendations, E.O. shall automatically circulate the recommendations of the PESB for obtaining the approval of the ACC. Since the ACC includes the Minister of the Administrative Ministry/Department, the views of that Ministry/Department would, therefore, be available while deciding the appointment.
- (k) In cases where proposals are referred to the ACC, a time-limit of 15 days is hereby fixed for processing by DOPT and another 30 days for obtaining the approval of the ACC, where needed.

Mass Rapid Transit System

2263. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SATYAJIT SINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to introduce the Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) in National Capital Territory of Delhi;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the estimated cost to be incurred thereon;

(d) the funds earmarked for 1997-98 and for the whole Ninth Five Year Plan for the purpose; and

(e) the time by which the system is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) Delhi MRTS Project was approved by the Union Government in September, 1996. The first phase of the project will cover a route length of 55.3 Kms. which includes surface/elevated rail system from Shahdra to Nangloi, Subzi Mandi to Holambi Kalan and under ground rail from Central Sectt. to Vishva Vidyalaya.

(c) The total estimated cost of the project is Rs. 4860 crores at April, 1996 prices.

(d) An allocation of Rs. 150 crores, including Rs. 50 crores towards Pass Through Assistance, has been made for the Delhi MRTS Project. However, allocation for the IXth Plan as a whole is yet to be finalised.

(e) The project is slated to be completed by the year 2005.

Funds for Equipments in Gujarat

2264. SHRI VIJAY PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any amount has been released or allocated by the Union government to Gujarat during 1996-97 for purchase of latest hospital equipments for better medical treatment in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Noise Pollution

2265. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether noise pollution is posing as health hazard as revealed by a recent study in the Indian Medical Association;

(b) if so, the measures undertaken to prevent noise pollution; and

(c) the steps proposed to propagate health education in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Government is not aware of any study on noise pollution conducted by the Indian Medical Association. However, studies carried out by the National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad have indicated that high levels of noise pollution may cause temporary or permanent hearing impairment and psychobehavioural problems.

(b) and (c) Steps taken by the Government to prevent noise pollution and increase public awareness are enumerated in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

STEPS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT

1. Noise has been notified as a pollutant under Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1991. Ambient standards in respect of sound for the different categories of areas (residential, commercial, industrial and silence zones) have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.
2. Noise limits have been prescribed for automobiles; domestic appliances and construction equipments at the manufacturing stage.
3. A code of practice for controlling noise at source, other than industries and automobiles, has been evolved by the Central Pollution Control Board. These include Public Address System, Aircraft Operations, Railway Operations, construction activities and bursting of crackers. State Government have been asked to employ these code of practices under the relevant local rules.

Use of Prohibited Colours in Foodstuff

2266. PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA :
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the widely use of prohibited flavoured colours in foodstuff and soft drinks which causes serious damage to the human health;

(b) whether any study has been conducted by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome of the study;

(d) whether the Industrial Toxicological Research Centre had also submitted a report to the Government about the harmful affects of the use of prohibited colours;

and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government to check the use of prohibited colours in foodstuff and soft drinks and the reasons attributed for not achieving the desired results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

Diversion of Fund

2267. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a substantial part of money meant for development of the Jammu and Kashmir State finds its way into the hands of the insurgents;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the quantum of amount provided to Jammu and Kashmir Government for development work during the last three years;

(d) whether any assessment has been made about the actual development made:

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) No Sir. Whenever specific complaints of misuse of funds are received, appropriate enquiries are conducted including enquiries by the Vigilance Department. The State Government has further strengthened and intensified the activities of the Vigilance Department. The State Government has constituted District level Inspection Committees under the Chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioners to inspect and verify works and programmes on the ground. Corrective measures are taken by the State Government whenever necessary.

(c) A statement is annexed.

(d) to (f) Several teams of senior officers from the Central Government have also visited the State and physically inspected development works and found execution of development schemes on the whole satisfactory.

Statement

Release of funds by the Ministry of Finance for developmental works under plan was as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Item	Years		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
(i) Normal Central Assistance	1707.48*	1379.08*	1782.78***
(ii) Additional Central Assistance for EAP	11.10	6.51	12.42
(iii) Spl. Central Assistance for BADP	17.50	20.68	20.68
(iv) Rev. Deficit grant (Plan)	3.72	-	-
(v) Spl. plan loan		44.00	100.00

* Includes Special Central Assistance of Rs. 973 crores.

** Includes Special Central Assistance of Rs. 383.50 crores.

***Includes Special Central Assistance of Rs. 663 crores.

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

2268. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the characteristic features of "Fissile Material cut-off Treaty"

(b) the relation between the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty; and

(c) the role of Pakistan in relation to the Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) and (c) In 1993, the UNGA adopted a consensus resolution (48/75L) calling for the commencement of multilateral negotiations for a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable treaty banning the production of fissile materials for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. Pakistan joined in the consensus. However, due to lack of agreement, the CD has not yet been able to commence negotiations on an FMCT.

(b) Does not arise.

Out of Turn Allotment of Flats

2269. SHRI MANGAL RAM PREMI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of DDA flats allotted on out of turn basis during the last three years;

(b) the number of allottees actually residing in those flats;

(c) the action taken by the Government against those who have either sold or sublet the flats allotted to them on out of turn basis;

(d) whether the Government propose to conduct a survey of all the flats allotted on out of turn basis; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) As reported by DDA, 74 flats were allotted on out of turn basis during the last three years.

(b) and (c) No such survey has been conducted.

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

[Translation]

Indian Foreign Service

2270. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total strength of officers of Indian Foreign Service category post-wise;

(b) the number of SCs/STs/OBCs among them, post wise;

(c) number of backlog vacancies of these category/post-wise; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government to clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) Grade-wise strength of Indian Foreign Service officers as of end July, 1997, alongwith the number of SCs/STs/OBCs among them is as follows :-

Grade	Total No. of Officers	SCs	STs	OBCs
1	2	3	4	5
Grade-I of IFS	25	01	02	-
Grade-II of IFS	34	02	Nil	-
Grade-III of IFS	158	24	09	-

1	2	3	4	5
Grade-IV of IFS	148	26	12	-
Junior Administrative Grade + Senior Scale of IFS	171	31	12	-
Junior Scale (including Probationers)	46	05	03	08
Total	582	89	38	08

(c) and (d): There is no backlog in recruitment. Some retirement vacancies which exist will be filled through future recruitment as per the rules. The recruitment of OBCs against reserved quota commenced with 1995 batch and since then there has been no backlog. As reservation in Group 'A' Services applies only at the stage of recruitment, the question of backlog in the higher grades of Indian Foreign Service does not arise.

Cancer Hospital in Uttar Pradesh

2271. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open a Cancer Hospital in the Eastern Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if not, the alternative measures being contemplated by the Government for the diagnosis of cancer patients in the Eastern Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up such an institute in collaboration with the World Health Organisation (WHO); and

(d) if so, the time by which such a hospital is likely to be opened in Eastern Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) The Ministry has no proposal to open a Cancer Hospital in Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

(b) There is a Regional Cancer Centre at Allahabad besides which 10 other hospitals are providing cancer treatment facilities in Uttar Pradesh out of which 6 are located in Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Drug Testing Laboratories

2272. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH:
DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of drug tasting laboratories in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the number of drug tasting laboratories out of them functioning and lying closed at present, separately, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for their closure; and

(d) the efforts being made to reopen closed laboratories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) There are 19 Testing laboratories under the control of States/UTs Governments whereas there are 5 testing laboratories under the control of Central Government.

A Statement indicating numbers and location of these laboratories is annexed.

(b) As per the information available, State Government Testing Laboratories at Patna is non-functional for the last 20 years.

(c) As per the report available, the building housing the Bihar State Testing Laboratory in Patna is in a damaged condition as a result of water logging in the ground floor due to rainy season every year. Hence the Laboratory has not been provided with adequate equipments and expert testing personnel by the Government of Bihar.

(d) No proposal has been received from the Government of Bihar either for improving the structure of the building or for providing with required equipments and manpower to restart the Laboratory.

Statement

Statement showing statewise names, numbers and their location and location of Central Government Drug Testing Laboratories

Name of State	Central Laboratory	State Laboratory
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh		Hyderabad Vijayawada
Assam	Guwahati	
Bihar		Patna
Delhi		Delhi
Gujarat		Vadodare
Goa		Panjim
H.P.		Shimla

1	2	3
Haryana		Chandigarh
J&K		Jammu Srinagar
Kerala		Thiruvanthapuram
Karnataka		Bangalore
Maharashtra	Mumbai	Mumbai
Orissa		Bhubaneshwar
Punjab		Chandigarh
Rajasthan		Jaipur
Tamilnadu	Chennai	Chennai
Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziabad	Lucknow
West Bengal	Calcutta	Calcutta

MBBS Syllabus

2273 SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Medical Council has taken a decision to revise MBBS syllabus from the ansuing academic session; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposed change?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) The Medical Council of India recommendations on Graduate Medical Education containing the curriculum of MBBS course was approved by the Central Government as a regulation under section 33 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and this was conveyed to Medical Council of India (MCI) on 4.3.1997. The MCI regulation on Graduate Medical Education containing M.B.B.S. curriculum has been notified in the Part III, Section 4 of the Gazette of India on 17th May 1997. The MCI has circulated it amongst Universities for implementing the revised curriculum from the academic session 1997-98. As per the revised curriculum the four and a half years of M.B.B.S. Course has been scheduled as under:-

Three Phases	Existing duration of phase of Course	Revised duration of phases of Course
Phase I	1 1/2 Years	1 year (2 semesters)
Phase II	1 1/2 years	1 1/2 years (3 semesters)
Phase III	1 1/2 years	2 years (7 semesters)

Patel Commission

2274. SHRI MANOJ KUMAR SINHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Patel Commission was set up for the most backward districts of the Eastern Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the said Commission;

(c) the names of the development schemes formulated by the Union Government for the development of backward districts on the basis of those recommendations;

(d) whether the Union Government have made arrangements for the re-evaluation of that area on the basis of Patel Commission; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOR) : (a) to (e) Yes Sir; A joint study team known as Patel Commission was set up in December, 1962 for the development of four eastern districts viz. Ghazipur, Azamgarh, Deoria and Jaunpur of Uttar Pradesh. The Patel Commission's recommendations basically relate to the Agriculture, Cooperation, Horticulture, Irrigation and Flood control, Minor Irrigation, Industries, P.W.D. (Roads and Bridges) departments. The State Government has reported that most of the recommendations have been implemented by the end of the Fourth Five Year Plan.

Planning and Development of an area and allocation of fund for this purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Union Government have not made any arrangement for evaluation of the schemes undertaken for development of the four eastern districts since it is primarily the work of the State Government. .PA

State Government since have set up Purvanchal Vikas Nidhi during 1991 for the development of Eastern region which interalia includes reduction of regional disparities.

[English]

Respiratory Infections

2275. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether respiratory tract infection is one of the commonest reason for the deaths of infants and children in the country;

(b) whether the drug being dispensed in some of the

Government Medical Centres in the Country for treating respiratory tract infection has been found ineffective in treating majority of the children suffering from these diseases;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Under the Child Survival and Safe Motherhood Programme, Cotrimoxazole is the recommended drug for use in mild to moderate cases of pneumonia among children under 5 years of age. There are a few reports regarding resistance of common causative organisms to the drug. Most of these reports are for hospitalised cases and are based on laboratory settings. Some of these studies also show that in areas where drug resistant strains have been identified in laboratory settings, the clinical efficacy of the drug is still high. There are no adverse reports regarding the efficacy of the drug when used in field situations by the Health Workers, based on programme guidelines.

The National guidelines on use of drugs in acute respiratory infections among children are reviewed periodically. An expert group consisting of eminent national and international experts and representatives of Indian Academy of Paediatrics and Indian Council of Medical Research who reviewed the issue in March, 1997 have opined that in view of the clinical performance of Cotrimoxazole in community setting being still good any change in the policy on use of this drug should be based on clinical trials.

Clinical studies are being currently carried out at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences and by a number of agencies including the WHO.

Indian Workers in Gulf

2276. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians recruited for employment in Gulf countries during the year 1996-97 and the current year;

(b) whether the Government have received complaints that the salaries and allowances agreed to in the contract are denied to the workers by the employers;

(c) if so, the details of such cases; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMILA SINHA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Remote Sensing Technique for Treating Salt Affected Soils

2277. SHRI AYYANNA PATRUDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Remote Sensing Agency has introduced remote sensing technique for treating salt affected soils for reclamation measures which can increase food production;

(b) if so, the details of the States where these tests are being conducted;

(c) whether the Government propose to popularise this technique in coastal regions for more agricultural yield and to assist farmers in this regard?

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (e) National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) has not by itself introduced any advanced remote sensing techniques for treating salt affected soils for reclamation measures, which could increase food production.

NRSA has, however, developed the methodology for identification and delineation of salt affected soils and for categorising them into different groups based on the nature and magnitude of the problem of soil salinity, using satellite remote sensing data. The information from these maps is useful for taking further steps towards reclamation measures of salt affected soils by Agriculture Departments/ Research Institutions.

Mapping of salt affected soils on 1:250,000 scale using satellite data, has been taken up for Andhra Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The work is nearing completion.

Further, for Krishna, Guntur, Prakasam and Nellore Districts of Andhra Pradesh; Ahmedabad district in Gujarat and Mainpuri district in Uttar Pradesh, the mapping has been carried out on 1:50,000 scale using Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS) data.

Screening of AIDS Virus

2278. SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the vulnerable sections of society have been screened in each State and Union Territory separately for presence of AIDS-Virus (HIV) in blood;

(b) the percentage of these sections still remain to be screened; and

(c) the details of the Action Plan to screen out these sections indicating the allocation made therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) As on June, 30, 1997, 3131470 samples have been screened for the presence of AIDS-Virus (HIV) in various parts of the country. These samples are mostly from high risk groups of population. The State-wise details of the number of persons screened and found positive for HIV is enclosed as a Statement.

(b) and (c) The screening of blood for the presence of HIV is an ongoing process and is done on unlinked anonymous basis in 62 Surveillance Centres all over the country. To monitor the trends of HIV infection in High Risk Groups as well as sections of the general population, 55 sentinel sites all over the country have been established.

Statement

Sero-Surveillance for HIV Infection

Period of report upto: 30th June, 1997 (provisional)

S. No.	Name	Screened	Positive	Sero positivity rate (per thousand)
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1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	73275	693	9.46
2.	Assam	12716	169	13.29
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	485	0	0.00
4.	Andaman & Nicobar Island (U.T)	10588	89	8.41

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Bihar	8790	24	2.73
6.	Chandigarh (U.T)	55104	184	3.34
7.	Punjab (U.T)	1488	65	43.68
8.	Delhi	314213	1244	3.96
9.	Daman & Diu (U.T)	250	8	32.00
10.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli (U.T)	160	1	6.25
11.	Goa	61689	1215	19.70
12.	Gujarat	374078	607	1.62
13.	Haryana	135952	244	1.79
14.	Himachal Pradesh	13851	92	6.64
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	8981	40	4.45
16.	Karnataka	372602	3134	8.41
17.	Kerala	44547	215	4.33
18.	Lakshadweep (U.T)	755	7	9.27
19.	Madhya Pradesh	93062	390	4.19
20.	Maharashtra	370897	37841	102.03
21.	Manipur	28128	4807	170.90
22.	Mizoram	24838	83	3.34
23.	Meghalaya	14070	57	4.05
24.	Nagaland	7011	389	55.48
25.	Orissa	81573	201	2.46
26.	Pondicherry (U.T)	76370	2406	31.50
27.	Rajasthan	21014	234	11.14
28.	Sikkim	187	3	16.04
29.	Tamil Nadu	687934	9660	14.04
30.	Tripura	4234	2	0.47
31.	Uttar Pradesh	75545	529	7.00
32.	West Bengal	157083	567	3.61
Total		3131470	65200	20.82

[Translation]

Education for Labourer's Children

2279. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools being run by "Labour Welfare Institution" in Bihar;

(b) whether there is only one Primary, Middle and High School in Karma for the children of thousands of Labourers engaged in Mica, Lime Stone, Dolomite, Beedi and Crusher industry and registration therein has been closed since

1996;

(c) if so, whether the registration of children in Middle and High Schools of Karma is likely to be re-opened; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) The Labour Welfare Organisation of the Ministry of Labour runs one Middle School and one High School in Karma, Bihar.

(b) to (d) These schools set up and financed out of Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund are basically meant for wards of mica mine workers. Because of significant reduction in mica mining activity and closure of many mica mines, the wards of mica mine workers studying in these schools have reduced considerably and now constitute only 3% of the total strength of students. Accruals to the fund are also declining rapidly and they are not meant to be utilized for financing educational facilities for general public. Offer was made to the Government of Bihar to hand over the schools and other institutions to the State Government but has not elicited any positive response so far. Fresh admissions in these schools have been stopped since the academic session 1996-97.

[English]

World Bank Assistance for Secondary Health System

2280. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Orissa have submitted any proposals seeking World Bank Assistance for revamping and upgradation of Secondary Health System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether their projects have been forwarded to the World Bank;

(d) if so, whether the World Bank officials had visited the States and found the projects feasible and agreed to fund the projects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (e) Proposals have been received from State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Orissa seeking World Bank assistance for revamping and upgrading the Secondary Health System in their respective States. The

proposal received from Orissa Govt. has been posed for external assistance to the World Bank.

The process of obtaining World Bank assistance as per their procedures taken around eighteen to twenty four months, based on the capacity of the States to design and formulate the projects within the ambit of the requirements of the external agency. For formulation of projects, World Bank Missions also visit the concerned States. It is not possible to comments on the final dimension of the projects at this juncture.

Employees Provident Fund Scheme

2281. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to make the employees Provident Fund Scheme more effective and attractive for employees; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) and (b) At present under the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, 1952 the minimum rate of provident fund contribution is 8.33% and maximum rate is 10% of the monthly wage. In order to make the scheme more attractive the Government has decided to enhance the minimum rate of PF contribution from 8.33% to 10% and the maximum rate from 10% to 12% of the monthly wage.

Calcutta Metro Project

2282. SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of residual work made in Calcutta Metro Project; and

(b) the target date fixed for completion of the Project?

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) The Calcutta Metro Rail Project is under implementation by the Ministry of Railways. Ministry of Railways have intimated that 99.86% of the work has been completed upto May, 1997. It has further been intimated that the target date for completion of the project is June, 1998.

[English]

AIDS Testing Facility

2283. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of AIDS patients, most of whom belong to socially and economically lower sections of society, are migrating from Mumbai to Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh thereby causing much concern to the medical administration;

(b) the names of places where AIDS testing facilities are available in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) whether there is no AIDS testing facility at Kanpur city;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to provide AIDS testing facility in the said city and the time by which this facility is likely to be provided; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (e) The information is being collected from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and will be placed on the table of the Lok Sabha.

[English]

Birth/Death Rate

2284. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the average birth and death rates in the country, State/Union Territory-wise;

(b) whether the death rate in India is very high as compared to other countries;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) A Statement showing Birth and Death Rates from Sample Registration System (SRS) for the year 1995 is enclosed.

(b) No, Sir. According to the estimates published by UNFPA in "State of World Population" the Death Rate for India during 1990-95 is 10 (per 1000 population) which is higher than neighbouring countries China, Thailand, Indonesia, Korea and Sri Lanka. However, the Death Rate for the more developed regions is same as that of India for the same period.

(c) and (d) Although the death rate has declined, health

services are being provided through a large net work of Primary Health Centres/Sub-centres/Government Hospitals in addition to involvement of NGOs and Private Hospital set up. Various programmes for the family welfare have been integrated into one integrated programme designated "Reproductive & Child Health" and under this programme the range and quality of health care would be improved during the IX Plan. This is expected to further lower the death rate in the country.

Statement

Birth Rates & Death Rates-1995

Sl. No.	State/UT	Crude Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate
1	2	3	4
	INDIA	28.3#	9.0
I. MAJOR STATES			
1.	Andhra Pr.	24.2	8.4
2.	Assam	29.3	9.6
3.	Bihar	32.1	10.5
4.	Gujarat	26.7	7.6
5.	Haryana	29.9	8.1
6.	Karnataka	24.1	7.6
7.	Kerala	18.0	6.0
8.	Madhya Pr.	33.2	11.2
9.	Maharashtra	24.5	7.5
10.	Orissa	27.8	10.8
11.	Punjab	24.6	7.3
12.	Rajasthan	33.3	9.1
13.	Tamil Nadu	20.3	8.0
14.	Uttar Pr.	34.8	10.3
15.	West Bengal	23.6	7.9
II. SMALLER STATES			
1.	Arunachal Pr.	23.8	6.0
2.	Delhi	23.3	6.0
3.	Goa	14.7	7.5
4.	Himachal Pr.	25.2	8.7
5.	J & K	NA	NA
6.	Manipur	20.6	6.7
7.	Meghalaya	29.0	8.9
8.	Mizoram	NA	NA
9.	Nagaland	NA	NA

1	2	3	4
10.	Sikkim	22.5	6.9
11.	Tripura	18.9	7.7

III. UNION TERRITORIES

1.	A & N Islands	18.7	5.8
2.	Chandigarh	19.5	5.7
3.	D & N Haveli	29.7	8.2
4.	Daman & Diu	21.8	8.0
5.	Lakshadweep	25.5	7.6
6.	Pondicherry	20.1	7.6

Source - Sample Registration System, RG, India

#: Excludes J & K & Mizoram

NA: Not Available

[Translation]

MPLADS Plan

2285. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the amount provided under MPLADS is spent/can be spent by the District Magistrates as per the instructions of the Members of Parliament;

(b) whether the Government have received some complaints that the District Magistrates have spent the amount arbitrarily or have spent more amount than the amount approved by the Member of Parliament;

(c) if so, the action the Government propose to take against the concerned officer in this regard;

(d) if so, whether the concerned Member of Parliament is also informed of the action taken; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR): (a) The District Magistrates are to implement the works recommended by a Member of Parliament, provided these are in conformity with the guidelines on the scheme and feasible.

(b) to (e) Some such complaints have been reported. The matter has been taken up with DCs/State Govts for appropriate action, under intimation to concerned MPs.

Primary Health Centres in Bihar

2286. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA:
SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of Primary Health Centres functioning at present in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): As per the information received from the State of Bihar, the details of Primary Health Centres functioning in the State, as on August, 1995, are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of District	No. of PHCs
1	2	3
1.	Patna	79
2.	Nalanda	51
3.	Bhojpur	71
4.	Rohtas	82
5.	Aurangabad	69
6.	Jehanabad	44
7.	Gaya	84
8.	Nawada	41
9.	Saran	59
10.	Siwan	55
11.	Gopal Ganj	37
12.	Paschim Champaran	54
13.	Purba Champaran	74
14.	Sitamarhi	68
15.	Muzaffarpur	67
16.	Vaishali	50
17.	Begusarai	48
18.	Samstipur	67
19.	Darbhanga	60
20.	Madhubani	87
21.	Saharsa	52
22.	Madhepura	23
23.	Purnia	99
24.	Katihar	39
25.	Khagaria	21
26.	Munger	95
27.	Bhagalpur	77
28.	Godda	18
29.	Sahibganj	47
30.	Dumka	69

1	2	3
31.	Deoghar	14
32.	Dhanbad	43
33.	Giridih	49
34.	Hazaribagh	62
35.	Palamau	68
36.	Lohardaga	20
37.	Gumla	40
38.	Ranchi	68
39.	Singhbhum	68
TOTAL		2209

[English]

Release of Fishermen

2287. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan have released some fishermen/other persons detained by them; and

(b) if so, the number of fisherman/other persons detained in the jails in both the countries and number of them released both by India and Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA): (a) and (b): During the Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan held in Islamabad from 19-23 June, 1997 it was decided that fishermen/crew members of fishing vessels/cargo boats confirmed by both countries to be held in each other's custody would be released. Accordingly India released 194 Pakistani fishermen and crew members and Pakistan released 193 Indian fishermen and crew members on 15th July, 1997. The Indian fishermen and crew members returned to India on 15.07.97.

During the Foreign Secretary level talks, it was also agreed that efforts would be made to confirm the remaining fishermen and crew members held in each other's custody. Government are pursuing the matter with the Government of Pakistan through diplomatic channels. Our efforts for the release/repatriation of all Indian prisoners under detention in Pakistan, including the remaining Indian fishermen and crew members continue.

[Translation]

Vacant Reserved Posts

2288. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT:
SHRI N.J. RATHWA

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of posts reserved for SCs/STs lying vacant in his Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and its allied departments category-wise;

(b) whether non-SC/ST employees are working on these posts;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to fill up the back log of SC/ST; and

(e) the time by which these posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a): As per information available as on 31st March, 1997, the following category-wise posts to be filled by Direct Recruitment Method and reserved for SCs/STs are lying vacant in the Department of the Ministry of Health and F.W. and its subordinate offices;

S.No.	Group	SCs	STs
1.	'A'	5	19
2.	'B'	1	-
3.	'C'	74	136
4.	'D'	-	4

(b) Non-SC/ST employees are not appointed on a regular basis to the posts reserved for SC/ST.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) From time to time, the Government has launched Special Recruitment Drives to fill up the posts reserved for SC/ST. Efforts are made to fill up the backlog vacancies by sending requisitions to the UPSC/SSC/Others (advertisements issued/requisition sent to Employment Exchange) by this Ministry and its allied departments.

(e) Efforts are being made to fill up the posts as early as possible. However no time frame can be prescribed.

[English]

Employment Abroad

2289. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether North Korea/South Korea has offered jobs to skilled labour from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to avail of such a facility; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (d): The Korean Government had announced a new policy decision to allow entry of limited number of foreign workers in the Korean market. Government of India is examining the matter regarding the possibility of Indian workers going to South Korea for work.

Immunisation

2290. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:
DR. ASIM BALA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the family welfare and vaccination programmes are not being carried out efficiently and smoothly in some of the State in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of such states where the aforesaid programme is not being implemented properly; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to run these programmes smoothly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) The Family Welfare Programme being a centrally sponsored one, is voluntary and its acceptance level depends on factors like effectiveness of State Government set up and of NGOs in the area, Socio-Economic conditions, literacy and status of women in the community. The performance is comparatively weak in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir and in North Eastern States.

(d): Keeping in view the wide awareness already created, the effort now is to improve the quality of services for the people. Various programmes have been integrated into one integrated programme designated "Reproductive and Child Health". The system of setting contraceptive targets from the top has been replaced by decentralised planning of services at the level of the Primary Health Centre. In the IXth Plan, the States, Districts which are lagging behind are proposed to be given greater attention.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts

2291. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts belonging to ST/OBC lying vacant under his Ministry/department, category-wise; and

(b) the details of the steps taken by the Government to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) The information is being gathered and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Shortage of Homoeopath Doctors

2292. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4630 dated May 5, 1997 regarding Homoeopathy System of Medicine and state:

(a) whether the required information has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) Information has not yet been received from NCT Government of Delhi.

(c): The concerned authorities have been reminded. As soon as the information is available, it will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

[English]

Delayed Projects

2293. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has asked the Central Ministries and State Governments to follow certain criteria for deciding the fate of projects which have been considerably delayed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The guidelines for classification of Plan and Non-Plan expenditure during the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002) issued to the Central Government, State Governments and UTs inter alia state that projects due for completion by the

end of the Eighth Plan in which less than 10 per cent of the outlay has been spent should be separately identified for shelving/dropping or transferring to the private/joint sectors.

CGHS Facilities

2294. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a policy of the Union Government to provide CGHS facilities atleast at one place in all the States and Union Territories as well as in all the State capitals;

(b) if so, the policy of the Government about the opening of CGHS dispensaries/Hospitals under the administrative control of Union Government in various parts of the country;

(c) whether CGHS facilities are not available at present in the Union Territory of Chandigarh;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the CGHS facilities are likely to be made available in the Union Territory of Chandigarh

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (e) As per current policy, CGHS is in the first instance to be extended to State Capitals depending on the feasibility, requirements, fulfilment of the CGHS norms, and availability of resources.

The city of Chandigarh has been proposed for inclusion for coverage in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

Labour Welfare Scheme

2295. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any rules have been formulated to safeguard the interests of the labourers/workers engaged in medium industries in the countries;

(b) if so, whether medical and insurance facilities are available to the labourers/workers in said industries;

(c) whether the said rules are being followed in the medium industries located in Madhya Pradesh and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the action taken against such industries which are violating the rules?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the house.

Payment of Provident Fund

2296. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
SHRI HARADHAN ROY :
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cases for the payment of Provident Fund are lying pending;

(b) if so, the number thereof as on date, State-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for early settlement of Provident Fund and Pension cases including Sitapur Plywood Limited (Sitapur), Damodar Enterprises Limited, Bengal Paper Mill Company Limited and Ajoy Glass Works (located in Raniganj)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The EPF Claims complete in all respects are required to be settled within 30 days from the date of its receipt in the EPF Office. However, sometime settlement of PF claim is delayed because of submission of incomplete application forms, non-submission of returns by the employer, difference in signature etc. A Statement showing pending PF claims State-wise is enclosed.

(c) In order to provide prompt service to the subscribers a massive computerisation programme has been launched in the EPF Organisation. A Central Action Plan has also been formulated for regular monitoring of settlement of PF Claims. The grievances redressal Machinery in the EPF Organisation has been strengthened and reactivated so as to ensure early settlement of PF Claims.

Statement

Pending PF Claims as on 31.3.97

Name of the Region.	No. of Claims.
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	118
Bihar	1638
Delhi	497
Gujarat	14190
Haryana	1722
Karnataka	3826

1	2
Kerala	711
Madhya Pradesh	3994
Maharashtra & Goa	14879
N.E. Region	1256
Orissa	143
Punjab & Himachal	2414
Rajasthan	1506
Tamilnadu	1537
Uttar Pradesh	1312
West Bengal	8617

Expenditure on Health Surgery

2297. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV:
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to meet the entire expenditure to be incurred on heart surgery from Prime Minister's relief fund or to provide free heart operation facilities to poor people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no scheme at present to meet the entire expenditure incurred on heart surgery or to provide free heart operation facilities to poor people. However, a scheme has recently been launched (NIAF) whereby the financial assistance would be given to patients, who belong to families living below poverty line, for undergoing specialised medical treatment for various life-threatening diseases, wherein cardiac diseases are also included. The details of this scheme have been given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

(a) National Illness Assistance Fund (NIAF) has been set up vide Ministry of Health & F.W. Resolution dated 13.1.97 which has been published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) Part I Section-I) [No.9]. It has been provided in this scheme that every State/U.T. (with Legislature) may set up an Illness Assistance Fund which shall be a registered society. The donation received by this society from State Govt./UT Admn. will be supplemented by a Grant in aid from Central Govt. to the extent of 50% of the contribution made by the State Govt./UT subject to a

maximum of Rs. 5 crores for states which have a larger proportion of population living below poverty line and Rs. 2 crores for other states/UTs. The poverty line shall be as defined by the Planning Commission. The fund could also be subscribed by individuals, corporate bodies and other National/International philanthropic organisations. The contribution received by this fund would be exempt from payment of income tax under Section 80(G) of Income Tax Act. The accounts of the society would be audited by AG of the State/UT every year.

This fund would release financial assistance to patients below poverty line in India suffering from life threatening diseases for undergoing medical treatment of any of the superspeciality Hospital/Institutes or other Govt./Private Hospitals participating in the scheme. The assistance will be in the form of a one time grant which will be released to the Medical superintendent of the Hospital, in which the treatment has been received.

A provision of Rs. 25 crores has been made in the budget grant of Ministry of Health & FW during 1996-97 for release of grant in aid to State/UT. A similar amount has been provided in the 1997-98 budget also.

It has also been decided that National Illness Assistance Fund should be set up with an initial donation from Ministry of Health & F.W of Rs. 5 crores. This fund would also be subscribed by Individuals corporate bodies and Non-corporate bodies. The contribution made to this fund will also be exempt from payment of Income-Tax under Section 80(G) of Income Tax Act. The management Committee of NIAF will be chaired by Union Health Minister. The NIAF will be a registered society and its accounts will be subject to audit by C & AG every year.

Whereas the quantum of financial assistance to a poor patient is less than Rs. 1.5 lakhs, the release will be done by the fund at the State/UT level and if the quantum of assistance is in excess of Rs. 1.5 lakhs in an individual case, the case will be recommended to NIAF at the Centre.

NIAF will decide about the budget outlay for grant of similar assistance to be released to such population living in the UTs, without legislature.

(d) Applications for necessary assistance under this scheme can be addressed to the Illness Assistance Fund of the respective States/UTs or NIAF. The applicant has to apply to state Govt. to which he belongs alongwith the estimate of the expenditure of the illness from the Hospital where the treatment is being received or, will be received and a certificate of his proof of income duly certified by the competent authority of the State. The state illness fund

will examine the case and will process it in case the expenditure is within Rs. 1.50 lakhs in each case. In case it exceeds this limit it will be forwarded to the Central Govt. along with their recommendations for processing the case under NIAF.

Allotment of Land to Social Institutions

2298. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allotted land to the social institutions and trusts on concessional rates;

(b) if so, the details of such allotment made in Delhi during the last three years;

(c) the details of such social institutions/trusts who have applied for allotment of land but no decision has been taken on their applications; and

(d) the time by which a final decision on such applications is likely to be taken and allotment of land is to be made to them?

The MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) Yes, Sir. Allotment of land to social institutions is made at the concessional rates prescribed by the Government depending upon the categories of the institutions and activities thereof.

(b) During the preceding three years allotments of land have been made in 8 cases by DDA and L&DO put together at concessional rates. The list of such institutions is enclosed as Statement.

(c) and (d) Allotment of land depends on availability and demand thereof. In cases where the request are accommodated, allotments are made and regret letters are issued by the Land Owning Agencies in other cases. No specific details in this regard, however, are maintained and the requests are disposed off at various levels case by case.

Statement

List of Institutions to whom Land Allotted on concessional rates during the Last Three Years

1. Shri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam Charitable Trust (0.641 acres)
2. Kathak Kendra (2325.558 sq. mts.)
3. Delhi Symphony Society (760.534 sq. mts.)
4. Sant Nirankari Mandal.

5. Virendra Nath Jamuna Dass Charitable Trust.

6. B.R. Dhawan Mem. Charitable Trust.

7. Tagore Academy.

8. Children Medical Foundations.

[English]

Federal Bureau of Investigation Station in India

2299. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR:

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States has asked the Government of India permission to set up a 'declared' Federal Bureau of Investigation station in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI):

(a) and (b): No formal request has been received from the United States Government for permission to set up a separate office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in India.

(c): Does not arise.

Leprosy Eradication Centres

2300. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of leprosy eradication centres functioning in Madhya Pradesh particularly in tribal areas;

(b) the assistance provided by the Union Government to these centres during 1994, 1995 and 1996;

(c) whether these centres have also been receiving assistance from World Health Organisation; and the details of assistance received of these centres during the above period;

(d) whether free medicines are being provided to the patients in these centres; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme the number of units functioning in Madhya Pradesh including tribal areas are as under:-

1. Leprosy Control Unit/Modified Control Unit - 54
2. Urban Leprosy Centre - 72
3. Survey, Education & Treatment (SET) Centres - 530
4. District Leprosy office Unit - 23
5. Temporary hospitalisation Ward - 14
6. Sample, Survey-cum-assessment Units (SSAU) - 5
7. Mobile Leprosy Treatment Unit (MLTU) - 40

(b) The assistance provided by the Government of India to the State of Madhya Pradesh during the year 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 is as under:-

Year	Assistance (Rs. in Lakhs)		
	Cash	Kind	Total
1993-94	125.00	55.39	180.39
1994-95	117.00	99.81	216.81
1995-96	129.75	242.95	372.70
1996-97	135.00	157.54	292.54

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. Anti Leprosy Drugs are provided to State Government for making them available in the Centres for free supply or to leprosy patients.

(e) Does not arise.

Development of Regional Cancer Centre

2301. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to develop the Regional Cancer Centre at Trivandrum;

(b) if so, the allocation made to the State Government for the purpose;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up Cancer Centres in the State of Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) A fully developed Regional Cancer Centres is already in existence at Trivandrum. As per the policy, financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 75.00 lakhs is being allocated during this financial year to the

centre to carryout research activities and purchase of equipments.

(c) The Central Government has at present no scheme for setting up Cancer Centres in Kerala.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

National Slum Development Programme

2302 SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to implement the National Slum Development Programme in the Country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Slum Development Programme was launched in August, 1996 to provide additional Central Assistance to the States/UTs. During the year 1996-97 an amount of Rs. 250 crores was allocated to the States/UTs for Slum Development. A sum of Rs. 330 crores has been provided under this programme for the current year i.e. 1997-98. A copy of the guidelines formulated for the implementation of the programme is enclosed as Statement.

Statement

PLANNING COMMISSION

(HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT DIVISION)

Sub.: Centrally Assisted Slum Development Programme in the States/UTs - Guidelines.

A provision of Rs. 250 crores for slum development programme in the States has been made by the Ministry of Finance in the budget for 1996-97 as an additionality to the normal Central Assistance to the States/UTs. The State-wise allocation of Rs. 250 crores has been worked out by the Planning Commission on the basis of the estimated slum population in 1991. The following guidelines have been suggested for the utilisation of this amount.

1. OBJECTIVES & COMPONENTS OF THE PROGRAMME :

The objectives of this programme shall be provision of adequate and satisfactory water supply, sanitation, primary education facilities, health care, pre-primary, adult literacy and non-formal education facilities etc. The scheme will also have as an objective, provision of housing, community empowerment, garbage and solid waste

management, as well as environmental improvement and convergence of different social sector programmes through creation of sustainable support systems. The focus may be on community infrastructure, provision of shelter, empowerment of urban poor women, training, skill upgradation and advocacy and involvement of MGOs, CBOs, private institutions and other bodies.

2. ROLE OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES:

In keeping with the spirit of 74th Amendment, the existence of elected urban local bodies will be mandatory before funds can be released to new urban area. The programme envisages the urban local body as the nodal agency for the execution of this programme. Proposals for work to be undertaken under this programme must emanate from the CDSs in the form of a Community Plan, which will be forwarded by the ULB with appropriate comments to the DUDA for sanction. Execution of all works falling under the jurisdiction of the ULB may be done through the ULB as far as possible. The ULBs shall try to involve the CDSs in the execution, to the extent possible. As regards maintenance and repair of works carried out under this programme, the physical responsibility may be that of the CDSs concerned.

3. CONVERGENCE:

This programme may seek to ensure provision of certain identified basic minimum services, within each slum. The Programme may provide for facilities not provided elsewhere in the line department schemes, the absence of which makes effective implementation of these social sector schemes ineffective. In other words, missing links will be provided under this programme. However, this may be clearly subject to the proviso that, funds under convergence will be a source of supplementing line department efforts to achieve better delivery of social sector schemes and under no circumstances will these funds be used to substitute line department schemes or parts thereof.

4. The State Governments should bring in their own funds bearing some proportion to the funds given by the Centre.

5. MONITORING:

At the State level, the programme will regularly be monitored by the State Urban Development Authority (SUDA), which may issue necessary guidance as well as instructions to the District Urban Development Authorities (DUDAs) and ULBs. At the national level, the programme will be monitored by the Department of Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation.

[English]

KALA-AZAR

2303. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of Kala-Azar in the country;
- (b) whether Kala-Azar is spreading speedily in the country;
- (c) if so, the areas where Kala-Azar is prevalent; and
- (d) the preventive measures taken to control the disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Kala-Azar is endemic in Bihar and West Bengal. Sporadic cases have also been recorded in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) & (c) No, Sir. 36 Districts of Bihar and 10 Districts in West Bengal are endemic to Kala-Azar. Further, 8 Districts of Uttar Pradesh are also reporting sporadic incidence of the disease.

(d) The strategies adopted for control of Kala-Azar include:-

- Residual insecticidal spraying in the affected areas to interrupt transmission through vector control.
- Early detection and complete treatment through Primary Health Care system.
- Health Education and Community Participation.

[Translation]

Allotment of Government Houses to Freedom Fighters

2304. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the rules for allotment of Government houses to the freedom fighters;
- (b) the details of such allotments made in R.K. Puram, New Delhi during each of the last three years; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to cancel such allotment where the allottee freedom fighters are not residing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The rules/guidelines for allotment of Government houses to freedom fighters are contained in the Dte. of Estates O.M. No. 12016(2)/80-Pol. II(Vol-V) dated 19.4.94. A copy of the OM is enclosed as Statement to this reply. However, as per the Supreme Court Judgment dt. 23.12.96 in CWP No. 585/94 allotment to freedom fighter in future is to be made out of the 5% discretionary quota permitted by the Court.

(b) The following allotments have been made to freedom fighters in R.K. Puram during the last 3 years:-

S.No.	Name	Qtrs. No
1.	Shri R.P. Gupta	Type-D, Qtr. No.1043/7, R.K. Puram allotted on 12.6.96.
2.	Shri Virendra Verma	Type-D Qtr. No. 629/4, R.K. Puram allotted on 4.12.96.

(c) No such case has come to our notice.

Statement

No. 12016(2)/80-Pol.II (Vol.V)
Government of India
Directorate of Estates

New Delhi, the 19.4.94

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Sub. : Review of guidelines for allotment of General Pool residential accommodation to freedom fighters.

Guidelines for allotment of General Pool residential accommodation to the freedom fighters were reviewed by the Govt. and it has been decided to revise the guidelines as follows:-

Freedom Fighters of All India Standing may be allowed general pool residential accommodation provides:-

- They do not own a house or a flat in their name or in the name of their family members or dependents in Delhi.
- The accommodation is required for bonafide medical treatment of the freedom fighter or his/her spouse.
- The case is specifically recommended by the Ministry of Home Affairs who should give detailed

justification necessitating allotment of accommodation and also recommend period of allotment in case of those freedom fighters who are below 70 years in age. In case of those above 70 years in age it should be for 'life-time' and not necessarily on medical grounds.

- Type of accommodation would be restricted to type-D and below.
- Normal licence fee shall be charged.
- The spouse of freedom fighter residing in Govt. accommodation allotted to the freedom fighter shall be entitled to retain the accommodation even after the demise of the freedom fighter for the stipulated period of allotment.
- The revised guidelines shall be effective from 10.2.94, the date on which the decision was taken by the CCA.

Sd/-

(O.P. Bhatia)
Dy. Director of Estates

[English]

Memory Plus Drug

2305. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a medicine in capsule form brand name 'Memory Plus' launched by the then Prime Minister on February 28th, 1996 is being sold in the market;

(b) if so, whether this product has been checked and certified by the Indian Council of Medical Research/ Central Drug Research Institute for use; and

(c) the measures the Government have taken to ensure that said drug is free from side effects and really increases the memory and retention power so that the general public does not duped by the wide publicity of the drug by its manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENJKA CHOWDHURY): *(a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Lok Sabha.

*The original reply by the Minister reads as follows:-

(a), (b) and (c) : Central Drugs Research Instt., Lucknow has developed "MEMORY PLUS" which has been found to facilitate learning and memory. The drug based on the classical ayurvedic drug "Brahmi" used as "Medhya Rasayan" (Memory enhancer).

Central Drugs Research Instt., Lucknow has conducted the following studies on efficacy and safety of "Memory Plus":-

- 1) Standardization of Brahmi Extract (Trade Name: Memory Plus) based on bacoside content (the active ingredient).
- 2) Safety studies (Regulatory Pharmacology and Toxicology) as conducted for Modern Drug Development.
- 3) Standardized Brahmi extract (Memory Plus) found to facilitates learning and memory in animal models.

"Memory Plus" is marketed by M/S Velvet International Pharma Products Ltd. under Ayurvedic Drug License issued by Drug Controller, Tamilnadu.

The reply as printed above was sent by the Minister afterwards in substitution of the original reply"

Child Labour

2306. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the studies conducted by the International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) ILO have observed that productivity goes down affecting profitability in industries where children are employed:

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the remedial steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Border Route at Demchok

2307. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3768 on September 2, 1996, regarding border route at Demchok and state:

(a) whether further discussions with the Chinese counterparts have been held in the recent past for opening

of border at Demchok in Ladakh; and

- (b) if so, the progress/outcome of the talks held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The proposal for opening of Demchok, in Ladakh, for border trade and for pilgrimage to Kailash-Mansarovar was taken up with the Chinese side during the 9th meeting of the India-China Joint Working Group, in Beijing, in October 1996, and during the 5th meeting of the India-China Experts Group, in New Delhi, in March 1997.

(b) The Chinese side are yet to indicate acceptance of our proposal. The issue will continue to remain under discussion with the Chinese side.

[Translation]

Indians In Gulf Countries

2308. DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Indians staying in the Gulf countries; country-wise;

(b) whether any agreement has been signed with the Governments of the Gulf countries for safeguarding the interests of Indians staying there; and

- (c) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMALA SINHA) : (a) As per information available with Government approximate number of Indian nationals staying in Gulf countries is as follow:

1. Bahrain	1,00,000
2. Iraq	80
3. Kuwait	1,95,000
4. Oman	3,31,500
5. Qatar	80,000
6. Saudi Arabia	13,00,000
7. UAE	10,00,000
8. Yemen	4,000

(b) and (c) There are no bilateral agreements between the Government of India and the Governments of Gulf countries for the welfare and protection of Indians staying in those countries. However, all Indian Missions/Post are under instructions to look after the welfare of and protect

Indian citizens through regular contacts with foreign governments and Indian associations. Free access is provided to Indian citizens to officials in Indian Missions/ Posts in case of difficulties.

If the dispute is with the employer, the Indian Missions, at first, try to resolve the differences between the aggrieved worker and the employer to arrive at a mutually acceptable solution. Wherever necessary, cases are taken up with the concerned authorities of the foreign government to persuade the employers to redress the grievances of Indian workers. Where no alternative employment or any solution is possible despite best efforts of the Mission, all assistance is given to facilitate repatriation of the aggrieved worker.

If the grievance relates to action taken by local authorities, the matter is taken up with the foreign government to resolve the problem within the framework of local laws and taking into account our friendly relations with the country concerned.

Industrial Accidents

2309. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of accidents occurred in industrial establishments of Uttar Pradesh during the last three years as on date;

(b) whether the Government have issued or propose to issue instructions to prevent such accidents in future and to provide sufficient safeguards in these industrial establishments;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) According to the information received from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, the number of accidents occurred in the Industrial Establishments in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years is as under:-

Year	No. of fatal	No. of Non-fatal	Total
1993	74	2661	2735
1994	85	2632	2717
1995	102	1967	2069

(b) to (d) Yes, Safety measures required to be taken to check occurrence of accidents have been laid down in

the Factories' Act, 1984 and the Rules framed thereunder. All industrial establishments are required to follow the same. All cases of accidents resulting in death or serious bodily injuries are enquired by the officers of the Directorate of Factories of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and steps are suggested for prevention of such accidents. Inspections by the Factory Inspectors of the State Government are done on random basis once in every year. In cases where any negligence is noticed in implementing the provisions of safety, health and welfare of workers under the statute by the occupier legal action is taken against the occupier of the Factory.

NGO's Co-operation in AIDS Control

2310. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the names of non-Governmental organisations engaged in controlling AIDS in the country and the amount of assistance provided to each of these organisations during the last three years;

(b) the number of voluntary organisations to whom assistance is likely to be provided during 1997-98;

(c) whether these voluntary organisations are authorised for training and testing AIDS cases;

(d) whether any assistance is being given for organising Seminars, Workshops and visits for creating awareness about AIDS; and

(e) if so, the manner in which the assistance is being provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) A list of Non-Governmental Organisations who have been provided financial assistance during the last three years directly by this Ministry is enclosed.

(b) The Project Proposals of five Non-Governmental Organisations are being examined.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The Voluntary Organisations/ Professional Bodies are required to submit their proposals in the prescribed proforma giving detailed information, and their requests are considered in accordance with the prescribed guidelines.

Statement

List of N.G.Os who who have been provided financial assistance during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98.

1995-96		Rs.
1		2
1.	Indian Association for Adolescent Health, New Delhi.	30,000/-
2.	Society for the Promotion of Youth & Masses. (SPYM), New Delhi.	8,12,000/-
3.	Kuki Cultural Research Institute, Manipur.	35,000/-
4.	AIDS Prevention Society, Guwahati.	2,56,520/-
5.	Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences, Delhi.	50,000/-
6.	Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, New Delhi.	18,84,000/-
1996-97		
1.	Drishtikon, New Delhi.	42,000/-
2.	Youth Technical Training Society, Chandigarh.	1,50,000/-
3.	Rural Community Development Services, Manipur.	1,25,000/-
4.	AIDS Prevention Society, Guwahati, Assam.	1,75,000/-
5.	Rural Women Upliftment Association, Guwahati.	50,000/-
6.	DISHA, New Delhi.	5,00,000/-
7.	Good Shephard Ministry, Kohima, Nagaland.	1,00,000/-
8.	Indian Council of Social Marketing, New Delhi.	6,25,000/-
9.	Jan Shakti Vahini, New Delhi.	2,00,000/-
10.	AIDS Prevention Society, Guwahati.	84,950/-
11.	South Eastern Rural Development Organisation, Manipur.	1,00,000/-
12.	Rural Development Society, Manipur.	1,00,000/-
13.	Indian Medical Association, New Delhi.	1,00,000/-
14.	Sakshi, New Delhi.	50,000/-
15.	Scientific Illustration and Educational Technology, New Delhi.	1,50,000/-
16.	Indian Medical Association, New Delhi.	3,75,000/-

	1	2
17.	First Indian Public Health Congress, Calcutta.	50,000/-
18.	TORCH, New Delhi.	1,75,000/-
19.	Health for All Organisation, Manipur.	75,000/-
20.	Indo-National Socio Economic Foundation, Bhubaneswar.	2,50,000/-
21.	Programme Ethetical Academic and Cultural Enterprises,	1,20,000/-
22.	Mirage Art Gallery, New Delhi.	5,62,500/-
23.	Jan Shakti Vahini, New Delhi.	34,700/-
1997-98		
1.	Baruka, Calcutta.	10,92,332/-
2.	Indian Network of N.G.Os, Ahmedabad.	50,000/-
3.	Programme for Ethical Academic and Cultural Enterprises, Saharanpur.	30,000/-
4.	Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh Catholic Health Association, New Delhi.	30,000/-
5.	Rural Development Society, Manipur.	1,00,000/-
6.	Inner Wheel Club, Delhi Ridge.	15,000/-
7.	TORCH, New Delhi.	1,40,000/-
8.	Jan Shakti Vahini, New Delhi.	5,000/-
9.	-do-	2,40,000/-
10.	Mirage Art Gallery of Arts, New Delhi.	1,87,500/-
11.	-do-	1,87,500/-

[English]

Computers in Government Offices

2311. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Committee under the Chairmanship of Telecommunication Secretary has recommended use of Computers in all Government offices;

(b) if so, whether the panel has also recommended that a time-bound programme may be chalked out to make the State's functioning responsive to the citizen;

(c) if so, the details of other recommendations made; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to implement the said recommendations?

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

OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (SH. S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (d) An Expert Group for Computerisation of the Information on Personnel and Citizen Services was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri N. Vittal, Chairman, Public Enterprises Selection Board (former Secretary, Department of Telecommunications) on 26th December, 1996. The recommendations of the Group include the following:

- i) The Ministries may have a five year plan for Information Technology and a specific provision should be made in the budget of the Ministries for computerisation so that there is a clear goal and the resources to achieve it are available.
- ii) In order to increase the awareness of the need for IT effectively, in every department there have to be wide ranging workshops and seminars involving all levels of administration from the highest to the lowest preferably in the model of vertical integration courses in IAS.
- iii) In order to spread the IT culture, restrictions regarding the level at which the computers can be permitted should be removed. Computers should be available to any government servant who is interested in IT. They should also be permitted to install computers in their homes, if necessary.
- iv) Secretaries of Ministries must identify suitable persons with an aptitude for computers who can perform the role of leaders and mentors in spreading the culture of IT not only in the Ministry but also in subordinate organisations.
- v) The State Governments also need to be encouraged to increase the use of IT as without computerisation in the States this technology cannot be used to improve the delivery of services and improve the responsiveness of administration.
- vi) Each Ministry/Department must allocate 2 to 3% of its Budget for spending on IT so that there is an increase in the availability of funds for training in IT and acquisition of hardware, software as well as for the development of software and maintenance.

2. A Conference of Chief Ministers of States/Union Territories was held under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister in New Delhi on 24.5.97 to discuss an Action Plan for Effective and Responsive Government. One of the

issues discussed at the Conference related to access of the public to information from public offices. The Statement adopted at the Conference declares that the on-going efforts for systematic and phased computerisation of governmental operations would be speeded up with the help of the National Informatics Centre.

3. A Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary to elaborate different elements of the Action Plan in terms of operational contents, and to work out the decisions required at the Central and State levels.

4. In order to operationalise the Conference Statement relating to the computerisation of governmental operations at Central, State and district levels, and to assist the Implementation Committee set up under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary, a Core Group has been constituted on 2nd July, 1997 under the Chairmanship of Shri N. Vittal, Chairman, Public Enterprises Selection Board. The terms of reference of this Group include implementation of the recommendations made by the Expert Group which was constituted earlier on 26.12.96.

Kalapani Issue

2312. SHRI SARAT PAFTANAYAK :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether talks with Nepal have been initiated for resolving matters relating to Kalapani in Himalayan region; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) and (b) 1. During the visit of the Prime Minister to Nepal from 5th to 7th June, 1997, it was decided that the expert-level Joint Working Group (JWG) constituted by the Joint Technical Level Boundary Committee should meet within a month to examine relevant facts relating to the demarcation of the boundary alignment in the western sector, including the Kalapani area, and to propose, if necessary, further measures in this regard.

2. In accordance with the decision taken during Prime Minister's visit, the JWG met in Kathmandu in the first week of July, 1997. The two sides had a useful initial exchange of views on the demarcation of the boundary alignment in the western sector, including the Kalapani area. It was agreed to continue the dialogue.

[Translation]

Kidney Transplantation

2313. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding illegal trade of kidney transplantation and violation of rules prescribed there for during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) if so, the number of complaints received upto June, 1997, state-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government on these complaints till now;

(d) whether the Government propose to take steps to prevent the illegal trade of kidney transplantation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) During 1995-96, various States had reported cases of illicit trade in human organs where arrests had either been made or where cases were at various stages of investigation. The cases reported related mainly to the NCT of Delhi, and the States of Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and residents of West Bengal, but being police cases the details were restricted to the arrests made only.

(b) to (e) The State Governments have been asked to furnish up-to-date information on the implementation of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, the complaints received, including the arrests made. In order to see that the monitoring of the implementation of the Act is taken up in earnest, the matter had been discussed with selected Members of Parliament, who have been given the details of progress in adoption of the Act, State-wise. At present, all States except the following have adopted the Act, viz. Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Tripura, and Uttar Pradesh.

HUDCO Assistance

[English]

2314. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA :
SHRI SAMIK LAHIRI :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds provided by the Housing and

Urban Development Corporation to the states during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the criteria adopted by HUDCO to provide assistance to the States;

(c) whether the Gujarat State Housing Federation has submitted any proposal to HUDCO for financial assistance; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (b) HUDCO makes annual State-wise allocation of loans for housing projects on the basis of area and population of the concerned States. Since 1995-96, HUDCO has started making 50% of its loan allocations on the above basis and balance 50% is allocated on the basis of demands received from implementing agencies. No such prior allocation is made for urban infrastructure projects which are sanctioned by HUDCO on merits subject to availability of funds.

State-wise details of loan sanctioned by HUDCO during the last three years i.e. 1994-95 to 1996-97 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) No such scheme has been received in HUDCO.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

State-wise Loans Sanctioned by HUDCO during 1994-95 to 1996-97

S.No.	States	Loan Sanctioned (Rs. in crores)		
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	97.05	186.11	503.79
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	-
3.	Assam	41.27	50.02	73.74
4.	Bihar	24.51	42.31	51.09
5.	Gujarat	78.54	83.85	86.53
6.	Goa	9.00	0.72	11.35
7.	Haryana	34.27	60.68	17.45
8.	Himachal Pradesh	6.06	35.68	26.06
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	16.49	19.64	3.69
10.	Karnataka	432.18	140.14	263.54
11.	Kerala	249.70	209.04	241.42

1	2	3	4	5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	71.78	75.91	82.46
13.	Maharashtra	73.90	75.63	71.61
14.	Manipur	6.06	5.77	39.65
15.	Meghalaya	14.31	0.94	8.07
16.	Mizoram	0.00	5.26	5.72
17.	Nagaland	5.77	0.00	5.89
18.	Orissa	40.29	20.77	33.90
19.	Punjab	76.63	54.58	43.60
20.	Rajasthan	111.09	206.04	126.06
21.	Sikkim	9.50	6.50	7.14
22.	Tamil Nadu	235.09	332.72	371.53
23.	Tripura	4.63	0.73	0.09
24.	Uttar Pradesh	77.64	150.63	183.32
25.	West Bengal	42.78	96.75	135.29
26.	A & N Islands	0.99	1.49	-
27.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	-
28.	D & N Haveli	0.00	0.00	-
29.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	-
30.	Delhi	3.70	105.00	77.60
31.	Lakshdweep	0.00	0.00	-
32.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	-
Total		1763.24	1966.91	1470.59

Parliamentary Goodwill Delegation

2315. SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has considered the exchange of Parliamentary goodwill delegations as part of the process of normalization of Indo-Pakistan relations;

(b) if so, at what stage can these goodwill visits take place; and

(c) if not, the manner in which the Ministry proposes to involve elected representatives of the people in the normalization process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) and (b) : Government are committed to improving relations with Pakistan and are pursuing a policy of encouraging interaction at various levels between the two countries.

Government look forward to receiving a Parliamentary delegation from Pakistan for which an invitation had been extended. Government would continue their efforts to promote interaction between the two countries.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Fund for Poverty Alleviation

2316. SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of funds allocated to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam and West Bengal for implementation of Centrally Sponsored Scheme for poverty alleviation during the last two years alongwith the amount spent on each schemes by these States;

(b) whether huge funds allocated and released for these schemes in Assam and West Bengal were actually spent for other purposes;

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

(d) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOR) : (a) The major Centrally Sponsored Rural Poverty Alleviation Programmes being implemented in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam and West Bengal are Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). The total allocation and expenditure incurred under these programmes during the last two years in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam and West Bengal are given in the attached Statements I to III

(b) to (d): The Comptroller & Auditor General's Report No. 2 of 1995 on Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and Report No. 3 of 1997 on Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), interalia have pointed out diversion of funds for other purposes in West Bengal (JRY - 1341.13 lakhs and EAS - 429.63 lakhs). No diversion of Funds has been reported in Assam.

The C & AG Report No. 2 of 1995 on JRY and No. 3 of 1997 on EAS has been selected by the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament for detailed examination. The Public Accounts Committee has already visited West Bengal.

Statement-I

Financial Performance under Major Rural Development Programmes during 1995-96 & 1996-97 – Andhra Pradesh

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	1995-96		1996-97	
	Total Allocation	Expenditure (Prov.)	Total Allocation	Expenditure (Prov.)
1. I.R.D.P.	8336.41	8624.01	8336.41	12810.19
2. J.R.Y.	34118.65	31705.69	17372.39	17488.47
(1st Stream)				
(2nd Stream)	3113.75	2851.21	-	-
3. E.A.S. #	18187.50	12249.54	25137.50	25509.86

Total Released, as no Statewise allocations are made under EAS.

Statement-II

Financial Performance under Major Rural Development Programmes during 1995-96 & 1996-97 – Assam

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	1995-96		1996-97	
	Total Allocation	Expenditure	Total Allocation	Expenditure
1. I.R.D.P.	2743.50	3409.02	2743.50	1600.68 (Feb. 97)
2. J.R.Y.	10820.18	9583.33	5718.18	4543.21
(1st Stream)				
3. E.A.S.	10025.00	9822.98	13525.00	8790.06

EAS : Funds Released; as no Statewise allocations are made under EAS.

Statement-III

Financial Performance under Major Rural Development Programmes during 1995-96 & 1996-97 – West Bengal

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl. No.	1995-96		1996-97	
	Total Allocation	Expenditure (Prov.)	Total Allocation	Expenditure (Prov.)
1. I.R.D.P.	7472.2	6693.99	7472.20	5474.89

1	2	3	4	5	6
2. J.R.Y.					
(1st Stream)	29455.21	26114.49	15569.34	12834.05	
(2nd Stream)	3832.50	4378.31	-	-	
3. E.A.S.	11550.00	9929.18	12712.50	11729.24	

EAS : Funds Released; as no Statewise allocations are made under EAS.

Aluminium Plant

2317. DR. KRUPA SINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers rendered jobless due to the closure of the Aluminium plant at Hirakund, Orissa;

(b) the steps taken to clear their dues and to provide them suitable alternative job; and

(c) the efforts made to revive the said Aluminium plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Emigration Check

2318. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of persons from Goa work in foreign countries and the poor among them are required to get "Emigration Check Not Required";

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to abolish procedure altogether?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

SC/ST Cell

2319. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether SC/ST Cell in his Ministry was abolished;

(b) whether due to non-functioning of SC/ST Cell, the service interest of employees belonging to SCs/STs have not been protected; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to protect the interest of SC/ST employees in his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI):

(a) No Sir, an SC/ST Cell is operating in the Ministry.

(b) Question does not arise. The interests of employees belonging to the SC/ST are protected as per the extent rules and guidelines on the subject.

(c) All measures are taken to protect and safeguard the interests of employees belonging to the SC/ST categories through various channels including the Liaison Officer and the Staff Grievance Officer. The employees belonging to SC/ST categories have free access to raise their grievances at the highest level in the Ministry and it is ensured that suitable action is taken to redress their grievances.

US Assistance to Pakistan

2320. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether United States has decided to amend the US Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to relax the existing restrictions on US military and economic assistance to Pakistan;

(b) if so, its impact on India's security; and

(c) the reaction of Indian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI):

(a) The US Senate has passed an amendment to the US Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 lifting some restrictions on US military and economic assistance to Pakistan which had been in place on account of Pakistan's externally assisted nuclear weapons programme. The amendment, if enacted into law after due process, would allow programmes relating to military training of Pakistani defence service officers and the extension of overseas Private Investment Credit (OPIC) and EXIM Bank guarantees to US corporations engaged in projects in Pakistan.

(b) and (c) Government have expressed concern at this development as an encouragement to Pakistan's nuclear and missile programmes. The amendment has been passed in the wake of reports of Pakistan having tested a medium-range missile and establishing a missile facility with Chinese assistance. These developments have serious implications for India's security. Government have noted that these same provisions were contained in the 1995 Brown Amendment but had not been implemented

at that time because of supply of ring magnets by China to Pakistan's nuclear enrichment facility. Government have conveyed India's concern at these developments to the US authorities. Government remain committed to take appropriate steps to safeguard India's security.

Cooperation in Nuclear Technology

2321. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission has signed a nuclear technology cooperation agreement with the Governments of Malaysia and Philippines recently;

(b) if so, whether the agreement has any security implications for India; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 8th March, 1997 with the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute on cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of atomic energy. As per available information, there is no agreement between Pakistan and Malaysia on cooperation in nuclear technology.

(b) and (c) Government are carefully and continuously assessing all issues relating to Pakistan's nuclear programme and its implications for the national security. Government are committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard national interest and security, in accordance with our own threat perceptions.

[Translation]

Assistance for Development of Hill Areas

2322. SHRI BUDHSEN PATEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central assistance is made available to some States for the development of hilly areas and if so the Criteria adopted for the same;

(b) whether the Technical Committee of the working group constituted by the Planning Commission during Seventh Plan had identified some areas of Madhya Pradesh as hilly areas;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have made provision for additional Central assistance for the development of hilly areas of Madhya Pradesh during the Ninth Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) Yes Sir, Special Central Assistance (SCA) under Hill Area Development Programme (HADP) is provided to designated hill areas, i.e., hill areas of Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Assam and designated talukas of the Western Ghats. The total SCA available under HADP is allocated between HADP and Western Ghats Development Programme (WGDP) in the ratio of 86.61: 13.39. Inter se distribution of SCA for HADP is done on the basis of population and area of the region, assigning equal weightage to these factors; for WGDP, population is assigned a weightage of 25% and area 75%.

(b) to (d): Yes Sir; However, owing to paucity of funds, it has been decided not to extend HADP to any new hill areas, including the hill areas of Madhya Pradesh during the Ninth Five year Plan.

[English]

Non-Payment of Wages by Sick PSUs

2323. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the delay in the payment of dues like Provident Fund, ESI etc. to the workers of several sick Public Sector Undertaking (PSUs);

(b) whether sick PSUs owe to the workers above Rs. 100 crore;

(c) if so, the reasons for the non-payment of these statutory dues to the workers; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure early payment of pending dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M. P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d): An amount of Rs. 209.12 crore is outstanding against the Sick Public Sector Undertakings on account of the ESI and EPF dues. The reason for default is attributable to poor financial health of such PSUs. Efforts for recovery of the dues outstanding against the defaulting PUSs are constantly being made.

Shortage of Software Engineers

2324. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of Software Engineers in the country;

(b) if so, the present position with regard to their demand and availability; and

(c) the steps taken to provide necessary training and education in the said field in order to remove the shortage of Software Engineers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (c) : The demand for Software Engineers is increasing progressively. At present there are a number of educational institutions in the formal and non - formal sector which are catering to this growing demand. Government is taking a number of initiatives for increasing computer manpower output, particularly from the premier institutions, by strengthening of the existing institutions, Training of Teachers, Development and Dissemination of quality course material as also initiating steps for setting up new institutions. In order to ensure quality output from the non-formal sector (private/public), Department of Electronics through its Society namely, Department of Electronics Accreditation of Computer Courses (DOEACC) is implementing a scheme on Accreditation of Computer Courses under which institutions meeting certain well defined criteria are given accreditation for running 'O' (Foundation) 'A' (Advanced Diploma) 'B' (MCA) and 'C' Post Graduate) level courses.

National AIDS Control Programme

2325. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh was included in the National AIDS Control Programme launched at a cost of Rs. 220.60 crores for 1992-97 which came to an end in March this year;

(b) if so, whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to continue the said AIDS programme in the State in view of sharp rise in the spread of AIDS disease; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) The National AIDS Control Programme was launched in all the States/UTs in the country including

Andhra Pradesh in 1992 for five years with the World Bank credit of US \$ 84 million. The implementation of the Programme was reviewed and based on the recommendations, the programme has been extended upto March, 1999.

(b) and (c) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh is sending the annual action plan every year for the implementation of the programme and funds are released after examination by National AIDS Control Organisation. The Action Plan for 1997-98 for Andhra Pradesh has since been received and approved by the Union Government.

Vacant Posts

2326. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of appointment made in departments/undertakings under his Ministry during the last three years as on date post-wise;

(b) the number of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribe candidates appointed out of them;

(c) whether some posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are still lying vacant;

(d) if so, the details thereof post-wise;

(e) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for filling the reserved posts; and

(f) the time by which vacant reserved posts are likely to be filled and the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Trade with China

2327. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Sikkim has asked the Union Government for opening up the Nathua-La Pass in the State to facilitate trade with neighbouring China; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) and (b): Border trade through additional points, including Natu-

La Pass, in Sikkim, continues to remain under discussion with the Chinese Side. At present, India and China have arrangements for border trade across Lipulekh Pass (Uttar Pradesh) and Shipki La Pass (Himachal Pradesh).

[Translation]

NAM Foreign Ministers Conference

2328. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the expenditure incurred by the Union Government on NAM Foreign Ministers' conference held in April, 1997 in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): Sir, the total expenditure incurred on XII Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non Aligned Countries held in New Delhi from April 4 to 8, 1997 was Rs. 5,22,27,255/-. The amount of Rs. 3,46,67,981/- has already been paid whereas bills amounting to Rs.1,75,59,274/- are under process for payment. The expenditure is based on the bills received/processed till August 1, 1997.

Shortage of Disposable Syringes

2329. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been invited to the news reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated May 21st, 1997 wherein it has been mentioned that there is shortage of disposable syringes and patients are asked to buy their own syringes in most of the hospitals including Central Government hospitals running in Delhi;

(b) if so, whether glass syringes were used for injunction to a patients in safdarjung Hospital;

(c) if so, the facts of the case reported therein;

(d) the reaction of Government in this regard; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure the availability of disposable syringes in all the central hospitals running in National Capital Territory of Delhi to avoid the spread of fatal diseases like AIDS and Hepatitis B?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Safdarjung Hospital has reported that no records are maintained about the type of syringes used in case of a particular patient. Generally, syringes or needles used are disposable. However, glass syringes are

also used in the hospital after proper sterilisation.

(d) and (e): Guidelines on control of hospital acquired infections circulated to all the States/Union Territories, inter-alia, indicate that the injection should only be given by a auto-claved or pre-sterilized disposable needles and syringes. Both auto-claved - reusable and pre-sterilized disposable needles and syringes are equally safe and are in use in Central Government hospitals.

Radio Therapy

2330. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 80 per cent of the cancer cases can be cured with radio therapy;

(b) whether only 190 external radio therapy machines are available in the country whereas their requirement is 800;

(c) if so, the reasons for availability of such a less number of such machines;

(d) whether the Government have taken any steps to increase the availability of these machines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) As per the available record there are 214 Cobalt Radio Therapy machines available in the Country. The Cobalt Therapy machines are very expensive and due to limited availability of funds the programme is being carried-out in phases.

(d) and (e) Efforts are being made to increase the number of tele-cobalt machines within the available budget. During the last three financial years financial assistance has been provided for setting up of 31 Cobalt Therapy Units. In addition, to above, financial assistance has also been provided to 31 Medical Colleges/Hospitals for upgradation of Development of oncology wing which inter-alia includes a provision of cobalt-60 teletherapy equipments.

[Translation]

Shortage of Medicines in CGHS Dispensaries

2331. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no proper arrangement regarding medicines etc. in the dispensaries functioning

under Central Government Health Scheme;

(b) if so, whether due to poor arrangement there is shortage of medicines in the said dispensaries of Delhi and other parts of the country; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or propose to be taken by the Government to ensure availability of all essential medicines in CGHS dispensaries at every time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) By and large, most of the listed medicines in the CGHS formulary are presently available in the dispensaries run by the Central Government Health Scheme. However, occasional shortages which are encountered are made up by resorting to local purchase from the approved local chemists. In case of emergencies, an Authority Slip' is issued permitting the beneficiaries to collect the medicines from the authorised local chemists directly, without making any payment. Regular meetings are held with the Stores Organisation to assess the stock position of medicines and necessary steps taken to augment supplies where needed.

[English]

Garage Facility

2332 SHRI PRADEEP BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is no provision of scooter garage in some of the Type-II and Type-III Government quarters in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether representations from various Resident's Welfare Associations/Area Welfare Officers/Residents have been received in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no provision of scooter garages in:-

i) All Type II quarters.

ii) All Type III quarters upto two storeyed and ground floor quarters in more than three storeyed blocks.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Representations have been received by CPWD regarding provision of a scooter garage in quarters mentioned at (b) above.

(e) CPWD has reported that request has not been agreed to in view of existing guidelines for not providing scooter garages in all type II & double storeyed type III quarters. Ground floor type III quarters in more than two storeyed constructions are not provided scooter garage considering that they can park their scooter in their quarters.

Non-Payment of PF Dues

2333. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.P. Export Corporation Limited Kanpur has not released accumulated Provident Fund of its employees who retired or left the service in the year 1993 and 1994;

(b) whether the Government have taken any penal action against the corporation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Report of United Nations Development Programme

2334. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD:
SHRI N. DENNIS:
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Human Development Report 1997, released by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has warned the Indian Government that its focus on reducing fiscal deficit is forcing major cuts in public spending and hampering poverty alleviation efforts;

(b) whether the report has also highlighted the Government's failure to provide free and compulsory education, abolishing of child labour, to provide adequate funds for social services and economic security of the marginalised communities;

(c) whether the Industrial growth has neglected the agriculture and the rural population have become further poor;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government on the points raised in the report;

(e) whether some of the States like Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab have managed to reduce poverty by 50% whereas 50% of India rural poor live in Bihar, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh; and

(f) if so, the steps the Government proposes to take to provide sufficient funds for removing poverty from India and also to reduce fiscal deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Human Development Report, 1997 states "... The focus on reducing fiscal deficits in forcing major cuts in public spending and the emphasis on state minimalism is leading to abdication of state responsibilities in key areas affecting the lives of the poor people". This includes free and compulsory elementary education, abolition of child labour, adequate provision for social services and economic security of marginalised communities.

(c) The Report states that during the period 1951 to mid-seventies, the proportion of rural population living below the poverty line fluctuated. From mid-seventies till the end of eighties, there were significant and steady improvement in incidence of both rural and urban poverty. India did not see a consistent drop in poverty in the first period because of a greater emphasis on total output than on distribution. In the urban areas the focus was on heavy industry and public enterprises rather than on the micro enterprises that employ most of the poor people.

(d) to (f) As per the Planning Commission estimates, there is a substantial decline in the proportion of poor for most of the states for the period 1973-94. The proportion of poor in Andhra Pradesh and Punjab has declined by more than 50 per cent and that of Haryana by about 30 per cent. For the year 1993-94, nearly 47 per cent of India's rural poor live in Bihar, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

Among the objectives identified for the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002), the Approach Paper lists the following:

(i) Priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. For the first time, agricultural growth is targeted at 4.5 per cent per annum for the Plan period.

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- (ii) *Accelerating the growth rate of the economy with stable prices. The stability and the sustainability of the growth process require determined efforts to cut down the revenue deficits of both the Central and State Governments and to achieve a degree of fiscal balance:*
- (iii) Ensuring food and nutritional security for all, particularly the vulnerable sections of society;
- (iv) Providing the basic minimum services of safe drinking water, primary health care facilities, universal primary education, shelter and connectivity to all in a time bound manner;
- (v) Empowerment of women and socially disadvantaged groups such as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes and Minorities as agents of socio-economic change and development.

*[Translation]***Development of Bihar**

2335. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY:
SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a meeting with the Hon'ble Members of Parliament from Bihar was held on March 12, 1997 to discuss the issues relating to the development of State;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the performance by the Bihar Government is very low in regard to the schemes sponsored by the Union Government; and
- (d) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the meeting, important developmental issues like irrigation infrastructure development, giving thrust to power projects, increasing employment opportunities and education sector development were discussed.

(c) and (d) Centrally Sponsored Schemes are formulated by the Central Ministries/Departments in consultation with the State Government and are implemented by the State Governments. The Planning Commission does not have any direct role in their implementation.

*[English]***Working OF T.I.F.R.**

2336. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether a Committee of International Researchers was ever appointed to evaluate the working of Tata Institute of Fundamental Research;
- (b) if so, the constitution of the Committee; and
- (c) the findings and recommendations made by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) The Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), the Premier Scientific Research Institution in the fields of Physics, Mathematics and allied sciences, is an Autonomous Institution supported by the Department of Atomic Energy. TIFR completed fifty years of research activities in 1995-96. As a sequel to the TIFR's Golden Jubilee, its Council of Management decided to invite a group of eminent scientists to review TIFR's achievements and make recommendations on, inter alia, international collaboration with other institutions, scope for greater purposeful interaction with industry in selected areas and the steps needed to enable the Institute to attract creative talent in the light of the increasing specialisation of research.

A committee consisting of the following experts visited and reviewed the working of TIFR during 13-18 January, 1997:-

- (i) Prof. Lord Porter, OM, FRS, Nobel Laureate Chairman, Centre for Petromolecular Sciences, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Imperial College, London, UK.
- (ii) Prof. D. Mumford, President of the International Mathematical Union, Division of Applied Mathematics, Brown University, Rhode Island, USA.
- (iii) Prof. Sir Arnold Wolfendale, FRS, Formerly Astronomer Royal and President of the Royal Astronomical Society, Department of Physics, University of Durham, Science Laboratories, UK.
- (iv) Prof. B.V. Sreekantan, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Indian Institute of Science

Campus, Bangalore and Former Director, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

(v) Prof. S. Brenner, FRS was prevented by illness from attending as a member of the committee but gave written evidence.

(c) The conclusions and major recommendations of the said committee are given in the attached Statement.

Statement

Conclusions and Recommendations

Our conclusions can best be formulated by answering the question's:

- (i) What would Homi Bhabha have said about the state of TIFR at present?
- (ii) What would he have recommended for the future?

Concerning (i), he would undoubtedly have been excited about many of the areas of science being pursued at present. However, he would have been disappointed by the slippage in the international league in some areas. He would have been particularly concerned at the shortage of talented people joining the Institute. However, he would have been proud of his successors in authority for their undoubted skill in maintaining the very presence of TIFR (and, indeed, enabling it to grow) in a world where 'relevance' and 'wealth-creation' have had serious repercussions for similar institutions. Homi Bhabha would, we feel, have gone along with our own recommendations.

In the preceding text we have underlined specific - and in some cases detailed - recommendations. All are important but here we indicate the major ones.

Major Recommendations

1. Fundamental work in radio astronomy, molecular biology, solid state physics and computer science should be supported and augmented.
2. The Mumbai Molecular Biology work should be maintained and augmented and the Director and Council should make their agreement with this recommendation widely known, as a matter of urgency.
3. The pure mathematics group should be strongly supported and consideration given to merging pure and applied mathematics and theoretical computer science.
4. The 'purpose of TIFR' should be widely circulated.

5. A search Committee should be formed, as a matter of urgency, to seek candidates for the post of Director. The search should start well before the termination of Professor Singh's directorship.

6. Improvements should be made to the Administrator Office.

7. A committee should be formed to examine (i) promotion norms, (ii) the balance between term and permanent appointments and (iii) possibilities of enhancing recruitment worldwide, to achieve and maintain a senior faculty of the highest possible distinction.

8. Research should be organised in three individual schools, in:

Mathematical Sciences

Physics and Astronomy

Biological and Chemical Sciences

9. Action should be taken to improve technology transfer.

10. Science education and popularisation should be given a higher profile.

Construction of Over Bridges

2337. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of nine Railway Over Bridges in NCT of Delhi required under MRTS Project and to link these to the proposed Express Highway;

(b) the details of budget provision made during 1997-98 for the construction of these Over Bridges; and

(c) the details of time-schedule for the completion of these Bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Rate of Poverty

2338. PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
KUMARI UMA BHARTI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is the highest among the other

poor countries in Asia as per the study conducted by the Asian Development Bank;

(b) if so, the position of India vis-a-vis the other countries;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any ambitious scheme to remove poverty from the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the above scheme is likely to be helpful in removing poverty from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Provision for Education/Health/Social Services

2339. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far to ensure provision of 6% of GDP for Education, Health and other social services by 2000 AD;

(b) the details of success achieved so far service-wise, indicating the Central and State allocations; and

(c) the increase in percentage in population having access to education, health, sanitation and other social services during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) Approach paper to the 9th Five Year Plan (1997-2002) elaborates the Government's commitment to ensure provision of adequate resources for education, health and other social services. The Basic Minimum Services programme envisages access of all seven BMS namely, universal primary education, provision of safe drinking water, health facilities, housing for all, nutritional support to children, connectivity to unconnected villages and streamlining the public distribution system with a focus on the poor.

(b) According to 1996-97 (Budget estimates), the plan outlay for social services for centre, states and UTs was Rs. 30490.77 crore against Rs. 23178.56 crore in 1995-96 (revised estimates). Out of this total amount of

Rs. 30490.77 crore, a sum of Rs. 3132.97 crore is budgeted for general education, Rs. 814.30 crore for medical and public health, Rs. 1535.00 crore on family welfare and Rs. 1740.75 crore for housing.

(c) National programme on nutritional support to primary education is likely to cover 10.82 crore children in primary classes in all government, local body and government aided schools by 1997-98. In the area of primary health care infrastructure, 21853 primary health centres were in position in end March 1996 in addition to 132727 sub-centres and 2424 community health centres in the country. The number of primary health centres in end March 1994 and March 1995 stood at 21206 and 21536 respectively. According to the estimates prepared by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, 50 per cent of urban population was covered with sanitation facilities against 45.9 per cent in 1990.

Setting up New Board

2340. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a new Board to speed up Public Sector Core Projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof,

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR) : (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to set up new Board to speed up public sector core projects.

(b) Does not arise.

Chinese Missiles

2341. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI PARSARAM BHARDWAJ :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "New Chinese Missiles target India and Russia-US Daily" appearing in "Times of India" dated July 11, 1997;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Indian Government thereto?

(c) the details of missiles positioned towards India;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to meet this threat;

(e) whether Indian Government propose to take up this matter with China; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f): Government have seen media reports about the reported deployment of Chinese missiles against India and Russia. Government of India is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard its security and national interest in accordance with its own threat perceptions.

Implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

2342. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the different Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Upliftment of Women, Poverty Alleviation Scheme and Rehabilitation of Terrorists who have surrendered arms are under implementation in Jammu & Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to implement the above schemes more effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOR): (a) to (c): Yes Sir. For providing employment opportunities and eradication of poverty, the Government of Jammu & Kashmir is implementing the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM) and Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) are two important sub schemes of Integrated Rural Development Programme. Against the allocation of Rs. 3700.18 lakh for the 8th Five Year Plan, the anticipated expenditure is Rs. 2861.86 lakh and 52947 Families were assisted under the scheme. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme are the other schemes for generation of Wage Employment and on them against the allocation of Rs. 29954.55 lakh during the 8th Plan, the anticipated expenditure is Rs. 22617.10 lakh and a total Employment of 490.19 lakh Mandays were generated.

There is no centrally sponsored scheme for rehabilitation of terrorists.

[Translation]

Eye Disease

2343. SHRI CHHATAR SINGH DARBAR :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a heavy increase in the eye related diseases in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any survey in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. In 1986 a national wide survey was conducted on prevalence of blindness in the country.

(d) The prevalence of blindness was estimated to be 1.49%.

[English]

Training Institutes in North Eastern States

2344. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) The details of the schemes launched to provide training to the labourers of the unorganised sector in the North-Eastern States;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up training institutes in the North-Eastern States, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the table of the House.

Provident Fund Office

2345. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set-up a new Accounts Office of the Provident Fund at Kottayam, Kerala; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Representations have been received for setting up a Sub-Office at Kottayam. The matter is being examined.

[Translation]

Regularisation of Unauthorised Colonies

2346. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government had constituted a high level Committee regarding unauthorised colonies as per directives of Delhi High Court;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the composition of the Committee;

(c) the terms of reference of the Committee at the time of its constitution;

(d) whether the Committee has since presented its report; and

(e) if so, the main recommendation made by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Details of composition and terms of reference of the High Level Committee are given in the attached Statement.

(d) and (e) The Committee has submitted its report to the Hon'ble High Court as desired by it. The matter is still subjudice.

Statement

(b) Composition of the High Level Committee.

- | | | |
|----|--|----------|
| 1. | Shri N.P. Singh
Secretary (UD),
Ministry of Urban Affairs &
Employment. | Chairman |
| 2. | Shri P.V. Jayakrishnan
Chief Secretary,
Govt. of NCT of Delhi. | Member |

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------|
| 3. | Shri Hamendra Kumar
Addl. Secretary (UD),
Ministry of Urban Affairs &
Employment. | Member |
| 4. | Vice-Chairman
Delhi Development Authority. | Member |
| 5. | Shri Jagdish Sagar,
Principal Secretary (UD),
Govt. of NCT of Delhi. | Member |
| 6. | Shri B.S. Minhas,
Joint Secretary,
Deptt. of Urban Development,
Minister of Urban Affairs &
Employment. | Member |
| 7. | Shri V.K. Duggal,
Commissioner, MCD. | Member |
| 8. | Shri I.A. Khan,
Chairperson, NDMC. | Member |
| 9. | General Manager, DESU. | Member |
| 10. | Shri Rakesh Mohan,
Addl. Commissioner (WS),
MCD. | Member |
| 11. | Shri Kishan Lal Sharma,
Member of Parliament. | Member |
| 12. | Shri Jag Pravesh Chandra,
M.L.A., GNCTD. | Member |
| 13. | Shri Shoab Iqbal,
M.L.A., GNCTD. | Member |
| 14. | Shri S.P.S. Parihar. | Member Convenor |

(c) TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE :

- (a) To examine the problem of unauthorised colonies in Delhi and to analyse the causes thereof.
- (b) To suggest ways and means to deal with the problem of unauthorised colonies in Delhi, including guidelines for regularisation of those unauthorised colonies in Delhi which have come up before a designated date and cannot be demolished and do not pose any hazard for public safety and convenience.
- (c) To suggest measures to contain this problem in future.
- (d) To examine the extent of basic amenities necessary before the colonies can be considered for regularisation.

- (e) To examine in how many existing unauthorised colonies such facilities can be provided and the approximate unit cost and time frame within which the same can be provided.
- (f) To identify the colonies where in such facilities cannot be provided either due to exclusively high costs or technical problems or other reasons.
- (g) To identify the colonies which cannot be regularised for lack of providing amenities or for any other reasons and to suggest ways and means for shifting of the unauthorised colonies which cannot be regularised.
- (h) To suggest the time likely to be taken for shifting of such colonies and to suggest ways and means including the construction of townships around Delhi for shifting some of these colonies and the amenities which may have to be provided in such townships.

Target for Employment

2347. SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the target fixed for creating additional employment opportunities during the Eighth Five Year Plan;
- (b) whether the prescribed target was achieved during the above period;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government propose to fix a target for creating additional employment opportunities during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOR) : (a) The employment strategies of the 8th Plan had been formulated with the objective of creating additional employment opportunities of the order of 8 to 9 million per annum on an average implying an employment growth rate of 2.6% to 2.8% per annum, during the 8th Plan corresponding to an average growth of the economy of 5.6% envisaged in the Plan.

(b) and (c) Quinquennial surveys of NSSO on employment and unemployment are the comprehensive source of data on various aspects of employment and unemployment in the country. The latest such survey relates

to the period 1993-94 (50th round of NSSO). According to the data available from the 50th round of NSSO, the rate of growth of employment during 1987-88 to 1993-94 was 2.23% per annum which is lower than the Eighth Five Year Plan target of 2.6% to 2.8% per annum.

Achievement of the rate of growth of employment is crucially dependent on the growth rate and sectoral and subsectoral pattern of growth of the economy. The employment growth rate of 2.23% observed during 1987-88 to 1993-94 covers only the initial two years of the Eighth Five Year Plan, during which the rate of growth of economy was lower than the Eighth Plan target of 5.6% per annum. .PA

(d) and (e): The approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. Productive employment is an important dimension of the state policy that seeks to achieve growth with equity. Greater productive employment will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and under-employment. Improvements in the quality of employment can be achieved only in a situation of rapidly growing productivity to which the labour can lay a just claim. Education and skill development will empower people to take advantage of employment opportunities. Special programmes will be implemented to develop skills, enhance technological levels and provide marketing channels for people engaged in traditional occupations.

Labour Base Technology

2348. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to encourage labour based technology for removing unemployment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOR) : (a) to (c) The Government encourage labour based technology for removing unemployment.

The approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to productive employment which will be generated in the

growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and under-employment.

[English]

Compensation to Gulf War Repatriates

2349. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is inordinate delay in payment of the compensation awarded by UNCC to those Kerala repatriates of the 1990 Gulf War;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken by the Government on the request of Kerala Government to speed up the case for getting atleast part of the compensation in case of full amount cannot be paid immediately; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) No, Sir, Compensation to be paid to the Gulf returnees is remitted by the UNCC (United Nations Compensation Commission). As and when funds are received from this body, they are disbursed soonest possible to the concerned claimants. Compensation relating to claimants in 'B' Category (pertaining to death or serious injury) has been disbursed so far. This process was completed by mid-1996.

UNCC recently has transferred US\$ 15.54 million for partial settlement of claims of 6216 persons belong to Category 'A' which covers all those persons who fled from Kuwait before March, 1991. Every effort is being made to ensure that this compensation gets paid as expeditiously as possible. Each of these claimants will receive \$2500 in the first instance.

(b) Permanent Mission of Indian, Geneva, maintains constant liaison with the UNCC to ensure that interests of our nationals are fully protected.

(c) Does not apply.

Cine Workers

2350. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cine workers identified in the country, region-wise;

(b) the facilities being provided the cine-workers in each region; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on various cine-workers welfare schemes during each of the last three years, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) A Statement-I is attached.

(b) A Statement-II is attached.

(c) A Statement-III showing expenditure incurred on Health and Education of cine workers and their dependants, under the Cine-Workers Welfare Fund is attached.

Statement-I

No. of identified Cine-Workers in the country, region-wise:

S.No.	Region	No. of identified cine workers
1.	Hyderabad	8,645
2.	Bhubaneshwar	99
3.	Nagpur	4,088
4.	Bangalore	1,289
5.	Bhilwara	1,290
6.	Calcutta	848
Total :		16,259

Statement-II

List of Welfare Schemes being implemented by Government for Cine-Workers and their dependants:

Health

1. Scheme for re-imburement of expenditure as a financial assistance to cine workers suffering from Heart Diseases.
2. Scheme for re-imburement of expenditure as a financial assistance to cine workers suffering from Cancer.
3. Scheme for re-imburement of expenditure as a financial assistance to cine workers for Kidney Transplantation.

Education

1. Payment of incentives on passing final University/ Board Examination from High School onwards.
2. Scheme to provide incentive/financial assistance @ Re 1/- per day to female children of cine workers, on the

basis of attendance in schools.

Award of Scholarship to the children of cine workers.

Social Security

Group Insurance Scheme for cine workers.

Statement-III

Expenditure incurred on Health and Education Schemes for Cine Workers during last three years:

Name of the Scheme	Year		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
	(Rs. in thousand)		
Health	245	112	431
Education	635	617	706
Group Insurance Scheme	-	-	162

Red Cross Society

2351. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the role of the Central Government with regard to management and functioning of the Red Cross Society in India;

(b) the role of public in performing functions in the management of the society;

(c) the details of receipt and payment of the society during 1994, 1995 and 1996; and

(d) the number of new branches of the society opened during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b): The affairs of the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS) being a autonomous institution, are regulated as per the provisions of the Indian Red Cross Society Act & Rules made thereunder. The Society raises its own funds which includes a contribution by way of grant-in-aid from the Central Govt.

Eminent members of general public have been nominated on the managing Body. Members from the general public are also enrolled by the State Branches of the Indian Red Cross Society. At the District level, the members of the general public are nominated/represented on the Executive Committee.

Representatives of the State Branches who are members of general public are entitled to participants in the deliberation of the General Meetings of the Society.

(c) As per information available, the details of receipts and payments of the National Head-quarters are as indicated below:

Years	Receipts (in crores)	Expenditure (in crores)
1.1.93 to 31.3.94	3.42	4.75
1.4.94 to 31.3.95	3.59	4.69
1.4.95 to 31.3.96 (Provisional)	2.56	4.77

(d) No new branch of Indian Red Cross Society has been opened during the period 1994 to 1996.

[Translation]

MPLADS

2352. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of interest paid on the amount made available to Members of Parliament under MPs Local Area Development Scheme;

(b) whether interest is also paid on it during the period it remains deposited in the treasury;

(c) who is entitled to spend the interest so earned and the number of MPs whose interest is credited in the Government treasury alongwith the amount of the interest;

(d) whether the Government have issued any directives to spend this amount; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR): (a) and (b) The MPLADS funds are normally kept in the PLA in banks and the interest is paid on the same at the rates prevailing from time to time.

(c) to (e) As per instructions issued to the District Collectors, the interest amount is not to be utilised for any purpose.

[English]

Family Planning Policy

2353. SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have formulated any long-term integrated family planning policy for the next five years, or a longer span;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether family planning policy has taken a back seat due to lack of motivation and Government indifference; and

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to review and reformulate this policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The draft National Population Policy envisages achievement of Total Fertility Rate of 2-1 by the year 2010 through:-

- (i) Need based allocation of resources for the Family Welfare Programme;
- (ii) Public, unreserved support by opinion leaders and citizens;
- (iii) Improving the efficiency of State health systems and enforcing accountability; and
- (iv) Quick and sustained improvement in educational and economic status of families.

(c) and (d) The policy regarding family planning constitutes a part of the draft National Population Policy. The Government hopes to bring the draft Population Policy before the Parliament soon.

[Translation]

Vacant SC/ST Posts

2354. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of posts reserved for SCs/STs are lying vacant in his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to fill up the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Construction of Government Quarters

2355. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE. Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state the number of Government quarters constructed, category-wise, by the Government in Delhi/ New Delhi during each of the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Five Year plan period separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : The details regarding the Government Quarters constructed, category-wise, by the Government in Delhi/New Delhi during each of the Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Five Year Plan periods and also during the period 1990-92 between seventh and eighth Plans are given below:-

Plan	A	B	C	I	II	III	IV	V SPL	V	Hostel	Total
Vlth Plan (80-85)	523	2471	6262	-	22	398	123	48	-	-	9847
VIlth Plan (85-90)	498	1172	2529	-	293	1370	128	102	28	384	6504
90-92	-	-	-	-	-	-	256	21	-	-	277
VIIIth Plan (92-97)	-	-	-	-	-	135	112	-	-	-	247

Illegal Addition

2356 SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "DDA seals flat in Vasant Kunj for illegal additions, but bulks at actually carrying out orders as house belongs to top bureaucrat" appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated June 21, 1997;

(b) if so, whether under a decision taken by the Steering Committee of the DDA, the houses in Block C-4 cannot have more than two floors because the locality falls under the air-funnel; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to demolish all such houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) and (c) Yes, Sir. As reported by Delhi Development Authority, in 5 cases, the allotment has been cancelled. Similar action is being taken for illegal additions in other cases.

(b) Yes, Sir.

[Translation]

New Power Plants

2357. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more nuclear power plants in the country:

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (c): Apart from completing and commissioning the on going projects of Kaiga-1 & 2 (2x220 MWe) and RAPP-3 & 4 (2x220 MWe), proposals for nuclear power development in the IX Plan period include commencement of work on 2 units of 500 MWe at Tarapur (Maharashtra), 2 units of 220 MWe at Kaiga (Karnataka); besides commissioning of detailed project report for 2 units of 1000 MWe Light Water Reactors at Kudankulam (Tamil Nadu) with the assistance of Russian Federation and commencement of preliminary work on a 500 MWe Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor towards the end of the Plan.

[English]

Growth of Chandigarh

2358. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted any Co-ordination Committee to guide and channelise the

growth of Union Territory of Chandigarh; and

(b) if so, the constitution of the Committee, the term of reference and objectives of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Co-ordinating committee has the following composition:-

- | | | |
|--|------|----------|
| 1. Secretary,
Department of Urban
Development, Ministry
of Urban Affairs & Employment
Government of India. | | Chairman |
| 2. G.O.C., II Corps,
Minister of Defence. | | Member |
| 3. Adviser to the Administrator,
Chandigarh. | | Member |
| 4. Chief Secretary,
Government of Haryana. | | Member |
| 5. Chief Secretary,
Government of Punjab. | | Member |

THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

(a) to study the development plans of the Union Territory of Chandigarh and those of the Mohali and Panchkula townships and to suggest measures for coordinated development of the region;

(b) to assess the impact of the development programmes already implemented and those being implemented in the two townships on the development of the region as a whole and to suggest remedial measures to be taken by the State Governments and the Union Territory; and

(c) to prepare an outline regional plan for Chandigarh and the urban areas falling within its zone of influence.

OBJECTIVE

To guide and coordinate the growth of Chandigarh and the urban centre coming up in its neighbourhood for the balanced development of the region falling within the influence zone of Chandigarh.

Pending Scheme for U.P.

2359. DR. BALIRAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some amount out of Central assistance is yet to be released for several approved schemes of U.P.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof scheme-wise;
- (c) the concrete steps being taken by the Union Government to release funds to U.P. Government for the schemes sanctioned; and
- (d) the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOR) : (a) to (d) Central Assistance for Annual Plan is provided to the State Government in the form of block grants and block loans in a consolidated manner which is not tied with any scheme/sector/programme etc. for financing the Annual Plan of the State. In turn, the State Government releases the funds to the various departments of State Government for implementing the developmental schemes.

In so far as releases for the Annual Plans of the state from Ministry of Finance is concerned, as against the Revised Plan outlay of Rs. 4027.40 crores for 1995-96, the State Government reported the total expenditure of Rs. 4260.50 crores. But there was shortfall in expenditure pertaining to the earmarked schemes of the order of Rs. 193.40 crores due to which proportionate cut of Rs. 72.20 crores was effected.

For the Annual Plan 1996-97, the State Government had reported full expenditure (actuals for first 9 months and anticipated for the last 3 months) against the revised outlay of Rs. 5281.74 crores for the year. Thus no cut was effected. The State has however yet to supply the actual expenditure for the year 1996-97.

Development of Backward Area of Rajasthan

2360. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of schemes submitted by Rajasthan Government for financial assistance during each of the last three years;

(b) the action/decision taken by the Union Government on the said schemes;

(c) the details of Schemes for development of backward/desert areas of Western Rajasthan approved by the Union Government during the last three years; and

(d) the amount sanctioned and released for development during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOR) : (a) During the last three years, two irrigation schemes viz. Meja Modernisation and Meja Feeder Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 31.62 crores and Narmada Canal Project at an estimated cost of Rs. 467.53 crores were approved for the State of Rajasthan.

(b) and (c) There are no specific Schemes/Projects for the development of backward areas and desert areas of Western Rajasthan. However, depending on the site location and the command area, irrigation schemes benefit both backward areas and in certain cases desert areas. In the Union Budget for 1996-97, Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) was announced for completing the on-going irrigation projects. The details of the programmes proposed by the State Government under AIBP, the decision taken, amount sanctioned and released are annexed. In addition, for promoting industrialisation in backward areas of Rajasthan, 5 Growth Centres have also been approved upto March, 1997. The details regarding these Growth Centres are also given in the attached Statement.

(d) During the last three years, the details of outlays approved for irrigation sector are as under:-

	(Rs. Crores)		
	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1. Major & Medium Irrigation	271.84	328.00	301.65
2. Minor Irrigation	46.06	48.95	42.81
3. Command Area Development	81.49	93.81	98.60
4. Flood Control	6.99	8.65	11.35
Total	406.38	439.41	454.41

Statement

IRRIGATION & CAD

(Rs. Crores)			
Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Central Assistance	
		Sanctioned	Released
1	2	3	4
1.	Indira Gandhi Nahar	Not Sanctioned	-
2.	Jakhan	"	-
3.	Mahi	"	-

1	2	3	4
4. Gambhiri		"	
5. Jaisamand		1.85	0.925
6. Chappi		3.50	1.750
7. Sawan Bhadon		Not Sanctioned	-
8. Parwan Lift		"	-
9. Gang Canal		"	"
Total		5.35	2.675

The Central Assistance is also being provided to Indira Gandhi Nahar Project outside the State Plan under the Border Area Development Programme for the timely completion of the Project. The details of Central Assistance made available to Rajasthan during the last three years for IGNP and other Projects under Border Area Development Programme are given below :-

(Rs. Crores)

Year	Amount Released	
	Indira Gandhi Nahar Project	Other Projects under Border Area Development Programme
1994-95	60.00	20.44
1995-96	60.00	25.63
1996-97	60.00	25.63

INDUSTRY & MINERALS

Growth Centres in Rajasthan

(Rs. Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of District	Status	Funds Released	
			During last 3 years	Total Released
1.	Abu Road	Approved	8.00	10.00
2.	Bikaner	-do-	1.00	3.00
3.	Dholpur	-do-	2.00	2.50
4.	Jhalawar	-do-	2.50	3.00
5.	Bhilwara	Under Appraisal	-	0.50

[Translation]

Birth Rate

2361. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the field of family welfare

during the last three years and the extent to which the birth rate has declined;

(b) whether the cooperation of the N.G.Os and other agencies is being sought and the grants are being provided to them during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have received external assistance in this regard; and

(d) if so, the sources of external assistance and the fields where the same is being utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Decennial census of the country, among the other things, also assessed the Birth Rate. Annual changes in the Birth Rate are so small that these cannot be reliably assessed from year to year. In 1951 the Birth Rate in the country was assessed as 39.9, which has come down to 32.5 according to 1991 census. During last 3 years the programmes for Family Welfare have been effectively implemented, which would show their impact on key Family Welfare indicators that would be assessed during 2001 census.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. External assistance has been received for the development of infrastructure, material & human resource under the Family Welfare Programme from various agencies mainly World Bank, UNFPA, UNICEF, USAID, WHO, ODA, DANIDA & NORAD.

The projects assisted by the World Bank, UNICEF, DANIDA & ODA pertain to Child Survival and Safe Motherhood (CSSM) Programme. The items included in these projects are vaccine, cold chain equipments, medical equipments, drug kits and specific operational activities, like, training, etc. The assistance received from USAID covers the areas of strengthening of survey/research capabilities of Population Research Centres and for innovative activities in family planning services in Uttar Pradesh. WHO has provided assistance to various institutions/collaborative centres involved in the area of Human Reproduction. Assistance from UNFPA has been utilised mainly for Area Development Projects in selected States and for population education project.

Kendriya Bhandar

2362. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether consumer items available in Kendriya Bhandar particularly in Delhi are substandard and the prices thereof are higher as compared to the market price;

(b) whether the Government have received complaints during the last three years in this regard;

(c) if so, the number thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the quality of consumer items and also excess price in all the branches of Kendriya Bhandar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SH. S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) All the goods packed by the Kendriya Bhandar are released for sale only after pre-testing. Goods are also tested after lifting them at random from the stores. Kendriya Bhandar's quality control Department also investigates all complaints in regard to quality of goods on sale. It is, thus, not correct that Kendriya Bhandar sells substandard goods.

As regards prices, Kendriya Bhandar adds small mark-up to cover its overheads. Its prices are, therefore, generally lower than the market prices.

(b) and (c) The number of complaints/suggestions received by Kendriya Bhandar during the last 3 years in regard to quality are as under:-

Year	Numbers
1994-95	26
1995-96	23
1996-97	5

No complaint regarding prices has been received during the above period in Kendriya Bhandar.

(d): The steps taken by the Kendriya Bhandar as indicated vide answer to part (a) adequately ensure control on the quality as well as the prices of consumer items on sale in its various stores.

[English]

Leksell Gamma Knife

2363. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Leksell gamma knife has been installed at AIIMS, New Delhi to undertake brain surgery without opening the skull;

(b) if so, the cost of the above gamma knife;

(c) the average number of brain surgeries being performed every year at NIMHANS Bangalore; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to procure Leksell gamma knife for NIMHANS, Bangalore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The cost of Leksell Gamma Knife is Rs. 12.64 crores.

(c) On an average 1500 brain surgeries are performed every year at NIMHANS, Bangalore.

(d) The Institute have projected the requirement of Leksell Gamma Knife in the 9th Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

Health Melas

2364. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Health Melas organised by the Government during the year 1996-97;

(b) the number of such Melas organised in Uttar Pradesh;

(c) the number of melas out of them organised by Government and Non-Government Organisations, separately and the locations thereof;

(d) the funds utilised for organising Melas in Uttar Pradesh;

(e) whether any specific conditions have been laid down to organise such Melas through Non-Government Organisations; and

(f) the number of Melas organised by (i) Indian Medical Association (ii) Rotary/Lions Club (iii) Indian Red Cross Society in Uttar Pradesh during the year 1996-97 and the funds given to them for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) 1237 Swasthya Melas were sanctioned to be organised by States Government & N.G.Os during 1996-97.

(b) to (d) Eight Swasthya Melas were organised in Uttar Pradesh only through N.G.Os at Dahagaon Kerala

(Badaun), Hardoi, Kiddualwala, Gumaniwala, Tyuni (Dehradun), Kadarchow, (Badeun) & Sultanpur at an expenditure of Rs. 31,42,170/-

(e) From the current financial year Melas are to be organised only by District Branches of Indian Medical Association, Rotary/Lion Club and District Red Cross Society.

These will be organised at a distance less than 25 Kms from the District Headquarter i.e. ideal site for a Mela would be adjoining PHC Campus where surgeries, diagnostic procedures, Lad Test etc. can be easily performed or facilities made available conveniently. These could also be rural hospitals/CHCs/Taluk Hospitals/Block Level hospitals etc.

(f) No Swasthya Mela was organised by these Agencies in U.P. during 1996-97.

[English]

Indian Fishermen

2365. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have expressed serious concern at the tragic loss of life of two Indian fishermen caused due to the firing on an Indian fishing vessel by the Sri Lankan Navy on May 11, 1997;

(b) if so, whether this concern to Colombo was made only after it admitted the occurrence of the tragedy in Sri Lankan waters;

(c) if so, the reactions of the Sri Lankan Government; and

(d) whether any compensation was demanded from the Sri Lankan Government and, if so, to what extent they have agreed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) and (b) Yes. Sir. Government's serious concern at the incident of firing on an Indian vessel on May 11, 1997, which led to the unfortunate death of two fishermen, was conveyed by the High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka to the Sri Lankan Government immediately upon receiving reports about the occurrence of the incident, and before the Sri Lankan Government acknowledged the occurrence of the incident.

(c) and (d) At Government's request, the Sri Lankan Government carried out a detailed investigation into the incident. Following an enquiry, it was conveyed to us,

through our High Commission in Colombo, that the fishing vessel had been fired upon only after it had approached Thammanna Naval Base and after it had refused to heed warnings. In view of the circumstances explained by the Government of Sri Lanka, Government have not demanded compensation.

Eye Infection

2366. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the patients who developed severe post operative eye infection at Rajendra Prasad Eye Centre of AIIMS have turned blind;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) In October 1995, out of 11 cases where in post operative infection developed, in 8 cases the infection was controlled. In 3 cases, the infection could not be controlled and vision could not be restored.

(c) and (d) The matter has been thoroughly enquired into. However, the source of infection could not be traced. The overall anti-infective measures are being taken care of in adequate manner.

[Translation]

MPLADS

2367. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received complaints regarding the irregularities in the appropriation of funds under the Member of Parliament Local Areas Development Scheme;

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

(c) the action taken against those who are responsible for such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOR): (a) to (c) Some complaints relating to alleged irregularities in the

appropriation of funds under MPLADS in the State of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have been received. Whenever such a complaint is received, a report is called for from the concerned authorities of the State Government and necessary corrective actions taken.

[English]

Monitoring of Development Scheme

2368. SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to involve political representatives in the implementation and monitoring of different Urban and Rural Development Schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR): (a) to (c) The Constitution Seventy-third Amendment Act 1992 on the Panchayats and the Constitution Seventy-Fourth Amendment Act 1992 on Municipalities provide that the legislature of a State may, by law, endow the Panchayats/Municipalities with such powers and authority as may be necessary to enable them to function as institutions of self-government and such law may contain provisions for the devolution of powers and responsibilities upon Panchayats/Municipalities at the appropriate level with respect to the preparation of plans for economic development and social justice and the implementation of schemes for economic development and social justice as may be entrusted to them including those in relation to the matters listed in the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution Seventy Third Amendment Act 1992 and the Twelfth Schedule of the Constitution Seventy Fourth Amendment Act 1992 respectively. The legislature of a state may, by law, provide for the representation of the members of the House of the People, the members of the legislative Assembly of the State, the members of the Council of States and the members of Legislative Council of the State in the composition of Panchayats/Municipalities.

Review of 20 - Point Programme

2369. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any review on the implementation of 20 - Point Programme during Eighth Plan; and

(b) if so, the progress made on various schemes under 20 - Point Economic Programme during the said period, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOR): (a) and (b) Monitoring the progress of implementation of 20-Point Programme-86 is an on-going exercise. The ranking of the States, based on the performance of select monthly monitored items, is given in the attached Statement. The details regarding the progress made in the implementation of the 20-Point Programme-86 during the Eighth Plan period with reference to the items that are monitored on a monthly basis are available in the Annual Progress Reports of 20-Point Programme-86 for the period 1992-93 to 1996-97. These published documents are made available regularly to the Parliament Library.

Statement

*Ranking of States on the Performance of TPP'86
For 1992 - 93 To 1996 - 97*

S. No.	States/UTs	92-93	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pr.	1	6	8	4	7
2.	Arunachal Pr.	18	23	15	16	9
3.	Assam	22	22	20	23	25
4.	Bihar	14	19	21	21	26
5.	Delhi*	-	-	-	20	24
6.	Goa	16	18	18	24	21
7.	Gujarat	3	2	5	8	1
8.	Haryana	11	16	15	17	20
9.	Himachal Pr.	13	11	9	11	1
10.	J & K	25	25	23	14	19
11.	Karnataka	8	8	10	17	7
12.	Kerala	20	2	7	13	14
13.	M.P.	9	4	5	10	9
14.	Maharashtra	16	10	3	7	14
15.	Manipur	23	21	22	25	23
16.	Meghalaya	21	20	24	26	16
17.	Mizoram	9	13	12	12	16
18.	Nagaland	24	24	25	27	27
19.	Orissa	12	8	11	4	11

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
20. Pondicherry*	-	-	-	8	13	
21. Punjab	6	12	17	19	12	
22. Rajasthan	1	4	4	4	3	
23. Sikkim	6	14	12	3	5	
24. Tamil Nadu	3	1	1	1	4	
25. Tripura	15	14	19	14	16	
26. U.P.	5	7	2	1	6	
27. West Bengal	19	17	14	21	22	

* Delhi and Pondichery are also ranked since 1995-96 onwards.

Acupuncture System

2370. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1305 dated March 3, 1997 regarding Acupuncture System and state :

- whether the requisite information has since been collected so far;
- if so, the details thereof; and
- if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Following a large number of proposals for recognition of Acupuncture, Government have decided to set up a Committee of Experts to examine the issues relating to alternative therapies including Acupuncture.

- Does not arise.

Roster System of Reservation

2371. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- whether roster indicating reservation for SC/ST employees in various grades in his Ministry are not being maintained as per the guidelines issued by Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms;
- whether a large number of posts meant for SC/ST employees have been denied to them.
- whether these Rosters have not been signed by Liaison Officers in his Ministry; and
- if so, the action Government propose to take against those officers who have not implemented the

reservation policy in his Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) :

(a) Rosters are being maintained as per the guidelines issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms.

(b) No Sir, the Ministry of External Affairs is following the relevant guidelines issued by the Department of Personnel subject to the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal's directive to this Ministry contained in decision on OA No. 405/96 on 5th June, 1996 for computing vacancies.

(c) The rosters are examined by the Liaison Officer from time to time but his signing them has not been insisted upon. However, as a further measure, the same will be ensured in future. The rosters are also accessible to any employee interested to see them.

(d) There is no question of not implementing the Government's policy on reservation. Any lapse will be suitably dealt with, as per the rules.

[Translation]

Population Control Measures

2372. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- the details of population control and family planning measures taken at the world level and the role of India therein;
- the number of women who terminate pregnancy and the number of couples who use contraceptives in the country as per the survey conducted by the Council;
- the salient features of the present reproduction health programme package; and
- the reaction of the Government to the increasing foeticide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Since the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994, several national Governments are reported to have made progress in implementing the Programme Action adopted at the said Conference. India has adopted the 'Reproductive and Child Health' approach to its Family Welfare Programme, in accordance with the Programme of Action.

(b) 5.66 lakh women are reported to have undergone medical termination of pregnancy in the year

1995-96. The Couple Protection Rate in the year 1996-97 was 45.4%.

(c) Under the Reproductive and Child Health Programme, a Differential strategy has been adopted for various States and districts, in respect of reducing the mortality and morbidity among women and children. The Reproductive and Child Health Programme provides for a set of interventions common to the whole country, and additional services to selected States/districts. In addition, enhancement of local capacity through district or city specific projects has been provided for.

(d) While there continue to be general but non-specific statements expressing apprehension that female foeticide is quite common in the country, specific complaints or facts are not readily volunteered by individuals and agencies. The Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuses) Act, 1994, which prohibits determination of the sex of the foetus, is in force from 1st January, 1996.

[English]

Labour Courts

2373. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open some new labour courts in Delhi for early disposal of pending cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps taken for early disposal of pending cases since 1982?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The Central Government has set up one Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court (CGIT-cum-LC) in Delhi for adjudication of industrial disputes for which they are the appropriate Govt. under the Industrial Disputes Act. While there is no proposal at present under consideration for setting up more CGIT-cum-Labour Courts in Delhi, the number of industrial disputes and applications pending during 1982 to middle of 1997 was 754 and 415 respectively. In order to expedite disposals, long pending cases are being accorded priority and hearings are fixed after short intervals.

Computer Design Units

2374. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Computer Design Unit at Bhubaneswar in Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said unit is likely to start functioning ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) There is no such proposal with the Department of Electronics.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Reimbursement of Medical Bills

2375. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Government not to foot pensioners' private medical bills" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated May 25, 1997;

(b) if so, the rationale behind discriminating the pensioners in not footing their private medical bills, and

(c) the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) There is no discrimination against the pensioners. According to the prescribed procedure for referral to private hospitals/diagnostic centres recognised under CGHS, after the initial advice of a CGHS Specialist, a "Permission Letter" for such treatment is given by the CMO incharge of the concerned dispensary. In case of a medical emergency, the CMO incharge of the concerned CGHS dispensary may directly (i.e. even before Specialist's advice has been obtained) refer the CGHS pensioner to a private recognised hospital for further management/treatment after recording the details thereof. The expenditure to be reimbursed is restricted to the package deal rates/rates approved by the Government from time to time.

[Translation]

Areas Held by Myanmar

2376. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Myanmar has constructed a road

passing through certain villages of Manipur;

(b) whether some areas of India are taken by them in the construction of this road;

(c) whether the Indian Government have taken any action in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) No information is available of any road having been constructed by Myanmar passing through villages of Manipur

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Provident Fund Defaulters in U.P.

2377. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the regional Provident Fund Commissioner Uttar Pradesh has detected a large number of defaulters of employees Provident Fund and most of them belongs to export business houses in Agra, Lucknow and Kanpur;

(b) whether RPFC, U.P. has made out a comprehensive list of defaulters;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the penal action taken/proposed to be taken against the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) In Uttar Pradesh there are a number of EPF defaulters out of whom some belong to export business houses.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The requisite details are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

(d) Necessary legal and penal action as provided under Section 7A, 8, 14 etc. of the Employees Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, is being taken for recovery of the dues outstanding against the defaulting establishments.

Software Adoption in Administration

2378. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have issued directions to all the State and Central Government organisations to adopt "information technology software" in administration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any project report has been received from Andhra State Government on "information technology software" in administration; and

(d) if so, the details of the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In 1986, the Government issued directive to all the Central Government Departments to use NICNET of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to adopt information technology software in administration and their other areas of work. NIC has signed Memorandum of Understanding with all State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for use of NICNET by them to adopt information technology software in administration and other areas of day-to-day operations.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The proposals address the emerging paradigm of electronic governance being ushered in by information Technology and spell out some of the areas for undertaking pilot projects, internet applications and other information Technology applications which would help in providing a more convenient and citizen friendly interface with government.

[Translation]

Upliftment of Poor Below Poverty Line

2379. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set a target for the upliftment of all the poor people living below poverty line by the year 2005;

(b) if so, the estimated number of poor people living below the poverty line at present especially in Gujarat and the number out of them belong to SCs/STs; and

(c) the year-wise number of the poor people targetted to be uplifted above the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOR) : (a) Government

in its Common Approach to Major Policy Matters and a Minimum Programme has stated that the anti-poverty programmes will be redesigned to ensure generation of more employment, creation of assets, imparting productive skills and raising the incomes of the very poor so that a significant number is brought above the poverty line every year and poverty is abolished by the year 2005.

(b) The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty from the quinquennial National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure. As per the latest available estimates, 320.37 million people live below the poverty line in 1993-94. The number of people living below the poverty line in Gujarat is estimated as 10.52 million in 1993-94. In Gujarat, the percentage of population living below the poverty line among the SCs in 1993-94 are 32.26% in rural areas and 44.99% in urban areas and the same among the STs are 31.20% in rural areas and 35.47% in urban areas.

(c) The targets for the number of poor people to be uplifted above the poverty line are not set annually.

Free Medical Facilities to SCs/STs

2380. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive scheme is being implemented in the country particularly in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh to provide free medical facilities to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of families benefited under the scheme in each State particularly in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh since its introduction; and

(d) if not, whether the Government propose to introduce such a scheme for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Kashmir Issue

2381. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pakistani Foreign Minister who

visited Moscow during the last month urged Russia to "guide and direct" its ongoing talks with India on Kashmir issue; and

(b) if so, the Indian Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA): (a) Yes Sir. The Pakistan Foreign Minister addressing a Press Conference on 8th July, 1997, at the conclusion of his visit to Russia last month, had reportedly sought help, guidance, direction from Russia for reaching a peaceful settlement of the Jammu & Kashmir issue.

(b) It is Government's consistent policy that all issues between Indian and Pakistan should be resolved bilaterally. This ruled out any third party intervention of any sort. India's principled position has received wide support in the international community, including by Russia.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits

2382. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Kashmiri Pandits and others who were rendered homeless rehabilitated after the new Government has taken the charge in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) whether any target has been fixed for rehabilitation of displaced person by the end of 1997 and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the terrorists have attacked the rehabilitated people;

(d) if so, the number of persons killed and injured in terrorist attacks;

(e) whether the Government have taken any concrete steps to check the atrocities of the terrorists; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) No Kashmiri migrant family has returned to the Kashmir Valley after the installation of the new Government in the State.

(b) The State Government is preparing an action plan for return of Kashmiri migrants to their native places and they have informed that the process is likely to take

some time as the problem has to be tackled on a politico-economic basis. The question of setting up of target will arise only after the finalisation of the plan.

(c) to (f) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) of the question.

[English]

Hindustan Latex Limited

2383. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Latex, Trivandrum (Kerala) is earning profit;

(b) if so, the reasons for the piling of stocks in the public sector undertaking last year; and

(c) the action taken to streamline the functioning of the said undertaking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir, except for the year 1995-96.

(b) The company has reported that as on 31-3-1996 they had a balance stock of 94.57 Million pieces of condoms against sale of 562.83 Million Pieces of condoms and 2.06 Million Pieces of Copper-T against sale of 1.97 Million Pieces of Copper-T.

(c) The company is in the process of strengthening and expanding direct marketing of branded condoms and oral pills to supplement its sales to the Government for the Family Welfare Programme. In Government purchases HLL has to necessarily compete with a number of other manufacturers and therefore can hope to get orders for supply of only part of the total Government procurement.

[Translation]

Employment to Unemployed Youth

2384. SHRI SOHANBEER SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the migration of the educated unemployed youths from the hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh to Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra and other States for employment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Government to provide employment to them in the hilly areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOOOR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The major poverty alleviation programmes which provide employment are in operation throughout the country including hilly areas. Poverty alleviation programmes which provide employment in the rural areas are Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme. In the urban areas, two Poverty Eradication Schemes are in operation, namely, Nehru Rozgar Yojana and Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme which also seek to provide employment. Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana is being implemented as Central Plan Scheme to provide employment opportunities to educated unemployed youths in both rural and urban areas.

The approach to the Ninth Plan envisages priority to productive employment which will be generated in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and under-employment.

[English]

Sanitation in Hospitals

2385. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lavatories of the staff and the doctors are cleaned regularly and others used by patients are being ignored in the Central Government hospitals;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the government have undertaken surprise visits to check the lavatories for cleanliness and also to check the availability of sanitary facilities in lavatories in the said Central Government hospitals; and

(d) if so, the number of visits conducted and the short-comings found and the action taken against those who are responsible for the lapses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) In Central Government hospitals, lavatories of staff and doctors as well as the patients are cleaned regularly.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The position is reviewed constantly by the heads of Central Government hospitals for maintaining public hygiene and sanitation in the hospitals. The Officers of Directorate General of Health Services pay surprise visits to the Central Government hospitals to see their functioning including sanitation arrangement.

Compassionate Appointments

2386. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government does not appoint immediately the dependants of the Government servant who die in harness;

b) if so, the reasons therefor;

c) whether the Government propose to relax the rules so that the family is not put to hardship; and

d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) to (d) In order to make compassionate appointments of the dependants of Government servant, who died in harness, the appointing authority has to examine the financial condition of the family of the deceased. If it is established that but for the provision of employment, the family will not be able to meet the crises, a job is to be offered to the eligible member of the family. No time-limit has been prescribed for making such appointments. The applicant for compassionate appointment should not only be eligible as per the recruitment rules but should also be found to be suitable for the post in all respects. However, educational qualifications can be relaxed temporarily for two years in exceptional circumstances for appointment at the lowest level. In case of widow appointed on compassionate ground to Group D posts, she may be exempted from the requirement of educational qualifications provided duties of the post can be satisfactorily performed. The widow appointed on compassionate ground is allowed to continue in service even after re-marriage. In terms of the scheme, the compassionate appointment can also be made in organisations other than one where the deceased was serving. As such, the scheme is flexible and responsive enough to obviate further relaxation.

Loss Incurred by Atomic Energy

2387. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Atomic Energy has incurred a heavy loss of Rs. 2300 crore;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct an enquiry to fix the responsibility for the advance procurement of critical and long delivery items for the Nuclear Power Programme; and

(d) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d): Advance procurement of critical and long delivery items of equipment and components for six 500 MWe Units and four 220 MWe Units was undertaken as part of the proposal to instal 10,000 MWe of nuclear power generating capacity by 2000 A.D. with due approvals. This was done to enable completion of the projects expeditiously by reducing the gestation period. Advance procurement of materials/equipments resorted to in this regard would not result in financial loss since these equipments and material would cost more now considering escalation, foreign exchange variation, rupee devaluation etc. even after taking into account interest and preservation charges. Financial constraints have prevented the timely utilisation of these. Hence the question of any enquiry into this does not arise.

[Translation]

Vacant Post of Scheduled Tribe

2388. SHRI KACHARU BHAI RAUT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of Scheduled Tribes Category wise lying vacant in the Department/Ministry of Electronics;

(b) whether persons from other categories are working on these posts;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to clear the entire backlog?

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

OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) At present, there are seven vacancies for Scheduled Tribe candidates in the following categories:

Category	No. of posts
Group 'B'	2
Group 'C'	5

- (b) No, Sir.
- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) Action has already been initiated for filling up all these seven vacancies.

[English]

Help From French Scientists

2389. SHRI PRADEEP BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS:
SHRI B.L. SHANKAR:
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the French Scientists have expressed desire to help the Indian Scientists in various themes of research on AIDS;
- (b) if so, whether a delegation of French Scientists have visited India recently and held discussion with Indian authorities;
- (c) if so, the details of the discussions held; and
- (d) the extent to which the Government propose to take French assistance in controlling AIDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The French delegation visited India and discussed this topic on 11.7.97.

(c) During discussion with French delegation, areas of research on prevention of perinatal transmission, Molecular diversity, genetic factors, biological and immunological monitoring and mucosal immunity in HIV infection have been identified.

(d) The modalities of co-operation will be discussed in a workshop of scientists of both the countries proposed to be held in January, 1998.

[Translation]

Urban Unemployed Youth

2390. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent of increase in the number of unemployed urban youth in Maharashtra during the last three years and the figures thereof;
- (b) the steps being taken to check unemployment in Maharashtra; and
- (c) the provision made for the year 1997-98 in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT. (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) The number of job seekers, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed on the live register of employment exchanges in Maharashtra at the end of 1991 and 1996 was 31.6 lakhs and 38.2 lakhs respectively. The increase is to the tune of 6.6 lakhs.

(b) This Ministry is implementing two Centrally sponsored urban employment Programmes namely, Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY) & Prime Minister's Integrated Urban Poverty Eradication Programme (PMI UPEP). NRY was launched in Oct., 1989 in the country including Maharashtra with the objective of providing self employment and wage employment. PMI UPEP having self employment as one of the components was launched in November, '95 in the country including Maharashtra.

(c) NRY: Provision for the year 1997-98 is Rs. 869.23 lakhs for Maharashtra.

PMI UPEP: Provision for the year 1997-98 is Rs. 721.08 lakhs for Maharashtra.

[English]

CGHS Dispensaries/Hospitals for Retired Government Servants

2391. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have opened hospitals or dispensaries under CGHS scheme for the benefit of retired Government servants;

(b) if so, the places where such facilities have been provided;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any criteria

for opening of CGHS dispensaries of hospitals in various parts of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether all those towns who fulfil the required criteria to have such dispensaries are actually having CGHS dispensaries/hospitals; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (f) So far, the CGHS have opened dispensaries in the cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta, Chennai, Pune, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Jaipur, Alahabad, Meerut, Lucknow, Kanpur, Jabalpur, Patna, Nagpur, Ahmedabad, Guwahati and Trivendrum, for both serving as well as retired Central Government servants. CGHS Maternity and Gynaecology Hospital and Ayurvedic Hospital at Delhi are functioning exclusively for CGHS beneficiaries.

As per current policy, CGHS is in the first instance to be extended to State Capitals depending on the feasibility, requirements, fulfilments of the CGHS norms, availability of resources.

The city of Chandigarh has been proposed for inclusion for coverage in the Ninth Five Year Plan.

[Translation]

Declaration of Backward Area

2392. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to declare some areas of Delhi as backward and to provide adequate financial grant for their development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas/districts declared as backward, State-wise, as on date during the last three years;

(d) the amount allocated for this purpose during the said period, State-wise; and

(e) the total number of persons benefited under this scheme, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOR) : (a) to (e) No, Sir, Planning and Development of an area and allocation

of fund for that purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments. Planning Commission has not identified any area as backward per se. However, Central Government is supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in this regard through the mechanism of transfer of resources by providing weightage for backwardness in the modified Gadgil formula approved by NDC in 1991 for Normal Central Assistance in the states and through Special Area programmes such as Border Area Development Programme, Hill Area Development Programme, Tribal Sub-Plan, Drought Prone Area Programme, Desert Development Programme and other Programmes/Schemes such as Integrated Rural Development Programme, Jawahar Rojgar Yojana and Employment Assurance Scheme. Further Non-Plan funds are released on the basis of recommendation of the Finance Commission which takes notes of the relative development of a state.

[English]

Unit System in ISM

2393. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for introduction of Unit System in Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy in Delhi and outside Delhi in place of opening of full fledged dispensaries under CGHS;

(b) whether United System under CGHS in Delhi is not beneficial to its beneficiaries, Medical and Para-Medical staff;

(c) if so, the reasons for not taking adequate steps for the upgradation of these units; and

(d) whether any proposal is under active consideration of the Government in this regard, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (d) There are specified norms for sanction of staff for dispensaries and units depending on the average attendance of the beneficiaries. Accordingly, in most places units have been established in the case of the Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy, keeping in mind the general level of attendance of the beneficiaries.

The units are extending services as per needs of the beneficiaries and there is no quality difference in the type of treatment extended by these units.

**500th Anniversary of Vasco-da-Gama
Arrival to India**

2394. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Portugal is making arrangements to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of arrival of Vasco-da-Gama in India in a big way;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Portugal to join the above celebrations;

(c) whether any meeting was held between the Prime Minister, the Minister of Human Resource Development and the Chief Minister of Goa and Kerala to discuss the above proposal; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

2395. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to install a Statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in front of Red Fort;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if no, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has sent a proposal to shift the Statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose from its present site at Subhash Park, Darya Ganj and relocate it in front of Red Fort.

National Human Rights Commission

2396. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2777 on March 12, 1997 regarding

National Human Rights Commission and state:

a) the response of each of the State Government on the recommendations of National Human Rights Commission in the light of letters sent to Chief Ministers of all States;

b) whether the recommendations have been got implemented in Union Territory Administrations;

c) if so, the details thereof; and

d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) to (d) The recommendation of the National Human Rights Commission for inclusion of a rule in the Conduct Rules of Government servants for prohibiting employment of children below 14 years as domestic servant, is under consideration. The Central Government have not consulted the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations on the proposal.

[Transiation]

Population

2397. SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of increase in population in India as per the figures of the 'Population Reference Bureau';

(b) the estimated population of India by 2000 A.D.;

(c) the world population in billion beyond which it should not increase to maintain the balance between the availability of necessities and population of the world as per the recently held census; and

(d) the percentage of growth rate in the population required to be reduced in the developing countries to avoid increase in population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Population Resource Bureau is an organisation of the USAID. According to information obtained from them, the (natureal) population increase estimated by the Bureau is 1.9 per cent in 1997.

(b): As per the projections made by the Technical Group on Population Projections constituted by the Planning Commission, the estimated population of India is

1009 million by 2000 A.D.

(c) and (d) There can be no exact estimate of the maximum population which the planet can support while ensuring availability of all necessities for comfortable living because the nature and extent of necessities change from time to time, and the productivity of organisations and techniques creating these necessities also keep changing. However, as judged by the pressure on resources and services in Indian it seems clear that India is already over-populated.

The total fertility rate in India was 3.5 as assessed through SRS (1995). For stable population the fertility has to come down to 2.1. Actually, the population will continue to increase for another generation after fertility rate of 2.1 has been reached, because more Young couples will join the reproductive age group, then will be phased out due to old age. Therefore, the fertility rate in India needs to be brought down to 2.1 for achieving stable population.

Eradication of Polio

2398. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Health Organisation (WHO) has stressed the need for an effective surveillance system to

ensure eradication of polio virus;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to implement the suggestions of WHO;

(c) the achievement made in the immunisation of children against Polio in India; and

(d) the details of programme prepared in this regard for coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) The National Polio Surveillance Project is being launched by the Government of India in collaboration with World Health Organisation during 1997-98 for the effective surveillance of Poliomyelitis.

(c) The achievements during Pulse Polio Immunization in 1995-96 and 1996-97 are given in the attached Statement from I to IV.

(d) The surveillance of Acute Flaccid Paralysis has been made mandatory. A network of Surveillance Medical Officers is being established throughout the country in collaboration with the World Health Organisation for the surveillance of Acute Flaccid Paralysis cases. A central project office is being set up in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the National Polio Surveillance Project.

Statement-I

Pulse Polio Immunization 9th December 1995

Sl. No.	States	Districts		Targets 0-3			Coverage 0-3				Total No. Above 3	Total Vaccinated
		Number	Reporte	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total	%		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Arunachal-Pradesh	12	12	79580	12617	92197	82496	16377	98873	107.241	9671	108544
2.	Andhra Pradesh	23	23	1419908	4512220	5932128	1228446	4259509	5487955	92.51242	801796	6289751
3.	Assam	23	23	1903362	196894	2100256	2047535	169229	2216764	105.5473	220479	2437243
4.	Bihar	39	39			7968000	9315000	802000	10117000	126.9704	536700	10653700
5.	Chandigarh-UT	1	1	7500	42500	50000	7277	42271	49548	99.096	5785	55333
6.	Delhi				1013236	1013236		1080357	1080357	106.6244	151085	1231442
7.	D & N Haveli	1	1	13716		13716	17063		17063	124.4022	507	17570
8.	Goa	2	2	45500	260000	71500	43605	24477	68082	95.21958	3788	71870
9.	Gujarat	19	19	2515810	813519	3329329	2523518	771035	3294553	98.95547	287291	3581844
10.	Haryana	16	16	1003268	354274	1357542	1278085	433180	1711265	126.0561	101824	1813089
11.	Himachal Pradesh	12	12	346936	23447	370383	338270	24906	363176	98.05418	15715	378891
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	14			702616			784880	111.7082	91423	876303

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13. Karnataka		20	20	2646866	914057	3560923	2596351	819786	3416137	95.93403	183882	3600019
14. Kerala		14	14	1452921	209544	1662465	1523539	209657	1733196	104.2546	219143	1952339
15. Lakshadweep		1	1	4735		4735	4602		4602	97.19113	4771	9373
16. Meghalaya		7	7	167964	24938	192902	165926	17432	183358	95.05241	22209	205567
17. Maharashtra		30	30	4537581	2349783	6887364	4464373	2182144	6646517	96.50306	442093	7088610
18. Manipur		8	8	128096	17053	145149	159571	20109	179680	123.79	27225	206905
19. Mizoram		4	4	44539	17270	61809	46246	15569	61815	100.0097	8171	69986
20. Madhya Pradesh		45	45			6547450			7096178	108.3808	285317	7381495
21. Nagaland		7	7	80127	19438	99565	68039	17428	85467	85.84041	6371	91838
22. Orissa		30	30	2384112	303878	2687990	2376745	287630	2664375	99.12146	204589	2868964
23. Punjab		14	14	1332716	470522	1803238	1391563	560402	1951965	108.2478	126037	2078002
24. Pondicherry		4	4	19443	30082	49525	20780	37492	58272	117.6618	31354	89626
25. Rajasthan		31	31	3916679	1007759	4924438	4022625	941048	4963673	100.7967	238245	5201918
26. Sikkim		4	4	33057	4100	37157	36834	8292	45126	121.4468	5887	51013
27. Tamil Nadu		23	23	2764092	922503	3686595	2677460	948479	3625939	98.35469	2502237	6128176
28. Tripura		4	4			208603			229265	109.9049	9349	238614
29. Uttar Pradesh		66	66	12270793	2162118	14432911	13347185	2457881	15805066	109.5071	1650889	17455955
30. West Bengal		19	19	4808184	842452	5650636	4575138	687209	5262347	93.1284	283589	5545936
31. A & N Islands		1	1			24600			23432	95.25203	1176	24608
32. Daman & Diu		2	2			8739			8923	102.1055	234	9157
Total		496	496	43927485	16290204	75677697	54358272	16833899	79334849	104.8325	8478832	87813681

Statement-II

Pulse Polio Immunization 20th January 1996

Sl. No.	States	Districts		Targets 0-3			Coverage 0-3			No. Above 3	Total Vaccinated	
		Number	RPRTD	Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total			%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	12	12	82496	16277	98773	88366	18310	106676	108.0012	10902	117578
2.	Andhra Pradesh	23	23	4512220	1419908	5932128	4657550	1471611	6129161	103.3215	734673	6863834
3.	Assam	23	23	1912893	196894	2109787	2047535	169505	2217040	105.0836	220487	2437527
4.	Bihar	39	39			7968000			11466000	143.9006	557000	12023000
5.	Chandigarh	1	1	7500	42500	50000	8156	51983	60139	120.278	9011	69150
6.	Delhi			0	1081321	1081321	0	1151689	1151689	106.5076	165114	1316803
7.	D & N Haveli	1	1	17063	0	17063	17812	0	17812	104.3896	209	18021
8.	Goa	2	2	51200	23000	74200	50072	22558	72630	97.8841	4092	76722
9.	Gujarat	19	19	0	0	3670713	0	0	3715890	101.2307	151523	3867413
10.	Haryana	16	16	1164163	368002	1532165	1442676	431533	1874209	122.3242	9949	1973708

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
11. Himachal Pradesh	12	12	371698	23247	394945	363444	24938	388382	98.33825	17217	405599	
12. Jammu & Kashmir	14	14	0	0	729080	0	0	697131	95.6179	102479	799610	
13. Karnataka	20	20	2763276	1121291	3884567	2904058	1069991	3974049	102.3035	229690	4203739	
14. Kerala	14	14	1444627	209544	1654171	1404699	229947	1634646	98.81965	239044	1873690	
15. Lakshadweep	1	1	4735	0	4735	4548	0	4548	96.05069	400	4948	
16. Meghalaya	7	7	173357	26423	199780	175171	20041	195212	97.71348	20603	215815	
17. Maharashtra	30	30	0	0	6776167	0	0	6865263	101.3148	415163	7280426	
18. Manipur	8	8	147931	17171	165102	168867	21254	190121	115.1537	26338	216459	
19. Mizoram	4	4	44206	15716	59922	46136	15522	61658	102.8971	8461	70119	
20. Madhya Pradesh	45	45	0	0	6547450	0	0	7470651	114.1002	192792	7663443	
21. Nagaland	7	7	72776	22474	95250	69509	22014	91523	96.08714	6975	98498	
22. Orissa	30	30	2413691	303884	2717575	2509225	321016	2830241	104.1458	261647	3091888	
23. Punjab	15	15	1420200	553870	1974070	1480992	619830	2100822	106.4208	152285	2253107	
24. Pondicherry	4	4	19443	30962	50405	25312	37214	62526	124.0472	37004	99530	
25. Rajasthan	31	31	3916679	1007759	4924438	4236915	1026742	5263657	106.8885		5263657	
26. Sikkim	4	4	30649	7768	38417	34966	8957	43923	114.3322	6254	50177	
27. Tamil Nadu	23	23	0	0	3589710	0	0	3844983	107.1112	2653074	6498057	
28. Tripura	4	4	216091	11710	227801	221607	12214	233821	102.6427	8918	242739	
29. Uttar Pradesh	66	66	12722358	2287714	15010072	14437785	2883151	17320936	115.3954	1586897	18907833	
30. West Bengal	19	19	4374101	1051065	5425166	4370843	933819	5304662	97.7788	238646	5543308	
31. A & N Islands	1	1	18110	6490	24600	17685	6377	24062	97.81301	2193	26255	
32. Daman & Diu	1	1	8923	0	8923	9428	0	9428	105.6595	465	9893	
Total	496	496	37910386	9844990	77036496	40793357	10570216	85423491	110.887	8159055	93582546	

Statement-III

Pulse Polio Immunization 7th December 1996

Sl. No.	States	No. of Distt.	Distt Reptd.	Targets 0-5			Coverage 0-5			No. Above 5	Total Vaccinated	
				Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total			%
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	A & N Islands	2	2	29085	9600	38685	28525	9714	38239	98.85	1423	39662
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	23	23	6608928	2109625	8718553	7279545	2276175	9555720	109.60	228756	9784476
3.	Andhra Pradesh	13	13	112975	23241	136216	112918	31030	143948	105.68	6014	149962
4.	Assam	23	23	2778147	299190	3077337	2607130	276719	2883849	9371	135745	3019594
5.	Bihar	43	43	13086000	1361000	14447000	12304000	1322000	13626000	94.32	189000	13815000
6.	Chandigarh	1	1	45908	44042	89950	45908	44042	89950	100.00	4247	94197
7.	D & N Haveli	1	1	23224		23224	24458		24458	105.31		24458
8.	Daman & Diu	2	2	7835	5266	13101	8304	5476	13780	105.18	64	13844

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9. Delhi		1	1		1867656	1867656		1867656	1867656	0.00	0	1867656
10. Goa		2	2	82000	39000	121000	79757	37210	116967	96.67	2236	119203
11. Gujarat		19	19	3431462	1279354	4710816	3939816	1343126	5282942	112.14		5282942
12. Haryana		17	17	2000609	572584	2573193	2160519	644147	2804666	109.00	35177	2839843
13. Himachal Pradesh		12	12	548267	39554	587821	583636	43482	627118	106.69	1901	629019
14. Jammu & Kashmir		14	14	1010344	191581	1201925	1083889	176837	1260726	104.89	47380	1308106
15. Karnataka		20	20	4082562	1872027	5954589	4147016	1857099	6004115	100.83	70790	6074905
16. Kerala		14	14	2368067	361158	2729225	2240000	347289	2587289	94.80	3496	2590785
17. Lakshadweep		1	1	6820		6820	6820		6820	100.00		6820
18. Madhya Pradesh		45	45	8146519	1601999	9748518	8366055	1668285	10034340	102.93	81480	10115820
19. Maharashtra		29	29	7127004	2231325	9358329	6746286	2115488	8861774	94.69	141664	9003438
20. Manipur		8	8	224586	34973	259559	234979	37467	272446	104.96	10572	283018
21. Meghalaya		7	7	294080	48599	342679	259394	27902	287296	83.84	11902	299198
22. Mizoram		4	4	67199	27803	95002	70966	25705	96671	101.76	6650	103321
23. Nagaland		7	7	152863	34736	187599	146417	33209	179626	95.75	3640	183266
24. Orissa		30	30	3751995	504203	4256198	3735697	498205	4233902	99.48	99534	4333436
25. Pondicherry		4	4	35821	50019	85840	38370	13074	51444	59.93	6403	57847
26. Punjab		17	17	1804642	749914	2554556	1932438	833498	2765936	108.27	131515	2897451
27. Rajasthan		31	31	5253684	1559442	6813126	5531804	1370902	6902706	101.31	85684	6988390
28. Sikkim		4	4	53731	8148	61879	59139	9248	68387	110.52	3331	71718
29. Tamil Nadu		25	25	4774881	1470176	6245057	4331408	1670292	6201700	99.31	164520	6366220
30. Tripura		4	4	325992		325992	305710		305710	93.78	1021	306731
31. Uttar Pradesh		68	68	17900307	3583162	21483469	18120842	4009419	22130261	103.01	838032	22968293
32. West Bengal		19	19	7210378	1704009	8914387	6600040	1427412	8027452	90.05	149529	8176981
Total		510	510	93345915	23683386	117029301	93331786	24022108	117353894	100.28	2461706	119815600

Statement-iv

Pulse Polio Immunization 18th January 1997

Sl. No.	States	No. of Distt.	Distt Reptd.	Targets 0-5			Coverage 0-5			%	No. Above 5	Total Vaccinated
				Rural	Urban	Total	Rural	Urban	Total			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	A & N Islands	2	2	29085	9600	38685	28536	9941	38477	99.46	2224	40701
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	23	23	7051140	2133698	9184838	7711266	2489938	10201204	111.07	324044	10525248
3.	Andhra Pradesh	13	13	131141	23586	154727	128038	24396	152434	98.52	6113	158547
4.	Assam	23	23	2812736	322323	3135059	3072552	341314	3413866	108.89	180133	3593999
5.	Bihar	43	43	12929000	1361000	14290000	12798000	1296000	14094000	98.63	227000	14321000
6.	Chandigarh	1	1	39359	59380	98739	41771	62957	104728	106.07	5989	110717

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
7.	D & N Haveli	1	1	24458		24458	25560		25560	104.51	0	25560
8.	Daman & Diu	2	2	8304	5476	13780	9053	5730	14783	107.28	62	14845
9.	Delhi	1	1	0	1790000	1790000	0	1933584	1933584	108.02	0	1933584
10.	Goa	2	2	84000	40000	124000	83438	38797	122235	98.58	2121	124356
11.	Gujarat	19	19	4610764	224574	4835338	5302778	251465	5554243	114.87	0	5554243
12.	Haryana	17	17	2000315	570203	2570518	2279296	716278	2995574	116.54	43365	3038939
13.	Himachal Pradesh	12	12	549554	40278	589832	607693	44688	652381	110.60	1523	653904
14.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	14	1022522	191274	1213796	1131397	219353	1350750	111.28	55090	1405840
15.	Karnataka	20	20	3959414	1804443	5763857	4250160	1988177	6238337	108.23	120659	6358996
16.	Kerala	14	14	2366878	361312	2728190	2352010	382616	2734626	100.24	15721	2750347
17.	Lakshadweep	1	1	7018	0	7018	7036	0	7036	100.26	0	7036
18.	Madhya Pradesh	45	45	8250632	1938743	10189375	8132095	2017966	10150061	99.61	66741	10216802
19.	Maharashtra	29	29	7190953	2350713	9541666	6864485	2362058	9226543	96.70	173152	9399695
20.	Manipur	8	8	259709	36677	296386	281901	40376	322277	108.74	15861	338138
21.	Meghalaya	7	7	297378	32973	330351	288275	27096	315371	95.47	12992	328363
22.	Mizoram	4	4	67242	27803	95045	74575	26737	101312	106.59	7908	109220
23.	Nagaland	7	7	156885	37195	194080	151174	35862	187036	96.37	3795	190831
24.	Orissa	30	30	3753594	504985	4258579	3843988	524157	4368145	102.57	105506	4473651
25.	Pondicherry	4	4	35960	51431	87391	39525	70663	110188	126.09	6646	116834
26.	Punjab	17	17	1829805	598836	2728641	2037378	992240	3029618	111.03	149023	3178641
27.	Rajasthan	31	31	5173439	1687133	6860572	5923357	1434109	7357466	107.24	88986	7446452
28.	Sikkim	4	4	55148	8148	63296	60094	9093	69187	109.31	3611	72798
29.	Tamil Nadu	25	25	4494220	1583060	6077280	4884209	1700667	6584876	108.35	127775	6712651
30.	Tripura	4	4	315776	19078	334854	320473	20132	340605	101.72	0	340605
31.	Uttar Pradesh	68	68	19479165	3817328	23296493	22739297	4651786	27391083	117.58	1071490	28462573
32.	West Bengal	19	19	7248011	1792490	9040501	6741095	1491112	8232207	91.06	121914	8354121
Total		510	510	96233605	23723740	119957345	102210505	25209288	127419793	106.22	2939444	130359237

Megacity Project

2399. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the West Bengal Government has urged the Union Government for minimum allocation of at least Rs. 50 crore annually for its megacity project;

(b) whether the State Government has also demanded that the shortfall in released of funds during the Eighth Plan period be compensated by release of additional funds; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Union

Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOR) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir, the Mega City Scheme is implemented by the Department of Urban Development, Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment. The release of funds by the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment to a nodal agency will depend on (i) project performance including utilisation of funds released earlier, (ii) availability of State share, (iii) conformity of proposed projects to Scheme guidelines, (iv) mobilisation of 50% institutional finance and (v) progress of policy reforms envisaged under the scheme

which is expected to be a vehicle of urban sector reforms as envisaged by the Constitution (74th) Amendment Act. Given the overall size of the resources available for the Ninth Plan and other equally pressing commitments, the Domestic Budget Support (DBS) for the Department of Urban Development, inclusive of the allocation for the Mega City Scheme, has been projected at Rs. 2000 crore (at 1996-97 prices) as against the budget estimates of Rs. 866.01 cr. (at 1991-92 price) in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Financial Position of States

2400. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the present financial position of State Governments was considered in the meeting of the Planning Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Planning Commission has projected the current revenue of States in the Ninth Five Year Plan period is likely to be Rs. 64,000 crores less than projected by a working group of the Commission;

(d) if so, whether both the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry have urged the States to restrict expenditure and explore new avenues of resources mobilisation; and

(e) to what extent the State Governments have agreed on the suggestions made by the Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI RATNAMALA D. SAVANOR) : (a) to (e) The estimates of financial resources of the States for their Ninth Five Year Plan were considered by the Planning Commission in its meeting held on 9th June, 1997. In that meeting the Commission took note of the States Own Resources for their Ninth Plan as estimated at Rs. 1.89,612 crore by the Working Group on States Resources for the Ninth Five Year Plan. Also the Commission noted that on the basis of subsequent official level discussions with each State, these estimates of resources came down substantially to Rs. 1,31,880 crore. This was mainly because of sharp decrease in the estimate of balance from current revenues to the tune of about Rs. 64,000 crore. However, this has been partially made up through higher borrowings estimated by the States. The States were impressed upon the need for higher resources mobilization. Subsequently the resources estimates have improved to a substantially higher level due to commitments made by Chief Ministers

for additional resources mobilization during the course of their discussions with Deputy Chairman for finalization of Ninth Plan outlay.

[Translation]

Vacant Post of Presiding Officers in Labour Courts

2401. SHRI N.J. RATHWA :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of posts of Presiding officers in Labour Courts are lying vacant in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise as on date and the dates since when these posts are lying vacant and the number of reserved posts for SC/ST out of them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Central Government has set up 12 Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts for adjudication of industrial disputes for which they are the appropriate Govt. under the Industrial Disputes Act. All the presiding Officers are in position except in Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Courts at Chandigarh, Jaipur and No. 2, Dhanbad. While after selecting a candidate, proposal has already been sent to Appointment Committee of Cabinet (A.C.C.) for approval for Central Govt. Industrial Tribunal-cum-Labour Court (CGIT-CUM-LC) No. 2, Dhanbad, selection of Candidates for appointment as Presiding Officers, CGIT-cum-Labour Courts, Chandigarh and Jaipur are under way. Posts of Presiding Officers are filled up on deputation basis and selection is made by inviting applications from eligible judicial officers. As such, the question of reservation of post for SC/ST candidates does not arise.

[English]

Training to Indian Diplomats

2402. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to train Indian diplomats, posted abroad in different missions;

(b) if so, whether the training imparted is likely to boost trade and tourism;

(c) when this proposal was made by the Commerce Ministry to the Prime Minister; and

(d) if so, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) :

(a) It is a well established and regular practice to train the officers who are posted to Indian Diplomatic Missions abroad.

(b) The training programme includes a wide range of subjects with due emphasis on promotion of trade and tourism.

(c) There is no such proposal submitted by the Ministry of Commerce.

(d) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Five Star Hotels at Vasant Vihar

2403. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the DDA has chalked out any scheme to construct some hotels in Vasant Vihar area of New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such scheme was also prepared a few year back, which was rejected by the Govt. in view of the Delhi Master Plan;

(d) if so, the basis on which the scheme for the hotel project has been sanctioned again at the same place;

(e) whether representations/memoranda from some voluntary organisations/citizens in protest have been received by the Government/DDA;

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

(g) the action taken or propose to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a): Yes, Sir.

(b) DDA has proposed to develop an International Hotels Complex at Vasant Vihar. The total area of the scheme is 315 ha. The Hotels Complex Comprises of 11 hotels. One site of a Five Star hotel has already been disposed off. There is a proposal for 5 sites for 4 Star Hotel and 6 sites for 5 Star Hotels.

Besides, the proposal includes a shopping mall, convention centre, 200 bedded hospital, national & international level institutes, group housing for general pool residential accommodation and recreational area such as Golf Course, Sports complex, Parks and Water Bodies etc.

(c) and (d) For the hotel complex, certain modifications in the land use norms of MPD 2001 are under consideration under the DD Act, 1957. The details of the land use are as under:-

Sl. No.	Land use	As per MPD-2001 (ha)	As approve by Government (ha)
1.	Residential	100	35
2.	Commercial	8	65
3.	Public & Semi public facilities	41.50	50
4.	Recreational	147	140
5.	Transportation	18.50	25
		315.00	315.00

(e) to (g) The project raised apprehension in the mind of some citizens and a letter was written to the Supreme Court of India against the proposal and development of this area. The Supreme Court of India is its order dated 13.9.96 ordered for the creation of an authority as per Environment (Protection) Act, 1996 by 10th Oct., 1996, and till such time as the Environmental Impact Assessment Authority clears the project ordered stoppage of all construction and development of the site. The Environmental Impact Assessment Authority has ordered DDA to carry out Environmental Impact Assessment Study for the proposed Complex. The Study report has been completed and submitted to the authority for its consideration and approval.

[English]

Construction of Roads

2404. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Union Government propose to construct at least a walkable road from Jammu to holi cave

of Amar Nath in view of visit of lakhs of pilgrims every year especially in view of the disastrous unfortunately tragedy of last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the work is likely to be started and completed indicating the amount sanctioned for this purpose; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) There is already a motorable road from Jammu to Anantnag (Khanabal)-Pahalgam-Chandanwari. From Chandanwari to holy Cave at Amarnath, a 32 Km. track exists. The Government of Jammu & Kashmir have taken necessary steps to improve the track enroute to Amarnath Cave, Keeping in view the recommendations made by Dr. Sengupta Committee in this regard. The State Planning Department has provided funds to the tune of Rs. 1.28 crores for maintenance/repair of Khanabal-Chandanwari Road. The track from Chandanwari to Holy Cave, including the bridges enroute have been repaired, and maintained properly.

Extradition Treaty .

2405. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed extradition treaty with Hong Kong before it was handed over to China;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement;

(c) whether this agreement has been ratified by the Chinese Government now in occupation of Hong Kong; and

(d) the total number of extradition treaties entered into and to what extent these have helped India in curbing extremist activities operating outside the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) Yes Sir, India has signed extradition treaty with Hong Kong on 28.6.1997.

(b) Sir, The agreement would provide a broad legal basis and procedural mechanisms to enable each country

to arrest and extradite fugitive offenders, both accused or convicted of offences agreed to under its provisions.

In urgent cases, the agreement provides for the provisional arrest of a fugitive offender, pending the receipt of formal extradition request, where a request for such provisional arrest is made. This would help prevent fugitive offenders from escaping with an intent to avoid legal action.

The agreement also provides for the surrender of a fugitive offender to another jurisdiction for prosecution or the imposition or enforcement of a sentence. It would work as a deterrent against the conduct of criminal activities.

(c) Sir, according to the Sino-British joint declaration of 1984, extradition treaties concluded by Hong Kong with other countries which are in force on the date of transfer of sovereignty, will continue to be in force even after the transfer. Hence, there is no need for a fresh ratification of the agreement by China.

(d) Yes Sir, India has signed extradition treaties with Canada, U.K., Nepal, Bhutan, Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, USA and Hong Kong. Apart from these countries, India also has extradition arrangements with Tanzania, Australia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Thailand, Germany and Sweden, having extended the application of the Indian Extradition Act to these countries.

Sir, extradition treaties have helped India in receiving back for trial some notorious criminals involved in grave crimes/extremist activities, namely Shri Om Prakash Srivastava and Babloo Srivastava from Singapore, Shri Daya Singh Lahoria and his wife Suman from USA. The extradition of Shri M.I. Brodia has also been cleared by US authorities. In addition the agreements concluded would provide a legal basis for seeking extradition of fugitive offenders required in India. In the absence of such agreement, it would be difficult to legally enforce or process our requests to foreign states.

Import and Smuggling of Whisky

2406. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a study conducted by United Distillers, an international distiller stating that Indians consume about 32 million cases of whisky per year making India the second largest consumer of this brand of alcohol;

(b) if so, the quantity of whisky imported, smuggled in and indigenously produced, separately;

(c) whether the Government have any programme to bring about prohibition of the consumption of alcohol under Article 47 of the Constitution;

(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 (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (e) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Joint Venture for Five-Star Hospital

2407. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi has awarded a plot of prime land measuring 15 acres to Indraprastha Hospital Corporation Limited for a token amount of Rupee 1 and entered into an agreement for establishing a joint-venture five-star hospital in the Capital;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of the joint venture laid down;

(c) the extent to which the terms of the agreement are being implemented and the benefit being accrued to the common public;

(d) whether the Government are aware of the allegations of corruption and malpractices levelled against the management of the said hospital;

(e) if so, whether Government are considering to take over the management of the said hospital; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) As per the agreement with the Administrator, Delhi and M/s Apollo Hospital, it was decided to jointly promote and to register a Public Limited Company under the name of Indraprastha Medical Corporation Ltd", with the objective of setting up a hospital in Delhi. The Govt. of NCT of Delhi has acquired 26% equity share of the Apollo Hospital. An area of 15 acres was also placed at the disposal of the joint venture company at concessional rates of construction of the building. It was agreed among other things that the Corporation will made available not less than one third of total capacity of 600 beds for the poor and also treat 40% poor out patients free. This Hospital has yet to provide these facilities to the public.

(d) No such report has been received in the Ministry.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Building on Rent for CGHS Dispensary

2408. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per policy of CGHS, the advertisements for hiring building on rent for opening of CGHS dispensary in any area is given in newspapers first and the dispensaries are sanctioned even on later stage;

(b) if so, the authorities responsible for keeping the rented buildings vacant till the CGHS dispensary is sanctioned for that area;

(c) if not, the circumstances under which the advertisement for hiring a building in Vasant Vihar was given in Newspapers on January 1,1990 whereas the dispensary has not been sanctioned till date, and

(d) the steps being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) and (b) The advertisement for hiring a building is generally given only after issue of a sanction for opening of a CGHS dispensary in a particular area. However, advertisements can be occasionally given to understand the availability and cost of hiring accommodation at specific places.

CGHS have reported that no building has been taken on rent prior to its establishment being sanctioned.

(c) and (d) Since suitable rented space was not available to house the dispensaries sanctioned at identified locations, advertisements were given for different locations considered feasible at that time, as an alternative measure. One such location was Vasant Vihar. Since then the sanctioned dispensaries have been established at the locations decided upon. The Vasant Vihar area has been covered by R.K. Puram Dispensaries of Sector VI and Sector VIII.

Violation of Supreme Court's Orders

2409. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the decision of the Supreme Court a patient once reached to a hospital, is not to be refused admission and treatment but in spite of such an order the hospitals are refusing admission/

treatment of patients as has been brought out in the Hindustan Times dated July 18, 1997 in the news item captioned "Hospitals let him bleed to death";

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to enquire into the matter and the take necessary action against the hospitals concerned so as to be a deterrent to other hospitals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Hon'ble Supreme Court in their judgement dated 6.5.1996 in Paschim Banga Khet Mazdoor Samity and others V/s States of West Bengal and another among other things have suggested remedial measures to ensure immediate medical attention and treatment to persons in real need, Government of NCT of Delhi have informed that Supreme Court directions have been circulated to the hospitals for strict compliance.

(b) and (c) The concerned hospitals/Nursing Homes have been asked by the Government of NCT of Delhi to explain the circumstances for not admitting the patient on the said date.

[Translation]

Impact of Privatisation of Medical Colleges

2410. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the process of privatisation of Medical Colleges has began qualitative differences between the candidates who got admission through competition and those who got admission through capitation fee and likely to affect the quality of medical education adversely; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Admission in medical colleges both in Government colleges and private colleges, in regulated through a common entrance test conducted/merit list prepared by the competent authority in the respective States. The Supreme Court has prescribed 15% seats in private medical colleges of NRI/foreign students and selection for the same in done by the respective colleges on merit. Charging of capitation fee is banned by the Supreme Court.

(b) Does not arise.

Smuggling of Drugs

2411. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Lucknow is becoming a major centre of drug smugglers in Uttar Pradesh in connivance and complicity of police and Insurance authorities and the smugglers smuggled only medicines of Multinational Companies brand as they are costlier than Indian ones and are in great demand in abroad; and

(b) if so, the action the Government propose to take to check the thefts of medicines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) No such report has come to notice.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

M-11 Ballistic Missiles

2412. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :
SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether China recently denied the allegations in the US media that it had sold out M-11 ballistic missiles to Pakistan;

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

(c) whether a high-level delegation of Chinese People's Liberation Army recently visited India; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government are aware of defence cooperation between China and Pakistan, including supply of military equipment and technology. Government continue to take all necessary measures to safeguard India's security.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A Chinese People's Liberation Army delegation led by the Commander of the Chengdu Military Region, Lt. Gen. Liao Zilong, visited India from June

6-12, 1997. The visit was part of an ongoing process of military exchanges in the framework of confidence building measures jointly agreed upon. Such visits are aimed at improving mutual understanding.

MBBS EXAMS

2413. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "1991 batch yet to take first MBBS exam in Salem college" appearing in the Indian Express of July 6, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the first batch of MBBS students of the Vinayage Mission's Kirupananda Variyar Medical College, Salem are still waiting to write their first year examination whereas the students admitted to the course have completed their MBBS course; and

(c) if so, the circumstances which arose such a situation and the decision or steps being taken by the Government to help this batch to complete the course?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. An application was received under the provisions of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 from the Secretary, Thirumuruga Kirupananda Variyar Thavathiru Sundara Swamigal Medical Educational and Charitable trust, Salem on 13.9.1995 for establishment of a new medical college in the name of Vinayaka Missions's Kirupananda Variyar Medical College at Salem. The Government, on the recommendations of the Medical Council of India, accorded permission for the establishment of above college on 4.3.1996 from the academic year 1995-96.

[Translation]

Production of Spurious Medicines

2414. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR :
SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale production of spurious medicines in the country causing several deaths:

(b) if so, the details of the companies engaged in the production of such spurious medicines for the last three years. and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the

Government against these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) As per the reports available from the State Licensing Authorities during the period 1994 to 1997, one case of suspected death was reported in Kerala in the year 1994 due to administration of spurious Injection Atropine Sulphate manufactured by M/S G.K. Pharmaceuticals, Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh. Two cases of suspected death were reported on September 12, 1996 in Village Peresanda, District Kolar in Karnataka following administration of different batches of adulterated Comsat Forte Tablets (antidiabetic) manufactured by M/S Boarhinger Mannheim (India) Limited, Thane, Maharashtra.

(c) The State Licensing Authorities of Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra launched prosecution against the said companies in the court of Law as per the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder. The matter are subjudice.

Use of Indian Languages in Examinations of UPSC

2415. SHRI PAWAN DIWAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

a) whether an expert Committee has been constituted to examine the issue of reply to be given in Indian languages in the examinations conducted by the Union Public Service Commission;

b) if so, when the above Committee was constituted and the composition of the Committee; and

c) the details of the recommendations made by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) An Expert Committee earlier constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. Satish Chandra, ex-Chairman, UGC to review the scheme of the Civil Service Examination was also asked on May 22, 1989, to examine *inter-alia* the issue relating to introduction of the Indian languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution as medium of examinations. The Expert Committee comprised the following :

Dr. Satish Chandra	Chairman
Shri T.R. Satish Chandran	Member
Shri S.N. Mathur	Member
Dr. K. Venkata Ramiah	Member

Dr. Francis A. Menezes	Member
Shri C.S. Swaminathan	Member
Shri D.P. Bagchi	Member
Shri D. Basu	Member-Secretary

c) The Committee made recommendations relating to introduction of various Indian languages as medium of examinations conducted by the UPSC.

[English]

Child Labour

2416. SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether U.S. Government have asked the Indian Government to implement the code of conduct in respect of child labour in the country to avoid exploitation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (b) No, Sir. The US Government have not asked the Government to implement any Code of Conduct in respect of child labour in the country. However, many US companies (manufacturers and retailers) have voluntarily developed code of conduct, requiring factories and suppliers with which they do business - in the US and abroad - to meet certain legal and ethical standards, which include provisions prohibiting the use of child labour.

(c) Does not arise.

Indo-Russian Relations

2417. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of Russia's accession to G-7 group of Western powers, Russia-NATO accord, Moscow's admittance into the "Paris-Club" and Russia's strategic partnership with China; and

(b) if so, the impact thereof on India's policy frame in different areas, of bilateral and multi-lateral relation among these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These developments have not affected the nature or quality of India's traditionally close ties with Russia. Indo-Russian relations remain warm and friendly, based on continuity, trust and mutual understanding.

HUDCO

2418. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the HUDCO has earmarked funds to be invested on various infrastructure sectors during the next five years in the country;

(b) if so, whether HUDCO has approached international lending agencies to raise loan of Rs. 3,000 crores during 1997-98 as a part of its resource mobilisation strategy;

(c) whether any concrete action has been prepared by HUDCO for investment of funds; and

(d) if so, the details of the projects which are likely to be financed from this fund State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) During 9th Plan period, HUDCO proposes to sanction loans of the order of Rs. 5871.00 crores for urban infrastructure projects in the country.

(b): As part of its resources mobilisation strategy for financing housing and urban infrastructure schemes during 9th Plan. HUDCO is exploring the possibilities of getting external assistance to the tune of Rs. 3,000 crores, out of a total resource mobilisation plan of Rs. 13315 crores.

(c) and (d) HUDCO sanctions projects received from various implementing agencies on the basis of technical and financial viability. No prior allocation of funds is made State-wise for urban infrastructure schemes. The types of urban infrastructure schemes funded by HUDCO include upgradation and augmentation of urban services like water supply, sanitation, sewerage and sewage disposal, drainages, roads and bridges, solid waste management, health care and community amenities, remunerative projects like, markets, office complex, bus stands, truck terminals, industrial and business infrastructure etc. The financing pattern for the urban infrastructure schemes is given in the attached Statement.

Statement*Urban Infrastructure Schemes Sanctioned by HUDCO*

Category	Extent of finance (%age)	Net Interest rate (%age)
(A) (i) Mega Cities - Delhi, Bombay Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore Hyderabad.	70	18.50
(ii) Other cities	70	16.50
(B) Operational Finance	—	20.00
(C) Waste Management Schemes	70	16.50

(Documentation Charges of Rs. 10,000)

NOTE : Repayment period - Upto 10 years. However, in exceptional cases repayment of 15 years can be considered on payment of 1% (one per cent) higher rate of interest. In such cases, terms of loan will also be renegotiated after 10 years.

Employment Abroad

2419. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether some foreign Government have evinced keen interest in recruiting Indian workers particularly in construction activities in their country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for sending our skilled/semi-skilled workers to these countries.

(d) the present policy of the Government in this regard and the present arrangement in regard to sending workers to International job markers; and

(e) the details of trades/expertise in demand in International job market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Government of Israel had shown interest in import of Indian skilled and semi-skilled workers for construction work in Israel. It has been decided that Government should permit deployment of Indian workers in Israel in limited number on the basis of prior work permit issued by the Israeli authorities.

(d) The emigration clearance is granted after scrutinizing the employment documents i.e. the power of attorney, demand letter and employment contract, duly a tested by the Indian Mission concerned, as required under the provisions of the Emigration Act 1993 and the rules framed thereunder.

(e) The demand of Indian workers abroad in generally in respect of all categories of workers.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Annual Report and Review by the Govt. of the working of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, NOIDA for the year 1995-96

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida, for the year 1995-96, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida for the year 1995-96.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Place in Library See No. LT. 2271/97]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 95 of the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948:-

(i) The Employees' State Insurance (Central) Amendment Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 225 in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 1997.

(ii) The Employees' State Insurance (Central) Second Amendment Rules, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 226 in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 1997.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2272/97]

**Employment of Manual Scavengers and
Construction of Dry Latrines
(Prohibition) Act, 1993**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP):
On behalf of Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu, I beg to lay on the Table—

A copy of the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) (Central) Rules, 1997 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 265 in Gazette of India dated the 21th June, 1997, under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2273/97]

**Annual Report and Review by the Govt. of working
of the Acharya Harihar Regional Centre for
Cancer Research & Treatment Society,
Cuttack, for 1995-96, etc.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Acharya Harihar Regional Centre for Cancer Research & Treatment Society, Cuttack, for the year

1995-96, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Acharya Harihar Regional Centre for Cancer Research and Treatment Society, Cuttak, for the year 1995-96.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2292/97]

**Statements showing action taken by the govern-
ment on the assurances, promises and under-
takings given by the Ministers**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

A copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on the assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Eighth, Tenth and Eleventh Lok Sabha :

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 2274/97]

(I)	Statement No. XXXII [Placed in Library See No. LT. 2274/97]	—	Eighth Session, 1987	Eighth Lok Sabha
(II)	Statement No. XXXVII [Placed in Library See No. LT. 2275/97]	—	First Session, 1991] Tenth Lok Sabha
(III)	Statement No. XXXI [Placed in Library See No. LT. 2276/97]	—	Second Session, 1991	
(IV)	Statement No. XXXI [Placed in Library See No. LT. 2277/97]	—	Fourth Session, 1992	
(V)	Statement No. XXVIII [Placed in Library See No. LT. 2278/97]	—	Sixth Session, 1993	
(VI)	Statement No. XXIV [Placed in Library See No. LT. 2279/97]	—	Seventh Session, 1993	
(VII)	Statement No. XXIII [Placed in Library See No. LT. 2280/97]	—	Eighth Session, 1993	
(VIII)	Statement No. XXI [Placed in Library See No. LT. 2281/97]	—	Ninth Session, 1994	
(IX)	Statement No. X [Placed in Library See No. LT. 2282/97]	—	Tenth Session, 1994	
(X)	Statement No. XVI [Placed in Library See No. LT. 2283/97]	—	Eleventh Session, 1994	
(XI)	Statement No. XIV [Placed in Library See No. LT. 2284/97]	—	Twelfth Session, 1994	

[Shri S.R. Balasubramoniyam]

(XII)	Statement No. XII [Placed in Library See No. LT. 2285/97]	—	Thirteenth Session, 1995] Tenth Lok Sabha
(XIII)	Statement No. IX [Placed in Library See No. LT. 2286/97]	—	Fourteenth Session, 1995	
(XIV)	Statement No. VII [Placed in Library See No. LT. 2287/97]	—	Fifteenth Session, 1995	
(XV)	Statement No. VI [Placed in Library See No. LT. 2288/97]	—	Sixteenth Session, 1996	
(XVI)	Statement No. IV [Placed in Library See No. LT. 2289/97]	—	Second Session, 1996	
(XVII)	Statement No. III (Vol. I & II) [Placed in Library See No. LT. 2290/97]	—	Third Session, 1996] Eleventh Lok Sabha
(XVIII)	Statement No. II (Vol. I & II) [Placed in Library See No. LT. 2291/97]	—	Fourth Session, 1997	

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Eleventh Report

SHRI SURAJ BHAN : Sir, I beg to present the Eleventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, the House agreed yesterday that there would be no Zero Hour today. So, we are not having the Zero Hour today. I am making one exception in the case of the Member of Parliament from Manipur. He wants to raise some important issue. So, there will be only one exception. After that, there will be Matters under Rule 377.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Tomorrow, not today.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether we have to give new notices for tomorrow or today's notices will be considered. (interruptions)

[English]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Sir, what about my notice of privilege against the Minister of Human Resource Development?

MR. SPEAKER : Tomorrow, yes. I consider even today's

notice for tomorrow.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum) : Sir, the House congratulated Shri Masadur Rehman who swam across the English Channel. And our Television did not mention about congratulations of the House for that person and hailing him. They mentioned me but not that person and his feat. . .(Interruptions) They should have drawn attention. . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : So, you can understand how much afraid they are.

(Interruptions)

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : What about the notice against HRD Minister regarding the irregular appointment?

MR. SPEAKER : I will look into that.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Ramalingam, you cannot raise the same issue every day.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed. Shri Chaoba Singh.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am allowing an issue to be raised. It pertains to the North-East India. Shri Chaoba Singh, pleased be very brief.

SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH (Inner Manipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before the Britishers came, Manipur was an independent kingdom with a history of more than 2,000

years. Different communities, tribes and religions of the hill and valley with common interests and similarities have lived and coexisted peacefully for hundreds of years. It was the last princely State in India to be brought under the British colonial rule in 1891.

After independence, when each princely State took their own decision to join the Indian Union or Pakistan, Manipur became a part of India in 1949. It was the last princely State to merge with the Indian Union. In the Merger Agreement, it is clearly mentioned that the Indian Government would look after the interests of Manipur and not preside over its disintegration. In this regard, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, when she was Prime Minister had written to the Manipur Territorial Congress Committee:

"You may rest assured that while India's security as a whole will continue to be our paramount concern, the interests of Manipur will not be subordinated to the interests of any other parts of this country."

However, as a fallout of the ongoing peace talks between the Government of India and a Naga underground outfit NSCN (IM), there is widespread public fear and apprehension in the minds of the people of Manipur that it would result in the disintegration of Manipur.

The matter has become so serious that over five lakh people out of a total population of 20 lakhs in Manipur from all sections of society, communities, political parties both from the hills and plains participated in a rally in Imphal on 4/8/97 to preserve the territorial integrity of Manipur. This has been reported widely in the national papers/Press on 5/8/97.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Singh, you are not supposed to read a statement. You wanted to raise certain issues and I allowed you. Please be brief and say what you want to say.

SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : A total *bandh* has also been called in Manipur by the various student organisations on 6/8/97, that is today, and it has been reported that a rally is likely to be held very soon in Delhi to highlight the issue of preserving the territorial integrity of Manipur.

Sir, I would like to mention here that all MLAs from the hills as well as plains who are the representatives of the people of Manipur have resolved unanimously in the Legislative Assembly time and again about their desire to preserve the territorial integrity of Manipur and about peaceful co-existence of all the people of the State.

Further division or fragmentation of already small States of North Eastern region would not be desirable. It may be counter-productive. There will be no end. It is also proved that the appeasement policy pursued in the

past could not bring any lasting solution. Rather it encouraged others to pick up arms.

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Sir, It may also be noted here that the people of Manipur did not merge with the Indian Union for its own territorial fragmentation. Though the peace talks between the Government of India and underground outfits are as such welcome, it is necessary to emphasise here that the territorial integrity of Manipur cannot and should not be disturbed in the name of peace talks. In fact, present atmosphere in Manipur is so tense that any rumour may lead to social turmoil and bloodshed which may be beyond the control of the security forces and the Administration. The apprehension has been further aggravated by the recent claim by the Home Secretary, NSCN (IM) for inclusion of Karbi Anglong in Assam and the hill areas of Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur into Nagaland creating serious tension among the political leaders and the people of Manipur as to whether the solution of the Naga problem would create dismemberment of Manipur.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chaoba Singh, that is good enough.

SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH : Sir, therefore, it is necessary for the hon. Prime Minister to assure the people of Manipur through this august House that "the existing territorial integrity of the State of Manipur will not be disturbed under any circumstances' either while negotiating with any underground outfit or any other organisation.

Sir, I would like to request the hon. Prime Minister to make a statement on this issue.

12.08 hrs.

[MR DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to look into grievances of Medical Students who have graduated from Russia**

[*Translation*]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur) : Sir, students from various parts of India go to Russia for medical studies. T.V.R. Academy of Russia is a recognised Institution from the Medical Council of Indian. T.V.R. Academy and Medical council of India had agreed that medical graduates, who have complete 5 years' medical course in Russia can start medical practice after an internship of one year. This continued upto 1996. Now, since January 1997, Medical council of India is not giving permission for internship, which has created problems for students, who are coming

[Dr. Ramesh Chand Tomar]

after completing 5 years' medical course. Now, period for their training has been increased by one year. In this way now those medical students would be able to start their practice after eight years which was earlier seven years whereas medical graduates from India can start practice after 5 and a-half years. This is an injustice to those medical graduate students.

Therefore, through you, I urge upon the central government to direct the Medical council of India to permit one year's internship to those students, who have completed medical course of five years as was being allowed earlier.

(ii) Need to provide civic amenities in Railway colonies in Delhi

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk-Delhi) : Sir, the basic civic amenities in the Railway Housing colonies in Delhi are not adequate. There are no proper roads, sewer system and arrangements for electricity and drinking water in these railway colonies. Due to lack of civic amenities the allottees of these railway colonies are facing great difficulties. These houses are in a dilapidated condition and no attention is being paid towards their maintenance. There is uncleanliness in these railway colonies which is adversely affecting the health of residents. As a result of it, a number of residents of colonies had died of dengue epidemic.

I, therefore, request the government to take immediate steps to provide basic civic amenities like sewer system, electricity, roads, drinking water and for scavenging etc in railway colonies of Delhi. A monitoring committee should also be constituted for maintenance of these houses and adequate funds may be provided on priority basis for undertaking repairs of those house which are in dilapidated condition.

(iii) Need to clear the proposal of State Government of Orissa for Augmenting the supply of Water to the Water Scarcity areas of Sonepur District

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Sir, Dhenkanal District, Angul District and Birmaharajpur Subdivisions of Sonepur District in Orissa are chronically water scarcity areas even in normal times. The problem gets worse during the droughts, floods and cyclones which have been the constant companions for the last three and a half decades.

In order to augment the water supply and to mitigate the water scarcity, the Regional Piped Water Supply Scheme has been prepared by the Government of Orissa,

Housing and Urban Development Department, for the areas of Talchar, Angul, Mehramundli, including 161 villages in the polluted Brahmani river basin; Dhenkanal the District Headquarters town, and Bhuban NAC; covering a population of 2.5 lakh at an estimated cost of Rs. 139.30 crore. The State Government have sent a proposal to the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment, Government of India, in June, 1995 and modified projects after discussion with Japanese OECF Fact-finding Mission on 23rd February, 1996.

The Government of Orissa have also submitted proposals for augmenting the water supply to Kamakhyanager, Angul and Athmallik NAC under Augmented Urban Water Supply Scheme in the Dhenkanal and Angul Districts respectively costing Rs. 2.37 crore, Rs. 1.93 crore and Rs. 1.93 crore respectively.

I, therefore, strongly urge upon the Government of India to take up and complete the works expeditiously and urgently to mitigate the sufferings of a segment of long suffering population. Necessary fund allocation may be made for implementing those drinking water projects during the current financial year.

(iv) Need to look into irregularities in implementation of Employment Assurance and Literacy schemes in Jahanabad constituency, Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : The literacy Mission and Labour Assurance Employment Scheme run by the Union Government in the Jahanabad Parliamentary constituency in Bihar is not being implemented properly. On the propagation and other activities of Literacy more than two crores of rupees have been spent but in reality desired results have not been achieved. In my area, militant organisation is fast spreading. Therefore, in this area development works should be undertaken on war-footing. But the funds sent by the Union Government still is not being used properly.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to order an enquiry regarding the expenditure incurred in both of these schemes by Vigilance Department and stern measures be taken to implement these schemes properly.

(v) Need to connect Satna city in Madhya Pradesh by Air

SHRI SUKHLAL KUSHWAHA (Satna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Satna district in my Parliamentary constituency has now become a big industrial centre. This area is the largest producer of cement in Asia. Apart from cement, lime, ochre (greu) and 'ramraj' are exported in a large

quantity from this area. Many people visit the area from commercial point of view to explore the possibility of setting up their own units in Satna. But till now this Satna city has not been linked with Air service which is very essential. Sometime back air service was available here but that time industrial development was not good. Due to this passengers were not available. But today situations have changed.

The Central Government is requested to connect Satna city with air service at the earliest to boost the industrial development.

(vi) Need to ensure payment of wages to the workers under Central Schemes in Mandala, Madhya Pradesh

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE (Mandala) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir the employment assurance scheme and Tribal subplan (Special central assistance) have been in operation in my Parliamentary constituency Mandala in Madhya Pradesh since long through which many departmental construction work have been undertaken in the district. Lakhs of workers have been given slips under 'food for work scheme' but no payment in terms of money or food has been made to them for last one year. The administration has been apprised of the situation even then the poor tribal workers of district Mandala have not been paid against food slips.

The Central Government is requested that these tribal workers should either be paid in terms of money or in terms of a food at the earliest.

12.18 hrs

**INSURANCE REGULATORY AUTHORITY
BILL - Contd.**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister of Finance may reply.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am deeply grateful to the hon. Members who have participated in this debate and who have made a number of valuable suggestions. My reply will be very brief because the purpose of this Bill is very limited.

As you are aware, the Malhotra Committee on reforms in the insurance sector gave a very comprehensive Report. Insofar as it concerns the present Bill, we are now dealing with the recommendations contained in Chapter 10 of the Report which is titled 'Regulation of Insurance Business'. Chapter 12 deals with restructuring of the insurance

industry. There are other chapters dealing with other aspects of the insurance industry. In its Report, the Malhotra Committee said the following on regulation of insurance business. Now, I would like to read just a few lines:-

"Insurance is a business of large numbers and generates large volume of funds over a time. These funds are required to be invested prudently with the triple objectives of maximisation of yield, safety and liquidity. It is also necessary that entities intending to take up the business of insurance had adequate professional capability and financial solvency. Insurers everywhere are, therefore, subject to regulation by the State in some form or the other whose objective is that the business is run fairly and is conducted by competent persons does not result in undue losses to insurers themselves, resulting in their insolvency. And last but not the least, protects and legitimate interests of insuring public.

All regulatory arrangements try to create systems whereby alarm signals are triggered in good time in respect of insurance institutions drifting towards mismanagement and insolvency so that timely, corrective steps could be applied."

Then, after tracing the history of regulation of insurance in this country, referring to the Indian Life Insurance Act of 1912, Insurance Act of 1938, creation of the office of Controller of Insurance and then, how the office was diminished, the report concludes:

"The Controller office started shrinking in all respects. The Controller and Assistant Controller are now part of the Insurance Division of the Ministry of Finance and perform a few residual functions under law which are not of much importance. These developments have also created some functional anomalies. The powers and position of the Controller of Insurance have undergone a drastic curtailment after nationalisation of the insurance industry. There are, however, operations which require professional regulations even in the nationalised insurance sector, particularly in areas relating to expenses, customer's service, claim settlement, resolution of disputes, reasonableness of tariff and prevention of restricted trade practices.

Having regard to both the present and future scenarios, the Committee is of the view that the office of the Controller of Insurance should be restored its full statutory powers and segregated from the Ministry of Finance, as a matter of high priority. In due course, the insurance regulatory authority be set up as a multi-member statutory body similar to the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

[Shri P. Chidambaram]

IRA should have a full-time chairman. IRA should have full functional autonomy, operational flexibility to discharge its functions in a free and fair manner."

What we are doing in this Bill is simply to make the IRA a multi-member statutory body. There is no other purpose behind this Bill. No other purpose is sought to be achieved through this Bill. In fact, no other purpose can be achieved through this Bill. There are some good provisions of the Bill which apparently have not been noticed very keenly.

Firstly, clause 13 (1) of the Bill says:

"Subject to the provisions of this Act and any other law for the time being in force, the Authority shall have the duty to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the insurance business."

This Act is, therefore, subject to any other law. This is reinforced by clause 26 which says:

"The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to, and not in derogation of, the provisions of any other law for the time being in force."

So, clause 13 read with clause 26 of this Bill make it absolutely clear that this law is not in derogation of any other law. If there is any other law on insurance, that law will continue to prevail.

I would invite the attention of the House to two crucial provisions in the last two Acts. One is Section 30 of the LIC Act that reads:

"Except to the extent otherwise provided in this Act, the Corporation shall have the exclusive privilege of carrying on life insurance business in India."

No attempt is being made to touch or change Section 30 of the LIC Act. Similarly, Section 24 of the GIC Act says:

"Except to the extent provided in this Act, the Corporation and the acquiring companies shall have the exclusive privilege of carrying on general insurance business in India."

No attempt is being made through this Bill to touch or change Section 24 of the GIC Act. Therefore, this Bill does not in any way override either Section 24 of the GIC Act or Section 30 of the LIC Act. Therefore, any apprehensions in that behalf, I would say, with great respect, are misplaced.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : Why were 46 MOUs signed between the different companies?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Let me complete, Sir. I am aware of the point raised.

Therefore, some apprehensions expressed — that decisions have been taken to privatise LIC or GIC or decisions have been taken to open up the entire sector to private insurers, domestic or foreign — are in my respectful submission, misplaced, premature and do not arise while this House considers this Bill.

I would, therefore, make it very clear that the purpose of this Bill being only to set up a regulatory authority, the merits and demerits of this Bill must be debated having regard to that purpose and this Bill should be voted having regard to that purpose.

I, Sir, am a Minister of a Coalition Government which is bound by the Common Minimum Programme. I have no hesitation in declaring that it is my duty to implement the Common Minimum Programme. The Common Minimum Programme clearly stated that the insurance business will be restructured; that there is a place both for the public sector and the private sector; that the experience of the banking industry will be applied to the restructuring of the insurance business; and that LIC and GIC will continue to remain in the public sector and will be strengthened...
(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Does Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee agree with this?

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Restructuring can also be put in the private sector ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : In implementing the Common Minimum Programme, I have, from time to time, made some announcements. One announcement I made very early in the life of this Government is that we will bring a Bill to make the nonstatutory IRA a multi-member statutory body. It is that promise that is being implemented through this Bill.

However, I would like to draw the attention of this House to the fact that in the Budget Speech on the 28th of February this year, I did, with the consent of my Cabinet colleagues, announce the Government's Policy that the insurance industry would be restructured.

Let me make two things clear, Sir. I can do nothing without a consensus within the Government and I can do nothing without the consent of this House. It is my intention to restructure the insurance business and I have outlined, what restructuring will take place, in the Budget Speech. It is hardly necessary for me to recall every aspect of that. But I wish to point out that some important announcements were made and I believe, this House in the sense that it did not move or pass a cut motion and in the sense that

this House approved the Appropriation Bill and the Finance Bill broadly supporting the direction of restructuring.

It is quite possible that individual Members have reservations about restructuring of the insurance business, but as one is committed to reforms, as the Government is committed to reforms, I would be less than truthful to myself if I say that the insurance business does not require restructuring or that it should stop or pause or turn back.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI (Banaskantha) : Sir, may I have one clarification?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Let me finish.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him complete his reply, you can ask later on.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Is the hon. Minister afraid of yielding?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : No, I only do not want to be interrupted in the chain of thought. The hon. Member can speak again. I will yield after a little while.

Therefore, while carrying through these reforms, I will always do so after building a consensus within the Government and after obtaining the consent of this House.

If there is no consensus within the Government on any particular decision, I cannot take a step forward. If I do not have the consent of this House, I cannot take a step forward. The outline is clear and that requires that insurance business must be restructured. How it will be done, when it will be done will depend upon Government decisions taken from time to time, the Bills moved in this House from time to time and winning the support of this House from time to time.

Today, to apprehend issues which do not arise in this Bill, I would humbly submit, is premature and I would like to allay those apprehensions.

I would urge the hon. Members once again to read paragraphs 47 to 52 of my Budget speech which outlines the policies of the Government. If I continue to have the support of this House, we will implement those policies from time to time after securing the consent of this House and after bringing appropriate Bills in that behalf. For the time being, all that we are doing is to implement a commitment made long ago by the previous Government and reiterated by the present Government that the Insurance Regulatory Authority will be made into a statutory Regulatory Authority and the reasons for that are spelt out very clearly in the Malhotra Committee Report.

Sir, the policy of allowing foreign insurers to open

liaison offices goes back to the previous Government. They have been allowed to open liaison offices. I answered a question in this House that we have continued with that policy. They are not allowed to do any commercial business. They are not allowed to raise any funds. They have been allowed to open liaison offices in order to be a channel of communication between India and their respective countries. That policy goes back to 1995 and we have continued that policy. But, as I said, none of them has been allowed to do any commercial business; none of them will be allowed to do any commercial business; and none of them, in fact, can be allowed to do any commercial business as long as Parliament stands by the laws that are already made.

I have invited your attention to Section 24 of the GIC Act and Section 30 of the LIC Act. The two provisions are very clear.

12.33 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

In my Budget speech, I proposed, I underline the word 'proposed', that the health insurance business should be modestly opened by allowing selected Indian companies to come into the health insurance business. I have not proposed opening of the life insurance business. I have not proposed the general opening of the general insurance business. I have proposed, I underline the word 'proposed', to this House that the health insurance business may be opened up by allowing a few selected Indian companies to come into the business but I cannot do that unless I have your consent. I cannot, by an Executive Order, allow any Indian company to come even into the health insurance business. I need the consent of this House because Section 24 of the GIC Act and Section 30 of the LIC Act confers the monopoly of general insurance and life insurance respectively on these two Corporations. If there is a Cabinet decision, I will come back to this House and seek your consent and at that time, surely the House will decide. I am not so dim as not to take note of the views of this House. There is the Left which opposes any kind of opening to the private sector. There is the Congress which cautiously supports an opening. There is the BJP which supports an opening only to Indian players. I am not so dim as not to be aware of these three separate positions. Therefore, with these three positions staring in my face, if I want to carry on the business of managing the finances of this country and reforming, I must come back to you again and again and try to convince you. . .
(Interruptions)

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAM (Cannanor):
What about the stand of the Tamil Manila Congress?
(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I must come back to you again and again and ask for your consent (*Interruptions*); without the consent nothing can be done.

My friend asked me as to what the stand of the Tamil Manila Congress is. The Tamil Manila Congress is a Party born in fire and committed to reform. (*Interruptions*). We are reformers . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAM : Please do that.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am a reformer, but I cannot reform without consensus. I cannot reform without consent. The consensus is something which has to be built here; consent is something I will have to secure here. I am aware of that. We are a parliamentary democracy. I do not have a personal agenda. I have a goal. I have a vision and each one of us shares a vision. Shri Vajpayee, when he was the Prime Minister, spelt out a vision; the Congress spelt out a vision. I have a vision, but I cannot carry out this vision unless I have a consensus among my friends or the consent of each section of this House.

Sir, at an appropriate time, when the Government takes a decision, if the Government takes a decision about what further reforms are required to be done, I will come back to this House. But, for the present, let me make it absolutely clear that all that we are doing is to make the Insurance Regulatory Authority a multi-member statutory body.

I would most humbly appeal to this House to join me in passing this Bill and putting in place a multi-member statutory body to regulate the insurance business.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Can the hon. Minister explain what the concept of restructuring and reform is which he is committed to and the Common Minimum Programme is committed to? Is it opening to the foreign companies? He said that his Party was committed to and he would do it at some appropriate time. He may please spell out whether his reform and restructuring of the insurance business contemplate opening of the insurance to the foreign companies and if not he may kindly also tell us why he has allowed. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I have already answered this question.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Why were these 46 companies which are dealing in insurance allowed? . . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot restart the debate.

(*Interruptions*)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir when we wanted

to speak in between, he said that when he sits down, then we can ask. When we ask him now, he says that he cannot reply. . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is coming back to the House again and again.

(*Interruptions*)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : He has to spell it out.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, you have made your point.

(*Interruptions*)

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, let me complete the sentence. What is the M.O.U. which has been entered by Tatas and by other companies with these 46 companies? Would the Minister kindly put those M.O.U.s. on the Table of the House or spell out whether insurance was included in that or not?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Dankura) : Since the hon. Minister has stated that the intention of this Bill is not to open the insurance sector to the private and multinational foreign companies for the present, not at this point of time never . . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : You go ahead with what you understood.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There is no difficulty in accepting the amendment tabled by Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee. The hon. Minister can accept the amendment that no foreign and Indian private company be allowed in the insurance sector. He can assure that. . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Do you have any differences with Shri Basu Deb Acharia?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum) : No, Sir. But in terms of arguments, yes.

I perfectly appreciate the very democratic parliamentary stance of the Minister of Finance. Who will not accept sitting here? The point is initially in the Draft Bill, there was a specific mention that this is the Regulatory Authority to control companies including private companies. It is my amendment in the Committee which deleted the word 'private'.

Now, the misfortune of the English language in that dictionary of words which hon. Jaswant Singh can understand, is that by deleting this word 'private', it has become more generous. The intention originally was that this Bill itself provides for future liberalisation of Section

24 of the LIC Act and Section 26 of the GIC Act. That was the intention. . . (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : Section 30.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : All right. Section 30.

Sir, yesterday we argued that *per se* strengthening of GIC, LIC and public sector would be weakened by opening it up to the private sector. The private sector demolishes itself in this sector - I am not talking about direct investment in the physical goods sector. In this sector the confidence can be so sapped by the activities of the private sector that that will injure the Insurance climate of the country and, therefore, the public sector insurance companies also. That we argued, but to that, he is not responding because he is taking a stance that we are doing nothing else but providing a Regulatory Authority. We do not want him to come back again and again. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You can move your amendment when we come to that. We are not at the stage of amendments now.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, I shall save your time by not speaking at that time. Therefore, I am speaking now.

MR. SPEAKER: I am happy that for the rest of the day you are not going to speak.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, the point that I was making is that the Minister says that he will come back again and again. We want to help him. We do not want him to come back again and again. Therefore, we say that in this particular Bill itself, let us provide for excluding the private sector in the insurance business, including the foreign sector. That is my amendment. There are other amendments also. He is certainly a very close observer. He has distinguished between BJP and us who restrict this exclusion only to the foreign sector. But, first of all, let us test the House whether or not they share our appreciation. But in this Regulatory Authority Bill itself, we shall so inhibit that our very dear Finance Minister does not have to come back to the House again and again.

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, I may be permitted only to say one word. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you want to debate it again, you can debate it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If the House desires that the Bill has to be debated once again, you debate it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It cannot be done like that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB) : Sir, when the Finance Minister is seeking the consensus of the House, then can he give an assurance that multinational corporations will not be allowed to enter into this sector? This is my only question because he is seeking the consensus of the House. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please decide it by voting. I shall put every clause to vote and at that time you can decide. You cannot start the debate again.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, I have only one point for clarification. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, what has been submitted by my hon. colleague, Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee is, according to me, untenable. The House cannot make a law saying that there shall be no change in the policy in future. We have only to make the law for a Regulatory Authority. It is quite untenable. . . (Interruptions) How can he say that there shall be no change in the insurance policy in future?. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is happening in the House?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me. I am putting the Bill to vote. You have every right to vote for it or against it. You have the fundamental right to vote for it or not to vote for it. You decide it yourselves. But please do not waste the time of the House now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Sir, I will cast my vote and my vote will go against this Bill. Since he is seeking the consensus of the House. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of an Authority to protect the interests of holders of insurance policies and to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the insurance industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : Before the House takes up the Clause by Clause consideration of the Bill, I have an announcement to make.

I have to inform the hon. Members that due to some sudden technical snag in the voting system at about 1030 hours today, the Automatic Vote Recording Machine is not in operation. The Division will therefore take place under Rule 367AA by distribution of slips.

Members will be supplied in their seats with 'Aye'/'No' printed slips for recording their votes. 'Aye' slips are printed on one side in green, both in English and Hindi and 'No' in red on its reverse. On these slips, members may kindly record votes of their choice by signing and writing their Division numbers. Members who desire to record 'Abstention' may ask for the 'Abstention' slip. Immediately after recording his vote, each member should pass on his slip to the Division Clerk who will come to his seat to collect the same for handing over to the officers at the Table. Members are requested to fill in only one slip for Division.

Members are also requested not to leave their seats till the slips are collected by the Division Clerks.

The House will now take up Clause by Clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 4

Amendments made :

Page 2, line 34, -

for "three" substitute "five" (3)

Page 2, -

after line 39, insert -

"Provided that the Central Government while appointing the Chairperson and the whole-time members, shall ensure that at least one person each is a person having knowledge or experience in life insurance, general insurance or actuarial science respectively." (4)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill

Clause 5

Amendments made :

Page 2,-

for line 40 to 45 substitute -

"5. (1) The Chairperson and every other whole-time member shall hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters upon his office and shall be eligible for reappointment:

Provided that no person shall hold office as such Chairperson after he had attained the age of sixty-five years;

Provided further that no person shall hold office as such whole-time member after he has attained the age of sixty-two years." (5)

Page 3, lines 3 and 4, -

omit "or sub-section (3)" (6)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 6 and 7

MR. SPEAKER : The questions is :

"that clauses 6 and 7 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 6 and 7 were added to the Bill.

Clause 8

Amendment made:

Page 3,-

for lines 25 to 28 substitute -

"8. The Chairperson and the whole-time members shall not, for a period of two years from the date on which they cease to hold office as such, except with the previous approval of the Central Government, accept -

(a) any employment either under the Central Government or under any State Government; and

(b) any appointment in any company in the insurance sector". (7)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8, as amended, was added to the Bill.

New Clause 8A

Amendment made:

Page 3, -

after line 28, insert -

"8A The Chairperson shall have the powers of general superintendence and direction in respect of all administrative matters of the Authority". (8)

(Shri P. Chidambaram)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That new clause 8A be added to the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

New clause 8A was added to the Bill.

Clause 9 to 12

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clauses 9 to 12 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 9 to 12 were added to the Bill.

Clause 13

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I beg to move:

Page 5, line 5, -

for "Insurance business" substitute

"Insurance and reinsurance business" (9)

Page 5, -

Omit line 19. (10)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Of course, Sir.

I beg to move:

Page 4,

after line 37, insert -

"Provided that no foreign or private sector company shall be allowed to enter the insurance business."

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved:

Page 4,

after line 37, insert-

"Provided that no foreign or private sector company shall be allowed to enter to enter the insurance business." (12)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I oppose this amendment for two reasons. Firstly, this amendment is inadmissible under Rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha as beyond the scope of the Bill. This Bill does not purport to amend or change any provision of the LIC Act or the GIC Act. On the contrary, both sections 13 and 26 of this Bill reaffirm that those Acts will continue to prevail. Section 24 of the GIC Act and Section 30 of the LIC Act, which I pointed out a little while earlier, confer a monopoly on life Insurance Corporation and General Insurance Corporation respectively. This amendment which purports to say that that monopoly should not be derogated from, is not an amendment within the scope of this Bill. This amendment will be relevant if a Bill is moved to amend the LIC Act or the GIC Act.

My second reason to oppose it is that I have made it abundantly clear that the only proposal that this Government has made regarding opening of the insurance business is a modest opening of health insurance business to selected Indian players. We have made it very clear that there is no proposal by this Government, there is no decision by this Government to open up life insurance. There is no proposal by this Government to open up any other part of general insurance. There is no proposal by this Government to allow any foreign company or multinational. Therefore, having regard to that statement and having regard to my objection based on Rule 80, I oppose this amendment which is inadmissible. I will request you to rule it out.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, he is now taking shelter under certain rules and provisions. In the original draft, the word 'private' was mentioned. Subsequently, it is being deleted through an amendment. So, this does not indicate that in terms of scope and ambit, there was no objection in the mind of the Government.

Secondly, since this proviso is inconsistent with the existing LIC Act and GIC Act, there can be no bar in having this amendment added to this Bill. This is consistent with the provisions. Anything not consistent with the provisions of the earlier LIC Act and GIC Act would have required some further modification here. Since this amendment is consistent, I submit to you, this is valid and can be presented before the House for voting.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Sir, it is to be decided by you whether an amendment which has been given by a Member is according to the rules or not. So, once you feel that the amendment which has been suggested by a Member is according to rules, then only, it is circulated or it can be moved. So, the hon. Minister taking an objection that the amendment which has been suggested is not according to rules does not come within his authority. It is your authority to decide whether it is as per the rules. Once you decide that an amendment is according to the rules, then only, it can be moved and not without it. So, when the amendment has been circulated, we presume that it is according to the rules. It is another matter whether it is to be accepted by the House or not. At least on that point, the hon. Minister cannot object to the amendment. That is what I would like to say.

MR. SPEAKER : I think, the hon. Minister referred to Rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. The point Shri Ram Naik has made is valid and I must uphold that because Rule 80 speaks about admissibility of the amendments.

Now that the amendment having been admitted and circulated and the Member having already moved the amendment, we cannot go into the aspect of admissibility any more. There are only two ways open to us; either the Member has to withdraw it or I have to put it to vote of the House.

I think the points have been made and I have given my ruling. So, I will put the amendments moved by Justice Guman Mal Lodha and Shri Shivraj Singh to the vote of the House along with the amendment moved by Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir there is a fundamental difference between my amendment and the amendment moved by Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee. My amendment is limited only to the foreign and multinational companies, whereas his amendment is also covering the *swadeshi*, Indian companies. *(Interruptions)* We have got a fundamental difference on philosophy on this point. We permit *swadeshi* companies to compete in the insurance field, but we oppose the foreign companies to come into this field. So, my amendment is different from his amendment. They can support my amendment, but we would not support their amendment. So, I move my amendment.

I beg to move:

Page 4,—

after line 37, insert—

“Provided that the Authority shall not be empowered

to permit any foreign company or foreign enterprises to do insurance business in India either on its own or through a Joint Venture.” (14)

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha): Mr. Speaker Sir, we would like to press our amendments. We oppose foreign companies and support *swadeshi* companies. We have not opposed the entry of private companies into insurance sector but we oppose the entry of any multinational company or foreign company into insurance business. Therefore, I am moving my amendment.

I beg to move that:

Page 4, - after line 37; *insert* - “Provided that no foreign company shall be allowed to enter the insurance business” (13).

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I would request both the movers of the amendments not to press their amendments for the following reason. The only proposal - again I take care to emphasize that word - is that health insurance, which I think is a product required by the people of India and millions and millions are deprived of health insurance in this country, should be opened to selected Indian players, Indian companies. That is the only proposal that the Government has decided upon and I have placed it before this House. Even for that, as I said, I would have to move suitable amendments to appropriate laws, which I am not doing now. At an appropriate time, if that policy has to be carried out, an amendment would have to be moved for that. At this stage, even that is not possible. Therefore, the apprehension that foreign insurance companies or multinationals are going to enter India is a completely misplaced apprehension. There is no proposal by the Government, there is no decision by the Government for that. In view of the categorical statement, I would request the hon. Members not to press their two amendments.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make a small submission here.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think we can go on endlessly debating upon an amendment.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, I am just pointing out what he has said. There are 46 MOUs signed between foreign insurance companies and Indian companies. . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Joshi, I do not have any amendment from you. Please take your seat.

Shall I put the amendments together or separately.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, kindly put it separately.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Sir, the Minister has requested us to withdraw our amendments. We make a counter request to him. Let him accept our amendments.

MR. SPEAKER : Now that it seems that nobody is willing to accept each other's request, the House has to decide.

So, I now put the amendment No.12 moved by Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee to the vote of the House.

The question is:

Page 4,—

after line 37, insert—

"Provided that no foreign or private sector company shall be allowed to enter the insurance business." (12)

Those in favour will please say 'Aye'.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : 'Aye'

MR. SPEAKER: Those against will please say 'No'.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : 'No'.

MR. SPEAKER : I think the 'Noes' have it. The 'Noes' have it.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : No, Sir. The 'Ayes' have it. We want a division.

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Lobbies be cleared—

13:00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Now, the Lobbies have been cleared. Kindly take your seats. Shri Fernandes, the Lobbies have been cleared. Please take your seats.

Once again, I am going to put the Amendment No. 12 moved by Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"Page 4,—

after line 37, insert—

"Provided that no foreign or private sector company shall be allowed to enter the insurance business." (12)"

The Lok Sabha divided.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the slips be distributed.

Division No 1

Time: 13.20 hrs.

AYES

Sl.No.

1. Acharia, Shri Basu Deb
2. Pal, Shri Rupchand
3. Mukherjee, Shrimati Geeta
4. Basu, Shri Chitta
5. Chatterjee, Shri Nirmal Kanti
6. Riyan, Shri Baju Ban
7. Baxla, Shri Joachim
8. Roy Pradhan, Shri Amar
9. Raghvan, Shri V.V.
10. Zahedi, Shri Mehboob
11. Mollah, Shri Hannan
12. Mandal, Shri Sanat Kumar
13. Singh, Shri Ramashraya Prasad
14. Choudhury, Shri Badal
15. Basu, Shri Anil
16. Mukhopadhyay, Shri Ajoy
17. Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran
18. Roy, Shri Haradhan
19. Barman, Shri Uddhab
20. Mukherjee, Shri Subrata
21. Bala, Dr. Asim
22. Ray, Shri Balai Chandra
23. Dome, Dr. Ram Chandra
24. Pramanik, Prof. R.R.
25. Murmu, Shri Rup Chand
26. Singh, Shri Shatrughan Prasad
27. Surendra Nath, Shri K.V.
28. Bauri, Shrimati Sandhya
29. Khan, Shri Sunil
30. Chakraborty, Shri Ajay
31. Ramendra Kumar, Shri
32. Sampath, Shri A.
33. Barman, Shri Ranen
34. Mukherjee, Shri Pramothas
35. Paul, Shri Sebastian
36. Singh, Shri Darbara
37. Mohan, Shri Anand
38. Chandra Shekhar, Shri
39. Fernandes, Shri George

Sl.No.	
40.	Jai Prakash, Shri
41.	Nitish Kumar, Shri
42.	Das, Shri Bhakta Charan
43.	Mandal, Shri Brahmanand

Division No 1 Time: 13.20 hrs.

NOES

Sl.No.	
1.	Chidambaram, Shri P.
2.	Yadav, Shri Mulayam Singh
3.	Jena, Shri Srikanta
4.	Baishya, Shri Birendra Prasad
5.	Arunachalam, Shri M.
6.	Balasubramoniyam, Shri S.R.
7.	Venkatraman, Shri T.G.
8.	Jalappa, Shri R.L.
9.	Verma, Shri Beni Prasad
10.	Singh, Shrimati Kanti
11.	Nishad, Capt Jai Narayan Prasad
12.	Shervani, Shri Saleem Iqbal
13.	Khalap, Shri Ramakant D.
14.	Singh, Shri Raghuvans Prasad
15.	Ramaiah, Dr., Bolla Buli
16.	Chari, Dr S Venugopala
17.	Dar, Shri Mohd. Maqbool
18.	Somu, Shri N.V.N.
19.	Baalu, Shri T.R.
20.	Dennis, Shri N.
21.	Islam, Shri Qamarul
22.	Paswan, Shri Sukdeo
23.	Rai, Shri Nawal Kishore
24.	Rayudu, Shri K.S.
25.	Ram Babu, Shri A.G.S.
26.	Yadav, Shri Lal Babu Prasad
27.	Yadav, Shri Dinesh Chandra
28.	Yadav, Shri Anil Kumar
29.	Venkatesan, Shri P.R.S.
30.	Devi, Shrimati Bhagwati
31.	Singh, Shri Virendra Kumar
32.	Shankar, Shri B.L.
33.	Reddy, Shri S.Ramchandra

Sl.No.	
34.	Kumaraswamy, Shri H.D.
35.	Swamy, Shri C. Narayana
36.	Krishna, Shri
37.	Siddaraju, Shri A.
38.	Kandasamy, Shri K.
39.	Theertharaman, Shri P.
40.	Gowda, Shri Y.N. Rudresha
41.	Savanoor, Shrimati Ratnmala D.
42.	Kumar, Shri M.P.Veerendra
43.	Narasimhan, Shri C.
44.	Natrayan, Shri K.
45.	Yadav, Shri Surendra
46.	Kandasamy, Shri V.
47.	Swamy, Shri G. Venkat
48.	Banatwalla, Shri G.M.
49.	Ramanathan, Shri M.
50.	Nagaratnam, Shri T.
51.	Ram Sagar, Shri
52.	Sarma, Dr. Arun Kumar
53.	Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav, Shri
54.	Shanmuga Sundaram, Shri V.P.
55.	Palanimanickam, Shri S.S.
56.	Siva, Shri Tiruchi
57.	Barq, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman
58.	Patnaik, Shri Naveen
59.	Parasuraman, Shri K.
60.	Ramalingam, Dr. K.P.
61.	Shanmugam, Shri P.
62.	Gnanaguruswamy, Shri R.
63.	O'Brien, Shri Neil Aloysius
64.	Phoolan Devi, Shrimati
65.	Devi, Shrimati Subhawati
66.	Sahai, Shri Harivansh
67.	Raja, Shri A.
68.	Yadav, Shri Ramakant
69.	Udayappan, Shri S.P.
70.	Rego, Shrimati Hedwig Micae;
71.	Rao, Shri P.V. Narsimha
72.	Dev, Shri Sontosh Mohan
73.	Upendra, Shri P.
74.	Sayeed, Shri P.M.

Sl.No.	
75.	Kaur, Shrimati Sukhbuns
76.	Ahmed, Shri M. Kamaluddin
77.	Tiwari, Shri Narayan Dutt
78.	Kamson, Prof. M.
79.	Sultanpuri, Shri K.D.
80.	Bhuria, Shri Dileep Singh
81.	Singh, Shri Ajit
82.	Bhoi, Dr. Krupasindhu
83.	Ramchandran, Shri Mullappally
84.	Panigrahi, Shri Sriballab
85.	Ahamed, Shri E.
86.	Namgyal, Shri P.
87.	Sharma, Shri Mangat Ram
88.	Nayak, Shri Mrutyunjaya
89.	Islam, Shri Nurul
90.	Thomas, Shri P.C.
91.	Patel, Shri Shantilal Parsotamdas
92.	Rao, Shri R. Sambasiva
93.	Rathava, Shri N.J.
94.	Agarwal, Shri Jai Prakash
95.	Bhagat, Shri Vishveshwar
96.	Bhudania, Shri Narendra
97.	Suresh, Shri Kodikunnil
98.	Magani, Shri Gulam Mohd. Mir
99.	Meena, Shri Bheru Lal
100.	Diwan, Shri Pawan
101.	Rao, Shri P.V. Rajeshwar
102.	Alemao, Shri Chutrchill
103.	Riba, Shri Tomo
104.	Reddy, Shri K. Vijaya Bhaskara
105.	Kanshi Ram, Shri
106.	Singh Deo, Shri K.P.
107.	Azmi, Shri Ilyas
108.	Gadhvi, Shri B.K.
109.	Bangarappa, Shri S.
110.	Selja, Kumari
111.	Ghatowar, Shri Paban Singh
112.	Nishad, Shri Vishambhar Prasad
113.	Chennithala, Shri Ramesh
114.	Chacko, Shri P.C.
115.	Jos, Shri A.C.

Sl.No.	
116.	Misra, Shri Pinaki
117.	Patel, Shri Budhsen
118.	Topno, Kumari Frida
119.	Gavit, Shri Manikrao Hodlya
120.	Nandi, Shri Yellaiah
121.	Bose, Shrimati Krishna
122.	Singh, Shri Khelsai
123.	Singh, Maj. Gen. Bikram
124.	Murthy, Shri K.S.R.
125.	Reddy, Shri G.A. Charan
126.	Singh, Shri Th. Chaoba
127.	Patel, Shri Dinsha
128.	Singh, Shri Surender
129.	Soumya Ranjan, Shri
130.	Sahu, Shri Anadi Charan
131.	Sarpotdar, Shri Madhukar
132.	Geete, Shri Anant Gangaram
133.	Prabhu, Shri Suresh
134.	Shah, Shri Manbendra
135.	Varma, Shrimati Purnima
136.	Adsul, Shri Anandroa Vithoba
137.	Pranjpe, Shri Prakash Vishwanath
138.	Tomar, Dr. Ramesh Chand
139.	Rudy, Shri Rajiv Pratap
140.	Agarwal, Shri Dharendra
141.	Benda, Shri Ramchandra Chaudhary
142.	Swami I.D., Shri
143.	Vedanti, Shri Ram Vilas
144.	Katheria, Shri Prabhu Dayal
145.	Singh, Shri Rajkeshar
146.	Singh, Shri Devi Bux
147.	Kanaujia, Shri G.L.
148.	Athawalay, Shri Narayan
149.	Jaiswal, Dr. M.P.
150.	Mallikarjunappa, Shri G.
151.	Gehlot, Shri Thawar Chand
152.	Kusmaria, Dr. Ramknshan
153.	Singh, Shri Shivraj
154.	Patidar, Shri Rameshwar
155.	Nimbalkar, Shri Hindurao Naik
156.	Biswakarma, Shri Mahabir Lai

Sl.No.		Sl.No.	
157.	Badade, Shri Bhimrao Vishnuji	198.	Tiwari, Shri Lal Bihari
158.	Pawar, Shri Uttamsingh	199.	Premi, Shri Mangal Ram
159.	Patil, Shri Annasahib M.K.	200.	Paranjpe, Shri Dada Baburao
160.	Mohle, Shri Punnu Lal	201.	Mishra, Shri Shyam Behari
161.	Sharma, Shri Ashok	202.	Oraon, Shri Lalit
162.	Kuleste, Shri Faggan Singh	203.	Sarode, Dr. G.R.
163.	Ram, Shri Braj Mohan	204.	Patel, Shri Chandresh
164.	Mude, Shri Vijay Annaji	205.	Singh, Shri Amar Pal
165.	Wanaga, Shri Chintaman	206.	Shakya, Dr. Mahadeepak Singh
166.	Darbar, Shri Chhatar Singh	207.	Thakre, Shri Rajabhau
167.	Singh, Dr. Ram Lakhan	208.	Chaudhary, Shri Ramtahal
168.	Argal, Shri Ashok	209.	Chauhan, Shri Nihal Chand
169.	Sinha, Shri Manoj Kumar	210.	Kanodia, Shri Mahesh Kumar M.
170.	Patwa, Shri Sunder Lal	211.	'Bachda', Shri Bachi Singh Rawat
171.	Joshi, Dr. Murli Manohar	212.	Banshiwal, Shri Shyam Lal
172.	Singh, Shri Jaswant	213.	Gadhvi, Shri P.S.
173.	Vajpayee, Shri Atal Bihari	214.	Chowdhary, Shri Pankaj
174.	Rana, Shri Kashi Ram	215.	Diler, Shri Kishan Lal
175.	Jag Mohan, Shri	216.	Varma, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh
176.	Naik, Shri Ram	217.	Roy, Shri Devendra Bahadur
177.	Mahajan, Shri Pramod	218.	Chaudhari, Shri Manibhai Ramjibhai
178.	Lodha, Justice Guman Mal	219.	'Nidar', Prof. Ompal Singh
179.	Pathak, Shri Harin	220.	Ramshakal, Shri
180.	Rawat, Prof. Rasa Singh	221.	Sathi, Shri Harpal Singh
181.	Jatia, Dr. Satyanarayan	222.	Singh, Shri Nakli
182.	Pandey, Dr. M. Laxminarayan	223.	Singh, Shri Sohan Veer
183.	Drona, Shri Jagat Vir Singh	224.	Tripathi, Lt. General Prakash Mani
184.	Verma, Prof. Rita	225.	Bharti, Dr. Amrit Lal
185.	Bhargave, Shri Girdhari Lal	226.	Chauhan, Shri Shriram
186.	Gupta, Shri Chaman Lal	227.	Sonkar, Shri Vidyasagar
187.	Sai, Shri Nandkumar	228.	Chaudhary, Shri Padamsen
188.	Kumar, Shri V. Dhananjaya		
189.	Joshi, Vaidya Dau Dayal		
190.	Patel, Dr. A.K.		
191.	Singh, Shri Prahlad		
192.	Rawat, Shri Bhagwan Shankar		
193.	Mishra, Shri Ram Nagina		
194.	Yadav, Shri Jagdambi Prasad		
195.	Verma, Shri R.L.P.		
196.	Fundkar, Shri Bhaosahib Pundlik		
197.	Subhash Chandra, Shri		

MR. SPEAKER : Subject to correction, the result of the division is:

Ayes : 43

Noes : 228

The motion was negatived.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore) : Shri Chatterjee, please withdraw the support !

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Lodha, are you pressing your amendment?

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I am pressing my amendment No.14 to Clause 13. Sir, I want to say. . .

MR. SPEAKER : No, no. You have already made your submission. No need for that.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : He must accept the amendment because of what he says.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I have discussed it with the leaders of the BJP. With your permission and with the permission of this House I wish to make one more effort to persuade them. Please give me just two minutes.

It is not a question of one section of the House voting in favour of one amendment and another section of the House voting against it or two sections of the House joining together on an amendment, It is not that at all. . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Anand Mohan, what are you doing? Please do not behave like that. Please sit down.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I have explained the purpose of this Bill, and I would not repeat it. It is only when we carry out a further reform of restructuring that we will have to examine very carefully what conditions have to be imposed, what qualifications have to be imposed, what terms have to be imposed for any one who may or may not be permitted to enter the insurance sector.

It is quite clear to me that there are several shades of opinion. I recognised that when I spoke. As I said, I have no proposal and the Government has no proposal whatsoever to open up the life Insurance. I did not say so in my Budget speech either. On general insurance, I said in my speech that I am proposing a modest opening — I am quoting from my speech “a modest opening” — and I explained why. In the debate, I explained why health insurance is necessary. When I introduced “Janarogya”, thousands and thousands of policies were taken because it is a very low cost and a low benefit policy. There was demand even for that. There is a tremendous demand in this country for health products. So, when we open up health insurance, it will be opened to selective Indian companies. That is the only policy statement. It has to be translated into a Bill and it has to be translated into action. I would have to come to you again. Then, we will have to write carefully the terms and conditions by which the selected Indian players will enter the health insurance business. That Bill has to go to the Standing Committee. Whatever conditions are to be imposed, we will have to debate coolly and calmly.

I submit that to try to engraft an omnibus amendment to a law on the regulatory authority without examining the implications of the terms and conditions under which the

players will be allowed into the health insurance sector is premature. I recognise the force of the argument. After all, I have to carry on only with the consent of Parliament and the support of Parties. I recognise the force of the argument. Having recognised the force of the argument, I made it very clear that there is no proposal before the Government to allow any foreign company or any multinational company. The only proposal is to allow selected Indian companies into the health insurance business. Even for that, we will have to lay down very strict terms and conditions in regard to what they will need and what they will not need, and what they can do and what they cannot do.

Please understand that the products in insurance are very varied. India is not familiar with many products. India does not have many of the technologies. So, we will have to consider them very carefully at that time. When we consider it calmly and coolly in the Standing Committee, at that time, and come back to Parliament, that I think is the right time for both Shri Lodha and Shri Chauhan to add their amendments. At this time, I would only appeal once again not to press for this amendment. I make it very clear that the Government has no proposal and no decision has been taken, and the Government has no proposal to allow any foreign company or multinational company into any segment of insurance business.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : Mr. Speaker Sir, I have to submit to you that. . . (Interruptions) Please consider it. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, this amendment does not prohibit their health insurance scheme. We have not opposed any such thing.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : It does.

[English]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : It does not. You have a mind to restructure it in a manner, at a later date, which will jeopardise not only the insurance sector but also the entire Indian capital structure. Therefore, you are hesitant; otherwise, there is no fun in it. You are repeating the same thing for the last 25 to 30 minutes. I am receiving the same six-line argument that you have nothing except health insurance. When does this amendment impose any restriction on opening it up to selected Indian players? It does not. Therefore, this argument is not valid. If you are so crystal clear in your mind, then you have to accept this. You may say the phraseology may be this or may be that. When the purpose and the intention are the same and if this amendment seeks to integrate it in a very lucid manner, what is the objection to it? I do not see any objection. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : The Bhartiya Janata Party has made it clear that it is in favour of allowing more participation by private companies in the insurance sector. There should be competition in the insurance Sector and for this reason we did not participate in the voting in the amendment proposed by Shri Chatterjee. As you once remarked, there is a difference between us. There is the question of multinationals. The Finance Minister is of the view that this Bill would not provide unrestricted entry to the multinationals. But we have some apprehensions in this regard. He has made repeated attempts to convince us. But the doubts still persist. If the Government wants to convince us through additional information we are ready to provide more time. But if the Government is adamant on either passing this Bill or defeating the amendment, then it is a different matter. In such a situation division should take place. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think that at this moment the Leader of the Opposition has no right to give more time to the Government, when nothing has begun, it cannot be stopped half way. Voting should take place. One is free to vote as per one's choice. No one has the right in Parliament to stop the voting half. Voting should be completed. Once the voting process has begun, the Government or the Finance Minister cannot be given more time. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : It is a question of understanding each other. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please let us listen.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : I accept the proposal. My only request is to please give us time. This can be postponed and it can be taken up at a later stage. I will only say that in between we will try to examine it. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : The Government is sensing defeat. It does not mean that in such a situation the voting process should be stopped. This cannot be done. . . (Interruptions) Maintain the dignity of the House should voting take place only when you are sure to win, just because you lack the courage to accept defeat? We know from where the pressure is being exerted on you. We know American is pressuring you. We know for how long you have been under pressure to open up the insurance and the banking sector. We also live in this world, and keep ourselves informed. In whose interest are you trying to stop the voting? For the country? Do you want

to give them the message that there is unanimity and consensus in this regard? There is no consensus, voting will take place. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has been trying for quite some time to convince everybody in the House. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister said that there should be some understanding. Unfortunately, they do not understand that the whole country understands them, but nobody believes their words. People are unable to say this for the last five or six years. That is the tragedy of this nation. Slowly you are giving away everything to multinationals and foreign capitalists. The country should learn to say "No" and I am glad that some hon. Members have understood that the time has come to say "No" and we should say "No" to you.

[English]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am pressing my amendment. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I had made a constructive proposal, in order to avoid discussion. But it seems there is no unanimity even in this regard. Therefore I withdraw my proposal.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Order Please.

(Translation)

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur) : The Leader of Opposition has withdrawn his proposal.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know how to describe it. I think it is a very unusual situation.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : In a Parliamentary system, this is the usual situation. This is not an unusual situation. There is nothing unusual about it. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : All right, it is a usual situation. I am coming to that. I have gone through the records of the past. There had been an occasion in 1966 where the debate on a Bill was adjourned at the third reading stage. So, there is a precedent. But I want to go into more details. I want to take a decision on this. I have to take the sense of the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : It is not a debate. That was a debate. It was not done at the time of voting. The debate was over. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I said that the debate was adjourned at the third reading stage. Shri Harin Pathak, do you know what is the third reading stage? Do you think that the Speaker does not know what is the third reading stage? What is this? Unnecessarily, you are wasting the time.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me. Shri Mahajan, I am not going to take a hasty decision on this because whatever we decide, there will be a precedent. I have just seen one precedent. The House will now adjourn for Lunch to meet again at...

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : No, Sir. I have an objection. You cannot adjourn the House. You cannot open the lobbies . . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will take it up again after Lunch.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : You cannot postpone the voting. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You come back after Lunch. I have adjourned the House. The House will meet at 2.40 p.m.

13.39 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Forty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.43 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Forty Three Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the chair]

INSURANCE REGULATORY AUTHORITY BILL - Contd.

MR. SPEAKER : Well, the House has now to take up Amendment No. 13 moved by Shri Shivraj Singh and later on Amendment No. 14 by Justice Guman Mal Lodha.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai-North East) : They are the same Amendments.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, of course, I said, they are the same Amendments.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move my amendment.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You have already moved it. It is only a question of putting it to vote.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I have had some exchange of views with hon. Members who wish to press the point that only Indian companies should be allowed into the insurance business. I have consulted my colleagues and I have also consulted the hon. Prime Minister. I have proposed it to the hon. Leader of the Opposition and I propose to the whole House that we may add the following amendment to clause 13. I do not think it necessary to read clause 13. Clause 13 is one which speaks about the powers to regulate. The proposed language is:

"Provided that the authority may grant a certificate of registration..." (Interruptions)

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA (Chhindwara) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : Let him finish first.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : It is only a proposal. I am not moving a formal Amendment. The proposed language is:

"Provided that the authority may grant a certificate of registration to carry on insurance business only to an Indian company."

I suppose that this captures the sense of the House. This captures, according to me, the best possible consensus that can be arrived at.

I propose that we add this amendment:

"That the Authority may grant a certificate of registration to carry on insurance business only to Indian companies."

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : We are opposed to this.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : We are opposed to this.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB) : We are against any kind of privatisation.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We are opposed to opening up the insurance sector not only to foreign companies but also to Indian private companies. We are totally against privatisation.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : We are totally against privatisation of the insurance industry.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : The insurance industry cannot be handed over to the private sector.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, our amendment is on the condition that only Indian participation be allowed in this sector. If the Minister agrees then what is the problem in accepting the language of our amendment.

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, I seek a clarification from the hon. Minister of Finance. He has made a proposal. His proposal is that licences may be given only to Indian companies. May I seek a clarification from the Minister of Finance? Is it not the position in regard to the insurance industry as was prevailing during the pre-nationalisation period? The Indian private companies were very much in the insurance industry. There was mismanagement and there was defalcation. There were agitations all over the country and so the nationalisation of the insurance industry was done. Now, let me be clarified on this. The hon. Minister of Finance, by this proposal, wants to denationalise the LIC and the GIC and hand them over to the TATAs, the Birlas and all the others who are interested in entering the insurance industry. Therefore, I want to make it clear that this proposal is not acceptable to us.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We are going back to the pre-1956 position now. . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have made your point.

SRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What was the position prior to nationalisation? We have had the experience. We are going back to the pre-1956 position. We cannot accept that. We cannot support that.

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY (Krishnagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to seek a clarification.

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you later. Now, let us be cool and discuss

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through the proposed amendment in amendment No.13 the hon'ble Minister, as I have understood it, wants to include word 'Indian Companies'. It means that after inclusion of the said

word foreigners, multi national companies, capitalists will not enter this category by getting their companies registered. If you wishes to allow only Indian companies, then why have you objection in accepting negative amendment proposed by hon'ble Members? There may be some intention or double thinking in it or I do not want to say that there may be some bad intention. When you are not able to stop entries of multi national companies by mere writting 'Hindustani companies, hence I request to adopt the amendment into to. I want nothing but only this. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us get the views of other Parties also. You have made enough of your points.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, you were on the point of voting but you adjourned the House in order to have something. There was no agreement. There was a division. Let there be division and voting. We are pressing our amendment. Why should they have an objection in acception a very innocuous amendment? They want to put it in another form so that either jointly or by collaboration or by entering into some sort of an arrangement the foreign companies can come here. We have already experienced the private companies; forty-six of them, including the TATAs want to start their business again.

I want to make a request to you. Already, on account of what has happened in the House, the image has gone down. People are asking, 'What has happened? When the voting was going on and when everything was being done, why have you come out?' Do not allow the image of the House to go down. Kindly attend to it.. .(Interruptions)

You have been doing it so far. . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is clear from the proceedings of the last one and a half hour that hon'ble Minister is very clever but inspite of that he has revealed his intentions to the House. Now we want to attach Indian companies with it. One amendment was there but now it has been left out. Now to insult them he is saying that he is ready to include the word 'Indian Companies' He wants to do it to please them. To insult them, but he is revealing here that his intentions are to bring foreign companies in India without mentioning the names of foreign companies.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not agree with the hon'ble Minister's statement that we will do it when time will come. Since you have called the name of Indian Companies and since you are prepared to call the names of Indian Companies, then as it is said.

[English]

Out of the jaws of defeat you snatch the victory. This is what you are trying to aim at, Mr. Finance Minister. You will be able to, then tell the world that this was not there, but I have got it done.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to say that any foreign company may purchase shares in India without any restriction. They may buy shares in Mumbai or Delhi as they wish without any restriction. They are allowed to buy shares. They too know it and we too know it, but they think the members sitting in the House have forgot the matter that the foreign financial companies, foreign investors can purchase shares of Indian companies from Indian market. Share market, will be registered in Mumbai market, then whether foreign companies will not purchase it? What is the use of memorandum of understanding? Whether these memorandum of understanding have been signed without the knowledge of government of India.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon'ble Minister through you whether in the negotiations with international monetary fund, or W-T.O. or bilateral talks with American Government or in other negotiations which are going on for the last one year, they had raised question regarding insurance or not? Whether all representatives of the Government of America who came here have not asked about the opening of Insurance sector? When are you allowing us? Whether they have not raised these issues? This matter is not secret. These are public matters. You will find at least 10 such examples by reading the economic bulletins, to which are supplied to some Members of Parliament by the United State services or any American information agency working here or any agency.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please conclude. You have made your point.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not ready to accept our country as a sorrogate of America. In India this House can not be dictated by any foreign power. Our's is sovereign House. This House will take decision keeping in view the interest of country and any such door whether it is front door or back door will not allow to come with these policies.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We are on a procedural matter. We are not on merit.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Sir, procedural and constitutional, both have intermingled.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think we are on a procedural matter. It is a limited question.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : When various political parties are giving their views on the Bill. I feel that I should say what my party's views are on the Bill. When the hon. Minister of Finance approached us, we said we will support the Bill. At that time we were told that there may be some ammendments. He said that on behalf of the Government he would talk to the hon. Members and that they would not insist on their amendments, except, of course, Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee. We said, 'All right. So far as the Congress Party is concerned, we will support the Bill'.

Now, it has come to a position where a major decision has to be changed. In the Bill there are amendments by the BJP. The BJP at one stage said that they were not against private participation. But they said that the private companies should be within the country and not from outside. They said that multinational companies should not come.

By and large, there is nothing wrong; and it looks like quite reasonable. But today, at this moment, for me to take a decision to support this amendment is not possible. For that reason, I was telling Shri Chidambaram to take some time on this. But Shri Chandra Shekhar and others are here. Today we have a peculiar position. All the leaders of my party are on their way to Calcutta.

It is for the House to consider this and not for us. Either it should be deferred or if voting is there for this particular amendment, I have to. . . (Interruptions) Let me finish. You can say 'yes' or 'no', I do not mind; but let me make my position clear.

On this particular amendment, if they insist on it, I have to abstain from voting. I will not be able to do it today. If Shri Chidambaram's amendment is accepted, I will support that amendment. I think, it is a reasonable amendment with which he has come up with. Generally, he will not do it, but he has moved.

MR. SPEAKER : No. He has not moved. He is asking the permission of the House to move it.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : I will ask Shri Vajpayee also; let us see that; if Shri Chidambaram's amendment can be accepted with some change, that will be better.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Balua) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever happened in the House for the last two-three hours has not only brought down the dignity of the House but it has also raised a new issue before the country as to whether the foreign powers can run the Parliament of India arbitrarily? For the last six years, we have been watching the miserable state of the country on the policy issues but we have seen the miserable state of this House today only. I think if the Government had defeated at the time of division in the House it would not have fallen. But what Shri George Fernandes has said appears to be correct that attempts are being made to appease some people and I am sorry to say that despite knowing all these things the people from different sections of the House are ready to be part of it.

Mr. Speaker. Sir, I do not want to be harsh. If we go through the figures the capital which have been given to the foreigners by the Government and the way our industries have been taken over by them that would be a matter of shame for any sovereign country. I would like to submit, we should not undermine our dignity. There should be some dignity in the House either we accept or reject any motion and I would like to submit that whatever happened in this House for the last two and a half hours it is against the dignity of the House.

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI (Shahabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have listened the discussion held on this issue and the speech delivered today by our hon. Finance Minister. You can check the record he has repeatedly said that Insurance would remain in public sector.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know why he is repeating it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balua) (Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no need of delivering a speech on this issue. . . (Interruptions) You please held division. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI ILIYAS AZMI : The Finance Minister had moved an amendment and if his intention is clear than what is his objection to accept the amendment moved by a colleague of BJP? I think his intention is not clear and his views are vague.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think we have discussed enough. Now, I will put the amendment to the vote of the House. There is no way out for this.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : Sir, I have heard with great respect, the viewpoints of various sections of the House. I do share that some apprehensions have been raised which this Government does not want to push forward. We are very keen that the general consensus of the House should be respected and we will respect it.

May I suggest that for the time being we do not move further; we stop as it is. . . (Interruptions) We will come back after discussion with all of them. . . (Interruptions) We will not even move this Bill. . . (Interruptions) We can come back to you. . . (Interruptions) Let me finish. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Prime Minister finish his speech.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Prime Minister finish his speech. Why are you so impatient?

(Interruptions)

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : I will suggest to the hon. Members that we do not move the Bill.

15.00 hrs.

We keep the Bill back. We discuss amongst ourselves and in a modified form after the consensus is evolved - we will come back. . . (Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum) : For two or three days or even four days, we have repeatedly approached the Minister of Finance. We have approached the Prime Minister also precisely for a discussion on our amendment so that even before placing all this before the House, we can try to see each other's point of view. That was turned down. We are happy that even at this late stage, the Prime Minister is prepared to consider that. We are happy on that. . . (Interruptions) for the last four days, we have tried it. . . (Interruptions)

[Translations]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Pudrauna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. The question of withdrawing the motion does not arise when process of division has already been started. Please give ruling in this regard. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Enough, enough. Now, please listen to me. The procedure is very clear.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have said before the lunchbreak that there is a precedent when a Bill even at a third reading stage was postponed. For that, the mover of the Bill has to move a Motion. If there is a consensus, it is all right. Otherwise, even for the postponement, I will have to put it to the vote of the House. I am very clear about it. Therefore, if you want to move a Motion for postponement, you can move it. But I will have to put even that Motion to the vote of the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think that there is any consensus.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I do not want to do anything without a certain consensus in the House. I am not talking about unanimity. The point is that we got stuck on clause 13 with two very sharp positions. I am not scoring a point or anything on that. One amendment has been defeated. They are entitled to press that point again. After all, it is a democracy and a system. They can press their point even after that amendment is defeated.

Then, there is another amendment which is of a more restrictive nature. According to me, there is a wider support for that amendment. Therefore, after consulting everybody, I have proposed that perhaps there is a way out having regard to very many factors including the way LIC and GIC are functioning. GIC is functioning in 35 countries. LIC is functioning in five countries. Having regard to all that, I said and I repeat it that there is no proposal to allow a foreign company or a multinational. But there is a proposal to modestly open the health insurance business to Indian companies. Therefore, I proposed the amendment. I am not moving it formally because I cannot do it without your permission. I have proposed an amendment.

At that stage, the Prime Minister interceded to say that he would like Shri Vajpayee and others to respond. All right, are we moving towards a meeting ground? I recognise your point of view. But on this, can we have a meeting ground?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : No, no.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am aware of your point. Even on this, there is no meeting ground. What the Prime Minister has proposed is: on this - the formulation which I have given and the formulation which you have - is there a meeting ground? Can we talk about it? So, the Prime Minister says, "Would you consider deferring this matter until we talk about it?" I would appeal to Shri Vajpayee to respond to this. We can have a meeting ground. We will involve them also. We will involve the Congress. They want some time to look at it. The Congress really wants some time to look at it. So, let us involve everybody. We can have a formulation which takes care of the

apprehensions. You may say that Shri Jaswant Singh repeatedly said about some apprehension. I am trying to allay it. Let us see whether there is a way to allay your apprehension. I think Sections 13 and 26 are there. We will allay it even better. Let us try to meet. If there can be an agreement on that, we can defer the debate. Otherwise, I think, the appeal of the Prime Minister should be responded to by the Leader of the Opposition.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am connected with the Parliament since 1957 in one way or the other. But, the situation that has arisen today has never been there. The reason is that the Government do not form its definite opinion before introducing the Bill and it also do not assess as to whose support it would get and whose support it would not get. When the Government lands in trouble, then it starts working under pressure at every stage, it goes on following order of other parties.

Earlier, our party has said that we are against entry of foreign companies in the field of insurance but the Indian companies should get opportunities there. This fact was not accepted earlier but now it has been accepted. The Finance Minister has just now mentioned that only Indian companies would be given opportunities in this field and an amendment in this regard is yet to come. It is a good thing and we like it. But there is a need to clear the doubts that have cropped up in our minds. In the morning, I had given a suggestion to adjourn the discussion for a while and the only purpose behind it was that the Government should ponder over the amendment by us. Can the Government ponder over it? What are the difficulties in it? The Finance Minister has just now mentioned about the difficulties and actually this should have come up first in the House and moreover, these difficulties does not look convincing.

The Government say that the Indian Insurance Companies are functioning well in abroad with the help of Indians settled there and also earning well there. These companies are working for the welfare of these people and if we publish in the newspapers here that entry of the foreign companies into our country is being banned then the Indians who are settled there may face the difficulties. I think, this logic is somewhat rationale. But, we must also admit that if we let even a small loophole, it would result in influx of foreign companies at large scale.

If Chandra Shekharji is making allegations, then what are the reasons behind it? Why a doubt has been cropping up in his mind that the country is compromising with its sovereignty. We have to keep in mind what my friend George Fernandes is saying imbued with patriotism.

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

Since, the Finance Minister has now said and the Prime Minister has also sought time, so I think that the House would not have any objection in allotting time. But, when you come up with a Bill, you should keep it in mind that the Bill should be such that it should clear all our doubts. . .

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I only wish to respond to one point. I have continually consulted the leaders of the Parties separately and I wish to point out that this Bill was referred to the Standing Committee and 44 out of 45 Members of the Committee have reported this Bill for adoption with five amendments. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Once again this is a distortion. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, all I would like to point out is, here is the report of the Standing Committee. Even after that - I am not going by this report alone. I have continually consulted leaders of Parties and now recognising the force of what you say, I am proposing this. . .(Interruptions) I accept what you say. . .(Interruptions) I only want to say that we want time. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : You kindly withdraw the Bill as told by the Prime Minister. . .(Interruptions) You should withdraw the Bill. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : Sir, I am grateful to the Leader of the Opposition because he has seen my submission in the correct manner. I can assure you that there is no intention on our part - on the part of the Government - to do something behind this House. We will not do that. Whatever policies are made will be made in the open and with the consent, knowledge and approval of the House. Therefore, when we defer this, please take it in that spirit. We have seen the spirit of the House and we will respect it. . .(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : No deferment. The Government should withdraw the Bill. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : It should be withdrawn . . .(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (Allahabad) : It should be withdrawn . . .(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : If the Government wants to achieve a consensus on this, let the Bill be withdrawn by them. A fresh Bill can be brought when there is a consensus. . .(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Let the Bill be withdrawn. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Let the Bill be withdrawn. . .(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : The Government should withdraw this Bill. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : On this issue, a consensus is required. When there is no consensus on the Bill, it should be withdrawn. . .(Interruptions)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Sir, let the Minister withdraw the Bill. . .(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I think this matter is very clear. There are two-three proposals now. I am very clear that everything has to be done with the consent of the House today. If it is seeking leave for moving a new amendment, it has to be with the leave of the House. If it is a motion for deferment of the Bill, it has to be again by a proper motion and it has to be with the consent of the House. If necessary, it has to be by voting. Withdrawal also has to be with the consent of the House. The Government has to make up its mind and take one of the three courses just now. Otherwise, I will have to put the amendments to vote.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There is a consensus for withdrawal.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Let the Minister withdraw the Bill.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : If the Government decides to withdraw the Bill, there will be no opposition.

SHRI I.K. GUJRAL : I am again grateful to the Leader of the Opposition. I respect his words. We withdraw the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill to provide for the establishment of an Authority to protect the interests of holders of insurance policies and to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the insurance industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to provide for the establishment of an Authority to protect the interests of holders of insurance policies and to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the

insurance industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I withdraw the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The Bill is withdrawn.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It is a victory for the people of India.

15.13 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Re: Heavy Loss of Lives and Property Due to Natural Calamities - *Contd.*

MR. SPEAKER : Now further discussion on the heavy loss of lives and property due to natural calamities. Shri Uddhab Burman to speak.

hrs. 15.14

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats. Do not stand in the aisles.

(Interruptions)

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN (Barpeta) : Last time I talked about the ecological changes in the area. Erosion is one of the important and damaging things. Along with the floods, erosion, not only in the Brahmaputra River but also in its tributaries, has eaten up the cultivable land in the State. Cultivable land is on the decrease. This is creating problem in our State every year. I should necessarily request the Central Government to come forward with the implementation of the Master Plan already prepared by the Brahmaputra Board. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please maintain silence.

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there are already drought and floods in different parts of the country. There is flood in Kerala and Gujarat. Midnapur district of West Bengal is also being flooded. Gujarat is practically under the damaging impact of floods. But, what is seen is that the Government is not taking up proper natural disaster management measures. They are completely and practically neglected.

It is said that in the Eighth Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 9.00 crore is allocated for Natural Damage Management Programme. But it is seen that an amount of Rs. 2.69 crore has been spent for disaster management. This practically reflected the lethargic

attitude of the Central Government. The objective of the disaster management is to create awareness among the people regarding natural calamities. But the same is completely neglected by the Central Government and other State Governments.

I request that while we are observing the International Decade of Natural Disaster Reduction, the Central Government should come forward to see that the people are educated. Let them be aware of the disaster potentialities of a certain natural calamities.

Assam is in a seismic zone where earthquakes are very much frequent. Fear is there in the minds of the people of Assam because of the impact of earlier earthquake. Shri Negi, a famous geo-physicist maintained that every 100 years there will be a revisit of earthquake. There was an earthquake in Assam in 1897. Proper attention should be given to Assam and the North-Eastern Region to see that the people are educated. I would, naturally, ask the Government to see that preventive measures are taken against the potential danger of earthquake in this area and to see that people are educated regarding the danger of probable earthquakes in this area.

I had already mentioned this in the beginning of my speech. I have said that natural disasters like flood, erosion, earthquake, etc. have been creating a havoc not only for the present but they are also creating problems for future development. They are causing damage to the crops, infrastructure etc.

What is seen in Assam is frequent floods, frequent erosions. It is typical of this region. There is a lurking fear among the people, particularly cultivators, because whatever they produce is washed out in the floods. If we do not take preventive flood control measures and also prevent erosion, we will continue to suffer practically. A sense of passivity and frustration prevails.

There is already a lot of discontentment among the people of Assam and of the Northeast because of the neglect of this region during the last five decades. This discontentment is unfortunately utilised by the extremist forces and they are creating a lot of problems. In the Fiftieth Year of our freedom, when the entire country and the House is celebrating, we should think of the price that we are paying for the neglect of this region in our economy and development in the control of flood and erosion. We have paid a lot of price for the neglect in the last 50 years. In the Fiftieth Anniversary of Independence, I think, the Central Government should be more sensitive to the feelings of the people throughout the country, particularly the Northeast. I am glad that the Prime Minister of our country has taken some interest in the Northeast and declared a sum of Rs. 6100 crore for the development of Northeast. He has also promised Rs. 500 crore for the

[Shri Uddhab Barman]

control of flood in the river Brahmaputra and erosion. But this is not enough. If only flood control is there and other things like water management is not taken up, whatever potentials which are there will not be fully utilised and the scheme would not see the progress.

So, I request the Central Government — because the State Governments of Northeast including the Assam Government are not in a position to financially manage the projects — to fund the projects already declared by the Brahmaputra Board. Therefore, I request the Central Government to come forward to implement the projects cleared by the Brahmaputra Board so that this will not only control floods and soil erosion but also generate a lot of hydro electric power. In this respect, again I request the Central Government to be sensitive to the feelings of Assam and to solve the problem since most of the people of Assam are peasants. They can cultivate a lot of land not only for the economic development of Assam but also to the national development. This will bring forward a new era for the entire country. The people of Assam also can say that they are not backward; they are not deprived; they are not discriminated and they are part and parcel of this great country. For building a New India, we can also contribute a lot.

I request the Central Government to take not only temporary measures for the control of flood and erosion, not only giving minimum relief in the name of national fund for calamity relief but they should take comprehensive measures. These temporary measures touch only the fringe of the problems. Comprehensive measures should be taken throughout the country which will go a long way to mitigate the problem of the people of this country including Assam.

There is also drought situation prevailing in certain parts of the country. Kalahandi people in the State of Orissa are practically on the streets. A lot of people are suffering because of drought situation. It is our fault. It is a criminal neglect. We are committing the crime of neglect for the creation of the drought situation. We should try to minimise it so that the crime is negated. The Central Government should come forward with a comprehensive measures so that the entire problems are taken care of. Mere discussion will not solve the problem. Discussion should be held; but that alone does not solve the problem unless some policy decision is taken and implemented.

I hope the Central Government will come forward with comprehensive measures so that flood erosion and drought situations can be controlled and people are saved from the ravages of the national calamities.

With these words, I conclude and thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA (Chhindwara) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday my friend Shri Prahlad Patel spoke at length about the earthquake in Jabalpur. I do not want to discuss it again. But I want to attract the attention of the House to a matter of greater concern. It is unfortunate for Madhya Pradesh to have such a Government and also such a Chief Minister. . . (Interruptions) Sir, the Government of Madhya Pradesh presented the Prime Minister from coming to study the impact of the earthquake. The Prime Minister said that he wanted to go early but the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh stopped him saying there were elections of his party at that time. 'You please stop, we will study the influence of the earthquake later, the Finance Minister at the Centre is saying that the report for assistance from the World Bank which was to come in the prescribed proforma from the Government of Madhya Pradesh, has not come, they have not sent it. The Government of Madhya Pradesh is of the opinion that the Finance Minister at the Centre is telling a lie and the Finance Minister says the same for the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has still not been able to assess the total loss caused by this earthquake. Two months have elapsed but nothing has been done.

I want to attract your attention to this dangerous problem. There was a time when modern physics had not developed, at that time an engineer called Bhagirath brought the Ganges to India by cutting the Himalayas, and with its streams, provided water to this nation. Today it's the era of physics. Sir, Shri Mishra would say that it's not my subject. There have always been issues of floods in Assam, Bihar and Gujarat since pre-independence days to the present post-independence days. Orissa has droughts. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through yourself I want to draw the attention of Hon. Minister to the issue of establishing a National Water Grid, which has been there from the pre-independence days. But today even that issue is no more. Today our very assets, our wealth, our natural boons have become a terrifying bane for us. I want to ask Hon. Minister as to where the issue of establishing National Power Grid has disappeared? Today the discussion is rather about bringing the foreign companies into insurance sector.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch) : Shri Patwa, please take up the issue of narmada in Gujarat as well.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Where is that National Grid? Shall we be facing such calamities every year and these temporary arrangements will also continue? I want to ask the Government as to why don't they make some

solid arrangements? From which Government should we expect something? This is the Government whose Prime Minister says, 'Oh God! I am helpless. I am ashamed to be the Prime Minister.' Then before whom could we go to cry? The condition of Madhya Pradesh Government is strange and still strange is the condition of this Government. There is drought somewhere, somewhere floods, and somewhere earthquakes here. Shri Mishra is a learned man and a communist. He must have read the book Das Capital written by Karl Marx. I am sure he must have read Kautilya's Arthashastra as well. And am sure that he has read Bhartharis Neeti Shatak too.

15:31 hrs.

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I know whether there is any scientific knowledge in this country? We want to run this country on foreign loans. Fifty years have elapsed while running this country with the same attitude. Now we have arrived at this juncture. Shri Mishra belongs to the Communist Party. So he might have somehow studied the Vedas also. That is in his blood. Can these natural calamities be prevented? Did our scholars suggest any measures to prevent these calamities? Why do we shy away from looking back at our sages, saints and thinkers who enlightened this country and the world with their knowledge after spending their lives at the river sides, hermitages and in the forests. Unfortunately our generation is so blank that it has forgotten the wealth and honour of our ancestors. The average rustic farmer in the village can visualise an earthquake, rains, famine after looking at the flickering of birds. This much general science is available with us.

Our learned friends were discussing Gujarat. Government of India had entrusted the job of finding facts about the apprehensions regarding future earthquakes in the Narmada river valley to the Technology Department of California Institute of Technology by giving it an amount of Rs. four crores. An inspection was carried out before the design of the dam was ready. There are great scholars in the foreign countries. Inspection was carried out through this American institute guaranteed that this area would never experience an earthquake measuring more than four on the Richter scale. One of our scholars from Indore Shri Ram Srivastava published it in an article in 1987.

[English]

"Monitoring of seismic activity was traced in 1987."

[Translation]

The American scholar carried out the inspection and said that this area would not have an earthquake

measuring beyond four on the Richter scale. This very basin of Narmada, this section of Jabalpur with 5-6 districts had its impact. As per the study carried out by the international seismic Network, its intensity was 5.8 on the Richter scale. This was the intensity of the earthquake. There would not be an earthquake beyond four on Richter scale as per the design of the Narmada Dam; which means it was 1.5 Richter more than that. The design of the dam is such that it can bear 6 on Richter scale and this earthquake was only 5.6 on the Richter scale. Had it crossed 6 Richter scale mark, what would have been the condition of this dam and the area surrounding it? It needs reconsideration. Sardar Sarovar, Indira Sagar, Omkareshwar, Maheshwar, Bargi, Varna, Dawa all these big dams are there in that area. There is Ambadoga, Neshwarpur in Sardar Sarover dam area where the rocks have vertical faults that will have the water go down to cause earthquakes, how will you assess its gravity? That's why its reexamination is necessary. In spite of it 1994 a portion of the foundation collapsed in water and also carried away a rock with it. Two inch thick iron rod melted just like wax. We have had such an experience. There are seven hills called Kauriya near the Narmada river in Devas district of Madhya Pradesh. These hills are made of crores of 20-30 metre long quadrangular, pentagonal, hexagonal, octagonal beams of thousands of tonnes. They are said to have volcano tunnels underneath. In the light of recent discoveries does the Government feel the necessity to reexamine it? Let there be dams, utilisation of water, establishment of National Grid, and let every drop of rain give us our national wealth to bring happiness to the country, as we have the knowledge, the science and technology here. We always discuss and were discussing yesterday also. Yesterday, Shri Hazarika was talking about Assam. My request is that whatever urgent measures are there, they be taken up and with full potential.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday only our colleague Prahlad ji was saying that when the Prime Minister went there to take stock of the situation, a woman constable in her civil dress was made a part of the crowd at behest of the Chief Minister. She was asked to say that relief work is being undertaken so that the Chief Minister could get a pat on his back from the Prime Minister. But the fact is known to the entire press and public that the area has suffered a loss of nearly five to six thousand crores of rupees. Six districts have suffered heavy losses due to the earthquake which includes Jabalpur and Mandla or the most affected districts. As my colleague Prahlad ji has told us it was a summer night, people were sleeping outside their mud and thatched houses which reduced possibility of, otherwise a heavy casualty. So far as Latoor district

[Shri Sunder Lal Patwa]

was concerned. that time it was under the grip of chilly cold and people were sleeping inside their pucca houses. That was why, thousands of persons lost their lives and much attention was paid towards the district. Though the number of people died in Mandla was for less there was much loss of property. Mandla happen to be a tribal district. 95 percent population of Mandla is tribal. All the MPs and MLAs belonging to that belt are tribals. None are non-tribals. Non-tribal people constitute hardly five to ten percent population of Mandla. In view of their poor economic condition and living standards it is a fact that loss of even a thatched and mud house is loss of everything for these people. So far nobody had visited the area. It was when my friends and Shri Prahlad Patel raised the issue and made much hue and cry, only then the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh woke up and visited the area.

Mr. Chairman, Sir I will not take much time, but I would like to draw your attention towards a couple of issues or so. I support the move for construction of Narmada dam and full utilisation of its water. My friends from Gujarat may remember that when there was BJP rule in Madhya Pradesh and I was the Chief Minister, the pace of disposal of work was at its best in both states. Chimanbhaai is no more with us today. He belonged to a different party, but in spite of that he welcomed every suggestion given by me in respect of rehabilitation. There was great coordination between us. We undertook every work very expeditiously. But unfortunately the present government in Madhya Pradesh held up all works. A review should also be done on the risks mentioned in the survey report of the California Institute of Technology, otherwise this boon may turn out as a curse even bigger than Koyna for us one day. We must pay attention towards this, otherwise our future generation may not forgive us on this score.

Due notice should be taken of the danger forewarned for different places including Dewas and Sardarpur. Mr. Chairman, Sir, have we ever thought of the the basic reasons as to why those natural calamities occur? Nature is not a curse, it is a boon. Nature has created the human being. Nature wants the human being to live provided he does not disturb the nature. After all what sins we have committed during the last fifty years? There is no errors and commissions in the accounts of nature. Nature keeps account of every inch. Floods come because we have very mercilessly ruined our natural resources and in return we are bound to get punishment. Forests have been destroyed. Deforestation has taken place on large scale. Then, how the flood water can be controlled? A lot of poisonous smoke is being released in the air. Due to indiscriminate construction a lot of changes are taking place in the nature. Big dams are being built. There is mismanagement of our

water resources and live stock. Our wild life is being eliminated. There can be no excuse for these wrongs. Nature settles all the scores evenly. I would like to draw attention of Mishraji that until he remains in this office, I do not know how long Shri Mishraji is going to remain in this office and probably you also do not know in this regard. . .(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : If you do not know then how can I tell you? If we have to quit, it would be because of you people only. . .(Interruptions)

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : The Minister is a hardcore communist. So, he must have read Karl Marx but there must be a Ramayana in his home as well. . .(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Patwaji, you have very little time to conclude. I think you have some more points to speak on. Please speak on those points.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : I will take only a couple of minutes or so. I would request the hon'ble Minister to take note of the basic reasons behind the natural calamities also. Let us not confine our efforts to immediate measures only, for if we turn a blind eye to the root causes of the natural calamities such as mining, deforestation, damaging the environment etc., then we are bound to face the dire consequences thereof.

Neglect has been shown towards Jabalpur earthquake incident. That day also I requested the hon'ble Prime Minister to take some adequate measures as a loss of nearly five to six thousands of rupees is discernible to everybody there. But the Government of Madhya Pradesh has assessed the loss of property worth only nine hundred crores of rupees after a resurvey. The state government has assessed a loss of nine hundred crores of rupees and has demanded only two hundred and fifty crores of rupees but the centre has given a grant of merely forty crores. Please save Madhya Pradesh from such a pitiable condition and provide adequate fund to the state Government. Please get the matter assessed through your level and extend help to the social workers who are involved in the rescue work. Let us make our all out efforts to reduce the sufferings of quake hit people as much as possible. With this request, I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now Shri B.K. Gadhvi to speak. Before he starts, I want to inform the Hosue that we have

to take up the Item No. 18, Discussion under Rule 193 regarding the public distribution system at 4 o'clock.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsour) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it would be better if we finish this debate first and then start the other.

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Sir, my humble submission is that this discussion on natural calamities may be continued. Let us dispose of one at a time. We are discussing the natural calamities under Rule 193 from yesterday. My humble submission to the Chair is that let it be continued today. The new thing regarding public distribution system can be taken up tomorrow or day after tomorrow. Let this important matter on natural calamities be discussed today. . . *(Interruptions)* This is our unanimous request.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think I cannot deviate from the list of business. You know that it is before you and at 4 o'clock or whenever this discussion is over, whichever is earlier, we have to take it up.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Otherwise, it will keep on pending like this. This is a very important issue. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Sir, before you give your ruling, please allow me for a minute.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI (Banaskantha) : Sir, may I start my speech? . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, the point is that it is true that the discussion on public distribution system is slated at 4 o'clock. What is likely to happen is that this discussion under Rule 193 would not be completed and there will be a break. When to continued it? The discussion on natural calamities and the discussion on public distribution system both will spill over. I submit that if we can complete this discussion on natural calamities today and take up the other discussion under Rule 193 on public distribution system tomorrow or even some other day, that would be proper because at least one important debate would be completed. The discussion on public distribution system can be taken up tomorrow.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Yes Sir. Otherwise the fate of this important issue will not be decided.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, with the agreement of the entire House, such things can be decided.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this matter is Under the rule 193 and is related with human feelings. Life and property of crores of rupees have been lost at large scale at various places in several States. Therefore, representatives of each and every State want to speak about their States. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The thing is that until the House decides I cannot deviate from the list of business. There is another important thing that is the half-an-hour discussion at 6.30 p.m. We are supposed to take it up.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : That is another thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have to take it up from 6 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. We cannot deviate. Even this discussion will not be completed by 6 p.m. We are supposed to take up the half-an-hour discussion from 6 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I submit that it is from 6.30 p.m. to 7 p.m. We can complete this by 6.30 p.m. Please allow this to continue.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, the whole House is unanimous on this request. This can be discussed upto 6.30 p.m. I think the whole House is unanimous in this regard. The hon. Minister is also giving his consent.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion would be made about the entire country. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Minister is agreed with us.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : We are in favour to phase it out.

[English]

Sir, I am of the opinion that we can take them up one by one. If necessary the discussion on public distribution system can be taken up on any other day. Prolonging this discussion this way may not be good.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, it should be completed today.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If that is the sense of the House, I will convey it to the hon. Speaker. Anyway, let the discussion continue upto 4 o'clock. I am not giving a ruling on that. We have the list of business before us. We have to go by that.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, instead of a discussion on matters of floods etc. we are having a very comprehensive discussion on natural calamities. I will confine myself only to the flood situation in Gujarat and some other parts of the country.

It was the blackest nights and days in the last week of June for Gujarat, particularly, the North Gujarat. It is an arid zone area which has got no drainage system as such. The entire season's rainfall took place there within 24 hours. Therefore, it brought a great calamity not only to the people of that part but also to the cattle, huts and dwelling houses of the people. In that area, seven districts, that is, Gandhi Nagar, Ahmedabad, Mehsana, Surender Nagar, Sabarkantha, Kheda and Banaskantha were affected. The toll of human lives is more than 215.

It was one of the severest natural calamities. I am happy that our Minister of Agriculture has visited Gujarat. He also agreed that it was really a national calamity. Therefore, I am putting his words which he spoke before the Press that it was a national calamity.

The loss that has been estimated by the Government within the parameters which are not all comprehensive is that there occurred a great damage to infrastructure, roads and buildings which was to the tune of Rs. 242.83 crore. The irrigation projects were badly affected causing damage to the tune of Rs. 133 crore. The Energy and Power Department suffered a loss of Rs. 49.88 crore because most of the sub-stations failed and lines were disrupted and the posts were uprooted. Although there was a great flood, people were deprived of drinking water. Therefore, in the area of water supply, the Department suffered a loss of Rs. 7.10 crore. The Agriculture Department has assessed the damage at Rs. 83.50 crore, but I do not agree with them. There was a colossal loss to the agricultural community and the loss could not be less than Rs. 1,000 crore in these districts which were affected by the torrential rains and deluge. In the urban areas, the loss is of Rs. 98.30 crore. The Health Department had to spend about Rs. 5.50 crore. The damage to the huts and houses which have collapsed or damaged is to the tune of Rs. 40 crore. Thus, the Government estimate is - I am talking about the first flood that came in North Gujarat and some parts of Saurashtra - that there was a loss of Rs. 665 crore.

Subsequently, we have also got two more floods recently, about three or four days back where one river water has changed the course and two big villages have totally disappeared from the scene because the river changed the course. For that, the estimates made by the Government put the loss at about Rs. 100 crore. I am afraid that that is too low a figure. When they would ultimately assess the situation, the loss would be much more. Even

as per the information supplied to us by the hon. Minister on flood in Gujarat, more than 10 lakh huts, small houses and *kuchcha* houses have been damaged, more than 225 lives have been lost, more than 10,000 heads of cattle have been perished and the loss in total estimation could not be less than 1,500 crore.

This is the extent of the calamity. What is the help given by the Government? Till now, Gujarat has been given not even Rs. 100 crore as assistance. They have given only Rs. 82.86 crore. This is not even one-tenth of the losses that had occurred. The Government says that they have provided a budget of Rs. 700 crore to the National Calamity Relief Fund for a period of five years. When we cannot estimate the damage which is caused by natural calamities like this, then how can you disburse some small amount of money? The amount of money given as help has to be enhanced. Even yesterday the Government has come up with Supplementary Demands for Grants. They should make more funds available in the kitty of the Ministry of Agriculture to go to the succour of these affected people, because after all the people affected by this natural calamity are the poorest of the poor who are living in *kuchcha* houses and in the *jhuggi-jhonpadi*. The crops of farmers have been totally affected.

Sir, when we say that agriculture is the mainstay of this country's economy and the agriculturists who are more diligent and industrious in a State like Gujarat suffer this kind of a damage, setting aside all the norms, a very generous attitude has to be adopted by the Government of India and go to the help of these affected people. But what are they doing? In some cases, when there is a bomb blast they gave Rs. One lakh per person as compensation to the family of the deceased, in another case of an accident they gave some other amount as compensation. But when there is a natural calamity of this magnitude where more than 225 people have died, what have they given? The State Government had announced only Rs. 25,000/- per person as compensation to the family of the deceased. I think that in this case also, besides assessing the losses caused to the crops and properties, the loss of human lives must be compensated and the family of each of the deceased person should be given at least Rs. One lakh, because his entire family has been rendered destitute due to his death and they have lost all their wherewithals.

The entire Public Distribution System which is meant for the poor has been disrupted. The people had to be evacuated to safer places by helicopters and the people had to be given food packets by helicopters. When such a situation is there and when the people have been marooned in such a fashion, then it is very difficult for them to come back to their normal life, because they have lost

everything that they have earned in their life, including their houses, wherewithals, household items, furniture etc. When such a calamity occurs, it was not the fault of any human being. In one day, in some place the amount of rain fall was about 31 or 32 inches and subsequently, as I stated earlier, the new deluge had come which had further accentuated the people's difficulties.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture that something should be done immediately. If he does not do anything, then the people living in six or seven districts of North Gujarat and Saurashtra, which are mostly arid and D.P.A.P. areas, would not be in a position to come back to their normal life for the next 15 years. Then, what for this Government and the State Government are there? Ultimately, the aim and object of the Government is to go to the succour of the people, to ameliorate their conditions and to improve their conditions when their houses and properties have been destroyed overnight by nature's fury. In that case, we cannot confine ourselves to the parameters laid down by the Government to render assistance.

Sir, when Shri Sundarlal Patwa was speaking he was mentioning about Bagirath. I have never heard anything concrete about the history of Bagirath in this country.

16.00 hrs.

He said that it was a legendary thing. He might have brought the Ganga or the Ganga might have come to India naturally. We do not know about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Gadhviji, it is four o'clock now. Please resume your seat for a minute. Is it the sense of the House that we should continue with this discussion? If we decide to continue with this discussion under Rule 193, then we will take up the other discussion under Rule 193 tomorrow, that is, the need for streamlining the Public Distribution System. It has actually been slated for discussion at four o'clock today, but we will take it up tomorrow.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : That will come in tomorrow's List of Business. I cannot say that now. It will be postponed to tomorrow.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Daggarh) : Has this change in the List of Business been decided in any meeting?

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is why, I have taken the sense of the House.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : The House was unanimous on this issue.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I was given to understand that both the things will continuously go on.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Panigrahi, you were not here when we had a sufficient discussion on this point in this House. We have decided by the sense of the House that we would postpone this discussion to tomorrow. Shri Gadhvi, you may please continue now.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : This year, as compared to other parts of the country, the effect of this flood situation is severe causing a lot of damage in Gujarat. As I said earlier, we appreciate that the hon. Minister of Agriculture visited the State. About a month and fifteen days have passed, but other than giving cash to the people to sustain, no other relief has been given for building their houses or huts or anything else. How can the people live for month without a shelter over their heads?

The Central Government team has come, and I am surprised that the team has recommended Rs. 100 crore more to the State. I do not know whether they have got any knowledge about the condition of the people living in this country or not. I wish that team revisits the State and have a pragmatic look. What is the factual position at the village level, they should find it out. This amount of Rs. 100 crore is just a pittance when the loss is more than Rs. 1,000 crore as per the Government estimate and more than Rs. 1500 crore to Rs. 2,000 crore as per the local estimate, which is more correct.

I would urge upon the Government machinery to have a pragmatic look and a positive response to the demand made by the State Government. In the name of National Calamity Relief Fund and State Calamity Relief Fund, several strings and shackles have been put for the release of funds. The earlier system was much better when more than one hundred per cent grant used to be given for such natural calamities.

Patwaji was saying that they do not mind if there is a national policy on irrigation, but there should be reconsideration on the Narmada Project. It is like inviting you for food at my place and then saying 'I will have to reconsider whether you should be given a *chapathi* or not'. He was putting forth that kind of an argument. These double standards are the obstacles in the way of development of the rural areas of Gujarat. When such calamities occur, then whatever small efforts we have put in to develop the State come to a nought and everything will come to a nought.

I know that the Finance Ministry would be a stingy miser. In your kitty, I am told, there is hardly a balance

[Shri B.K. Gadhvi]

of Rs. 200 crore out of Rs. 700 crore allocated under the Five Year Plan. But there is a Supplementary Demand process. Right now, you can add more money. Please do not worry about the deficit because inflation, as per your claim, is down. Therefore, even if the inflation goes up by a half or one per cent, let us not bother about it. Please give more money for these people and please give more funds and have something more in your kitty.

There is a largescale demand. There is a great demand from Bihar, Assam, Rajasthan and Gujarat. Many other areas have been affected. You should be happy that for ten successive years, you have got a good rain in this country. That is why, to give more money and more help to poor people in the rural areas would not be out of place and improper. What about the cities even? In cities like Ahmedabad also, the poor people, the hutment dwellers, have been badly affected. Sanitation is in a very bad shape. There are many schemes in the area of rural development like Indira Awas Yojana, Kutir Jyoti and others. Let there be a Committee in the Central Government to coordinate the assistance which is being given to the poor people and for rural development. All this help should have a common channel to reach the affected people, if you have a constraint for money. But in my opinion you should not have a constraint for money because this Government does not care for money in other areas. Why should they care in this area of giving flood relief?

Therefore, I would suggest that the assessment done by the Central team for Gujarat is inadequate and, therefore, the team should be sent again because there is again a second dose of flood in Gujarat. The estimates made by the team are not proper. They should be based on factual conditions obtaining in Gujarat and the Central Government should release the funds immediately from the National Calamity Fund to the tune of Rs. 500 crores right now.

We have called upon the Agriculture Minister — unfortunately I was absent on that day — to impress upon him that Gujarat needs more help. We have submitted a memorandum also explaining the factual position. There is no question of submitting a memorandum again.

[Translation]

There is no need to explain the situation as Mishraji himself has witnessed the situation. He has said that it is a big calamity. And now it is a National Calamity, that is why help must be provided accordingly. I know that Mishraji is aware of the situation of rural areas and affected people who are in pitiable condition. Then he should be liberal in this regard and should be liberal to farmers and the

people of rural areas. There was a time when you and former Prime Minister were talking about farmers with comments that he was a son of farmer, a brother of farmers, a father of farmer etc. At least keeping in mind all that legacy son of soil should help that farmer who has died in Gujarat.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wind up.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : I am learning Hindi.

[Translation]

Son of farmer, son of soil, culture.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We spent two hours speaking on this subject.

[Translation]

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : That is why I am requesting you that atleast Rs. 2000 crores should be provided to Gujarat.

Today, a matter of related with insurance was discussed, but for the good the Bill has been withdrawn because crop insurance is nowhere.

[English]

It is only loan insurance. Why do you not go into that aspect? It is not crop insurance at all. Who is insuring the crop? Only loans are issued and loans are available to a very few percentage of the peasantry. I wish that when these natural calamities are occurring in some part or the other of the country every year, we should have an agency like the GIC which can certainly go into the aspect in a comprehensive manner in terms of the crop and see whether the farmers have obtained loans from cooperative banks or commercial banks or from any other financial institution. But there should be comprehensive crop insurance for every crop of the farmer. If that happens, then certainly farmers can withstand the fury of the natural calamities. So, please change this from loan insurance. It is a wrong nomenclature that it is a crop insurance.

I would request the Agriculture Minister to pay proper attention to the submissions which I have made and certainly give more quickly and urgently the succour needed to the Gujarat people who are affected very badly by these floods.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Hon'ble

Chairman, Sir, flood and drought have become cronic disease for India. Our country is predeminently agriculture country. That is why we depend on agriculture. Sometimes our agriculture is damaged by flood and sometimes by drought due to which problems are rising in the country day by day. I was in the Tenth Lok Sabha and still a member of Eleventh Lok Sabha and I have witnessed that we discuss at natural calamities during each Session of parliament and announcement of declarations are made after discussions. State Governments also make demands. But it does not yield any fruitful result. In case of implementation it is said that it is a State subject. And after report from State we will look into the matter.

[English]

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Mr. Chairman, I am happy to let this House know that today the Minister of Agriculture has released Rs. 86 crore from the Natural Calamities Fund to Gujarat.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is the place where we make discussions. When the funds allocated goes to the ultimate beneficiarie that it is misappropriate by middle men. And as a result thereof genuine persons are deprived of facility. Hon'ble member Shri Gadhvi had talked about Gujarat. There is a flood in the various parts of country at large scale. Today, during question hour Shri Ramashraya Prasad Singh an M.P. from Bihar has told that there was a sudden flood due to which children are submerged and the people are surrounded by flood water. But the administration is inactive. Mr. Collector is not performing his duty well, there is no arrangement to save the people. I hope that Minister will look into it. Because it is a matter of urgent importance. People are surrounded by flood and children are submerged into the flood and administration have failed to do anything. Because on "Jail Bharo" movement is going on. (Interruptions) Administration is involved with "Jail Bharo" programme. Therefore it is requested to Minister to look into the matter and take action.

16.13 hrs.

[COL. RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*]

The relief code to combat with flood and drought is age old and was made during British period which is applied still today in each and every situation whether it is flood, drought or earthquake of Jabalpur or Latur. Only this century old code is being implemented. And it is failed to provide relief to all poor persons accordingly. The issue is being discussed in the House here. I demand that with the opinion of the House, a timely approach should be

made to change the relief code and the Government should bring about a comprehensive relief code, so that the loss of life and property of the poor may be compensated. The Government should do it so that we need not discuss this issue in each and every Session. We find that natural calamities are discussed during each and every Session. But the issue is confined to discussions only and hardly Rs. 15 out of Rs. 100 trickles down to the deserving and real beneficiaries. I, therefore, demand to bring about radical change in the relief code and seek direct control of the Centre on it.

Gujarat has been discussed just now. Many persons lost their lives in the Jabalpur earthquake. Many others have been injured. Only those who were sleeping outside their houses, because of summer time, could survive. Latoor also met with the same fate. A suitable policy should be framed regarding the natural calamities and the relief code be changed. Floods also figured in the discussion here. I hail from Sitamarhi in Bihar. Its neighbouring constituency is Madhubani, which is represented by the Hon. Minister. Madhubani witnessed severe floods. But no relief work is being done there yet. It rained heavily the entire week. Consequently, thousands of houses have collapsed in several districts of Madhubani, Darbhanga and Sitamarhi areas. Neither any account has been kept nor any action has been taken in this regard. Even today 15 districts of Bihar are reeling under flood. Flood water has entered the Jahanabad constituency at yesterday night. Would the Hon. Minister send a central team there to assess the situation and provide funds from the centre as a remedial measure? Moreover, I would like to know whether monitoring at the Central level would be done and the collapsed houses of the poor, who did not even get a plastic to save themselves from rain and took shelter at schools and other places, would be rebuilt. Would the Government compensate the loss of livestock and property caused due to rains? Would any arrangement be made for the redressal of the complaints of farmers? I, therefore, demand from the Government to send a central team to Bihar to assess the situation and provide at least one thousand crores of rupees for this year. Last year also Bihar suffered from devastating floods and the Government of Bihar had demanded only Rs. 1200 crores, whereas the loss suffered amounted to thousands of crores of rupees. The Government of India did not provide the full amount. However, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister who made an aerial survey of flood affected area in Bihar. We had also accompanied him and the provided funds as much as possible. But it is regrettable that whenever this issue is raised, it is termed as a State issue. Funds, released either from State Calamity Fund or the Central Fund are not utilised properly. Not only last year, but also during 1987, Sitamarhi witnessed severe floods. That time the

[Shri Nawal Kishore Rai]

roads constructed by the PWD and roads in the rural areas were damaged and therefore, we could not reach many blocks. Sitamarhi is district headquarter. The roads in Bajpatti, Sursan and Fulbarsa areas which have been damaged due to floods in 1987, have not been repaired even today. The roads get closed even after mild showers. The roads are still in a dilapidated condition. The funds were provided from the centre but the roads could not be repaired. The funds were released. Last year also...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. You have put forth all the points, and the Hon. Minister has noted them.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Sir, I am just concluding but I would like to draw your attention towards one or two important issues.

The funds released last year which were meant for distribution among the poor have not been actually given to them. The funds meant for removing starvation in Sitamarchi, Madhubani and other blocks have not been distributed fully. Paddy is harvested in the month of Agrahayan and at that time wheat was being distributed there. It was not distributed at the appropriate time. I would like to submit to the Hon. Minister that the Government should ensure and check that the funds allocated are utilised and the poor in all the blocks are benefited. It should also be ensured whether the construction of huts has started which were scheduled to be constructed under the Indira Awas Yojana. Moreover, during his previous visit to the State of Bihar, the Hon. Minister had promised to provide Rs. 500 per hectare to farmers as compensation. On the basis of the rules and regulation of the Government of India, the Hon. Minister had promised at that time but the farmers of Bihar have not been paid a single paisa as compensation even after over one year. The Government of Bihar asserted that the Union Government did not provide funds. When we raised the issue here, the Hon. Minister referred to rules and stated that farmers were to be paid Rs. 500 per hectare by the State Government from both the State calamity fund and the Central fund. But this amount was not given to the farmers. I would like to seek clarification from the Government through you as to why the announcement made by the Hon. Minister in Madhubani was not implemented? The facilities which were to be provided to the farmers by the Government of India were not provided. Who is responsible for this negligence?

Sir, the people of North Bihar are ruined particularly by floods. According to scientists, if appropriate measures are not taken in near future, the population of the area will certainly be destroyed and nobody will survive those devastating floods. There are 13 rivers of the Adhwara group. A huge quantity of flood water corners from Nepal

in rivers like Baghmati, Kamla Balan, Kosi, Gandak etc. Through you I would like to demand from the Government of India to hold discussions with Nepal. The dialogue initiated earlier has been halted and it should be revived. Scientists opine that an Indo-nepal Water Commission should be constituted and whatever necessary high dams should be constructed Adhwara group of rivers like Ramnagar Ramaiya, Baghmati, Nunthar, Kamala Balan and Sheesha pani which originate from Nepal. Thus arrangement should be made to prevent occurrence of flood, and to make arrangements for irrigation and power generation. Then alone North Bihar could be saved from floods. Moreover, all the rivers in North Bihar should be desilted so that they retain maximum water and North Bihar is protected from the affliction of floods.

With these words, I request to check the utilisation of amount of the previous year, compensate the loss suffered by the poor due to floods this year and reconstruct the houses of poor people which had collapsed during floods and provide adequate relief to them. With these words I conclude.

SHRI SURENDER SINGH (Bhiwani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the common man, farmers in Gujarat, Bihar and other areas and the State Government suffer huge losses which the State Governments cannot compensate. Hon. Agriculture Minister is very well aware that Haryana is a very small state. Haryana was not producing foodgrains as per its requirements in 1966 when it was formed. We used to get one lakh tonne foodgrains from the Government in Delhi. Due to the efforts made by the farmers of Haryana and the electrification of villages and installation of tubewells and lift irrigation facilities at various places Haryana has obtained the second place after Punjab. At that time half of the Haryana State used to reel under drought condition and the other half faced floods.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you originally belong to Haryana. If you see the level of land in Haryana and observe the topography you will find that the area beginning from Himachal, Chandigarh side is very slopy and the area located in the middle of the state is low lying. Similarly the area of Rajasthan adjoining to the state having your constituency also, the level in that area is very high.

The level in the middle area has come down to the level of 600-700 feet. In the even of heavy rainfall in Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan or Chandigarh the rainy water from both the areas flow down to Haryana. Just now there was a mention about the floods in Gujarat and Bihar during 1995. I would like to say that Haryana was the most affected State by the floods in 1995 which suffered a loss of two thousand crore of rupees. The Central Government had sent a team to assess the loss suffered. The Government of Haryana had put a demand of 1004 crore

rupees as assistance before the Central Government. The farmers in Haryana could not manage grow three-four crops continuously in the 18 lakh areas agricultural land. Near about one hundred and seventy five lost their lives and near about 3000 cattles were lost. I through you Sir, want to tell the Agriculture Minister that at that time 65 thousand tubewells were rendered out of order and they could not made operational for about two years. The central team sanctioned a grant of 39.41 crore rupees and a loan of 300 crore rupees to Haryana. In 1996 when we were about to be said the first instalment of this short term loan, the floods occurred again.

On 24-25 June, 1996 within 48 hours there was a rainfall of 500 m.m. in Haryana which reflects the gravity of the rainfall. As I have already submitted that due to excess water flown in the Sahibi river of Rajasthan 2500 cusec water was released in a night which resulted in collapse of our two big dams named Rawwali and Kameda within a night affecting the whole area of Mewat, Faridabad, Mahendragarh and Gurgaon.

Sir, through you, I want to convey the Hon. Minister of Agriculture that the economy of small states which do not have a vast economy and do not have any other solid source such as harbours, means of business, etc. through which Government could earn revenue worth thousands of crores, are rendered paralysed once they becomes victim of drought or floods with in two-four years. Mishra ji had talked to the Government of Haryana and Punjab in the past. I wish to convey through you Sir, that we have been sanctioned a short term loan of 300 crore for the loss suffered in 1995, this loan may kindly be converted into grants and Master Plan on this subject may be prepared for the whole country. Gujarat suffers alone in the event of floods and Bihar alone suffers in the event of floods but if any Master Plan would be prepared, then the surplus water whether it is rain water or flowing from mountains or any other place could be diverted to such other areas where there is no water, where wells had dried out or where no water for irrigation. I would request the Central Government to prepare a Master Plan so that the problem of floods could be solved forever and the water could be made available to the drought prone areas.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS (Kalahandi) : Mr. Chairman Sir, today we are discussing about the natural calamities. There was a famine in Orissa last year and Kalahandi, Bolangir, Sambhalpur, Naupada, Padampur etc. areas were **affected** by it. Discussion on this issue continued for **two days**. Our Minister of Agriculture also went there. He **declared** it as a national calamity. A few day earlier it was dry there but there was a rain for two three days. It seems we may be saved from the famine immediately. Hon. Minister of Agriculture is a very

experienced person and is very learned in regard to India. Every year thousands crores rupees are spent for assistance in the event of national calamities. I do not know as how much money is spent on this. We have achieved independence fifty years ago. We are going to celebrate 50th anniversary of our Independence. Why do not have we chalked out the Master Plan so far? We should have chalked out a Master Plan after indentifying flood affected, famine and drought prone areas. Why do not we make some efforts to prevent flood and famine forever? It is very unfortunate that the poor people living in villages are the most affected one. We only indulge in discussions but are unable to control it. We are competing with the world in the race of development. India wants to progress but I am sorry that we are unable to control it. It must be controlled. India can progress if we are able to control starvation, poverty, helplessness and natural calamities.

During last discussion also I had put forth my suggestion regarding Kalahandi. There is no dearth of rivers. Deforestation is taking place in my area. We do not have regular rains. It remained drought affected from 1936 to 1955-66. Similar situation prevailed from 1986 to 1989. There was a devastating famine last year. No cultivation is taking place there. The land has been dried up. Recently there has been rain. If the water from Indravati Dam would not be released then there maybe famine again. I request you to kindly direct the Department of Agriculture in Orissa to release water from Indravati dam for farmers within the next 15 to 20 days. I have requested to cover the medium plans in the ninth plan. It is under process but I do not know whether it would materialise or not? There were three major projects such as Sangum River Project, Ret River Project, Udanti River Project.

It would be better to construct dams on these rivers. It would cost maximum 700 or 800 crore rupees. If dams are constructed on these rivers the situation of famine would not arise in Kalahandi and Nawapara in future but you are not ready to construct dams. I raised this issue for one hour last time. Heavy loss was suffered due to this and many people were killed. I do not want to go into the details of the situation prevailing there because you say it is being reported in publication [*English*] that everybody likes a good drought."

[*Translation*]

This issue is being raised just for fun sake and there is nothing serious in it. We are representing our constituency here. Last time also I have told that we come here to express the hopes and aspirations of the people. We feel sorry if no attention is paid on hopes and aspirations of the people. It remains in proceedings only. No action is taken thereon by the Union Government and

[Shri Bhakta Charan Das]

the State Government. It is a matter of great concern. You are aware of the plight of the farmers in Kalahandi and Nawapara. They have sold hundreds of their cows. Hundreds of their Buffalo died last year. The farmers there are trapped in heavy debts. They could not repay their loans. Today the farmers are not in a position to plough their fields. Banks are not sanctioning loans properly and the cooperative societies in villages have become defunct. I do not know whether any efforts have been made or not to revive them. The Government have decided to implement the crop insurance scheme and the Minister for Agriculture will tell us how for it is effective. If this scheme is not implemented our crops will be destroyed due to floods and fertility of land will be depleted. Therefore, I request that the crop insurance scheme be implemented properly. We will be able to save our farmers from this Comprehensive Insurance Scheme.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there could not be any other major work in this country than to protect agriculture. We are alleging each other here, we are wasting time in unnecessary discussions and there is nobody in the Press Gallery to witness it but yesterday when there was political activities the people associated with Press were present in the Press gallery. Now the discussion is on natural calamity. Therefore, if we are not serious about it how does it will reach to the people in villages? We shall not be able to protect our land till foreign investment and establishment of multinational companies continue in the country. We are polluting our environment by this. In spite of incurring thousand of crores of rupees we shall not be able to save our country. Through the Minister for Agriculture had struggled a lot in his life, he is giving priority to foreign investment. If he do not want investment he should step down. Recently the Minister for Agriculture has been to Bhubaneswar and has experienced natural calamity and if nothing is done for the State it would be rather most unfortunate. I respect him very much as he has struggled a lot in his life. The Government should ponder over the fact that whatever way the Government want to invite foreign investment in this country it would not benefit the country any way. I have raised this issue here so many times and last time I was so disappointed that I made my mind to resign from the Lok Sabha. Only alternative is employment or business to earn livelihood but there should be a way out to feed our children. We have come to Lok Sabha to highlight the problems in our Parliamentary Constituency but the Government is unable to do anything to solve those problems and as such this discussion is unfruitful. I urge that the hon. Prime Minister be requested to protect the agricultural land and the entire House should cooperate in it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, funds are required for insurance scheme. It will require thousands of crores of rupees and out of which one thousand crore rupees are incurred annually. Apart from the Union Government State Governments also provide funds but it is not known how much they provide. We will formulate the programme here and then ten thousand crores rupees will be spent thereon and then stop funding it. Whether it will do the needful we must think on it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the chance to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member has raised very valuable and thought provoking points. I must congratulate him.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion on a very serious matter has been started in the House. During the course of this discussion since yesterday I have heard views of so many hon. Members. I am sure that the hon. Minister for Agriculture will definitely give a reply to this discussion. This issue was discussed last year in this House and I remember if not full a part of the reply given by our hon. Minister for Agriculture.

Today a specific question has been raised about Madhya Pradesh. The Member who has initiated this discussion has told us as what happened in Madhya Pradesh. It was national calamity An M.P. from Madhya Pradesh, Shri Patelji has informed the House about the number of people killed, the number of house damaged and number of people rendered homeless in the State due to the earthquake occurred in the state. The first earthquake in the State occurred on 22nd May. Its intensity was measured 6.1 on the Richter scale. Its epic centre was about twenty kilometre from the Jabalpur. Second time the earthquake struck the state on June, 4, 1997 and its epic centre was about twenty kilometre north east of Jabalpur and its intensity was measured 4.2 on the Richter scale. Thereafter on July 15, 1997 earthquake again struck the State and its centre was also 90 kilometre away from Jabalpur. It was measured 2.9 on the Richter scale. In addition to this some settlement shocks were also experienced. About 23 tremors of earthquake were experienced. Tremors of earthquake are being experienced regularly. What is all this going on? I recall in my mind that earthquake struck surrounding areas of Latoor in Maharashtra on September 30, 1993 in which thousands of people were killed. Perhaps such a devastating earthquake did not occur during the past hundred years

in the country and people were not killed at such large scale. There is a need to go into as to why this is happening in our country. It is not so that earthquakes are occurring in our country only and does not occur in other countries of the world. Earthquakes occurs all over the world but frequency of earthquake has increased in our country and if we concentrate on this and take some measures I am sure that we will succeed. The country has attained 50 years of Independence. During this period earthquake has stuck up in so many States in the country and all over the world and so many people have been killed and lot of loss has been suffered therein. Where any new centre has come up? It is my apprehension that the centre of earthquake in Maharashtra was in Koyana Dam and from 1961-62 the earthquakes started in Mumbai city and in the entire Maharashtra. After that their scale also increased more.

[English]

Every time, it is a national calamity. There is no doubt about that. But every time, the centre of the earthquake is being changed.

[Translation]

It is going to another place leaving one place. Whether it can be treated with any scientific study, it is my first question. Whatever happened in Jabalpur and all the things discussed here from that I understand that whether any of the party, whether it is the government of any party, whenever such disaster comes, it must not be seen from party level, it must be looked from the humanity point of view and the money should be distributed to cover the loss in the same spirit. I believe in such things. What should be the system of governance there may be some difference in this ideology but to service human beings and their requirements as per my views no party will do such things that he is congressman give him more, he is communist then give him less, he belongs to Shiv Sena don't give him any thing, if someone says like this then I must say that it is politics and there should not be any politics in the distribution of relief money. It is my contention and I would like to talk with that point of view. Union Government have given only Rs. 40 crores to Madhya Pradesh so far. But how much loss occurred to it I have figures with me in this regard, it has suffered a loss of about rupees three thousand crores. This whole money will not go from contingency fund, But the money given and the number of people who suffered loss, how much money you have given to each family out of that, it would be good if you furnish information about that in this House. You were talking about the money given by State government that there are different ways, after considering the families, someone has been given rupees three thousand, someone

has been given rupees one thousand five hundred, someone has been given something and someone has been given a bit more than rupees two hundred fifty. I would like to submit only this that if some family has suffered less loss then it must be given less money, if the houses of all are destroyed then at the time of giving money it must not be thought as to which party he belongs. Who is M.P. there, who is M.L.A. there, who has been elected and to whom the vote is given. [English] This entire episode becomes entirely different.

[Translation]

It must not be there. Whether any MLA or MP, if the people of that area are in some trouble then it is necessary to provide them assistance, whether it is state or Centre and from that point of view they need to be attended to.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this earthquake had affected other places also. But I am talking about Madhya Pradesh otherwise whether it may be any state of our country, all must be seen with one angle. Just now flood was being discussed here, discussion on Gujarat was being taking place here. Whenever rain comes the situation of flood arises yesterday I have seen flood in Yamuna and when the flood comes then all the works pertaining to removal of animals, shifting of residents, to save the loss of lives started. So I want to say that if there is possibility of flood then why the preventive action is not taken in that direction. Why people are allowed to settle on the banks of river. It should not be so. Loss of life is the loss of humanity. animals also die in it. There should be some arrangements to prevent this flood and it is the responsibility of the government to see how the loss occurring from flood be reduced to minimum. Today after 50 years in this country we know the flood prone areas. Whenever we think about flood the names of Assam, Cherapunji and Dibrugarh come in our mind.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the name of Brahmaputra river comes in our mind. When we talk about flood, Gujarat State comes in our mind where rivers faces plenty of floods there. Whenever we remember flood, we also remember the Yamuna river. We have not learnt any lesson from the situation arisen in the country from flood. We have not made any arrangements in the country to prevent the flood water in the entire country.

[English]

This is the net result of it.

[Translation]

We have a Sanskrit phrase- "Akashat Patitam Tog, Yatha Gachati Sagrag", It means the water falling on earth from sky, that didn't remain in land at all, that all goes

[Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar]

in Sea. The poverty in the country cannot be removed until. We could not make arrangements for the prevention of this water and use it for agriculture, for drinking purpose and other means.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now one Hon'ble Member has rightly said that the poverty in our country cannot be removed until and unless the farmer of our country is not placed properly. He is fully justified in saying this. This country can never make progress till we will not fulfill the requirements our farmer, not provide water for irrigation purposes and other facilities. This is cent percent right. It is our duty to look after farmers, arrange necessary infrastructure for them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have full map of the entire country in my mind after arriving at this place. I am seeing the scenario of entire country from here. I have also travelled in many states. Therefore, I would like to bring this in the notice of Hon'ble Minister through you that we have not given the treatment required to be given, we have not given comparative study, due to that drought situation generally takes place at the drought prone places and continue to give assistance. Flood prone areas generally faces flood situation government continue to provide assistance there. Earthquake prone areas suffer from this calamity repeatedly and we continue to provide assistance. The loss to country and people means loss of life and property continues to take place. When we feel thirsty we start digging well. This causes heavy loss to our country and our people. This is the condition of our country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have travelled to some other countries. I have seen there that there way of working is different from that of our. If we adopt their way of working, then I am sure that our country will make progress. If we try to that the problem of our country after carefully study then thousands of crores of rupees of our country going in assumption, will be saved.

[English]

If we invest that money into the developmental programmes of this country then, I think, our country will prosper very rapidly.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion under rule 193 is likely to start just now. Under this rule discussion on rupees 8 thousand crores disbursed in this years Budget by Govt. of India for the upliftment of poors in the country is likely to take place. The money, earmarked for poors in the Budget, whether that could reach to poors, whether their development could take place, I don't know this but many such cases have already taken place in this country where

the money on assistance earmarked in the Budget for the poors in the country could not reach them and when the time for its disbursement comes, someone has taken it and the poor remained neglected from this assistance. This is the major problem in this country.

Mr. Chairman Sir, our one hon'ble Member from Madhya Pradesh was speaking on the same problem that thousands of poor tribals were put to loss due to an earthquake there. Today, they have no house to live, no clothes to wear and no food to eat. They are on roads with poverty-stricken. They are crying for help but the government is not paying any attention towards them. We should provide relief to them, forthwith at such a crucial time. At this time, we should not see who is an M.L.A. and M.P. from that area. It has been culture of this country to provide help immediately to the people struck by calamities. It is our duty.

Mr. Chairman Sir, while talking about civilization and culture of this country, I am glad to say that I have been listening to Minister of Agriculture Sh. Chaturanan Mishra. He is an excellent orator. It seems to me that he has studied a lot but I feel that the people of this country will be happy if the benefit of his study and nobility is provided to them. There is no use of holding discussion until the conclusions arrived at after discussion are not implemented. Their implementation is the main thing. I see that flood affects the country every year and we hold discussion in Parliament on it and allegations are levelled on each other. We discuss it and then forget about it. Remedial measures are not taken. It is not the way to solve the problems.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I think that when we are aware of the fact that flood affects our country every year, we must take preventive steps in advance to check such natural calamities. There is no need to hold discussion in this regard. If we identify the problem then only we can solve it by taking appropriate measures. In this way, such problem can be removed from all over the country. As in the case of military, if some country is going to attack on our country, there is no use of asking the military-men to bring arms from market at that time. If our enemy has malafide intention and we have any apprehension that our enemy can attack us at any time, then our military forces will not ask for arms. They will say that our enemy has such arms and ammunitions, Therefore, they should also be equipped with such arms and ammunitions's so as to enable them to encounter their enemy at any time. Our government machinery should be evolved like our military forces. Government should think about all the preventive measures in respect of flood, earthquake arson etc. and implement them properly.

[English]

If that is done, it will not be necessary for this House to

deliberate upon these subjects under Rule 193 year after year. Let us start by solving one problem every year. Let us ensure that we can do much better work from this august House. That is my humble submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pathak, I want to say one thing before you start. At 6.30 p.m. the half-an-hour discussion raised by Shri Jag Mohan has to be taken up. And there are still 18 Members left who want to speak. I particularly request all the hon. Members that we must give some of our back-bencher friends a greater opportunity to speak. They do not have any opportunity to speak and this is a very good occasion on which we can give it to them.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : I shall be brief, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) : Whether Independent Members will not be allowed to speak. (Interruptions). They should also be given a chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is why, I request that only one and a half an hour is left and there are 18 Members who want to speak. I think that all these Members can be accommodated if you avoid the repetition and speak to the point. It is my request. Thank you. (Interruptions). They want to take the benefit of back-benchers inspite of being first bencher.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Mr. Chairman Sir, since 4.00 P.M. yesterday this House, from where the country is ruled, has been holding the discussion on the loss of lives and properties caused by natural calamities in the various states of the country.

16.58 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I have been a member in this House since last eight years continuously. Every year we held discussions on this issue. It is but natural that natural calamities will occur in this country. Our science and technology is not so much advanced as yet to check such natural calamities. We have our own compulsions and limitations. Our country is so vast that in the north there are Himalayan ranges and thousands km. far away in South Neelsagar touches its feet. In the east, there are forests of Kohima and in Kuchch there are all deserts. Our country is very vast in terms of land and population and it has all the blessings of nature. And when nature deprives it of its blessings, destruction plays it havoc - be it the earthquake of Jabalpur, be it the flood of Gujarat or famine of Orissa or Himachal Pradesh. I have heard during discussion that it has affected nine states. Crores of people have been directly affected. I do not want to repeat, it. The members from all states have submitted their points. Gujrat is the most affected state. About 260 people

died there. Lakhs of acre fertile land has been destroyed.

17.00 hrs.

As many as 8 districts have been affected. Ahamdabad, Khera, Banaskantha, Mehsana, Sabarkantha etc. all these districts have been destroyed. 80% area of my constituency inspite of falling under Ahamdabad city was immersed under water twice in a month. There is no time to tell about their problems and even to give the figures of loss suffered. Every state suffered a loss to the tune of 1000-2000 crores of rupees. Gujarat State alone suffered a loss of about 1500 to 2000 crores of rupees. I would like to come only the main point, which has perhaps also been stated by my dear friend Shri Charandas that how would we deal with these natural calamities.

I came here ten years ago after serving in a State Corporation. The budget of the corporation was related to civil amenities. I have been going through the Budget of the House for last eight years. It is based on the old English pattern of.

[English]

Allocation of Budget to the various Ministries, allocation of Budget to the various Departments.

[Translation]

Only formal discussions are held and amounts to the tune of Rs. 1000-2000 crores are allocated to this or that department. We have not made any financial provision for the solution of the basic problems of our country. I fully agree with Shri Charan Das that if one of the satellites is not launched, work is not carried out on 3-4 infrastructural projects, and cellular phones and colour televisions are introduced here after 10 years, it would be okay, but if we fail to protect the people of India from natural calamities, the celebration for Golden Jubilee of Independence is meaningless. How can Gujarat celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Independence when 250 persons have been killed there? How can Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh Haryana and Purvanchal celebrate with lights, decorations and crackers? Such celebration is meaningless. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I only want to say this to you. My hon. friend Shri Gadhavi has furnished complete data in this regard. I do not want to mention them. In Ahmedabad, Mehsana and Kheda each suffered loss of Rs. 200 crore was. Now what can we say except for asking for funds. That will only be adding insult to the injury. The Government will grant an amount of Rs. 60 to 80 crore whereas the actual loss amounts to Rs. 1500 crore.

Before I conclude, I would like to put forth two demands in the House. The entire cabinet and the House will support me in this regard that do not stick to the budget allocation.

[Shri Harin Pathak]

Yesterday, the Members of Parliament from Gujarat meet with the hon. Minister Shri Mishra. He told that he has Rs. 700 crore only for five years. So, how could he distribute Rs. 140 crore all over the country. I fully agree with him, but it is up to the House to decide. We should not abandon this matter merely after discussing it under Rule 193. We will compel the Government to provide Rs. 25 crore, but this should not be provided to any one State. Is this August House prepared to decide that the Central Government will provide the entire fund to compensate the loss suffered by affected persons in case of any natural calamity in any part of the country. Then only something fruitful will be done.

I visited one of the houses in my constituency where a girl was to be married. She had a mud and thatched hut in Khediar Nagar. Water had entered into the hut. The sister of the girl was weeping. Her father had purchased four mounds of wheat with borrowed money. It was destroyed in water. No official from the collector's office went there. To how many persons cash will be doled out? Is cash dole a joke or giving compensation a joke? If we cannot meet the demands of each and every State, please do not make a joke of it. This is very humble request that such discussion has no meaning. Calamities do occur and you have your limitation. Any Government can come to office. I am not talking about the state. Natural calamities will occur, but are we really prepared to combat the calamities? Whenever the calamities occur, a survey should be conducted by the Centre in accordance with the demand of the State. It is a matter of great pleasure that Shri Mishra had rushed to Gujarat immediately. He toured my constituency. In Mehsana, he expressed his anguish that it was a national calamity.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : This is the game of Shri Pathak and Shri Mishra.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : It is the game of nature. It is unfortunate that you take the game of nature lightly. Lakhs of people die and lacs of acres of land is destroyed. The farmers are in deep sorrow, but you are making jokes. We all should share this agony. If we cannot control this game of nature, we should at least give a healing touch such as financial assistance to the victims. The Government must renovate the mud houses which collapsed during the floods. Wheat should be supplied to that house where the girl was to be married. Otherwise, our presence in the House is of no use. Fifty years have passed since Independence, yet we have failed to uplift the poor and the downtrodden. There is no systematic planning for development. 80 percent public of the country are still suffering. I do not want to discuss these things but at least

in the time of natural calamity, one must avoid playing politics.

Sir, I would like to demand from Government, through you, to set up a Committee in this regard. Thereafter, decision should taken by the Cabinet that whenever there is any natural calamity in a State a Central team should be sent there and cent per cent compensation should be paid to the state. Otherwise it will be merely a joke. Gujarat has suffered a loss of Rs. 1500 crore and if a grant of only Rs. 100 crore is given, how the outstanding amount of Rs. 1400 crore will be managed? It is not merely an issue of financial loss. It will tantamount to playing with human lives. We are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our Independence and it is the right time either to take a decision or to control the calamities. But we neither have the capability nor adequate technology to control them.

It is true that even with latest technology, earthquakes will occur. It may be Latoor or Jabalpur or anywhere else. Rains come and even dams cannot stop the floods. Rains do not come with prior information. Sometimes this also becomes a joke. The weather men report about completely dry weather in coming day. All India Radio, which comes under the portfolio held by Shri C.M.Ibrahim, informs about completely dry weather, but rains come just after four hours of the announcement. We are not able to control the vagaries of nature.

I, therefore, request the Government to take a decision regarding the loss of human lives, livestock, huts and other property due to the natural calamities in the respective States. Gujarat has suffered loss of at least Rs. 1500 crore. Loss to the tune of Rs. 200 crore has been incurred in Ahmedabad city. Now it is the time to rebuild those collapsed houses. The State Government is not in a sound financial position and the Central Government should take decision now. You were right to point out yesterday that the surplus funds lying with various Ministries should be collected and spent on the States affected with natural calamities.

This would enable the poor of those affected State feel happy on the occasion of celebration of Golden Jubilee of Independence on the 15th of August. With this very request, I express my thanks for providing an opportunity to speak here.

[English]

SHRI K.P.SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : I would like to thank the hon. Speaker, the Business Advisory Committee, my Chief Whip and yourself for this opportunity.

I remember in the last three decades, I am only doing:

[Translation]

work is thy duty, reward is not thy concern.

[English]

For thirty years, I have spoken every year at least twice on natural calamities not only in the country in general but particularly in my State, Orissa. The constant companions accompanying such incidents are drought, flood and cyclone. This year, I am grateful to the hon. Minister of Agriculture, Shri Chaturanan Mishra because in answer to my Question No. 84 on the 29th of July, he had given a very candid and transparent answer.

This was also mentioned by Shri Nitish Kumar yesterday. I will not go through the whole answer. 'Five States, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh were affected by hailstorm and nine States, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal in varying degrees were affected due to rains and floods.'

The News report says, '...Karnataka, Kerala, the whole of North-East and Assam is grim and critical'. Then Jabalpur and the surrounding areas, as has been brought out by Shri Prahlad Patel and others, had one of the worst earthquakes. But here in the answer it is written, 'of medium intensity, on 22 May.' Now the cat is out of the bag.

In the next para he says : "Government of India and the State Government undertake long term programmes to mitigate the adverse impacts of natural calamities". For fifty years, they have taken a long-term plan. What is the allocation for Calamity Relief Fund for 1995-2000? In 1995-96, Rs. 1130 crore; 1996-97, Rs. 1197 crore; 1997-98, Rs. 1263 crore; 1998-99, Rs. 1320 crore; and 1999-2000, Rs. 1384 crore. So from 1995 to 2000, a total of Rs. 6304 crore is being allocated for calamity relief. That means the Government is convinced that the calamity is going to increase.

As far as floods, earthquakes and hailstorms are concerned, if they bit you between the eyes, you can see the damage. But drought is also a natural calamity which has been totally left out from the reply of the hon. Minister:

There is a very nice article in '*The Times of India*' — 'No one cares a fig for a drought'. The same thing has been told by the Secretary-General of World Meteorological Organisation, who had come here to the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of contemporary studies on Climate, Climatic Changes, Variability and Predictability.

Agriculture is our basic industry and occupation not only of this country but of the entire globe. The world is

concerned. We are signatories to that. It is not that we are not aware, it is not that the Government of India is not aware, but in the reply the entire basket or the ball has been put in the court of the State Government.

Therefore, I cannot share the same sentiments of Shri Prahlad Patel, the mover, a very senior politician and a former Chief Minister Shri Patwa or my friend Shri Nitish Kumar. The unfortunate Chief Ministers are not responsible whether they are sleeping in the night or whether they are getting out of the stupor by the long power of Shri Prahlad Patel. As far as I know, the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, the poor guy works for 18 to 20 hours a day. He gets hardly four hours to sleep. He has been a valued Member of this House. But I am glad that the lung power of Shri Prahlad Patel could wake him up from his stupor.

Sir, the entire thing lies in the court of the Planning Commission which has authority without responsibility. They have allocated this and now Shri Chaturanan Mishra, the Agriculture Minister or his distinguished predecessors or his distinguished successors who are going to be in the years to come.

Therefore, the Planning Commission has not seen to it. Today it is only the Minister of Agriculture, who is present here. In the Answer, he has also mentioned that the Ministries of Rural Employment, Rural Development, Health and so many other Ministries also give help to the State Governments, whether it is 75:25, 50:50 or 25:75 basis. It is just a question of statistics. I would like to say what Gladstone had said: "Lies damn lies and in statistics."

The other day I was seeing a document, a Government document being prepared for the Members of Parliament. In the Quinquennial Survey from 1972 to 1997, every five years it had been indicated that the people living below the poverty line in Orissa is anything between 56 per cent and 78 per cent but the various Chief Ministers, whether of my party or any other party which has been in power, have been saying that they have reduced it. Now, to add insult to injury, the public distribution system which is going to be discussed and my hon. colleague, Shri Sriballav Panigrahi is going to speak on that has been reduced from the 1st of June 97. Now, for a State having 55 per cent or 78 per cent of people living below the poverty line from the famous Kalahandi drought of 1965, when 1200 people died of starvation, and the then Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi visited it till Shri Deve Gowda, eight Prime Ministers had visited it. After that, Central teams had gone there. There had been debates in Parliament and lot of promises were made. The last year's requirement was Rs. 577 crore but we got Rs. 50 crore by the end of March. The present Prime Minister had this to say that the Orissa Government could not spend the money. Shri Harin Pathak,

[Shri K.P. Singh Deo]

Shri Murali Manohar Joshi and seven Members of the BJP had gone there. They were told that the Orissa Government does not have the infrastructure. Shri Deve Gowda had also said the same thing.

Now, you know that this is happening. We cannot drop it into the court of the State Governments and say, 'All right, we have given 75 per cent'. I am glad that Shri Chaturanan Mishra has given three out of the four instalments to all the State Governments. But the fact is that drought is a cancerous disease. You cannot see it. It is not evident. It eats into your vitals and an impoverished Orissa, for the last thirty years, have been suffering from drought, floods and cyclone. It has broken the backbone of the economy and most of the rivers are untrained. Only 19 per cent of the water resources of Orissa is harnessed, or husbanded. Sir, this is the first thing that should be done, if the hon. Minister of Agriculture is interested, that the food production must improve. Food production has reached its plateau. This has been mentioned even in the last meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture in the report of the Standing Committee. I cannot understand one thing. The Departments of Agriculture, Research and Education want a sum of Rs. 3,600 crore. They are getting a sum of Rs. 1,320 crore from the Planning Commission. The Standing Committee of Parliament, which consists of 45 Members belonging to all parties, said that it should be one per cent of our agricultural GDP whereas we are giving 0.01 per cent. This is a farce being committed on Parliament. It is a concept which is being shown to Parliament because the views of Parliament, for the last three decades, as my experience and that of my colleagues, some of whom are much senior to me, goes to show that they have been neglected. He were colleagues together in the Fourth Lok Sabha whereas Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri G. Venkatswamy and Shri Inderajit Gupta have been here much longer than us. They have been here for the last four-and-a-half decades. Every year we are discussing this subject with equal venom, with equal sentiment and with equal emotion. Therefore, as I said, it is [Translation] work is thy duty, reward is not thy concern. [English] Nothing is going to come out of it because in this whole process, we have seen that it is the Planning Commission which dictates and it is we, the Members of Parliament, who keep on fighting here in Lok Sabha and in Rajya Sabha. It is like: "Water, water everywhere; all the boards did sink; water, water everywhere; not a drop to drink." This is the position as far as Orissa is concerned.

After the last year's unprecedented drought, when 26 districts out of 30 districts were effected, this year we have the Secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology, who has been very kind enough to give us a letter, which

has been quoted by Shri Nitish Kumar, who said that this will be the tenth normal monsoon for India.

Out of the 35 geo-climatic zones, 28 have received more than adequate rainfall. Therefore, what we M.Ps are saying will be thrown into the waste paper basket and what statistics this Report will show will be accepted by the Government of India.

Now, the State Government of Orissa, through the D.R.D.A., has done a house-to-house survey and found that 43 lakh families are living below the poverty line. They were getting 35 kgs of foodgrains. But from 1st June, 1997, it has been reduced to ten kg. of foodgrains per family now and to 32 lakh families only by a random sampling method of Planning Commission. (Interruptions). Nobody bothers about natural calamities here, as the paper report says.

Now, what do we do? We are signatories to a lot of international organisations. We are committed to those principles. Have we taken any steps to reduce the incidence of floods, cyclone and drought? The technology is available. We have abandoned our old ancient traditions of water husbanding by small tanks, damming of rivulates and we have gone in for, as some Member was saying, huge dams and all that. When there is plenty of rainfall, dams are useless, when there is no rainfall, then again they are useless.

A lot of conferences were held here. I am told that the Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy has been commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture to prepare a Policy Paper on reduction in disaster, so that disaster management can be done. It is no use giving only doles and more doles because these are diversions from development and does not add decreation of permanent assets or to the economy.

The other point is that Agriculture must be considered as an industry. Then, only the same facilities which are being given to Industry can be given to them. The agricultural environment, particularly in India, being so interlinked and the seasonal changes also affects it because of the degradation of the environment. Therefore, our farmers, who have been traditionally used to certain patterns of farming, certain seasons for harvesting, their entire planning, etc. is going haywire. Today, we have an impoverished population which is getting more impoverished although they are below the poverty line.

Sir, the completion of the major, medium and minor irrigations must be taken up. It cannot be left to the State Governments because it is the Planning Commission which is at the root of it. I know that the Ministry of Agriculture has been trying its level best. So also, I have knowledge as a Member of the Standing Committee of Railways as to how much effort the Ministry of Railways is putting in,

in this regard. But the cancerous growth of drought and famine must be understood by the Planning Commission which has an authority, without responsibility.

The last point is that since we are all talking of *swadeshi* we must encourage the traditional methods of water harvesting and water conservation.

As far as Gujarat is concerned, they have an excellent system of conserving the 15 inches of rainfall which they are getting. He also used to have this system in tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and portions of West Bengal. But this has been given a go-by.

When we are stressing on micro level planning; decentralisation of power to the people, etc., here is a Government controlled by nine Chief Ministers and 14 conglomerates of regional parties. So, I do not wish to complain here. I am only pointing out because I read a very nice caption in Bhatinda Airfield, 'Never complain about your problem, half the people do not understand, the other half is glad that you have got them.' So, I am not complaining. I am only saying that the Government is aware and it is conscious of the problems. But they are coming to us and pleading their helplessness and this helplessness will not do.

I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI (Salempur) : Sir, I am thankful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak. Jabalpur has suffered a heavy loss due to earthquake in the recent past. But the amount of financial assistance extended by the Centre like a drop in the Ocean. I demand that this amount be raised substantially to provide adequate relief to the quake hit victims in Jabalpur. The Poorvanchal districts in Uttar Pradesh including Deoria, Padruna, Balia, Mau and Azamgarh have been facing the flood havoc for the last 50 years. Flood situation is worsening year after year in these districts due to excessive silt on river beds. I have repeatedly raised this issue in U.P. Assembly and in Lok Sabha also but so far no concrete measures have been evolved to combat the flood situation. A sum of rupees ten thousand crore have been spent in these districts for flood control measures and to provide relief to the flood affected people. Two crores of rupees have been spent on Burhi Gandak for flood control and relief measures but it has yielded no results. The officers who are deployed to look after the work in the areas hit by natural calamities must discharge their duties honestly. But it is a pity that their joy knew no bound when relief amount is sanctioned by the centre. I have observed this fact. When two crore rupees were sanctioned for Burhi Gandak, there was not even a single officer or personnel who did not earn less

than ten lakh of rupees out of it. The entire amount was swallowed by the people working there. A wooden dam was constructed on Ghaghra river in Deoria district to stop the water flow but when water came it could not sustain its current and was finally washed away in the river water causing a wastage of Rs. 65 lakh to the Government. Financial aid extended to combat the natural calamities has become a source of earning for Government officers. There are one thousand families in Poorvanchal districts living on the river banks. Every year their homes are washed away by the flood water. There is a law which provides that villages settled on river banks should be shifted somewhere else but the Government have failed in providing safety measure to these people. When I was in U.P. Assembly and used to sit in opposition, I raised this issue and demanded that this law should be replaced. Five thousand villager which are settled on river banks are washed away by flood, Water every year. There is a village by the name of Parsiya, Devar in Deoria. On one night, a poor man of this village, who was sleeping on river bank, was washed away in flood water. The water level rose, all of sudden; and there was no way out for him. Water is flowing above danger mark in Pindi village. Katilwa villages in Deoria has been washed away by the flood water. Persia village is on the verge of destruction. Flood is likely to play havoc in almost 100 villages this time. These are two dozen villages in Deoria alone. There are about five thousand villages inhabiting on river banks in entire Uttar Pradesh. The present law is not adequate for these five thousand villages. Flood safety measures are not adequate for these villages. How to save these villages on river banks Government say that they have not got any adequate law to save these villages by shifting them elsewhere permanently. Those who want, can go anywhere else. But the point is that how can these people leave their homes and hearths in which they have been living since ages. A huge amount, nearly Rs. ten thousand crore, has been looted in about 8 to 10 Poorvanchal districts in the name of dam construction. It has been observed that flood situation is worsening year after year and with this flood expenditure is also increasing simultaneously.

The hon'ble Minister should look into this matter. May I know from the Government whether they have got any survey conducted to ascertain as to why flood situation is worsening rather than improving every year? I want that a survey should be conducted in this regard. The Government of Uttar Pradesh should be asked to evolve some concrete measure to save the riverside villager from flood destruction. It has been observed during the last five years that soil erosion is increasing in our rivers. More and more silt is depositing in riverbeds. The flood relief extended by the Centre is not reaching the affected people or the same is usused by the persons coming in between

[Shri Harivansh Sahai]

the chain. While working in flood hit areas. I have observed that victims who are entitled for 20 kg. of wheat are getting only 5 to 10 kg; that too is weighted dishonestly. My demand is that a probe should be made into the amount spent in the name of flood relief work in Deoria, Balia, Azamgarh and Padrouna districts during the last year. At the same time, effective and concrete steps should be taken to provide safety to the Poorvanchal districts from flood havoc in future.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Still these are four Members who will speak which would be followed by the hon'ble Ministers' reply. I have received few more names. If a Member takes only five minutes only then we will be able to cover every member. Initially there were a few names on the list but now I have received more. Now Shri Joachim Baxla.

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, following your request, I will finish my speech within five minutes.

Natural calamity, famine, flood, earthquake or drought hit some or the other state of India every year and the victims are common men and poor people. As my earlier speaker said, we are discussing this issue not only in this monsoon session but during the last monsoon session also we discussed this issue at length. I, a newly elected member, think as to why we discuss this issue every year?

I was expecting that my earlier speaker would ask for the result of the previous discussion which was held in last monsoon session. I was also expecting that he would speak on the steps taken to solve the flood related problems of people but nothing happened. Nobody spoke on these issues. But still I hope that our Agriculture Minister is fully seized of the matter and he knows how the people of different states suffer because of flood and other natural calamities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I represent Alipurduar Parliamentary constituency which is in the neighbourhood of Bhutan. There are small hills in Bhutan where dolomite extraction is underway due to which trees are being felled which is resulting in erosion and finally leading to heavy silt on various river beds including Pagali Bhutan, Raidug, Busara, Sankash, Tursha etc. This is the main reason why the people of that area are hit by the flood every year. Whenever monsoon arrives there, people feel scared as they know the devastating effect of the flood inaction on part of Government for their proper rehabilitation. The Central assistance which they deserve is not granted to

them. Situation in Jaigaon city bordering Bhutan is very delicate. At the same time there are several places in Jalpaiguri and Kooch Bihar which are usually hit by Monsoon flood and thus exposed to various inconvenience. Their crops are completely destroyed and or there is no crop insurance scheme. They get nothing as compensation. On the occasion of 50th year of our Independence, we wish and expect that our country achieve on all round development in every sphere but I am not sure enough about the fulfillment of our hopes and dreams.

The hopes of farmers convert into despair, because they know that at the time of loss of their crops, no one would come to their rescue. I would like to request the Minister of Agriculture that special attention should be given to this area. I would like to say that when we discuss this subject every year, why should not a Master Plan be prepared for it? I request that chairman of Planning Commission and all other members of National Fund for calamity relief be informed on this issue. Chairman, Vice Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission are its Members and five Chief Ministers and two Union Ministers are nominated by the Prime Minister. I request all these Members to pay special attention on this issue atleast in this Golden Jubilee year of Independence. We were going to celebrate the Golden Jubilee year of Independence of 15th August at the historical Bux fort in our area, Where the freedom fighters were held captive. A programme was scheduled to be held to honour all the 25 freedom fighters. But the roads were damaged due to floods. The bridges damaged in 1993 are yet to be reconstructed. If this is the condition of the bridges on the National Highways then you can well imagine the condition of that historical site.

Therefore, instead of honouring them on 15th August, we will do so in November. By that time we can have that road repaired. As there are several speakers, I will not take much time. Each years this issue is discussed and keeping its importance in view, we will pay attention in formulating a Special Master Plan or Master Policy for this. We can not control such natural calamity completely. But the Central Government can atleast formulate a programme to educate our people to cope with this, to face this. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

17.41 hrs.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbihar) : Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Shri Singh Deo and comrade Buxla have already said that every year we discuss about natural calamities in this House and every year we make some sorrow statements that so many people have died and so many houses have collapsed etc. We are really discussing

here the only point as to how much the State Government will get from the National Calamity Relief Fund. I do not know what is the policy of the Government to give assistance from the National Calamity Relief Fund.

Sir, I must say that the Government did nothing for the last 50 years since Independence with regard to tackling the natural calamities like flood and drought. There was no Master Plan or special project etc. You are also a senior Member of this House and you know, during the time when Shri Morarji Desai was the Prime Minister there was a plan to link all the important rivers in the country. There was a proposal for Ganga-Cauvery link so that we would be able to control flood and at the same time give relief to the drought affected areas. But nothing has been done in this regard. There was a report submitted by the Committee headed by Shri Man Singh and that report was placed before this august House in the year 1966, but the Government did nothing about that report. Then, there is Brahmaputra River Board which has given so many recommendations, but no action has been taken on those recommendations.

Sir, we have developed our science and technology only to give a timely warning that a cyclone is coming or an earthquake is coming. But what about drought? I have been a Member of this House for the last 21 years and every year we are discussing the drought situation in Kalahandi area of Orissa. It is a shame for this House and it is a shame for India that we have allowed this kind of a drought to prevail in a particular area for the last 15 or 20 years.

Sir, we are all really interested with the Non-Plan money which is given for the relief works. I should thank Prof. Madhu Dandavate, the Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission, who, while paying respects to Netaji Subash Chandra Bose in his Birth Centenary Year, had said that during pre-Independence days it was Netaji who first thought of setting up a Planning Committee headed by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

Prof. Madhu Dandavate said that we should give more stress on the Plan and not on the non-Plan. We have got so many projects. In my area, there is a project, that is, the North Bengal Master Plan. Based on the Man Singh Committee Report, a plan has been prepared. The implementation of the North Bengal Master Plan—the Tiesta River Barrage Project—would not only control the river but it would also serve irrigation and power generation. In the year 1976, it was started, and now we are in 1997. Twenty-two years have passed since then. The West Bengal Government has got very limited funds. They have spend Rs.500 crore so far. But the Central Government did not spend even a single paise. Only a few years before, they have given Rs. 100 crore. If this Plan had been executed

properly, then more foodgrains would have been produced and it would have created 60,000 man-days. But the Government is not taking any care of that.

The other day, when a question came up as to what would be the fate of the Farakka, the Ganges, the Bhagirathi and the Calcutta Port Trust, then it was decided to have a river from the Sonkosh to the Ganges. One of the cabinet Minister of the Central Government, I must mention here, said that he would take Rs. 7,500 crore and he was ready to pay for it. Why is it so? The Tiesta Project is there in the same area, but the Government is not even able to spend Rs. 100 crore whereas it is ready to spend Rs. 7,500 crore to control the river.

In Assam, there are always floods. There was a proposal long back, in the First Year Plan, to have a Brahmaputra-Ganga canal, which would not only control the floods but also generate power from that. But nothing has been done. A survey was made at that time. The estimated expenditure at that time was Rs. 900 crore and I do not know how much it will be now. I hope that it would come up in the Plan. Fifty years have already passed, so let it be another ten years more.

On 25th July, 1997, in reply to Question No .313, hon. Minister stated that Andhra Pradesh asked for an assistance of Rs. 2,819.37 lakh and an amount of Rs. 235 lakh has been paid to them; Assam asked for Rs. 415.91 lakh, and it has been paid an amount of Rs. 37.58 crore; Kerala asked for Rs. 342 crore, and it has been paid an amount of Rs. 41 crore. Rajasthan asked for Rs. 321 crore and it has been paid an amount of Rs. 130 crore. In respect of Rajasthan, it is a much better figure. I do not know what is the reason. In comparison to other States, it is a much better figure. West Bengal asked for Rs. 309 crore, and it has been paid an amount of Rs. 39 crore. I do not know what is the policy or the criteria of the Government to give these funds to the State Governments. Will the hon. Minister state as to wherefrom the money will come? It is a question of relief. Who will pay for it?

What is the policy of the Government in regard to giving relief to victims whether flood victims, drought victims or earthquake victims? How will this money come? Who will fill up the gap? All these questions may please be answered by the hon. Minister.

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY (Bangalore North) : Respected Deputy Speaker, Sir, the august House has been discussing the various aspects relating to the problem of floods, droughts and other natural calamities including the occasional earthquakes which we have in our country. Some of these problems have been recurring with constant repetition in many parts of our country. We have floods in States like Assam, Gujarat and many other parts, almost every year and we have droughts in certain other parts.

[Shri C. Narayana Swamy]

and especially in the State of Orissa, the place Kalahandi is well known in our country. We have been thinking of *ad hoc* measures to combat the situation whenever it arises. But very little planning perspective has been done in our country to prevent the recurrence of these evils which have been greatly affecting the lives of our people and causing loss of thousands of crores of rupees in this country. We have facing a situation in this country where in some places there is abundance of water and in many other places there is acute scarcity of water even for drinking purposes.

I come from a place in Karnataka where that area is completely described as dark area and where no financial assistance is available for any sort of irrigation facility. A reference was made by Shri Amar Roy Pradhan that when Shri Moraji Desai was the Prime Minister of our country, there was a plan for linking the rivers of the North with those of the South, especially Ganga Cauvery linkage and I believe there was also a plan and estimate prepared to find out the volume of funds, that would be required for taking up this enormous task. We also have in our country inter-State river water disputes. Every day waters inundate the land, sap the fertility of the soil and join the seas without irrigating any area. The damage caused to the soil, the loss of fertile top soil, cannot be compensated by just money. It would take hundreds of years to bring back that soil to the same level of fertility that was before the floods: I am sure that we must think in terms of long range planning. We have enormous water resources in our country. This linkage of rivers, whatever may be the cost, will solve the problem of drought in many parts of our country and will enable the cheapest mode of inland water transport within the country and it will result in increased agricultural production for the country. What is the relief that the Governments give to tackle this problem?

Naturally, the State Governments are not in a position financially to combat the situation. The Central Government hitherto had been giving assistance to the States. Whatever little money that the States were getting, they were getting it as Advance Plan Assistance to be deducted later in their Plan allocation. This year, I must compliment the Government, especially the Ministry of Agriculture or more particularly the hon. Minister of Agriculture that the Government has been highly responsive to the needs of the State. Very laudable efforts have been made to release timely funds though there have been demands for release of more funds from certain parts of the country. Even there is a reference that the other Departments of the Government are also involved in the matter of rehabilitation. I have to express my views here that when rehabilitation work is taken up after the occurrence of a flood, when

construction of houses is taken up, the normal annual allocation under that category in any Department is diverted to meet the situation. As a result, the implementation of the Plan programmes in other areas in the same State suffers. Technologically, we have achieved a lot of advancement. Now, there is the possibility of getting forewarnings of cyclone. We even have the satellite imagery whereby we can find the underground rock formations, the movement of rocks etc. It will enable us in a way to forecast the incidence of earthquakes.

Also, we have to have a National Water Policy whereby the excess water is utilised in places where it is most required. Now, the run away water has to be tapped. The State Governments, within their limited financial capacity, will not be in a position to tap it through construction of dams and other methods. Therefore, the Union Government must take upon itself this task. It should have a national policy, form a way of financing the requirements of irrigation in the country. It must be done in a phased manner and in a time-bound manner also. In times of natural calamities like floods and cyclone, the immediate assistance by service organisations, the non-Governmental organisations and the local organisations is immediately available. We have to thank them for their timely assistance. The involvement of the industrial houses in the attempt to rehabilitate the people in those affected areas must be done in a more organised way. The Government should, I think, think of ways of getting their assistance for the relief activity. . . (Interruptions)

Finally, since the problem of floods and drought is a common phenomenon in our country, I suggest that a permanent arrangement should be made to make funds available to the States in such crisis situations.

With these few words, I thank you for giving this opportunity. Now, I conclude.

18.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was waiting for a long time. We are facing natural calamities year after year. Day before yesterday, I have returned from my constituency and after witnessing the problems of the people, I can say that only God knows how they are living. It is difficult to say how they are alive and what they are eating. The situation of flood in Laxhi Sarai, Shekhpura, Navada and Nalmola is the same as was 20 years back. People could not come out of their houses. People are living on trees. Facility of medicine is not there. If someone is sick or bitten by snakes, he is left to his fate. There is no water to drink and no food to eat. This is the state of affairs there. When I talked to collector about

this, he replied that he has not received any direction or financial relief from the State Government which he could distribute among the flood victims. What an alarming situation is this.

Same is the situation with regard to soil erosion and due to this erosion people are migrating from that place year after year. There is no plan as to where they will settle. People are settled on the roads, on the land of others and they are going from pillar to post. Mr. Minister knows it and I want to tell the House that people continue to live in their houses because they are surrounded by water and they are unable to go any where. The situation is more serious in our Tal and Diyara area. No developmental work has taken place after independence. There was no dearth of speeches, but Tal and Diyara in Bihar has been deprived of any concrete developmental work. Therefore, I would like to request the Government to take some steps to avoid such situation.

In brief, I would like to say that we can face the problem of flood by using scientific methods in a planned way. But no such plan has been implemented there till today. We have not done any permanent or temporary work there. And if some permanent work has taken place, the result is that barrages were broken suddenly and hundreds of families were rendered homeless. This time also thousands of houses have collapsed due to heavy rain and many people have died but no relief was given to them. At least 100 people have died due to flood in boat tragedies in Bihar. Earlier boats would submerge in the flood waters and now buses are also submerged. But there is no relief available. I would like to demand the Government to provide relief.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : I am concluding Sir, I know that you will not give me more time. Whereas the Members speaking in the last should be given more time. In Bihar, it is said that the one who is first gets more chances and who is at last gets least chances.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are not the last one. There are many speakers.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : The damage caused by natural calamities should be compensated by Union Government. If I ask to the Minister that the amount released by the Union Government goes to the State Government of Bihar then it goes to the districts and further it should reach to the affected people. But it is doubtful whether this amount reaches the affected people or not. In the reply the Minister will say that this is State State and will leave and us to die. I would like to say that it is a State subject but Chief responsibility lies with the Union Government. You cannot escape by only saying that this

is a State subject. The Union Government have to bear the responsibility.

The other thing which I want to say is that our crops have been damaged. Paddy and other crops have been damaged due to the flood. A Crop Insurance Scheme was announced in this very House. Will the farmers of Bihar be benefitted by this Crop Insurance Scheme? I have been informed that when a Member had asked about crop insurance, the Minister of Finance had said "No insurance". The reason is the paucity of funds with the Government. I demand the Government that Crop insurance scheme should be implemented properly. I would like to say one more thing in this context that register has not been maintained for the money meant for relief item. There is no clear cut criteria for giving relief. Whether it is based on population or area, is known. On what criteria Government of India had released this amount? Equal amount has been distributed between Assam and Bihar. I can produce figures that less amount has been given to Bihar, while more damage was caused there. Therefore, I would like to request that the Government should pay attention towards the allocation of funds. Attention may be given towards the development of Tal and Diyara area because it faces devastation every year and also people die here. Every year many people drown in the river, die due to snakebite. I would like to request the Government of India to save the people from losing their lives. I would like to say another thing that people would die of snake bite, diarrhoea as there are no medicines available. Hospitals have been opened in big cities but we cannot save the people in rural area from dying of diarrhoea as there are no medicines. I have given 5000 rupees out of my fund to the collector to purchase medicines for treatment of snake bite, to purchase D.D.T powder and spray it in the well. So, this is the situation prevailing there. Therefore, I would request the Government to save the people there. Thank you for giving me an opportunity have to speak.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as usual, Kerala was hit by the floods this year also and this time quite unprecedentedly within the last 25 years, it was very heavy rain with the resultant floods, the loss of which estimated by the State Government of Kerala was more than Rs. 1,000 crore.

Sir, we have lost more than 100 people this time due to the floods. Eight out of 14 districts have been affected badly by it. They are Trissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kodikunnil, Wyand, Kasaragod and Idukki.

In Idukki, there was a landslide. That itself has taken away about 17 lives, the precious lives. Even the roads

[Shri E. Ahamed]

have been blocked and the movement of the people have been put to difficult position.

This is a recurring phenomenon in our State. Quite unfortunately the Government has not evolved any policy to save a State like Kerala from this recurring phenomenon of floods.

We do have a very long coastal area where the sea erosion is a usual phenomenon. The Government of India has not envisaged any project to save the coastal areas of the State of Kerala. We have been spending crores of rupees for the security of our borders, to save them from other countries. But we have not done anything to save our coastal area from the sea and the sea has been eroding it considerably, with the result we lose whatever precious little bit of land that we have.

This time I have seen personally what happened to the district which I represent in this House, Malappuram. I have myself visited many of the houses where the people have lost their precious lives. Seventeen persons have lost their lives only in the district of Mallapuram where I myself know that there has been a loss of crops worth Rs 10 crore. But the Government of India has given a total of only Rs. 10 crore. Anyway, I am very much thankful to the hon. Minister. But they ought to give much more because this is a small State.

I am happy because the Minister is taking a positive stand. In my district of Mallapuram which I represent in this House, there has been a loss of 8271 hectares of land. It is destroyed. Nine thousand families have been affected. I have seen for myself dozens of houses completely collapsed, destroyed. One hundred houses have been completely collapsed, 1143 houses have been partially damaged and 12404 families have to be rehabilitated. This is only in one district.

So far as Mallapuram district is concerned, this is the first time that such a heavy loss has been sustained due to floods. Trissur, Palakkad, Kozhikode, Vyanad, Cannanore, Kasaragod and Idukki, all in the northern side of the State, have also been affected. Idukki is full of hilltracks where there has been a land slide occurring all the time. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Agriculture whether the Agriculture Ministry is not in a position to prepare a project taking into account all these recurring phenomena of land slide, floods, etc. in a small State like Kerala. We have to discuss about it every year urging the Government to please do something. Our situation has been such that if there is a drought, we will come here for drought relief; by the time there will be a rainfall and we will then have to come here again for flood relief. This is the state of affairs.

in so far as our small State is concerned. Therefore, I avail myself of this occasion to urge the hon. Agriculture Minister to take a very positive and sympathetic stand in so far as the State of Kerala is concerned.

With these few words, I thank you once again.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKERS : Honourable Members, now I have the names of six members with me, but it is yet to be concluded. Some of these members have sent their names just now. It is not possible to give them an opportunity to speak. Now I would request the honourable Minister to give the answer.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Representatives of all the parties have expressed their views. Now it is left to the House to decide.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla) : I am sorry that the names have not been given but we have the right to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Representatives of all the parties have been given an opportunity to speak. They have already spoken.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : So you are concluding it on your own. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the House decides to conclude then it is alright. However, representation of every party has been made.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the House decides, we can continue it tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : We have been sitting here since morning. (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, kindly allow him to speak as his area has been badly affected due to flood.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You see that honourable Members of all the political parties have already spoken. Nobody from A.G.P. has yet spoken because the name has been given only today.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : You may kindly invite him also.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will decide. [English] I do not mind it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We have discussed for more than five hours on this subject.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please cooperate. Let the honourable Minister reply.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let the House decide.

(English)

I do not mind it. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

When would the honourable Minister reply? He may require at least 12-13 minutes for this. We have to take up another subject at 6:30 p.m.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Kindly allow some time for me too.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It can only be given if it is postponed for tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Kindly take your seat. Your views have been recorded.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is no other way out. It should be concluded today.

[Translation].

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : I protest. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down now. Please cooperate.

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : You should allow me to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You see, there is the only one way out that the House would decide and it would continue tomorrow.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, it has been once decided to conclude it today.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It should be concluded today but it cannot be in this way. If you are in a position to answer in two minutes, I would not mind it. As honourable Members would also look forward for a answer.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I would have no objection if the honourable Members are not willing to hear the reply.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is alright. You may please begin.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I whole heartedly thank the honourable Members who have participated in the debates on this issue. . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please also have to keep in mind the sentiments of those honourable Members who could not get an opportunity to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI.D.SULTANPURI : This is injustice to us. Please give me time to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you are allowed to speak, others will also ask for their turn and then it will continue till tomorrow. In such a situation, it is for the House to decide what is to be done.

SHRI K.D.SULTANPURI : We are saying that we should be given time to speak.

[English]

SHRI SIRBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, there are many hon. Members who want to speak.

[Translation]

MR.DEPUTY SPEAKER : Five hours have already been spent on this.

[English]

There should be some limit.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, crores of rupees have been wasted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is the consensus of the House, tell me?

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : There is a very strong demand.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : At 6.30, next item will be taken up.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : There is a very strong demand from different sections of the House. Let the discussion be completed today and the hon. Minister can reply tomorrow. (Interruptions).

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Half-an-Hour Discussion can not be stopped because this is in today's agenda.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : Sir, I have a suggestion that it should continue up to 6.00 P.M. and after that we can sit for half an hour more.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, kindly listen to me.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : At 6.00 P.M. Half-an-Hour Discussion will start after that if you want to sit upto 7.00 P.M., I have no objection.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : It should be finished today. [English] Let the Minister reply tomorrow.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I too have some programme. I have to go to meet the Hon'ble President.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : As he said, it should be completed today.

[English]

The hon. Minister can reply tomorrow before lunch and after that other items of business can follow. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH : Honourable Minister may reply tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : For tomorrow there are other subjects also.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : We have to follow you. If you wish I am leaving the House. My Minister of State will be present here. . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It cannot continue till tomorrow.

[English]

The discussion should be concluded today.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : The people are suffering from natural calamities in all the States. Let everyone be allowed to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All the Members of Parliament cannot be covered.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, it is a very serious matter. So this House would like to hear the reply from the Hon. Minister. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is all right.

[English]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I am ready to reply, but it is for the House to decide. I will speak only for ten minutes. . . (Interruptions) I will reply, if you give me even ten minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH (Kannauj) : O.K, you give reply.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is alright, then let the Minister give this reply.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I am very grateful to those honourable Members who have participated in this debate and given effective suggestions. Those who have criticised, have done so in a positive way. I am thankful to them. So far as the amount of relief and the quantum of loss suffered is concerned, we have circulated the figures already. Therefore, I would not like to repeat it. The rainfall is also shown in the map. I would not like to waste my time in all that. As regards, the questions raised by you

about your respective areas, we shall send a written reply to you after inquiry. I want to discuss only those questions which have been raised today.

SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH : Please listen to me.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The first thing which has been raised by most of the Members is that these calamities must be checked permanently. I respect their views, and

I am also pondering over that subject. We are going to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of our Independence. Under these circumstances, we should initiate the effective measures from this very moment. I would like to tell you that we have meritorious engineers and advanced technology as well. We may not have enough resources. A study has been conducted to link the rivers of South India. Similar study about North India would be completed by the end of this century. The main thing to understand is that flood and drought are the two faces of the same coin because flood comes first followed by drought. Therefore, both the problems should be tackled simultaneously. I want to say clearly that the politicians themselves are the biggest problem. I am a politician too but it is clear that if you want to link these rivers there will be a problem that each and everyone will say that he will not allow water to be taken away from his region. Just now my hon. friend from Assam made a mention about it. The Brahmaputra plan in Assam will incur Rs.1 lac crore. If we start it right now, it will take 20-25 years to complete. But scheme has been formulated to start this project and work on technological and financial aspects has been completed.

If we construct dam on the tributary then only we can do something in regard to the main river. There is a difficulty in it. If a dam is constructed on a portion of Barak river, some fields in Manipur would get submerged. A resolution has also been passed in this regard in the Manipur Assembly. When we call a meeting of the Chief Ministers, they don't turn up. They ask us as to why they should come when their areas are getting submerged. The situation is same all over. You are the masters this country. A resolution should be moved and passed here in this regard and every one should make his contribution. A National grid should be constituted because water is the wealth of the nation. If we could provide water from one place to other, we would be able to combat the drought.

Friends from Assam have raised some questions. Rs.500 crore have been allocated in the Ninth Plan so that

work could be started first on the river. This comes under Bodo region. Whatever the problem we are facing, it is before you. We are ready for this. A task force has been set up for the said purpose and the country has been divided into five regions. The study on these five regions is going on. The National water Development Agency is

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (Rajapur) : Why is the centre not using its emergency powers in such situations?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I cannot say anything on that. That is too much. You must have voluntary organisations for that. I cannot do it with military etc.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH : Please tell something about earthquake because discussion has been started from this topic only.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : You please listen to what I want to say. I don't want to give stress on the figures. The study has been completed and the Administration as well as the engineers are ready for this. You have created this situation during the last fifty years. Every one should be allowed to work in this 50th anniversary of independence and the political situation should be cleared.

[English]

The only stumbling block is political disunity.

[Translation]

If we could assure this then we all would move into the 21st century in a better way.

Now, I shall take up crop insurance. First we have started setting up a project. The Finance Department have some objections on this project and as a result thereof it has been held up. There is a problem in it and the problem is that when the State Government sends a report, a central team goes there and makes assessment. The assessment of both these teams varies widely. The hon. Member, Pathak ji has said that when his State demanded Rs.3500 crore, only Rs. 85 crore were provided but when the other State demanded Rs 30 crore they were provided Rs. 60 crore. The central team first goes there and makes assessment. The Committee of secretaries holds a meeting and then the funds are approved. Today, we have provided Rs. 86 crore to Gujarat. The central team had visited Gujarat. We have provided Rs. seven crore to Sikkim. We could not provide the funds to Kerala because we have just received the report from there. The Committee of secretaries has not yet assessed it. As soon as the committee makes assessment, I can assure you that we would provide funds to Kerala also. We would extend full

[Shri Chaturanan Mishra]

cooperation to those states which are hit by floods. We have shortage of resources. Whatever has been provided during the last five years is before you. We have issued instructions to the secretaries to ensure that the central team and the State team would work together in order to submit unanimous report regarding the extent of damage caused and the extent of assistance needed. The Minister faces a lot of problems when the reports vary because if I am the Minister according to one Article of the Constitution then he is the Minister of State as per the other Article of the same Constitution. We can't say that report submitted by them is not correct. Therefore, we should find out a way out so that only one report is submitted.

Hon. Members have pleaded to take some measures to deal with earthquakes in future. We can't stop earthquake nor we can give prior information in that regard. In this world of science, no one could make any discovery in this regard. . . . (Interruptions) Please have patience. I have called a National Seminar in this regard on 18th February. We have invited the scientists from Japan and America. The scientists from other countries have also been invited. We also invite you to the said seminar. Now, I am not debating, I am giving you a solution. We invite you to attend the seminar on 18th February, which will be attended by the people from all over the world and if you have any solution with you, give it to me and we will adopt it.

[English]

Have you understood my point? The Japanese are experts in this field. I have invited them. They are coming here. You also come.

[Translation]

Secondly, I would say that Japan has created community awareness regarding this and keeping this in view our department as well as other departments have also made some assessments regarding earth quake. Our department would also collect the details at the earliest and we would publish a booklet in this regard for all. We have issued instructions that this booklet should be translated and supplied to the earthquake prone zones. Earlier maps were provided regarding rains and now the same would be provided for the earthquake. The hon. Members should check up their regions. We got the information that 730 persons have been killed during the current year.

[English]

I am giving you the figure for the entire country.

[Translation]

But what we should do? We have issued orders in this

regard. We have satellite information and there is meteorology department and C.W.C. We have asked both these departments to furnish the complete information through the satellite. The computers have been set up on four sides so that all the Chief Secretaries, Relief Commissioners could send the information.

[English]

In case there is any default, action will be taken against the officer who is at fault.

[Translation]

The second thing which I want to say about the earthquake is that the houses that would be constructed in earthquake prone areas should be earthquake-proof. Suppose there is a threat of earthquake in Delhi and if the earthquake strikes in old Delhi then I think no one will survive because the houses have been constructed in such a fashion which can't ensure safety from earthquake. We are providing Japanese assistance for undertaking repairs of such houses. The officials of the concerned department would undertake this work. The major problem is regarding storm. Last time I had informed the House that we have received 0.31 million dollars from the F.A.O. We have provided walkie talkie to those who undertake fishing in boats so that they could move to safer places as soon they get information regarding a possible threat in the high seas.

In addition to this, we are holding talks with the State Governments to construct check dams at places where there is a threat of rains so that the flow of water could be fanned in the catchment areas itself in order to check the rain water entering other areas. If the hon. Members submit any scheme in this regard, I shall take the necessary steps.

Our friends from Kerala, Sikkim and Darjeeling have said about landsliding. D.R.D.O. under the Ministry of Defence has ordered that a review would be conducted in those area which are prone to landsliding. We asked the Ministry to check these areas before the starting rains and issued directions to the Collectors to review it every year. Though when such situation arises they only do formalities and say that there are no foodgrains available and try to get boats when there are floods. We asked them to repair all the dams and check the reservoirs so that they can be warned before hand.

One question has been raised about glaciers. I would like to inform you that we talked with the Government of Nepal and I would like to say on the basis of the information, received from the Government of Nepal.;

[English]

Sir, I would just like to quote from the Report:

"... From the brief parametric studies reported above, it appears that the flood peak is likely to be in the range of about 4000 cusecs and the time of arrival of the flood after the breach is about 12 hours."

[Translation]

All will be died with in twelve hours. Therefore, we have taken up it for further studies as to what arrangements we can make. Our friends from Bihar and Shri Nitish Kumarji has raised the point of melting of Himalayan glaciers. If you wish, we can circulate the report in this regard so that you can go through it. What can we say to the State Government in this regard? As we have been voted by the people to power similarly they have also been voted to power by the people. You say that they create disturbances. You tell it to the people because you are in their contact. We can not punished them... (Interruptions) We have given you a chart, you can go through it.

SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH : It is about calamity relief fund only. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : We have given rupees 45 crores for earthquake affected areas in your region also. We asked ICAR to repair the building of Jabalpur University. . . (Interruptions) Please listen to me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let the Minister complete his reply. Half-an-hour discussion is still to be taken up.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The HUDCO is providing 30 crore rupees for this purpose separately. There is a provision in Indira Avas Yojana etc. that those houses should be constructed first which are damaged. All the departments have been geared up to do this work. Some friends have raised the question that relief fund was set up during the British rule. I would like to say that it is not hundred year old. Its guidelines have been prepared five year ago. Rupees 50 thousands are being given to the dependents of every deceased person from the Prime Minister's relief fund. All other aspects have been covered in these guidelines. Some States give rupees 20 thousand and others give rupees 25 or 50 thousands.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : It takes a lot of time for release of funds from the Prime Minister's relief fund.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : We will release fund only after receiving information of death from the District Magistrate. . . (Interruptions) We give compensation to the even to these person who is bitten by snake during floods. If there is delay that can speed up through negotiations.

Due to time constraint I am concluding my point. (Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH : You do not want to listen to us.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I am hearing you since yesterday. The time allotted to you is over. Now it is time for us to speak. . . (Interruptions)

A question was raised here that construction of dams causes environment pollution. As per the scientific report submitted by the Government if proper precautions are taken than there is no danger to the environment. Due to shortage of time I will speak in brief. Please let me conclude. I regret that I could not reply to the points raised by several Hon'ble Members. . . (Interruptions) Rest of the Members can send their points in writing to us and we will send reply to them.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Heavy losses have been occurred in Konkan region of Maharashtra due to floods. That region is also required some relief.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The State Government has not sent any report. You please give report, we will definitely provide relief.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister has already said to send your queries in writing and he will sent back reply thereof.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, the House would take up Half-an-hour discussion. Shri Jag Mohan.

18.39 hrs.

HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION

Re: Fire Incident in Uphar Cinema in Delhi

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) : Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I would like to begin where the hon. Home Minister had left. You would recall that I had enquired whether there is a Stay Order in this case for the last 14 years or not.

I had also indicated that in 1983, when I happened to be the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, there was a fire accident in what was known as Gopal Towers, a multistory building located in Rajendra Place. Of course, helicopters and other equipment were pressed into service and people were rescued. One person die in that horrible fire accident. Thereafter, I launched a drive and got inspected all the public buildings including cinema houses, high-rise buildings and places of public gatherings. As a consequence

[Shri Jag Mohan]

of that drive, licences of 12 cinema houses were cancelled including that of Uphaar cinema.

Let me now refer to the specific case of Uphaar cinema. A show cause notice was given by the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Licensing). I had instructed him to kindly go and inspect personally and not to depend upon his staff. The Deputy Commissioner went there personally and listed out the violations. The present Deputy Commissioner (South) who has been deputed by the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi to inquire into the present incident of Uphaar cinema has mentioned this in his report and drawn attention to that very notice. There were ten deficiencies which had been pointed out in 1983. On that basis, the Deputy Commissioner gave a notice to the cinema house suspended the licence for four days and said that if they did not rectify them within four days, their licence would be revoked.

Then, this gentleman of Uphaar cinema went to the High Court, obtained an interim stay order and then got it confirmed later. I do not know how that stay order was obtained because the items which were listed therein were grave irregularities like the cinema house space had been sublet to so many other people, etc. I do not want to go into all of them now. Thereafter I left for the home State of the present Minister of State for Home Affairs and I did not know what had happened. But now I find from what the Deputy Commissioner has stated in his report, that after the passage of 14 years, the same position remains this has happened because of the reasons stated in the report. At page 25 of his report, the Deputy Commissioner records that it was shocking that practically all those irregularities were still there! This is the system under which this country is being ruled. We have all the paraphernalia of the Executive, the Parliament, the Judiciary, but this is the end result.

I would like to point out one of the violations of that time, which was still there at the time of the fire accident as pointed out in the present report. It was a glaring violation of the rules that took place on the day of the fire accident. It was noted for the first time in the year 1983 and it was continuing till the date of the fire accident. It was the storage of highly combustible material in the basement of the cinema house. This storage of highly combustible material in the basement was mentioned even in the notice of 1983. They had to appeal to the Lieutenant Governor against it under the Cinematography Act. They did appeal but it was rejected. Then came this stay order.

I have great respect for the Judiciary. In fact of all the three organs of the Government, the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary, Judiciary had acquitted itself

marvelously, remarkably well in these years. Particularly when the Government has been keen to cover up certain cases of corruption our Judiciary has played a remarkable role in ensuring that there has been no cover up. To the extent they could do, they have ensured that all those cases of public corruption were brought to light. But the issue is fundamental. I would request you to kindly consider this. What type of legal system are we having? When you give a stay order there must be some ground for it. Without discussing it, if you say, "All right, if there is a fire, you can again give a notice.", it is not proper. A still more shocking thing is, there was another fire in the intervening period.

Even in the intervening period, no action was taken after that fire and in one way, it was done haphazardly. Contrary to stay order, they issued a temporary licence for two months. For 14 years, this two months' temporary licence has been renewed. I do not know under what logic a temporary licence virtually continues for 14 years. Under the Cinematography Act, a temporary licence is given to those talkies, which tour around for just two months. It is not meant for this. I do not know how it was tolerated; I do not know how it escaped everybody's attention. This is totally illogical, irrational. When they play with the safety of a person or a crowd, whether it is for one day or two days, how can they take risk even for a day? I really do not understand how, without ensuring that those deficiencies were removed, this was done. This is what I request. My approach has always been constructive. Therefore, what I want to suggest is that, as we know, if the Executive goes wrong, the Parliament can correct it; if the Parliament goes wrong and makes a law which is unconstitutional, then the Judiciary can correct it; but if the Judiciary goes wrong, who will correct it?

Now, this is the issue which I am posing. And my suggestion is which I have already placed - that I would not have raised this here in this forum, but for giving this constructive suggestion. There must be, in my opinion, a Constitution amendment saying that there will be an Auditor-General (Judiciary). There, the Auditor-General (Judiciary) will function on the same lines as the Comptroller and Auditor-General of Accounts. The Auditor-General (Judiciary) will be able to inspect the functioning of the courts just as the Auditor-General (Accounts) goes and determines the accounts and so on and make a Report on the functioning of the Judiciary. Are the laws being implemented in the spirit in which they are meant to be implemented? Is justice being done? It will be a great judicial reform, in my view, for the system as a whole. It will be a very great boom for the Judiciary itself because if the Judiciary is working in a very unhealthy condition, as we see, in the District Courts or in the smaller courts, then the Auditor-General will be able to bring it to the notice of the nation as a whole as well as to us.

In Parliament, we should know the ground level reality and it will not undermine the independence of the Judiciary because the Auditor-General (Judiciary) will report to the Supreme Court, which wing will be there and they will examine what measures were needed, who had defaulted, where the default was taking place, whether the personnel had done something wrong; where the system was wrong etc. It will be an independent constitutional function, just as the Auditor-General or the Chairman of the UPSC. Once appointed, they cannot be removed and they cannot get any other job under the State or the Union. Therefore, this system is absolutely necessary. I would request the Government this tragedy has happened - that if it wants to improve the system, the proposed reform should be carried out.

The third part which I want to mention, which is also related to my proposal with regard to reforms is that we see in all cities that there is no safety consciousness at all. We see the people, Government departments, or when we go even to the CPWD, to Government lands in Delhi, there are huge coal depots, wood shops where all safety regulations are being violated. They are there. Some have obtained stay orders and some have done this and some have done that. In one garb or the other, things go on.

My suggestion is that if there is a system of judicial order, if somebody can complain that such and such in the court of Batinda is doing this, let the Auditor General (Judicial) look into the same and examine it as to whether something is being done properly or not.

Now, in Delhi, we see, naturally that congestion takes place. I am quite shocked to hear from one of my officer-friends that when the Uphaar fire took place some people who were educated and were travelling in a Cleo car did not even give way to the fire brigade vehicles.

There were hoardings and hoardings. This issue is something which we have to make the nation conscious that this is what is happening. You see what is happening in Delhi. Very grave violation of Master Plan all along is taking place. According to the Master Plan, we hoarding can be shock at the crossing. In the Capital where you are sitting as the Home Minister, you will find the hoardings at the crossing or at the footpath. Therefore, I will walk on the road and get killed by some accident. That is how, so many cyclists, so many pedestrians are killed every day but nobody bothers. All the illegal constructions that are going on, where I can put only two-and-a-half storey building, I put 14 flats. In posh colonies like Vasant Vihar, Anand Niketan, Panch Sheel, greater Kailash educated people have done it. They have constructed 14 flats. And the verification takes place, I have got figures which are actually shocking. How many people are dying because of this pollution and extra congestion that is being created? These are the figures collected by an international agency.

About 40,000 premature deaths take place and 17 million respiratory asthma cases have come to light in this country of India; so many people die prematurely because of your incapacity to implement your health and safety byelaws. Some people died because of Uphaar fire. But you are killing everybody by slow poisoning every day; by remote control, you are killing thousands of people; you are causing asthma to thousands of people. It is happening because you do not have the political will or administrative machinery to implement your own laws. You go to Delhi and see everywhere. You will find hoarding on the housetops. Naturally some death takes place; somebody gets killed and then you start enquiry. But we have become mentally blind because of obsession with power. This is really in my view not only a civic issue but also a civilisational issue. We commit a large number of crimes by omission. This is an omission. Can we find any other city like Delhi which is disorderly, disorganised, chaotic, without any regard for rules and regulations? It shows that we are a dehumanised civilization. We are a civilisation with a closed mind. The Government has not given any attention to it. When you are celebrating the Fiftieth Anniversary of our Independence, let us have a soul searching. How many crimes we have committed without realising that we are committing them? When the man becomes absolutely blind in his mind, he is almost dead. Our minds and eyes have become dead. A blind man is one who has eyes but cannot see. I think, we have become blind; we have the eyes but we cannot see; that is why, all these tragedies are happening. Every day, you switch on TV and you will see 14 people died of drowning; 10 people have died in this incident. Why? It is because nobody bothers for the safety byelaws. How many people get killed because somebody overspeeding, somebody overtaking his bus or car? And when somebody wants to take an action, they say, "He is an authoritarian; you remove him from the job." What is this?

So, I would request you to kindly consider three things. While the stay order continued for 14 years, whether you take it up with the appropriate authority? The Law Minister could take it up.

Secondly, would you kindly consider, as the Government, the proposal of having Auditor General (Judicial)? Thirdly, would you do something to instill civic consciousness, safety consciousness in our community, would you do something also to have safety audit?

Why do they not conduct surprise checks? Why should they go and check once a year only when somebody applies for renewal of licence?

For example, I, as Lt. Governor, had constituted flying squads and I could send anybody to go and check.

[Shri Jag Mohan]

anywhere. Naturally, people will be alert. They will not commit irregularities. But if one says that after one year somebody would come and check the licence then on that day I would remove that *phatta* and then again put it and commit the thing.

So, my point is that there is no alertness in this. Let us learn from this tragedy. I am sorry to say that it has happened, it is happening and it will go on happening. That is, unfortunately, our national ethos today. So I would request the Government to consider all these points.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, please ask the question only.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : It requires background first.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please make your background point within two minutes, you can make it in one minute only.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : My first question is this.
..(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is only one question so point of first question does not arise.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : I have only 10-15 minutes time. I want your protection because nobody has left except me to speak on this issue. I have a right to make use of the time left.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please ask the question only.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on 19th June, 1997, 59 persons died and over 200 persons were injured, when a fire broke out in the biggest Cinema hall, Uphar where 'Border' film was being screened. Safety rules were not observed in the hall. Transformer was not placed as per the rules. Electricity rules were not observed. Arrangement of chairs hampered the quick exit of the cinema goers. All these goes to show how the rules were violated in the national capital itself. This is very shameful and painful. In this context, through you, the first thing I would like to know from the Government is why has the licence of Uphar cinema hall not been cancelled even after such a big tragedy and gross mismanagement? Why was a notice for its closure not given, after cancelling its licence, till appropriate action is taken? Who is responsible for this?

The hon'ble Member just now mentioned that in 1983-

84, the Lt. Governor had cancelled the licences of 13-14 cinema halls, including that of Uphar cinema hall. But the cinema hall owners obtained a stay. Even though the stay order was obtained, on what authority the licensing department issued temporary licence for 2-2 months? Was it not violation of court orders? The various shortcomings, due to which licence were cancelled, were they rectified before the licensing department of the Delhi Police issued temporary licence for 2-2 months?

When the hon'ble Prime Minister, visited the hall after the tragedy, he promised to open a trauma centre soon in Delhi. Has the process begun to open the trauma centre? We think of remedy after the tragedy occurs. The Naresh Chandra Committee set up by the Delhi Administration, in its 86 page Report has blamed almost all the agencies. Such as, the Licensing Department of the Delhi Police, Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking, which was under the Government of India and the Delhi Vidyut Board. Even the cinema hall owners and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, which looks after all these arrangements and gives the permission for building such structures, were blamed. Based on the findings of that Report, the Government set up another Committee. Why action was not taken on the basis of the first Report? Will the Government make public that Report and take stringent action against the guilty? What was the reason for so much delay in arresting the owners of the Uphar cinema hall. Which elements helped the owners and the management to escape from the the law for so many days. Instead, on the day of incident, the police made security arrangements at their residences.

No proper arrangements were made to facilitate orderly exit of people from the cinema halls. Even the fire brigade personnel faced difficulty in conducting their operations smoothly. The police arrangements were also not upto the mark. What are the reasons for all this laxity.

Sometime back a seminar was held in Delhi by the Capital Foundation Society. In the Seminar also such views were expressed. As the honourable Deputy Speaker said, I will ask question through him. Will the Delhi Government issue immediate closure orders, on safety grounds, of such cinema halls which do not follow safety norms, have defects in construction, electricity arrangements and in management etc, as per the guidelines of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi? What is the reaction of the Government thereto? My second question is regarding the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent such tragedies in future?

My third question is that since, the state is responsible for the man made tragedies, why does the Government always becomes lax in carrying out its responsibilities? Why is it that so many incidents of fire breaking out, occur in

Delhi, be it jhuggi jhompris, sky-scrapers or in cinema halls. Is the fire brigade in Delhi not efficient?

I would like to say one more thing that negligence of authorities make the common man suffer. . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You ask the question. Your two questions are over.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Dual system is prevalent here. The police and the licensing department are under the Home Ministry and some of the arrangements are under the Delhi Government. And then there is also New Delhi Municipal Corporation and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. Due to the division of responsibility, no single agency is responsible. As per the section 141 and 142 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court has the Special Power to take action in case of man made tragedy. But the process of making a law or drafting a Bill, can only be undertaken when the Government takes the initiatives promptly. Will the Government undertake legislative initiative and make laws to prevent such tragedies in future?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Rawat, ask the question. You have even outshone Mr. Jagmohan.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Let me read a line related to Supreme Court. Section 141 of Constitution says:

[*English*]

It says: "The judgement given by the Supreme Court shall be binding on all Courts within the territory of India."

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please ask the question. I have to repeat this. Now please conclude.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : And after that it has been mentioned in 142.

My question is whether government is introducing a Bill in the Parliament to make a law by which such incidents of arson may be stopped and alongwith that other provisions may be included in it for punishing those who donot strengthen security arrangements and follow them strictly.

Secondly, Delhi Police and licencing department, who were responsible for it and who had issued temporary licences for two - two months; so what stern steps are being taken against the responsible officers in this regard?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are repeating it. You have already asked what you are repeating. You are a senior Member of Parliament.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : There is a last point. The Home Minister has himself accepted that rules are not

being followed in the construction of big buildings in Delhi. Whether the Ministry of Urban Affairs who is responsible for Delhi will take utmost care in this regard too? Action should be taken against builders of those buildings which have been constructed after violating the rules.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whatever happened in Uphar Cinema on 19th of June was very tragic. I personally feel very sorry for those 59 persons who died on the spot. 103 persons were seriously injured. I respect the sentiments of honourable Members because it is not merely his sorrow or my sorrow, but a sorrowful incident for the entire country. They were our children. I relate my personal experience, my child had also gone to see this very picture. I experienced the sorrow myself on that very day; when my family members came to know about the incident they fainted. Anyway, by the grace of God he had gone to some other cinema hall to view the same picture Death or life is the discretion of God. But I gave this example because my child returned back safely but what would have happened with those people whose children did not return. Those families who have gone there for recreation what happened with them. I fully associate myself with this unbearable loss and sorrow.

Anyway, I fully agree with Shri Jag Mohan here. He has always maintained a realistic view. This is not flattery. He has been the governor of our State. I have seen his style of work. At that time also he used to take the pedestal above the party line. He used to speak without hiding any fact. Today also, the tone of his speech and the expression of his sentiments pose realistic view. I fully endorse his views by letter and spirit.

Careless acts have been committed. There is no doubt about that and he has expressed it properly. A transformer of 1000 k.v. or 500 k.v. capacity was kept there. It should have been put outside but was kept inside. At 7 o'clock in the morning it was checked. At that time a defect was detected. It was not of any quality, therefore, it again developed fault in the evening at 5 o'clock. Some leakage had taken place, perhaps oil had spilled from it. I fully agree with him that carelessness took place and all the agencies are responsible for it. There was laxity from the side of cinema management, five service department or M.C.D. or those responsible for finally issuing licence. Why did it happen. I again want to say we make laws and are representative of lakhs of people, but even after 50 years of achieving independence we have not been able to inculcate civic sense and legal sense in the people. I would humbly request and assure the honourable members that your suggestions would be duly considered by the government. But alongwith this, I would humbly request

[Shri Mohd. Maqbool Dar]

that in this issue and all other issues where serious situation arise, we, as representative of the people, should educate them and have to inculcate a civic sense and legal sense in the people. My personal experience has been that once I saw some youths misusing government pipe. When I objected and asked whether it belonged to them they said that it belonged to the government. Therefore, I would like to repeat that civic and legal sense has to be inculcated because as a representative, they have expectations from us. They give recognition to us and in order to utilise this recognition we have to make them understand that this is government property and government's property is self property. Whether it is government's work and whether any official or any common man is involved in it. They relate it with issuing licence. Honourable members have rightly pointed out, if there was a stay for two months, then why was interim order given for opening up of cinema. I shall repeat that big blunders were committed. From the side of the government, the enquiry officer or committee under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner (South) Shri Naresh Kumar was constituted. They have submitted a report. They completely agreed with our views, honourable Jag Mohan's views and other honourable Members views that negligence took place. The recommendations made by it will be given to you and after combining your advice, it will be considered. I assure you about this. This is not a small loss but unbearable loss. Those who have died will not get life again. 59 persons including Children and elders have died. We often talk about their welfare. But when these people are no more about whom we shall talk. Therefore, I with full sentiments and from the deepest of my hearts, share your grief.

You talk about stay, it is due that stay was taken. But in this regard, Please excuse me for my ill manner. One of our friend in his speech has said that he is not afraid of this government or constable or S.P. But at that time there was no constable or S.P. He said a lot then a person with red turban appeared before him. He again said that he is not afraid of the S.P. or the D.G.

As regards the policeman present there, he said that he was his servant and would follow his orders. It has been mentioned here that due respect should be given to court and there should be no scope for contempt of the court. But for the information of the Members and the August House, I would like to tell that obtaining stay order in this case has consumed a lot of time. You may doubt that it has been done deliberately but I have read this report myself and have found that this case has been more than 50 adjournments and several of these were given on submitting simple affidavits.

[English]

You cannot, I cannot and anyone of us cannot question this delay.

(Translation)

I agree with your suggestions.

(English)

That is worth considering.

(Translation)

However, I assure you that the suggestion given by Rawatji would be given due consideration. Whether the persons concerned belong to management of a cinema Hall, any other organization or department, if they are charged with certain allegation, they should be given stringent punishment. It is only because of negligence that several people lost their lives. Earlier, this case was given to crime branch and now it has been handed over to CBI, I assure you that persons found guilty in this case will be given stringent punishment after receiving CBI report. .
(Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, whether families of all the victims have been given compensation or not? .
(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR : I am also part of this government. I will say families of the victims should be given a compensation of Rs. 2 lakh or even upto Rs. 10 lakh, but this cannot be compensation for a life, I would like to say humbly that this amount is given as a token of sympathy. Earlier, Lt. Governor had stated that Rs. 50 thousand will be given as compensation for the deceased and Rs. 20 thousand for seriously injured and Rs. 10 thousand for persons who got minor injuries. Perhaps it has been changed after your suggestion or after reconsideration. Hon. Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Inderajit Gupta has considered over the matter and has sent a proposal to hon. Prime Minister for approval with a recommendation to double the amount. . (Interruptions)

I assure you that this proposal has been processed and sent to the hon. Prime Minister because the amount is to be released from Prime Minister Relief Fund. Now the families of the persons who died in this case will be given Rs. 1 lakh each and those who have been seriously injured will be given Rs. 50 thousand each. Similarly, persons who have received minor injuries will be given Rs. 25 thousand each as compensation. . (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, I raised a question as to whether the government propose to move a Bill on it or not? This has not been answered to. . (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR : I can say that I have given several details to stop recurrence of such incidents. I also take such incidents seriously but you do not take them seriously. I am not a very prominent person but you enjoy a high status and you consider it seriously in your own way. Though I am not so prominent but I take such incidents very seriously and will try to do my best whatever is needed, be it enacting a law or an act. I assure you that I will take all possible measures to stop recurrence of such incidents.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House now stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

19.20 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Thursday, August 7, 1997/
Shravana 16, 1919 (Saka)*
