

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourteenth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



सत्यमेव जयते

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 17, 2003/Agrahayana 26, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is the issue of procurement of rice in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Sirkakulam): Sir, I have given a notice regarding the situation in cyclone-hit Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have given a notice on the Adjournment Motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Sir, a cyclone has hit the State of Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have received many notices. The subject of one of the notices is:

[English]

"Situation arising out of denial to vote during Assembly elections to the voters due to non-availability of voters' identity cards."

[Translation]

Shri Ramvilas Paswan has raised this issue. Many hon. Members have given notices on the second issue,

[English]

regarding need to provide subsidy for procurement of paddy in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. I am told that the Parliamentary Affairs Minister has said about this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had said that the government will give a statement about procurement of paddy. Paddy is not being procured in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, neither the procurement price for paddy has been fixed nor its procurement has been started, although the crop has reached the grain markets. In addition to this, the minimum support price of sugarcane has also not been fixed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have listened to your point of view. Now, I would like to know the views of the hon. Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, 11 districts have been affected by the cyclone in Andhra Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)* Due to cyclone a number of people have died, thousands of houses have been flooded and crops have been damaged. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, you should give priority to this subject.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I should listen to the Members, but the Members should also listen to me.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, in Andhra Pradesh a number of people have been affected by the cyclone. Eleven districts have been affected by it ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to permit you to speak. We have to listen to them first and then I will permit you to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India has fixed the minimum support price of paddy between Rs. 550 to Rs. 580 and many state governments have relaxed the norms for procurement of

paddy. But, the relaxation has not been given in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar which has affected the process of procurement of paddy. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister had informed that a statement would be made on this subject. I would like to enquire about it from the hon. Minister. Sushmaji please clarify the issue—these hon. Members are saying that you had said in the House that a statement would be made on the subject.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am unable to listen to you because he is speaking at a high pitch. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my humble submission is that the process of procurement of paddy is being delayed because of the norms for procurement of paddy in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh had written a letter to the Government in this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Members want a statement from the Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, although the hon. Minister had given a statement but even then if you direct, I will request the concerned Minister to give a statement in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, that statement was on the issue of sugarcane and not on the issue of paddy. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: When did I say that the statement was made on the issue of paddy ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): The Minister has already made a statement in the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister can come to the House and make a statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: The Minister will speak on the issue of paddy in the same way as he had spoken on the issue of sugarcane. The Minister will give reply in the House on the issue of paddy. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Alright, the hon. Minister will also speak on the issue of paddy.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The hon. Minister should give his statement in the House today itself.

MR. SPEAKER: Sushmaji will talk to the Minister concerned about it and after that the hon. Minister will give statement.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Speaker, Sir, are we having the 'Zero Hour' today or not?

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, after the Calling Attention, we will be having the 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, due to cyclone in Andhra Pradesh 40 people have died and crops worth hundreds of crores of rupees have been damaged. Thousands of people have become homeless. In this scenario, please allow me to raise this subject in the 'Zero Hour'.

MR. SPEAKER: All the notices regarding Suspension of Question Hour and Adjournment Motion have been disallowed. I now move on to the Question Hour.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

11.06 hrs.

Inland Water Transport System

+
*221. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to introduce inland water transport system in all cities that have some rivers with the potential of navigation capacity running through them particularly in Southern region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any proposals from State Governments for financial assistance for the development of different waterways in their respective States;

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

(e) the total financial assistance provided to each State for this purpose during the last three years;

(f) whether the Government plans to offer inland water transport as an economical transport service to the people; and

(g) if so, the time by which such transportation system is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The State-wise details are as under:

Name of State	Proposal Name	Project Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Current Status
1	2	3	4
1. Assam	(i) Vessel repairing yard at Pandu.	650.00	Not covered under Centrally Sponsored Scheme. State Government informed.
	(ii) Computerisation of Directorate of Inland Water Transport	20.00	-do-
	(iii) Installation of radio communication network for Inland Vessels	24.00	-do-
	(iv) Upgradation of Crew Training Centre of Directorate of Inland Water Transport	300.00	-do-
	(v) Development of infrastructure through renovation of Cargo Vessels.	364.71	-do-
	(vi) Improvement of Ferry Services on the River Brahmaputra, Barak and its tributaries.	1268.66	Lacked adequate details. Clarifications sought from State Government.
	(vii) Terminal facilities at north bank of river Brahmaputra.	301.53	-do-
	(viii) Terminal facilities at south bank of river Brahmaputra including procurement of one mini dredger.	670.79	-do-
2. Bihar	(i) Collection of basic data and preparation of a blue print and a data warehouse for various aspects on inland water transport growth in Bihar.	21.00	-do-

1	2	3	4
	(ii) Carrying out Hydro morphological study and preparation of detailed project report for comprehensive development of inland water transport in river Gandak.	30.00	Lacked adequate details. Clarifications sought from State Government.
	(iii) Carrying out Hydro morphological study and preparation of detailed project report for comprehensive development of inland water transport in river Kosi.	30.00	-do-
	(iv) Carrying out Hydro morphological study and preparation of detailed project report for comprehensive development of inland water transport in river Sone.	30.00	-do-
	(v) Procurement of one survey and dredging unit for dredging and maintenance of navigable channel in river Gandak.	700.00	State Government has been informed that dredging unit could be considered after detailed project report. Response awaited.
	(vi) Procurement of one survey and dredging unit for dredging and maintenance of navigable channel in river Kosi.	700.00	-do-
	(vii) Procurement of one survey and dredging unit for dredging and maintenance of navigable channel in river Sone	700.00	-do-
	(viii) Preparation of detailed project report for construction/provision of facility for repair and maintenance of IWT vessels/containers.	20.00	Not covered under Centrally Sponsored Scheme. State Government informed.
	(ix) Scheme for preparation of detailed project report for river front development at Patna aimed at IWT based tourism.	25.00	Lacked adequate details. Clarifications sought from State Government.
	(x) Collection of data of cargo and passenger movement and preparation of techno-economic feasibility report for mechanisation of country boats.	50.00	-do-
	(xi) Development of navigational channel in Patna area for ferry service for cargo/passenger.	2871.00	-do-
3. Goa	(i) Capital Dredging in River Zuari	205.00	-do-
	(ii) Hydrographic survey in the Inland Waterways of Goa.	157.80	-do-
	(iii) Improvement to the existing navigational aid within Panaji port limit.	34.39	-do-

1	2	3	4
	(iv) Dredging of Shallow patch at the mouth of river Chapora	90.00	Lacked adequate details. Clarifications sought from State Government.
4. Karnataka	(i) (Navigational facilities between Kodibag to Kadra along the Kali river, Karwar Taluk, Uttar Kannada District.	728.00	Revised proposal from State Government awaited.
	(ii) Navigational facilities from riverine Port Gangolli in Pancha Gangavali River of Kundapur Taluk, Udupi District.	1223.00	-do-
	(iii) Navigational facilities between Mangalore (old riverine Port) to the other places, situated on the banks of the rivers Gurpur and Netravathi in Mangalore Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District.	677.00	-do-
	(iv) Navigational facilities in the backwater of Almati dam across Krishna River in Bagalkot District.	1175.00	-do-
	(v) Navigational facilities between Anandagiri to Biramballi in Backwater Reservoir of Kabini River in Mysore District.	291.00	-do-
	(vi) Navigational facilities between Malpe Port to the other places situated on the Bank of river Udyavar in Udupi Taluk.	714.00	-do-
	(vii) Navigational facilities between Honnavar to Gerusoppa along the Sharavathi River, Honnavar Taluk, Uttara Kannada District.	1056.00	-do-
5. Kerala	(i) Project proposal for development of waterway from Madakkara fishing harbour to Kabbai in Kasargod District.	1500.00	Lacked adequate details. Clarifications sought from State Government.
6. Maharashtra	(i) Development of Inland Waterways at South Mumbai to Amba River/ Dharamtar Creek.	1487.00	Under examination.
	(ii) Development of Inland Waterways in Mhasia/Manded River (Rajpuri Creek)	1516.00	-do-
	(iii) Development of Inland Water Transport Across Mumbai Harbour (Ferrywharf to Nerul & Vice versa).	6700.00	Lacked adequate details. Clarifications sought from State Government.
	(iv) Development of Amenities jetties at Elephanta, Konkan Coast and Creeks along Konkan Coast.	800.00	-do-
	(v) Development of Inland Water Transport for Eco-tourism project along Koyna backwater in Western Maharashtra.	500.00	-do-

1	2	3	4
	(vi) Development of Inland Water Transport for Eco-Tourism project along Arunavati river at Taluka Digras, District Yawatmal.	500.00	Lacked adequate details. Clarifications sought from State Government.
	(vii) Development of Inland Water Transport for Eco-Tourism project at Isapur, District Nanded.	500.00	-do-
	(viii) Development of Inland Water Transport in Godavari river near Vishnupura project, Nanded.	417.00	-do-
7. Orissa	(i) Development of IWT sector in the state of Orissa-upgradation of existing facilities.	204.40	Under examination.
	(ii) Preparation of Detailed Project Report on Waterways development.	10.30	-do-
8. Tamil Nadu	(i) Proposal for improving river Cooum from sea mouth to Periyar bridge	420.00	Lacked adequate details. Clarifications sought from State Government.
9. Uttar Pradesh	(i) Proposal for preparation of Detailed Project Report for introduction of IWT on river Gomti	10.00	In-principle approval given. Formal approval will be considered after receipt of additional information sought from State Government.
	(ii) Proposal for development of inland navigation facilities on river Gomti from Gaughat to Gomti barrage.	2773.00	Lacked adequate details. Clarifications sought from State Government.
10. West Bengal	(i) Project proposal for construction of gangway pontoon type floating jetties (53 nos.) and RCC slipway type jetty (4 nos.) between Tribeni and Farakka	2261.50	Under examination.
	(ii) Project proposal for construction of five nos. passenger cum cargo jetties with terminal and infrastructural facilities at Dakshineswar, Sheorfauli, Manirampur, Santoshpur and Nandigram	300.00	State Government advised to prepare the Detailed Project Report.
	(iii) Project proposal for construction of 27 nos. RCC jetties and 21 nos. Brick Block jetties on waterways in Sundarban region.	784.93	Lacked adequate details. Clarifications sought from State Government.
	(iv) Project Proposal for Vehicular Transshipment between Rasulpur and Khejuri on the banks of river Rasulpur.	313.00	-do-
	(v) Survey/studies of Inland Water Transport and related aspects in West Bengal.	99.21	-do-

(e) During the last three years (2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03) the financial assistance provided to the states under the old centrally sponsored scheme is as under:

Goa	—	Rs. 17.58 lakhs
Kerala	—	Rs. 273.00 lakhs
West Bengal	—	Rs. 297.16 lakhs

(f) and (g) Yes, Sir. Government is committed to the development of inland water transport as an efficient and economical mode of transport. With this objective in view, river Ganga from Haldia to Allahabad, river Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya and West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam along with Champakara and Udyogmandal canals have been declared as National Waterways, and are being developed for shipping and navigation. Inland Water transportation is being undertaken on certain stretches of the National Waterways.

[Translation]

DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, fifty to hundred years ago rivers were the common mode of transportation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. speaker, Sir, I had also given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You may raise this issue during Zero Hour.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the 'Zero Hour' discussion take place today?

MR. SPEAKER: 'Zero Hour' discussion will take place after 'Calling Attention'.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It was good that you were late.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Major cities in the country are situated on the banks of rivers. Transportation has become more efficient because of railways and four-laning of roads. Despite this, no special facility has been provided by the government for transportation of goods through the rivers. The length of rivers in the country is more than 14 thousand kilometres. It provides the twin facilities of transportation of people as well as goods. The Government of India has taken over three projects in this

regard and they were recognised as National River-ways to bring them at par with National Highways. One of these River-ways was from Haldia to Allahabad, the second was in Brahmaputra river and the third was in Kerala. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that at present there is no well-arranged system of transportation through rivers in the country like Railways and Road Transport. The water level of rivers has gone up at many places and the movement of ships has been obstructed due to sitting of rivers. In the same way the transportation through rivers gets obstructed during flood or powering of water level during drought. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mane, please do not cross between the Chair and the Member when he is speaking in the House. Please do not talk.

[Translation]

DR. M.P. JAISWAL: I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether in his opinion, Inland Water Transport system will be cheaper than Rail and Road Transport. If you have any data in this regard please make them available to the House.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Mr. Speaker Sir, through you. I would like to convey my gratitude to Dr. Jaiswal and Ratnaji who have brought forward such an important issue. The hon. Prime Minister had focussed on this issue by making an announcement on 15th August. He made an announcement regarding Sagarmala project. Inland waterway is one of the most important component of the Sagarmala project. I am feeling happy to reply and it is a fact that this has been a very old system. For centuries boats and ships were the best option for transportation of goods and travelling. Now its importance has declined considerably. Today the use of waterways is 17% in America and 5% in Russia but in India it is 15 percent or it can be said that it is used for transportation of goods for 1.5 billion tonne kilometres. As hon'ble Member has stated that we have rivers longer than 15 thousand kilometres having 5¹/₂ thousand kilometres navigational capacity. Despite this fact we are handling total traffic of one thousand billion tonne kilometre by rail, road and riverways and merely 15% or 1.5 billion tonne kilometre traffic is being handled by riverways. We are making efforts to increase it upto 2 percent i.e. 20 billion tonne kilometre during the 10th Five year plan. It will make improvement in other fields also. This is environmental friendly. It will not cause traffic congestion. Moreover this will save the fuel worth more than one

thousand crore rupees to the country annually. Water is the cheapest, better and reliable mode of transportation. Once a loaded ship leaves the port, there is no hindrance in it. There is no traffic Jam, no wear and tear no 'Hafta' and. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker Sir, please get the meaning of the 'Hafta' clarified. It is in the style of a dialogue.

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever is the dialogue, if it is good we must listen to it.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, Let the minister also tell as to what does Hafta mean.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Hon'ble Speaker Sir, Hon'ble Member knows the meaning of 'Hafta' very well then why I am being compelled to speak out?

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker Sir, if we would also have been in Mumbai we might have known the meaning of 'Hafta'.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no need to live in Mumbai to know the meaning of 'Hafta'.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: There is a need to live in U.P. and Bihar to know the meaning of 'Hafta'.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was telling that there is no hinderance of any kind. Riverway transportation of goods and cargo is the cheapest one. This is the only thing I would like to tell the hon. Member through you, Sir. The cost of transportation of goods would be two times more by rail and five times more by truck than river-ways. And it will cost 15 times more if transported by air. So the transportation by river-way is the cheapest, better and reliable.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the government for allocating Rs. 307 crore in the Ninth five year plan and Rs. 668 crore in the Tenth five years plan for the purpose. In reply to my question, the hon'ble Minister has informed that there is no obstacle in the way but the silting is taking place in Kosi, Gandak and Ganga and the ship starting from Haldia is sure to get stuck anywhere in the way. Water level of the rivers has reduced to a great extent. Water depth required for running the ship is not being maintained. So, the river-way is no longer reliable means for transportation of goods

to the destination but the Rail and Road routes are reliable. These are the reasons for obstructions in the river ways. Moreover, rivers have changed their course. Despite using dredging machines and channelising everything, ships could not sail from Allahabad to Haldia till now. Patna is the bottleneck where no corrective measure has been taken. These obstacles are continuing for years together. They may have provided dredging machines but for many years. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask brief and direct question.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my direct question is that our Minister is famous as Bihari Babu. Therefore, I made a mention about Bihar. Keeping in view the feasibility of transportation, whether government is going to make any such arrangement for ensuring daily up and down and regular sailing of ships on 1620 Km. long stretch of National Waterways-I from Haldia to Allahabad via Patna in Bihar, so that the people may be sure that their goods shipped from Haldia or Kolkata will reach Patna or Allahabad on such and such date and will return to Kolkata Port on such and such date? I request the government to give details of the arrangements made and steps taken in this regard.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to inform the House that we are making every effort to address the anxiety expressed by the Hon'ble Member. It is based on four formulae-surveys and studies. We are regularly conducting surveys and also making studies to find out the depth of a river and assess the quantum of sand and soil elements in it. As Dr. Jaiswal has just stated, due to the above reason, hindrance is being caused and rivers are changing their courses. After studying all these things, this problem is being solved through waterway development and wherever dredging is required, we are regularly doing it. Besides navigational aid is required urgently. If we do not have the navigational aid and also the required resources then ship will not be able to reach its destination. This is also important. Besides, it is also equally important that there should be terminal where we can unload our goods. It is also necessary that infrastructure, equipments, cranes etc. should also be provided there.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Member has mentioned waterways-1. I would like to tell you that at present we have three waterways; waterways-1, waterways-2 and waterways-3. Waterways-1 is from Haldia to Allahabad having a length of about 1600 km.; waterways-2 is from Dhubari to Sadia in Assam having a length of approximately 800-900 kms. and waterways-3 is in Kerala

having a length of approximately 200-250 kms. So the length of all the three waterways comes to 2600-2700 kms. roughly. Now I am happy to inform you that in the national waterways-1, after the study of four things which I have already explained and also utilizing navigational aid, sorting out problems and through dredging and making available a good terminal, water will be available for movement of ships for 330 days out of 365 days in a year from Haldia to Patna. This is a great achievement. With this, to and fro movement of our ships has started. It is also a matter of happiness that we have announced a fixed schedule for this. In the second or third week of January on a fixed date and time the ships will start moving from Haldia to Patna and *vice versa*. Ships will carry goods from both ways. I would like to tell Dr. Jaiswal that all these things have been done and some more are likely to take place for which we are making efforts. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: When will the ships move from Patna to Uttar Pradesh? When will you move ahead of Patna?

DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Why has it taken so much of time?

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: I will come to that point too.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you have to answer only those questions which I have admitted. If any question is asked by the members in between, you need not reply.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: As Dr. Jaiswal has asked why so much time has been taken, in this connection I would like to tell you that there are many reasons for that. Although there has been delay, but the things are on the right path and the main thing is that I have come in this Ministry a little bit late.

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: We all M.P.s here hail from the banks of river Ganga. Mr. Jaiswal is also a Member of Parliament. He belongs to adjoining area of Ganga river. We are in the dire need to this system of transportation. We would like to say that if the Government fails to do so then it should be privatised. We have lakhs of KEWATS and NISHADS whose main job is to ferry people across the river. You please do something for them. The same is the problem of Uttar Pradesh and Kerala. This country has 1500 miles long rivers. We must do something to improve the lives of those KEWATS. We should provide bank loan to them

so that they might buy motorboats. If our Government is not competent to do this work, then they must be allowed to do it.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Member Ratna Singhji is kind enough. She has put the supplementary question in a nice manner. First of all I would like to say that bank loan department is not with me. Mr. Yashwant ji is sitting here.

MR. SPEAKER: It does not belong to him also.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: So far as privatisation is concerned, as the Hon'ble Member has said, it also does not belong to me. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The concerned Minister is sitting behind.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the concern expressed by the Hon'ble Member. Whatever she has said, I am trying my level best to do. Whatever I can do as a Minister and as an individual, I will try to do. I myself went to Varanasi. I tried my best to maintain the two meter depth channel draft between Haldia to Patna so as to facilitate movement of ships without any difficulty. Sufficient water is available for sailing of ships for 330 days out of 365 days in a year. We would like to make it 365 days and also to take it, as soon as possible, from Patna to Allahabad via Banaras but it is taking some time. ...(*Interruptions*) Now I can not dig rivers in Kanpur. ...(*Interruptions*) I am sure that after the repairs of waterways-1. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you should address the chair only.

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: What are you doing for the lakhs of Nishads? You should also tell about it. Even Loard Ram had realised the importance of Kevat who helped him in crossing the river and took him to Chitrakoot.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: I am not Ram, I am Shatrughan—the younger brother of Ram. As far as possible, I will do.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Hon'ble Member had asked for giving priority in employment to Kevats and Nishads but no reply has been received from the hon'ble Minister thereon. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Just tell us what you will do for Nishads? There are lakhs of Nishads in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Basu Deb ji, please take your seat for a moment. Mr. Minister, you should give reply to the hon'ble Member's question.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the matter of Nishads is concerned, she is correct. It must be done but is not like that the Government cannot do it. The Government is taking steps in this direction with honesty and transparency. Through you, Sir, I would like to assure the hon'ble Member that in the coming year or two, the work will go on smoothly not only in Allahabad but in Kerala also. The work on National waterways-I, II and III will also run smoothly as is going between Haldia and Patna. As far as the question of Nishads is concerned, we are considering it.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, inland water transport system is the cheapest amongst all the systems. The hon. Minister has stated that the cargo service between Haldia and Patna has already been started and in the next phase it would be extended up to Allahabad.

Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is planning to start passenger services also between Allahabad and Haldia, in addition to cargo service.

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very good question. If our waterways are modernised then the cargo ships will start sailing. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Cargo ships have already started reaching.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: I am also saying the same thing that private operators will also come forward if the waterways become more efficient. I am saying the same thing what you are saying. In addition, I would also like to say that private operators have started cruise tourism in Assam. It has been heard that it is fully booked

up to 2005 and there is house full on all seven days. As the hon'ble member has said, I too believe that there will be no problem in starting passenger services and many private operators will also start coming after the waterways are made more efficient.

[English]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Sir, I thank you very much for the opportunity given.

The hon. Minister has already stated that, in Kerala, the project is approved and it will cover nearly 200 kilometres. Kerala, being a land with beautiful landscape with backwaters, canals and natural rivers in large number, there is plenty of scope for developing the entire length of the State with inland waterways system. In the statement, it is said that West Coast Canal from Kottapuram to Kollam with Champakara and Udyogmandal canals have been declared as National waterways. Now, the question is whether the State of Kerala has requested the Union Government to extend Inland Waterways No. 3 from Kottapuram to Kasaragod in the north and from Kollam to Kovalam in the South and if so, what is the present status of the project. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINGH: I have not forgotten the dialogue but I am just trying to understand the question. I always remember the dialogues.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I like the proposal about which the hon'ble Member is talking but as long as we are working on the National Waterways No. I, II and III and until they are repaired completely we would not like to consider any other proposal.

Grading/Ranking of Private Engineering and Management Colleges

[English]

*222. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has taken a decision to grade and rank all licensed private engineering and management colleges across the country;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted in this regard alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of such colleges in the country likely to be graded and ranked, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the statutory body empowered for planned and coordinated development of technical education system in the country have taken initiative to grade all the technical institutions approved by them which are not yet eligible for accreditation i.e. from which two batches have not yet passed out. The Performance Appraisal System initiated by AICTE is one among the series of initiatives taken by them for promotion of the qualitative improvement of technical education system. Under the system, AICTE will guide the newly established technical institutions for enabling them to make assessment of their strengths and weaknesses and key quality parameters on periodic basis. AICTE invited applications from institutions through advertisements in leading newspapers. The last date of submission of the duly filled Performance Appraisal Form to AICTE was 31st October 2003. The institutions will be assessed as per AICTE norms on the basis of documentary proofs submitted by them, which will be evaluated by the Expert Groups and in some cases may also be verified through visits of Expert Committees, if required. For each criterion, specific marks will be assigned and the institutions will be graded as Excellent, Very Good, Good, Average and Poor depending on the percentage score. Applications from 442 institutions covering 1368 programmes have been received. Till date, no institution has been graded/ranked under the system. The Grade awarded to the programmes shall be published by AICTE for the benefit of the stakeholders, in due course.

[English]

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Sir, according to the statement laid on the Table of the House by the hon. Minister, the Performance Appraisal System initiated by the AICTE is one of the series of initiatives taken by them for promotion and qualitative improvement of technical education system. Institutions will be assessed as per the AICTE norms on the basis of documentary proof submitted by them which will be evaluated by Expert Groups and, in some cases may also be verified by various Expert Committees, and they will be graded as Excellent, Very Good, Good, Average and Poor.

There are a number of allegations that, while granting licences, the visiting teams are not adhering to the criteria laid down by the AICTE and they are recommending as per their will and wish, by unfair means, thus causing fall in the standard of technical education. When there are a number of allegations on granting licences, what is the purpose of grading these institutions and what is the action which AICTE is proposing to take on the poorly performing institutions?

[Translation]

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has said that the institutes, even when they start functioning are not provided with grants. Sir, we get reverse complaints stating that they have complete infrastructure, even then their institute is not provided with grants. It means our criteria is very strict and qualitative. Therefore, I think that this allegation is wrong. If the Member has ...(*Interruptions*) If you have such an allegation about any such institution, tell me, I will get that examined. We will send special team and decide, what is true and what is not. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: The allegation could be verified by checking when the visiting teams are going, where they are seeing, what they are doing, what transport they are taking, which institutions they are inspecting. That itself will prove.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your question to the Minister?

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: What is the purpose of grading these institutions when such types of allegations are there? What action is the Government going to initiate against the poorly performing institutions?

[Translation]

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member is saying that no institute, whether a technical institute or an engineering college, is starting it. It is a matter of past. His question is regarding the performance Appraisal System. We want that our new colleges before they get accreditation from the National Board of Accreditation be brought in such a position that they get accreditation, they are brought at a preparatory level so that they may become eligible for accreditation. We have prepared a proforma for accreditation. On that basis, a special team will visit there. The team which has been

formed comprises a former Chairman of NDA or other academicians, who are knowledgeable persons. Therefore, such an allegation is not correct. Our team visits along with a number of experts, and this Appraisal System is not mandatory. We want to bring it so that after giving accreditation to them they can be brought to an international standard. National Appraisal System is preparatory to the evaluation of the accreditation system.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after such institutions are formed, they should maintain their quality and achieve an international level. For this, it is necessary that they should be guided from time to time to make such and such improvement. Therefore, we tell them that they are good but they lack such and such things. Hence, it is for their help. AICTE has asked it for helping them so that these institutions can achieve a good level in the next five years period. We are not punishing them, on the contrary we are helping them.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: While the Government has decided to grade and rank private engineering and management colleges, simultaneously there is a move by the Government to take away the autonomous rights of the prestigious institutions like the IITs and IIMs. As you know, in the centres of excellence, the IITs, which have the global reputation, the HRD Ministry has already appointed bureaucrats over top academicians taking away their autonomous rights to function. Similar is the case with the prestigious IIMs, Indian Institute of Managements, which are considered to be Indian *ratnas*. Throughout the world there is a reaction to that. The alumni association has said that if the Government proposes to take away the autonomous rights of these institutions, we are prepared to arrange finance for these prestigious IIMs. These are serious questions.

After saffronising the syllabus, after dismantling the prestigious institutes, like the ICHR, where top class historians were removed, now the target of the HRD Ministry is the prestigious IIMs and IITs.

I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps are being taken to assuage the strong feelings the world over about the Government's move and to remove the suspicion lurking in the minds of the people of this country that this Government is out to destroy the excellent centres of this country.

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it seems that the hon. Member's mind is always possessed

by evil spirit of saffronising and saffronisation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: No doubt, it is an evil spirit. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: We will drive off that evil spirit. We have solution for that also, you do not worry.

The point is that this is the policy of our Government and as long as I am the minister, I shall follow this policy that we are giving the management of all these institutions in the hands of highly professional persons. No I.I.T. or I.I.M. is headed by any politician or any person belonging to any party. All these persons are professionals—e.g. I.I.M., Ahmedabad is headed by Shri Narayan Murthy, I.I.M., Kolkata is headed by Yogi Deveshwar, I.I.M., Lucknow is headed by Shri Harishankar Singhania. Recently, we have nominated Shri Mutthaiya as the new head of I.I.M. Kozikode. No I.I.T. is there which is headed by a bureaucrat or a politician. I.I.T., Delhi is headed by Prof. M.G.K. Menon, I.I.T., Kanpur is headed by Prof. C.N.R. Rao, I.I.T., Madras is headed by Shri Kasturirangan, I.I.T. Roorkee is headed by Prof. S.K. Joshi and I.I.T. Guwahati is headed by Shri Achyut Kumar Saikiya. None of them is a politician. They are all professionals, highly qualified people, who are very eminent personalities in their respective field. But I would like to tell you that the Chairmen of the Institutes of Technology, earlier known as Regional Engineering colleges and which we have just made on national level, used to be a Minister earlier but today, their Chairman is not a Minister or a politician, they all are professionals, technologists or they are industrialists who have been related to management and technology. What could be a more mischievous propaganda than this. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: We do not find even a single Sikh ...*(Interruptions)* Why only his people are packed in the IITs? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him complete his reply.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: All are Sikhs. Those who believe in the teachings of the *Guru* are Sikhs. I am also a Sikh. Only he is not a Sikh. I am also a Sikh. So, everybody in this country respects a *Guru* ...*(Interruptions)*

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: This is a very serious charge that I am levelling against the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not permitted you to speak. Let him complete his reply.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sikh means *sishya*, I am a *sishya* of a Guru. I respect all those Gurus. I follow most of the teachings. I am also equally a Sikh.

[*Translation*]

There could not be a greater mischievous propaganda than to say that the Government is dismantling their autonomy. There is full academic autonomy to them from the Government. I would like to tell the hon. Members that if there is any case regarding interference of the Government or U.G.C. or any other body into academic autonomy, it should be brought into my notice. I can definitely assure about the autonomy of all central Universities or Central Institutes. But finances and funds are allotted by this House and this Government only. Today, the Government is spending Rs. 750 crore annually on all these IITs. We are allocating funds to every IIM. Total fund is allocated to them through the budget passed by this House, therefore, the Parliament and the representatives appointed by the Parliament have the right to know as to how the financial and administrative matters are going on there and I think that you have assigned me this job that I should always submit that in the House with accountability. I want to establish accountability in financial and administrative matters. They have full liberty in academic matters, all professionals are working in them but no one has lodged any complaint.

MR. SPEAKER: Sangtamji, would you like to ask any question?

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, please allow a discussion on this. ...(*Interruptions*) Let there be a discussion on this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Sir, I come from a very small State in the North East. My State is Nagaland. It is the second oldest State in the entire North-East. We have started with a population of 3.5 lakh. Now, we have got two million people. The literacy rate in 1961 was 23 per cent. Now, it has risen to 80 per cent. Till today, we have not got a single Engineering College.

So, I would like to know from the Government one thing. If any individual would like to start an institution, some support can be given to the individual or organisation who or which would like to start an

Engineering College. With the advancement in education, there are so many students who would like to go for engineering and medical courses. But we do not have a single institution. Of course, Assam has got all those institutions, even the IITs. We do not have any Engineering College or a Medical College. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India would support any individual or group who or which would like to start such an institution in the State of Nagaland so that people can catch on to the latest scientific and engineering developments in the country.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: There is a well-established policy. Anybody who wants to start any engineering institution has to obtain a No Objection Certificate from the Government, approach the AICTE and satisfy the norms. He will be permitted to run the institution if it falls within the norms of the AICTE. They will also help such institutions for specific programmes in specific areas. There is no bar on anybody for starting any institution—engineering or management. If the Government concerned has no objection to it and if his proposal is accepted by the Experts Committee of AICTE, there is absolutely no reason of any denial.

Scheme for Mentally Retarded and Physically Handicapped Children

*223. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any special provision in the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme for the mentally retarded and physically handicapped children;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of children in the age group of 6—14 presently availing of these facilities, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a provision in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for spending upto Rs. 1200 per

disabled child per year for education of such children.
This amount can be spent on activities like:

- (a) Early detection and identification
- (b) Functional and formal assessment
- (c) Educational placement
- (d) Aids and appliances
- (e) Support services
- (f) Teacher training
- (g) Resource support
- (h) Individualized Educational Plan (IEP)
- (i) Parental training and community mobilization
- (j) Planning & management
- (k) Strengthening of special schools
- (l) Removal Architectural barriers
- (m) Research, monitoring and evaluation
- (n) Special measures for girls with disabilities.

(c) State/UT-wise number of children approved for coverage under SSA during 2003-04 is given in the attached annexure.

Annexure

Scheme for Mentally Retarded and Physically Handicapped children

S.No.	Name of the State/UT	Number of children
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	70,081
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1516
3.	Assam	64,798
4.	Bihar	1,05,229
5.	Chhattisgarh	26,575
6.	Goa	State Plan not yet received
7.	Gujarat	38,539
8.	Haryana	28,548
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9142

1	2	3
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	11,247
11.	Jharkhand	23,984
12.	Karnataka	69,564
13.	Kerala	94,991
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1,00,369
15.	Maharashtra	3,70,839
16.	Manipur	1605
17.	Meghalaya	8150
18.	Mizoram	2682
19.	Nagaland	1741
20.	Orissa	1,20,749
21.	Punjab	28,862
22.	Rajasthan	27,960
23.	Sikkim	Data not available in State Plan
24.	Tamil Nadu	63,066
25.	Tripura	2522
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1,21,557
27.	Uttaranchal	12,671
28.	West Bengal	62,065
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	942
30.	Chandigarh	200
31.	D&N Haveli	350
32.	Daman & Diu	UT Plan not yet received
33.	Delhi	Data not available in UT Plan
34.	Lakshadweep	Data not available in UT Plan
35.	Pondicherry	1453
Total		14,71,997

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has told in his reply that an amount of Rs. 1200 is spent every year on the education of mentally retarded and physically handicapped children. Mentally retarded and handicapped children are mostly born in those families where there is malnutrition and no medical check up or there is economic backwardness. I would

like to say that the children of S.C.-S.T. live in poor families of villages. This has been mentioned in the Medical report. In his reply hon. Minister has told that an amount of Rs. 1200 is spent per child every year for their education. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask direct questions

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: I am asking questions only ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If you take this much time, how other Members will ask questions. Please ask straight question.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, an amount of Rs. 1200 is spent per handicapped child. Whether Government have formulated any such scheme to benefit the mentally retarded and handicapped children of S.C./S.T, OBC or economically backward classes because they need it the most. Have you made any such category or is there any proposal to make such category? If so, by when you will make it because the mentally retarded and handicapped children of S.C.-S.T. and O.B.C. category need it the most.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question raised by the hon. Member is very important but he has asked about the expenditure related to sarvashiksha Abhiyan. Under Sarvashiksha Abhiyan we spend Rs. 1200 on every handicapped child annually, this does not mean that an amount of Rs. 1200 is spent on every child mandatorily. This is the average amount. Suppose, there are 50 handicapped children at some place, they will be given 60 thousand rupees. The work under Sarvashiksha Abhiyan is very limited. If some child needs artificial limb he/she should be given, money should be spent for training or management of the teacher who teaches there, and money is also spent for transport needs of the children. If the child is handicapped beyond a certain limit, he/she is sent to an appropriate school. We have Social Justice and Empowerment Department which does that work. They have their own schools which involve lot of expenditure. Besides, there are many institutions which are being financed by the States and run by many voluntary organizations and they attend those institutions. But, the aim of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is to ascertain the extent of disability of a child when he is admitted to class I or class II and to render him help

accordingly. In addition to that there are so many schemes of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the poor children as well as for those who are in dire need of help. Under these schemes, priority is given to those categories which have been mentioned by you. At present, there is a Rehabilitation Council also which is working with that aim and there are many institutions in each State which work as voluntary organizations. We help those organizations and these organizations help those handicapped children. This is about a component of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

DR. (SHRIMATI) BEATRIX D'SOUZA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we should not use the word 'physically handicapped'. These days, nobody is using the word 'handicapped'. Now we are using the word 'challenged'. That is the 'politically correct' word.

[*Translation*]

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a lot of improvement has taken place since the hon. Minister has taken charge of the Ministry. But, many welfare mafia are also caught in the non-governmental organizations and institutions working in the country for the welfare of the handicapped and mentally-retarded children. I want to know about the proportion of funds being allocated by the government to them and about the way in which these institutions are being monitored. It has been found that all these fake institutions get the funds allocated, but do nothing concrete for the welfare of the children. Whether any action has been taken against those institutions this year?

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: As far as the institutions directly related to our department are concerned, Whenever our officers detect such cases or we are informed by any hon. Member about it, we investigate the matter and many of these institutions are blacklisted and legal action is also taken against some of them. If we are informed about any institution indulging in such kind of corruption and misappropriation of funds, we take immediate action against it because it is a serious crime to misappropriate the fund especially meant for the challenged children and we will take strict action in those cases. But, there is need that we must have information along with facts, so that we can investigate such cases. We have blacklisted many such institutions last year and cases have been filed against them and we will continue to do so in future also.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Vidyavahini is a good scheme for Computer Training being run by the government and we had sent a plan of that scheme to the Ministry about a year ago. We were informed after eight months that it was being conducted by IT Ministry and not by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. Today, both the Ministers are present in the House and on behalf of the people of Guna I would like to know as to which Ministry controls Vidyavahini programme otherwise we will continue to dribble like a football between both the Ministries. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, this is not connected with this question.

[Translation]

That was the previous question. This question relates to the handicapped children only.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: It is all right.

Regarding Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, it has been published in a newspaper today that a sum of 32 thousand crore rupees allocated to that scheme, has been reduced to 17 thousand crore only and from the aid of 15 thousand crore rupees given by the world Bank such type of compensation is also being taken. This is matter of grave concern because more and more investment is needed in the field of education. I would like to submit that the hon. Minister should take up this matter with the Prime Minister or the Finance Minister so that allocation for that scheme is not reduced. I would like to ask the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important question.

MR. SPEAKER: I want to go to the next question now. That is also very important.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now Q. No. 224.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The next question is also equally important.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: There is a message going on for the last one year about the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme. We are really very happy about this message. It has really created an enthusiasm. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question has not been answered. I want to know whether the allocation made for it has been reduced or not? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has appreciated the question. you can understand its meaning.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: But, what is the fact? Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want an answer. Funds are being curtailed in every field particularly in the field of education. I want to know whether funds have been curtailed or not ...*(Interruptions)* It is my direct question.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: He has suggested that there should not be any reduction in funds and I also agree with him. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: But, what is the fact? Whether any reduction has been made in the funds or not? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: When the hon. Minister says that it should not be reduced then its meaning is obvious.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please let me go to the next question.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not waste time of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Members of your party itself are asking the question. Please let them ask.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Whether any reduction has been made in the allocation for the Government are considering to do so. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: If any reduction has been made please give its reasons? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Would you like to reply to this question? Mr. Minister, has the amount been reduced or it has remained the same?

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Minister is on his legs please sit down.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: All the projects received from the State Governments have been accepted therefore we have received no complaint from any state regarding reduction in budget allocation. Funds are being allocated to all the States. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Whether there is any proposal for reduction in this regard? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We want protection. This is just a mockery of the Parliament. ...(*Interruptions*) His question was whether the allotted amount had been reduced. ...(*Interruptions*) He would have said: 'no'. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: No complaint has been received in this regard so far. There is no such complaint. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask a question.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: My question is very simple. I am not asking which State has submitted what sort of proposal. My question is this. Has the amount allocated to the tune of Rs. 17,000 crore been reduced or not? That is all. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister a question has been asked?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: If you are interested in answer please listen to me what I say.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, Shri Dasmunsi has asked you a question whether the allocation given to his Department for this purpose has been reduced or it has remained the same.

[*Translation*]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Funds are allotted every year. Funds allocated according to the expenditure of previous allocation and the need of the State.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have to listen to what he wants to say. If I do not listen to him, how can I protect you?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You must listen to reply.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Allocation for five years is for five year which is allocated separately every year. Allocation for the current year is made on the basis of demand received from the state. ...(*Interruptions*) States have been advised to do so. All the projects received from them have been approved. And the funds are allotted accordingly.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: What is this nuisance? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Sir, the Minister has said that the allocation is made for five years. If in one year the allocation is less, he can utilise that for the next year.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No, no.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: That is what the Minister has said. If you do not agree with his reply, you can use any other device to raise this question in the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the question was so specific. We have asked whether the amount of Rs. 17,000 crore has been reduced or not. We have not got the reply. Why is he not answering that?
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: He can repeat what you have just said. ...(Interruptions) Only say that no reduction will be made in budget allocation.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is expected to know the allocation made to his Department. The question is very simple. If a certain amount was allocated, whether it was reduced or not? he should give an answer in 'Yes' or 'No'. Why should he go on saying what was the demand from the states, States have been demanding and he has been doing it? The only thing is that he should know about the allocation of his Department. If certain allocation was made in the Budget, whether it has been reduced or not. The young Parliamentarian has asked this question. The hon. Minister should say whether it has been reduced or not and if this has been reduced, how much has been reduced.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, the money is allocated for five years and it is not expected to be spent in one year. This scheme is being implemented by the States. They send their projects, those projects are approved by us and then we give the money.
...(Interruptions) This will be only when figures for certain number of years, say, for two years, three years, etc., have been collected then only the question arises that the entire money allotted for the plan has been utilised or has not been utilised or has been reduced or has not been reduced. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: Mr. Speaker Sir, it is not only at the end of the budgetary period. He must know whether this allocation has been reduced or not. He should say that he has got no communication for reducing the allocation; whether the Finance Ministry has given any notice to him or not that his budget allocation has been reduced. The question is like this. This is a very simple question. He should say that he has no information whether the allocation has been reduced or not.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Even in the current year, what I have been saying is. ...(Interruptions) Please bear with me. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to him.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: All the money which has been required by the States and up to the limit of the allocation whatever demand will be made, we will fulfil it. This is our commitment. What I am saying is that today if the demand comes for half of the money or three-fourth of the money or 75 per cent of the money, that money has been given. For the remaining portion the demands will come and we will pay it. The question is that this money cannot be thrown like this. There must be a demand. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, is it the way to reply to this? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir this is not a proper reply.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, I would like to ask a question to Mr. Minister.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Minister is misleading the House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down, I would like to ask a question to Mr. Minister.

[English]

Mr. Minister, for my information I would like to know, on this particular budget whether every year the provision is

made or not. If the provision is made only for five years, the matter is different. If you have information only about five years, the matter is also different. But if every year the allocation is made, the Members have every right to ask whether that allocation has been reduced or not.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, I have said that there has been no reduction for this year. They are asking for five years. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: They are asking for this year. There is no reduction. The reply is received and the Question Hour is over.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has replied. The Question Hour is over now.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Security of Ports

*224. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to raise a separate security force for ensuring proper safety and security in ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has appointed a consultant to decide on the modalities in this regard; and

(d) if so, the time by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Inhuman Treatment of Hindus in Bangladesh

*225. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of inhuman treatment meted out to Hindus in Bangladesh have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to prevent the same and the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (c) Reports of violence and atrocities against minorities in Bangladesh are received from time to time. The primary responsibility for the protection of the life, liberty and property of all citizens of Bangladesh, including minorities, rests with the Government of Bangladesh. However, it has been conveyed at the highest levels of the Government that such incidents have an adverse impact on public sentiment in India should be strictly dealt with. The Government of Bangladesh have stated that they are committed to safeguarding minority rights; that many of the incidents are not communal in nature and arise from disputes of a political or private nature and that stern action would be taken against the culprits.

[*English*]

Review of Integrated Child Development Scheme

*226. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any review of the implementation of Integrated Child Development Scheme in the country;

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

(c) the result achieved during the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether the implementation of this scheme is poor in the KBK districts of Orissa;

(e) if so, whether any step has been taken by the Government to revamp the implementation of ICDS in such districts; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b)

Yes, Sir. A gist of main findings of the last evaluation of Integrated Child Development Service Scheme conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research in 1998 is at statement-I.

(c) With concerted efforts, the supplementary nutrition beneficiaries have increased from 290 lakh in March 2001 to 388 lakh in March 2003 with beneficiaries per Anganwadi Centre increasing from 70 in March 2001 to 83 in March 2003. State-wise number of operational ICDS Projects and Anganwadi Centres and number of beneficiaries covered is at statement-B.

(d) to (f) No Sir. As reported by the State Government, more than 6.96 lakh beneficiaries are being covered under the scheme in the KBK districts of Orissa.

Improvement is a continuous process. Several steps have been taken in the past few years to make the delivery of services more effective and result oriented which include, decentralization of Medicine Kits and Pre-School Education Kits at State level; effective training of ICDS functionaries and Anganwadi Workers; improvement in the working conditions of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers and substantial increase in their honoraria; constant emphasis on States to make adequate budget provision in the State Plan Outlays for supplementary nutrition to all eligible beneficiaries, etc.

Statement I

Gist of Findings of NCAER Survey

Nationwide survey

- Conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER)
- Covering 60,000 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs)
- Through 60 Networking Institutions (NWIs)
- Data collection during 1998-99
- Report submitted in July 2001

Infrastructure and Inventories

- Most of the AWCs across the country were located within accessible distance (100-200 metre) from beneficiary households. Another 10 per cent were about 150-200 metre way. Rest were beyond 200 metre. Thus, the factor of distance of beneficiary households from the AWC was unlikely to affect the attendance at the AWCs during inclement weather;

- Only 30 per cent of AWCs functioned from their own buildings. In Kerala, Mizoram, Orissa, Sikkim and Tamil Nadu however more than 60 per cent of AWCs functioned from own buildings;
- Most of the AWCs except those in Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Orissa functioned from community buildings;
- Over 40 per cent of the anganwadi centers were housed in pucca structure. In Delhi, Haryana, Orissa, Gujarat, Punjab, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu this percentage was over 50;
- More than half of the AWCs reported adequate indoor and outdoor space for cooking;
- Toilet facilities at the AWCs across the country were dismal (17% on the average);
- More than 75 per cent of the AWCs reported possessing weighing scales. About 1/3rd of the AWCs reported adequacy of learning kits with wide variation ranging from 12% to 70%;
- On an average 26 per cent of the AWCs reported using medical kit with wide inter state variations; a low of 30 per cent in Arunachal Pradesh and Goa and a high of 80% in Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Karnataka and Mizoram;
- Only about 30% AWCs reported adequacy of NHE material with wide variations ranging from a low of 8% in Uttar Pradesh to 58% in Goa.

Profile of Functionaries

- On average more than 90 per cent of the AWCs had functionaries in-position;
- Nearly 60 per cent of AWWs were resided within the vicinity of the AWCs, except in West Bengal, Tripura, Assam, Delhi and Southern States. Residing within the vicinity of Anganwadi gives them adequate time for dispensing services and building rapport with the community;
- Nearly 50 per cent of the AWWs were matriculate and above. Thirty percent AWWs were educated up to middle class and another 15 per cent up to the primary level. Among the major states Gujarat and Rajasthan reported lowest percentage of matriculate functionaries.
- A large proportion of AWWs received any type of training (nearly 85%), in service training is reported to be quite low (less than 30%);

- About 40 per cent of the AWWs' time was spent on feeding and related record keeping. Nearly 9 per cent of their time was spent on non-ICDS related activities;
- A higher percentage of AWCs in Orissa, Arunachal Pradesh and Punjab have reported up to date maintenance of various records. However, in some of the states the record maintenance pertaining to growth monitoring and referral was found to be not satisfactory;
- While most Anganwadi workers were regular in record keeping, they complained of complicated, too many registers.

Functioning of AWCs

- In an AWC, on the average 112 children (55 female and 54 male) were eligible of which 65 per cent were registered. Of 20 eligible pregnant and nursing mothers, nearly 3/4th were registered at the AWC;
- About 60 per cent of the children were enrolled for PSE with wide inter state variations;
- Around 62 per cent of the registered women availed of SNP and 61 per cent available of the antenatal/postnatal services. Of the 54 eligible children for PSE, 33 children (over 60%) were enrolled;
- On average, an AWC functioned for 24 days in a month and for 260 minutes per day;
- More than 80 per cent of the AWWs received support from ICDS supervisors. ANMs, also provided support to 61 per cent of the AWWs in the delivery of health services. Interaction with the CDPO and LHV was dismal;
- Referral System was found to be quite weak in many states and needs a review.

Utilisation of Services

- Supplementary nutrition is provided for more than 21 days in a month in nearly 3/4th of the AWCs, with considerable interstate variations;
- In 70 per cent of the Centres children consumed food on the spot at the anganwadi centre with Delhi reporting 20% of the children consuming food on the spot and Bihar reporting 53%;
- 1/3rd of mothers consumed food at AWCs. Except Mizoram in north eastern states higher

percentage of mothers consumed food on the spot;

- On the average, 41 per cent of the AWWs maintained Community Growth Charts;
- Most of the children were immunized about 3.3 time in the last 3 months prior to the Survey, compared to 2.6 times for women;
- Seventy four per cent of children were immunized against the six major diseases namely, polio, diphtheria, pertusis, tetanus, measles and tuberculosis;
- On an average about 90 per cent of the women who had reported child birth during last one year had received the Tetanus Toxoid vaccination;
- Nearly 43 per cent of beneficiary women had availed of health check-up. 24 per cent of women have availed of the referral services;
- AWWs covered more than 61 per cent of the mothers for postnatal services;
- Only 11 per cent of the households reported watching the audio-visual programmes.
- Per cent mothers reporting Anti Natal Care (ANC) coverage with AWCs varies from 67 per cent (minimum) in Meghalaya to 99 per cent in Orissa (maximum). AWCs have played a significant role in creating awareness about ANC in most of the state;
- The ICDS beneficiaries are poorest of the poor and they cannot always afford deliveries at institutions. Only in Assam (31%), Kerala (95%), Karnataka (63%), Meghalaya (27%), Madhya Pradesh (65%), and West Bengal (48%). The percentage is higher amongst the ICDS beneficiaries as compared to NFHS-II and RHS-RCH.
- Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) per 1000 live births is lower in ICDS areas as compared to ICDS+Non-ICDS Areas (NFHS-I & II) except Bihar where IMR is 87 in ICDS area against 89.20 (NFHS-I) & 72.90 (NFHS-II).

Community Participation

- The ability of the ICDS programme to attract a high degree of community involvement has been poor, except in a few states. Support from Panchayat members has also been negligible;

- A high percentage of AWWs and community leaders were not in favour of ICDS functioning under the Panchayats;
- Community support from mothers and family members of beneficiaries was generally confined to the period for which their children derived benefits from the programme;
- Survey results revealed that both the community and Panchayats made significant contribution in providing space and other infrastructural support to AWCs. They have also helped in identifying and enlisting beneficiaries for the programme;
- Community leaders were generally satisfied about the functioning of the AWCs (more than 80%) while more than 70% found the programme beneficial to the community;
- A higher percentage of beneficiary mothers provided support to AWCs in respect of immunisation and SNP. Participation of other beneficiary women and adolescent girls in the AWC activities was dismal;

Perception of Households:

- Majority of the households was satisfied with the delivery of ICDS services;
- Around 87 per cent of the households were satisfied with the behaviour of the anganwadi functionaries;
- About 60 per cent of the household's reported smooth enrolment from PSE to formal education;

- Indicators of Women empowerment such as time devoted to childcare, decisions regarding own health and child, health show a positive impact of ICDS programme on women empowerment, However, in regard to financial decision their involvement was limited.

Overall performance of ICDS (Based on Factor Analysis):

The overall performance of the programme has been analysed based on the components of infrastructure facilities, profile of functionaries, functioning of the AWCs, utilisation of service community participation and household's perception regarding AWC services.

Top 5 States: Goa, Gujarat, Orissa, Maharashtra and Mizoram:

Components responsible for better performance:

- Profile of functionaries, functioning of AWCs, Delivery of Services. Except in Mizoram and Orissa, where community participation and infrastructure facilities were significant.

Bottom 5 States: Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Manipur:

Components contributing to poor performance:

- Poor functioning of the AWCs, delivery of services, inadequate community participation and infrastructure & inventories.

Statement II

Sl. No.	State/UT	2000-01			2001-02			2002-03		
		No. of Operational ICDS Projects	Anganwadis	No. of Beneficiaries*	No. of Operational ICDS Projects	Anganwadis	No. of Beneficiaries*	No. of Operational ICDS Projects	Anganwadis	No. of Beneficiaries*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	251	32215	2457626	251	36140	1934464	350	52419	2795798
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	46	1214	74529	49	1637	101353	56	1319	72318
3.	Assam	107	14846	807460	107	13149	355904	151	19719	831810
4.	Bihar	171	Not Available		171	17683	278099	171	17683	278099
5.	Chhattisgarh	152	19473	1520722	152	19965	1167427	152	20146	1389748
6.	Goa	11	1017	44666	11	1017	47145	11	1011	48855

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
7.	Gujarat	203	30614	1329373	218	31131	1555523	227	32830	16118257
8.	Haryana	116	13543	1158890	116	13545	1225810	116	13546	1222269
9.	Himachal Pradesh	72	7123	337237	72	7121	337938	72	7314	335242
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	113	6261	197849	113	10049	135620	120	10125	260390
11.	Jharkhand	152	Not Available		152	14549	627935	152	11372	181980
12.	Karnataka	185	40093	2840767	185	40133	2880394	185	40285	3018277
13.	Kerala	137	18895	499203	163	22637	905112	163	24289	1025459
14.	Madhya Pradesh	269	35052	1161653	332	45946	3030525	336	47229	3465838
15.	Maharashtra	268	44980	3763422	268	44896	3619140	363	56235	4527868
16.	Manipur	34	4128	2155	34	4376	187459	34	4371	187459
17.	Meghalaya	32	2155	160398	32	2165	172751	32	2200	218738
18.	Mizoram	21	1273	113310	21	1283	104598	21	1193	122093
19.	Nagaland	52	2556	265743	52	2569	267530	52	2575	269603
20.	Orissa	281	26357	445506	308	29611	5024331	308	31209	2680169
21.	Punjab	142	12785	517483	142	13540	623206	142	14017	555732
22.	Rajasthan	191	26477	1412063	257	34723	1855746	257	35457	2910077
23.	Sikkim	5	472	36886	5	494	38919	5	492	37022
24.	Tamil Nadu	431	31618	1702507	431	31712	1472370	431	31713	1667287
25.	Tripura	31	3493	120968	31	3499	113627	39	3553	134542
26.	Uttar Pradesh	510	53141	4250924	518	54402	4578111	518	56871	4580532
27.	Uttaranchal	54	Not Available		54	3811	240681	54	3971	102387
28.	West Bengal	302	40543	3257583	318	38407	4005576	340	51700	3636197
29.	A&N Islands	5	425	27651	5	429	32110	5	429	32110
30.	Chandigarh	3	300	28041	3	300	34474	3	300	36948
31.	Delhi	28	3842	430785	28	3842	485672	28	3842	485672
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	125	14921	1	125	11996	1	138	13099
33.	Daman & Diu	2	77	6724	2	77	6724	2	87	10419
34.	Lakshadweep	1	74	4478	1	74	4478	1	74	4863
35.	Pondicherry	5	677	45906	5	677	47117	5	677	46623
All India		4384	475844	29037429	4608	545714	37509865	4903	600391	38783760

*Children below six years of age and pregnant & lactating mothers.

Reforms in Ports

*227. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government is contemplating to introduce reforms in Ports in the country;

(b) if so, the nature of proposed reforms and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the working group of Planning Commission has made some recommendations in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) to (d) Administrative reforms in the major ports are carried out as part of an ongoing process to improve management practices, operational efficiency, cost effectiveness and service quality. The Working Group for the Port Sector for Tenth Five Year Plan (2002-2007) has identified administrative reforms in major ports with a view to commercialize/corporatise the port operations to meet the emerging competitive environment as a key result area which needs to be addressed and strategy formulated. The Working Group has recommended measures, *inter-alia*, aimed at improvements in equipment productivity, equipment maintenance, disposal of surplus equipment, labour productivity, optimisation of work force, training and optimal use of information technology.

Website of New Drugs

*228. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether website regarding new drugs has not been updated by the Drug Controller General for more than six months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the website is updated on a daily basis as is done all over the world?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Website www.cdsc.nic.in was created in the year 2002 for information on various issues pertaining to Central

Drug Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) including the list of approved New Drugs. Many of the topics at this site are under construction. However, the approved List of New Drugs from January, 1999 to November, 2003 has already been placed on the site.

Efforts are now being made to update the Website regarding New Drugs on a monthly or quarterly basis.

[Translation]

Losses of Public Sector Telecom Companies

*229. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector telecom companies are incurring huge financial losses ever since the private companies entered the telecom sector;

(b) if so, quantum of losses incurred alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to make up the losses?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Sir, the public sector telecom service providers viz. BSNL and MTNL are not incurring financial losses although there has been a declining trend in the profit margins of these companies. The net profits of MTNL and BSNL for the years 2001-02 and 2002-03 are as follows:

	Net Profit in crores of Rupees	
	2001-02	2002-03
PSU		
MTNL	1300.68	877.15
BSNL	6312.17	1444.45

However, M/s ITI Ltd., the public sector telecom production company has been incurring financial losses.

(b) During 2002-2003 and in the first two quarters of the current year, M/s ITI Ltd. incurred loss of Rs. 375 crores and 269 crores respectively. The main reasons for losses are the surplus manpower, shift in market preference from fixed lines to mobile lines, interest burden on outstanding borrowings, and the fact that the company did not switchover in time to manufacturing the newer types of equipment.

(c) The measures being taken to make up for the losses of M/s ITI Ltd. are as follows:

- (i) To reduce the wage and salary bill under the latest Voluntary Retirement Scheme that closed on 25.11.2003, a total of 3,721 employees out of the 11,000 surplus manpower are being released.
- (ii) A Revival Plan submitted by the company for financial assistance of Rs. 793.17 crores is under consideration of the Government.
- (iii) Rs. 100 crores and Rs. 200 crores were infused as additional equity in ITI towards redeemable cumulative preference shares by MTNL and BSNL during March 2002 and March 2003 respectively.

[English]

Group of Ministers on Telecom Matters

*230. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the recommendations/ observations submitted recently by the Group of Ministers on Telecom matters; and

(b) the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Salient features of the recommendations/observations of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on Telecom Matters, which was constituted with the approval of the Prime Minister on 10th September 2003, with reference to each of the Terms of Reference are given below:

(1) *Release of adequate spectrum needed for the growth of telecom sector:*

- (i) Adequate spectrum be made available for the unimpeded growth of telecom services.
- (ii) The Ministry of Finance will provide necessary budgetary support to Ministry of Defence for modernization of their existing equipment to facilitate release of required spectrum.
- (iii) The Department of Telecom and Ministry of Finance would discuss and finalise spectrum

pricing formula, which will include incentives for efficient use of spectrum as well as disincentive for sub-optimal usages.

- (iv) The allotment of additional spectrum be transparent, fair and equitable, avoiding monopolistic situation regarding spectrum allotment/usage.
- (v) The long term (5/10 years) spectrum requirements along with timeframes would also be worked out by the Department of Telecom (DOT).

(2) *Measures for ensuring adequate resources for the realization of the New Telecom Policy-99 (NTP-99) targets of Rural Telephony*

- (i) To enable Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to expand its rural telecom network, the existing reliefs and concessions will be extended to BSNL on a year to year basis, after reviewing the budgetary position before the commencement of each financial year.
- (ii) Matter relating to DOT's proposal for carrying out the amendment of the Indian Telegraph Act through Ordinance for the purpose of setting up of Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund may be placed before the Cabinet.
- (iii) Strengthening of USO Fund be further worked out by coordinating with the Ministry/Organisation concerned based on models, which will involve leveraging USO Fund for achieving higher levels of progress in rural telephony.
- (iv) DOT should prioritise/work out guidelines for the use of the USO Fund for making appropriate provisions for expenditure on satellite based Village Public Telephones (VPTs).

(3) *Enactment of the Convergence Bill:*

Keeping in view the observations of the Standing Committee and the views expressed during the inter-ministerial consultations, it was decided to seek directions of the Cabinet in the matter.

(4) *To Chart the course to a Universal Licence:*

- (i) The scope of NTP-99 may be enhanced to provide for licensing of Unified Access Service for basic and cellular license services and Unified Licensing comprising all telecom services.

- (ii) The recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) with regard to implementation of the unified Access Licensing Regime for basic and cellular services may be approved.
- (iii) The recommendations of TRAI in regard to the course of action to be adopted subsequently in regard to the implementation of the fully Unified License/Authorisation Regime may be approved.
- (iv) The recommendations of TRAI in regard to additional entry fee payable by basic service operators for providing Wireless in Local Loop (Mobile) [WLL(M)] service may be accepted.
- (v) Finance Ministry would address the difficulties of the cellular operators, if any, separately and appropriately.
- (vi) If new services are introduced as a result of technological advancements, which require additional spectrum over and above the spectrum already allotted/contracted, allocation of such spectrum will be considered on payment of additional fee or charges; these will be determined as per guidelines to be evolved in consultation with TRAI.

(5) Enforcing limited mobility within the Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) for WLL(M) services of basic operators:

Steps should be taken to ensure the enforcement of the Telecom Dispute Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) judgement in regard to restricting mobility within the SDCA.

(6) Appraise Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limits in the telecom sector and give recommendations thereon:

The matter be placed before the Cabinet for taking a final view in the matter.

(7) Mergers and acquisitions in the telecom sector:

Intra-Circle mergers and acquisitions as well as transfer of licences may be allowed subject to there being not less than three operators in a Service Area to ensure healthy competition. The guidelines relating to Spectrum allocation would be applicable for the merged entity.

(8) Imposition of trade tax on telecom services:

The matter being sub-judice, the decision of the Hon'ble Supreme Court may be awaited.

(b) The recommendations of the GoM were approved by the Cabinet in respect of six issues covered under para (1), (2), (4) (5), (7) and (8) above. The Cabinet directed re-examination of the issues relating to Communication Convergence Bill and FDI in Telecom Sector. The salient points of action taken thereafter, are given below:

- (i) A Task Force was constituted to address spectrum related issues. The Defence Services have agreed to immediately coordinate and release additional spectrum of 5 to 10 Mega Hertz (MHz) in 1800 MHz frequency band, for most of the cities.
- (ii) Ordinance to set up the Universal Service Obligation Fund has been promulgated on 5.11.2003.
- (iii) In the matter of Unified Licence Regime, an Addendum to NTP-99 was issued on 11.11.2003 to enhance the scope of NTP-99 to provide for licensing of Unified Access (Basic and Cellular) Services under one License and Unified Licensing comprising all Telecom Services. Guidelines for Unified Access (Basic and Cellular) Services Licence were also issued on 11.11.2003. Subsequently, most of the Basic Service Operators who applied for migration were permitted to migrate to Unified Access Services Licence (UASL). An amount of Rs. 2168 crores was collected from these operators. In addition, some operators applied for new UASL. Till date, 19 applications for new UASL have been received and 12 Letters of Intent have been issued.
- (iv) Notices were issued to M/s. Reliance Infocom and M/s. Reliance Telecom on 3.11.2003 directing the companies to discontinue the features of their service, which blur distinction between Limited Mobility permitted to the companies and the full mobility permitted to the Cellular Operators. The companies were given 30 days time for compliance. However, in the meanwhile, the companies applied for migration to UASL and were permitted migration in terms of the guidelines issued on 11.11.2003. The amount collected from these companies for migration to UASL is included in the total amount mentioned in para (iii) above.

[Translation]

Central Legislation for Medical Services

*231. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering enacting a Central legislation prescribing the minimum standards for the quality of medical services rendered by private clinics, nursing homes and other medical institutions and also for providing minimum infrastructural facilities and minimum standards for the employees working there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to form Accreditation Councils at the State level

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the concrete steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) Health, being a State subject, is primarily the responsibility of State Governments to regulate the functioning of private and public hospitals as well as nursing homes. Some of the States like NCT of Delhi, Sikkim, Assam, Madhya Pradesh etc. have necessary legislation in this regard. The Central Government is considering to enact a legislation prescribing standards and specifications that will stipulate minimum standards for hospitals, nursing homes and other clinical establishments. The proposed enactment would lay down norms for assessment, accreditation, inspection, certification, regulation of such clinical establishments as well as maintenance of records. In the proposed Legislation, inclusion of a provision for establishment of Council at States level to regulate activities of clinical establishments is also under consideration.

[English]

Extradition Treaties

*232. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to sign extradition treaties with several countries particularly with Middle East and African countries;

(b) if so, the names of such countries; and

(c) the details of the steps initiated by the Government in this direction?

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

(b) Based on initial interaction with various Middle East and African countries, Government proposes to sign extradition treaties with Bahrain, Egypt, Ghana, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Nigeria, Oman, Qatar, Senegal, Seychelles, Sudan, Uganda and Yemen. Government's policy is to sign extradition treaties with as many countries as possible.

(c) The foreign Governments concerned are approached through diplomatic channels for the negotiation and conclusion of extradition treaties.

Distant Education Centres

*233. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether there has been an unprecedented rise in the number of distant education centres attached to various universities and professional institutes in the country during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the Government is satisfied with the quality of education and training in these education centres; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to regulate the centres and their course contents?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), there has been considerable increase in the number of Distance Education Centres established in various Universities and Institutions in the country during the last three years. A list of Universities/Institutes, excluding IGNOU and the ten State Open Universities, where such centres have been established during the last three years is given in the enclosed statement.

The Distance Education Council (DEC), a Statutory Body under IGNOU Act has taken a number of initiatives to maintain the quality of education and training through distance mode by these newly established centres which include, *inter-alia* approval of programmes/courses prior to their commencement, financial and professional support to quality distance education, besides evolving institutional mechanism for maintenance of quality in the system and accreditation of Institutions. A joint letter signed by Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC), Chairman, All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) and Chairman, DEC has been issued to all the Vice-Chancellors & Heads of the Institutions of Higher Education across the country on May 13, 2003. In this letter, suggestions have been made for maintaining the Quality of Distance Education and enhancing its standards. The UGC has also issued directive and regulation prohibiting off-campus private franchise by conventional Universities and setting up of off-campus centre(s) and/or the Study Centre(s) by a private University during the first five years of its coming into existence.

Statement

Universities/Institutions which have established Distance Education Centres during the last three years

Sl.No.	Name of the University/Institute
1	2
1.	Bundelkhand University, Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh
2.	NALSAR University Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh
3.	Periyar University, Salem, Tamilnadu
4.	Fakir Mohan University, Balasore, Orissa
5.	Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalam, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh
6.	Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh
7.	Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh, Assam
8.	Gandhigram Rural Institute, Deemed University, Gandhigram, Tamilnadu
9.	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar, Punjab
10.	Kuvempu University, Shimoga, Karnataka

1	2
11.	IASE Deemed University, Gandhigra, Sardarshar, Rajasthan
12.	Amravati University, Amravati, Maharashtra
13.	Baba Farid University of Health Science, Faridkot, Punjab
14.	Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra, Ranchi, Jharkhand
15.	Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar University, Agra, Uttar Pradesh
16.	Gulbarga University, Gulbarga, Karnataka
17.	Kannada University, Hampi, Karnataka
18.	Kannur University, Kannur, Kerala
19.	Kumaun University, Nainital, Uttaranchal
20.	Mangalore University, Mangalore, Karnataka
21.	Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, Rajasthan
22.	Nagarjuna University, Nagarjuna Nagar, Andhra Pradesh
23.	North Orissa University, Mayurbhanj, Orissa
24.	Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology, Bhubaneshwar, Orissa
25.	Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkatta, West Bengal
26.	Rajasthan Vidyapeeth, Udaipur, Rajasthan
27.	Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeetha, Tirupathi, Andhra Pradesh
28.	Sai Chandrashekhar Saraswathi Visva Mahavidyala, Kanchipuram, Tamilnadu
29.	Shanmugha Arts Science and Technology Institute, Thanjavur, Tamilnadu
30.	Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded, Maharashtra
31.	Thapar Institute of Engineering & Technology, Patiala, Punjab
32.	Tilka Manjhi Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur, Bihar

1	2
33.	IIIT & Management Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
34.	University of Kalyanai, Kalyani, West Bengal
35.	University of Lucknow, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
36.	University of Mysore, Mysore, Karnataka
37.	VBS Purvanchal University, Jaunpur, Uttar Pradesh
38.	Gurukul Kangri Vishwavidyalaya, Haridwar, Uttaranchal
39.	Jadavpur University, Jadavpur, West Bengal

Amendment of Port Acts

*234. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is planning to amend the Major Port Trust Act, 1963 and Indian Ports Act, 1908 to minimise controls and provide autonomy to the corporatised ports in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government has also decided to review the Babu Rajeev Committee recommendations; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) Government has introduced the Major Port Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 2001 in the Lok Sabha on 31.8.2001, which seeks to amend the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 to enable the Government to corporatise the existing major ports. The Bill also seeks to make applicable certain provisions of the Indian Ports Act, 1908 to the corporatised major ports to facilitate their day-to-day functioning. The Bill after its introduction was referred to the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism (now the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture). The Committee has since made its recommendations on the proposed amendments vide its Sixty Second Reports, which was presented to Rajya Sabha on 19.2.2003 and laid on the Table of Lok

Sabha on 19.2.2003. Government's views on the recommendations made by the Committee are under finalization. The prime objective of corporatization of Major Ports is to grant more operational autonomy to enable them to function in the present competitive environment.

(c) and (d) Indian Ports Association (IPA) has been asked to study the recommendations of the Babu Rajeev Committee and to come up with the items that need to be followed up and implemented.

Closure of Post Offices

*235. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

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

(a) whether due to rapid improvement in banking sector, telephone facilities and other means of communication, the work load on post offices has considerably come down in urban as well as in rural areas;

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

(c) if so, the number of post offices so far closed down by the Government or recommended for closure during the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to streamline the postal services to ensure that minimum loss is suffered by the Government on this count?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) Post Offices provide a variety of services in terms of various categories of mails as well as financial and insurance services. While the traffic in some areas has reduced, workload in others has increased.

Studies are undertaken periodically to assess the manpower requirement in post offices by carrying out review of establishment of post offices, based on approved work norms to make necessary adjustments in deployment of staff.

On occasion Post Offices are closed down for varying reasons such as non-availability of suitable accommodation, the need to rationalize the existing

network for optimising available resources, without affecting access to postal facilities, and to redeploy in newly developed urban areas those unviable offices located in close proximity to other post offices. Details of post offices closed down during the last three years is given in the statement enclosed.

Department has introduced a number of premium, value added services and financial services to cater to the emerging needs of customers. Efforts are being made to exploit the retailing strength of the postal network by introducing more products and services besides rationalizing the existing network and introducing more cost effective means of providing postal services.

Statement

Number of Post Offices closed during the last three years

S.No.	Name of Circle	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Nil	2	2
2.	Assam	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Bihar	Nil	Nil	Nil
4.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	1	Nil
5.	Delhi	Nil	Nil	4
6.	Gujarat	1	6	1
7.	Haryana	Nil	2	Nil
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil	Nil	Nil
10.	Jharkhand	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.	Karnataka	1	9	2
12.	Kerala	1	1	Nil
13.	Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	9
14.	Maharashtra	2	Nil	17
15.	North East	Nil	Nil	Nil
16.	Orissa	Nil	Nil	4
17.	Punjab	2	4	Nil
18.	Rajasthan	Nil	6	4
19.	Tamil Nadu	1	1	2
20.	Uttar Pradesh	Nil	1	Nil
21.	Uttaranchal	Nil	Nil	1
22.	West Bengal	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total		8	33	46

Integrated Transport System

*236. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to develop an integrated transport system between coastal shipping and inland water transport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said system is likely to be operational?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) No Sir. At present there is no proposal to develop an integrated transport system between coastal shipping and inland water transport.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Mashelkar Committee

*237. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether the Mashelkar Committee has recommended to bring Ayurveda products claiming dietary supplement properties under the drug law;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The recommendations made by the Mashelkar Committee *inter-alia* include suitable changes in the Drugs & Cosmetics Act and the Rules framed thereunder to provide for a clear demarcation so that only such products as are used for medicinal purposes (prophylactic or therapeutic) are licensed and sold as proprietary medicines, separate regulations defining dietary supplement, laying criteria for permissible limits of ingredients, procedure for evaluation of safety and efficacy, information to consumers and provisions related to their supplements.

The Committee has submitted its report in November, 2003.

Patents for Traditional Medicines

*238. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether western drugs manufacturing companies have applied for patents of a number of traditional medicines produced in India and its neighbouring countries;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been signed or a consensus reached between the SAARC countries to guard their traditional knowledge of medicines;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Samples search carried out in April, 2003, on the patents filed in United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), European Patent Office (EPO), United Kingdom Patent Office (UKPO) revealed more than 15,000 patent references of traditional medicines including those of India and neighbouring countries. Specific information relating to applications filed by Western drug manufacturing countries for patents of traditional medicines produced in India and its neighbouring countries is not maintained centrally.

(b) and (c) SAARC Traditional Knowledge Task Force has been constituted on classification of SAARC Traditional Knowledge by the SAARC Secretariat. The recommendation made in the SAARC Health Ministers Conference held from 13th to 15th November, 2003, in New Delhi *inter-alia*, included regional cooperation for preservation and protection of traditional medicinal knowledge.

(d) Government have taken up a TKDL project to prevent misappropriation of knowledge on traditional medicine by others. The first phase of Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) containing 36,000 Ayurvedic formulations has been completed and the work in regard to second phase is underway. The work has also been started for Traditional Knowledge Digital Library of Unani and Sidhha. The access to TKDL shall be provided to the International Patent Offices after getting Non-Disclosure Agreement and this will help in preventing piracy of traditional knowledge of medicine by others.

Availability of Safe Injections

*239. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the views of WHO's experts that three injections out of every four in India and other South Asian Countries are made of unsterilised needles exposing countless people to the risk of a number of infections as reported, in the Telegraph dated November 7, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure zero risk injection to the people?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Telegraph in its National edition of 7th November, 2003 published the article entitled 'Injections unsafe in India: WHO'. According to this article, India amongst 7 other countries in the South East Asia Region of WHO where 75% of the injections are made with needles that have already been used to inject other people and not been properly sterilized.

In India the issue of unsafe injection practices and remedy thereof have been receiving highest priority and in order to assess the real situation a nationwide study was conducted. According to the study, 23.8% of injection equipment were of doubtful sterility and reuse of same syringe and needle accounted for 16.2%.

(c) The Government has initiated following steps to ensure the zero risk injection to the people:

- (i) Standard Operative Procedures on Hospital Associated infections have been made available to all State AIDS Control Societies for further dissemination to various Government hospitals and clinics.
- (ii) Inclusion of use of sterilized syringes and needles in all awareness campaigns of National AIDS Control Programme.
- (iii) Training of medical and paramedical workers on hospital infection control measures including safe injection practices.
- (iv) Supply of needle cutters to various Government hospitals through State AIDs Control Societies.

(v) Under the immunization programme to ensure proper sterilization of syringes and needles, pressure cooker sterilizers, stoves, assistance to procure fuel, glass syringes and needles are being supplied to all Government health facilities of States and Union territories.

(vi) Training on safe injection practices is being imparted as a part of regular training of all health functionaries.

(vii) Under the Pilot Project for introduction of Hepatitis-B Vaccine, all vaccines are being administered using Auto Disable Syringes in the slums of 15 Cities and in 32 districts. Government is also actively considering introduction of Auto Disable Syringes for the Immunization Programme in a phased manner.

Hepatitis Cases

*240. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

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

(a) whether Hepatitis is more dangerous than AIDS as reported in the 'Hindu' dated November 23, 2003;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether no patent medicine is available for Hepatitis-C in the country and its treatment is costly;

(d) if so, whether the Government has assessed the exact number of patients suffering from Hepatitis-C;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Union Government has included Hepatitis in the National Programme; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (g) The 'Hindu' newspaper on 23rd November, 2003, reported that Hepatitis is more dangerous than AIDS. It is true that the person infected with AIDS remains infected for life and the disease can only be controlled. According to ICMR, Hepatitis-B infection is several times more infectious than AIDS.

There are five common types of Hepatitis i.e. A, B, C, D, and E. Hepatitis-A is benign as compared to the other types. Out of the remaining four i.e. Hepatitis B, C, D and E, only for Hepatitis-B there is a vaccine. For Hepatitis-C though there is no vaccine, there is a treatment with Interferon and Ribavirin which costs about Rs. 13,000/- (Rupees thirteen thousand) per week or atleast Rs. 2.00 lakh (Rupees two lakhs) for a six month course.

Limited studies undertaken in small population have indicated the prevalence of Hepatitis-C in general population as 0.15-0.78% and in the blood donors as 0.2-1.85%.

Since Hepatitis-A is benign and out of the remaining four, vaccine is available only for Hepatitis-B, the Government of India has launched a pilot project of Hepatitis-B for children below one year only. During 2002-03, fifteen cities and during 2003-04, thirty-two districts and Andaman & Nicobar Islands have been selected for Hepatitis-B vaccination.

Disinvestment of RCF, Mumbai

2168. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any final decision about the disinvestment of RCF Unit in Mumbai has been taken recently;

(b) if so whether officers and Unions have objected to the disinvestment of this unit;

(c) if so, whether any PIL or legal petition has been filed in Mumbai high Court; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Government has decided to disinvest 51% of its equity held in Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited (RCF) through strategic sale, and to offer up to 2% of the shares of RCF out of its balance shareholding to the employees of RCF at 1/3rd of prevailing market price of strategic sale value, whichever is less, subject to a minimum of the par value.

(b) Representations requesting for deferment as well as withdrawal of the decision to disinvest Government equity in RCF have been received from the employees Unions of RCF.

(c) The Government is not aware of any PIL or legal petition filed in any Court on the issue of disinvestment of RCF.

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

[*Translation*]

Insertion of Section by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan

2169. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan had inserted Section 81(E) in its "Code of Education" in August 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has been kept in abeyance so far; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) As informed by Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, a notification for insertion of article 81 (e) in the Education Code for the Kendriya Vidyalayas was issued vide KVS O.M. No. F. 11-12/2003/KVS (Vig.) dated 6th August 2003.

(b) the provisions of the Article envisage a transparent as well as totally insulated mechanism, for taking an un-adulterated direct feedback from the students, on the fact of dereliction of duty as defined by the Article. It also provides for corrective mechanism by giving notice and chance to improve to those teachers/employees who are found responsible for dereliction of duty after the first assessment, by the students. The infliction of the major penalty of removal from service is also provided for, after the second assessment by students upon those who do not improve even after being given a chance after first assessment by the students. Principle of natural justice is followed by giving them a show cause notice before inflicting penalty. Provision for appeal also exists within the framework of the Article.

As per KVS, insertion of this article was necessitated because in a school situation, the relationship of the student *vis-a-vis* the teachers and other employees of

the school with whom he directly interacts, is an unequal relationship because of which the misconduct committed by any teaching/non-teaching employee, wherein the prime witness or the victim is the student, cannot be normally established by following the provisions of the CCS (CCA) Rules, 1965. In this unequal relationship requiring the student to come forward openly with his evidence and allowing the teacher/employee to cross-examine him makes the child susceptible to retribution by the said teacher/employee or their colleagues. Since the students cannot be expected to take such a risk, these misconducts, some of which are crucial for the normal functioning of the school, go unpunished leading to their further commission with impunity. As it was felt necessary to stop the commission of such misconducts for the proper functioning of the school, the procedure laid down by the CCS (CCA) rules, 1965 was to be dispensed with for establishing the misconduct.

(c) and (d) KVS has decided to re-examine this issue.

Agreement with New Zealand

2170. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and New Zealand have signed some agreements in the field of education;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main objectives of the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Disinvestment of NALCO

2171. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for disinvesting of NALCO;

(b) the details of the price of alumina and aluminium in different countries;

(c) whether any investigation has been done regarding the aluminium cartel's role in global trade; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) NALCO is a non-strategic company. Government decided in July, 2002 for the sale of 10% of Government's Equity in the Domestic Market and 20% in the American Depository Receipt (ADR) Market through Offers for Sale to be followed immediately by Strategic Sale of 29.15% after reserving up to 2% of the Equity for NALCO employees. The disinvestment of NALCO is not being pursued presently.

(b) As per "CRISINFAC", the prices of alumina during the calendar year upto November, 2003 ranged FOB Carribean @ US\$ 183-295 per tonne and FOB Australia @ US\$ 200-315 per tonne. The prices of aluminium during the same period ranged @ US\$ 1315-1533 per tonne in London Metal Exchange (LME). The prices prevailing in various countries vary depending upon the level of import duty, freight expenses and local taxes.

(c) and (d) Global trade in aluminium is well developed. Daily prices are quoted in London Metal Exchange. As per "CRISINFAC", the five largest producers of aluminium account for only around 35% of the effective global capacity indicating that cartelisation is not self-evident in the aluminium industry.

[Translation]

Guidelines for Laying of Cables

2172. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3098 on August 13, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Salient features of the guidelines for Right of Way are given in the statement enclosed. As on September, 2003, the details of amount raised/recovered for damages alongwith suits filed in court of law, as provided by MTNL, are as follows:

Area	Total amount raised for damages (Rs. in Lakhs)	Amount recovered (Rs. in Lakhs)	Total number of companies	Action taken by MTNL
Delhi	66.88	Nil	3	3 suits have been filed in Delhi High Court
Mumbai	32.87865	0.41958	7	7 suits have been filed

Statement

The Salient Features of the Guidelines for Right of Way

1. These are the guidelines under which Right of Way permissions may be granted to licensed telecom operators and registered infrastructure providers for laying telecom cables/ducts under, over, along, across, in or upon a property vested in or under the control or management of a local authority or of any other person including public authority, public corporation, autonomous body, State Government or Central Government in their respective licensed service area during the currency of their licence.
2. Any authorized licensee of Department of Telecom/Registered Infrastructure Provider is eligible to seek/avail Right of Way facility/permission. However, enforceability of the permission so granted shall be restricted to the extent of provisions/scope of service contained/defined in the licence agreement of that licensee & for the purpose for which it is granted.
3. Either by content or by intent, the purpose of extending Right of Way facility is not to enhance the scope of licence of a licensee and such Right of Way permissions are only enabling/facilitating in nature.
4. The facility of Right of Way for laying underground telecom cables, shall be available to all licensees (irrespective of existing or future) and registered/licensed infrastructure providers, without discrimination and without payment of any compensatory charges/levy/lease rentals/licence fee/free band width/revenue share/cashless equity etc. subject to the extent of provisions contained in their licence agreements and the reinstatement charges shall be borne by such licensees.
5. A performance bank guarantee @ Rs. 25 per route metre with a validity of one year initially (extendable if required till satisfactory completion of work) shall have to be furnished by each licensee as a security against improper filling/unsatisfactory compaction/restoration and damages caused to other underground installations/utility services and interference, interruption, disruption or failure caused thereof to any services. Notwithstanding this, licensee shall be liable to pay full compensation to the aggrieved owners for any damage sustained by them by reason of the exercise of Right of Way facility.
6. In order to expedite Right of Way clearances to the licensees in a time-bound manner through an appropriate and effective approval mechanism, the office of Chief Security to the respective State Government may act as nodal point/single window to co-ordinate all activities in the regard.
7. The Right of Way permissions may be granted by the said nodal office to a licensee within a period of two weeks subjects to the licensee's application being complete with route details (including authority/ownership of concerned sections of the route) and compliance to eligibility requirement, payment of reinstatement charges, furnishing of requisite bank guarantee and execution of an agreement having operational details. The office of chief Secretary may be responsible to co-ordinate in case of any dispute for ownership of property and to expedite grant of Right of Way clearance thereof so as to adhere to the stipulated timeframe.
8. In case any shifting or alteration in the position of the laid telephone cables is required due to widening of highways and constructing of flyovers or bridges, the licensee shall do the same at his own cost at a later date within specified period indicated by the respective agency.
9. In order to avoid repeated digging on the same routes, if possible, the first incumbent is free to

lay voluntarily extra ducts/conduits with extra capacity so as to take care of future needs. The excess capacity can be commercialized by the first incumbent with suitable agreements with the respective State Government/utility agencies. However, the creation of excess capacity by the first incumbent shall not be a pre-condition for giving Right of Way clearances. The Central/State roadways authorities may consider laying ducts/conduits at the time of construction of roads to facilitate laying telephone cables for which suitable charges could be imposed.

10. Licensee shall ensure safety and security of all underground installation/utilities/facilities and shall be solely responsible for compensation/indemnification of concerned authority for damage caused/claims or replacements sought for at the cost and risk of licensee.
11. Licensee shall be liable to give a notice of 15 days with route details prior to trenching for fresh or maintenance/repair works. A separate performance bank guarantee for maintenance/repair works shall be furnished by licensee.
12. The period of validity of Right of Way permission shall be co-terminus with the validity of licence.

[English]

Seamen's Provident Fund Scam

2173. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any representation regarding Seamen's Provident Fund Scam amounting to Rs. 100 crores at Mumbai; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) Following the misappropriation of money amounting to Rs. 92.78 crores from the Seamen's Provident Fund coming to light in May 2002, a large number of petitions have been received from seamen as well as Associations, seeking intervention by the Government of India for taking action against the culprits and also for appropriate remedial measures to recoup the Seamen's provident Fund. On receiving information regarding the alleged fraud, the Government of India approached the Central Bureau of Investigation

immediately to investigate the matter and bring it to its logical conclusion. A proposal for recoupment of lost funds is also under consideration.

Funds for Schemes

2174. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2940 on August 13, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The information called for in L.S. Question No. 2940 concerns 31 Ministries/Departments. Since the Ministries/Departments are not maintaining the information in the way it has been called for, the same is being compiled, formatted and collected by them for filling up the gaps, if any, to fulfill the specific requirements of the question. Most of the Ministries/Departments have furnished the information, which is being processed and the others have been requested to expedite the same.

Development of AIDS Vaccine

2175. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Jai Vigyan Science and Technology Mission has made a breakthrough in developing AIDS Vaccine in the country;

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

(c) whether the Government provides all the required assistance to the Agencies involved in this project; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY

OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) and (b) Under one of the National Jai Vigyan Science & Technology Missions, Department of Biotechnology (DBT) launched a project towards Development of DNA Vaccine for the HIV-I Subtype 'C' at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi. A prototype Candidate Vaccine has been developed based on plasmid DNA and MVA approaches. The prototype HIV-I Vaccine candidate consisting of six components has the potential as preventive vaccine. The results so far have indicated that the vaccine candidate induces a robust and broad based clade-specific and cross-clade immune responses (humoral as well as cell mediated immune responses). Immunized monkeys showed a very strong HIV-1 subtype-C specific recall immune response when challenged with MVA construct after 42 weeks of priming alone. The prototype of the vaccine is now ready for preclinical toxicological studies.

(c) and (d) The Department of Biotechnology has provided the required financial assistance and logistic support to the various institutions involved in this vaccine development project, viz., All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, India; Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; and National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad. After successful completion of the preclinical animal toxicological studies, the vaccine candidate is slated for human Phase-I clinical trials during 2005 with the mandatory regulatory approvals. Negotiations with an Indian industry are also in progress for conducting human clinical trials in future.

Opening of a CGHS Dispensary

2176. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the persistent demands from various quarters to open a CGHS dispensary in Bhubaneswar, Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) One CGHS dispensary is already functioning in Bhubaneswar (Orissa) exclusively for the employees of AG's office.

Due to demands for expanding the CGHS services at Bhubaneswar, the Government has already sanctioned the opening of a new CGHS dispensary at Bhubaneswar for the benefit of Central Government employees/pensioners and other eligible categories and the dispensary is to be made functional during the current financial year.

Dhaka-Agartala Bus Service

2177. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the Dhaka-Agartala Bus Service is running into heavy losses;

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

(c) whether Tripura Government has requested for Central intervention in the matter; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to resolve the issue with Bangladesh Authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) and (b) The popularity of the Agartala-Dhaka bus service has been affected by the imposition by the Government of Bangladesh of a tax on foreign travel by land and by the restricted issue of double entry visas at Agartala to those wishing to use this bus service to travel onward to Kolkata and back.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Government has requested the Government of Bangladesh at the highest levels to withdraw the tax and to freely issue double entry visas at Agartala.

Telemedicine Guidelines

2178. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently released a set of draft recommendations for telemedicine guidelines and announced the setting up of a committee to implement them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has sought the views and recommendations for practice of telemedicine aimed

at enhancing inter-operability among various telemedicine systems; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (d) Technical Working Group on Telemedicine Standardization set up by Department of Information Technology (DIT) has prepared a document "Recommended Guidelines & Standards for practice of Telemedicine in India". The document includes introduction to telemedicine, definitions & concepts, standards required for hardware, software, data exchange and clinical devices to facilitate interpretability among various telemedicine systems. Document also includes security aspects and telemedicine process guidelines. System requirement for different classes and level of telemedicine centres have also been suggested. Document has been put up on DIT website (<http://www.mit.gov.in/telemedicine/home.asp>) to disseminate and receive views and feed back from wider cross section of users/concerned organisations for taking further implementation steps.

Mumbai Port Trust

2179. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mumbai Port Trust is facing the problem of falling traffic and erosion in profitability;

(b) if so the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the situation; and

(d) the details of traffic handled and profit earned during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) There have been marginal decline of cargo traffic in Mumbai Port mainly due to the diversion of large container vessels to Jawaharlal Nehru Port resulting in erosion in profitability during 2000-01. However, Mumbai Port started recovering in financial performance during 2001-02 and 2002-03. the Port has been showing improvement in overall traffic during the current financial year also. During April-November 2003, Mumbai Port recorded a growth of 8.3% over the corresponding period of 2002.

(c) Improvement in the performance of major ports is an ongoing process. However, the specific steps taken to improve the situation include streamlining of systems and procedures with increased computerization and integrated information system, grant of incentives/concessions/facilities to trade, integration of cargo handling operations by taking over the stevedoring work and transportation of containers, reduction in man power, private sector participation in ports, modernization of existing facilities, upgradation of jetties equipment & craft and proposed addition of new capacity.

(d) The details of cargo traffic handled and operational performance during the last 3 years are as under:

Year	Cargo traffic handled (In million tonnes)	Operational performance (Rs. in crore)		
		Operating Income	Operating Expenditure	Operating surplus(+)/deficit(-)
2000-2001	27.06	464.19	500.82	(-) 36.63
2001-2002	26.43	438.12	420.96	(+) 17.16
2002-2003	26.80	458.92	430.99	(+) 27.93

Professional Colleges

2180. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the judgement of Hon'ble Supreme Court with regard to clarifications of some of the paragraphs of the judgement is likely to help private initiative to start and run the professional colleges in the country;

(b) if so, the extent to which it will help the private initiative; and

(c) the action Government proposes to set right the damage done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) As per the information furnished by All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), the hon'ble Supreme Court in its Judgement pronounced on 14th August, 2003 in the Islamic Academy of Education Case, *inter-alia*, held that respective State Governments shall set up, a Committee headed by a retired High Court Judge to look into the fee structure. Each educational institute is required to place before the Committee its proposed fee structure with all relevant documents. In pursuance of the judgement of the hon'ble Supreme Court on admissions, AICTE has issued guidelines for Common Entrance Test for admission during the academic year 2004-2005 to (i) MBA/PGDBA (equivalent programmes); (ii) MCA programmes; (iii) Degree Level Course in Engineering, Architecture/Planning and Pharmacy programmes. According to these guidelines, for the year 2004-2005, admissions shall be made either through an All India Common Entrance Test(s) or through State level tests. Management seats in private unaided self-financing institutions shall be filled through either of the Common Entrance Test or through a Common Entrance Test conducted by an approved agency (including Association of all Colleges of a particular type in the State).

[*Translation*]

WLL System in Rural Areas in Rajasthan

2181. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to provide telephone service in rural areas through WLL system;

(b) if so, the number of places in Rajasthan where WLL centres would be established, circle-wise;

(c) the time by which these centres are likely to be started; and

(d) the technical and factual details at present thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) BSNL has planned to cover all the 258 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) of Rajasthan with WLL System;

(c) At present 28 SDCAs have been covered with WLL centres. 98 SDCAs are likely to be covered by WLL centres by March, 2004. The remaining 132 SDCAs shall be covered during 2004-2005.

(d) Details are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

List of Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) of Rajasthan Circle (stations) where WLL systems are existing as on 30.11.2003

S.N.	Name of SSA	Name of SDCA (Name of Station in case it is different from SDCA)	Type of WLL Equipment (Existing)
1	2	3	4
1.	Ajmer	Ajmer	CDMA
2.	Ajmer	Beawar	CDMA
3.	Ajmer	Madanganj	CDMA
4.	Barmer	Barmer	CDMA
5.	Banswara	Banswara	CDMA
6.	Bharatpur	Bharatpur	CDMA
7.	Bharatpur	Nadbai	CDMA
8.	Chittorgarh	Chittorgarh	CDMA
9.	Chittorgarh	Nimbahera	CDMA
10.	Jodhpur	Jodhpur	CDMA
11.	Jodhpur	Piparcity (Bilara)	CDMA
12.	Jodhpur	Mathaniya	CDMA
13.	Jaipur	Chomu	CDMA
14.	Jaipur	Bandikui	CDMA
15.	Jaipur	Bassi	CDMA
16.	Jaipur	Dudu	CDMA
17.	Jaipur	Jaipur	CDMA

1	2	3	4
18.	Jaisalmer	Jaisalmer	CDMA
19.	Jaisalmer	Pokran	CDMA
20.	Kota	Kota	CDMA
21.	Sriganganagar	Sriganganagar	CDMA
22.	Sriganganagar	Hanumangarh	CDMA
23.	Sriganganagar	Anoopgarh	CDMA
24.	Sriganganagar	Suratgarh	CDMA
25.	Sriganganagar	Bhadra	CDMA
26.	Sriganganagar	Nohar	CDMA
27.	Udaipur	Udaipur	CDMA
28.	Udaipur	Rajsamand	CDMA
Total			28

[English]

Extending Inland Waterways in Kerala

2182. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala has requested the Union Government to extend Inland Waterways No. III from Kottappuram to Kasargod in the North and from Kollam to Kovalam in the South; and

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

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is under examination.

Study Report on CGHS Dispensaries

2183. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 2075 dated March 5, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the report regarding functioning of CGHS dispensaries has been finalized and additional data asked by Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) has been collected from CGHS;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the report is likely to be finalized?

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

(b) to (d) The SIU have on 4.9.2003 sent their report on the Staffing Norm of the Indian system of Medicines (Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha) and Homeopathic dispensaries/Units under CGHS keeping in view the present level of workload, functional and positional requirements and includes the norms for creation/development of posts of medical officers and other supporting staff.

[Translation]

Funds for Tele-Communications Network in Bihar

2184. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for development of tele-communications network in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) whether the development works have been completed as per the targets set in the State;

(c) if so, the expenditure incurred in the development works separately during each of the last three years and till date; and

(d) the number of new telephone connections allotted in State during the last three years and till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The amount allocated for development of telecommunications network in Bihar during the last three years is as under:

	Year	Amount
1.	2000-01	Rs. 775.78 Crores
2.	2001-02	Rs. 1043.88 Crores
3.	2002-03	Rs. 404.22 Crores

(b) Yes Sir, the development work has been completed as per the set targets in Bihar State. BSNL provided 7.22 lakh Direct Exchange Lines against the target of 6.76 lakhs, during last three years.

(c) The expenditure incurred on the development work during the last three years and up to 31.10.2003 during the year 2003-04 is as under:

Year	Amount
1. 2000-01	Rs. 497.38 Crores
2. 2001-02	Rs. 951.48 Crores
3. 2002-03	Rs. 486.14 Crores
4. 2003-04 (up to 31.10.2003)	Rs. 111.68 Crores**

**The expenditure is provisional and is based on fund authorization to Bihar.

(d) The details of number of telephone connections allotted in Bihar State during the last three years and till 31.10.2003 during the year 2003-04 are as under:

Year	Number of connections Given
1. 2000-01	2.65 Lakhs
2. 2001-02	2.96 Lakhs
3. 2002-03	1.61 Lakhs
4. 2003-04 (up to 31.10.2003)	0.78 Lakhs
Total	8.00 Lakhs

[English]

Ph.D. Papers on Internet

2185. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has decided to put Ph.D. papers on the Internet;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the objectives that the UGS has in mind behind it;

(c) whether the students had demanded this change in the earlier set up also; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, no such proposal is under consideration.

Ayurveda Park in Kerala

2186. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for the establishment of an Ayurveda Park in Kerala;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) A proposal alongwith project report for setting up of Ayurveda Park was received from the Government of Kerala. There is no scheme under which the project could be funded.

Area Intensive Programme

2187. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified eligible blocks under the Area Intensive Programme for educationally backward minorities in the country;

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

(c) whether steps have been taken to give adequate representation to the Muslim population in these eligible blocks;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the actual expenditure incurred and the number of beneficiaries under the programme during the last three years, year-wise and state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Area Intensive and Madrasa Modernisation Programme (AIMMP) which was formed in the Xth Plan

by the merger of two schemes of Area Intensive Programme for Educationally Backward Minorities and the Financial Assistance for Modernization of Madrasa Education is being implemented in 325 blocks across the country and 4 districts of Assam of concentration of educationally backward minorities. State-wise details are given in statement-I. The identification of concentration of educationally backward minorities has been done by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment based on 1981 census using the criterion that such blocks/districts should have 20% or more Muslim population.

(e) The actual expenditure incurred and the number of beneficiaries year-wise and state-wise under the programme during the last three years is as follows:

(Rs. in lakhs)

State	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03*
Andhra Pradesh	—	300.00	956.00
Haryana	45.90	250.00	—
Karnataka	38.32	55.72	—
Madhya Pradesh	20.36	30.00	115.92
Maharashtra	—	400.00	—
Rajasthan	—	112.71	—
Tamil Nadu	—	77.31	—
Uttar Pradesh	1371.17	78.60	1233.545
West Bengal	194.25	224.50	—
Total	1670.00	1528.84	2305.465

*The Component of Infrastructure Development in the new scheme of Area Intensive and Madrasa Modernisation Programme was the Area Intensive Programme for Educationally Backward Minorities in the old scheme.

Statement

Number of Districts and Blocks in States

Name of States	Number of Districts	Number of Blocks
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	6	9
Assam	4	—
Bihar	14	85

1	2	3
Gujarat	5	14
Haryana	1	2
Karnataka	6	11
Kerala	7	17
Madhya Pradesh	3	3
Maharashtra	4	5
Rajasthan	5	9
Tamil Nadu	2	2
Uttar Pradesh	22	58
West Bengal	11	107
A&N Islands	1	1
Delhi	1	1
Pondicherry	1	1
Total	93	325

Ayurvedic CMO

2188. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Ayurvedic CMO is not authorized to refer the patients directly to the referral Hospitals/ Government Hospitals for the diagnosis of their diseases;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to authorize Ayurvedic CMO to refer the patients directly to the referral Hospitals/Government Hospitals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) The CMO of the CGHS Ayurvedic dispensary/Unit can directly refer the patients to the Govt. Ayurvedic Hospitals.

As far as the authorisation to refer to private hospitals is concerned, matter is under examination.

Allopathic Dispensary, North Avenue

2189. SHRI SALKHAN MURMU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 1350 on July 30, 2003 and state:

- (a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the time by which it is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The information has since been received and is being processed for fulfilling that Assurance.

Deemed Universities Status to Colleges

2190. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

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

- (a) the number of proposals received from various institutions for granting of deemed university status to the colleges particularly from Vasthu Vidya Gurukulam, Aranmula, Palhanamthilla of Kerala, during the last three years, State-wise;
- (b) the number of colleges where inspection was carried by UGC/AICTE;
- (c) the number of proposals cleared by the Government and the number of proposals pending with Union Government for clearance;
- (d) the time by which pending proposals are likely to be cleared; and
- (e) the number of deemed universities in the country as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) State-wise number of proposals received for Deemed to be University status during last 3 years is as under:

Name of the State	2001	2002	2003
Andhra Pradesh	2	1	3
Arunachal Pradesh	0	1	0
Assam	0	1	0
Bihar	0	1	0
Chandigarh	1	1	0
Gujarat	3	3	0
Haryana	2	3	0
Himachal Pradesh	0	1	0
Jammu & Kashmir	1	0	1
Jharkhand	0	1	1
Karnataka	3	0	3
Kerala	1	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	4	2	1
Maharashtra	9	2	4
Orissa	1	1	0
Punjab	1	3	1
Rajasthan	2	2	1
Tamil Nadu	8	7	4
Uttar Pradesh	3	5	0
West Bengal	2	0	0
New Delhi	4	7	3
Total	47	42	22

No proposal from Vasthu Vidya Gurukulam, Aranmula, Palhanamthilla of Kerala has been received in the Ministry during last three years.

(b) Number of Institutes where inspection has been carried out by UGC and AICTE has been intimated as 55 and 33 respectively.

(c) 40 Institutes (including 17 National Institutes of Technology) were granted Deemed to be University status in last 3 years. 75 proposals are pending for granting Deemed to be University status.

(d) No time limit could be laid as declaration of an Institute as Deemed to be University is a statutory process

done on fulfillment of several requirements under the guidelines.

(e) State-wise number of Deemed University in the country is as under:

Name of the State	No. of Deemed Universities
Andhra Pradesh	5
Assam	1
Bihar	1
Gujarat	3
Haryana	3
Himachal Pradesh	1
Jammu & Kashmir	1
Jharkhand	3
Karnataka	6
Kerala	1
Madhya Pradesh	3
Maharashtra	16
Orissa	1
Punjab	3
Rajasthan	6
Tamil Nadu	13
Uttaranchal	2
Uttar Pradesh	7
West Bengal	2
New Delhi	8

**Third meeting of Global Alliance for
Vaccines and Immunizations**

2191. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Government of Andhra Pradesh to hold

the Third meeting of Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI) in Hyderabad;

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

(c) the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

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

(b) and (c) The proposal from Andhra Pradesh Government was raised at the GAVI Board Meeting held in Washington (USA) during 15-16 July, 2003. The Board took note of the invitation by the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh to hold the meeting there and will provide an official response as soon as possible. In the meantime, it is noted that the 3rd GAVI Patners' Meeting will be held in November, 2004. Till date no response has been received from GAVI Board on Andhra Pradesh Government's invitation.

Family Welfare Programme

2192. SHRI AMBAREESHA:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK:

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

(a) the targets fixed by the Ministry during 2002 and 2003 for effective implementation of Family Welfare Programme in various States;

(b) the total amount allocated as loan and subsidy by the Ministry under the said programme during the above period, State-wise;

(c) whether some States have not utilized the funds provided to them under the programme;

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

(e) the action taken by the Union Government against such States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No annual targets are fixed since April 1996 due to adoption of the 'Target Free Approach (TFA)', which

emphasizes on decentralized participatory planning based on a Community Needs Assessment Approach (CNAA).

(b) The National Family Welfare Programme is a 100 percent Centrally Sponsored programme wherein grants-in-aid is given to States/UTs for family Welfare activities. There is no loan or subsidy component in the grants-in-aid provided to the States.

(c) and (d) Funds are provided by Central Government broadly under three Heads viz. Infrastructure, in Kind (supply of contraceptives, drugs, etc.) and grants for implementation of Other Programmes e.g. Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme; Information, Education and Communication (IEC); Area Projects; National Maternity Benefit Scheme (NMBS); Empowered Action Group (EAG), etc. The amount released under Heads of Infrastructure and Kind is fully spent by the States. However, the expenditure reported by the States

on Other Programmes viz. RCH, etc. are less than the releases. The State-wise details of releases made and expenditure reported during the years 2001-02 and 2002-03 are given in statement enclosed.

The various reasons for low-non-utilization of funds released include (i) slow/non-reporting of expenditure, (ii) non filling/late filling of the contractual posts, and (iii) delayed onset of the envisaged activities.

(e) The Government of India is taking various steps to ensure full utilization of the funds released, which include (i) persuading the States for sending the utilization certificates of the previous releases, (ii) sending special teams to States to assess the difficulties of the States in utilization of the funds, monitor the submission of utilization certificates and collecting them, (iii) withholding further release of grants-in-aid till the earlier releases are fully utilized.

Statement

State-wise Releases & Expenditure on other Programmes (RCH, Area Projects, IEC, NMBS, EAG, etc.) for the years 2001-02 and 2002-03

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State/UT	2001-02		2002-03	
		Releases	Expenditure	Releases	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh*	5639.90	4084.90	2917.41	3202.13
2.	Arunachal Pradesh*	198.06	221.83	335.65	155.58
3.	Assam*	3294.12	4489.60	957.29	966.73
4.	Bihar	2573.12	1299.04	4414.48	1794.62
5.	Goa	1230.28	425.92	823.02	388.35
6.	Gujarat*	57.37	20.42	30.57	57.90
7.	Haryana*	8466.25	2389.08	1867.65	1938.51
8.	Himachal Pradesh	1327.67	1064.42	1350.18	1227.73
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	454.86	299.54	464.04	367.86
10.	Karnataka	625.32	622.37	399.80	245.07
11.	Kerala	959.80	323.64	1015.08	12.15
12.	Madhya Pradesh	7305.57	7280.92	3266.17	2095.86
13.	Maharashtra*	1432.98	1343.21	1010.03	1398.04

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Manipur	3661.65	1876.46	3178.57	3035.88
15.	Meghalaya	4777.16	1627.77	4180.58	3609.32
16.	Mizoram*	920.14	1036.08	258.11	242.70
17.	Nagaland*	253.04	172.83	118.58	173.00
18.	Orissa	823.15	742.77	746.14	457.55
19.	Punjab	257.45	201.91	285.11	165.29
20.	Rajasthan*	3832.98	1087.54	1208.88	1823.07
21.	Sikkim*	851.84	834.76	387.79	820.58
22.	Tamil Nadu	6949.91	5326.99	3388.17	2475.38
23.	Tripura	114.67	39.55	113.99	88.99
24.	Uttar Pradesh*	13086.02	13780.00	14637.37	11755.70
25.	West Bengal	560.88	182.30	251.16	122.20
26.	Chhattisgarh	10173.01	5970.94	10613.13	7731.46
27.	Jharkhand	653.94	194.65	463.22	352.32
28.	Uttaranchal*	4308.59	4198.42	1706.57	3377.50
Total (States)		84789.79	61137.86	60388.72	50081.47
<i>UTs with Legislature:</i>					
1.	Pondicherry*	1336.48	2496.93	770.70	304.40
2.	Delhi*	41.94	54.82	42.32	50.03
<i>UTs without Legislature:</i>					
1.	A&N Island*	164.28	46.87	27.47	33.38
2.	D&N Haveli*	36.07	24.08	31.18	37.31
3.	Chandigarh	30.88	10.29	19.06	15.63
4.	Lakshdweep	21.33	9.94	43.21	16.66
5.	Daman & Diu	20.60	12.20	17.35	9.43
Total (UTs)		1651.58	2655.13	951.29	466.84
Grand Total		86441.31	63792.99	61340.01	50548.31

*The expenditure reported is more than the releases on account of the late utilisation of the unspent balances of the previous years.

Sinking of Able-1 Vessel

2193. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the vessel MV "Able 1" owned by Ajmah based company M/s Global Shipping company sank off the coast of Somalia on June 25, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the Indian seamen have been rescued and are currently held incommunicado by the owner of the vessel based in Ajmah, U.A.E.

(c) if so, whether the Government has received several letters from MPs in this regard;

(d) if so, whether the Government has taken up this issue with U.A.E.; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (e) MV Able 1, a general purpose cargo vessel, owned by M/s Corner Stone General Trading Company, Ajman (United Arab Emirates), sank in rough seas off the coast of Somalia on June 25, 2003. The ship had a crew of 15 members. Nine crew members, including six Indian seamen, were rescued by a German warship in the vicinity. The six Indian seamen were subsequently reported that the remaining crew members of the ship, including the following three Indian seamen, could not be found around the location where the ship sank:

- (i) Shri Piyush Srivastava
- (ii) Shri Moniz Bralyo Pasclo
- (iii) Shri Lavish Kumar Arora.

2. The report that the three missing Indian seamen might be held incommunicado by the owner of the vessel has not been verified. The Government has received letters in regard to the three missing Indian seamen from various quarters including from Hon'ble Members of Parliament Shri C.N. Singh and Dr. Akhilesh Das, as well as from the National Human Rights Commission. The matter is being vigorously pursued by the Indian Consulate in Dubai with the Ajman authorities and the handling agent of the ship in Dubai. The body of the Captain of MV Able 1, an Ethiopian national, has since been recovered. However, no further information regarding the fate of the remaining five missing crew members, including the three Indian seamen, has been forthcoming.

Report of Tata Consultancy Services

2194. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry had appointed Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) to study the manner in which coastal shipping and minor ports could be developed;

(b) if so, whether TCS has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof with the action taken thereon;

(d) whether TCS has recommended nine ports with a potential to attract private investment; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI):
(a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. The Final Report submitted by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been received in December, 2003 and is being examined.

(d) Yes Sir.

(e) The names of the Ports and estimated cost for building up basic infrastructure like capital dredgers, break water, berths, back up area & warehouses is approximately Rs. 185.58 crore as per port-wise break-up given below:

Selected Minor Port	State	Civil Works (Dredging, Breakwater and Berths and Storage). (Rs. crore)
1	2	3
Gopalpur	Orissa	34.90
Cuddalore	Tamilnadu	29.17
Vizinjam	Kerala	17.25
Azzhikal	Kerala	29.96
Malpe	Gujarat	13.40

1	2	3
Karwar	Karnataka	5.05
Ratnagiri	Maharashtra	23.94
Dharamtar	Maharashtra	15.11
Magdalla	Gujarat	16.80
Total		185.58

Stake in Sterlite Industries

2195. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware about an application filed by a Mauritius-based holding company, Twinstar Holdings, which states it has already taken a 55 per cent stake in Sterlite industries and wants to raise this to 75 per cent; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Ministry of Finance received an application filed by M/s Twin-Star Holdings Limited, Mauritius (THL) in respect of increase in shareholding in M/s Sterlite Industries (India) Limited (SIIL) from 18.91% to 55.15% and proposed increase from 55.15% to 75%. The necessary approval in this regard was issued by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion subject to the following conditions:

- (i) Pricing/transfer of shares shall be as per SEBI/ RBI guidelines.
- (ii) Subject to company being in compliance with SEBI (SAST), Regulations 1997 in respect of increase in shareholding in M/s SIIL from 18.91% to 55.15% and proposed increase from 55.15% to 75% by M/s THL.
- (iii) The investments by M/s THL in M/s SIIL were made in foreign exchange.
- (iv) In terms of RBI Circular dated 16th September, 2003, OCBs as a class of investor has been de-recognized. However, in terms of RBI's Press Note dated 18th September, 2003 M/s THL would be eligible to make investment as foreign investor.

- (v) All RBI guidelines/SEBI guidelines and regulations are to be followed.

[Translation]

Promotion of Professors in AIIMS

2196. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

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

(a) whether some Assistant Professors have been promoted as Associate Professors in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences without conducting any interview as reported in the *Navbharat Times* dated November 7, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) 62 Assistant Professors have been promoted to the grade of Associate Professor on the recommendations of the Standing Selection Committee after considering ACRs and bio-data of the eligible candidates under the Assessment promotion scheme without linkage to vacancies at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi. Since these Assistant Professors were earlier appointed on ad-hoc basis and had gone through the regular process of selection just six months back, it was decided by the Institute that they may not be interviewed and their promotion to the Grade of Associate Professor may be considered on the basis of bio-data and ACRs.

[English]

Disinvestment of BALCO

2197. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the apprehension of the BALCO workers that the Sterlite Group is trying to sell BALCO to a foreign company Twinstar despite a three year lock-in period on sale; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF

DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government disinvested 51% of its equity in BALCO through strategic sale in favour of M/s Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd. As per the terms of the Shareholders Agreement entered into at the time of disinvestment, the Strategic Partner is barred from transferring of these shares for a period of three years from the date of disinvestment. The proposal of M/s Twinstar Holdings Ltd. Mauritius to enhance its shareholding in M/s Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd. does not attract the provisions of the Shareholders Agreement, since BALCO will continue to be controlled and managed by the Strategic Partner, M/s Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd.

[*Translation*]

Employment Guarantee Scheme Centres

2198. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employment guarantee scheme centres set up in the country, State-wise;

(b) the number of beneficiaries from the centres, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government had fixed any target in this regard for the year 2002 and 2003; and;

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Opening of Mobile Dispensaries

2199. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has opened mobile dispensaries in the country under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme;

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

(c) the number of such mobile dispensaries set up in Gujarat during the last three years; and

(d) the details of such dispensaries proposed to be opened in the country during the current financial year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) There is no Centrally Sponsored Scheme under Department of Health for opening of mobile dispensaries in the country.

Legal Status to State Welfare Boards

2200. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Social Welfare Board was established to serve as an instrument for promoting programmes for welfare of women and children and to mitigate the neglect and suffering of socially and physically handicapped section of society;

(b) if so, whether the Government has taken note of failure of Board's two-pronged strategy devised for creating and reinforcing nation-wide network of NGOs and State Social Welfare Boards;

(c) whether persistent weakness in Central and State Welfare Boards have resulted in errant NGOs misusing funds and no action has been taken against such errant NGOs;

(d) if so, whether the Government proposes to grant legal status to State Welfare Boards; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) The Central Social Welfare Board (CSWB) was established to serve as an instrument for promoting programmes for welfare of women and children and the socially disadvantaged.

(b) Since inception the Central Social Welfare Board along with the State Boards have been implementing programmes for the welfare of women and children in partnership with NGO's. It is not correct to say that the Board has failed to fulfil its mandate.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The monitoring authority in the State Boards consist of a team of Field Officers posted in each State Board which submits reports on a regular

basis with regard to the schemes being implemented through them. The errant NGOs under the CSWB are black-listed on receipt of adverse reports from the State Boards and no further grants are being sanctioned to them.

The CSWB is registered under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956, and the State Boards are affiliated to it.

Indo-US Cooperation in High Technology

2201. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of Indo-US group on cooperation in high-technology had been held in Bangalore and New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the details the discussion held between the two countries;

(c) the outcome of the decision taken in the said meeting; and

(d) the present volume of high-tech trade between the two countries?

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

(b) and (c) The second meeting of the India-U.S. High Technology Cooperation Group was held on 19-20 November, 2003. The industry component of the meeting was held in Bangalore on November 19 and the official dialogue was held in Delhi on November 20. The two sides have agreed to take appropriate regulatory and promotional measures to stimulate India-U.S. high technology commerce, including trade in 'dual use' goods and technologies.

(d) Information technology is the major sector of India-U.S. high technology trade. In the calendar year 2002, India's exports in the information technology sector to the United States was U.S. \$5.7 billion, while India's imports from the United States in this sector was about U.S. \$3.1 billion. Further, according to data provided by the U.S. Government, in the year 2002, it processed licence applications valued at U.S. \$ 575 million for exporting 'dual use' items to India.

[Translation]

Disinvestment of Ranjit Hotel

2202. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sold the Ranjit Hotel situated in Delhi to the Reliance Group of Company at a price less than market price;

(b) if not, the present market value of this Hotel and the price at which it was sold to the Reliance Company;

(c) whether the Reliance Company has opened an info-com office in the Hotel;

(d) if so, whether the Reliance Company is trying to extort crores of rupees from Insurance Company as compensation for the fire that broke out in the hotel during the Durga-Puja festival;

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to conduct a high level inquiry into the matter; and

(f) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Hotel Ranjit, New Delhi, was demerged into a separate company viz., Hotel Sleepwell Private Limited in which Government of India held approximately 89.97% shares and the Indian hotels Company Limited held approximately 10% shares. The entire shareholding of both Gol and IHCL was disinvested in favour of the Consortium of M/s Formax Commercial Private Limited and Unison Hotels Limited for Rs. 30.30 crores against the reserve price of Rs. 23.78 crores. The disinvestment was on the basis of the current land use of Hotel Ranjit under the Master Plan of Delhi i.e., "Local Shopping". Formax Commercial Private Limited is a Reliance Group company.

(c) Reliance Info-com operated from Hotel Ranjit from February 2003 till October 3, 2003.

(d) On 3rd October 2003, a fire occurred in Hotel Ranjit. M/s Formax Commercial Private Limited have intimated that Hotel Sleepwell Private Limited and Reliance Infocomm Limited have filed claims amounting to Rs. 67 lakhs and Rs. 45 lakhs respectively with the Insurer i.e. Reliance General Insurance Company Limited.

(e) and (f) The claim for damages would be assessed and admissibility or otherwise of the amount claimed would be determined by the Insurer viz., M/s Reliance General Insurance Company Limited. The Government has no role in the matter.

*[English]***Integrated Regional Development Concept**

2203. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has recommended to the Union Ministries to adopt the integrated regional development for reducing the migration to big cities;

(b) if so, whether details in this regard have been worked out;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. However, National Capital Regional Planning Board (NCRPB) was constituted to plan for integrated regional development for the purpose of reducing migration to National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

*[Translation]***Conservation of Medicinal Plants**

2204. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any steps to conserve various varieties of medicinal plants in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to boost the production of Ayurvedic medicines alongwith the details thereof; and

(c) the amount given as grants by the Government for cultivation of medicinal plants during the last three years?

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

(b) The National Medicinal Plants Boards has prioritised 32 medicinal plants species and an area of 10,500 acres of land has been covered under these species during the last two years. Besides, Government have provided financial support for modernizing State Ayurvedic Pharmacies, Drug Testing Laboratories and for adoption of good manufacturing practices.

(c) The amount given for overall growth and development of medicinal plants during the last three years is as follows:

2000-2001	—	Rs. 93.5 lacs
2001-2002	—	Rs. 999.4 lacs
2002-2003	—	Rs. 1407 lacs

In addition to this, the Deptt. of Bio-technology has also given grant of Rs. 92.88 lacs for cultivation of medicinal plants during the last three years.

*[English]***Marketing of Letrozole**

2205. DR. BALIRAM:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:
PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the unregulated marketing of Letrozole, an anti-cancer drug for women, by Mumbai based Sun Pharmaceuticals as reported in the *Hindustan Times* dated September 24, 2003;

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

(c) whether it has the approval of the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI); and

(d) if not, the action taken/being taken by the Government against the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. In a news item appearing in *Hindustan Times*, New Delhi dated 24.9.2003, it was reported that Letrozole, an oral anticancer drug is being marketed in the country for fertility enhancement in women by M/s. Sun Pharmaceuticals, Mumbai. Letrozole had been approved for M/s. Sun Pharmaceuticals on 28th June, 2001, as a second line treatment of advanced breast cancer in women.

Since, no formal approval was issued for the use of Letrozole as a fertility drug, the firm was issued a notice on 25.9.2003 to explain their alleged promotion of Letrozole as a fertility drug.

It has been explained by the concerned firm that they did not make any claim about its use in fertility on label of their product. However, following the published literature about beneficial use of letrozole in fertility enhancement, gynaecologists who enquire about its use in fertility were provided relevant information. After examining the clarification given by the firm and published literatures on Letrozole, M/s Sun Pharmaceuticals, have been issued serious 'Warning' to refrain from any such promotional activity, which may induce off label use of Letrozole for fertility, and to destroy all relevant promotional material claiming its use in unproved indications. An advisory that Letrozole has not been approved as treatment for infertility has been issued to all States.

Inclusion of BAMS and BHMS Degrees in Second Schedule

2206. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) and Bachelor of Homoeopathic Medicine and Surgery (BHMS) degrees awarded by the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bangalore, have been included in the second schedule as per the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government is aware that a number of degree holders of the above University were denied recruitment opportunities due to delay in publishing it in the second schedule; and

(d) if so, the action being taken/proposed to be taken to bring succour to these graduates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. The BAMS and the BHMS degrees awarded by the Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bangalore, have been included in the 2nd Schedules to the IMCC Act, 1970 and the HCC Act, 1973 *vide* Gazette Notifications dated 7.10.2003 and 1.7.2003, respectively.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) Subsequent to recognition of degrees, no incidence regarding denial of recruitment opportunities to the degree holders have come to the notice of the Government.

Foreign Applicants for Medical Courses

2207. SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign applicants seeking admission in medical courses during 2001, 2002 and 2003;

(b) the number of applicants scrutinised out of them and the criteria adopted for selection to medical courses; and

(c) the number of students selected for the said courses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) As the admission of students in medical courses is made by the respective State Governments/Institutions as per their own admission policies, the data with regard to the number of applications received from the foreign students, details with regard to scrutiny of such applications, number of students selected and the criteria of selection etc. are not centrally maintained. However, to fulfil the bilateral commitment, Central Government has been allocating 29 MBBS/1 BDS seats in each of the last 3 years from Central Pool of Medical and Dental Seats for the foreign students. The foreign students admitted in medical courses in India are required to possess the minimum educational qualifications prescribed by the Medical Council of India for joining medical courses in India.

[*Translation*]

Damaged National Highways

2208. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

(a) whether Government has received reports that certain national highways get damaged a short while after their construction;

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

(c) the reasons for the damage;

(d) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry into the matter; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) There are a few instances of small isolated stretches where the National Highways have got damaged after the construction work.

(b) The actions for immediate rectification of the damages were taken.

(c) Poor workmanship by contractor and the rains were the main reasons for such damages.

(d) and (e) Departmental inquiries were conducted by the respective State Governments and it was found that the contractors engaged were primarily responsible and the defects were to be rectified by the contractors at their cost.

[*English*]

Sale of Harmful Pesticides

2209. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agro-chemical producer Bayer India is selling certain pesticides that pose health hazards;

(b) if so, whether Metacid, Metasystox, Cibil and Bileyp and Hinosan 50 EC are the class-I pesticide that Bayer sells in India which are not sold in Germany;

(c) if so, whether the manufacture and marketing of the products are allowed by the Government; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No pesticide producer can sell any pesticide in India, which are not registered under the Insecticides Act, 1968. The pesticides are registered by the Registration Committee after satisfying itself regarding the efficacy of the insecticide and its safety to human beings, animals and the environment and only thereafter are they allowed to be sold. Hence, the registered pesticides sold by M/s. Bayer India in India are not likely to pose health hazards when used as per the approved recommendations.

(b) One out of five products i.e. Metacid (Methyl Parathion 50% EC) is classified as Class-I under WHO Classification of pesticides by hazards, where as all other products, i.e. Metasystox (Oxydemeton methyl 25% EC), Bileyp (Cypermethrin 10%), Cybil (Cypermethrin 25%), Hinosan (Ediphenphos 50% EC) fall under Class-II category of WHO classification. Moreover, Bileyp, Cybil and Hinosan are not registered in Germany as according to the company these are not suited to the crop pattern of Germany.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. The registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968 registered these pesticides only after satisfying itself regarding the efficacy of the pesticide and its safety to human beings, animals and the environment.

Upgradation of Coastal Highways in Gujarat

2210. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:

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

(a) whether there is a policy to upgrade coastal highways into national highways; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the guidelines and the length of coastal highways yet to be upgraded to national highway level in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The declaration of any

road as a National Highway depends not only on the consideration that it runs along the coast but on several other considerations including traffic needs, *inter-se* priority on all India basis and availability of resources. Notwithstanding the above, a length of approximately 362 km. running along the coast in Gujarat has already been converted into National Highways. The criteria for declaration of National Highways are enclosed as statement. At present, new National Highways are not being declared due to fund constraints.

Statement

Criteria for the Declaration of New National Highways

- (i) Roads which run through the length and breadth of the country.
- (ii) Roads connecting adjacent countries
- (iii) Roads connecting the National capital with State capital and roads connecting mutually the State capitals.
- (iv) Roads connecting major ports, large industrial centres or tourists centers.
- (v) Roads meeting very important strategic requirements.
- (vi) Arterial roads which enable sizable reduction in travel distance and achieve substantial economic growth thereby.
- (vii) Roads which help opening up large tracts of backward area and hilly regions.
- (viii) National Highways gird of 100 Km is achieved.
- (ix) The road must be up to the standard laid down for State Highways—both in its technical requirements as well as the land requirements.
- (x) The road and right of way must be free of any type of encroachment and should be the property of the State Government.
- (xi) The right of way required for the National Highway (preferably 45m., minimum 30m.) must be available for acquiring, free of encroachment and the State Government would complete acquiring formalities within the six months.

[Translation]

Transfer of Kendriya Vidyalayas

2211. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether five Kendriya Vidyalayas have been transferred from Jharkhand to Bihar;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has received any representation in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to transfer the Bhuvaneshwar Regional Office to Ranchi;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) A representation from the Chairman, Jharkhand State Women Congress Committee, Ranchi was received regarding the demand for:

- (1) Transfer back of the 05 Kendriya Vidyalayas of Jharkhand quota from Bihar State.
- (2) To continue with functioning of Kendriya Vidyalaya, HEC Ranchi.
- (3) To open a separate Regional Office in Ranchi for the Kendriya Vidyalayas in Jharkhand State.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) The Kendriya Vidyalayas of Jharkhand and Orissa are being effectively managed from Regional Office of Bhuvaneshwar.

Vacant Posts of Physiotherapists

2212. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of posts of physiotherapists are lying vacant in the Government hospitals in Delhi;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, hospital-wise; and
 (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) In so far as Central Government Hospitals in Delhi are concerned the vacancy position of Physiotherapists is as under:

Dr. R.M.L. Hospital	—	1
Safdarjung Hospital	—	2
L.H.M.C. & Associated Hospitals	—	2

Filling up of vacant posts in Central Government hospitals is a continuous process and all the necessary steps are taken to fill up these vacancies in accordance with Recruitment Rules and guidelines issued by DOPT on the subject.

[English]

Monitoring Movement of Passengers

2213. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has any Centralised System to record the movement of passengers/people getting in and out of our country through air, ship or by land; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) The Government has a centralised system to record entry and exit of all passengers/people getting in and out of the country by air, ship or by land.

(b) The Government maintains records of arrival/ departure of passengers/people entering or existing through the Immigration Check Posts.

Centrally Sponsored Schemes for North-East

2214. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes which are being undertaken in the North-East States

towards the development and strengthening of road connectivity;

(b) the number of National Highways in the North-East, State-wise; and

(c) the number of schemes sanctioned and the amount disbursed, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) After revamping of Central Road Fund in 2000, Thirteen Centrally Sponsored Schemes amounting to Rs. 63.66 crore have been undertaken in the North-Eastern States.

(b) The details are given below:

Sl. No.	State	Number of National Highways
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	3
2.	Assam	21
3.	Manipur	3
4.	Meghalaya	4
5.	Mizoram	6
6.	Nagaland	4
7.	Sikkim	1
8.	Tripura	2

(c) The details are given below:

Sl. No.	State	Number of Schemes Sanctioned during 2003-2004	Sanctioned amount (Rs. crores)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	9	10.00
2.	Assam	40	99.61
3.	Manipur	10	22.55
4.	Meghalaya	21	46.66
5.	Mizoram	15	28.80
6.	Nagaland	13	23.27
7.	Sikkim	—	—
8.	Tripura	18	31.55

Navodaya Vidyalayas

2215. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the amount spent on setting up of Navodaya Vidyalayas during the last four years and till date, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): The details of amount spent for setting-up of Navodaya Vidyalayas state-wise during the last four years (i.e. 1999-2000 to 2002-03) and for the year 2003-04 (till October 2003) is furnished at statement enclosed.

Statement

The State-wise details of amount spent on Navodaya Vidyalayas set up during the last four years (1999-2000 to 2002-2003) and for the year 2003-2004 (Till October 2003.)

		Amount in lacs of Rs.				
Sl. No.	State/UT	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (upto Oct. 2003)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	0.23	108.90	66.94	217.86
2.	Assam	—	78.75	207.61	292.32	117.20
3.	Bihar	—	—	—	—	3.30
4.	Chhattisgarh	—	5.64	113.09	63.57	82.69
5.	Gujarat	10.00	169.17	254.77	601.58	233.60
6.	Haryana	5.20	15.56	22.68	31.28	22.93
7.	Himachal Pradesh	—	9.64	15.97	22.25	14.85
8.	Jharkhand	—	—	15.89	50.00	84.47
9.	Karnataka	15.65	199.87	247.70	788.99	1137.01
10.	Kerala	—	—	10.23	158.97	196.10
11.	Madhya Pradesh	—	36.97	73.43	266.96	195.74
12.	Maharashtra	—	1.90	206.06	160.00	36.86
13.	Manipur	—	—	—	15.14	14.89
14.	Orissa	—	—	14.86	68.38	58.52
15.	Punjab	—	4.69	16.06	84.84	181.57
16.	Rajasthan	—	91.84	3.78	252.92	201.02
17.	Sikkim	—	8.53	21.42	37.50	32.36
18.	Uttar Pradesh	10.00	123.21	343.46	917.91	715.05
19.	Uttaranchal	—	120.97	194.23	122.27	112.50
20.	West Bengal	—	—	—	—	7.03

DTH Services

2216. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation has reserved a transponder for Doordarshan to start DTH services;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the areas which would be covered by the said transponder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Doordarshan had approached Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for Ku-Band transponders for meeting its requirements and ISRO has agreed to provide the same. The entire Indian mainland will be covered by the footprint.

Safe Operation of X-Ray Machines

2217. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

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

(a) whether the Statutory requirements for the safe operation of X-Ray Machines have been maintained by the Government hospitals in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any notice has been issued by the Atomic Energy Regulatory requirements; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) In so far as Central Government Hospitals are concerned, statutory requirements for the safe operation of X-Ray Machines are maintained in these hospitals. The details of statutory requirements as prescribed by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board are as under:

(i) The X-Ray machines are installed as per the guidelines of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.

(ii) All the staff members working in the Radiation Field are using ITD badges which are monitored by BARC, Mumbai regularly.

(iii) Lead aprons, Lead goggles, Lead glass panel, Lead glass stand are also used while staff members are working in Radiation field.

No notice has been issued by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board to these hospitals for compliance of regulatory requirements for operation of X-Ray Machines, however in case of Safdarjung Hospital only new patients were stopped for radio therapy treatment for a short while for want of fulfillment of technical parameters stipulated by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.

Meghdoot Cards

2218. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL:

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

(a) the objective behind issuing the Meghdoot Cards by the Government and the provisions made in this regard;

(b) whether there are a large number of cases of returning of 25 paise Cards as "bairang"; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The Meghdoot Post Card was introduced by the Department in order to get an additional revenue for the department by allowing the left portion on the address side to be used for advertising services and products of organizations such as PSUs, Government Organisations and Private Companies etc. on payment of Rs. 2/-per post card. As the postal department earns additional revenue on the Meghdoot Post Card, and since the portion to be used for writing has been reduced to provide space for advertisement, the post card is sold to the public at a lower rate of 25 paise. The advertiser (who has to order a minimum quantity of one lakh cards) is allowed to select the area (s) of distribution of Meghdoot Postcard.

Therefore, such cards are available in the areas selected by the advertisers.

(b) No Sir, only few such cases have come to light.

(c) Only three complaints have come to light: One each in Delhi, Ahmedabad and Mumbai. On receipt of the complaints instructions relating to Meghdoot Post Card were reiterated by the concerned Circles to avoid any confusion between the Ordinary Post Card and Meghdoot Post Card. The delinquent officials have been warned to be more vigilant in future. It has been ordered that the irregular amount recovered be refunded in order to redress the grievances of the customers.

New Wound Healing Technique

2219. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Scientists at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) have lately developed a new wound healing technique;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such healing technique available in developed countries is very costly; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to make the said technique cost effective and available to the common man?

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

(b) The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has developed a new "Hydrogel Wound Dressing" useful for burns, leprosy ulcers, diabetic foot ulcers, animal bites, plastic surgery etc. The treatment based on this methodology is known as "most wound healing" and is well established in Europe, America and other developed countries. No such dressing was manufactured in India till recently and imported equivalents are expensive.

(c) Yes, Sir. The healing techniques are expensive even in developed countries.

(d) The product developed in BARC using radiation processing is cost effective. The technology has been transferred to industry and product is available in the market.

Reform Agenda for Ministries

2220. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring about reform in the working of the Central Ministries;

(b) if so, the Ministry-wise details of the blueprint submitted to the Planning Commission along with the Ministries/Departments which have not submitted their action plan to the Planning Commission; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the reform agenda?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the decision taken by the National Development Council at its 50th meeting held on 21.12.2002 that priority Agenda Action for the year 2003-04 be drawn up taking into account the specific directions contained in the Tenth Five-Year Plan document, the Government identified 163 Priority Agenda Items/Thrust Areas relating to programmes/projects and policy initiatives for implementation in various sectors. Planning Commission has been made the nodal department for the monitoring of 116 Priority Agenda Items/Thrust Areas, the details of which are given in the enclosed statement. Most of the Ministries/Departments have submitted their action plans except in case of some agenda items from Ministry(s)/Department(s) of Economic Affairs, Commerce, Consumer Affairs, Culture, Expenditure, Food & Public Distribution, Secondary & Higher Education, Personnel, Posts, Science & Technology, Tourism, Urban Development, Urban Employment & Poverty Alleviation, Small Scale Industries and Women & Child Development.

(c) To ensure timely implementation of the Priority Agenda of Action, 31 items are to be monitored by the

Prime Minister and the remaining 132 items to be monitored through Committee of Secretaries. Thrust Areas requiring involvement of multiple agencies and participation of various State Government authorities are expedited

through coordination meetings at higher levels. In some Thrust Areas, Group of Ministers monitors to expedite the concurrence and views of the participating agencies.

Statement

SI.No.	Ministry/Department	Proposed Reform
1	2	3
1.	Administrative Reforms/Information Technology	Monitor and expedite finalisation and subsequent implementation of National Action Plan on e-governance. Work out and monitor timelines for various proposed actions. Similarly address issues related to setting up of NISG.
2.	Agriculture and Cooperation, Agriculture Research and Education	Preparation of a National Action Plan, focusing on measures to be undertaken, during the next 10 years, towards increasing agricultural productivity and doubling food production by 2010.
3.	Agriculture and Cooperation, Food & PD	Formulate a crop neutral income support scheme to overcome the shortcomings in the MSP, encourage crop diversification and cost efficient agricultural production. Also prepare policy to encourage decentralized procurement including private trade participation.
4.	Atomic Energy	Formulation of a National Agenda on utilisation of nuclear technology for developmental applications.
5.	Civil Aviation	Formulation a new Civil Aviation Policy to comprehensively address issues related to the Civil Aviation Industry.
6.	Development of North-East/MHA	Revitalising North-Eastern Council to ensure territorial integrity of the States of the NE. Special developmental, administrative and security related programmes including fencing of remaining portion of Indo-Bangladesh border and construction of roads.
7.	Environment and Forests	Formulate National Environment Policy to harmonise the demands of development and environment.
8.	Finance (Economic Affairs)	Develop Government's Philosophy on Regulation with necessary sectoral variants to be the underlying basis for Regulatory arrangements across various sectors. Base Paper could be prepared by PMO/DEA.
9.	Finance (Economic Affairs)	Formulate a National Policy on Subsidies, which would identify target groups, goods & services, subsidy norms and an exit strategy for existing subsidies which are inconsistent with the policy.
10.	Human Resource Development	Prepare specific Action Plan to provide the legal/institutional mechanism to operationalise the fundamental right to elementary education.
11.	IT/Home	Devise the content of the proposed machine readable identity card scheme to cater for/enable linkages across sectors/data bases to facilitate use of the number as the underlying cross-linked identification number for all possible governmental intervention.
12.	Land Resources/Agriculture	Finalise policy, institutional arrangements and content related to MP's Jal Smvardhan Yojna and facilitate its implementation.
13.	Personnel & Training	Civil Service Reforms to improve transparency, accountability, honesty, efficiency and sensitivity in public administration at all levels.
14.	Power	Formulate a Policy for Rural Electrification that creates an enabling, de-regulated environment for private initiative and encourages the use of Non-Conventional Energy Sources.
15.	Power	Institutionalize mechanisms for accelerating private/FDI investment including SPVs, BOT, Disinvest & reinvest, etc.
16.	Rural Development	Develop policy framework for greening of wastelands through people's participation and PPP.

1	2	3
17.	Rural Development	Implementation of PM's announcement at the National Conclave on PRI's held in April 2002 to bring about financial/administrative empowerment of PRI's which would enable PRI's to, <i>inter alia</i> , raise funds through the market, user charges etc.
18.	RD assisted by other Development Ministries	An effective system of monitoring be designed and put in place to ensure proper utilisation of development funds at the district and lower levels.
19.	Space	Formulation of a National Agenda for the utilisation of space technology for developmental applications.
20.	Urban Development	Ensure finalisation of Model Municipal Law and facilitate necessary followup actions for adoption by States.
21.	Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation	Finalisation of National Policy on Slums.
22.	Water Resources	Promotion of participatory irrigation management, rationalisation of water charges and fixing norms for establishment component in O&M.
23.	Water Resources	Finalization of the Action Plan and Institutional Machinery for the National Programme on inter-linking of rivers.
24.	Water Resources/Low	Enact Central Legislation for control of ground water exploitation and rain water harvesting and encourage States to adopt model bill to regulate/develop ground water resources.
25.	Agriculture	Formulate and enact model legislations on contract farming, Joint Stock Companies in agriculture based on land equity and lease of waste land for cropping and afforestation.
26.	Agriculture	FASAL to be made operational; results to be disseminated on Internet.
27.	Agriculture (DARE)	Action to be completed on GVK Rao Committee Report.
28.	Cabinet Secretariat	Re-engineer all regulatory processes, both upstream (prior to investment approval) and downstream (during implementation); devise incentive mechanisms for adoption at State/municipal levels.
29.	Chemicals & Petrochemicals	Drug prices to be further decontrolled on the basis of a clear set of regulatory principles; institutional mechanism for price regulation.
30.	Coal	Ensure early enactment of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 to enable private participation in non-captive coal mining. Take suitable supporting steps to ensure fair competition and a level playing field in each segment of coal production.
31.	Commerce	Implementation of Report of Task Force on Project Exports.
32.	Commerce	Shape content of SEZ and Competitive Economic Zone Policy, including the Central SEZ Act, to enable world class infrastructure through private participation and hassle free regulatory regime in various areas including taxation, customs, labour etc., in SEZ.
33.	Commerce	Legislate mandatory GMP/HACCP certification for all food exports in 2 years. Formulate Plan/MFI-scheme for technical assistance to enable compliance.
34.	Commerce/Finance	To merge existing anti-dumping cell into an autonomous, quasi-judicial international trade commission with a broader mandate related to WTO disciplines (on the lines of US ITC) and equipped with the technical capabilities of the erstwhile BICP, augmented by WTO related legal capacities. To firm up the statutory basis for imposition of anti-dumping etc. duties on the findings of the ITC.
35.	Consumer Affairs	Make necessary Amendments in Essential Commodities Act to liberalise the statutory framework for storage and movement of goods.

1	2	3
36.	Consumer Affairs	Prepare National Action Plan for Consumer Awareness, Redressal and Enforcement.
37.	Consumer Affairs	Remove all legal restrictions on futures trading in agricultural commodities, but provide an autonomous regulator, if necessary. <i>Note: this needs to be linked to completion of ongoing efforts to set up the national commodities exchange/other commodity exchanges and implement prudent regulatory/operating practices based on proposed study.</i>
38.	Culture	Develop a prudent National Policy on heritage sites. Formulate guidelines and contracting frameworks for, and introduce Public Private Partnerships in development and maintenance of historical/heritage sites/monuments, through enabling statutory changes, as necessary.
39.	Culture	Formulation of National Cultural Policy.
40.	Disinvestment	Evolve a policy of dis-investment for loss making PSUs.
41.	Disinvestment	Evolve a final view on constituting an Asset management Company for management and disposal of the residual shares of disinvested companies.
42.	Disinvestment	Evolve a final view on setting up of a 'Disinvestment Proceeds Fund' for the Creation of New assets, investment, employment and retirement of public debt.
43.	Environment & Forests/Cabinet Secretariat	CRZ notification to be revisited in the light of SC judgement to enable environmentally sustainable use of coastal resources.
44.	Environment and Forests	Formulate National Environment Policy to harmonise the demands of development and environment.
45.	Environment and Forests	Formulate guidelines and contracting frameworks for, and introduce Public Private Partnerships in development, maintenance and operation of game parks/National Parks.
46.	Environment and Forests	Formulate and implement Policy and Action Plan related to Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), including setting up of a regulatory mechanism.
47.	Environment and Forests/Cabinet Secretariat	Review and Reform the Environmental Clearance system by examining prudent overseas practices, identifying constraints/bottlenecks, incorporating IT and other innovations to address regulatory concerns in a transparent, non-intrusive and predictable manner,
48.	Fertilizers	Monitor implementation of Cabinet decisions on rationalisation of subsidy scheme for urea and concession scheme for decontrolled fertilisers (DAP, MOP and Complexes).
49.	Fertilizers	Formulation of a long term policy for fertilizer sector.
50.	Finance (Banking)	Implementation of Action Plan to facilitate Financial Flows to the Unorganised Sector.
51.	Finance (Banking)/SSI	Facilitate credit availability, including collateral free credit to SSIs and achieve higher coverage of SSI/ tiny units under Credit Guarantee Trust Fund Scheme. Also, ensure availability of adequate funds for technology upgradation/modernisation, modern testing facilities, quality certification labs and upgradation of skills.
52.	Finance (Company Affairs)	Devise and implement various steps to ensure transparency in corporate governance, including implementation of the Naresh Chandra Committee Report, taking into account international best practices and recent developments in various countries.
53.	Finance (Economic Affairs)	Revise policy on FDI, procedures for FDI clearances, strengthen facilitation.
54.	Finance (Economic Affairs)	To devise and implement an institutional mechanism for independent, expert investigations on complaints relating to public sector financial institutions.

1	2	3
55.	Finance (Expenditure)	To revise procurement norms to ensure greater transparency, competitions, fairness, and elimination of discretion in procurement of goods & services by Government.
56.	Finance (Expenditure/Cabinet Secretariat)	Implementation of the ERC Recommendations and related VRS scheme aimed at reducing wasteful expenditure.
57.	Finance (Revenue)	Process Kelkar Committee Report on Indirect Taxes.
58.	Finance (Revenue)	Comprehensive Revision of Customs and Central Excise Code etc. to be accomplished to ensure transparency, overcome absence of direction, elimination of unnecessary stages and mandatory time lines.
59.	Finance Ministry/Planning Commission	Develop standard models of public-private partnerships for different categories of public services for implementation and operation of public projects/schemes to make them the default option for all government programmes in the 10th plan.
60.	Finance/DEA	Operationalisation of the National Pensions Regime announced in the last Budget.
61.	Finance/DEA	Finalization & operationalization of the proposed New Pension Scheme for Government Servants.
62.	Finance/DEA	Finalization and implementation of proposed Medical Insurance Scheme for the unorganized sector, including BPL families, announced by FM in the last Budget.
63.	Food and Public Distribution	Encourage the participation of private traders in the procurement and export of food grains.
64.	Food and Public Distribution	Consider removal of restrictions on Fair Price Shop (FPS) dealers and commodities to be sold through them. Envisage/promote FPS management by village grain dealers, village self-help groups and NGOs, where they exist.
65.	Food and Public Distribution	Draw up a detailed blue print for enhancing private participation through PPP and other means in creation of storage capacity and formulate policy for establishment of decentralised grain banks with private participation.
66.	Food and Public Distribution	Introduce steps to reform FCI functioning, including steps to out source various operations and reduce/redeploy manpower in a phased manner, to ensure more efficient and cost effective operations.
67.	Food and PD/Banking	Devise/put in place the system for hypothecation and pledging of farm produce, stocked at godowns, by financial institutions for giving credit to farmers on the basis of the receipt/proof of storage, as also steps to enable marketability/exchange of the storage.
68.	Food Processing Industry	(i) Comprehensive revision of Food Adulteration Act and other food laws for a new integrated food law, (ii) Institutionalize consultation with industry on multilateral negotiations in the food sector, (iii) Strengthen quality control system for inputs and produce in agriculture in this context.
69.	Health	Suitable policy interventions to encourage the doctors to practice in rural areas.
70.	Health	Infrastructure/Institutional capacities to be strengthened by a Plan/MFI scheme.
71.	Home	Finalisation of the National Disaster Management Plan and related implementation Machinery premised on maximum use of existing infrastructure, equipment, facilities and resources.
72.	Human Resource Development	Develop transparent time bound accreditation process of Institutes of higher Education.
73.	HRD (Sec. and Higher Education) I&B/Culture	Enact changes in relevant IPR statutes/policy to check film/music piracy.

1	2	3
74.	Human Resource Development	Establish a policy, regulatory, and legal framework for establishing private universities and professional colleges, as well as vocational education. Establish a policy framework for setting up endowments by the private sector in existing universities/colleges. Establish a comprehensive scheme of loan scholarships using institutional finance for all categories of students (BPL/APL)
75.	Human Resource Development, Science & Technology, Finance, Commerce	To establish models of public-private partnerships for collaborative R&D between Universities and private cos. for sharing of costs and benefits (IPRs) on the lines of the practice in CSIR.
76.	IPP/Finance	Introduce policy measures to promote R&D investments through FDI. Consider treatment of earnings from R&D Exports as those from any other export earnings for Income Tax purposes.
77.	IT/Revenue	Prepare strategy for rationalization of tariff structure to cope with the zero duty regime on finished products that will come into place after 2005.
78.	Labour	Finalise position of the Government on the recommendations of the Fourth Labour Commission.
79.	Labour	Reforms in Labour legislation, including Contract labour (regulations and Abolition) Act, 1970; Industrial Disputes Act and other Acts.
80.	Land Resources	Enactment of Resettlement and Rehabilitation bill for project affected families.
81.	Land Resources	Enactment of amendments to the Land Acquisition Act 1894.
82.	Law and Justice	Revision of court fees (including strict insistence on payment of court fees before notices are sent out to respondents or ex-parte injunctions are issued) is need to cover costs of judicial administration.
83.	Personnel	Process and implement the Surendra Nath Committee Report on personnel/civil service issues.
84.	Petroleum and NG	Formulate an Action Plan for setting up a strategic petroleum reserve.
85.	Petroleum and NG	Develop a National Policy on Indias Hydrocarbon sourcing subsequent to completion of the study on India's Hydrocarbon Security.
86.	Petroleum and NG	Passing of the Petroleum Regulatory Board Bill 2002 and setting up of the Petroleum Regulatory Board. Content of Rules to be framed under Act may be prudently determined.
87.	Planning Commission/Concerned Ministers	Create an apex committee to develop an Integrated Energy Policy to govern demand and supply side issues and address natural resource utilisation, environmental and equity concerns.
88.	Post	Take necessary action for replacing the Indian Post office Act, 1996 by a forward looking legislation to take care of the needs of competition, convergence and other new developments.
89.	Posts	To draw up a road map and work out modalities for corporatisation of the postal sector.
90.	Power	Formulate rules etc. foreseen under the Electricity Act.
91.	Power	Complete pilot phase of programme for energy efficiency in Government buildings and prepare action plan for wider dissemination and implementation.
92.	Railways	Set up Rail Tariff Regulatory Authority to rationalise rail tariff.
93.	Railways	Develop a Policy framework to categorise backlog/future Railway projects for implementation through Govt., MFI and PPP funding.
94.	Railways	Formulate policy for outsourcing non-core railway activities.

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95.	Rural Development	Preparation of a national policy on Land Use/Resource Management.
96.	Science & Technology	Complete the transition to a new IPRs regime to leverage our comparative advantage in knowledge based industries.
97.	Shipping	Enact policy on major and minor ports, including Major Port Trusts Amendment Bill 2001.
98.	Shipping	Formulate and adopt a National Policy on Major/Minor Sea Ports to facilitate private/FDI investment, and if necessary an autonomous statutory regulatory agency for tariff setting.
99.	Social Justice and Empowerment	Develop and implement disabled friendly policies in the public/private sector.
100.	Social Justice and Empowerment/DEA	Develop a social security scheme for the old and the disabled. This effort may be linked to the ongoing action in DEA on addressing lifetime concerns on the basis of Concept paper approved by PM.
101.	SSI	Process and implement recommendations of the Rakesh Mohan, Abid Hussain, SP Gupta and KC Pant Committee reports on SSI.
102.	SSI/Cab. Sec.	Process/implement ASCI report on procedural/regulatory reform of SSI sector along with follow up action on Govindrajan Committee report.
103.	Telecom Dept.	Examine issues related to treating telecom sector as an infrastructure sector in order to achieve the targets of tele-density in line with the objectives laid down in the NPT, 1999 and the Tenth Five Year Plan and act upon them.
104.	Telecom Dept.	To take necessary steps towards enactment and notification of Communication Convergence Bill, 2000 and put in place the required structure for its operationalisation.
105.	Telecom Dept./Home/Defence	Take necessary action for comprehensive review of the spectrum allocation policy with a view to ensuring optimum utilization.
106.	Tourism	Introduce Public Private Partnerships in development, maintenance and operation of tourism infrastructure.
107.	Tourism	Preparation and implementation of an Action Plan to provide tourists protection from service providers with dubious bona-fides, security and emergency services.
108.	Urban Development	Preparation and implementation of a plan to mainstream PPP in Government Civil Works, on lines of NHAI projects, to enable improved quality and better value for money, through competition and performance based payments based on effective monitoring.
109.	Urban Development	Constitute expert group to review the mandates of DDA and other Urban Development agencies and take suitable followup action on its recommendations.
110.	Urban Development	Formulate a National Policy on Urban Transport.
111.	Urban Development	Formulate and implement guidelines for use of surplus government land for BPL housing and capital investment.
112.	Urban Employment and PA	Formulate National Policy and model legislation for the urban informal sector. (Relates to Street Vendors and Rickshaw Pullers)
113.	Urban Development/Urban Employment and PA	Ensure finalisation of City Challenge Fund, Pool Finance Development Facility and URIF under a single platform and facilitate necessary followup actions.
114.	Urban Employment and PA	Restructure Swam Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) with special focus on micro credit for urban informal sector and a national level review.
115.	Women and Child	Finalise the Children's Charter and the National Plan of Action for Children, including identification and prioritisation of child friendly amendments required to existing laws and their enactment.
116.	Women and Child	Operationalising the National Policy for Empowerment of Women.

Stoppage of Financial Assistance to States

2221. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) whether the Government had stopped financial assistance to several states for Road construction and maintenance as they had not been adhering to the loading norms for goods transport vehicles;

(b) if so, the names of States to whom assistance has been stopped;

(c) the reaction of these States;

(d) whether the Government propose to restore the financial assistance; and

(e) if so, by when the assistance is likely to be restored?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) A decision was taken to withhold the release of funds from the Central Road Fund (CRF) to seven states, namely, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh due to issue of special passes/tokens/cards by these States which facilitated overloading of vehicles violation of the provisions of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

(c) to (e) The Governments of Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa have informed the Union Government that the special passes/tokens/cards have been withdrawn and a decision has now been taken to release funds from the CRF to these States. A decision has now been taken to release funds from the CRF to these States. A decision to resume the release of funds to the remaining States will depend on the response of these State Governments on this issue.

Revision in Indian Medical Council Act

2222. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the major revision of Indian Medical Council Act and other related laws;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to introduce a Bill in this regard;

(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 (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) A Bill to amend the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 26.8.1987. The Bill was referred to the Joint Committee of both the Houses of Parliament (JPC) which presented its Report on 28th July, 1989. The Government have not yet moved for consideration of the Bill by the Rajya Sabha as reported by the JPC. However, the Act is amended whenever necessary, like in the year 1993 to provide for opening of new medical college and new course of study in medicine after obtaining the permission of the Central Government and again in the year 2001 to provide for screening test for the Indian nationals holding foreign medical qualifications for their registration to practice medicine in India.

[*Translation*]

N.C.E.R.T. History Book

2223. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

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

(a) whether the history text book 'Pracheen Bharat' of National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) for 11th standard contains materials which gives them political colour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to delete such materials from the said text book; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

CAG Report

2224. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some central universities brought out many instances of their failures in forging an All-India character according to the CAG's Audit Report No. 4 of 2003; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) The Audit Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended 31st March, 2002—Union Government (Civil) No. 4 of 2003 has observed, *inter-alia*, that most of the Central Universities have, despite their avowed all-India character, come to terms with a regional or local profile, not very different from the State Universities. While some drew upon the inherent advantage of metropolitan location, there was neither any parameter set for fostering an All-India character duly reflected in their admission, appointment and the nature of their courses and programmes, nor was it a condition for viewing the overall enrollment in the universities.

Availability of Isoptin

2225. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Isoptin, a life saving drug, for heart patients, is not available in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this drug is manufactured in India itself; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) As per information available with this Ministry, 'Isoptin' a brand of Verapamil HCl, a drug for heart patients, earlier marketed by M/s. Boehringer Knoll, is presently not available in the country.

However, another brand CALAPTIN (Verapamil HCl) being marketed by M/s. Nicholas Piramal, Mumbai, is available in India.

Wives of Diplomats Taking up Jobs Abroad

2226. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wives of the Ambassadors and High Commissioners in Foreign Countries are taking up jobs there;

(b) if so, whether there are rules barring this;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Yes. The Ministry of External Affairs issued revised guidelines for remunerative employment of spouses of India-based personnel posted in Indian Mission/Posts abroad in December 2001, allowing spouses of Heads of Missions (HOMs)/Heads of Posts (HOPs) to take up jobs abroad, subject to certain conditions and within the framework of broad guidelines.

The employment of spouses of HOMs/HOPs must be referred to Ministry for approval. The HOMs/HOPs should keep in mind while forwarding such proposals, that such employment would not impact individually on national pride and repute, would be in conformity with the dignity and status of the office of Ambassador/High Commissioner and the remuneration to be paid to the spouse would not be excessive. Ministry has also drawn up list of permissible areas where spouses of HOMs/HOPs can take up employment, and also specified fields in which such employment shall not be permitted.

(d) Does not arise.

Performance of Central Universities

2227. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has assessed the performance and functioning of central universities;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith their achievements; and

(c) the problems faced by the Central universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir. According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the UGC Xth Plan Visiting Committees have recently reviewed the progress made by the Central Universities in the IXth Plan and also assessed the requirements for the Xth Plan on the basis of vital parameters like academic, research and Governance. Besides this, the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), an autonomous institutions of the UGC, has also so far assessed and accredited four Central Universities, *viz.* Hyderabad University, Nagaland

University, North-Eastern Hill University and Pondicherry University.

(b) and (c) The salient achievements of the Central Universities have been reflected in the enclosed statement. The reports of the Visiting Teams have indicated certain problems faced by the Central Universities, *inter-alia*, that most of the Universities suffer from inadequacy of funds, including decline in non-salary component of allocation, with the result that the facility for teaching and research, maintenance and upkeep of buildings and equipments have suffered. The newly established Universities lack in developed campus and other infrastructural facility. The ratio of non-teaching staff to teaching staff is also considerably high in some cases.

Statement

Name of University	Achievements
1	2
Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Teaching and research work of high quality in Arts, Social Science, Science, Technology and Medicine. (ii) Centre of Advanced Studies in History under Special Assistance Programme (SAP) of UGC has earned considerable recognition. (iii) One of the most active Academic Staff colleges in the Country.
Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) 21 new degree programmes both at Under Graduate (UG) and Post Graduate (PG) level were introduced during IX Plan. (ii) 4 inter-disciplinary schools introduced. (iii) 7,000 research publications made and numerous books published. (iv) Rs. 39.62 Crore received as research grant from various sources. (v) number of teachers honoured with the award and national/international fellowships.
University of Delhi, Delhi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Has maintained position of eminence in academic and research work. (ii) Several Departments recognized by the UGC under Special Assistance Programme.
University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Good research work done at national/international level. (ii) Faculty Members won recognition and awards from various agencies at national/international levels. (iii) Selected by UGC as "University with Potential for Excellence".

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- Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi
- (iv) Graded Five Star with 83.25% by NAAC on the basis of earlier five point scale.
 - (v) Academic Staff College is doing well.
 - (vi) Simple Sanskrit speaking centre, coaching centre for minorities established through separate UGC Schemes.
- Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
- (i) Academy of 3rd World Studies—a unique academic endeavour of JMI working with visiting faculty and organizing seminars and symposia of contemporary relevance.
 - (ii) Faculty of Natural Sciences has a strong academic base in Under Graduate and Post Graduate teaching and has the strongest research base among the faculties of the University. It has facility of Internet, LAN and e-mail.
 - (iii) Several departments have UGC Special Assistance Programme.
 - (iv) Running a self-supporting Master of Computer Application (MCA) Programme.
 - (v) Very good research output and awards by the faculty members.
- Pondicherry, University, Pondicherry
- (i) The University has earned status of 'University with the Potential of Excellence' under UGC Scheme.
 - (ii) School of Life Sciences earned the status of Centre of Advanced Studies under Special Assistance Programme of UGC.
 - (iii) The University has proposed large number of innovative ideas and new initiatives like JNU knowledge Park.
 - (iv) Centre of Bio-technology has done excellent work and many of its faculty members have to their credit patents and published papers in the national and international journals.
 - (v) Publishes about 70 books and more than 200 research papers every year.
- Viswa Bharati University, Shantinikentan
- (i) Department of Chemistry qualified for the DRS under UGC SAP Programme.
 - (ii) Has encouraged and developed Inter-disciplinary teaching.
 - (iii) Has introduced student's assessment of teachers.
 - (iv) Graded Four Star with 72.65% by NAAC on the basis of earlier five point scale.
- (i) Taken significant step for preserving the literary, cultural and philosophical heritage of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore.
 - (ii) Good research work done by Literature and Social Sciences Departments and there are substantial research publication.
 - (iii) Facilitates and promotes regular interaction between professional artists and international musicians.
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1	2
Babasaheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar University, Lucknow	Although the University become functional only in the IX Plan period, it has been able to develop appropriate infrastructure and initiated/undertaken studies in the area of Ambedkar Studies, and disciplines such as Bio-Technology, Anvrionmental Science, Human Rights etc.
Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Viswaviyalaya, Wardha	Although the University was established only in the IX Plan period, it has taken steps to develop its Campus at Wardha. Started two weekly Journals, Post Graduate courses and has organised seminars, workshops, etc.
North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong (NEHU)	(i) Established important and valuable national and international linkages. (ii) Given strong emphasis to quality teaching and research work. (iii) Initiated steps to develop Integrated Educational Complex encompassing Regional Centres of IGNOU, and Units/facilities of Central Institute of English & Foreign Languages (CIEFL), Indian Council of Social Science and Research (ICSSR), Sports Authority of India and others. (iv) Graded Four Star with 70.60% by NAAC on the basis of earlier five point scale.
University of Assam, Silchar	Availed funds from various Central/State Government funding agencies under various schemes in pursuance of its objectives to promote inter-disciplinary studies/research and educate/train manpower of the region.
Tezpur University, Tezpur	(i) Collaboration with other educational institutions within the country. (ii) Quality teaching, punctual conduct of course work and evaluation. (iii) Good research output.
University of Nagaland, Nagaland	(i) Has initiated necessary steps for strengthening higher education in the State of Nagaland through University Departments and affiliated colleges. (ii) Graded C++ with 67% by NAAC on the basis of current grading pattern.
Mizoram University, Aizawal	The University is newly established i.e. in the year 2002, therefore, we need to wait for its performance.
Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad	Although the University was established only in the IXth Plan period, it has developed necessary infrastructure and taken steps in pursuance of its mandate to promote the development of Urdu and the imparting of technical/vocational education through Urdu medium.
Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)	(i) As a premier Open and Distance Learning institution IGNOU has developed in-house expertise to design, develop and deliver multi-media self-instructional materials.

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- (ii) Has developed National capability for technology-enabled education and capability for delivery through educational channels—Gyan Darshan and Gyan Vani.
- (iii) Cost-effective, learner-centric and flexible system for dissemination of knowledge through the distance mode leading to phenomenal growth of students.
- (iv) Internationally recognized training capabilities in diversified areas of education, HRD and extension.
- (v) Providing support and guidance to State Open Universities, and strengthening Open Learning through Distance Education Council.

Launching of Education Satellite

2228. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to launch an exclusive "Education Satellite" into the space orbit;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the benefits that would accrue from launching of the satellite *vis-a-vis* cost of manufacture of the satellite;

(d) whether satellite is going to be indigenously built and launched from India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. EDUSAT, a satellite dedicated for tele-education, is to be launched on the third developmental flight of GSLV during the second quarter of 2004. This satellite will have regional and national beams in Ku-band and national beams in Ext-C band optimised for educational applications.

(c) EDUSAT will be used for imparting quality education in Primary, Secondary, Higher School education, Teacher's Training and for Technical and Medical education to the whole country. The estimated cost of the satellite will be about Rs. 85.00 crores.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Education Satellite (EDUSAT) will be launched on the third developmental flight of GSLV and both the satellite and the launch vehicle are indigenously built.

Research Works in IITs

2229. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of Human Resource Development has expressed dissatisfaction over both the quality and quantity of research papers produced by IITs while chairing a meeting of the Council of IITs on September 7, 2003, in New Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons for the poor performance of IITs in the field of research and the reasons for the same;

(c) the quality research papers published by the scholars of various IITs in the last five years;

(d) the patents filed by the IITs during the said period, institute-wise; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the standards of research in IITs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (e) Minister of Human Resource Development during the meeting of Council held on 7th September, 2003 expressed his view that IITs should give more emphasis to research work. He also

emphasized the need for taking up research work targeted towards solving our country's problems. He further suggested that number of research paper published by each faculty must go up from the present level and Institutions should also take steps to ensure that more and more patents are filed in the coming years. He desired that IITs should not only develop technologies for Indian Industry but also guide them towards adopting these technologies. Some of the steps being taken to improve the standards of research are:

1. Substantial upward revision of amount of scholarship to research scholars.
2. Providing access to large number of electronic resource through INDEST Consortium.
3. Equipping the laboratory with up to date and modern equipment.
4. Directing research in cutting edge technologies.
5. Improvement in infrastructure etc.

[*Translation*]

Expenditure on Advertisement

2230. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited issues advertisements in newspapers and magazines regarding its progress and new schemes every year;

(b) if so, the amount spent under this Head from 1999, till date, year-wise;

(c) whether such advertisements are also issued from the Headquarters of the Nigam;

(d) if so, the year-wise amount spent by the headquarters of the Nigam during the said period;

(e) whether the Nigam has issued advertisements for small and medium magazines also; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) BSNL was incorporated on 1st October, 2000. Year-wise marketing expenditure of BSNL is as below:

October 2000-March, 2001	: Rs. 19.1105 Crores
April 2001-March, 2002	: Rs. 44.4023 Crores
April 2002-March, 2003	: Rs. 92.6982 Crores
April 2003-September, 2003	: Rs. 36.8778 Crores

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yearly expenditure on marketing by BSNL Corporate Office is as below:

October, 2000-March 2001	: Rs. 2.065 Crores
April 2001-March 2002	: Rs. 6.786 Crores
April 2002-March 2003	: Rs. 35.847 Crores
April 2003-September, 2003	: Rs. 12.831 Crores

(e) BSNL generally issues advertisements in magazine having circulation of more than 25,000 per publication.

(f) In the past BSNL issued advertisements in magazines like India Today, Business Barron, Outlook, Business World, Business Today, Swagat, Namaskar, Darpan, Communication Today, Voice & Data, etc.

[*English*]

Setting up of Expert Committee by UGC

2231. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has set up an expert committee to review the governance, organization and management of Indian universities and recommend a model act to reorient their working in order to meet the challenges of the 21st century;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the composition of the expert committee; and

(d) the time by which the expert committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) According to the

information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), a four-member Expert Committee consisting of senior academicians has been appointed to conduct a review of the governance, organization and management of universities in the country and to recommend a Model Act for universities of the 21st Century in India with a view to prepare the Indian Universities System for the future. The Committee is likely to finalize its report shortly.

Performance of Ports

2232. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of the major ports in the country;

(b) if so, the port-wise details thereof during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 till date; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to improve the efficiency of the ports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) The performance review of major ports in the country is a continuous process. The port-wise cargo traffic handled during the last two years and current financial year (upto November, 2003) are given below:

(In Million tonnes)

Name of the Port	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (April to November)
Kolkata	30.40	35.80	25.38
Paradip	21.13	23.90	16.21
Visakhapatnam	44.34	46.01	30.98
Ennore	3.40	8.49	6.21
Chennai	36.12	33.69	23.49
Tuticorin	13.02	13.29	9.12
Cochin	12.06	13.00	8.95
New Mangalore	17.50	21.43	15.88
Mormugao	22.93	23.65	14.68
Jawaharlal Nehru	22.52	26.84	20.25
Mumbai	26.43	26.80	20.10
Kandla	37.73	40.63	26.86
Total:	287.58	313.53	218.11

(c) Improvement in efficiency in Major Ports is an ongoing process. To increase efficiency of major ports, the following major steps have been taken from time to time in relation to major ports:

- (i) Construction and equipping of new berths/ terminals;
- (ii) Replacement of existing equipment with the state-of-art equipment on existing berths;
- (iii) Labour training and improvement in management practices for achieving higher efficiency output;
- (iv) Private sector involvement in the development and operation of port facilities to bring out additional investment and modern techniques for greater efficiency;
- (v) Computerisation of port working and partial induction of Electronic Data Interchange; and
- (vi) Setting up of Vessel Traffic Management System.

Direction to Students

2233. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that 40 million jobs created worldwide in the next 20 years particularly in services, manufacturing could benefit India if its students are given the right direction and advice as reported in the 'Indian Express' dated 12 November, 2003; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) A report was prepared under the auspices of the All India Management Association (AIMA) in cooperation with the Boston Consulting Group and CII, which suggested that by 2020, 40 million jobs would be created worldwide. As per International Labour Organisation a large number of jobs to be created worldwide in the coming decades could benefit India. During the Tenth Five Year Plan, emphasis is laid on Vocational Education as also for skill development for the new entrants to the labour force along with the upgradation of skills of the existing workforce.

ADB Loan for Inland Water Transport

2234. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any loan has been obtained from ADB for the development of inland water transport in the country as reported in the 'Economic Times' dated November 14, 2003.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether due to absence of professional and dynamic planning, the progress in the development of inland waterways has been tardy;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to set up a task force for the purpose; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Privatisation of Health Services

2235. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to privatize the maximum health services in the country;

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

(c) the details of the guidelines and instructions for prompt and effective treatment?

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

and (b) The National Health Policy-2002 welcomes the participation of the private sector in all the areas of health activities—primary, secondary and tertiary—with suitable regulatory mechanisms. Health is a State subject. Therefore States are free to decide on privatization of their health care system. However, the private sector is increasingly participating in the delivery of health care including the national programmes like TB, Blindness, HIV/AIDS, amongst others. Private practitioners, especially specialists are hired on contract basis to provide specialist care in primary health centres under the Reproductive Child Health (RCH) Programme so as to improve access to RCH services. Some other forms of participation include, *inter-alia*, part time hiring of general practitioners and specialists to visit and provide health care in Primary Health Centres/Community Health Centres in under-served areas and outsourcing of non-clinical services like diet, laundry, cleaning and security. The Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) also engages some private hospitals for providing treatment to the CGHS beneficiaries.

(c) Instructions are periodically issued to hospitals for appropriate and prompt treatment of patients. A hospital manual has been prepared by the Central Government for providing guidance for smooth running of hospitals. Citizen's Charter has also been adopted by some Central Government hospitals with client focus in order to increase awareness of patients and ensure prompt redressal of their grievances.

Utilization of Allocation for Health Programmes

2236. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware that the funds allocated for various ongoing health programmes are not being properly utilized;

(b) if so, the funds allocated and actually spent on these health programmes during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether allocation under the budgetary provisions has been slashed down;

(d) if so, the facts thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to minimise the gap between the utilisation and budgetary allocations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Funds provided to States under National Health Programmes are utilized with due care as per set procedures and for the purpose for which they are provided. A statement giving state-wise allocation of funds and actual expenditure in respect of major national health programmes during 2000-01 to 2002-03 is enclosed

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) the trend of expenditure on the national health programmes has improved significantly through regular and intensive monitoring of various programmes. To ensure optimal utilization of funds, guidelines have been circulated to all State/District Control Societies. utilization of funds is also monitored through regular reports, review meetings both at the Centre and the States, audit reports and utilization certificates.

Statement

National TB Control Programme

State-wise, Year-wise Allocation and Expenditure during the last three years

(Rs. in Lakh)

States/UTs	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003	
	Alloc.	Exp.	Alloc.	Exp.	Alloc.	Exp.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh	442.13	888.93	1200.00	1509.35	1050.00	952.66
Andman & Nicobar	2.54	0.96	1.53	0.60	2.23	13.00
Arunachal Pradesh	94.10	83.13	119.42	89.59	15.00	40.09
Assam	294.32	162.29	212.38	195.06	391.77	256.81
Bihar	1015.06	405.19	700.05	409.47	697.27	285.01
Chandigarh	7.27	19.03	12.84	8.55	9.54	16.00
Chhattisgarh	0.00	18.36	36.54	36.30	183.56	196.55
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.07	0.68	0.04	0.31	1.48	0.00
Daman & Diu	1.46	0.54	0.88	0.31	1.48	0.00
Delhi	192.23	352.06	228.75	162.63	146.24	393.55
Goa	12.72	12.70	15.55	9.88	13.78	11.37
Gujarat	867.72	704.86	810.07	466.60	536.22	239.74
Haryana	233.31	108.03	195.23	158.13	179.75	137.13
Himachal Pradesh	114.84	324.13	183.57	144.91	64.64	91.20
Jammu & Kashmir	79.64	111.47	73.42	77.76	95.28	31.95
Jharkhand	0.00	17.40	55.13	54.76	233.91	78.32
Karnataka	661.83	478.92	632.73	529.45	534.01	455.28
Kerala	599.18	391.29	687.3	450.38	337.00	156.31
Lakshadweep	5.45	2.04	3.28	0.00	1.06	9.34

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Madhya Pradesh	754.83	272.40	658.38	420.3	592.09	663.03
Maharashtra	1257.08	1557.36	1683.61	1167.23	1025.81	627.18
Manipur	29.66	154.24	100.47	87.88	30.77	77.14
Meghalaya	19.46	9.37	19.49	12.93	31.74	70.19
Mizoram	7.47	7.72	14.17	15.81	11.82	84.09
Nagaland	13.64	61.69	99.36	97.31	25.64	28.46
Orissa	449.33	923.79	600.00	528.04	450.00	785.45
Pondicherry	15.38	3.24	11.67	3.97	9.96	0.00
Punjab	226.14	92.23	281.74	239.47	227.65	202.79
Rajasthan	973.83	952.45	1072.53	744.87	598.74	497.23
Sikkim	4.37	48.52	31.82	31.32	6.41	34.28
Tamilnadu	1117.60	856.46	999.81	679.31	658.09	350.10
Tripura	29.81	23.38	30.52	36.80	33.57	44.61
Uttar Pradesh	1670.68	586.99	1402.20	1246.37	1586.38	1142.25
Uttanchal	0.00	9.67	15.56	15.53	67.21	97.16
West Bengal	1126.85	984.51	1109.92	656.90	849.90	677.95
Grand Total	12320.00	10626.00	13300.0	10288.16	10700.00	8746.22

*Expenditure figures are provisional.

National Anti Malaria Control Programme

State-wise, Year-wise Allocation/Releases and Expenditure during the last three years

(Rs. in Lakh)

States/UTs	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03	
	Allo./Rel.	Exp.	Allo./Rel.	Exp.	Allo./Rel.	Exp.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andaman & Nicobar	208.13	231.75	226.84	220.75	217.85	230.07
Andhra Pradesh	2418.88	2523.34	794.77	954.64	529.20	548.85
Arunachal Pradesh	343.91	293.79	486.93	364.97	280.72	377.08
Assam	5514.11	2657.86	1983.27	2377.47	1626.56	1935.83
Bihar	538.69	238.82	377.44	545.97	77.71	95.85

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chandigarh	50.00	44.81	41.06	34.87	36.00	38.9
Chhattisgarh	271.65	271.75	826.39	876.31	2360.92	3047.95
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	40.03	18.12	40.67	40.67	34.33	16.07
Daman & Diu	18.86	9.90	16.08	18.65	11.72	7.99
Delhi	90.9	100.45	97.57	89.55	97.39	58.37
Goa	8.71	0.98	6.08	6.19	8.85	7.97
Gujarat	1669.02	1480.92	1330.97	1353.89	754.40	767.99
Haryana	197.22	78.35	18.43	18.43	72.30	67.1
Himachal Pradesh	90.30	89.06	2.20	36.78	3.06	11.89
Jammu & Kashmir	86.96	84.28	22.96	69.62	11.94	382.43
Jharkhand	90.00	90.00	759.92	784.28	1159.63	1267.51
Karnataka	352.68	233.36	308.24	386.48	176.28	227.36
Kerala	84.35	75.92	64.22	67.75	12.63	13.31
Lakshadweep	10.98	5.57	6.35	5.92	6.10	5.35
Madhya Pradesh	1976.66	2154.36	2238.77	2540.8	2063.16	2408.16
Maharashtra	1481.06	1478.39	2239.20	2289.2	976.91	947.11
Manipur	520.37	235.72	358.91	275.27	121.36	144.86
Meghalaya	337.64	303.58	384.02	292.98	167.63	301.7
Mizoram	385.11	235.26	433.93	345.85	118.51	195.4
Nagaland	290.38	278.91	346.91	368.08	212.48	367.24
Orissa	1173.68	1440.89	1478.23	1745.06	1953.62	3030.8
Pondicherry	22.03	13.56	13.43	8.3	22.61	13.18
Punjab	230.77	148.31	49.38	94.1	70.79	65.75
Rajasthan	967.35	468.09	534.04	924.92	303.37	925.9
Sikkim	10.65	0.12	0.11	0.14	4.37	4.32
Tamilnadu	174.92	133.90	303.11	289.03	242.30	187.39
Tripura	599.05	480.94	542.45	505.76	302.79	389.93
Uttar Pradesh	605.75	558.72	548.62	645.61	200.48	528.16

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Uttaranchal	-	-	23.64	39.18	7.84	1.96
West Bengal	354.86	454.44	589.86	826.67	198.68	392.26
Total	21215.73	16914.12	17495.00	169444.14	14544.49	19011.59

*Expenditure figures are provisional.

National AIDS Control Programme

State-wise, Year-wise Allocation/Releases and Expenditure during the last three years

(Rs. in Lakh)

States/UTs	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03	
	Allo./Rel.	Exp.	Allo./Rel.	Exp.	Allo./Rel.	Exp.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andman & Nicobar	66.44	53.89	95.50	79.43	89.50	141.71
Andhra Pradesh	1074.50	1097.80	1875.00	1927.31	2090.00	1624.13
Arunachal Pradesh	111.00	140.83	214.88	161.92	130.50	140.63
Assam	375.00	346.27	653.80	568.02	614.50	643.78
Bihar	196.00	105.84	809.50	1017.85	600.50	89.83
Chandigarh	93.11	106.32	152.65	134.06	156.50	109.31
Chhattisgarh	-	-	150.50	95.64	243.50	38.83
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	9.00	14.80	26.00	21.62	17.00	7.44
Daman & Diu	9.00	72.76	31.00	25.16	3600	45.42
Delhi	239.00	168.15	334.00	329.46	431.00	141.55
Goa	72.73	92.75	99.00	97.32	170.50	66.61
Gujarat	681.73	528.96	1188.30	878.95	1280.19	745.57
Haryana	246.50	321.05	266.00	207.76	315.00	206.28
Himachal Pradesh	262.50	266.68	308.50	276.80	236.50	150.69
Jammu & Kashmir	152.00	69.03	244.50	215.63	255.50	49.86
Jharkhand	-	-	156.00	0.00	162.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Karnataka	398.65	535.97	785.15	783.35	975.00	806.03
Kerala	600.63	437.88	835.00	608.89	855.00	487.88
Lakshadweep	9.16	18.84	29.50	22.62	25.50	14.90
Madhya Pradesh	542.00	361.49	780.50	471.12	481.50	138.66
Maharashtra	1296.58	1241.73	1598.65	1132.66	2293.21	1824.10
Manipur	415.30	145.94	708.15	656.03	787.50	465.40
Meghalaya	87.50	50.50	224.93	64.18	90.50	43.32
Mizoram	179.00	177.46	246.70	266.85	311.50	330.27
Nagaland	250.50	187.45	635.50	568.54	626.50	399.38
Orissa	408.50	236.20	565.00	325.05	448.00	267.49
Pondicherry	31.50	26.81	54.00	48.98	74.00	64.39
Punjab	321.50	177.55	266.50	185.62	403.50	287.45
Rajasthan	380.00	232.68	317.50	297.01	358.50	247.39
Sikkim	66.00	45.50	120.02	73.95	64.00	91.82
Tamilnadu	1870.92	783.27	2139.26	2099.12	2207.03	2157.51
Tripura	92.00	76.73	196.00	129.01	71.00	57.07
Uttar Pradesh	1175.00	448.55	1465.65	1729.25	1674.50	828.86
Uttaranchal	-	-	98.00	0.02	162.00	0.00
West Bengal	643.15	544.60	1059.50	1221.56	1503.00	774.32
Total	12346.45	9111.83	18731.31	16721.28	20280.43	13487.39

*Expenditure figures are provisional.

National Leprosy Eradication Programme

State-wise, Year-wise Allocation/Releases and Expenditure during the last three years

(Rs. in Lakh)

States/UTs	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003	
	Allo./Rel.	Exp.	Allo./Rel.	Exp.	Allo./Rel.	Exp.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andman & Nicobar	1.00	1.00	18.30	5.58	20.22	11.01
Andhra Pradesh	508.75	508.75	223.83	208.59	179.22	173.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Arunachal Pradesh	136.00	136.00	62.09	65.81	115.96	93.11
Assam	112.00	112.00	153.85	152.24	97.48	130.42
Bihar	869.80	869.70	663.94	547.66	855.85	538.40
Chandigarh	3.50	3.50	5.50	6.32	10.13	7.09
Chhattisgarh	–	–	378.34	259.24	354.41	247.53
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	8.79	8.79	6.00	6.30	6.00	5.31
Daman & Diu	14.50	14.50	18.40	14.06	14.50	6.20
Delhi	41.50	41.50	48.36	53.11	93.42	70.72
Goa	1.50	1.50	11.52	8.50	8.10	11.35
Gujarat	230.00	211.66	61.97	79.24	99.65	111.78
Haryana	23.00	23.00	61.94	48.33	43.89	52.54
Himachal Pradesh	61.00	52.00	49.69	57.15	30.45	42.64
Jammu & Kashmir	87.00	60.61	100.55	81.05	96.39	79.36
Jharkhand	–	–	356.23	233.45	257.46	160.9
Karnataka	302.75	300.73	196.05	345.53	122.66	134.72
Kerala	237.00	230.87	74.61	91.80	69.36	74.73
Lakshadweep	3.00	3.00	6.00	5.59	7.26	5.70
Madhya Pradesh	645.36	645.36	395.32	411.14	676.51	350.76
Maharashtra	398.60	398.60	435.99	428.58	263.14	219.94
Manipur	125.00	103.68	71.02	77.86	101.25	92.37
Meghalaya	47.00	44.43	46.94	44.94	46.24	41.15
Mizoram	61.00	61.00	60.61	90.66	76.50	38.32
Nagaland	109.00	109.00	89.22	126.64	112.44	113.91
Orissa	628.00	393.55	540.77	379.63	478.63	497.55
Pondicherry	7.00	7.00	2.00	8.97	6.00	7.18
Punjab	36.00	36.00	32.30	63.04	40.27	54.93
Rajasthan	105.00	129.32	123.07	98.62	52.32	118.36

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sikkim	41.71	41.10	34.87	35.60	39.36	40.62
Tamilnadu	42.274	282.32	413.04	348.84	240.63	289.46
Tripura	34.00	19.53	46.47	19.32	33.60	22.30
Uttar Pradesh	1093.51	1002.97	1282.50	1324.71	1508.04	246.53
Uttaranchal	-	-	129.01	104.38	120.01	966.87
West Bengal	784.00	680.81	574.66	667.41	599.55	501.99
Grand Total	7179.01	6533.88	6774.86	6499.89	6877.00	5559.27

*Expenditure figures are provisional.

National Programme for Control of Blindness

State-wise, Year-wise Allocation/Releases and Expenditure during the last three years

(Rs. in Lakh)

States/UTs	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03	
	Allo./Rel.	Exp.	Allo./Rel.	Exp.	Allo./Rel.	Exp.*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andman & Nicobar	3.75	4.74	16.80	13.79	1.59	0.09
Andhra Pradesh	689.05	940.70	1,063.81	1,048.97	834.82	541.79
Arunachal Pradesh	48.82	47.91	43.81	17.03	16.22	21.61
Assam	207.09	74.34	62.67	47.23	35.70	28.84
Bihar	306.30	119.12	72.50	58.08	157.97	57.70
Chandigarh	11.00	8.51	20.15	18.62	10.07	9.91
Chhattisgarh	126.98	125.63	302.74	247.28	165.23	143.73
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	105.64	103.00	16.92	11.87	4.16	4.62
Daman & Diu	12.60	9.62	12.86	10.16	4.97	0.97
Delhi	61.29	49.53	22.15	46.26	22.30	40.17
Goa	41.20	7.75	33.95	25.89	10.52	13.89
Gujarat	384.00	160.95	245.85	249.69	231.45	188.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Haryana	178.00	62.68	104.63	38.87	45.36	101.72
Himachal Pradesh	131.00	141.18	64.03	98.78	54.11	38.73
Jammu & Kashmir	106.50	74.41	110.04	82.17	66.79	107.37
Jharkhand	54.00	42.69	29.30	28.24	118.57	49.20
Karnataka	305.89	346.53	454.43	495.46	368.30	273.36
Kerala	294.20	167.64	184.5	219.00	153.22	102.41
Lakshadweep	229.59	226.17	5.02	0.067	1.56	1.28
Madhya Pradesh	832.39	758.51	908.02	916.09	667.29	321.17
Maharashtra	766.38	758.62	1,251.09	865.15	627.15	408.27
Manipur	55.94	26.16	50.73	57.15	20.13	4.45
Meghalaya	153.84	119.10	78.28	30.06	25.12	20.79
Mizoram	79.57	68.39	35.56	47.49	31.72	15.80
Nagaland	40.98	3.06	51.10	33.43	23.22	6.39
Orissa	1,187.45	1,165.50	468.35	466.49	324.80	210.98
Pondicherry	14.50	9.10	15.50	12.40	2.04	4.44
Punjab	117.60	51.14	65.05	43.54	189.25	129.82
Rajasthan	946.45	1,107.21	1,128.85	700.92	526.93	402.43
Sikkim	103.39	81.66	6.61	25.18	20.56	3.10
Tamilnadu	1,111.05	1,383.39	1,972.99	1,378.77	1,653.03	1,271.07
Tripura	68.80	43.97	397.74	77.32	39.88	53.97
Uttar Pradesh	940.45	1621.29	2166.92	1450.01	1063.20	798.41
Uttaranchal	80.34	95.37	175.03	182.65	115.02	129.91
West Bengal	275.00	174.77	180.76	211.69	305.12	122.46
Grand Total	10,070.57	10,144.33	11,819.09	9,256.40	7,937.37	5,629.37

*Expenditure figures are provisional.

[Translation]

Evaluation of D.P.E.P

2237. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:
SHRI A.C. JOSE:

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

- (a) whether the Government has made any evaluation of the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP);
- (b) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether this programme is still on in all the States of the country;
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether the Government has planned some steps to meet the rising demand of Primary Education in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) The District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) is supervised and evaluated through periodic Supervision Missions. So far, 12 Internal Supervisions and 18 Joint Review Missions (JRM) comprising representatives of Government and External Funding Agencies have supervised/evaluated the programme. The reviews and various evaluatory studies of the programme have brought out that the programme has resulted in significant increase in enrollment, improvement in learning achievement, reduction in repetition rates/dropout rates with increased community participation, improvements in classroom processes, etc. The findings of the Missions are communicated to the State Implementing Societies and to the Education Secretaries/Chief Secretaries of the concerned States for taking remedial actions and for further improvements.

(c) to (f) The programme was launched in November 1994 in 42 districts in seven selected States and subsequently extended to 273 districts in 18 States in a phased manner. After completion, the project has already been closed down in 144 districts on 31.12.2002 and 30.06.2003. At present the project is continuing only in 129 districts in 9 States. To meet the rising demand for Primary Education, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been

launched as a national programme to achieve the goal of universalisation of elementary education.

[English]

Sethu Samudram Ship Canal Project

2238. SHRI K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the feasibility and viability report on Sethu Samudram Ship Canal Project has been prepared and is in the process of finalisation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether interests of local area of the project have been taken care of;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (e) The Techno-Economic Viability and detailed Environmental Impact Assessment study for Sethusamudram Ship Canal Project were entrusted to M/s National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur in May, 2002. NEERI has submitted draft report on Environmental Impact Assessment. The final report is yet to be submitted by NEERI. Detailed Project Report, which is required to include the interests of local area, can be prepared only after receipt of the final report from NEERI.

Employees of State Social Welfare Advisory Board

2239. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the employees of Border Area Projects of State Social Welfare Advisory Board, A&N Islands, have not been paid their salaries and benefits under ACP scheme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the time by which their arrears of salaries and ACP scheme benefits will be disbursed to them; and
- (d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for timely disbursement of their salaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) and (b) The salaries and allowances to the Project employees of Andaman & Nicobar Islands State Social Welfare Advisory Board are being paid on the basis of the revised pay scales as per the 5th Central Pay Commission recommendations. However, no proposal has been received from the State Social Welfare Advisory Board, A&N Islands for implementation of the ACP scheme for the employees of Border Area Project.

(c) The Central Social Welfare Board has released a sum of Rs. 22.00 lakhs for the year 2003-04 to the Andaman & Nicobar Islands State Board on the basis of Budget approved for 2002-03. The arrears of salary if any and ACP scheme will be paid to the employees as and when proposals are received from Andaman State Board.

(d) In order to ensure timely release, the State Social Welfare Advisory Board of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands has to submit their Budget Estimates for 2003-2004 as per schedule and submit Accounts of previous years for settlement.

Clearance of Biotechnology Product

2240. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the clearance of Drugs Controller General is required for the manufacture of any Recombinant Biotechnology Product that is likely to be introduced in India;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted for the clearance of such drugs alongwith the names of the companies that have applied for such clearance;

(c) whether a number of companies are manufacturing and marketing the products without the permission of Drug Controller;

(d) if so, the names of the companies found guilty during the last three years;

(e) whether the Drug Controller granted permission to Nova Nordisk for the manufacture of Recombinant insulin without undertaking clinical trials; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the modalities being normally followed, the indigenously developed DNA based products are initially examined by Recombinant Committee for Genetic Approval (RCGM) under the Department of Biotechnology. Based on the evaluation of all relevant data, RCGM advises the firms to approach DCG(I) to undertake human clinical trials of said drug. The clinical trial protocols are examined for granting necessary NOC by the office of DCG(I). After completion of clinical study, the report of the trial along with data on physicochemical and bio-chemical characterization, description of the target gene, sequencing of Amino acids, manufacturing/quality control etc., are examined by a multidisciplinary Expert Panel to decide about market authorization for such products. The facility provided by the applicant for manufacture of said product is also verified as per GMP norms through joint inspection carried out by the State and Central Drugs Control Officials. Unlike other pharmaceuticals, approval of Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) under Ministry of Environment is required to import, manufacture and market Recombinant DNA Biotech Products.

Based on the above criteria office of Drugs Controller General (I) have cleared the following Recombinant DNA derived therapeutics.

1. r-hu alpha 2b interferon of M/s Shantha Biotech Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad.
2. r-hu insulin and its analogue of M/s Wockhardt Ltd., Mumbai.
3. rDNA Streptokinase of M/s Bharat Biotech Int. Ltd., Hyderabad.
4. rDNA Streptokinase of M/s Shantha Biotech Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad.

Applications have been received from the following companies who also intend to indigenously manufacture rDNA Bio-tech products in the country:

1. M/s Biocon India Limited, for r human insulin
2. M/s Instas Pharmaceuticals, Ahmedabad for rhuman Granulocytes Colony Stimulating Fator (rGCSF)
3. M/s Bio Genomics Limited, Mumbai for r human Insulin
4. M/s Shantha Bio Techniques, Hyderabad for rhuman erythropoetin and r human Granulocytes Colony Stimulating Fator (r GCSF).

5. M/s Pancacea Bio-tech Ltd., New Delhi for rhuman Anthrax vaccine.
6. M/s Wockhrdt Ltd. Mumbai for rhuman interferon alpha 2b.
7. M/s Virchow Labs Ltd., Hyderabad for rhuman Platelets derived Growth factor rhuman interieukin and rhuman interferon alpha 2b.
8. M/s Bharat Biotech Int. Ltd., Hyderabad for rhuman Epidermal Growth factor.
9. M/s Indian Immunologicals Ltd., Hyderabad for rDNA anti-rabies vaccine for Human and Veterinary use and rHepatitis B vaccine.
10. M/s Bio E Ltd. Hyderabad, for r Hepatitis B vaccine.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) and (f) M/s Novo nordisk is not indigenously manufacturing r Human Insulin. However, the firm has been permitted for its import in the country in the year 1994.

Ports as Logistic Hub

2241. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to develop some ports as "logistic hub";

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to include Paradeep Port under the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) The Government has decided to develop one port each on the East Coast namely, Chennai Port and West Coast namely, Jawaharlal Nehru Port as hub ports to receive mainline container vessels. In addition, the Government has also decided to develop an international Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT) at Vallarpadam, Cochin Port.

(c) There is no proposal to develop Paradip Port as a hub port.

Establishment of Colleges in Backward Areas

2242. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has identified the colleges which have been established in the backward areas in the country with a view to give them grant;

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

(c) the norms prescribed for providing grants to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the UGC has approved guidelines for introduction of a separate scheme in the X Plan for providing special development grant to backward area colleges to ensure equity and access of higher education. Each college recommended by the Committee will be eligible to receive up to Rs. 10.00 lakhs as one time grant. The Colleges located in Backward area districts would be covered under the scheme.

Prevention of Corruption Act

2243. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing provisions in the Prevention of Corruption Act are too weak to contain corruption;

(b) if so, whether the provisions of the Act would be strengthened to book the guilty; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Shiksha Yatra

2244. SHRI A.C. JOSE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there was a right to education campaign throughout India in the name of Shiksha Yatra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's stand thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) A so-called Shiksha Yatra commenced from Kerala in January, 2001, and culminated at New Delhi in June, 2001, with presentation of a memorandum to the President of India. The memorandum, mainly demanded the following:

- Immediate passage of the 83rd Constitutional Amendment Bill and allocation of 8% of GNP on education of which 50% should be kept aside for primary education.
- Establishment of good neighbourhood schools, where children of different classes and communities should be offered free, compulsory, meaningful & equal education, with emphasis on girls' education.
- Ban on privatisation and communalisation of primary education.

(c) A Constitutional amendment to make right to free and compulsory education for children in the age group 6-14 years a Fundamental Right has been enacted, and notified on 13-12-2002.

Government has also launched Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan—a national programme for Universalisation of Elementary Education, which addresses many of the issues raised in the memorandum.

World Bank Assistance for Health Sector

2245. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Kerala for World Bank Assistance for strengthening medical education and improving physical infrastructure of Government Medical Colleges and attached Hospitals; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Government has received a proposal from Kerala for World Bank assistance for strengthening medical education and improving physical infrastructure of Government medical colleges & attached hospitals. The present focus of World Bank funding for health sector is on diseases control, primary health, family welfare and immunization. The proposal of Government of Kerala for strengthening medical education and improving physical infrastructure of Government medical colleges and attached hospitals is not in line with present priorities of World Bank funding for the Health Sector in India.

Disinvestment of PSUs

2246. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any action to disinvest public sector undertakings in Uttar Pradesh, North-Eastern States and other parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Disinvestment of India Tourism Development Corporation's equity in Hotel Donyi Polo Ashok, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh and in Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok, Guwahati, Assam are at preliminary stages. A statement of PSUs being pursued for disinvestment by this Ministry alongwith the name of the State in which their Registered Office is enclosed.

Statement

1	Name of the State in which Registered office is situated
1	2
I. Strategic Sale Is in progress	
1. Sponge Iron India Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh
2. Hotel Donyi Polo Ashok, Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh
3. Hotel Brahmaputra Ashok; Guwahati	Assam
4. Hotel Ranchi Ashok, Ranchi	Bihar
5. Hotel Anandpur Ashok, Anandpur Sahib (Incomplete project)	Chandigarh
6. National Fertiliser Ltd.	Delhi
7. National Building Construction Copn. Ltd.	Delhi
8. Engineers India Ltd.	Delhi
9. State Trading Corporation of India Ltd.	Delhi
10. Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd.	Delhi
11. India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC)	
(i) Hotel Samrat; New Delhi (Lease-cum-management contract	
(ii) Hotel Jaipur Ashok	
(iii) Hotel Paltiputra Ashok	
(iv) Hotel Kalinga Ashok & (v) Hotel Jammu Ashok	
12. Engineering Projects India Ltd.	Jharkhand
13. MECON Ltd.	Jharkhand
14. Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.	Karnataka
15. Fertiliser and Chemicals Travancore Ltd.	Kerala
16. NEPA Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh
17. Hotel Lakeview Ashok; Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh
18. Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilisers Ltd.	Maharashtra
19. Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	Maharashtra
20. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (process suspended w.e.f. 16th Sept 03)	Maharashtra
21. Mineral Exploration Corpn. Ltd.	Maharashtra
22. Manganese Ore India Ltd.	Maharashtra
23. Shipping Corporation of India	Maharashtra

1	2
24. Hotel Corporation of India Ltd. (HCI) (i) Centaur Hotel Airport, Delhi (including Chefair Delhi) (ii) Chefair Mumbai	Maharashtra
25. National Aluminium Company Ltd. (Not being pursued at present)	Orissa
26. Hotel Neelachal Ashok; Puri	Orissa
27. Hotel Pondicherry Ashok, Pondicherry	Pondicherry
28. Instrumentation Ltd., Kota (Mother Unit)	Rajasthan
29. Madras Fertilisers Ltd.	Tamil Nadu
30. Hindustan Copper Ltd.	West Bengal
31. Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Ltd.	West Bengal
32. Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.	West Bengal
33. Braithwaite & Co.	West Bengal
34. Burn Standard & Co.	West Bengal
35. National Instruments Ltd.	West Bengal
36. Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd.	West Bengal
II. Through Offer for Sale	
37. Dredging Corporation of India Ltd.	Delhi
38. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (process suspended w.e.f. 16th Sept. 03)	Maharashtra
III. For residual shares of Government through Offer for Sale route	
39. CMC Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh
40. Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. (IPCL)	Gujarat
41. Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL)	Maharashtra
42. Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd. (BALCO)	Orissa
43. IBP Ltd.	West Bengal
IV. Transaction Completed pending approval from BIFR	
44. ICVL, Palakad.	Kerala

Complaint against National Institute of Technology

2247. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any enquiry has been conducted by the Government on the complaint, if any, received from the

Regional Engineering College Teachers' Association and Member of Parliament in respect of National Institute of Technology, Silchar during the month of June-July, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken by the Government against those found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) The Ministry had received a letter from Shri Abani Roy, Member of Parliament forwarding therewith a representation of Shri Binoy Krishna Roy, General Secretary, Regional Engineering College Teachers' Association, Silchar in July, 2003 regarding the allegations against the then Principal, Col. (Retd.) J.S. Virk. prior to this the Regional Engineering College Teachers' Association and other employees of the institute had filed cases in the Hon'ble High Court of Guwahati. The Hon'ble High Court has since dismissed all writ petitions filed against the then principal on 25.9.2003. Col (Retd.) J.S. Virk was relieved of his duties on 25.07.2003.

[Translation]

Medicines to AIDS Patients

2248. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether the Government has decided to provide medicines to AIDS patients in the Government Hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any programme has been formulated by the Government for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government is actively contemplating expansion of a programme on care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS across the six high prevalence states, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland and Tamil Nadu, so as to include anti-retroviral drugs for specific target groups, through the public health care system.

A meeting was held on 17th November, 2003 with the pharmaceutical industry producing Anti-retroviral Drugs

under the chairpersonship of Minister for Health & Family Welfare, to discuss the modalities on affordable anti-retroviral therapy to AIDS patients.

As a follow-up of this meeting a working group was constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary (Health) with representatives from Pharmaceutical companies. Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FICCI) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) to suggest ways for reduction in the prices of anti-retroviral drugs and testing/diagnostic equipment required for the treatment of the people living with HIV/AIDS.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Scrapped or Merged Projects

2249. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether many projects were either scrapped or merged with other projects in which huge money had already been invested; and

(b) if so, the details of the projects scrapped or merged with other projects along with the details of the money invested therein together with the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) As on 1st July 2003, there are 33 projects which have not been able to progress due to various reasons after incurring an expenditure of Rs. 1207.17 crores. These projects have been frozen/abandoned/merged with other projects due to geominig problems, fund constraints, land aquisition problems, change in strategy and other reasons.

(b) The details of these projects along with the reasons and action taken thereof is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

List of Projects Frozen on Account of Geomining Problems, Fund Constraints, Land Acquisition Problems, Change in Strategy etc.

Unit: (Cost/Expenditure: Rs. In Crores)

Sl. No.	Project (District) (State)	Capacity	Date of Govt. Approved Orgnl. (Rvsd.)	Date of Commissioning		Cost		% Cost Over-run on Original (Revised)	Cumulative Expenditure	Reasons	Action Taken
				Original (Revised)	Anticipated	Approved Original (Revised)	Anticipated				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Sector: Coal											
BCCL											
1.	D&F Ropeways Dhanbad Bihar	4.00 MTY	1987/01	1990/01	N.A.	16.12 21.32	21.32	32 0	4.15	Geomining/ Technological problems	Closed in present position. Further, out sourcing is being done.
2.	Patherdih Washery: MOD Dhanabad Bihar	2.00 MTY	1988/02 1994/12	1992/03 1998/03	1998/03	29.43 48.49	48.49	65 0	8.89	-do-	Closed and cost of machines (Rs. 4.8 crs.) written off.
3.	Block-III OC Dhanabad Bihar	0.45 MTY	1991/08	1998/03	N.A.	45.97	45.97	0	15.55	Due to fire problem.	Kept in abeyance HEMM diverted to other projects.
4.	Viswakama oc Bihar	0.7 MTY	1997/08	2001/03	2002-03	44.74	44.74	0	0.84	Land and funds problem.	Project to start after land acquisition problems are solved.
CCL											
5.	Karma OC Maharashtra	0.80 MTY	1990/12	1998/03	N.A.	47.40	47.40	0	1.64	Geomining/ Technological problems.	To start after land acquisition problems are solved and funds are available.
6.	Hindegir OC Hazaribagh Bihar	0.78 MTY	1991/03	1995/03	N.A.	41.48	—	N.A.	0.23	Geomining/ Technological problems.	-do-
7.	Parej East UG Bihar	0.30 MTY	1982/09	1989/03	N.A.	29.34	29.34	0 0	1.10	Land problem.	-do-
8.	Tarmi OC Bokaro Bihar	0.50 MTY	1999/05	1995/03	N.A.	29.55	29.55	0	0.23	Geomining/ Technological problems.	-do-
9.	Jirdih OC	0.60 MT	1991/03	1993/04	N.A.	48.83	48.83	0	—	-do-	Not included in X Plan

BCCL: Bharat Cooking Coal Limited OC Open Cast MTY: Million Tonnes Per Year

CCL: Central Coalfields Limited UG: Under Ground (NIC-MoS&P)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
SECL											
10.	Churcha West (PSLW) UG Madhya Pradesh	0.65 MTY	1994/12	1999/03	N.A.	48.61	48.61	0 0	—	Technology to be finalised and approved by DGMS.	DGMS approval required.
ECL											
11.	Laudoha UG Bankura West Bengal	0.68 MTY	1989/03	1996/03	N.A.	49.34	49.34	0	0.80	Geomining/ technological problems.	Dropped and assets transferred to Jhanjra project
12.	Rajmahal OC Gonda Bihar	1.5 MT	1998/09	2002/03	N.A.	46.86	46.86	0 0	—	Less off-take by NTPC and shortage of funds.	Included in the Rajmahal optimisation O.C. project which is under formulation.
MCL											
13.	INT-CHP-Lajkura Samleshwari Orissa	5.10 MTY	1991/03	1995/03	N.A.	49.19	49.19	0	—	Funds constraints	Dropped
WCL											
14.	AMB. River Diversion	—	1993/04	1997/03	N.A.	27.99	—	N.A. N.A.	0.01	Geomining/ technological Problems.	Dropped
NLC											
15.	Barsingar Lignite Mine Bikaner Rajasthan	MT 1.7	1991/04	1995/05	N.A.	242.31	242.31	0 0	24.48	Geomining/ technological problems.	Being taken up by NLC. FFs under approval
16.	Barsingar Lignite TPS Bikaner Rajasthan	MW 2x120	1991/04	1996/06	N.A.	585.73	664.11	13	5.06	-do-	-do-
Sector: Fertilisers											
HFC											
17.	Haldia Fert Proj Midnapur West Bengal	THMT 151	1971/11 1981/07	1978/10 1982/04	N.A.	88.03 281.96	790.00	797 180	840.00	Technology failure-being sold to private sector.	Final decision of the Cabinet for closure/ hive off of the project and disposal of the assets is yet to be obtained

SECL: South Eastern Coal Fields Ltd.
WCL: Western Coalfields Ltd.
TPS: Thermal Power Station

ECL: Eastern Coal Fields Ltd.
THMT: Thousand Metric Tonnes
NLC: Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd.

MCL: Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd.
MW: Mega Watt (NC-MoS&PI)
HFC: Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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Sector: Mines

NALCO

18.	Wheel Proj. Angol-Alum Dhenkanol Orissa	Nos. 45000	1997/12	N.A.	N.A.	92.56	92.56	0 0	1.62	Technology issues.	Dropped. Instead upgrading of the project being considered
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Sector: Power

DVC

19.	Panchet HILL II HEP Dhanbed Bihar	MW 40	1978/01	1983/01	N.A.	16.03	82.09	412 412	49.22	Generation in conventional mode completed. Decision on Pumped storage awaited.	Final decision expected shortly
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NHPC

20.	Koel Karo HEP Ranchi/SNG Bihar	MW 710	1981/06 1991/11	1989/11 1999/11	N.A.	444.67 1292.82	2594.17	483 101	44.60	CCEA approval to the RCE awaited.	Decision to implement the project or not is yet to be taken (due to R&R and high cost of power and water problem)
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NTPC

21.	Farakka STPP-III Mursidabad West Bengal	MW 500	1998/09	1995/12	N.A.	603.65	603.65	0 0	—	Phased out due to low demand in the region.	—
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PGCIL

22.	Koel Karo TR Line Jamshedpur Bihar	CKM 215	1991/11	1998/03	N.A.	52.59	52.59	0 0	—	To start only after generation project takes off.	Linked to generation project.
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Sector: Petroleum

IOC

23.	Gujarat REF. Residue UPGD Gujarat		1999/10	2003/01	N.A.	4392.00	4392.00	0 0	107.45	Frozen.	Review of Demand underway.
24.	Const. POL Tmnl. ERIP Paradip Orissa		1999/09	2003/05	N.A.	569.00 0	569.000	0 0	14.77	Frozen	—

NALCO: National Aluminium Co. Ltd.

SAIL: Steel Authority of India Ltd.

NHPC: National Hydro Electric Power Corporation Ltd.

PGCIL: Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.

STPP: Super Thermal Power Projects

HEP: Hydro Electric Project

DVC: Damodar Valley Corporation.

NTPC: National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.

CKM: Circuit Kilometers

RCE: Revised Cost Estimates.

(NIC-MoS&PI)

IOC: Indian Oil Corporation

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
25.	LPG Terminal For EIRP Paradeep Orissa	TPA 2 LAC	1999/10	2003/06	N.A.	220.81	220.81	0 0	38.73	Frozen.	
ONGCL											
26.	IOR Scheme Santhal Gujarat	MMT 0.326	2000/09	2004/03	2004/03	38.85	38.85	0 0	17.80	Frozen.	
27.	INFIL, INCRE Polymer Slug Anand, Gujarat	MMT 0.62	2000/09	2004/03	2004/03	30.30	30.30	0	9.32	Frozen.	
BPCL											
28.	Prod. Term. CIF, Bina Madhya Pradesh	TH.MT	1997/11 1998/09	2000/11	N.A.	463.40	463.40	0 0	13.69	—	
Sector: Railways											
DOUBL:											
29.	Kalepipal- Phanda, WR Madhya Pradesh	KM 41	1990/04	1995/12	N.A.	53.00	53.00	0 0	2.11	Fund constraints/ Low priority.	
30.	Karpunigram- SIHO, NER Uttar Pradesh	KM 26	1993/04	N.A. 1997/03	1997/03	21.00	21.00	0 0	0.48	Frozen.	
GC											
31.	Bhild Samdri & Samdar-J.PU NR RJ, GU	Kms 306	1990/04	1995/06	N.A.	267.83	188.00	-30 -30	—	Frozen	
WS&PU											
32.	Chitradurg- ROH/POH WAGO FAC, SR Karnataka	—	1995/10	N.A.	N.A.	33.84	33.84	0 0	—	Frozen, as cost estimates not sanctioned.	
Sector Shipping & Ports											
PORTS											
33.	Acq. of CPP Mormugao Goa	—	1998/09	1999/08	N.A.	40.00	44.40	11 11	4.40	Diversion regd. change over to private supply are on.	

DOUBL: Line Doubling KM: Kilometer GC: Gauge Conversion (NIC-MoS&P)
 WS&PU: Workshops & Production Units ONGCL: Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.

[*Translation*]

Inclusion of Cottage Industry Subject In Syllabus

2250. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to include Cottage Industry as a subject in the syllabus of High School level education;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) Based on the recommendation of the various review groups/committees, the existing scheme of vocationalisation of the secondary education is being revised to make it modular in nature and competency based. Keeping in view the requirement of industry/user organizations, various kind of vocational courses including a number of courses related to cottage industries are proposed to be provided under the revised scheme.

Excess Billing

2251. SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has been receiving complaints of inflated telephone bills from the subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the guidelines issued by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) Delhi, to address the complaints of excess billing of the subscribers; and;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the current financial year upto 31.10.2003, excess billing complaints received by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is 0.08% of the total bills issued. In case of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), Delhi and Mumbai, this is 0.13% and 0.12% respectively.

MTNL Delhi has issued following guidelines to address the complaints of excess billing of subscribers:

(i) Instructions to print the message i.e. PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network) calls to PSTN/WLL/Cell at 180/90/60 seconds pulse rate respectively on telephone bills have been issued.

(ii) Consumer Educational and Awareness Advertisements through leading newspapers.

(iii) Guidelines to the subscriber regarding excess billing complaints are printed in the information pages of the Telephone Directory.

(c) In addition to above, the following steps are also being taken to resolve billing complaints by BSNL/MTNL:

(i) Monthly monitoring of excess billing complaints at the Corporate Office level.

(ii) Telephone Adalats are held regularly at District headquarters to settle subscriber's complaints.

(iii) Subscribers are provided with dynamic locking facility for effective control of their telephone.

[*English*]

Resumption of Air Links with Pakistan

2252. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Pakistan have agreed to resume airlinks;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement signed;

(c) whether Pakistan has put some conditions for allowing over-flights of Indian aircraft over its airspace; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) During the technical level talks on the resumption of Civil Aviation Links that were held in New Delhi on 1 December 2003, India and Pakistan agreed to resume simultaneous direct air links and overflights with effect from 1 January 2004 on a reciprocal basis.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

External Assistance for Health Projects

2253. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has undertaken some health projects with external assistance; and

(b) if so, the details of projects undertaken in West Bengal during the last three years?

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

(b) A statement is enclosed.

Statement*Utilisation of Government Grant/Loan during the last three years**Grant*

(Amount in thousands; in Donor currency)

Sl. No.	Name of Project	State/Sector	Donor	Currency	Agreement date	Loan Amount	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Basic Health Programme, WB	West Bengal	Germany	DEM	22.6.1999	1998.03	1998.03	0.00	0.00
2.	National Leprosy Eradication Programme Phase II	Central Sector	Denmark	DKK	17.9.1991	70000.00	0.00	4331.84	0.00
3.	National Programme for Control of Blindness Phase III	Central Sector	Denmark	DKK	7.11.1997	55000.00	4120.54	8700.54	7072.14
4.	Leprosy Eradication Programme Phase III	Central Sector	Denmark	DKK	16.11.1998	76400.00	0.00	0.00	1838.76
5.	Health & Family Welfare Sector Dev.	Central Sector	E.E.C.	EUR	2.9.1997	240000.00	27000.00	31540.00	0.00
6.	Pulse Polio Immunization Programme III	Central Sector	Germany	EUR	29.10.2001	10225.84	0.00	8525.93	1073.09
7.	Basic Health Programme	West Bengal	Germany	EUR	22.6.1999	30677.51	0.00	366.16	473.02
8.	AIDS Prevention & Control Project	Central Sector	USA	USD	30.9.1992	11913.00	1592.22	1340.35	326.67
9.	Innovations in Family Planning Services	Central Sector	USA	USD	30.9.1992	103989.08	8380.00	5783.00	8869.00
10.	Community Based Pro-Poor Initiatives Programme	Central Sector	UNDP	USD	5.9.1997	13500.00	1590.94	1877.98	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11.	Support to Response HIV/AIDS	Central Sector	UNDP	USD	22.3.2001	1500.00	0.00	208.46	0.00
12.	Extension of Non-Scalpel Vasectomy	Central Sector	UNFPA	USD	15.5.1997	1361.26	601.45	304.29	0.00
13.	Improving the Status of Reproductive Health	Central Sector	UNFPA	USD	3.8.1998	408.09	109.95	21.72	3.05
14.	Support to Gender Issues	Central Sector	UNFPA	USD	15.9.1999	483.55	322.55	161.14	0.00
15.	Advocacy on Population, Reproductive Health	Central Sector	UNFPA	USD	8.11.1992	139.03	62.28	48.55	28.43
16.	Making Safe Motherhood a Reality	Central Sector	UNFPA	USD	1.4.2000	488.51	282.18	207.46	0.00
17.	National TB Control Programme	Multistates	IBRD	USD	30.1.2003	5651.00	0.00	0.00	1000.00
18.	Polio Eradication Programme	Central Sector	United Kingdom	GBP	2.1.2002	98000.00	19795.95	19590.37	0.00
19.	Umbrella Project	Central Sector	UNFPA	USD	1.4.1997	1.08	0.00	1.10	0.00
<i>Loan</i>									
1.	Family Welfare (Urban Slum) Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	4.2.1994	57700.00	14900.31	8414.60	0.00
2.	Second Integrated Child Development Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	23.3.1993	141600.00	26138.86	11934.86	0.00
3.	Cataract Blindness Control Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	19.5.1994	68762.02	18747.88	11916.38	-1937.60
4.	Family Welfare Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	24.6.1994	61608.04	14631.80	8080.53	0.00
5.	TB Control Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	14.3.1997	98400.00	8557.55	11138.66	7926.47
6.	Malaria Control Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	30.7.1997	119200.00	11326.63	8023.21	7059.10
7.	Second National HIV/AIDS Control Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	14.9.1991	140820.00	24841.56	20537.84	7884.78

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8.	Immunization Strengthening Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	19.5.2000	106500.00	19045.95	24616.12	16980.46
9.	Second National Leprosy Elimination Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	19.7.2001	23300.00	3137.44	10843.96	3395.40
10.	Reproductive & Child Health Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	30.7.1997	179500.00	54457.08	20144.33	7963.00
11.	Woman & Child Development Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	6.7.1999	222500.00	26582.15	45933.98	4202.18
12.	Second Health System Dev.	Multistates	IDA	XDR	18.4.1996	235500.00	39311.61	38937.80	8121.10
13.	UP Health Systems Development Project	Multistates	IDA	XDR	19.5.2000	82100.00	998.07	6435.98	4775.06

Note: "Central Sector" denotes composite figures of more than one state including those of West Bengal.

Installation of MARRS Telephones

2254. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Multi Access Rural Radio System (MARRS) telephones installed by the Government in the country during the 9th Plan Period particularly in Maharashtra;

(b) the details of MARRS telephones proposed to be installed in rural areas of the country during the current year including Maharashtra;

(c) whether the target in this regard is likely to be achieved; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) 86,586 Multi Access Radio Relay (MARR) System Telephones were installed by the Government in the country during the Ninth Plan period including 4303 MARR Telephones in Maharashtra.

(b) No MARR telephone is proposed to be installed in rural areas of the country including Maharashtra during the current year.

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

Shortage of Blood in Karnataka

2255. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware of the shortage of blood in Karnataka;

(b) whether the Government has received any proposal from the State to help and assist to meet the shortage of blood;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There is no reported shortage of blood in Karnataka. However, there could be occasional and seasonal shortages of some rare blood groups which is being addressed by promoting voluntary blood donations and maintaining blood donor registers.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

*[English]***Navigation Service**

2256. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a navigation service is to be introduced for Colombo (Sri Lanka) from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said service is likely to be introduced?

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

(a) The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka during his visit to India recently proposed introduction of a ferry service linking Kochi and Colombo.

(b) and (c) Government of India has agreed to examine the possibility of starting ferry service between the two countries. Therefore, at this stage timeframe can not be given.

Inclusion of Medicines in DPCO

2257. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) whether the medicines for dysentery and Anaemia have not been included in the list of Drug Price Control Order (DPCO);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The bulk drugs namely Metronidazole Halogenated Hydroxyquinoline, Nalidixic Acid and Furazolidone used in the treatment of dysentery have been specified in the First Schedule of Drug Price Control Order '95. Therefore, the formulations based on these drugs also come under the Scheduled Category of Drug Price Control Order '95.

Further, Norfloxacin and Ciprofloxacin have also been listed in the First Schedule. The combination formulations of these two drugs with Tinidazole, Metronidazole, Ornidazole are also used in treatment of dysentery/diarrhea.

74 bulk drugs listed in the first schedule for price control under Drug Price Control Order 1995 were identified by the Government as per the criteria stipulated in the "modifications in the Drug Policy 1986" announced in September, 1994 and the drugs used in the treatment of Anaemia have not come under the list of 74 drugs.

The Government had announced in February 2002 'Pharmaceutical Policy 2002' where-in new criteria for drawing up a fresh list of drugs for inclusion under price control are stipulated. The matter is subjudice and is before the Supreme Court of India.

*[English]***Fear of Victimization in NCERT**

2258. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the teachers of the National Council for Educational Research and Training are under the grip of fear of victimisation by the higher authority for expressing their views on various aspects of educational research; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Health Care Scheme for Senior Citizens

2259. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme to provide health care to senior Citizens;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) was announced in January 1999 by nodal Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. NPOP aims at providing a better and meaningful life for older persons. The areas of intervention visualized in this policy include, inter alia, health care and nutrition. To operationalise NPOP the nodal Ministry has set up National Council for Older Persons (NCOP).

The Government has also announced National Health Policy 2002 with an objective to achieve an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population including the geriatric population of the country.

Besides, some public sector general insurance companies are marketing some health insurance products for general public which are also available to senior citizens. These include Mediclaim Insurance Policy available to persons up to the age of 80 years; Jan Arogya Bima Policy available upto the age of 70 years and Universal Health Insurance Scheme that covers people upto the age of 65 years.

Opening of Mukhya Dak Ghar

2260. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to open "Mukhya Dak Ghar" (MDG) at all Taluka Places under MDG Scheme;

(b) if so, the names of the Taluka Places in Parbhani and Banded Districts where MDG has not yet been opened under the Scheme; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to open MDGs at Purna, Manwath, Gangakhed, Jintoor, Partur, Selu and Pathri Talukas of Parbhani district?

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

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

(c) The scheme of setting up of Mukhya Dak Ghars (MDGs) at District Headquarter having no Head Post Office has come into existence w.e.f. 01.04.2002. Gangakhed and Pathri Sub Offices have already been

converted as Mukhya Dak Ghars. The case for conversion of the remaining post offices as Mukhya Dak Ghars is not considered necessary as these offices are giving satisfactory service as per local requirement, within the existing frame work.

Vacant Posts of Vice-Chancellors

2261. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the posts of Vice-Chancellors have not been filled up in most of the Central universities since long particularly in Maulana Azad National Urdu University;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) All posts of Vice-Chancellors in the Central Universities, except Maulana Azad National Urdu University are filled-up. In accordance with the University Act, a duly constituted Committee has already recommended a panel of names for consideration of the President of India, in his capacity as the Visitor of the University.

BPL Survey

2262. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has asked State Governments to undertake fresh BPL Survey in Metropolises, urban areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States which have taken action in this regard and started survey work;

(d) whether Maharashtra Government has also started any fresh survey of BPL families; and

(e) if so, the details of the findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Hospital/Medical Facilities along the National Highways

2263. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to identify a number of hospitals and medical facilities along the National Highways and sound them that accident victims could be rushed there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such clinics identified presently, State-wise; and

(d) the relationship established between the NHAI and such clinics for the benefit of accident victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Ministry of Health, under the scheme of pilot projects for upgradation and strengthening of emergency services of State hospitals of towns/cities located on National Highways, provides assistance to the States. The scheme involves release of grant-in-aid for purchase of well equipped ambulances and basic essential equipment, communication systems, infrastructure like Blood Bank, X-ray room, Minor Operation Theatre, Intensive Care Unit, beds, equipment etc.

(c) As per information available, Ministry of Health had till August, 2003 provided such assistance as per details enclosed as statement.

(d) No formal relationship has been established.

Statement

Assam

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency and Trauma Services in the Nalbari District Hospital, Nalbari during the year 2002-03.

Arunachal Pradesh

1. Rs. 59.00 lakhs for establishment of accident and emergency facilities at General Hospital, Naharlagun during the year 2001-02.

Bihar

1. Rs. 53.00 lakhs for modernizing and updating the Indira Gandhi Central Emergency Unit of Patna Medical College Hospital, Patna during the year 1999-2000.
2. Rs. 150.00 lakhs to Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna for establishment of a Trauma Centre during the year 2001-02.
3. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at model Bikram Referral centre with Highway Trauma Centre at Patna during the year 2001-02.
4. Rs. 62.71 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma Services at Aunsi, District Madhubani during the year 2001-02.

Chhattisgarh

1. Rs. 109.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma Unit at Pt. J.N.M. Medical College, Raipur during the year 2002-03.

Gujarat

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Nadiad District Kheda during the year 2001-02.
2. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Accident and Emergency Services in Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad during the year 2002-03.

Goa

1. Rs. 142.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma and Accident Unit at

Hospicio Hospital; Margao during the year 2002-03.

Haryana

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for setting up of Trauma Centre at General Hospital, Karnal during the year 1999-2000.

Himachal Pradesh

1. Rs. 147.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities at Indira Gandhi Medical College & Hospital, Shimla and Zonal Hospital, Bilaspur during the year 2002-03.

Jammu & Kashmir

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for development of emergency/trauma services on Srinagar-Leh National Highway at Margund, Kangan during the year 2001-02.

Kerala

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Ernakulam during the year 2002-03.
2. Rs. 142.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at medical College, Kozhikode during the year 2002-03.

Karnataka

1. Rs. 136.50 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities at Sanjay Gandhi Accident Hospital & Research Institute, Bangalore during the year 2002-03.

Madhya Pradesh

1. Rs. 97.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Trauma Centre at Maharaja Yashwant Rao Hospital, Indore during the year 1999-2000.

Mizoram

1. Rs. 58.30 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Civil Hospital, Lunglei during the year 2001-02.

2. Rs. 74.30 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of accident & emergency services at Civil Hospital, Aizwal during the year 2001-02.

Manipur

1. Rs. 149.92 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities of J.N. Hospital, Imphal during the year 2002-03.

Nagaland

1. Rs. 144.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities at Government Hospital, Medziphema during the year 2002-03.

Pondicherry

1. Rs. 78.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at General Hospital, Mahe during the year 2000-01.

Sikkim

1. Rs. 70.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency Care Unit at S.T.N.M. Hospital, Gangtok during the year 2000-01.

Tripura

1. Rs. 70.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of emergency facilities at Tripura Sundari Hospital (South District), Udaipur during the year 2000-01.

Tamil Nadu

1. Rs. 105.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Accident & Emergency Services in the District Headquarters Hospital, Perambalur during the year 2001-02.

Uttar Pradesh

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for setting up of Trauma Centre at King George Medical College, Lucknow during the year 2000-01.

Uttaranchal

1. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities of Doon Hospital, Dehradun during the year 2002-03.
2. Rs. 150.00 lakhs for upgradation and strengthening of Emergency facilities of Goverdhan Tiwari Base Hospital, Almora during the year 2002-03.

*[Translation]***Grants for DIETs**

2264. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bihar has requested the Union Government to sanction grants for the District Institutes for Education and Training (DIET) located at Shaikhapura, Lakhisarai, Jamui and Begusarai districts of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said grants are likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) Proposal was received from Government of Bihar for establishment of District Institute of Education & Training (DIET) only in Begusarai district. No proposal has been received in regard to the remaining three districts.

(b) and (c) Based on the proposal of the State Government, approval was accorded in 1993 for upgradation of Government Elementary Teacher Education Institution located at Sahpur into a DIET for Begusarai district, and non-recurring central assistance of Rs. 117.00 lakh was approved for the purpose. As against this, first instalment of central assistance amounting to Rs. 58.90 lakh was released in 1993 to the Government of Bihar for civil works and purchase of equipment. Second instalment of central assistance would be released on receipt of utilization report from the State Government to the extent of 75% of the first instalment already released and corresponding physical progress.

*[English]***Establishment of MICE in Kerala**

2265. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish Media and Information Centre for Education (MICE) as Regional Centre of Media Lab Asia in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) The Government of Kerala had submitted a proposal to establish a Media and Information Centre for Education (MICE) as a Regional Centre of Media Lab Asia in Kerala. An appropriate view shall be taken on this by the newly constituted Media Lab Board.

Establishment of Ved Pathshalas

2266. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to establish 15 Ved Pathshalas of the Gurukul type in the country;

(b) if so, the object of the Pathshalas, their intake capacity, duration of course and annual budget;

(c) whether the Government has received any foreign aid for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Pulse Polio Programme

2267. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent by the Union Government on Pulse Polio programme during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether children taking Oral Polio drops are not fully protected from this disease;

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

(d) the concrete action plan drawn by the Union Government to eradicate polio from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The amount spent by Union Government on Pulse Polio Programme are as under:

Year	Rs. in crores.
2000-2001	396
2001-2002	398
2002-2003	443

(b) and (c) Oral polio vaccine is effective for protecting against the polio disease. However, no vaccine is 100% effective. In case of polio vaccine, small proportion of children who have received vaccine may get the diseases in area where wild poliovirus circulation is intense. Therefore the programme is to interrupt the poliovirus circulation so that all children are protected.

(d) There has been substantial improvement in polio situation this year and polio eradication has reached a crucial stage, as only 190 confirmed cases have been reported till 22.11.2003.

India is committed to obtain polio free certification by 2007. The meeting of the ninth India Expert Advisory Group (IEAG) was held on 18-19th November, 2003 at New Delhi with an objective to review the status of polio eradication in India and to recommend the strategy to be adopted in the country for Polio Eradication during 2004-06. In order to contain the spread of the virus and to eradicate polio, the India Expert Advisory Group for polio eradication have recommended the strategy to be adopted for the year 2004. Saliient feature of recommendations.

1. Polio immunity gaps in endemic and risk states and also within states at districts level should be addressed.
2. Recommended strategy for year 2004 Five NIDs in January, February, April, October and November.

One SNID in May in 11 States namely UP, Bihar, West Bengal, Haryana, Uttaranchal, Delhi, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Assam.

Mop-up round

1. Quality in chronically low performing districts to be improved.

2. The next 6 months is critical window of opportunity and needs high level of monitoring at all levels.
3. There should be political engagements from the highest level, especially in Uttar Pradesh.
4. Endemic states should report quantifiable data on routine immunization.

Health Care Programmes

2268. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

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

(a) whether some foreign agencies are interested to join hands with Indian Health Care Programmes to provide medical diagnostic facilities in various States;

(b) if so, the details of such proposals pending with the Union Government which have been sent by the State Governments;

(c) the reasons for not clearing these proposals;

(d) the details of funds received by the Central Government under the Development Related Transaction Programme (DRTP) from Netherland during the last three years; and

(e) the manner in which the grants/aid is passed on to the States by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) State Health System Development Projects are under implementation with World Bank assistance to improve/upgrade secondary level health systems in the state of Karnataka, West Bengal, Punjab, Maharashtra, Orissa, Uttaranchal and Uttar Pradesh. The proposals for State Health System Development Projects received from Govt. of Assam, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Kerala have been submitted to World Bank of assistance.

Besides, State Govt. UTs of West Bengal, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Gujarat, Delhi, Chandigarh, U.P. and Karnataka have submitted proposals for strengthening the quality and upgradation of medical colleges and attached hospitals with World Bank Assistance. However, the present focus of the World Bank funding for health sector

is on disease control, primary health, family welfare and immunization. These proposals of States/UTs are not in line with present priorities of World Bank funding for the Health Sector in India.

(d) and (e) The Netherlands has been extending financial assistance under its Development Cooperation Programme (Not Development Related Transaction Programme) to India, mainly in the form of general purpose credits, supplier's credit and debt relief assistance. From 1992 onwards the Dutch assistance was completely in the form of grants. The Dutch assistance to India was concentrated in three States, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Kerala. The sectors involved in these States are as under:

Andhra Pradesh—Basic education, urban environment, rural development/water management.

Gujarat—Mental health, basic education, rural development/water management.

Kerala—Local self-government, rural development/water management.

Dutch development assistance to India during the last three years is given below.

2000—Euro 36.55 million

2001—Euro 32.22 million

2002—Euro 57 million.

Establishment of Centres of Excellence in Higher Education

2269. COL. (RETD). DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the project proposals for establishment of centres of excellence in higher education in Himachal Pradesh have been received;

(b) if so, the details of project proposals and the assistance sought therefor; and

(c) the decision taken thereon and the time by which these proposals are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) According to the

information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), the UGC, under the scheme of "Centres with Potential for Excellence", has selected Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla as "Centre with Potential for Excellence" in Himalayan Studies. A grant of Rs. 5.00 crores has been released by UGC to the University, during March, 2002.

Antarctic Missions

2270. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Antarctic missions sent by the Government during the last two years; and

(b) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) India has sent two annual Scientific Expeditions namely the 21st and 22nd to Antarctica during 2001 and 2002. In addition a team was sent in November, 2003 to Maitri to conduct experiments on Total Solar Eclipse which occurred on 23rd/24th November, 2003.

(b) Apart from conducting the ongoing scientific programmes in Earth Science, atmospheric Science, Meteorology, Biological and Environmental Science, following achievements have been made during these expeditions:

(i) The Ice-core drilling machine upgraded during 21st Expeditions and deployed during 22nd expedition. The two ice cores drilled earlier totaling about 160 m length have been brought to NCAOR, Goa by the 22nd expedition, where Ice core lab is being established.

(ii) Till 22nd Expedition an area of more than 15,000 sq.m, lying between 15° and 5° E longitude near 'Maitri' has been geologically mapped.

(iii) During 20th Expedition, the surveillance limits on both sides of the Dakshin Gangotri Glacier were extended by nine line kms to enhance the range of observation of ongoing glacial monitoring programme and during last two expeditions data on extended lines has been collected.

- (iv) 300 NM of Passage Bathymetry, 500 NM of Seabed Survey and delineation of 120 NM of coastline, has been carried out.
- (v) For the first time ADAPTIVE HF communication system for better communication was tested during 21st Expedition and during the last expedition HF and VHF communication systems were further upgraded.
- (vi) Installation of Telemedicine facility at Maitri.
- (vii) A new Digital Magnetometer was installed during 22nd Expedition for studying geomagnetic storms and up storm accurately.
- (viii) A permanent environment monitoring lab has been established at Maitri.
- (ix) In the mid night of November 23/24, 2003 a Total Solar Eclipse took place over the Indian Station 'Maitri' in Antarctica. A special team of astrophysicist was sent to conduct experiments on Shadow Bands, Corona and Thermal Inertia. Apart from normal phases of solar eclipse, it resulted in generation of extensive shadow-bands which are rare and occurred for a long duration. The multi-spectral coronal observations were dominated by low angle scattering specific to clean Antarctic atmosphere and low elevation of sun at the horizon. Analysis of this data would certainly bring out new results.

[English]

Bypass on National Highway

2271. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to construct a bypass on the National Highway No. 28 on the outskirts of Gorakhpur city on the East West corridor of National Highway is under the consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON.

RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) A proposal for a bypass on National Highway No. 28 for Gorakhpur City as a part of East-West Corridor is included under Phase-II of the National Highways Development Project (NHDP). The proposal has already been recommended by PIB and is under active consideration of the Government.

[English]

Slashing of Long Distance Tariff/Mobile Interconnect Rates

2272. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:

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

(a) whether the BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd.) has considerably slashed international long distance tariff/mobile interconnect rates;

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

(c) the manner in which the reduced tariffs compared with those charged by different mobile cellular operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) BSNL has provided promotional ISD tariff upto 15.1.2004. The Interconnect rates are prescribed by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India.

(b) Due to competition in telecom sector, BSNL has allowed to all its Basic, Cellular and WLL (M) subscribers a promotional tariff for ISD calls. The details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) The Cellular mobile operators provide various rates for calls based on customers' status (pre-paid or post-paid), alternate plan opted, etc. As such, BSNL' promotional tariff, though in line with competition is not comparable on point to point basis with those of different mobile Cellular operators.

Statement***BSNL's promotional ISD tariff for certain countries***

Particulars	Fixed/WLL-M/Cellular Telephones ISD Rates (charges Rs. per minute)				
	Existing Tariff		Promotional Tariff All 24 Hours	Validity	% Reduction from peak time rate
	Peak	Off Peak			
UK USA, Canada and all countries	24.00	21.18	7.20	22-10-2003 to 15-01-2004	70%
in Europe except UK	24.00	21.18	9.60		60%
Singapore, Hongkong, Indonesia Malaysia and Thailand	24.00	21.18	12.00	14-11-2003 to 15-01-2004	50%

* Existing ISD tariff continues to apply for other countries.

* Peak & Off Peak times are Zone specific.

Funds for Gokul Gram Yojana

2273. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for the Gokul Gram Yojana by the Union Government to Gujarat during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government proposes to allocate any additional fund for the purpose during 2003-04; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The approved outlay in respect of Gokul Gram Yojana in the last three Annual Plans of Gujarat are given below:

(Rs. in crore)

Annual Plan	Approved Outlay
2001-02	52.64 (Revised)
2002-03	48.85
2003-04	48.00

The above outlays include Additional Central Assistance of Rs. 30 crore, Rs. 30 crore and Rs. 20 crore sanctioned by the Planning Commission during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Recognition of Medical Colleges

2274. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently recognized a few medical colleges in Kerala under private self-financing professional colleges;

(b) if so, the details of total seats available on the basis of merit in the private self-financing professional colleges;

(c) the fees fixed for admission based on merit in the private self-financing medical colleges, category-wise;

(d) whether the Government has formulated/proposed to formulate guidelines for fixing merit quota and fees in these colleges;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (f) No self financing private professional medical college has been given recognition by the Central Govt. in recent past. However, in the recent past permission has been granted by the Central Govt. for establishment of 6 new medical colleges in the state in Private Sector with intake of 100 each.

The hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement date 14.8.2003 in the case of Islamic Academy of Education and other Vs. State of Karnataka and others has directed that the different percentage of quota for students to be admitted by the management in each minority or non-minority unaided professional colleges shall be separately fixed on the basis of their need by the respective State Governments. The remaining seats shall be filled up through the common entrance test conducted by the State agencies themselves. However, for the academic year 2003-04 as the outer time limit for admission of students was fast approaching or had gone, as a temporary arrangement the Hon'ble Court directed that the seats be filled by the institution and the State Governments in the ratio of 50:50. The Hon'ble Court has further directed that the management could select students, of their quota, either on the basis of the common entrance tests conducted by the State or on the basis of the common entrance test to be conducted by an association of all colleges of a particular type in that State, e.g. medical, engineering etc. The Hon'ble Court has also clarified in this judgement that each private institutions shall have the freedom to fix its own fee structure.

In the aforesaid judgement, the Hon'ble Court also directed that the respective State Government shall set up two separate Committee headed by a retired High Court judge who shall be nominated by the Chief Justice of the concerned State. One of the above said Committees would decide whether the fees proposed by the institute concerned are justified and are not profiteering or charging capitation fee. The fee fixed by the Committee shall be binding on the institute for a period of three years. The other Committee shall ensure that the test conducted by the association of colleges is fair and transparent.

[Translation]

Admissions in Kendriya Vidyalayas

2275. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of admissions made in Kendriya Vidyalayas on the recommendations of Hon'ble Minister as well as on the recommendations of the Minister of State, HRD, Secretaries and other officers and Members of Parliament alongwith details in this regard separately;

(b) whether the members of Parliament still avail of the discretionary quota of two seats; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Total number of admissions made in Kendriya Vidyalayas during 2003-2004 on the recommendations of:

Minister for Human Resource Development	878
Minister of State, Human Resource Development	Nil
Secretaries and Other Officers	Nil
Members of Parliament	699

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Each Member of Parliament can recommend two children each year for admission in a Kendriya Vidyalaya located in his constituency within the time frame laid down for admissions.

Condition of National Highways

2276. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:

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

(a) the State-wise numbers of eight, six, four and two lane National Highways in the country alongwith length of each of them in Kms. and their originating and terminating points as in 1996 and also as on August 15, 2003;

(b) the State-wise number of new National Highways sanctioned since 1998 alongwith length of each of them in Kms.;

(c) the details of National Highways which are in bad condition and in need of repair and the expenditure

incurred on repair of the same during the last three years, National Highway-wise; and

(d) the criteria followed in the repair work and the measures taken to check the use of sub-standard material?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) The information is being collected.

(b) The State wise number of new National Highways declared since 1998 along with the length of each of them is enclosed at statement-I.

(c) The details of National Highways which are reported to be in bad condition are enclosed at statement-II. the funds for maintenance and repairs of National Highways are allocated State wise and not National Highway wise. The expenditure incurred on maintenance and repairs of National Highways during the last three years are enclosed at statement-III.

(d) The repair of National Highways is carried out depending on availability of funds and inter-se priority. Quality control of the works including testing of construction materials used in the National Highway works is done as per the specifications for Road and Bridge works. The provision for quality control measures is made in the cost estimates of these works.

Statement I

Condition of National Highways

National Highways declared since 1998 till date

Sl.No.	NH No.	Route	Approx. Length (Km)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh			
1998-99			
1.	9 Extn.	Vijayawada-Machilipatnam	50
2.	202	Hyderabad-Warangal-Bhopalpatnam	244
3.	205	Ananthpur-Kadiri-Chennai	360
Total			654
1999-2000			
1.	214	Kathipudi-Kakinada-Pamaruru	270
Total			270
2000-2001			
1.	219	Madnapalli-Kuppam-Krishnagiri	128
Total			128
Grand Total			1052
Arunachal Pradesh			
2000-2001			
1.	153	Ledo-Indo/Myanmar border (Stiwell Road)	40
Total			40
Grand Total			40

1	2	3	4
Assam			
1998-99			
1.	54 Extn.	Daboka-Silchar	290
Total			290
1999-2000			
1.	151	Karimganj-Bangladesh border	14
2.	152	Patacharkuchi-Bhutan border	40
Total			54
2000-2001			
1.	153	Ledo-Indo/Myanmar border (Stillwell Road)	20
2.	154	Dhaleshwar-Bhairbhai-Kanpuri	110
Total			130
Grand Total			474
Bihar			
1998-99			
1.	30A	Phatuha-Chandi-Harnaut-Barh	65
3.	77	Hajipur-Sonbarsa	142
4.	80	Mokamah-Munger-Bhagalpur-Sahebganj-Farakka	200
Total			407
1999-2000			
1.	81	Kora-Katihar-Malda	45
2.	82	Gaya-Rajgir-Mokamah	130
3.	83	Patna-Gaya-Dobhi	130
4.	84	Arrah-Buxar	60
5.	85	Chhapra-Siwan-Gopalganj	95
Total			460
2000-2001			
1.	98	Patna-Aurangabad-Amba-Rajhara	157
2.	99	Dobhi-Chatra-Chandwa	10
3.	101	Chhapra-Baniapur-Mohamedpur	60
4.	102	Chhapra-Rewaghat-Muzaffarpur	80
5.	103	Hajipur-Mushrigharari	55
6.	104	Chakia-Sitamarhi-Jayanagar-Narharia	160
7.	105	Darbhanga-Aunsi-Jaynagar	66
8.	106	Birpur-Bihpur	130
9.	107	Maheshkhunt-Saharsa-Purnea	145
Total			863
Grand Total			1730

1	2	3	4
Chhattisgarh			
1998-99			
1.	78	Katni-Sahdol-Nagar-Ambikapur-Jashpurnagar-Gumla	356
2.	200	Raipur-Bilaspur-Raigarh-Deogarh-Talcher-Chandikhol	300
3.	2002	Hyderabad-Warangal-Venkatapuram-Bhopalpatnam	36
Total			692
2000-2001			
1.	12A	Jabalpur-Mandla-Chilpi-Kwardha-Simga	128
2.	216	Raigarh-Sarangarh-Saraipalli	80
3.	217	Raipur-Gopalpur	70
Total			278
Grand Total			970
Goa			Nil
Gujarat			
1998-99			
1.	6 Extn.	Surat-Hajira	17
2.	8A Extn.	Kandla-Mundra-Mandvi	95
3.	8D	Jetpur-Junagarh-Somnath	127
Total			239
2000-2001			
1.	8E	Somnath-Bhavnagar	220
Total			220
Grand Total			459
Haryana			
1998-99			
1.	21A	Pinjore-Baddi-Nalagarh-Swarghat	16
2.	6A	Bhatinda-Dabwali	0.5
3.	71	Jalandhar-Moga-Narwana-Jhajjar-Bawal	177
4.	71A	Rohtak-Gohana-Panipat	72
5.	72	Ambala-Paonta Sahib-Dehradun-Haridwar	45.5
6.	73	Roorkee-Saharanpur-Yamunanagar-Panchkula	108
Total			419
Grand Total			419

1	2	3	4
Himachal Pradesh			
1998-99			
1.	21A	Pinjore-Baddi-Nalagarh-Swarghat	49
2.	70	Jalandhar-Hoshiarpur-Hamirpur-Mandi	120
3.	72	Ambala-Paonta Sahib Dehradun-Haridwar	50
Total			219
1999-2000			
1	88	Shimla-Bilaspur-Hamirpur-Kangra-Bhawan-NH-20	115
Total			115
Grand Total			334
Jammu & Kashmir			
1998-99			
1.	1B Extn.	Kishtwar-Symthanpass	82
2	1C	Domel-Katra	8
Total			90
2000-2001			
1	1B Extn.	Symthanpass-Khanabal	85
Total			85
Grand Total			175
Jharkhand			
1998-99			
1.	78	Katni-Shahadol-Nagar-Ambikapur-Jashpumagar-Gumla	25
2.	80	Mokamah-Munger-Bhagalpur-Sahebganj-Farakka	100
Total			125
2000-2001			
1.	75 Extn.	Rewa-Renukut-Garwa-Daltenganj-Ranchi	245
2.	98	Patna-Aurangabad-Amba-Rajhara	50
3.	99	Dobhi-Chhatra-Chandwa	100
4.	100	Chhatra-Simaria Hazaribagh-Bagodar	118
Total			513
Grand Total			638

1	2	3	4
Karnataka			
1998-99			
1.	13 Extn.	Chitradurga-Shimoga-Tirthahalli-Mangalore	200
2.	206	Tumkur-Shimoga-Honnar	363
3.	207	Hosur-Surjapur-Devanhalli-Nelamangala	135
4.	209	Dindigul-Coimbatore-Kollegal-Bangalore	170
Total			868
1999-2000			
1.	212	Kozhikode-Mysore-Kollegal	160
Total			160
2000-2001			
1.	218	Bijapur-Hubli	176
Total			176
Grand Total			1204
Kerala			
1998-99			
1.	208	Kollam-Tenkasi-Thirumanglam (Madurai)	70
Total			70
1999-2000			
1.	212	Kozhikode-Mysore-Kollegal	90
2.	213	Palghat-Kozhikode	130
Total			220
2000-01			
1.	220	Kollam-Teni	210
Total			210
Grand Total			500
Madhya Pradesh			
1998-99			
1.	78	Katni-Ambikapur-Gumla	178
2.	79	Ajmer-Nasirabad-Chittaurgarh-Ghat Bilod (Indore)	280
3.	75	Gwalior-Jhansi-Rewa	440
4.	76	Pindwara-Udaipur-Chittaurgarh-Banda-Karwi-Allahabad	60
Total			958

1	2	3	4
1999-2000			
1.	86	Kanpur-Sagar	180
		Total	180
2000-01			
1.	12A	Jabalpur-Mandla-Chilpi-Kwardha-Simga	152
2.	59A	Indore-Harda-Betul	264
3.	86 Extn.	Sagar-Bhopal-Dewas	314
4.	75 Extn.	Rewa-Renukut-Daltenganj-Ranchi	160
5.	92	Bhongaon-Etawah-Gwalior	96
		Total	986
		Grand Total	2124
Maharashtra			
1998-99			
1.	204	Ratnagiri-Kolhapur	126
2.	211	Solapur-Aurangabad-Dhule	400
		Total	526
		Grand Total	526
Manipur			
1998-99			
1.	150	Aizwal-Churachandpur-Imphal-Ukhrul-Kohima	523
		Total	523
		Grand Total	523
Meghalaya			
1998-99			
1.	62 Extn.	Baghmara-Dalu	65
2.	40 Extn.	Jowai-Amalren-Dawki	55
		Total	120
		Grand Total	120
Mizoram			
1998-99			
1.	44A	Aizwal-Sairang-Mamit-Manu	165
2.	150	Aizwal-Churachandpur-Impha-Ukhrul-Kohima	141
		Total	306

1	2	3	4
2000-01			
1.	154	Dhaleshwar-Bhairabi-Kanpui	70
		Total	70
		Grand Total	376
Nagaland			
1998-99			
1.	150	Aizwal-Churachandpur-Imphal-Ukhrul-Kohima	36
		Total	36
		Grand Total	36
Orissa			
1998-99			
1	200	Raipur-Bilaspur-Raigarh-Deogarh-Chandikhol	440
2.	201	Borigumma-Bargarh	310
3.	203	Bhubaneshwar-Puri	59
		Total	809
1999-2000			
1.	215	Panikoli-Keonjhar-Rajamunda	348
		Total	348
2000-01			
1.	217	Raipur-Berhampur-Gopalpur	438
		Total	438
		Grand Total	1595
Pondicherry			
1998-99			
1.	45A Extn.	Pondy-Cuddalore-Chidambaram-Nagapattinam	20
		Total	20
		Grand Total	20
Punjab			
1998-99			
1.	64 Extn.	Bhatinda-Dabwali	30.5
2.	70	Jalandhar-Hoshiarpur-Hamirpur-Mandi	50

1	2	3	4
3.	71	Jalandhar-Nakodar-Moga-Narwana-Jhajjar-Bawal	130
4.	72	Ambala-Paonta Sahib-Dehradun-Haridwar	4.5
		Total	215
2000-01			
1.	95	Kharar-Samrala-Ludhiana-Jagraon-Ferozepur	225
		Total	225
		Grand Total	440
Rajasthan			
1998-99			
1.	65 Extn.	Fatehpur-Pali	280
2.	76	Pindwara-Udaipur-Chittaurgarh-Banda-Karwai-Allahabad	480
3.	79	Ajmer-Nasirabad-Chittaurgarh-Ghat Bilod (Indore)	220
		Total	980
1999-2000			
1.	89	Ajmer-Bikaner	300
		Total	300
2000-01			
1.	90	Baran-Aklera	100
		Total	100
2001-02			
1.	11A Extn.	Dausa-Lalsot-Kothun	81
2.	79A	Kishangarh-Nasirabad	35
		Total	116
		Grand Total	1496
Tamil Nadu			
1998-99			
1.	67 Extn.	Karur-Coimbatore	140
2.	205	Ananthapur-Tirupatti-Chennai	82
3.	207	Hosur-Surjapur-Devanhalli-Nelamangala	20
4.	208	Kollam-Tenkasi-Thirumanglam (Madurai)	125
5.	209	Dindigul-Coimbatore-Annur-Kollegal-Bangalore	286

1	2	3	4
6.	210	Trichy-Pudukottai-Ramanathapuram	160
7.	45A Extn.	Pondy-Chidambaram-Nagapattinam	130
8.	45B	Trichy-Madurai-Tuticorin	257
Total			1200
2000-01			
1.	219	Madnapalli-Kuppam-Krishnagiri	22
2.	220	Kollam-Teni	55
Total			77
Grand Total			1277
Tripura			
1998-99			
1.	44A	Aizwal-Sairang-Mamut-Manu	65
Total			65
Grand Total			65
Uttar Pradesh			
1998-99			
1.	24A	Km 489 of NH24-Km 9 of NH 28	17
2.	25A	Km 19 of NH 25-Bakshi ka Talab	31
3.	56A	Km 9 of NH 28-Km 12 of NH 56	13
4.	56B	Km 12 of NH 56-Km. 12 of NH 25	19
5.	73	Roorkee-Saharanpur-Yamunanagar-Panchkula	60
6.	74	Haridwar-Kashipur-Pilibhit-Bareilly	147
7.	75	Gwalior-Jhansi-Rewa	20
8.	76	Pindwara-Udaipur-Chittaurgarh-Jhansi-Banda-Allahabad	467
Total			774
1999-2000			
1.	86	Kanpur-Sagar	180
2.	87	Rampur-Bilaspur-Pantnagar-Haldwani-Nainital	32
Total			212
2000-01			
1.	2A	Sikandara-Bhognipur	33
2.	75 Extn.	Rewa-Daltenganj-Ranchi	90

1	2	3	4
3.	91	Ghazibad-Bulandshahar-Aligarh-Kanpur	405
4.	92	Bhongaon-Etawah-Gwalior	75
5.	93	Agra-Aligarh-Babralla-Moradabad	220
6.	96	Faizabad (Ayodhya)-Sultanpur-Allahabad.	160
7.	97	Ghazipur-Zamania-Saiyedraja	45
Total			1028
2001-02			
1.	58 Extn.	Ghaziabad-Delhi	11
2.	72A	Chutmalpur-Dehradun	30
Total			41
Grand Total			2055
Uttaranchal			
1998-99			
1.	72	Ambala-Paonta Sahib-Dehradun-Haridwar	100
2.	73	Roorkee-Saharanpur-Yamunanagar-Saha-Panchkula	20
3.	74	Haridwar-Najibabad-Nagina-Afzalgarh-Kashipur-Kichha-Jehanabad-Pilibhit-Bareilly	153
Total			273
1999-2000			
1.	87	Rampur-Bilaspur-Pantnagar-Haldwani-Nainital	51
Total			51
2000-01			
1.	94	Rishikesh-Ampata-Tehri-Dharasu-Kuthanaur-Yamnotri	160
Total			160
2001-02			
1.	108	Dharasu-Gangotri Dham	127
2.	109	Rudraprayag-Kedamath Dham	76
3.	72A	Chhutmalpur-Dehradun	15
Total			218
Grand Total			702
West Bengal			
1998-99			
1.	60 Extn.	Kharagpur-Raniganj (Asansol)	180
2.	80	Mokamah-Munger-Bhagalpur-Sahebganj-Farakka	10
Total			190

1	2	3	4
1999-2000			
1.	81	Kora-Katihar-Malda	55
		Total	55
		Grand Total	245
		Total since 1998	19595

Statement II*Details of National Highways where some Sections are Reported to be in bad Condition*

Sl. No.	Name of State	National Highway No.
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	52
2.	Assam	31C, 36, 54, 152, 153, 154
3.	Bihar	2, 19, 28, 28A, 30, 30A, 31, 77, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 98, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106 & 107
4.	Chhattisgarh	6, 12A, 16, 43, 78, 200, 202, 216 & 217
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	1A
6.	Jharkhand	75
7.	Madhya Pradesh	3, 7, 12, 12A, 27, 59, 69, 75, 75 Ext, 86, 86 Ext. & 92
8.	Manipur	39, 150
9.	Meghalaya	40, 62
10.	Rajasthan	11, 15, 65
11.	Tripura	44A
12.	Uttar Pradesh	2, 19, 91, 92, 93 & 97
13.	West Bengal	31

Statement III*Expenditure on Maintenance on National Highways during 2000-01, 2001-02, 2002-03*

Sl.No.	Name of States/UTs	Rs. in Crores		
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.09
2.	Assam	37.57	39.90	20.43

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Bihar	55.93	37.87	30.46
4.	Chhattisgarh	9.35	24.20	25.20
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.83	0.31	0.43
6.	Jharkhand	7.75	17.45	16.50
7.	Madhya Pradesh	85.07	53.58	40.00
8.	Manipur	6.88	7.55	7.51
9.	Meghalaya	8.75	10.37	8.70
10.	Rajasthan	38.78	42.94	16.31
11.	Uttar Pradesh	55.9357	53.46	5.22
12.	National Highways Authority of India	142.78	192.43	200.59

[English]

Safety of Indian Tourists Abroad

2277. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a tourist bus from India was set ablaze in Nepal;

(b) if so, the number of human lives lost;

(c) whether this matter was taken up with the concerned authorities of Nepal;

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

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to ensure the safety of Indian tourists abroad?

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

(b) No human lives were lost in the incident; the passengers were asked to get down from the bus, before the bus was set on fire.

(c) and (d) The matter was taken up with the police authorities of Nepal, who have registered a case.

(e) The matter is immediately taken up with local authorities to ensure the safety and welfare of Indian nationals visiting foreign countries. Further, necessary follow up action is also taken in this regard.

Setting up of Orthoptics Institutes

2278. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an Institute of Orthoptics in Government hospitals in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such a proposal is pending with the Government since long; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) There are full fledged Orthopedics Department in existence in all the Central Government Hospitals in Delhi viz. Safdarjung Hospital, Dr. RML Hospital and LHMC & Associated Hospitals as well as in All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). At present, there is no proposal under consideration in this Ministry to set up an Institute of Orthopedics in Central Government Hospital in Delhi.

New Agenda in Space Technology

2279. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning a new agenda for the utilisation of space technology for development purposes;

(b) if so, the details of the new agenda; and

(c) the time by which the new agenda would be put into practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The current agenda for utilisation of Space Technology for developmental purposes is as defined in the Decade profile 2001-2010 and Tenth Five Year Plan 2002-2007. The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The objectives set out in the agenda are already under implementation and are expected to be achieved during the Tenth Five Year Plan period 2002-2007.

Statement

National Agenda for Utilisation of Space Technology for Developmental Applications

1. Utilise the vantage point of space for Land and Ocean resources development with decision support systems for local, regional and national level applications.

Thrust Areas: Thematic mapping for Natural Resource Management and development applications & National Spatial Data Infrastructure.

2. Exploit satellite communication capabilities towards meeting the developmental needs in the areas of education, health-care, rural development and disaster management support.

Thrust Areas: Tele-education network-EDUSAT, Tele-health & Developmental Communication networks.

3. Space based meteorological observations generating timely inputs of relevance to Agriculture, Aviation, Navigation, Environment & Disaster management applications.

Thrust Area: Decision support system for Disaster Management applications.

4. Create opportunities for enriching the society in human resource development, industrial capabilities and infrastructure and strengthening the research base at academia and undertake frontier research in Space science, astronomy and planetary exploration.

Thrust Areas: Planetary Research Programme, Multi-wavelength Astronomy programme, Enhancement of Industry participation.

5. Self-reliance in Space Technology & Contributions to strengthening the national security.

Thrust Areas: Launch vehicles, satellites and associated infrastructure development.

[Translation]

Irregularities in JNU

2280. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of heavy financial irregularities and administrative lapses having taken place in Jawahar Lal Nehru University during recent years alongwith the gradual fall in academic standard; and

(b) if so, the details of these irregularities and lapses alongwith the steps taken by the Government to maintain the high standard of education?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Complaints have been reserved regarding financial irregularities and administrative lapses in JNU in the recent years which also alleged decline in its academic standards. The matter is being examined in the Ministry after obtaining a report from the University.

[English]

Age Limit for Board Examinations

2281. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that no child is to be admitted to the nursery class in any school before completing the age of five years as per the norms laid down in this regard;

(b) if so, whether the cases have been reported about the children having passed the tenth standard at the age of nine years through the open school method;

(c) if so, whether no minimum age limit is prescribed for appearing in the board examinations through the open school method;

(d) if so, whether the CBSE has prescribed any age limit for eligibility of candidates appearing for the tenth and twelfth standards examination; and

(e) if so, the reasons for allowing the students to appear in the tenth and twelfth examinations conducted by the different boards before completing the minimum age required for such examinations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The students are required to be admitted as per the rules prescribed by the respective Government of State/UT where the school is located.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. As per the information received from National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), NIOS had prescribed the minimum age limit viz 14,15 & 16 for Bridge, Secondary & Senior Secondary respectively till the Academic year 2000-2001. From the Academic Year 2001-2002 onward, there is no age limit for appearing in NIOS examinations. The exemption in the age limit has been made keeping in view the spirit of Open Learning System to make available education to any person of any age. The age factor should not come as a constraint to student joining NIOS, as otherwise it may lead to frustration to highly talented children who wish to join the course but are not able to do so because of age limit.

(d) In so far as Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) is concerned, there is no higher/lower age prescribed for admission subject to the fact that school has to admit the students as per the rules prescribed by the respective State Government/UT where the school is located.

(e) Does not arise.

Short Supply of Unani Medicines

2282. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is short supply of Medicines in the CGHS Unani Dispensaries in the capital;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Unani medicines are available at the various CGHS Unani dispensaries/units. In case any medicine is not available, the beneficiaries are allowed to purchase the same from the open market and thereafter reimbursement is made by the CGHS to avoid inconvenience to the beneficiaries.

Amendments in University Grants Commission Act

2283. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has been actively considering to bring amendment in the UGC Act to tone up the administration of universities as reported in the *Hindu* dated 22 November, 2003;

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

(c) whether the administration of universities would be strengthened for improving education system and regulate the entry of foreign universities in India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is considering to review the working of "deemed to be" and private universities;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government is also considering to make changes in the method of implementation of schemes to promote studies in basic and pure sciences; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) A proposal to amend the UGC Act is under consideration of the Government.

(e) and (f) Revision of guidelines relating to the award of deemed to be university status, is under consideration of the Government. However, the UGC has issued regulations for establishment and maintenance of standards in private universities.

(g) and (h) The UGC has been operating certain schemes, viz. Special Assistance Programme (SPA), Assistance for Strengthening of Infrastructure in Science and Technology (ASIST), Inter-University Centres (IUCs), National Lectureship, etc. to promote studies and research in basic and pure sciences. There is, however, no proposal at present to make any changes in these schemes.

Casualties of Indian Peace Keeping Force Personnel

2284. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian official of the UN Peace Keeping Force in Kosovo was killed in a sniper attack in the first week of August, 2003;

(b) if so, the total number of casualties suffered by Indian Peace-keeping Personnel in Kosovo so far; and

(c) the details of the Indians serving in UN Peace Keeping Forces in operation in different countries at present alongwith the casualties, if any, suffered so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes. Shri Satish Chandra Menon, Deputy Commandant, BSF, was killed in a sniper attack on 3 August 2003 while serving with the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). This is the only casualty suffered by Indian peacekeeping personnel in Kosovo so far.

(c) Currently 2337 Indian troops and 365 police personnel are serving in UN Peacekeeping operations. Details are at Statement-I and II. The total number of Indian casualties in various UN Peacekeeping missions, so far, are 109.

Statement I

UN Missions

Deputation of Troops at Various UN Missions as on 10 December, 2003

Sl. No.	Name of Mission	Troop Contingent			Mil Obs (Offrs)	Staff Pers			Total
		Offrs	JCOs	OR		Offrs	JCOs	NCOs	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	UNDPKO (New York)	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3
2.	UNGCI (Iraq)	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
3.	MONUC (Congo)	5	6	79	41	—	—	—	131
4.	UNIFIL (Lebanon)	42	35	546	—	18	2	7	650

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5.	UNMEE (Ethiopia- Eritrea)	53	76	1395	7	17	1	1	1550
6.	MINUCI (Ivory Coast)	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
7.	UNOB (Burundi)	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Total		100	117	2020	51	38	3	8	2337

Statement II*Deputation of Police Personnel to various UN Missions as on 10 December, 2003*

1.	UNMIK (Kosovo)	344 (224 + 120 RAF personnel)							
2.	UNFICYP (Cyprus)	08							
3.	UNMISET (East Timor)	01							
4.	UNMEE (Ethiopia & Eritrea)	01							
5.	UNAMSIL (Sierra Leone)	10							
6.	MINURSO (Western Sahara)	01							
Total		365							

Joint Cyber University in UAE

2285. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has offered to set up a joint Cyber University in UAE;

(b) if so, the other fields in which joint ventures have been proposed to be set up there; and

(c) the response of UAE thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) During the recent visit of Hon'ble Rashtrapatiiji to UAE, keen interest was shown by UAE for promoting bilateral cooperation in Information Technology sector. With a view to utilizing Indian skill sets and UAE resources, the possibilities of developing knowledge based products and setting up of a joint Cyber University in UAE was discussed. However,

no specific joint venture projects have been proposed/ identified by either side.

Investigation of Cases by CBI in Kerala

2286. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases under CBI investigation at present in Kerala;

(b) whether any request has been received from Kerala regarding CBI inquiry into incidents of communal violence in some districts of state;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) 47 cases as on 12.12.2003.

(b) No Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Postal Services

2287. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) whether over 5000 Gram Panchayat Villages, many urban agglomerations and officially developed areas in the country are without Post offices;

(b) if so, step taken to improve the postal facilities at such places and the number of new Post Offices planned and actually opened during each of the last three years, State/UT and category-wise; and

(c) the time by which all the villages and extension areas of the existing cities will be effectively covered by postal services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) There are approximately 3752 Gram Panchayat villages and a number of urban agglomerations without Post Offices.

(b) Post Offices are opened subject to fulfilment of prescribed norms and availability of requisite resources. The number of new Post Offices targeted and actually opened during the last three years is given in the statement. However, Circles have also been empowered, inter-alia, to redeploy offices located in close proximity to other post offices in urban areas, to meet the emerging needs of newly developed urban settlements.

(c) All areas including villages and urban extensions are provided with basic postal facilities such as daily delivery of dak at the doorstep, collection of mails from Letter Boxes and sale of postage stamps and stationery, also at the doorstep in rural areas. However, Post offices are opened only in such areas where the requisite norms for opening of Post Office are met, subject to availability of resources.

Statement

Circle-wise Post office opened during last three years

Sl.No.	Circles	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03	
		Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16	8	15	3	3	3
2.	Assam	33	33	37	37	16	16
3.	Bihar	54	71	60	38	15	15
4.	Chhattisgarh	26	26	26	26	21	21
5.	Delhi	6	6	4	4	2	2
6.	Gujarat	23	12	22	20	15	15
7.	Haryana	16	3	3	1	1	1
8.	Himachal Pradesh	8	3	5	5	2	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6	6	13	13	5	5
10.	Jharkhand	23	1	16	1	10	8
11.	Karnataka	23	23	22	15	10	9
12.	Kerala	5	5	3	3	3	3
13.	Madhya Pradesh	18	18	24	24	15	17
14.	Maharashtra*	67	67	74	75	38	38
15.	North East*	42	6	37	15	10	10
16.	Orissa	12	12	16	16	11	11
17.	Punjab*	17	14	14	14	6	6
18.	Rajasthan	22	22	24	24	20	20
19.	Tamil Nadu*	17	17	7	7	6	6
20.	Uttar Pradesh	45	45	42	40	19	19
21.	Uttaranchal	6	7	26	16	4	4
22.	West Bengal*	65	10	60	59	43	35
Total		550	415	550	456	275	266

* (1) Gujarat includes Daman and Diu

(2) Maharashtra includes Goa

(3) Kerala includes Lakshdweep Islands

(4) North-East includes Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.

(5) Punjab includes Chandigarh.

(6) Tamil Nadu includes Pondicherry.

(7) West Bengal includes Sikkim.

Disinvestment of ITDC Hotels

2288. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of market price of ITDC Hotels and the total value of their hotels and the disposal value in respective cases which have already been disinvested from the chain of Hotel Corporation of India or the ITDC; and

(b) the details of Centaur Hotel of Mumbai pertaining to its creation, property valuation, land valuation disposal at disinvestment tax valuation and subsequent change of hand to Sahara Group and their benefit amount?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The requisite information is at Statement-I.

(b) The requisite information is at Statement-II.

Statement I

The realisations etc. from disinvestment of the hotel properties of India Tourism Development Corporation Limited (ITDC) and Hotel Corporation of India Limited (HCI) when compared to the reserve price determined, are as under:

(A) ITDC

S.No.	Hotel & Location	Reserve Price (Rs. Crores)	Realisation (Rs.)	Transaction Date
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ashok Bangalore (including Airport Restaurant) (Given on 30 year' Lease- cum-Management Contract Bangalore-Karnataka	3.40 (MGAP)	4,11,00,000.00-Minimum Guaranteed Annual Payment (MGAP). 39,42,65,552-Upfront amount inclusive of payments to AAI. Security Deposit for 2 Years; 50% of discounted MGAP for 30 years; MGAP/License fee for 4 months from 29.11.2001 to March 2002 and Business Transfer Consideration for both Hotel and Airport Restaurant)	29.11.2001
2.	Bodhgaya Ashok (Sold-99.97% equity) Bodhgaya, Bihar	1.67	2,01,04,813.00 GOI-180,94,272.88 IHCL-20,10,540.12	29.11.2001
3.	Hassan Ashok, (sold-99.97% equity) Hassan, Karnataka	2.19	2,52,00,000.00 GOI-2,26,23,406.45 IHCL-25,13,793.55 Hassan Municipality- Rs. 62,800	29.11.2001
4.	Madurai Ashok (Sold-99.97% equity) Madurai, Tamil Nadu.	3.64	5,52,51,021.00 GOI-4,93,73,728.79 IHCL-54,86,148.21 Corpn. Of Madurai-3,91,144	31.1.2002
5.	TBARB, Mamallapuram (Sold-99.97% equity) Madurai, Tamil Nadu	5.18	6,80,79,300.00 GOI-6,12,71,170.81 IHCL-68,08,129.19	1.2.2002
6.	Agra Ashok (Sold-99.97% equity) Agra, Uttar Pradesh	3.26	4,00,53,000.00 GOI-3,53,92,672.94 IHCL-39,32,647.06 Agra Cantt Board-7,27,680	7.2.2002
7.	Laxmi Vilas Palace Hotel (Sold-99.97% equity) Udaipur, Rajasthan	6.12	7,52,00,000.00 GOI-6,76,79,779.97 IHCL-75,20,220.03	26.02.2002

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Qutab Hotel, New Delhi (Sold-99.97% equity) New Delhi.	31.00*	35,67,54,179.00 GOI-10,98,55,893.00 L&DO-7,32,37,500.00 MCD-16,14,54,179.00 IHCL-1,22,06,607.00	20.3.2002
9.	Lodhi Hotel New Delhi (Sold-99.97% equity) New Delhi	40.36*	76,40,67,643.00 GOI-40,28,14,567.00 L&DO-30,03,83,872.00 MCD-1,61,10,575.00 IHCL-4,47,58,629.00	22.3.2002
10.	Hotel Airport Ashok, Kolkata (including Airport Restaurant) (Sold-99.97% equity) Kolkata, West Bengal	14.83#	20,01,51,000.00 GOI-5,64,73,145.00 AAI-3,46,45,817.00 DDM-94,15,040.00 VRS-9,33,42,000.00 IHCL-62,74,998.00	8.7.02
11.	Kovalam Ashok Beach Resort (Sold-99.97% equity) Kovalam, Kerala.	41.75#	43,68,76,000.00 GOI-29,72,69,034.00 VRS-10,65,76,000.00 IHCL-3,30,30,966.00	11.7.02
12.	Manali Ashok (Sold-99.97% equity) Manali, Himachal Pradesh	1.91#	4,00,00,000.00 GOI-3,10,43,599.00 HPSEB-11,61,000.00 VRS-43,46,000.00 IHCL-34,49,401.00	15.7.02
13.	Khajuraho Ashok (Sold-99.97% equity) Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh	2.01#	2,21,00,000.00 GOI-19,83,594.00 ITDC-11,00,000.00 VRS-1,87,96,000.00 IHCL-2,20,406.00	7.8.02
14.	Varanasi Ashok (Sold-99.97% equity) Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	5.55#	9,11,00,000.00 GOI-6,57,36,686.00 VRS-1,80,59,000.00 IHCL-73,04,314.00	7.8.02
15.	Hotel Aurangabad Ashok (including Airport Restaurant) (Sold-99.97% equity) Aurangabad, Maharashtra	15.05#	17,40,42,000.00 GOI-8,15,92,835 SCR-5,43,42,000.00 Tehsildar-9,00,000.00 VRS-2,81,41,000.00 IHCL-90,66,165.00	4.9.02
16.	Hotel Ranjit, New Delhi (Sold-99.97% equity) New Delhi	23.78#	30,30,00,000.00 GOI-9,14,32,041.00 L&DO-15,91,61,459.00 MCD-81,61,054.00 IHCL-1,01,59,446.00 VRS-3,40,86,000.00	7.10.2002

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Kanishka, New Delhi (Sold-99.97% equity) New Delhi	70.90#	95,95,01,000.00 GOI-32,14,15,576.00 L&DO-31,62,95,626.00 NBCC-2,80,29,707.00 NDMC-12,34,14,088.00 VRS-13,46,32,000.00 IHCL-3,57,14,003.00	8.10.2002
18.	Indraprastha, New Delhi (Sold-99.97% equity) New Delhi	18.34#	45,03,33,333.00 GOI-14,84,38,576.00 L&DO-15,30,56,905.00 NBCC-1,45,39,099.00 NDMC-4,37,29,042.00 VRS-7,40,76,000.00 IHCL-1,64,93,711.00	8.10.2002
19.	Incomplete Chandigarh Project (Sold-100% equity of ITDC) (Sold as 100%-subsidiary of ITDC) Chandigarh, Punjab.	14.01**	17,27,20,981.00 Chandigarh Admn- 12,65,37,813.00 ITDC-4,61,83,168.00	16.10.2002

Total Upfront Realisation to GOI, UT of Chandigarh, CPSUs and Statutory Bodies-Rs. 444,18,49,697.84

*Reserve price/Bid price inclusive of dues of MCD/L&DO taken upfront from the bidders.

#Reserve price/Bid price inclusive of dues of various authorities and VRS amounts taken upfront from the bidders.

**Reserve price/Bid price inclusive of outstanding dues of Chandigarh administration.

Legend:

AAI—Airports Authority of India—Realisation to AAI is on account of outstanding dues towards lease rent for the land of the hotel and license fee for the restaurant.

DDM—Dum Dum Municipality, Kolkata.

GOI—Government of India—for 89.97% (approx) shares.

HPSEB—Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board—Realisation to HPSEB is towards outstanding dues from ITDC.

IHCL—The Indian Hotels Company Limited—for 10% (approx) shares.

ITDC—India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd—For Khajuraho Ashok, the amount is towards reimbursement for out of court settlement of land related dispute. For Incomplete Chandigarh Project, the amount is towards ITDC's share.

L&DO—Land & Development Office (Dept. of Urban Development)—Realisation to L&DO is on account of Unearned Increase in the value of the leased land plus damage charges etc.

MCD—Municipal Corporation of Delhi—Realisation to MCD is towards outstanding property taxes/service charges due from ITDC.

NBCC—National Building Construction Corporation Ltd—Realisation to NBCC is towards outstanding dues from ITDC.

NDMC—New Delhi Municipal Council—Realisation to NDMC is towards outstanding property taxes/service charges/compounding charges etc. due from ITDC.

SCR—South Central Railways—Realisation of SCR is on account of settlement of dispute on land value.

Tehsildar—Tehsildar, Aurangabad—Outstanding dues from ITDC.

VRS—Voluntary Retirement Scheme (including Gratuity)—The amounts in respect of the employees opting for VRS in each hotel unit have been taken upfront from bidders for payment to the employees by ITDC.

Additional recurring realisations:

1. Ashok Bangalore:

For the Hotel

There will be annual realisation of Rs. 2.55 crores (50% of MGAP) or an amount calculated as the difference between 16.5% of the gross turnover of the hotel plus restaurant and 50% of MGAP, whichever is higher.

For the Restaurant

Annual License fee of Rs. 30 lakhs increasing @ 10% per annum; Fixed amount of Rs. 70.08 lakhs per annum for providing in-flight catering and sale of Beer at/from the Restaurant premises and interest free refundable Security deposit of Rs. 51.60 lakhs and Rs. 19.80 lakhs (Rs. 15.60 lakhs towards electricity charges and Rs. 4.20 lakhs towards water charges).

2. Qutab Hotel, New Delhi: L&DO to receive Rs. 36,61,875.00 as Annual Rent @ 2.5% of value assigned to land and interest free refundable Security Deposit of Rs. 1,09,85,625.00 equivalent to 3 years rent. (The Annual Rent and corresponding Security Deposit to increase by 30% every 10 years) L&DO also received Rs. 1,10,358/- towards advance ground rent for the period from March 20, 2002 (dated of execution of transaction documents) to March 31, 2002.

3. Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi: L&DO to receive Rs. 1,34,27,196.00 as Annual Rent @ 2.5% of value assigned to land and interest free refundable Security Deposit of Rs. 4,02,81,588.00 equivalent to 3 years rent. (The Annual Rent and corresponding Security Deposit to increase by 30% every 10 years). L&DO also received Rs. 3,31,082/- towards advance ground rent for the period from March 22, 2002 (date of execution of transaction documents) to March 31, 2002.

4. Hotel Airport Ashok, Kolkata: AAI will receive the following amounts:

For the Hotel

Rs. 25,96,787/- as Annual Lease Rent @ Rs. 92.15 per sq mtr calculated on Built Up Area (11,440 sq mts) or 28,180 sq mts (total land), whichever is higher (Annual Lease Rent would increase by 20% every 3 years). Annual Turnover Levy @ 2% subject to a Minimum Guaranteed Annual Payment of Rs. 14 lakhs increasing every 5 years to Rs. 26 lakhs, Rs. 34 lakhs, Rs. 50 lakhs, Rs. 71 lakhs and Rs. 85 lakhs respectively. Security deposit (Rs. 12,98,394/-) equal to Annual Lease Rent of 6 months. Apart from the above, AAI also received Rs. 18,99,567/- as advance lease rent for the period from July 8, 2002 (transaction date) to March 31, 2003.

For the Restaurant

Annual Rent of Rs. 30 lakhs increasing @ 10% per annum; Fixed amount of Rs. 70.10 lakhs per annum for providing in-flight catering and sale of Beer at/from the Restaurant premises and Security deposit of Rs. 71,40,000/- towards License fee and Electricity/water charges. Apart from the above, AAI also received Rs. 1,93,548/- as Advance Monthly Rent and Rs. 4,52,129/- as Advance Fixed Monthly Fee (for providing in-flight catering services & sale of beer etc.) for the period from 8th July, 2002 (transaction date) to 31st July, 2002.

5. Hotel Ranjit, New Delhi: L&DO to receive Annual Ground rent of Rs. 40,70,325/- and Interest-free (refundable) Security Deposit of Rs. 1,22,10,975/- equivalent to 3 years Annual Ground Rent. L&DO also received Rs. 19,62,677/- towards advance ground rent for the period from October 7, 2002 (date of execution of transaction documents) to March 31, 2003.

6. **Hotel Kanishka, New Delhi:** L&DO to receive Rs. 1,56,11,983.00 as Annual Rent @ 2.5% of value assigned to land and interest free refundable Security Deposit of Rs. 4,68,35,949.00 equivalent to 3 years rent. (The Annual Rent and corresponding Security Deposit to increase by 30% every 10 years). L&DO also received Rs. 74,85,197/- towards advance ground rent for the period from October 8, 2002 (date of execution of transaction documents) to March 31, 2003.

7. **Hotel Indraprastha, New Delhi:** L&DO to receive Rs. 76,05,275.33 as Annual Rent @ 2.5% of value assigned to land and interest free refundable Security Deposit of Rs. 2,28,15,826.00 equivalent to 3 years rent. (The Annual Rent and corresponding Security Deposit to increase by 30% every 10 years). L&DO also received Rs. 36,46,366/- towards advance ground rent for the period from October 8, 2002 (date of execution of transaction documents) to March 31, 2003.

8. **Incomplete Chandigarh Project:** Chandigarh Administration to receive Annual Ground Rent @ Rs. 31,89,375/- for 1st 33 years, @ Rs., 47,84,063/- for the next 33 years and @ Rs. 63,78,750/- for the last 33 years in terms of the Chandigarh Lease Hold of Sites & Building Rules, 1973. Chandigarh Administration also received Rs. 95,68,125/- as interest free refundable security deposit equivalent to 3 years annual rent. Apart from the above, Chandigarh administration also received Rs. 14,59,248/- towards advance ground rent for the period from 16 October, 2002 (date of execution of transaction documents) to March 31, 2003.

(B) HCI

S. No.	Hotel	Reserve Price (Rs. Crores)	Bid Price (Rs. Crores)	Transaction Date
1.	Centaur Hotel Juhu Beach Mumbai (Slump sale)	101.60	153.00	Transaction date: 11.3.02 Transfer date: 31.5.02
2.	Indo Hokke Hotels Ltd (Centaur Rajgir) (Sold-100% equity of HCI)	3.86	6.51	Transaction/ Transfer date: 26.3.02
3.	Centaur Hotel Airport Mumbai (Slump Sale)	78.30	83.00	Transaction data: 18.4.02 Transfer date: 5.6.02

Statement II

The details regarding Centaur Hotel Airport Mumbai are as under:

1. Centaur Hotel Airport Mumbai was the first hotel of Hotel Corporation of India Limited (HCI) to commence business in 1975. The Hotel is built on land admeasuring approximately 30,047 sqm leased from the Airports Authority of India. The total built up area of the hotel is approximately 26,328 sqm.

2. Advertisement inviting expressions of Interest (EOIs) for this hotel along with other hotel properties of HCI was issued in October 2000. The reserve price for the hotel was determined at Rs. 78.30 crores and the business of the hotel was sold on slump sale basis to the highest bidder for Rs. 83 crores. On the transfer date, i.e., 5.6.2002, the purchaser viz., M/s Batra Hospitality Private Limited (BHPL) also executed an Agreement with Airports Authority of India (AAI) for acquiring 29 years lease hold rights of the land of the hotel. As per the Lease Agreement, BHPL would have to

pay to AAI lease rental of Rs. 163/- per sq mtr per annum of the built up area of the leased premises and turnover levy @2% of annual turnover subject to the following minimum guaranteed annual payments:

(i)	First Five Year	—	Rs. 0.50 crore
(ii)	Second Five Years	—	Rs. 0.90 crore
(iii)	Third Five Years	—	Rs. 1.20 crore
(iv)	Fourth Five Years	—	Rs. 1.75 crore
(v)	Fifth Five Years	—	Rs. 2.50 crore
(vi)	Last Four Years	—	Rs. 3.00 crore

3. It was intimated by BHPL that its entire shareholding has been bought over by Sahara India Group from the then existing shareholders of BHPL on 10.10.2002. Further, Sahara India Group intimated that the total transaction value paid to the shareholders of BHPL amounted to Rs. 45 crores in addition to repaying the borrowings from Oriental Bank of Commerce to the extent of Rs. 70.50 crores.

[Translation]

Unravelling Conspiracy of IC-814 Flight

2289. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the mystery pertaining to the conspiracy angle surrounding the IC-814 flight has been unravelled;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (c) The Central Bureau of Investigation are investigating the IC-814 hijacking case. There have been suggestions of involvement of some Pakistani nationals, and assistance to the hijackers in Kandahar by elements of the former Taliban.

Mission to Moon Programme

2290. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some countries have offered their cooperation in the Mission to Moon Programme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

(b) Space agencies of some countries viz. Russia, Germany, Canada and European Space Agency have shown interest to collaborate in the Indian Moon Mission programme. In addition, scientific groups from Germany, UK, and USA have also proposed scientific experiments for this mission.

(c) While the requests and offers from other countries are being examined by ISRO, an Announcement of Opportunity (AO) inviting proposals on new ideas of

experiments/studies is being issued, addressed to scientists all over the world. Proposals received against this AO will be processed for selection.

[English]

US Warning to India

2291. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the US has issued a warning to India to reduce tariff and non-tariff barriers, allow more US goods to flow into the country etc. in order to avoid another backlash as reported in the *Statesman* dated November 21, 2003;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof; and
- (c) the manner in which the Government proposes to deal with the US warning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No. In view of the large surplus of trade in India's favour in the India-U.S. bilateral trade, the U.S. government has on a number of occasions urged further liberalisation in India's external trade regime. The two sides have a wide-ranging institutional dialogue architecture to discuss trade policy issues in both countries and measures to enhance trade and investment ties. This includes the India-U.S. High Technology Cooperation Group that held its second meeting in India on 19-20 November 2003.

(c) The Government seeks mutually beneficial trade relations with the United States consistent with its national economic policies and priorities.

Extension of Golden Quadrilateral

2292. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has a proposal to extend the "Golden Quadrilateral" from Silcher to Kohima;
- (b) if so, whether the National highway-39 would also be made into a Four Lane Highways;
- (c) if so, the estimated cost of these two projects separately; and

(d) the time by which these projects would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (d) Silchar is not part of the Golden Quadrilateral project which connects the four metros i.e. Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata, but is at one end of the proposed East-West Corridor (Silchar to Porbandar). There is no proposal to extend the East-West Corridor from Silchar to Kohima. However, there is a proposal to widen the National Highway No. 39 from Kohima to Dimapur into a four-lane highway. This proposal is at an initial stage.

WLL Service in Karnataka

2293. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rural areas in Karnataka provided with WLL service so far; and

(b) the amount proposed to be spent during 2003-2004 in Karnataka for providing WLL service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Sir, details of rural areas in Karnataka provided with WLL services so far by using CDMA (WLL) and CorDECT (WLL) technologies are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The amount proposed to be spent during 2003-04 in Karnataka for providing WLL service is Rs. 158.50 crores.

Statement

The details of rural areas provided with WLL service.

52,250 Lines (77 BTS) CDMA WLL is working at following stations in 18 SSAs (Secondary Switching Area) covering 74 SDCAs (Short Distance Charging Area) viz.,

Sl. No.	Name of SSA	Working Lines
1	2	3
1.	Bangalore	2965
2.	Mysore	3455

1	2	3
3.	Mandya	439
4.	Hassan	2667
5.	Tumkur	3333
6.	Kolar	2374
7.	D. Kannada	909
8.	Raichur	527
9.	Belgaum	559
10.	Hubli	435
11.	Kodag	228
12.	Bidar	15
13.	Gulbarga	71
14.	Bellary	92
15.	Bijapur	220
16.	Davangere	135
17.	U. Kannada	200
18.	Dharwad	280

Note:

- In addition to above, 2 more field trial equipment is in operation in Mysore SSA at K.R. Nagar and H.D. Kota.
- CorDECT WLL: 200 lines have been commissioned at Devanahalli & Hubli.

Delay in Projects

2294. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the 215th Flash Report of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for September 2003, about 94 road and transport projects have reported additional delays;

(b) if so, the details of the projects and the extent of delays;

(c) the project-wise cost escalation due to delay;

(d) the reasons for the delay; and

(e) the steps being taken to complete the projects on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) There are 31 projects, which have reported delays over the dates of completion.

(b) and (d) The details are at Statement-I.

(c) The contracts are still at various stages of implementation.

(e) The details are at Statement-II.

Statement I

Details of Projects which have reported delay as per 215th Flash Report of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

Sl. No.	Name of Project	NH No.	Range of delay with respect to original date of completion (In months)	Reasons for delay
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Westerly Diversion	4	14	Delayed due to major increase in scope of work to make it access controlled facility. The project has since been completed.
2.	Atul-Kajali	8	8	Tardy implementation by the contractor: land acquisition, additional work, prolonged monsoon.
3.	Tada-Chennai (TN-1)	5	3	Land acquisition permission to borrow area from State Govt delayed.
4.	Belgaum Bypass	4	4	Clearance of ROB, quarry, poor performance by contractor.
5.	Palasa-Srikakulam	5	3	Cash Flow problem by the contractor, delay in land acquisition and floods in September, 2003.
6.	Kanchipuram-Poonamalee	4	4	Land acquisition, utility shifting, quarry, poor performance by contractor.
7.	Dhankuni-Kolaghat (WB-I)	6	1	Land acquisition, utility shifting, clearance of ROB, difficult site condition, poor performance by contractor.
8.	Kharagpur-Laxmanath (WB-IV)	60	2	land acquisition
9.	Bhadrak-Chandikhole (OR-II)	5	6	Delay in bridge structures under bridge package in Orissa (OR-V), land acquisition and un seasonal heavy rains.
10.	Bridge Section (AP-20) from-km 80-km 162	5	4	Unprecedented heavy rains and land acquisition.
11.	Surat (Chalthan)-Atul	8	8	Tardy implementation by the contractor, Earthquake.
12.	Srikakulam-Champawati (AP-1)	5	4	Land acquisition, utility shifting, quarry, poor performance by contractor.

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Khurda-Sunakhala (OR-VI)	5	6	Land acquisition & forest clearance, utility shifting, law and order, cash flow problem.
14.	Kolaghat-Kharagpur (WB-II)	6	6	Land acquisition, utility shifting, law & order problem, quarry site clearance.
15.	Balasore-Bhadrak (OR-III)	5	11	Land acquisition, utility shifting, law 7 order problem, quarry site, clearance of ROB, poor performance by contractor.
16.	Dehri-on-Sone-Aurangabad (TNHP/IV-D)	2	4	Land acquisition, utility shifting, clearance of ROB, quarry, law & order. poor performance by contractor.
17.	Divancheru (near Rajahmundry)-Gowthami (AP-17)	5	6	Land acquisition, utility shifting, adverse weather conditions, poor performance by contractor.
18.	Pallikonda-Ranipet and Walahjapet bypass (KR-3)	46	5	Poor performance by contractor.
19.	Korlam-Palasa (AP-4A0)	5	8	land acquisition and trade implementation by the contractor and floods.
20.	Ichhapruam-Korlam (AP-4B)	5	8	Land acquisition and trade implementation by the contractor.
21.	Hubli-Haveri	4	9	Tardy implementation by the contractor and non availability of aggregate as per specifications.
22.	Vaniyambadi-Palikonda	46	4	Quarry problem.
23.	Haveri-Harihar	4	4	Poor performance by contractor, quarry problem.
24.	Mohania-Sasaram TNHP/IV-B)	2	4	Law & order problem, trade implementation by the contractor and utility shifting and land acquisition.
25.	Harihar-Chitradurga	4	4	Poor performance by contractor.
26.	Handia-Varanasi (TNHP/III-C)	2	5	Poor performance by contractor, land acquisition and utility shifting.
27.	Fatehpur-Khaga (TNHP/II-C)	2	3	Slow progress by contractor, land acquisition and utility shifting.
28.	Sunakhala-Ganjam (OR-VII)	5	8	Law & order problem, poor performance by the contractor, land acquisition, forest clearance, law & order problem and utility shifting.
29.	Ganjam-Ichhapuram (OR-VIII)	5	10	Poor performance by the contractor, land acquisition and utility shifting.

1	2	3	4	5
30.	Laxmannath-Baleshwar (OR-4)	60	12	Land acquisition, law & order and work stoppage by local people.
31.	Vivekananda Bridge and Approach	2	6	Court case.

Statement II*Steps taken for timely completion of Projects*

- (1) Taking up issues regarding land acquisition, removal of utilities, law and order etc. at the highest level of the State Governments.
- (2) Nomination of senior officers as nodal officers by the State Governments to co-ordinate issues relating to execution of the projects.
- (3) Official level meetings with the State Governments concerned and Ministry of Railways to resolve problems.
- (4) Regular monitoring through daily and weekly progress and reports.
- (5) Regular meetings at the level of Minister to review the progress and performance of contractors/consultants/officials of NHA.
- (6) Provisions of incentives such as bonus for early completion of projects and disincentive such as damages for delay in completion of the contracts.

Technical Education in N-E Region

2295. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 329 crore project to strengthen technical education in the North-East Region was started in January 2001;

(b) if so, the number of technical institutes funded by this project, State-wise; and

(c) the amount sanctioned and disbursed towards different schemes/projects, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Technician Education Project-III for strengthening technician education in 6 North-Eastern States of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura and 2 State/UT of Jammu & Kashmir and Andaman & Nicobar Islands was started on 17th January, 2001, at a total cost of Rs. 329 crore.

The number of technical institutes funded under the Project, States/UT-wise and the amount allocated & disbursed to them is enclosed as statement.

Statement*Technician Education Project-III*

(Rs. in Crore)

S. No.	State	No. of Technical Institutes (Polytechnics)	Project Allocation	Amount Disbursed upto 31.10.2003
1	2	3	4	5
I. North-Eastern States				
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	23	7
2.	Meghalaya	3	53	6

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Mizoram	2	35	9
4.	Nagaland	3	47	9
5.	Sikkim	2	57	17
6.	Tripura	1	12	4
II. Other State/UT				
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	2	22	9
2.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	65	17
III. For monitoring the Project activities at National level				
1.	National Project Implementation Unit	—	15	5
Total		18	329	83

Privatisation of Hindustan Zinc Limited

2296. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to privatise Hindustan Zinc Limited;

(b) if so, the number of workers likely to be affected as a result of this privatisation;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to protect the interest of the workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The Government disinvested 26% of the Equity in Hindustan Zinc Ltd. alongwith transfer of management control in favour of a Strategic Partner, M/s Sterlite Opportunities and Ventures Limited in April, 2002. Subsequently, the Strategic Partner has exercised the Call Option for purchasing an additional 18.92% of the Government Equity in August, 2003.

(b) As informed by Hindustan Zinc Ltd., against an initial strength of 8322 employees at the time of disinvestment, 2287 employees have subsequently availed of VRS, 16 employees retired and 74 employees were separated for other reasons. As against a total of 2377 separations, 133 new employees have been recruited,

giving a net reduction of 2244 employees since the time of disinvestment.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken steps to protect the interest of the workers by incorporating suitable clauses in the Shareholders agreement to guard against retrenchment of employees for a period of one year from the date of disinvestment, to ensure that any restructuring of the labour force will be implemented only in accordance with applicable Laws, and that any reduction in the strength of employees is done only through a Company prior to disinvestment or as per the Department of Public Enterprises' guidelines or the benefits available as per prevailing Law whichever is more beneficial.

Science Education

2297. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

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

(a) the funds demanded by various State Governments for the improvement of Science Education during the last three years; and

(b) the Central assistance sanctioned for the same to the States during the said period, year-wise and State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) The detailed information is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State/UT	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003	
		Amount Sought by State/UT	Amount Sanctioned by MHRD	Amount Sought by State/UT	Amount Sanctioned by MHRD	Amount Sought by State/UT	Amount Sanctioned by MHRD
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	52.49	46.98	-	-	-	-
2.	Assam	-	-	-	-	1657.46	810.00
3.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	-	64.25	21.90	-	-
4.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	153.60	153.60	-	-
5.	Gujarat	-	-	394.18	394.18	-	-
6.	Haryana	-	-	225.45	208.50	-	-
7.	Himachal Pradesh	-	-	257.58	242.58	-	-
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	165.11	144.45	-	-	-	-
9.	Karnataka	-	-	700.00	700.00	-	-
10.	Maharashtra	1255.44	1255.44	-	-	-	-
11.	Orissa	4307.00	2160.00	-	-	-	-
12.	Punjab	1337.00	626.80	-	-	-	-
13.	Uttar Pradesh	-	-	-	-	270.00	270.00
14.	Tripura	109.78	101.16	-	-	-	-
15.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	-	-	-	-	12.68	10.18

*[Translation]***Assistance to NGOs for Blindness**

2298. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether assistance has been provided to NGOs to control Blindness during the last few years and the current year;

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

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal from NGOs to enhance the assistance;

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

(e) the action proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Assistance is provided to NGOs for following schemes under National Programme for Control of Blindness:

1. Non-recurring Grant in-aid for strengthening/expanding eye care facilities for rural including tribal areas.

2. Recurring and Non-recurring Grant-in-aid to Eye Banks.

State-wise funds released during the last three years and the current year is given at Statement 1.

3. Recurring Grant-in-aid for free Cataract Surgery including Intra Ocular Lens (IOL) Implantation. This Grant-in-aid is released through District Blindness Control Societies.

(c) to (e) Revision in grant-in-aid to NGOs during the 10th Plan has been supported by Expenditure and Finance Committee. The approval of competent authority is required.

Statement

National Programme for Control of Blindness

Details of Funds Release to NGOs & District Blindness Control Societies

Rs. in Lakhs

Sl.No.	States/UTs	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004	
		DBCSs	NGOs	DBCSs	NGOs	DBCSs	NGOs	DBCSs	NGOs
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Major States									
1.	Andhra Pradesh	316.00	-	501.63	11.00	211.06	-	288.75	-
2.	Bihar	143.42	-	52.50	-	91.50	-	180.00	-
3.	Chhattisgarh	107.00	-	120.00	-	70.00	-	105.00	-
4.	Goa	3.00	-	3.00	-	0.00	-	11.25	-
5.	Gujarat	185.00	-	109.34	-	127.48	-	176.25	-
6.	Haryana	66.00	-	77.50	-	0.21	-	67.50	-
7.	Himachal Pradesh	40.00	-	13.00	-	23.22	-	45.00	-
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	18.00	-	3.00	-	26.14	-	45.00	-
9.	Jharkhand	54.00	-	14.00	-	64.03	-	105.00	-
10.	Karnataka	187.00	8.88	227.62	-	308.53	10.65	210.00	-
11.	Kerala	136.00	-	69.00	-	93.12	-	105.00	-
12.	Madhya Pradesh	507.13	-	380.00	-	362.90	-	232.50	-
13.	Maharashtra	218.00	-	229.75	17.75	191.50	-	232.50	-
14.	Orissa	427.00	-	100.00	-	169.00	-	176.25	-
15.	Punjab	57.00	-	18.00	-	50.04	-	67.50	-
16.	Rajasthan	183.00	-	195.00	10.00	305.00	-	213.75	-

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
17.	Tamil Nadu	662.00	-	975.57	-	1076.48	15.00	738.75	-
18.	Uttar Pradesh	361.00	-	1035.28	-	494.94	17.75	513.75	-
19.	Uttaranchal Pradesh	15.00	-	47.00	-	65.00	-	67.50	-
20.	West Bengal	140.00	-	81.00	-	182.27	-	195.00	-
Total		3825.55	8.88	4252.19	38.75	3912.42	43.40	3776.25	0.00

North Eastern States

1.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.00	-	11.50	-	10.12	-	8.25	-
2.	Assam	70.00	-	26.00	-	30.27	17.75	67.50	-
3.	Manipur	3.00	-	5.00	-	11.85	6.25	12.00	-
4.	Meghalaya	21.00	-	1.50	-	11.84	-	12.00	-
5.	Mizoram	21.00	-	1.50	-	18.32	-	12.00	-
6.	Nagaland	1.98	-	16.50	-	16.62	-	8.25	-
7.	Sikkim	3.00	-	0.00	-	15.74	-	5.25	-
8.	Tripura	14.00	-	21.50	-	21.51	-	33.00	-
Total		136.98	0.00	83.50	0.00	136.27	24.00	158.25	000

UTs

1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.00	-	3.00	-	0.00	-	3.50	-
2.	Chandigarh	6.00	-	3.00	-	5.00	-	5.00	-
3.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0.00	-	0.00	-	1.50	-	2.50	-
4.	Daman & Diu	1.00	-	0.00	-	1.00	-	2.50	-
5.	Delhi	26.63	-	13.81	-	21.34	-	9.79	-
6.	Lakshadweep	0.00	-	0.00	-	0.00	-	2.50	-
7.	Pondicherry	6.00	-	1.50	-	0.00	-	5.00	-
Total		39.63	0.00	21.31	0.00	28.84	0.00	29.79	0.00
Grand Total		4002.16	8.88	4357.00	38.75	4077.53	67.40	3964.29	0.00

Agreement with European Union in Navigation Field

2299. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and European Union are to enter into an agreement in the field of navigation;

(b) if so, whether the modalities have been worked out in this regard;

(c) the names of the ports in the country for which European Union has proposed to offer help for their modernisation;

(d) the number of ports expanded and modernised by the Union Government during the last three years; and

(e) the details of the anchorage facilities provided for the large ships in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (c) During the 4th Summit between India and the EU held in New Delhi on 29th November, 2003, it has been agreed to launch the negotiations for an Indo-EU Maritime Agreement covering issues of interest to both sides. Modalities have not yet been worked out.

(d) The expansion and modernisation of 12 major ports, which are under the administrative control of the Central Government, is an on-going process.

(e) Anchorage facilities including drafts vary from port to port. 'Large Ships' is a relative term. hence, it is not possible to indicate in a definitive manner the anchorage facilities provided for the large ships in India. However, the endeavour is to ensure adequate anchorage facilities in the major ports keeping in view the requirements of the trade.

[English]

Revised Guidelines for Port Sector

2300. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to issue revised guidelines for private sector entry into the major port sector;

(b) if so, the aim behind it; and

(c) the time by which these guidelines are likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (c) The Government has undertaken a review of the existing guidelines on private sector participation in major ports with the view to updating and, if necessary, revising them and issue a consolidated set of guidelines on the subject. It will not be feasible to indicate a time frame for completing the exercise.

Indo-Iran Strategic Dialogue

2301. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Iran have held the third round of strategic dialogue recently;

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

(c) whether the situation in Iraq also came up for discussion; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The two sides reviewed bilateral cooperation and discussed regional and international issues of common interest including Afghanistan and Iraq.

(c) Yes.

(d) The discussions revealed an identity of views on several aspects of the current situation in Iraq. The two sides agreed to continue their consultations on the evolving scenario in Iraq.

[Translation]

STD/ISD and FAX Facility in Village Panchayat

2302. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Gram Panchayats connected with the STD/ISD and FAX facilities in Bihar; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide said facility to all the Gram Panchayats in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) In Bihar 5416 Gram panchayats are provided with STD facility and 54 Gram Panchayats with STD/ISD facilities out of a total of 871 Gram Panchayats.

(b) STD/ISD and FAX facilities can be provided on request and fulfillment of commercial terms such as security deposit etc.

[English]

State-wide Information Infrastructure in Kerala

2303. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop a State-wide Information Technology Infrastructure in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) A project proposal titled DIAMOND (Domestic Information Infrastructure Administration through Multi Objective network Depository) for establishment of State Information Infrastructure was received from the Government of Kerala in March, 2002. The Department of Information Technology (DIT) while taking into consideration all aspects of the project proposal has decided to initially create a Network Centre and E-Governance Centre at Thiruvananthapuram at a total outlay of Rs. 4.80 crores (with contribution from State Government as Rs. 2.40 crores i.e. 50% of the total outlay).

Assistance for Family Welfare Programmes

2304. DR. M.V.VS. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

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

(a) whether some State Governments, particularly Andhra Pradesh has submitted any proposals to the Union

Government recently for providing more financial assistance for their Family Welfare Programmes;

(b) if so, the names of the States and the requests made by them; and

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) During the year 2003-04, proposals amounting to Rs. 6825.20 lakhs have been received from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, J&K, Chhattisgarh, Chandigarh, Delhi, Assam, Mizoram, Manipur, Uttaranchal, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, UP, Orissa, MP, Haryana, Jharkhand & Pondicherry for various maternal health interventions of RCH Programme. Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has requested for Rs. 1121.31 lakhs against their entitlement of Rs. 3.30 crores as per norms.

Releases to the States are made based on norms fixed for various interventions, availability of funds, settlement of accounts in respect of grants released in previous years and audit reports. Requests received from the States are processed for releases keeping these parameters in view.

During the financial year 2003-04, Rs. 74.10 lakhs has been released to Andhra Pradesh as first instalment.

Change in Name of U.G.C.

2305. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to change the name of the University Grants Commission; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) A proposal to change the name of the University Grants Commission (UGC) is under consideration of the Government. However, a final decision is yet to be taken.

Setting up of Hospitals in Rajasthan

2306. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the Government of Rajasthan for setting up of Government hospitals in the State;

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

(c) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Health being a State subject, it is the primary responsibility of the State Government to establish medical facilities including setting up of hospitals in the respective State according to their needs/priorities within the available resources. However, on the basis of socio-economic status, regional imbalances both in provision of specialty health care services facility as well as in specialized medical education across the country, the Government has decided in principle to set up super-speciality hospitals on the pattern of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi under "Pradhanmantri Swasthya Suraksha Yajana" in six States, which includes the State of Rajasthan.

Disbursement of Loans

2307. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any talk regarding disbursement of bank loans through Postal Department has been held between the Ministry and some leading banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) The Government has initiated discussions with some leading banks through the Indian Banking Association for disbursal of Agricultural credit utilizing the postal network. This is a follow up action consequent to the announcement made by the Finance Minister while presenting the budget in February, 2003, that post offices will also be used as a source for disbursal of agricultural credit.

(c) The matter is still at the stage of negotiation between the Department and the Banks.

Measurement of GSDP

2308. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has been taken as important economic parameter;

(b) if so, whether the Government is also aware that instead of measuring GSDP on income accrual basis, income originating basis is used;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether remittances from abroad and outside the State are taken into consideration in measurement of GSDP;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the other details in this regard?

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

(c) The income originating approach has been adopted for estimating the GSDP, in accordance with the recommendations of the Regional Accounts Committee. This approach is consistent with the concept of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of the economy i.e, measuring the volume in monetary term of total goods and services produced within the geographical boundary of the State. Due to non-availability of data on inter-state flows of goods and services, compilation of estimates of GSDP following income accruing concept is not possible.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The estimates of GSDP of a State are prepared for various economic activities like agriculture, forestry, fishing, mining, manufacturing, construction, electricity, trade, transport, communication, other services, etc, using the data available at sectoral level and following the income originating approach. The estimates of GSDP are compiled by the respective State Governments.

Increase in Teledensity

2309. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase teledensity through WLL technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the salient features of the fixed line telephone and WLL technology based telephone; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the teledensity adopting WLL technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Sir, the Government propose to increase teledensity by using various technologies including WLL.

(b) In fixed line, telephone connections are provided through a pair of cable upto subscriber premises, whereas in WLL system connections are provided on Wireless technology. Laying of underground cable is not only time consuming but also prone to interruption due to fault in cables. Presently fixed line telephone on copper cable are able to provide higher data rates compared to the presently deployed WLL system.

(c) Both public sector and private sector are extensively using WLL technology which will result in rapid increase in teledensity.

Over Bridges on NH-5

2310. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of over bridges under construction on the National Highway Number 5;

(b) the number of over bridges proposed to be constructed next year on this Highway;

(c) the estimated cost of each over bridge;

(d) whether such over bridges being constructed by the NHAI will be beneficial to it; and

(e) if not, the reasons for constructing such over bridges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) There are 16 flyovers, 31 rail over bridges (ROB) and 130 underpasses under construction on National Highway Number 5.

(b) Apart from (a) above, no new over bridge is proposed to be taken up in the next year on this Highway.

(c) The civil work contracts have been awarded for four laning of the Highway sections on package basis, which include the cost of bridges and other structures.

(d) The over bridges are made for safety and convenience of traffic.

(e) Does not arise.

Blood Banks Without Pathologists

2311. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that Blood Banks of the Government hospitals in Delhi are functioning without qualified pathologists or being managed by MBBS medical officers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the corrective measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) All blood banks in the Country are licenced for operation under the Drugs and Cosmetic Rules 1945 with subsequent amendments. According to the provisions of these Rules, it is not necessary to have a Post Graduate in Pathology to supervise a blood bank. To obtain a licence, it is sufficient to have an MBBS Doctor with either a Diploma in Clinical Pathology or with one year experience in a blood bank. No blood bank in the country can operate if these minimum requirements of educational qualification/experience are not met.

Objectives of NISCAIR

2312. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the main objectives of the National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR) functioning under the CSIR;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to assess the role, utility and necessity of NISCAIR for information dissemination;

(c) whether CSIR has any proposals to reduce a number of institutions functioning under it; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) The objectives of National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR) are:

- To provide formal linkages of communication among the scientific community in the form of research journals in different areas of S&T,
- To disseminate S&T information to general public, particularly school students, to inculcated interest in science among them,
- To develop human resource in the field of science communication, library and information science, documentation, and S&T information management systems and services,
- To harness information technology applications in information management with particular reference to science communication and modernizing libraries,
- To act as a facilitator in furthering the economic, social, industrial, scientific and commercial development by providing timely access to relevant and accurate information,
- To collaborate with international institutions and agencies having objectives and goals similar to those of NISCAIR,

- Any other area considered appropriate within the frame work of approved mission statement of NISCAIR.

(b) Performance Appraisal Board (PAB) has been constituted for assessing the outputs of various CSIR laboratories.

(c) There is no such proposal, at present.

(d) Does not arise.

Court Cases against JNU

2313. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the cases registered in the various courts against the JNU Administration by its staff members and the expenditure incurred thereon during the last two years;

(b) the total expenditure incurred by the JNU on renovation/extension etc., during the said period, head-wise;

(c) whether the Administrative and Financial Rules/ Norms have been followed in this regard;

(d) if not the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in the matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) As per the information received from the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), 70 court cases are pending against the University. The details are as under:

(i) Teachers related	08
(ii) Non-teaching employees related	33
(iii) Inter Hall Administration related	02
(iv) Recruitment/admission/evaluation related	13
(v) Engineering related	07
(vi) Estate related	06
(vii) SC/ST including Phys. Handicapped related	01

The expenditure incurred on the above cases, during the last two years, is as under:

(Rupees in lakhs)	
Year	Expenditure
2001-2002	5.32
2002-2003	3.91

(b) to (e) Routine work of renovation/extension in the University buildings, students hostels, etc. has been carried out from the Maintenance Grants of the University. The expenditure incurred by the Engineering Branch during the last two years on Salaries, Estates and Horticulture maintenance and others is as under:

(Rupees in lakhs)		
(i)	2001-2002	298.17
(ii)	2002-2003	352.35

All administrative and financial rules/norms have been duly observed while incurring the expenditure.

Port Transit Facilities by Bangladesh

2314. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI:
SHRI UTTAM RAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Bangladesh has decided to extend port transit facilities to India on priority basis;

(b) if so, the extent to which India would be benefitted by such transit facilities;

(c) whether Bangladesh has agreed to extend more facilities to India on a reciprocal basis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) The Trade Agreement between India and Bangladesh provides for grant of transit by waterways, roadways and railways. However, at present only transit through inland waterways is being provided by Bangladesh.

(b) Access to Chittagong port would give the North-Eastern States, especially Tripura, Mizoram and Meghalaya, greater connectivity with the rest of India and the world.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Electronic Facilities in Post Offices

2315. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) the current status regarding the introduction of Electronic Money Transfer, ATM, Credit Card and other Electronic facilities in the various post offices of the country;

(b) whether the Government has considered the various measures to be undertaken for the said facilities;

(c) if so, whether discussions have been held with the concerned authorities in this regard;

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

(e) the time by when these facilities are likely to be introduced in all the post offices of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (e) A decision has been taken by the Department to build the capacity for the introduction of electronic facilities like Electronic Money Transfer, e-banking during the Tenth Five Year Plan. Necessary approvals have been taken. New products and services are introduced on the basis of demand, workload and the fulfillment of requisite parameters.

Funds Realized through Disinvestment Proceeds

2316. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the period April 1, 1991 to March 31, 2003, an amount of Rs. 29,487 crores had been realized from disinvestment proceeds;

(b) if so, the total number of units disinvested during the said period;

(c) whether the Government has spent disinvestment proceeds funds for generating and financing fresh employment, restructuring public sector enterprises; and

(d) if so, the total amount of funds utilised in these areas during the last ten years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Yes, Sir. A sum of Rs. 29,488 crore has been realized from disinvestment during the period 1991-92 to 2002-03.

(b) During the period 1991-92 to 1991-2000, Government had disinvested a minority stake in 39 Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) through market sale of shares, out of which 4 PSUs were subsequently disinvested through a process of Strategic Sale alongwith transfer of management control to a Strategic Partner. In addition to these 4 PSUs, during the period 1999-2000 till 2002-03, 7 PSUs, 19 hotel properties of India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) and 3 hotel properties of Hotel Corporation of India (HCI) were subsequently disinvested through the process of Strategic Sale.

(c) and (d) The amount realised from disinvestment in PSUs is deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India, which is used to finance social and economic development programmes, restructuring public sector enterprises and infrastructure development etc. The annual provisions in the Budget for generating investment and employment, restructuring public sector enterprises and retiring public debt have far exceeded the proceeds from disinvestment.

Internet Exchanges

2317. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up Internet exchanges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of exchanges initially planned, State/ UT-wise;

(d) the cost likely to be incurred thereon during the first year; and

(e) the likely drop in the user charges for the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government in association with the Internet Service Providers Association of India (ISPAI) has facilitated the setting up of Internet Exchange Points in the country. They are co-located at the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) premises in four locations viz Delhi (Noida) in Uttar Pradesh, Mumbai (Maharashtra), Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and Kolkata (West Bengal). Exchanges at Delhi (Noida) and Mumbai have become operational.

(d) The cost of setting up of Internet Exchanges covers network equipment such as switches, routers, computers, monitoring software etc., civil and electrical infrastructural components apart from manpower and other operational expenditure. The cost incurred so far in the first year for setting up of these exchanges is Rs. 94.90 lakhs.

(e) As a result of setting up exchanges, there will be an efficient routing of the internet traffic within the country which will lead to the saving in the international bandwidth. The likely drop in the user charges will be proportionate to the percentage of traffic routed within the country through the exchange and the competitive market forces.

Expansion of Health Care Facilities in Tamil Nadu

2318. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been submitted by the Government of Tamil Nadu regarding expansion of health care facilities in the State;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Removal of Courses by Delhi University

2319. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to discontinue all the courses in social sciences from South Campus of Delhi University; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Disinvestment of Indian Handicraft and HEC

2320. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to disinvest Indian Handicraft and Handloom Export Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the loss/profit of Indian Handicraft and Handloom Export Corporation during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the reasons for disinvestment of Indian Handicraft and Handloom Export Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Disinvestment Commission has recommended that Handicraft and Handloom Export Corporation of India (HHEC) should be disinvested. No decision has been taken by the Government on this recommendation.

(c) Handicraft and Handloom Export Corporation of India (HHEC) during the last three years i.e. 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 has made a Profit after tax of Rs. 6.03 crore, Rs. 3.01 crore and Rs. 2.50 crore respectively.

(d) No decision has been taken by the Government so far on recommendation of the Disinvestment Commission.

[English]

Damage to Roads in Orissa

2321. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the large scale damage caused by rain and subsequent flood to State Roads and National Highways in Orissa;

(b) if so, the extent of damage caused;

(c) the steps taken by the Central Government to assist the State to repair the damage; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (d) The Central Government is responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways in the country. Reports of damage on National Highways in Orissa due to rains during the last monsoon have been received. The damage is in the form of pot-holes, cracks, depressions, damage to earthen berms and cross-drainage works, overtopping/breaches at some locations, etc. Considering the extent of damage Government had initially released Rs. 2.00 crores on 01.09.2003 and a further release of Rs. 6.00 crores was made on 20.11.2003.

Privatisation of Steel Plants

2322. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to privatize some public sector steel plants in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of steel plants identified for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The declared policy of the Government is that it will, in

generality of cases, bring down its equity to 26% or below in non-strategic Public Sector Undertakings. The Government has, in accordance with this policy and in line with the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission, decided to disinvest 100% of its equity in Sponge Iron India Limited and the process of disinvestment is in the preliminary stages. Disinvestment through sale of minority shares in Steel Authority of India had been executed in the past. The proposal of the Ministry of Steel for restructuring of Steel Authority of India approved by the Cabinet envisages inter-alia divestment in the Power Plants at Bokaro, Durgapur, Rourkela, Captive Power Plant II at Bhilai, Oxygen Plant 2 of Bhilai Steel Plant, Salem Steel Plant, Alloy Steel Plant at Durgapur, Visveswaraya Iron and Steel Plant at Bhadravati, and the Fertilizer Plant at Rourkela.

Safety of Indian Students Abroad

2323. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the angry protests by Indian students at the Indian Embassy in Moscow over its callous attitude towards students;

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in extending a helping hand to Indian students during the recent fire incident; and

(c) the fresh steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure support to the Indian students studying in various countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) A number of Indian students called on Indian diplomats and Ambassador at the Embassy of India in Moscow on 27 November 2003 to apprise them of the difficulties being faced by the students who were affected by the fire which broke out in Hostel number 6 of the People's Friendship University (PFU) in Moscow on 24 November 2003. This meeting continued the process of regular interaction between Embassy of India and Indian students in Moscow in the context of the tragic accident, which began with the visit of two senior Indian diplomats to the site of the incident in the forenoon of 24 November itself, a few hours after the fire accident.

Only twelve (12) Indian students, out of one hundred and thirty (130) enrolled with the University, were living in Hostel no. 6 where fire broke out. Our Embassy in Moscow had been in regular touch with the affected students and their relatives or friends from the very first day of the accident. Despite the difficulties presented by the chaos after fire, scattering of the victims to unspecified and farflung hospitals in a vast city, and the problem in communicating with Indian students many of whom do not register themselves with the Indian Embassy in Moscow, the Embassy took active steps to contact the affected students, locate six hospitalized Indian students and two others, who were missing. The sad news about the death of one of the missing students was conveyed to next of her kin in Pune on 25 November by the Embassy as soon as the information was confirmed by Russian authorities. The body of the other missing student was finally found and recognized in a mortuary by close relatives and friends of the deceased, with whom our Embassy in Moscow had been in constant and close touch. Their travel to Moscow for performing the last rites is being facilitated by the Embassy.

Ambassador of India visited the PFU hostel to meet Indian students. Diplomats of our Embassy in Moscow were stationed at hospitals, where six affected Indian students were recovering, to liaise with local authorities and to attend to the needs of these students. Embassy officers continue to visit those Indian students who are still recovering. The Embassy also facilitated communication of the affected students with their parents and extended help in organising passports/visas for those who wished to go to Moscow for looking after their wards.

Monetary relief, equivalent to USD 1,000/- per student, was provided to the affected students for meeting immediate needs by the Embassy out of a voluntary fund set up by the officials of the Embassy and some members of the Indian community in Moscow. The Embassy also immediately took up with the University authorities the matter of expeditious disbursement of relief announced by them and will continue to liaise with them for the smooth settlement of claims of the affected students.

The Indian Embassy in Moscow made special arrangements for food requirements of the Indian students, who had lost their belongings and shelter in the fire. The Embassy remains engaged with the concerned Russian authorities and the Indian students to ensure that the affected persons have as smooth a rehabilitation as possible.

(c) Government provides all necessary help and assistance to ensure the security, safety and welfare of Indian students abroad and when required, also takes up the matter with the concerned local authorities.

Post/Telegraph Offices and Telephone Exchanges in AP

2324. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post offices, telegraph offices and telephone exchanges functioning in Andhra Pradesh at present;

(b) whether the Government proposes to open more post offices, telegraph offices and telephone exchanges in 2003-2004;

(c) if so the details thereof; and

(d) the number of telephone exchanges under consideration of the Government to be upgraded and the details of the increase in lines proposed in the existing telephone exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) There are 16,203 post offices, 1825 telegraph offices and 3186 telephone exchanges in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) It is proposed to open 3 post offices and 70 telephone exchanges in the year 2003-04.

(d) All the telephone exchanges are of digital type. It is planned to expand 694 telephone exchanges by 72434 lines during the year 2003-04.

Computerisation of Post Offices in Rajasthan

2325. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of post offices functioning at present in the various districts of Rajasthan as on October 31, 2003;

(b) the number of new post offices proposed to be set up in the State during 2004-05;

(c) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for the computerisation of the said post offices in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) The details of post offices functioning in the various districts of Rajasthan as on 31.10.2003 are given in enclosed statement.

(b) The target for opening of new post offices for the year 2004-05, is scheduled to be fixed at the beginning of the next financial year.

(c) and (d) Upto 31.10.2003, ninety post offices have been computerised in the different districts of Rajasthan. Computerisation of post offices is being undertaken by the Department in a phased manner under Plan, subject to availability of funds. The target is to computerise all the Head Post Offices and large sub post offices in Rajasthan during the Tenth Plan.

Statement

Details of Post Offices District-wise as on 31.10.2003 in Rajasthan Circle.

Sl. No.	District	Total No. of Post Offices
1	2	3
1.	Ajmer	430
2.	Alwar	496
3.	Banswara	281
4.	Bara	197
5.	Bharatpur	417
6.	Barmer	480
7.	Bhilwara	396
8.	Bikaner	222
9.	Bundi	177
10.	Chittorgarh	408
11.	Churu	397
12.	Dausa	242

1	2	3
13.	Dholpur	188
14.	Dungarpur	298
15.	Hanumangarh	236
16.	Jaipur	602
17.	Jalore	268
18.	Jaisalmer	150
19.	Jhalawar	249
20.	Jhunjhunu	417
21.	Jodhpur	407
22.	Karaouli	247
23.	Kota	196
24.	Nagaour	545
25.	Pali	379
26.	Rajsamand	210
27.	Sawaimadhopur	216
28.	Sikar	469
29.	Sirohi	181
30.	Sriganganagar	333
31.	Tonk	222
32.	Udaipur	499
Total		10455

Commercial Logistics Services

2326. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision about the feasibility of Department of Posts entering the business of providing commercial logistics service has not yet been implemented; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) The

feasibility of the Department of Posts entering the business of commercial logistics service providing has been under examination for which a market survey had been commissioned and is under examination by a committee.

Constitution of National Road Safety Council

2327. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Road Safety Council has been constituted recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether persons without any record of road safety work or any expertise in any field have been nominated on this body; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to review such nominations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The National Road Safety Council (NRSC) was last reconstituted under the Chairmanship of Minister of Road Transport & Highways on the 24th April, 2003 with 81 Official members and 25 Non-official Co-opted institutional/individual members. The term of the non-official member is two years.

(c) and (d) The Co-opted members are selected duly taking into account various factors including their interest and awareness in road safety matters.

Murarji Desai National Institute of Yoga

2328. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is encouraging Yoga all over the country;

(b) if so, whether a society in the name of Murarji Desai National Institute of Yoga has become functional as an autonomous organization;

(c) if so, the activities undertaken by this society to make Yoga learning popular all over the country;

(d) whether the Government proposes to set up its branches all over the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the funds allotted to this Institute during each of the last three years for the encouragement of Yoga?

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

(c) The activities of the institute at present include conducting general Yoga classes for out-patients/Sadhaks (healthy individuals), treatment of outdoor patients through Yoga therapy, conducting one Year Diploma Course in Yoga, participation in health meals & organizing health camps.

(d) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The details of funds sanctioned to the institute during the last three years are as under:

Year	Amount in lakhs	
	Plan	Non-Plan
2000-01	53.05	134.00
2001-02	190.00	141.47
2002-03	317.40	146.00

**NCERT Meeting on Examination Reform/
Grading System**

2329. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:

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

(a) whether the NCERT had recently organised a meeting of representatives of boards of various school education to discuss the development of National Examination Reform framework and future of the grading system;

(b) if so, the details of participants and the outcome of the meeting;

(c) whether recommendations have been made to incorporate Information Technology and Entrepreneurship in the new curriculum; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) List of participants of the meeting is enclosed as statement. The meeting has made several recommendations on examination reforms, introduction of grading system and implementation of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) Scheme.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. One of the recommendations of the meeting is that evaluation in the emerging areas such as Information Technology Education and Entrepreneurship Development may be dealt at length in the National Examination Reforms Framework for School Education. The CBSE already introduced Information Technology and Entrepreneurship as elective subjects in the senior school curriculum. The recommendations of the meeting have been sent to the State Boards.

Statement

List of Delegates

S.No.	Name & Designation	Official Address
1	2	3
1.	Dr. Ravindranadhan Director of Government Examinations	Andhra Pradesh Board of Intermediate Education, SSC Board, Chirag Ali Lane, Nampallay, Hyderabad 50002 Ph: 040-23237344.
2.	Prof. Dina Nath Barman Chairman	Assam Board of Secondary Education Guwahati 781021 Ph: 2550330

1	2	3
3.	Smt. Jaya Tavares Registrar	Chhattisgarh Board of Secondary Education Raipur Ph: 2423590 (M) 9425208277.
4.	Ms. Mayanti S. Ravi Chairperson	Gujarat Sec. & Hr. Sec. Education Board Sector 10-B, Near Sachivalaya Gandhinagar 382010 Ph: 079-3220691 Fax: 079-3229421
5.	Mr. P.R. Nadkarni Chairman	Goa Board of Secondary Education Alto Betim, Berdez Goa 417621 Ph: 0832-2417584/93
6.	Brigadier O.P. Chaudhary Chairman	Haryana Board of School Education Hansi Road Bhiwani 125021 01664-243525
7.	Mr. N.K. Salwan Dy. Director	
8.	Dr. Kuldip Agarwal Director (Academic)	
9.	Prof. Jaipal Singh Chairman	J&K State Board of School Education Rehari Colony, Jammu 180005 Ph: 2582704
10.	Sr C. Gokuladasan Pillai Asstt. Professor, SCERT	Kerala Board of Public Examination Pareeksha Bhawan, Poojapura Thiruvananthapuram 695012 Ph: 0471-2341883
11.	Mr. B.K. Saha Chairman	Madhya Board of Secondary Education Shiksha Bhavan, Main Road No. 1, Bhopal 462011 Ph: 0755-2551544
12.	Mr. J.M. Abhyankar Divisional Chairman	MS Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, Divisional Board Sector 16, Vashi, New Bombay Pune 411005 Ph: 277680945
13.	Shri S. Nabachandra Singh Chairman	Manipur Board of Secondary Education Imphal 795001 Ph: 0385-2226770

1	2	3
14.	Br. Buddhi Raja Chairman	Mizoram Board of School Education (Sec. & Hr. Sec. Education) Chattlang, Aizawl 796012 Ph: 0389-2340993
15.	Sri Akshaya Kumar Nayak Chairman	Orissa Council of Higher Secondary Education, C-2 Pragnyapith Samantapur, Bhubaneswar 751013 Ph: 0674-2300904
16.	Dr. Harihar Sahoo Vice-President	Orissa Board of Secondary Education Bajrakabati Road, Cuttack 753001 Ph: 0671-241536, Fax: 0671-2415167
17.	Sri S.B. Chakraborty Secretary	Tripura Board of Secondary Education Nehru Complex (Gurkha Basti), P.O. Kunjaban, Agartala 799006 Ph: 0381-2222242, Fax: 0381-2224674
18.	Sri S. Bhattacharya Secretary	West Bengal Board of Sec. Education 77/2, Park Street, Kolkata 700016 Ph: 033-22293775, Fax: 033-2299660
19.	Dr. Abdus Sattar President	West Bengal Board of Madrash Education 19 Haji Md. Mohsin Square Kolkata 700016 Ph: 22443128, Fax: 22457774
20.	Prof. Sudin Chattopadhyay COBSE Consultant	19 Haji Md. Mohsin Square Kolkata 700016 Ph: 033-22271200
21.	Mr. P. Mani Education Officer	Central Board of Secondary Education 17-B, IP Estate, New Delhi 110002 23378495
22.	Mrs. Meera Aggarwal Assistant Secretary	Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, Pragati House, 3rd Floor, 47-48 Nehru Place, New Delhi 110019 Ph. 26411706, Fax: 26212051
23.	Mrs. Rita Wilson Deputy Secretary	E4, Sector 1, Noida Ph: 1020-2534794
24.	Mrs. Poonam Sodhi Head, RDC Division	E4, Sector 1, Noida Ph: 95120-2549140/41
25.	Prof. D.V. Sharma General Secretary	Council of Boards of School Education in India 303 Time House, 5 Community Centre, Wazirpur Industrial Area Delhi 100052
26.	Mr. Puran Chand	
27.	Prof. ABL Srivastava	Chief Consultant Ed. CIL, I.P. Estate.

[*Translation*]

Disinvestment of IPCL

2230. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned by disinvestment of Indian Petrochemical Corporation Limited;

(b) the details of dividend of IPCL before its disinvestment i.e. from 1995-96 to 2001-02, year-wise;

(c) the position of dividend after disinvestment i.e. 2002-03 and first half of 2003-04;

(d) whether State and Union governments are bearing loss due to disinvestment of IPCL;

(e) if so, whether the Government proposes to reconsider disinvestment of IPCL and would not sell its shares further and proposes to conduct thorough investigation in the reasons for revenue loss; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Government received an amount of Rs. 1490.84 crores by disinvestment of 26% equity of Indian Petrochemical Corporation Limited (IPCL) on 4.6.2002.

(b) Details of dividend declared by IPCL and the amount received by the Government from 1995-1996 to 2001-2002 are as follows:

Year	Dividend Declared	Dividend amount recd. by Govt. (Rs. Cr.)
1995-1996	40%	59.52
1996-1997	40%	59.52
1997-1998	40%	59.52
1998-1999	10%	14.88
1999-2000	20%	29.76
2000-2001	30%	44.64
2001-2002	20%	16.85

(c) For the year 2002-2003, IPCL declared a dividend of 22.5% and Government received an amount of Rs. 18.95 crore as dividend. No interim dividend for the year 2003-2004 has been declared by IPCL.

(d) to (f) Disinvestment results in gains such as unleashing of the productive potential of public sector enterprises, release of resources required by the Government for important social sector schemes and insulation of Government finances from commercial and business risk. The decision of disinvest in IPCL is in terms of Government's declared policy on disinvestment and hence, there is no proposal for its reconsideration.

[*English*]

Private Sector participation in Ports

2331. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of port projects given to the private sector since 1996 have remained incomplete;

(b) if so, the number of such port projects given to the private sector; and

(c) the present status of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (c) Out of approved 17 private sector/captive port projects, 8 projects have already been operationalised. One project has been terminated and the remaining 8 projects are under various stages of implementation.

Telephone Exchanges in Karnataka

2332. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Telephone Exchanges in Karnataka;

(b) the number of Telephone Exchanges out of them connected with Digital Microwave System and satellites;

(c) whether all the Exchanges in the State have been provided with STD/ISD facilities and Internet services;

(d) if not, the extent to which these services are available in these Telephone Exchanges; and

(e) the time by which all the Telephone Exchanges in Karnataka are likely to be provided with above mentioned facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The number of telephone exchanges in Karnataka is 2702 as on 30.11.2003.

(b) Out of 2702 number of exchanges, 130 are connected on Digital Microwave/UHF system and rest are on OFC media. No exchange is connected on satellite media in the State of Karnataka.

(c) Yes, Sir. All the 2702 exchanges in Karnataka State have been provided with STD/ISD and Internet services.

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

Strikes by CGHS Employees

2333. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the frequent token strikes of CGHS employees during the last few months in Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a violation of verdict of the Supreme Court; and

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

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

(b) In July, 2003, the Secretary General of the All India CGHS Employees Association (AICGHSEA) had submitted in 18-point Charter of Demands to the Director, CGHS for their settlement through discussion across the table. The demands of the AICGHSEA are of general nature and concern the entire CGHS and are not limited only to, CGHS Delhi. The demands of the AICGHSEA were discussed by the Director, CGHS with the representatives of the Association on 15.10.2003 and as per the decisions taken in the meeting, necessary follow-up action has already been initiated. Another set of demands was submitted by the Delhi Branch of the

AICGHSEA for which a meeting was taken on 27.11.2003 by the Director, CGHS with their representatives to settle/ sort out these demands.

(c) and (d) In the judgement delivered on 6.8.2003 in the case of T.K. Rangarajan versus Govt. of Tamil Nadu and others, the Supreme court has held that no right to strike whether Fundamental, Statutory or Equitable/Moral right-exists with the Government employees. As per the provisions of the Conduct Rules, no Government servant shall resort to or in any way abet any form of strike or coercion or physical duress in connection with any matter pertaining to his service or the service of any other Government servant.

Instructions have been issued to all the CGHS Offices to advise/instruct the CGHS employees to desist/refrain from participation in any activity which is prejudicial to public order like agitation/pen down strike and if the employees fail to comply with these instructions, necessary action be initiated/taken against them under the CCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964, etc., if found necessary.

[Translation]

Chaotic Condition in CGHS Dispensaries

2334. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the chaotic condition in the CGHS dispensaries in the country particularly in Delhi as reported in the *Nav Bharat Times* dated September 29, 2003;

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

(c) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) CGHS dispensaries in the country are functioning satisfactorily.

The services in the CGHS dispensaries are equally provided to all the beneficiaries irrespective of the category to which the beneficiary belongs.

As far as CGHS dispensary at Mayur Vihar is concerned, regular inspections have been carried out by Senior Officers of the CGHS and the conditions as

reported in the news item have not been noticed during these inspections.

Adequate stock of medicines/drugs is available in the CGHS dispensaries. Medicines, which are not available in the dispensaries, are indented with the Authorised Local Chemists appointed by the CGHS based on individual prescription of the beneficiaries. The indented medicines are normally supplied to the beneficiaries on the next working day. For urgently required medicines, authority slips are issued to the beneficiaries for obtaining them directly from the authorised local chemists without making any payment so as to avoid any inconvenience to the beneficiaries.

[English]

Four Laning of National Highways

2335. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether the Government has invited bids for four-laning of 622 kms of national highways spread over five States on build-operate-transfer basis;

(b) if so, the value of contracts including the names of the projects;

(c) the quantum of amount spent; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

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

(b) The total estimated cost of 7 packages is about Rs. 2500 crores. The names of the projects are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) The contracts of 7 packages are yet to be awarded.

(d) The period of completion is 3 years from the date of signing the contract agreement.

Statement

List of Projects on BOT

Sl. No.	State	Section	NH No.	Chainage (km)	Length (km)
1.	Maharashtra	Vadape-Gonde (excluding Kasara Ghat 8 km)	3	540-440	100
2.	Maharashtra	Pimpalgaon-Dhule	3	380-265	118
3.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur-Aurang	6	239-282	45
4.	Rajasthan	Bharatpur-Mahua	11	63-120	57
5.	Rajasthan	Mahua-Jaipur	11	120-228	108
6.	Jharkhand	Barhi-Ranchi	33	0-115	115
7.	Uttar Pradesh	Meerut-Muzaffarpur	58	52-131	79
				Total	622

Private Universities

2336. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has sought comprehensive academic and administrative information from private universities in the country;

(b) if so, the number of private recognised universities presently functioning under U.G.C. in the country as on date;

(c) the norms laid down for selection of colleges and educational institutions for inclusion in assistance programme of the University Grants Commission;

(d) the amount allocated to them during the last three years;

(e) whether the Government has a proposal to privatise some universities; and

(f) if so, the names of such universities alongwith the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (f) According to the information furnished by University Grants Commission (UGC), the UGC has sought comprehensive academic and administrative information from private universities in the country. The UGC has so far included only three private universities under Section 2(f) of its Act. The UGC has also framed Regulations for inclusion of colleges under Section 2(f) of the UGC Act. Rules have been framed by the Government for inclusion of Universities/Colleges under Section 12(B) of the UGC Act to make them eligible for Central assistance. However, no grant has been provided by the UGC to any private university. There is no proposal to privatize existing Central Universities. On the contrary, the UGC has laid down Regulations for establishment and maintenance of private universities to check mushrooming of sub-standard private universities.

Recruitment of Teachers and Academic Personnel in IITs

2337. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether IITs are recruiting more teaching and academic personnel abroad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether new types of positions like Adjunct Professors/Honorary Professorships have been created at the IITs to attract foreign teachers;

(d) if so, the details of policies being followed by IITs to recruit foreign talent;

(e) whether the Government is likely to fund foreign returned professors and teachers; and

(f) if so, the details of the system in IITs at present to meet such requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (f) In an endeavour to maintain its quality of teaching IITs keep recruiting experienced and talented faculty on regular basis. Eminent Professors from foreign Universities and personnel from Indian/Foreign industry are also invited for short durations to deliver special lectures on emerging areas of technology like Information Technology Bio-technology etc. In order to attract the associated scientists and technologists working in various organizations in India and abroad some IITs have introduced the positions of Adjunct Professors/Honorary Professors.

Leakage in Kalpakkam Plant

2338. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nuclear scientists at BARC have admitted that the leakage in the main reprocessing plant at Kalapkkam is the worst ever radiation incident in the history of the Indian Atomic Energy Department as reported in the *Statesman* dated August 7, 2003;

(b) if so, whether the leakage has since been controlled;

(c) if so, the details of compensation paid to the victims of this incident; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. There has been no leakage to environment. The incident at the Kalpakkam Reprocessing Plant (KARP) on January 21, 2003 was related to inadvertent over-exposure of six persons.

(b) On January 21, 2003, when the Reprocessing Plant was under normal operation, there was an incident

of inadvertent over-exposure to radiation of six persons during the process of transfer of low level liquid waste from a tank in an area, away from the main Reprocessing Plant. The cause of the incident, as identified later on by a specially Constituted Technical Committee, was a minor leak in an isolation valve separating a high level liquid waste tank from the low level liquid waste tank resulting in increase in activity level in the latter. The safety authorities have investigated the incident according to the procedure, which involves measurement of radiation doses received, establishing the root cause and medical examination of the exposed personnel. The Medical Authorities have certified that all these six personnel are in good health and there were no abnormal findings. there was neither any release of radioactivity to the environment nor any risk of exposure to any member of the public.

(c) Since these personnel involved and physically fit and are in good health with no adverse symptoms, the question of compensation does not arise. However, as per the prevailing Safety Guidelines followed at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), these persons have been assigned jobs in the non-radioactive areas.

(d) BARC has well laid out mechanisms to review the safety status of Operating Plants. As per prevailing practice, the facility was immediately shutdown and an independent Technical Committee was set up to investigate the abnormal incident, so that remedial measures could be taken to prevent such recurrence and to disseminate the lessons learnt, to other similar facilities.

New Emission Norms for Vehicles

2339. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

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

(a) whether the Government has announced new emission norms for vehicles in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of States for which Euro II norms have been fixed by 2005 and Euro IV norms by 2010;

(d) whether the norms to clean the air from fuel pollution are being implemented in letter and spirit;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the steps taken by the Government to implement new emission norms in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Euro-I equivalent emission norms (India-2000 norms) are applicable throughout the country. Euro-II equivalent emission norms (Bharat Stage-II norms) are applicable in the cities of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Hyderabad/ Secuderabad, Kanpur, Pune, Surat and Agra.

(c) Euro-II equivalent emission norms have been extended throughout the country from 1st April, 2005 vide Gazette Notification No. GSR 927 (E) dated 5th December, 2003. Notifications relating to Euro-III or Euro-IV equivalent emission norms have not been issued.

(d) to (f) Tightening of "Pollution Under Control" (PUC) norms for in-use motor vehicles is a continuous process. A draft notification seeking suggestions/comments from the public has been issued vide GSR 614 (E) dated 30.7.2003, which inter-alia seeks to tighten the existing emission norms in respect of on-road vehicles. This notification also envisages measurement of Hydrocarbon emissions from petrol vehicles for the first time in addition to tightening of the existing level of Carbon Monoxide emission norms.

Uniform Pattern in Dispensaries and Units

2340. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4423 dated December 18, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the Staff Inspection Unit is already conducting a study fixing the norms for ISM&H Units/dispensaries under CGHS for maintaining the uniform pattern in dispensaries and units;

(b) if so, whether the SIU report has since been received by the Government; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Staff Inspection Unit have on 04.09.2003 sent their report on the Staffing Norm of the Indian System of Medicines (Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha) and Homoeopathic dispensaries/Units under CGHS keeping in

view the present level of workload, functional and positional requirements and includes the Norms for creation/deployment of posts of medical officers and other supporting staff.

ICDS Projects

2341. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ongoing I.C.D.S. projects in the country, State-wise and the number of sanctioned projects having been not started so far alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(b) the time by which these sanctioned projects are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) and (b) State-wise details of the ICDS Projects sanctioned, operational and pending for operationalisation as on 30.9.2003 are given in the statement enclosed.

All the pending Projects are targeted for operationalisation by the end of Tenth Five Year Plan.

Statement

Sl. No.	State	No. of ICDS Projects* as on 30.9.2003		
		Sanctioned	Operational	Pending for Operationalisation
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	363	351	12
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	56	56	0
3.	Assam	196	173	23
4.	Bihar	394	171	223
5.	Chhattisgarh	152	152	0
6.	Goa	11	11	0
7.	Gujarat	227	227	0
8.	Haryana	116	116	0

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	72	72	0
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	121	120	1
11.	Jharkhand	204	152	52
12.	Karnataka	185	185	0
13.	Kerala	163	163	0
14.	Madhay Pradesh	336	336	0
15.	Maharashtra	370	368	2
16.	Manipur	34	34	0
17.	Meghalaya	32	32	0
18.	Mizoram	21	21	0
19.	Nagaland	54	54	0
20.	Orissa	326	326	0
21.	Punjab	142	142	0
22.	Rajasthan	257	257	0
23.	Sikkim	5	5	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	434	431	3
25.	Tripura	42	39	3
26.	Uttar Pradesh	836	628	208
27.	Uttaranchal	99	54	45
28.	West Bengal	358	347	11
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5	5	0
30.	Chandigarh	3	3	0
31.	Delhi	29	28	1
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	1	0
33.	Daman & Diu	2	2	0
34.	Lakshadweep	1	1	0
35.	Pondicherry	5	5	0
All India		5652	5068	584

*As per Quarterly Progress Report (QPR) on ICDS, DWCD.

Bridge at Chowkighat on NH-52

2342. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the current status regarding the construction of the bridge at Chowkighat on N.H.-52;

(b) whether any survey has since been conducted; and

(c) if so, the details of the estimated cost, amount sanctioned and expenditure so far incurred on the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) The status is as follows:

Border Roads Organization, who are developing and maintaining NH-52, have recently initiated action for conducting a model study for construction of a bridge at Chowkighat for studying the feasibility of the project.

Construction of Highways Under PM's Scheme

2343. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the targets fixed for construction of highways during 2003-04 and 2004-05 under the PM's scheme;

(b) whether the work is progressing as per schedule;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to overcome the impediments and complete the construction of highways as per schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) 1398.60 km and 3439.05 km of National Highways are targeted to be 4/6 laned under the Prime Minister's National Highways Development Project during the year 2003-04 and 2004-05 respectively.

(b) and (c) It is expected that the targets would be substantially adhered to.

(d) The following steps are being taken to complete the project as per schedule:

(i) Taking up issues regarding land acquisition, shifting of utilities, law and order etc. at the highest level with the State Governments.

(ii) Nomination of Senior Officers as Nodal Officers by the State Governments to co-ordinate issues relating to timely execution of the projects.

(iii) Official level meetings with the State Governments concerned and Ministry of Railways to resolve problems.

(iv) Regular monitoring through daily and weekly progress reports.

(v) Regular meetings at the level of the Minister to review the progress and performance of Contractors/Consultants/Officials of NHAI.

(vi) Provisions of incentives such as bonus for early completion of projects and disincentives such as liquidity damages for delay in completion in the contracts.

Alleged Scam in Bathinda Telecom Circle

2344. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scam has been detected in the Bathinda Telecom Circle;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any investigation has been made;

(d) if so, the finding thereof; and

(e) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A case of revenue leakage through unauthorized and illegal STD/ISD calls made from Bhamme Kalan and Bhaini Bagha Telephone Exchanges in Bathinda detected during October 2002.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) After preliminary Departmental Investigations, the case has been registered by CBI (RC No. 1/03 and 12/03 dated 08-05-2003).

(e) The responsibility will be fixed and necessary action taken as per the outcome of the CBI.

[Translation]

Integrated Licensing System

2345. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is monopoly of two or three big companies after implementation of Integrated Licensing System in the field of Tele-communication services;

(b) if so, whether the Government has proposed or likely to proposed to enhance foreign disinvestments from 49 percent to 74 percent;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to ensure healthy competition in the field of Tele-communication?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. At present, integrated licensing system in the telecom service sector has been implemented in the form of Unified Access Services Licence (UASL) permitting licensee to provide basic and/or Cellular services using any technology in a defined service area. The existing operators of Basic as well as Cellular services are also permitted to migrate to the UASL at their option. Subsequently, on receipt of further detailed recommendations of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), expected in about 6 months time, for Unified Licence for all telecom services, Government will take a further decision for implementing a regime of Unified Licence for all telecom services. With this arrangement, it is expected that there will be three or more operators in most of the service areas for providing Basic as well as Cellular services. Further, it is observed that world over presence of three to five operators for a telecom service provides a healthy competitive environment. In case the number of operators is too large, it results in unhealthy cut-throat competition resulting in collapse of service providers. Therefore, the Unified Licensing Regime will not only ensure healthy competition in telecom services for the ultimate benefit to the consumers, it will also ensure rapid expansion of teledensity allowing operators to provide different services under the same licence by availing benefit of rapid advances that are taking place in the telecom technologies.

(b) The Government has received requests for increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limits from 49% to 74% and also to allow investment by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) outside the sectoral cap from time to time. However, final decision has not been taken as yet by the Government in this regard.

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

(d) As in (a) above.

Widening of NH-11

2346. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project worth Rs. 837 thousand crores for widening of National Highway No. 11 in Rajasthan is under the consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details and the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) There is no project of the magnitude of Rs. 837 thousand crores. However, bids have been invited for widening of NH 11 from Bharatpur to Jaipur in Rajasthan on BOT basis.

[English]

Sexual Harassment at Work Places

2347. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:

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

(a) the guidelines issue by the Supreme Court for prevention of harassment and sexual abuse of women at work places;

(b) the steps taken by the Central and State Governments to enforce the same;

(c) the number of cases of each type of abuse against women at work places in each State and union territory during the period since the issue of guidelines;

(d) whether the Government proposes to review the implementation of the guidelines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) The guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court for prevention of sexual harassment at workplace in the judgement dated 13.8.97 in Writ Petition (Criminal) Nos. 666-70 of 1992 in *Vishaka & Others Vs. State of Rajasthan and Others* are given in brief in statement-I.

(b) Statement-II regarding enforcement of the guidelines in the State comes under the States' domain is enclosed.

(c) The Government does not receive complaints of sexual harassment directly as these are dealt with by the Complaints Committees constituted as per the Supreme Court's directives by the employers in the respective workplaces.

(d) and (e) The implementation of the Supreme Court's guidelines on sexual harassment at workplace is regularly reviewed both by the Central Committee of the Department of Women & Child Development and by the National Commission for Women.

Statement I

Guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court for prevention of sexual harassment at workplace

- 'Sexual harassment' includes any unwelcome sexually determined behaviour, such as physical contact and advances, demand or request for sexual favour, sexually coloured remarks, display of pornography or any other unwelcome physical, verbal or non verbal conduct of sexual nature.
- All employers or persons in care of work place whether in the public or private sector should take appropriate step to prevent sexual harassment. The preventive action that must be taken by the employer includes:
 - * Express prohibition of sexual harassment as defined should be notified, published and circulated in appropriate ways.
 - * Provide appropriate work conditions in respect of work, leisure, health and hygiene to further

ensure that there is no hostile environment towards women at workplaces and no woman employee should have reasonable grounds to believe that she is disadvantaged in connection with their employment.

- * Allow employees to raise issues of sexual harassment at workers meetings and in other appropriate forums. This issue should be affirmatively discussed in Employer-Employee meetings.
- * Create awareness of the rights of the female employees in this regard, in particular, by prominently notifying in a suitable manner the guidelines (and appropriate legislation on the subject, when enacted).
- * Set up Complaint Committee on sexual harassment to which women can direct their complaints. The Complaint Committee should have.
 - a woman chairperson,
 - women as half of its member.
 - a third party representative, either a NGO or a person familiar with the issue of sexual harassment at work should be on the Committee to prevent the possibility of any undue pressure or influence from senior levels.
 - confidentiality
 - time bound disposal of complaints.
- where sexual harassment occurs as a result of an act or omission by any third party or outsider, the employer and person in charge will take all steps necessary and reasonable to assist the affected persons in terms of support and preventive action.

Statement II

The Government has taken a number of initiatives to give effect to the guidelines laid down by the Supreme Court, which have the force of law under Article 141 of the Constitution of India. These include:

- The Government have requested all the Central Ministries/Departments, Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations, Universities/Institutions, Central Board of Secondary Education, All India Council

of Technical Education to constitute complaints committees and ensure that the guidelines are implemented.

- NCW formulated a Code of Conduct for Work Place, putting down the Supreme Court's guidelines in a simple manner. The Commission has widely circulated this Code of Conduct of all State Commissions for Women, Non-Governmental Organisations, the apex bodies of the Corporate Sector, Media, all Ministries and Departments, so that it percolate down to the lowest functionaries and is complied with by all concerned. The NCW has also instituted a series of interactive meetings with Public Sector Undertakings/Banks/Universities/Educational Institutions/Hotels/Media etc. to assess the extent of implementation of the guidelines. More than 28 meetings were convened by NCW over the last 3 years, which have been attended by more than 726 organisations.
- A Central Committee headed by the Secretary, Department of Women and Child Development has been constituted in the Department of Women and Child Development to ensure that the "complaints committees" are constituted and the guidelines are implemented by all concerned.
- Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules have been amended to include sexual harassment as a prohibited conduct.
- Amendments have been made to the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 so that sexual harassment of women at work place in the private sector could constitute an offence for which a workman is liable for disciplinary action.

Reclassification of Rural Pockets

2348. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Department has reclassified many rural pockets forming part of urban exchanges as "urban" for the purpose of levying telephone tariff based on 2001 census;

(b) if so, whether these villages that are still under Panchayats have population engaged in farm labour and other vocations like Beedi rolling etc;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government proposes to revive the status of these villages as "Rural" for telephones billing purpose as the State Governments still accord "Rural" status to them in revenue records; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Rural or Urban status of the areas are decided on the basis of latest census figures. Accordingly, the status in respect of some of the areas have been modified on the basis of 2001 census.

(b) and (c) Various pockets/villages are classified as rural as per list issued by Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner in accordance with 2001 Census. The Planning Commission has clarified that the census of India is the agency to identify all areas into urban and rural.

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

[Translation]

Four Laning of NH-28

2349. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to convert the National Highway No. 28 into a four lane;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a part of east-west corridor;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the road stretch from Ram Dayalu Nagar to Chandni Chowk, Muzaffarpur and from Kaanti to Motipur on this highway is in a dilapidated condition;

(f) if so, by when the work of four laning is likely to start; and

(g) the action being taken by the Government to improve the condition of the above road stretch?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (d) The stretch from Lucknow

to Muzaffarpur of NH-28 is a part of East-West Corridor, which is proposed to be four laned under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP). Detailed Project Report is under preparation and the project is scheduled to be completed by December 2007.

(e) to (g) The stretch of NH-28 from Kaanti to Motipur is part of East-West Corridor whereas the stretch of NH-28 from Ram Dayalu Nagar to Chandni Chowk, Muzaffarpur is not a part of East-West Corridor. Both these stretches got damaged during the recent flood/rains. Repair work is in progress to maintain the road in traffic worthy condition. Four laning of Kaanti-Motipur stretch is targeted to start by December 2004 and is scheduled for completion by December 2007.

Condition of National Highways

2350. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

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

(a) whether the condition of National Highways No. 85, 101, 77, 28A and 104 between Chapra, Siwan, Gopalganj and Kaanti to Chakiya respectively is in bad state;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any decision to make special arrangement for maintenance of said Highways to prevent deaths due to accidents;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the screw pile bridge on river Bagmati between Sehore District headquarters of Sitamarhi District Headquarters was washed away in the last flood but the same has not yet been constructed; and

(g) if so, by when it is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (e) Large portions of these highways are reported to be in a bad condition. All these National Highways, except NH-28A, are newly declared National Highways. Improvement of these National

Highways is being taken in a phased manner, depending the Bihar Road Construction Department for improvement of these National Highways in the last three years. This year, the allocation to Bihar for maintenance and repair of National Highways including for these highways is Rs. 36.41 crore.

(f) and (g) The old existing screw pile bridge over Bagmati river on NH-104 was washed away during this year's floods. This bridge was earlier damaged due to the floods in the year 2002. A Flood Damage Repair (FDR) estimate amounting to Rs. 122.90 lakh was sanctioned in January, 2003 for restoration of this bridge. The work could not be completed by the State Road Construction Department, Bihar, due to problems encountered at site. Meanwhile, the entire existing screw pile bridge got washed away in this year's floods.

The Ministry has earlier sanctioned an estimate for Rs. 14.47 crore in December, 2002 for construction of a high level bridge over Bagmati river on NH-104 at Dubbaghat, as a permanent facility with a target date of completion as December, 2004.

[English]

Implementation of Circular

2351. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of Constitutional amendment of article 16 (4A) and subsequent DOP OM No. 20011/1/2001-Estt. (d) dated January 21, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the said circular had been implemented with retrospective effect from January 30, 1997;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Details are being collected and shall be laid on the table of the House.

Health Security

2352. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any effective measures to protect the citizens from the possible threat to health security in the post Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) era;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of assessment of health security in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Patents Act 1970 has been amended to fulfill India's obligations in the post Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) era. There are specific provisions in the Patents Act 1970 to ensure protection of public health concerns. These provisions are enumerated at the enclosed statement.

(c) No comprehensive assessment of health security in the country on a centralized basis has been done by the Government.

Statement

Provisions in the Patents Act, 1970 for protection of public health concerns

- a. To ensure availability of products, including medicines, at reasonable price through compulsory licence. (section 84).
- b. To deal with emergent situations or cases of public non-commercial use (section 92).
- c. To enable parallel import of product, including medicines, at competitive prices [section 107 A (b)].
- d. To ensure import of medicines by Government (section 47)
- e. For ensuring availability of products, including medicines, as soon as the term of patent is over [Bolar provision, that is, section 107 A (a)]
- f. For acquisition of patent right by Government (section 102)
- g. to enable use of patent for research, experiment and education purpose [section 47 (3)]
- h. To enable use of invention for the purposes of Government (section 100)
- i. For revocation of patent for non-working in India (section 85)

j. For revocation of patent in public interest (section 66).

Flyovers Over NH-5

2353. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals for constructing flyovers over NH No. 5 in Bhubaneswar specially at Vanivihar and Khandagiri junction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total funds earmarked alongwith the time frame for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is constructing two flyovers at Jaydev Vihar and Baramunda bus stand in Bhubaneswar on NH No. 5 as part of four-laning of Khurda-Bhubaneswar section of NH No. 5 which forms part of the Golden Quadrilateral component of the National Highways Development Project. The approximate cost of these two flyovers including approaches is Rs. 12.0 crore and they are likely to be completed by June, 2004.

Office of PMG in North-East Region

2354. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a post of Postmaster General, North-East, Region to look after the States of Mizoram, Manipur and Nagaland exists;

(b) if so, the date of creation of the post and its headquarters;

(c) whether a proper office has been created for the PMG North-East Region as existing in other postal regions in the rest of the country;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the number of posts abolished in North-East Zone in the year 2002-2003; and

(f) the steps the Government proposed to take to establish the office of Postmaster General North-East

Region within the region including the location of its proposed headquarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The post of regional Postmaster General for North-East Circle was created on 26.2.1981 with its headquarters at Shillong.

(c) and (d) The office of the regional PMG North-East region is housed in the office of Chief Postmaster General, North East Circle at Shillong.

(e) 114 posts were abolished during the period 2002-2003 in North-East Circle comprising Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh.

(f) The office of the Postmaster general North-East Region is located at Shillong, to ensure better coordination with the Chief Postmaster General, North East Circle for the overall development of entire North East Region. Mizoram, Nagaland and Manipur Postal Divisions are placed directly under the charge of Directors Postal Services who have adequate administrative and financial powers to ensure smooth functioning of postal activities and prompt settlement of local issues.

Recognition of Medical College in Assam

2355. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Assam Medical College students launched an agitation against the threatened derecognition of the MBBS Course by the Medical Council of India;

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

(c) whether Assam has sought any aid for fulfilling the requirements of the Medical Council of India; and

(d) whether Assam has sought any aid for fulfilling the requirements of the Medical Council of India; and

(e) if so, the decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) As per the Medical Council of India there is no proposal with them to derecognise the MBBS course under the Dibrugarh University in respect of students being trained at Assam Medical College.

[*Translation*]

Four Laning of National Highway 76

2356. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highway 76 is being developed into four lane highway under the National Highway Development Project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the said work is likely to be completed;

(d) the expenditure so far incurred on developing the National Highway No. 76 into four lane highway and the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on completion of the remaining work;

(e) whether the scheme of developing bypasses outside the cities like Bara, Anta, Kota etc. enroute to the highway are also included in this project;

(f) if so, the names of the cities in which the bypasses would be constructed and the funds likely to be spent on these constructions alongwith the time likely to be taken for the completion of the said work; and

(g) the length in kilometers of roads for which the work under this project is proposed to be undertaken in Rajasthan and the number of the bridges and bypasses proposed to be built alongwith the likely expenditure thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) The portion of National Highway No. 76 from km 0.0 at Pindwara in Rajasthan to km 610.0 at Shivpuri in Madhya Pradesh is to be four laned under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP). The stretch from km 113.8 to km 220.0 (Udaipur to Chittorgarh) is being four laned under Phase I of the NHDP and is targeted to be completed by December, 2004. The balance portion is proposed to be four laned under Phase II of the NHDP which is targeted to be completed by December, 2007.

(d) Rs. 211.25 crore have been spent on the on-going project from km 113.8 to km 220.0 of NH-76. The estimated expenditure on remaining works of the on-going project in this reach is Rs. 119.96 crore. Estimated cost

for the project in the remaining portion to be taken up under Phase II of the NHDP would be known after completion of Detailed Project Report (DPR) which is under preparation.

(e) and (f) Kota, Bara and Anta fall on the portion of this highway to be taken up in Phase II. A bypass is made based on requirements as assessed in DPR.

(g) National Highway No. 76 from km 0.0 to km 579.0 is to be developed into 4/6 lane facility under the NHDP in the State of Rajasthan. There are two major and 23 minor bridges on the on-going project (km 113.8 to km 220.0). The details and number of bridges/bypasses and expenditure on the remaining stretches would be known after the Detailed Project Report is prepared.

[English]

Quantification of Unpaid Work

2357. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has completed the exercise undertaken to quantify unpaid work in the economy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which the exercise is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No. Sir, no such study was conducted to quantify unpaid work in the economy. However, the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) conducted a pilot study during 1998-1999 in six states, (Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Meghalaya) with the objective to develop conceptual framework and a suitable methodology for designing and conducting time use study.

(b) According to the report of the pilot study published, the activity wise time spent (weekly average time in hours) for paid and unpaid work was estimated. The distribution of time spent for unpaid work according to economic activities as per System of National Accounts (SNA) is given below:

Sex-wise distribution of time spent per week in unpaid work as per SNA activities

(Figures in hours)

States	Male	Female	Total
Haryana	18.12	25.34	21.37
Madhya Pradesh	23.34	15.75	20.12
Gujarat	14.17	13.87	14.05
Orissa	22.42	18.18	20.47
Tamil Nadu	13.36	10.32	12.04
Meghalaya	35.39	25.34	30.44

(c) Does not arise.

Foreign fund for upgradation of Primary Health Care

2358. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received by the Government for the financial assistance from the Federal Republic of Germany for upgrading the primary health care in different States;

(b) whether these proposals are still pending for approval with the Union Government;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The details of proposals received by the Government for financial assistance from the Federal Republic of Germany for upgrading the primary health care in different States may be seen at statement enclosed herewith.

(b) No proposal is pending for approval with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

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

Statement**1. Proposal for Balance Primary Health Centres and Upgradation in Andhra Pradesh.**

A proposal for upgradation of left-over hospitals and balance Primary Health Centres in Andhra Pradesh at a total cost of Rs. 220.00 crores with the assistance of Federal Republic of Germany was sent to department of Economic Affairs. This project was not considered favourably by the Germans citing the necessity to concentrate on a limited number of states.

2. German Assisted Maharashtra Basic Health Project

German assisted Maharashtra Basic Health Project is under implementation since 22.05.96 at a total cost of Rs. 72.64 crores.

3. German Assisted Himachal Pradesh Basic Health Care Project

A German assisted Himachal Pradesh Basic Health Care Project is under implementation. The First Phase of the Project was implemented from January 2000 to December 2002 at a cost of DM 7 million. The Second Phase is under implementation from 2003-05 at a total cost of 2.6 million euro.

4. German Assisted Basic Health Project, West Bengal

The Technical Cooperation (TC) project commenced in Nov. 1999 is focused on Health Systems Development and has funding of 4.8 million EUR (Rs. 20.5 crores) while the Financial Cooperation (FC) Project commenced in April 2001, is scheduled for completion in April 2006, funded by KfW (German Financial Assistance Corporation) and is focused on Health Infrastructure Improvement. The total budget figure for Financial Cooperation is DM 7,50,00,000 of which 80% or DM 6,00,00,000 will be contributed by the German Government and 20% or DM 15,00,00,000 by the West Bengal Government.

Both projects have the joint objective to improve Basic Health Services and their utilization in eight districts of West Bengal.

The Technical Cooperation component is extremely essential for effecting implementation of Financial Cooperation component. The Financial Cooperation component is scheduled to end on March 31, 2006. However, due to delay in actual implementation its duration is expected to be extended by one year. This is one of the reasons for seeking sanction for Phase-II of the project.

A Joint Review and Planning Workshop for the TC Project was held on Oct. 3, 2002. According to the results of the Workshop, an extension phase (Phase-II) is envisaged for the period of July 2004 to June 2007. As per information provided by GTZ (German Technical Assistance Corporation) Technical Assistance Team, The volume of the proposed German contribution for the extension phase is 2.5 million EUR. The current project phase (Phase-I) will continue till June 2004 without additional funding allocation. The department has recommended the proposal to Department of Economic Affairs.

Balika Samridhi Yojana

2359. SHRI AMBAREESHA:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) the total amount released by the Union Government to State Governments under the Balika Samridhi Yojana, State-wise during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004;

(b) the details of States which have not utilized the amount released by the Union Government;

(c) whether the Ministry has received utilisation certificates from all States; and

(d) if not, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) No releases have been made to states/UTs during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 under the Scheme.

(b) As per the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The Government has been making concerted efforts with all the State Governments and Union Territories to expedite the submission of utilisation certificates to the Government. The Department of Women

and Child Development had also made a request to the CAG for conducting a special audit. Simultaneously the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child

Development (NIPCCD) has also been asked to do an evaluation study on the implementation of the Balika Samridhhi Yojana.

Statement

Details of Funds Released, Utilized, Total Unspent Balance and % of Utilisation of the Total Fund Released as on 30.9.2003

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the States	Total funds released	Total funds utilized	Total unspent balance	% of Utilisation
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	905.325	905.325	0	100.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	24.85	18.269	6.581	73.52
3.	Assam	594.015	231.1	362.92	38.9
4.	Bihar	2623.9	507.11	2116.8	19.32
5.	Goa	16.41	16.41	0	100
6.	Gujarat	582.314	324.15	258.16	55.67
7.	Haryana	228.445	194.585	3.86	85.18
8.	Himachal Pradesh	115.97	94.86	21.11	81.8
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	229.99	156.47	73.52	68.03
10.	Karnataka	927.37	892.54	34.83	96.24
11.	Kerala	275.474	243.17	32.304	88.27
12.	Madhya Pradesh	1988.43	1593.99	394.44	80.16
13.	Maharashtra	1146.4	690.506	455.894	60.24
14.	Manipur	41.41	21.8	19.61	52.64
15.	Meghalaya	38.826	26.29	12.536	67.7
16.	Mizoram	18.72	18.72	0	100
17.	Nagaland	13.22	5.51	7.71	41.78
18.	Orissa	1473.64	1366.575	107.065	92.73

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Punjab	196.43	113.95	82.48	58
20.	Rajasthan	837.64	637.508	200.132	76.11
21.	Sikkim	11.93	5.655	6.265	47.49
22.	Tamil Nadu	575.97	350.4	225.57	60.83
23.	Tripura	84.2	83.2	1.00	98.81
24.	Uttar Pradesh	3311.76	1636.54	1675.22	49.42
25.	West Bengal	924.45	690.22	234.23	74.66
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	4.145	0.565	3.58	13.63
27.	Chandigarh	5.495	3.825	1.67	69.61
28.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	3.93	1.54	2.39	39.19
29.	Daman & Diu	1.865	0.5	1.365	26.81
30.	Delhi	50.17	23.18	26.99	46.2
31.	Lakshadweep	1.965	0.58	1.385	29.52
32.	Pondicherry	15.91	10.06	5.85	63.26
33.	Chhattisgarh	200	200	0	100
34.	Jharkhand	100	60.605	39.395	60.6
35.	Uttaranchal	100	100	0	100

Complaints against Doctors/Hospitals

2360. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether the Delhi Medical Council has recently received any complaint against Government hospitals/ doctors offering commission to their counterparts in Private Hospitals/Nursing Homes for referring patients to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against such guilty doctors and hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) As per information received from the Delhi Medical Council, no such complaint has been received by them against Government hospitals/doctors.

Report of Institute of Economic Growth

2361. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Institute of Economic Growth in a report has shown that decline in the incidence of poverty in the nineties was greater than in the eighties;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that in the nineties, growth tended to be pro-poor in urban areas;

(c) if so, the other major points mentioned in the report; and

(d) the present status of the poverty line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The paper on 'Declining Poverty in India: A Decomposition Analysis' by the Institute of Economic Growth has shown that decline in the incidence of poverty in the nineties was greater than in the eighties.

(b) Yes, Sir. The paper has also stated that in the nineties, growth tended to be pro-poor in urban areas.

(c) The other major points mentioned in the report are as follows:

- (i) Availability of infrastructure including the information and technology and improved access to health and literacy has possibly contributed to a rise in access to productive employment, and this reduced the adverse inequality effect in the urban area.
- (ii) Change in the composition of growth, that is, the shift in value added mix towards industry and tertiary activities, seems to have caused a larger decline in the incidence of poverty in the nineties compared to the eighties.
- (iii) Some of the tertiary activities, which have shown growth spur in the post reform period, hold possibilities of generating employment opportunities and thus reducing poverty.
- (iv) Labour productivity growth and employment growth in the organized industry are also crucial to poverty reduction.

(d) The national level poverty line at 1999-2000 prices is Rs. 327.56 per capita per month in rural areas and Rs. 454.11 per capita per month in urban areas.

Awarding of Accreditation/Deemed University Status

2362. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

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

(a) whether or not UGC is required to consult the concerned administrative Ministry/authority before awarding national Assessment and Accreditation Council Accreditation or the deemed to be University status to an institution;

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

(c) whether in a few instance, institutions, particularly the Institutions offering professional courses, were accorded, and continue to be accorded Accreditation/University status even before the course or the college was/is formally recognised by the administrative Ministry;

(d) if so, the details of such institutions with date of conferring Accreditation/University status and recognition by the concerned administrative authority; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) The assessment and accreditation of Universities/colleges is done by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), an autonomous institution under the University Grants Commission (UGC) Act and no approval of UGC/Govt. of India is required for accreditation of Universities/Colleges.

The proposal for grant of Deemed to be University Status to an institution is processed by the UGC in consultation with the concerned statutory authorities, like All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Medical Council of India (MCI), Dental Council of India (DCI) before the Commission submits its recommendation for consideration and approval of the Ministry.

(c) to (e) No professional technical programmes are accredited by National Board of accreditation (NBA), a statutory body set up under the AICTE Act, without the approval of AICTE. In case of grant of deemed to be University status, the approval is taken from the concerned statutory professional council, if the University conducts courses in those professional subjects.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Exchanges in Hilly Areas

2363. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

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

(a) the State-wise number of Telephone Exchanges in hilly areas especially in Himachal Pradesh in regard to which permission for their establishment was given under annual plan at circle level;

(b) the number out of them in regard to which buildings were rented and MCPC and other equipments were also purchased for setting up the exchanges;

(c) whether it is a fact that after the announcement of the policy by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, the approval in regard to those Telephone exchanges where the demand for telephone connections were less than 80 and including the exchanges where local cable to the length of one and a half to two kilometres was required was either cancelled or the proposal was dropped;

(d) if so, the facts and reasons therefor; and

(e) the manner in which the Government would provide network of telephone services to cover cent percent population living in hilly areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) BSNL does not maintain separate list for telephone exchanges in States for hilly areas. For Himachal Pradesh, initially three numbers of new exchanges were planned at Dhanotu, Raja Ka Talab and Mugla. However, after WLL based stations that have been planned at Sunder Nagar and Fatehpur, the plan for opening new exchanges at Dhanotu and Raja Ka Talab have been dropped as these places will be covered from Sunder Nagar and Fatehpur BTSS respectively. Now only one proposal for opening of new telephone exchange during 2003-04 has been finalized in Himachal Pradesh, as it is not possible to cover Mugla by WLL.

(e) The existing waiting list which cannot be cleared from existing exchanges is planned to be cleared by

providing connections on WLL. There is a plan to install WLL capacity of 32500 lines during current financial year 27500 lines during next financial year for this purpose.

[*English*]

Entitlement of Ration for Anganwadi Workers

2364. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the monetary value of snakes given to each child in Anganwadi scheme;

(b) the total amount yearly allocated and spent;

(c) whether any circular has been issued listing item-wise and quantity-wise ration entitlements of each Anganwadi and the quantity thereof;

(d) the scoring point established to qualify for BPL identity;

(e) whether due publicity would be given to instructions of circular to make all the concerned aware; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) to (f) The integrated child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme aims at a holistic development of children (0-6 years) and expectant and nursing mothers from disadvantaged sections. It is a Centrally-sponsored Scheme in which the Central Government is responsible for programme planning and operating cost and the State Governments are responsible for implementing the Scheme and for providing supplementary nutrition out of the States' resources.

The nature and type of food provided as supplementary nutrition varies from State to State. The State Governments have, however, been requested to ensure that supplementary nutrition is provided to all ICDS beneficiaries as per the prescribed nutrition norms of the Scheme.

The budget allocation and expenditure for 2001-02 and budget allocation for 2002-03, as reported by the States is given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

(Rs., lakh)

Sl. No.	State/UT	2001-02		2002-03 Budget Provision on supplementary nutrition
		Budget Provision & Expenditure on Supplementary nutrition		
		Budget Provision	Expenditure	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6166.58	6113.58	6732.63
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1146.00	1146.00	1146
3.	Assam	4482.47	3646.53	3500
4.	Bihar	NA	549.99	NA
5.	Chhattisgarh	2620.54	1758.27	4097.4
6.	Goa	66.95	66.02	78
7.	Gujarat	11839.55	6641.90	15215.03
8.	Haryana	3147.55	3147.55	4137.73
9.	Himachal Pradesh	980.00	980.00	1090
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1000.00	9898.88	1000
11.	Jharkhand	450.00	158.85	599.32
12.	Karnataka	11350.95	8110.17	10228.15
13.	Kerala	NA	3057.08	NA
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7685.00	6957.95	7713
15.	Maharashtra	16343.21	15799.78	21355.19
16.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	50
17.	Meghalaya	25.58	25.58	28.40
18.	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	20
19.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0
20.	Orissa	3400.96	1930.59	4248.78
21.	Punjab	100.00	2.94	0

1	2	3	4	5
22.	Rajasthan	1365.22	1304.30	5100
23.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	29
24.	Tamil Nadu	5976.85	3146.80	5592.36
25.	Tripura	1111.31	197.19	298
26.	Uttar Pradesh	14646.14	7998.44	15110.01
27.	Uttaranchal	1244.00	183.00	1378.38
28.	West Bengal	9846.08	8313.27	8298.31
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	220.00	151.86	248
30.	Chandigarh	84.05	84.05	100
31.	Delhi	2303.65	2282.80	2136
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	48.00	11.71	NA
33.	Daman & Diu	27.00	27.00	36.7
34.	Lakshadweep	43.00	28.96	42.5
35.	Pondicherry	380.10	378.36	413
	India	108100.74	94099.40	120021.89

NA—Not Available.

Work Packages for National Highways

2365. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the work packages allotted/awarded in Tamil Nadu on the National Highway Nos. 7, 45 and 47 under the Prime Minister's Golden Quadrilateral Programme and Corridor project;

(b) the status and progress of the works and the time by which these works are to be completed;

(c) the total amount allocated and disbursed for each of these work packages and the amount utilized so far; and

(d) the details of the work packages to be awarded for these National Highways in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) The details of on-going as well as completed projects under Golden Quadrilateral and North-South and East-West Corridors on NH-7 and 47 in the State of Tamil Nadu are enclosed at statement-I and statement-II respectively. NH-45 is not covered under the Golden Quadrilateral and Corridor Projects. However, the details of on-going projects on NH-45 are enclosed at-III.

(d) The details of work packages to be awarded on these National Highways in Tamil Nadu are enclosed at statement-IV.

Statement I

Details of contract under implementation in the State of Tamil Nadu on NH 7 under Golden Quadrilateral and North-South & East-West Corridors

S. No.	Stretch	NH No.	Length (km.)	Anticipated date of completion	Physical progress achieved (30.11.03)	Total Project Cost (Rs. crs.)	Cum. Expenditure (Rs. crs.)
Golden Quadrilateral							
1.	Hosur-Krishnagiri	7	45.4	Dec. 2003	81%	213	145.7
North South Corridor							
1.	Thumpipadi to Salem	7	19.2	Mar. 2004	68.90%	82.49	65.32
2.	Namakkal Bypass	7	8.4	Jan. 2004	82%	21.4	17.94

Statement II

Details of Length completed in the State of Tamil Nadu on NH 7

S.No.	Stretch	NH No.	Length (km)
Golden Quadrilateral			
1.	Hathipali-Hosur	7	16
North-South Corridor			
1.	Thopurghar to Omalur	7	7.4
2.	Salem Bypass	7	8.4
3.	Karur ROB	7	0.84
4.	4 laning of Karur Bypass including additional bridge across river Amravati	7	9.36

Statement III

Details of contract under implementation in the State of Tamil Nadu on NH 45

S. No.	Stretch	NH No.	Length (km)	Anticipated date of completion	Total Project Cost (Rs. crs)	Remarks
1.	Tamparam-Tindivanam	45	93	June 2004	375	Being executed on BOT (Annuity basis)

Statement IV*Details of Contract packages to be awarded on NH-7, NH-45 and NH-47 in Tamil Nadu*

S.No.	Stretch	NH No.	Length (km)
1.	Krishnagiri to Dharampuri	7	Km 92.000 to km 134.000
2.	Dharampuri to Thopurghat	7	Km 134.000 to 156.000
3.	Omalur to Thumpipadi	7	Km 163.400 to km 180.000
4.	Salem to Namakkal	7	Km 207.600 to km 248.000
5.	Namakkal to Karur	7	Km 259.600 to km 301.000
6.	Karur to Madurai	7	Km 301.000 to km 440.000
7.	Madurai to km 120 of Madurai-Tirunveli Section including Madurai Bypass	7	Km 0.000 to km 120.00
8.	Mudurai-Tirunveli Section	7	Km 120 to km 203
9.	Package from Kanyakumari end	7	Km 203 to km 232
10.	Salem to Coimbatore	47	Km 0.000 to km 100
11.	Coimbatore to Kerala border	47	Km 100 to km 182
12.	Tindivanam to Trichy to Madurai	45 45B	325 Km

*[Translation]***National Programme for Control of Leprosy**

2366. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in its report on National Programme for the Control of leprosy has raised a question regarding targets not being met and non-utilization of the funds allotted to Government and NGOs under this programme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The Comptroller and Auditor General of India has not made any such observation in its report for the year 2001-02. As far as 2002-03 is concerned, the final report of Comptroller and Auditor General has not yet been received.

(b) Question does not arise.

*[English]***Implementation of Circular**

2367. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of Constitutional amendment of article 16 (4A) and subsequent DOP OM No. 20011/1/2001-Est. (D) dated 21st January, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the said circular has been implemented with retrospective effect from January 30, 1997;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No occasion has arisen in this Ministry which warrants the revision of the seniority of any employees of the Ministry in pursuance of the implementation of the DOP&T OM No. 20011/1/2001-Estt. (D) dated 21.01.2002.

(d) Does not arise.

Show Cause Notices to Cellular Companies

2368. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued show cause notices to Bharti, Reliance, Infocom and Idea Cellular;

(b) if so, the details of violations made by the said cellular companies;

(c) whether any reply had been given by the said companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action Government/TRAI proposes to take against the companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Sir, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had issued show cause notices to M/s. Bharti, M/s. Reliance Infocom and M/s. Idea Cellular on 11.11.2003.

(b) TRAI in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 read with Section 11(1)(b) of the TRAI (Amendment) Act, 2000 issued directive on 23.9.2003 to all telecom service providers for strict adherence of guidelines of TRAI dated 1.8.2003, which, inter-alia, provided for advertisement of tariffs in the prescribed format. It had come to the notice of TRAI that M/s. Bharti, M/s. Reliance Infocom and M/s. Idea Cellular had made advertisements in newspapers which were not in the format prescribed by TRAI and hence violated the TRAI's directive.

(c) to (e) All the three companies mentioned above have replied to the show cause notices of TRAI; details

thereof are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House. A decision in the matter has not yet been taken by the TRAI.

Poor Living Conditions of Indian Citizens

2369. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of letters received from MPs by the Ministry during the last three years about the poor living conditions of Indian citizens in Indian Enclaves within the territory of Bangladesh; and

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

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

(b) The Government is committed to the exchange of the enclaves in accordance with the terms of the 1974 Land Boundary Agreement signed between India and Bangladesh. The two governments established Joint Boundary Working Groups to discuss this and other pending matters relating to the implementation of the 1974 Agreement.

[Translation]

Four Laning on East-West Corridor

2370. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target has been fixed to complete the construction work of four laning on East-West Golden Corridor National Highways from Porbander to Silcher by 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether on account of Bhutahi Balan and Bihul rivers the stretch of NH-57 from Muzaffarpur to Forbisganj via Jhanjharpur and from Fulparas to Bhutaha has become a missing link of the said National Highway;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the road has become completely damaged;

(f) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken in this regard;

(g) whether some public representatives and social organisations have submitted applications/representations for the construction of Screw-piles bridge in Fulpras-Narhiya stretch of the Highway; and

(h) if so, the time by which the said bridge in Fulpras-Narhia stretch is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) 4-Laning of National Highway sections from Silchar (Assam) to Porbandar (Gujarat) is proposed to be developed as East-West Corridor under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP). The target for completion of this Corridor is 2007. Details are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) to (f) Only the section from Phulparas to Simrahi including Bhutahi Balan, Bihul and Kosi rivers is a missing link of NH-57. The sections from Muzaffarpur to Phulparas and Simrahi to Forbesganj and under repair to maintain the road in traffic worthy condition till widening to 4-lanes is completed under NHDP.

(g) and (h) Public representations have been received for construction of Screw-piles bridges in the section Phulparas-Narhiya of NH-57. The bridges are likely to be constructed by December 2005.

Statement

Status of East-West Corridor

Sl. No.	Description	Length (km)
1.	Total Length	3640
2.	Common with Golden Quadrilateral (under implementation)	149
3.	Balance length on East-West Corridor	3491
4.	Four laning already completed	106
5.	Four laning under implementation	185
6.	Balance length of E.W. Corridor to be four laned	3200*

*Detailed Project Report under preparation.

[English]

Speed Post Service in North-East Region

2371. SHRI HOLKHOMANG HAOKIP: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the speed post service in the North-East is poor;

(b) the number of National Speed Post centres and the centres having proper business office established in the North-East Zone;

(c) whether information brochure is made available at these National Speed Post Centres;

(d) if so, when last such information brochure was last printed and supplied,

(e) the number of National Speed Post Centres in the North-East having Speed Post Passport service;

(f) when the Speed Post Passport Service was introduced in the country; and

(g) the steps the Government proposes to take to develop Speed Post Service in the North-East?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) No Sir, it is available at all State headquarters of North East Region. There are eleven (11) National Speed Post Centres and thirty-nine (39) State Speed Post Centres in N.E. Zone.

(b) There are eleven (11) National Speed Post Centres in North-East. All these National Speed Post Centres are having proper business office.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) (i) In North East Circle - July 2001
(ii) In Assam Circle - March 2003

(e) All the eleven (11) National Speed Post Centres of North East are having Speed Post Passport Service.

(f) Speed Post Passport Service was introduced in the country from 5th March 2001.

- (g) (i) Performance of Speed Post Service is constantly monitored. Test Checks on transit is constantly done to ensure good quality of service.
- (ii) Extension of Speed Post Service is an ongoing process. It is extended to more and more cities/towns based on business and operational procedures.

Construction of Bridge Over Brahmaputra

2372. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a proposal to construct a Fifth Bridge across the Brahmaputra connecting Neenatighat on the South bank with Kamalabarighat across the river on the North bank of the river;
- (b) if so, the length, design and details of the bridge and its estimated cost; and
- (c) the time by which the bridge is likely to be constructed?

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

- (b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Setting up of Telephone Exchange

2373. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a scheme in operation in Rajasthan during the last few years to set up new telephone exchange on the demand of ten or more willing rural subscribers;
- (b) if so, the date on which the said scheme was started and the year-wise and the telecom district-wise number of demand note submitted alongwith the number of the telephone exchanges proposed to be set up and the number of the applicants and the number of subscribers to whom telephone facility has been provided and the number of the exchanges opened to cover the new applicants and the details thereof;

(c) the number of subscribers to whom telephone service under the said scheme has not been provided despite submitting the demand note in this regard alongwith the district-wise details in regard to Rajasthan;

(d) whether the said scheme has been discontinued; and

(e) if so, the *modus operandi* to be followed for providing the telephone service to those subscribers who have submitted their demand note under the said (10 party) exchange scheme and the time limit fixed in regard to providing the telephone service to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The scheme has been in existence since long time and has been modified from time to time. The telecom district-wise list for which the demand was registered is given in statement-I. Detail of new telephone exchanges opened in rural areas district-wise is given in statement-II. During the last ten years i.e. from 1993 to 2003 total 546231 connections have been provided in the rural areas.

(c) Telephone service to 123350 applicants has not been provided. The district-wise details are given in Statement-III.

(d) and (e) The scheme has not been discontinued, it has been modified. The new guidelines for providing telephones to wait listed applicants in rural areas are given as below:

- (i) The planning of telephone connections in rural areas will first be with WLL solutions.
- (ii) If WLL solution is not workable due to technical reasons, a new exchange is planned with minimum registration of 75 within the local area of exchange.
- (iii) The new exchanges are being planned on reliable media.

Accordingly, the pending applicants are expected to be provided with telephone facility during next financial year subject to timely availability of WLL equipments.

Statement I**Telecom. District-wise list of Registered 10 party payment cases**

Sl. No.	Name of District	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1.	Ajmer	11	7	12	11	11	15	10
2.	Alwar	4	4	1	18	20	23	10
3.	Banswara	5	3	0	5	5	7	1
4.	Barmer	37	55	70	60	86	62	54
5.	Bharatpur	6	6	3	18	17	19	12
6.	Bhilwara	23	21	15	44	43	28	30
7.	Bikaner	11	12	9	36	34	52	40
8.	Bundi	0	0	0	0	3	8	2
9.	Chittorgarh	0	0	0	32	31	29	26
10.	Churu	0	0	0	44	43	54	36
11.	Jaipur	36	38	34	32	31	33	41
12.	Jaisalmer	0	0	0	34	0	0	25
13.	Jhalawar	0	0	0	0	21	19	6
14.	Jhunjhunu	0	0	7	12	11	0	1
15.	Jodhpur	6	9	12	68	68	78	67
16.	Kota	6	6	1	27	7	11	19
17.	Nagaour	23	16	41	78	72	80	41
18.	Pali	39	29	8	41	41	37	40
19.	Sawaimadhopur	15	10	9	17	8	9	6
20.	Sikar	16	18	10	23	23	18	21
21.	Sirohi	0	0	8	13	12	21	19
22.	Sriganganagar	21	24	17	35	52	38	21
23.	Tonk	0	0	0	12	13	14	4
24.	Udaipur	11	11	6	18	18	9	8
Total		270	269	263	678	670	664	540

Statement II***District-wise Opening of New Telephone Exchanges***

Sl. No.	Name of District	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Ajmer	8	3	2	1	5	5	4	0	3	1
2.	Alwar	5	11	4	2	2	4	3	1	8	5
3.	Banswara	5	4	2	0	2	1	1	0	1	2
4.	Baran	1	0	0	0	2	2	6	9	4	0
5.	Barmer	7	6	2	0	5	6	7	4	9	5
6.	Bharatpur	9	4	1	1	5	5	4	7	5	2
7.	Bhilwara	7	7	2	2	9	5	8	4	3	0
8.	Bikaner	10	8	3	3	1	4	7	7	8	4
9.	Bundi	1	0	2	0	1	5	2	1	1	1
10.	Chittorgarh	4	2	2	1	6	5	9	3	2	0
11.	Churu	3	0	0	2	6	11	24	2	18	1
12.	Dausa	1	2	1	0	4	0	1	0	0	0
13.	Dholpur	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3
14.	Dungarpur	1	3	0	0	3	4	2	3	1	1
15.	Hanumangarh	0	0	2	0	7	4	11	6	4	1
16.	Jaipur	19	3	1	1	8	9	5	0	5	1
17.	Jaisalmer	2	0	0	0	0	6	2	5	4	4
18.	Jalore	4	3	0	0	3	0	11	1	10	7
19.	Jhalawar	0	0	2	0	4	4	2	1	3	0
20.	Jhunjhunu	1	0	3	2	6	0	2	1	4	1
21.	Jodhpur	11	8	1	0	4	4	10	8	12	5
22.	Karaouli	—	0	0	0	2	2	2	1	1	0
23.	Kota	3	4	2	0	6	4	4	0	2	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
24.	Nagaour	14	8	1	0	4	4	11	3	8	0
25.	Pali	13	13	2	1	4	4	12	3	2	3
26.	Rajsamand	3	4	2	1	4	0	1	0	7	1
27.	Sawaimadhopur	15	8	1	1	4	2	2	1	0	1
28.	Sikar	21	14	2	0	9	4	4	8	4	1
29.	Sirohi	5	2	0	1	2	8	5	0	0	4
30.	Sriganganagar	7	13	6	5	13	16	9	5	6	2
31.	Tonk	3	0	2	0	7	3	3	2	1	0
32.	Udaipur	11	6	3	0	6	5	2	2	0	1
Total		195	138	51	24	144	139	175	88	138	57

Statement III

S.No. Name of district Rural connections not provided as on 30.11.03

1	2	3
1.	Ajmer	3240
2.	Alwar	11814
3.	Banswara	4138
4.	Barmer	5996
5.	Bharatpur	4971
6.	Bhilwara	3227
7.	Bikaner	1167
8.	Bundi	528
9.	Chittorgarh	3524
10.	Churu	5088
11.	Jaipur	11907

1	2	3
12.	Jaisalmer	551
13.	Jhalawar	1170
14.	Jhunjhunu	9149
15.	Jodhpur	5946
16.	Kota	2313
17.	Nagaour	8468
18.	Pali	4617
19.	Sawaimadhopur	3057
20.	Sikar	13361
21.	Sirohi	5827
22.	Sri Ganganagar	4410
23.	Tonk	1115
24.	Udaipur	7766
Total		123350

*[English]***Departments of Urdu**

2374. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Universities and Colleges having Post-graduate departments of Urdu;

(b) whether any of these affiliated colleges have been recognised as Minority Educational Institution established under Article 30 of the Constitution; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by the Association of Indian Universities and the University Grants Commission(UGC), 57 Universities in the country are offering M.A. in Urdu. A list of these universities is enclosed as statement. Most of these Universities are State Universities.

As per the information obtained from the UGC, there are 311 universities/deemed universities/constitutes of national and state importance which are authorized to award various specified degrees including B.A./B.Sc. There are 15343 colleges which are recognized under Sections 2 (f) and 12 (B) of the UGC Act which include some minority educational institutions also.

Statement*List of Universities offering M.A. in Urdu,*

S.No.	Name of the University
1	2
1.	Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh
2.	Allahabad University, Allahabad
3.	Andhra University
4.	B.B.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarnagar
5.	Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi
6.	Bangalore University, Bangalore
7.	Barakatuallah University, Bhopal

1	2
8.	University of Calcutta, Kolkatta
9.	Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut
10.	Chatarpati Shaji Maharaj University, Gorakhpur
11.	Deen Dayal Upadhayay University, Gorakhpur
12.	Delhi University, Delhi
13.	Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad
14.	Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar University, Agra
15.	Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia University, Faizabad
16.	Fakir Mohan University, Orissa
17.	Gujarat University, Ahemdabad
18.	Gulbarage University, Karnataka
19.	Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar
20.	University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad
21.	Jai Prakash University, Bihar
22.	Jamia Milia Islamia, Delhi
23.	University of Jammu
24.	Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi
25.	Jiwaji University, Gwalior
26.	Karnataka State Open University, Mysore
27.	Karnataka University, Karnataka
28.	University of Kashmir
29.	L.N. Mithala University, Bihar
30.	University of Lucknow
31.	University of Madras, Chennai
32.	Magadh University, Bihar
33.	M.S. University of Baroda, Baroda
34.	M.D.S. University, Ajmer
35.	Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi
36.	Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Rohilkhand University, Bareilly
37.	Mohan Lal Sukhadia University, Udaipur

1	2
38.	University of Mumbai
39.	University of Mysore
40.	Nagpur University, Nagpur
41.	North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon
42.	Osmania University, Hyderabad
43.	Punjab University Chandigarh
44.	Patna University, Bihar
45.	University of Pune, Pune
46.	Punjabi University, Patiala
47.	University of Rajasthan, Jaipur
48.	Ranchi University, Jharkhand
49.	Rani Durgawati Vishvidhalaya, Jabalpur
50.	Shivaji University, Kolhapur
51.	Sri Sankracharya University of Sanskrit
52.	Sri Venkateshwara University, Tirupati
53.	Swami Ramanand Marathawada University, Maharashtra
54.	Utkal University, Bhubaneswar
55.	V.B.S. Purvanchal University, Uttaranchal
56.	Vir Kunwar University, Bihar
57.	Vikram University, Ujjain

SARS

2375. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received some suggestions from State Governments to address concerns arising from the outbreak of SARS;

(b) if so, the details of suggestions made by the State Governments; and

(c) the action taken by the Central Government in this regard?

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

to (c) Suggestions from various State Governments received on the measures to control the outbreak of SARS were taken into consideration by the Govt. of India while formulating the strategies for successful containment of this outbreak.

Two Ambassadors in US

2376. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for having two Ambassadors in the United States;

(b) the functions of the Ambassador at large of NRIs and PIOs and whether the same should be applicable to the Missions of Germany, U.K., Russia and France;

(c) whether the present Ambassador Mr. Agnihotri has been an RSS Cadre and a strong propagandist of VHP;

(d) whether it was the direction of the Union Government to hold an inter-religious leaders' meeting on June 15, 2003; and

(e) if so, the relevance of the said meeting for NRIs and trade promotions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) There is only one official designated as the Ambassador of India to USA. However, two other officials are designated in the rank of 'Ambassador' for functional reasons which include Permanent Representative of India to UN, New York and Special Adviser Permanent Mission of India and Ambassador-at-Large to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)/ Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs) based in New York.

(b) Ambassador-at-Large for NRIs and PIOs is entrusted with the task to strategically promote better coordination within the NRI/PIO community as well as economic cooperation, investment and commerce by NRIs/PIOs with India and other countries. Interactions of the Ambassador-at-Large with Diaspora covers also the countries other than USA where there are Indian communities.

(c) Ambassador Shri Agnihotri has conveyed that he was associated with RSS/Sangh Pariwar in the past prior to his assuming charge as the Ambassador-at-Large for NRIs/PIOs.

(d) The inter-religious leaders' meeting convened by the Office of Ambassador-at-Large for NRIs and PIOs is broadly within the nature of the work of Ambassador-at-Large and did not require the direction of the Government.

(e) The meeting was convened to compile and articulate recommendations of Indo-American religious leaders of various communities on how to forge cultural awareness among the second and third generation Diaspora youth, based on multi-religious heritage of India.

Condition of National Highway 40E

2377. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has declared Jowai-Dawki road and National Highway 40E and yet the road remains the same as it was;

(b) if so, the corrective measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to complete the widening of National Highway 40 in Meghalaya?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Twelve improvement works amounting to Rs. 22.84 crore has been sanctioned since the declaration of this road as a National Highway in 1999. Besides, two works amounting to Rs. 1.57 crore for maintenance and repairs have also been sanctioned.

(c) Out of a total length of 216.500 km of this National Highway, 105.650 km length already stands widened to double lane NH standards. Works for widening of 37.339 km are under progress.

Implementation of Circular

2378. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of Constitutional amendment of article 16 (4A) and subsequent DOP OM NO. 20011/1/2001-East, (d) dated January 21, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the said circular has been implemented with retrospective effect from January 30, 1997;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

Recruitment of Sportspersons

2379. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited recruits sportspersons in order to promote sports in the country;

(b) if so, the sports which have been encouraged by the BSNL;

(c) whether the BSNL does not encourage Hockey and has not recruited any players since its formation;

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

(e) the step being taken by the BSNL in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sportspersons are recruited in BSNL in the following sports disciplines:

Individuals Games	Team Games
1. Athletics	1. Basketball
2. Badminton	2. Cricket
3. Carrom	3. Kabaddi
4. Chess	4. Kho-Kho
5. Cycling	
6. Table Tennis	
7. Weight Lifting/Power Lifting/Body Building.	

(c) BSNL encourages Hockey by organising Telecom Circle level and All India level Hockey Tournaments every year. However, Hockey has not been included in the scheme of recruitment of sportspersons.

(d) The decision of the Organisation has been to concentrate on 4 team games in the beginning.

(e) Once national level teams are built up in the selected 4 team games, the recruitment scheme can be reviewed to consider inclusion of other team games like Hockey.

[*Translation*]

Allocation of Funds for NH-104

2380. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds have been allocated for the construction of the National Highway No. 104 during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the time by which the construction of this National Highway is proposed to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) An allocation of Rs. 36.41 crore has been made for Bihar for the current financial year for the maintenance and repair of National Highways which includes National Highway No. 104. In the last two years, a total of 8 numbers of works amounting to Rs. 36.52 crore were sanctioned for improvement of NH-104.

(d) The development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and is taken up depending upon availability of funds and inter-se priority.

[*English*]

Educational Grid Across Colleges/Institutions

2381. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for the establishment of an Educational Grid across Colleges and Institutions and IT facilitation of Higher Education in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) The Department of Higher Education, Kerala and the Indian Institute of Information Technology & Management, Kerala and ERNET India are implementing the Kerala Education Grid Project for networking the colleges over a backbone network for content creation, maintenance and development of web enabled course-ware in different subjects.

Grants to NGOs for Running Day Care Child Centres

2382. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Non-Government Organisations have managed to obtain huge amount as grants-in-Aid from the Government for running Day Care Child Centres in the country as reported in the Bandematram dated 26th September, 2003;

(b) if so, the number of such N.G.Os. and the total amount obtained by them fraudulently as grants-in-aid during the last three years; and

(c) the steps taken to recover the amount from these N.G.Os?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) The report in the Bandematram dated 26th September 2003 relates to an evaluation study conducted by Sankalap, a Non-Governmental Organization. The Study reports that out of 189 creches 43 were not physically functioning at the addresses indicated as the location of the service under the Scheme. After the study was published, the Department deputed officers to the States of UP, AP, MP and Maharashtra to verify the factual position. 103 creches were inspected out of which 101 creches were found running in these States, though in locations other than those indicated in the Sanction Order. Effective monitoring mechanisms have been set up by the implementing agencies of this Scheme viz., Central Social Welfare Board, Indian Council for Child Welfare and Bhartiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh are being reviewed by Government. The releases under NCF Scheme are being made after receipt of verification certificates and recommendation of the concerned State Government.

(b) One NGO obtained an amount of Rs. 4,69,500/- fraudulently during the last three years.

(c) A civil suit to recover the amount along with interest from the NGO has been filed in a court of Delhi.

Law for Sexual Abuse of Children

2383. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enact a separate law to deal with sexual abuse of children;

(b) if so, the time by when such a legislation is likely to be enacted; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) to (c) The Law Commission of India in its 172nd report has recommended changes for widening the scope of section 375 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and to make it gender neutral. Various other changes have been recommended in section 376, 376A to 376D. Insection of a new section 376E dealing with unlawful sexual contact and deletion of section 377 of the Indian Penal Code have also been recommended.

The report of the Law Commission has been forwarded to the State Governments for their comments as the Criminal Law is on the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution. Amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Penal Code, 1860 on the basis of the recommendations of the Law Commission are subject to the receipt of views/comments from the State Governments; the Central Government taking a holistic view on the recommendations and introduction and passage of an amendment Bill in Parliament for which no time frame can be fixed.

Women's Empowerment through Education

2384. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of programmes for women's empowerment through education;

(b) the percentage of total enrolment in the country;

(c) the female literacy rate as against the male literacy rate in the country, State-wise; and

(d) the specific programmes out of them being implemented in different States, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The Government of India is implementing the Mahila Samakhya Programme which is a programme for the education and empowerment of women in rural areas as well as literacy programmes for women through the National Literacy Mission of the Government of India.

(b) The percentage of total enrolment in the country at primary level is 96.29% and at upper primary level 70.26%.

(c) The all-India female literacy rate is 54% and male literacy rate is 75% as per the 2001 census. The male and female literacy rates, State-wise, are in the statement.

(d) the Mahila Samakhya programme is being implemented in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Karnataka, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Jharkhand and Kerala. The National Literacy Mission is promoting literacy across the country.

Statement

Statewise Literacy Rates of the Age Group 7+ Above—2001

S.No.	States/UT	Literacy Rate		
		Male	Female	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	70.85	51.17	61.11
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	64.07	44.24	54.74
3.	Assam	71.93	56.03	64.28
4.	Bihar	60.32	33.57	47.53
5.	Chhattisgarh	77.86	52.40	65.18
6.	Goa	88.88	75.51	82.32
7.	Gujarat	80.50	58.60	69.97
8.	Haryana	79.25	56.31	68.59

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	86.02	68.08	77.13
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	65.75	41.82	54.46
11.	Jharkhand	67.94	39.38	54.13
12.	Karnataka	76.29	57.45	67.04
13.	Kerala	94.20	87.86	90.92
14.	Madhya Pradesh	76.80	50.28	64.11
15.	Maharashtra	86.27	67.51	77.27
16.	Manipur	77.87	59.70	68.87
17.	Meghalaya	66.14	60.41	63.31
18.	Mizoram	90.69	86.13	88.49
19.	Nagaland	71.77	61.92	67.11
20.	Orissa	75.95	50.97	63.61
21.	Punjab	75.63	63.55	69.95
22.	Rajasthan	76.46	44.34	61.03
23.	Sikkim	76.73	61.46	69.68
24.	Tamil Nadu	82.33	64.55	73.47
25.	Tripura	81.47	65.41	73.66
26.	Uttaranchal	84.01	60.26	72.28
27.	Uttar Pradesh	70.23	42.98	57.36
28.	West Bengal	77.58	60.22	69.22
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	86.07	75.29	81.18
30.	Chandigarh	85.65	76.65	81.76
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	73.32	42.99	60.03
32.	Daman & Diu	88.40	70.37	81.09
33.	Delhi	87.37	75.00	81.82
34.	Lakshadweep	93.15	81.56	87.52
35.	Pondicherry	88.89	74.13	81.49
	All India	75.85	54.16	65.38

Opening of Bio-Technology Parks

2385. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to open bio-technology parks in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) the number of such parks functioning in each State at present;

(d) whether the bio-technology park at Turkapalli village near Hyderabad has since been completed;

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which the park is likely to be established;

(f) the criteria adopted by the Government for setting up such parks in the States; and

(g) the total grants provided by the Union Government to establish such parks in each State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, the Department of biotechnology (DBT) has plans to support biotechnology parks proposed to be opened by the State Governments. The Planning Commission has approved the scheme for the 10th Plan period. To begin with approval is for only two biotechnology parks. During the Annual Plan 2003-04 Biotechnology Incubator at Shapoorji Pallonji Biotech Park in Genome valley near Hyderabad and a Biotechnology Park in Biotechnology city, Lucknow have been approved.

(d) and (e) Government of Andhra Pradesh is developing the Biotech park in Genome Valley in the outskirts of Hyderabad in Ranga Reddy District in two phases and first phase is nearing completion. In the first phase, 142 acres of land has been developed under the public-private partnership model and nearly 80% of the plots have been allotted. Under the second phase, 162 acres of land was allotted to M/s. Shapoorji Pallonji Biotech Park Private Ltd, the joint venture company of the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the developer.

(f) The criteria adopted generally for determining the eligibility of a project received from a State Govt/Institution

are: the scientific expertise of the particular region; infrastructure; investment commitment by the industry and readiness by the industry to prepare a business plan. In addition commitment of the state to provide basic facilities such as land, electricity, water, communication etc., is also essential.

(g) The DBT has an allocation of Rs. 30 crores for the establishment of Biotech Parks, Incubators & Pilot Level Facilities for the 10th Plan. The Department has earmarked Rs. 15 crores for one park and one facility, stated above during the Annual Plan 2003-04. The funds would be provided to various public-funded institutions or autonomous bodies to establish such parks/facilities in coordination with other agencies.

Foreign Assistance for Road Projects

2386. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of road projects from Orissa submitted to Central Government for different foreign aid programmes during the last three years;

(b) the number out of them cleared by the Government;

(c) the amount of foreign assistance obtained for these projects during the said period; and

(d) the other details of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (d) The Union Government is primarily responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways. No proposal has been received from the Government of Orissa during the last three years in respect of foreign aid for development of National Highways in Orissa. However, one project i.e. four laning of Jagatpur-Chandikhole section of NH-5 (km 27.80 to km 61.0) has been completed in January 2003 with assistance from Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC). The total external assistance was 5836 million Yen.

[Translation]

Foreign Educational Institutes

2387. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI S. MURUGESAN:

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that approximately 35 per cent of all the foreign educational institutes advertised in all the national newspapers are not even recognized in their respective countries;

(b) if so, whether approximately 85% of the Indian Institutes with which these foreign institutes are associated are neither affiliated to any university nor recognized by the University Grants Commission;

(c) if so, whether there is any mechanism to monitor the genuineness of these institutes;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (e) According to the information compiled by the Association of Indian Universities sometime back, on the basis of advertisements appearing in the Indian newspapers, 144 foreign universities/colleges/institutions are offering various courses of study to the Indian students. Out of them 117 offer programmes on their home campuses and the remaining 27 are conducting programmes in India through their Indian partners. Though the Government has not received any specific complaint about fake foreign universities/educational institutions enrolling Indian students, with a view of averting such an eventuality Indian Missions in major foreign countries such as United States of America, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and New Zealand were asked to check on the antecedents and credibility of educational institutions from these countries. The feed back received from the Missions has revealed that some of these institutions are not approved/accredited by the relevant agencies in their home countries and the Ministry has since approached Ministry of External Affairs before taking up the matter with the Missions of the relevant foreign countries in India. The Government has also asked the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration to conduct a detailed survey on operation of foreign educational institutions in the country covering various aspects including their accreditation in their own countries and the twinning arrangements with local institutions. Besides, the All India Council for Technical Education has notified AICTE Regulations for Entry and Operation of Foreign Universities in India imparting technical education, 2003 according to which no foreign university/institution shall

establish/operate its educational activity in India leading to award of diplomas/degrees including post graduate and doctoral without the expressed permission/approval of the Council.

[English]

Rest Areas on National Highway System

2388. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received to arrange and build rest areas all over the national highway system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government has no plans to build such areas on the national highway system;

(d) whether the Government propose to accept initiatives from NGOs in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the details of steps proposed to find ways to incorporate fresh ideas from NGOs and others to enhance road safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In 1986-87, Government initiated a policy to facilitate provision of rest areas along national highways. Under the policy, twenty one rest areas have been made operational as per statement enclosed. Acquisition of land for six sites in Karnataka has been completed.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Government policy for facilitating rest areas was amended in 1998 and the Government now acquires land and thereafter it can be leased to private entrepreneurs including NGOs through a transparent bidding process for development of rest areas.

(f) Fresh ideas including mass awareness among the citizens towards safety norms received from NGOs and others for enhancing road safety are being incorporated appropriately in the road safety programmes.

Statement

	Name of State	Number of rest areas
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2
2.	Assam	1
3.	Goa	1
4.	Haryana	1
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	1
6.	Kerala	1
7.	Madhya Pradesh	1
8.	Maharashtra	2
9.	Orissa	1
10.	Punjab	1
11.	Rajasthan	3
12.	Tamil Nadu	1
13.	Uttar Pradesh	3
14.	West Bengal	2
	Total	21

Rehabilitation Scheme

2389. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared any rehabilitation scheme for girls involved in flesh trade; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KOUR MEENA): (a) and (b) The Department has no specific scheme for the rehabilitation of girls involved in the flesh trade. However, the Department has a scheme called Swadhar meant for women in difficult circumstances. One of the target groups under this scheme are "trafficked" women/girls rescued or who have run away from brothels. This scheme gives shelter to victims of sexual crimes who have been disowned by their families or who do not want to go back for various reasons.

In the year 2002-03, eight projects for victims of trafficking were sanctioned in the States of (a) Delhi, (b) Haryana, (c) Rajasthan, (d) Andhra Pradesh, (e) Maharashtra, (f) Karnataka and (g) Tamil Nadu under Swadhar. The Department has also sanctioned Nine Pilot Projects in the year 2002-03 to combat trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of women and children in the source and destination areas of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

Poverty of Women in Unorganised Sector

2390. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ratio of women poverty is increasing day by day;

(b) whether the Government proposes to formulate a comprehensive action plan to remove the poverty of the women working in unorganised sector;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) The estimates of poverty are not made at gender disaggregated level by the Planning Commission, which is the nodal agency in the Government in charge of poverty estimation.

(b) The following schemes are being implemented by the Government of India to address issues relating to poverty alleviation among workers in the unorganized sector including that of women in the country, namely:

A. Ministry of Urban Development & Poverty Alleviation

- (1) Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY);
- (2) The Urban Self Employment Programme (USEP);
- (3) The Urban Wage Employment Programme (UWEP);

B. Ministry of Rural Development

- (4) Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY);
- (5) Sampooma Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY);
- (6) Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY);

C. Department of Women & Child Development

- (7) Swawlamban (NORAD);
- (8) Support to Training & Employment Programme (STEP).

A comprehensive legislation for workers in the unorganized sectors is under consideration of the Government in the Ministry of Labour for regulating their terms of employment, conditions of service and social security measures. The women workers will also be eligible.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 8301/2003]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research, Goa, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research, Goa, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8302/2003]

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956—

- (1) Review by the Government of the working of the Balmer Lawrie Investments Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.
- (2) Annual Report of the Balmer Lawrie Investments Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8303/2003]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Ennore Port Limited, Chennai, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Ennore Port Limited, Chennai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8304/2003]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Ship Design and Research Centre, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Ship Design and Research Centre, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8305/2003]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8306/2003]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tuticorin Port Trust, Tuticorin, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tuticorin Port Trust, Tuticorin, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8307/2003]

- (5) A copy each of the following Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 103 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:

- (a) (i) Annual Accounts of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8308/2003]

- (b) (i) Annual Accounts of the Paradip Port Trust, Paradip, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Paradip Port Trust, Paradip, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8309/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of

Management, Indore, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management, Indore, for the year 2001-2002.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8310/2003]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New, Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New, Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8311/2003]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8312/2003]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, for the year 2002-2003.

- (8) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned (8) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8313/2003]

- (10) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Tezpur University, Tezpur, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8314/2003]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for the year 2001-2002.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, for the year 2001-2002.

- (13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8315/2003]

- (14) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Tibetan Schools Administration, Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (15) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (14) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8316/2003]

(16) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003.

(17) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8317/2003]

(18) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Industrial Engineering, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Industrial Engineering, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Industrial Engineering, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8318/2003]

(19) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8319/2003]

(20) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the

working of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8320/2003]

(21) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8321/2003]

(22) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8322/2003]

(23) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 23 of the Indian Institute of Technology Act, 1961:-

(i) Annual Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

(ii) Review the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, for the year 2001-2002.

(24) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at items No. (20 and 23) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8323/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for

the year 1999-2000, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
- (3) (i) A copy of the annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Council for Research in Homoeopathy, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.
- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8324/2003]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working

of the All India Institute of Speech and Hearing, Mysore, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8325/2003]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pasteur Institute of India, Coonoor, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8326/2003]
- (9) A copy each of the following Annual Reports for the year 2002-2003 (Hindi and English versions) alongwith with Audited Accounts in respect of the following Centres:
- (i) Population Research Centre, Bangalore.
- (ii) Population Research Centre, Baroda.
- (iii) Population Research Centre, Bhubaneswar.
- (iv) Population Research Centre, Punjab University, Chandigarh.
- (v) Population Research Centre, Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development, Chandigarh.
- (vi) Population Research Centre, Dharwad.
- (vii) Population Research Centre, Delhi.
- (viii) Population Research Centre, Delhi.
- (ix) Population Research Centre, Guwahati.
- (x) Population Research Centre, Lucknow.
- (xi) Population Research Centre, Patna.
- (xii) Population Research Centre, Pune.
- (xiii) Population Research Centre, Sagar.
- (xiv) Population Research Centre, Shimla.
- (xv) Population Research Centre, Hazarbal (Srinagar)
- (xvi) Population Research Centre, Thiruvananthapuram.
- (xviii) Population Research Centre, Udaipur.
- (xviii) Population Research Centre, Visakhapatnam.

- (10) A copy each of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the above Centres for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8327/2003]

- (11) A copy of the Homoeopathy (Degree Course) Amendment Regulations, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. 12-13/87-CCH (Pt. II) in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2003 under sub-section (2) of section 33 of the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8328/2003]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Cancer Centre (Indira Gandhi Medical College), Shimla, for the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Regional Cancer Centre (Indira Gandhi Medical College), Shimla, for the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002.

- (13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8329/2003]

- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College, Raipur, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Medical College, Raipur for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8330/2003]

- (15) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2001-2002.

- (16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8331/2003]

- (17) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8332/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA"): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Research Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Research Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8333/2003]

- (b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Vaccines Corporation Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Vaccines Corporation Limited, Gurgaon, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8334/2003]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Academy of Science, India, Allahabad, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Academy of Science, India, Allahabad, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8335/2003]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Cell Science, Pune, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Cell Science, Pune, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8336/2003]
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Brain Research Centre, Manesar, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Brain Research Centre, Manesar, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8337/2003]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8338/2003]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) by the National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Immunology, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8339/2003]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development, Imphal, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development, Imphal, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8340/2003]
- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Consultancy Development Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Consultancy Development Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8341/2003]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Central Plant Genome Research, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Central Plant Genome Research, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8342/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:

- (i) S.O. 910 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th August, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8343/2003]

- (ii) S.O. 914 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th August, 2003 regarding authorisation of the Sub-divisional officer (Sadar), Silchar, District Cachar, Assam to perform the functions of competent authority for acquisition of land (Daboka to Haflong to Silchar Section) of National Highway No. 54.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8344/2003]

- (iii) S.O. 915 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th August, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for development of Sankeshwar Bypass of National Highway No. 4 in the State of Maharashtra.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8345/2003]

- (iv) S.O. 918 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 6 (Dankuni to Kolahat Section) in Howrah district, in the State of West Bengal.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8346/2003]

- (v) S.O. 919 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Visakhapatnam-Bhubneshwar Section) in the State of Orissa.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8347/2003]

- (vi) S.O. 923 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 2003 regarding authorisation of the Special Land Acquisition Officer, Government of Uttar Pradesh, Gorakhpur as the Competent Authority to perform the functions to require land on

National Highway No. 28 (Lucknow-Gorakhpur Section) for construction of Gorakhpur Bypass including Rapti Bridge in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8348/2003]

- (vii) S.O. 924 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 2003 regarding authorisation of the District Revenue Officer, Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu to perform the functions of Competent Authority to acquire land (Madurai-Kanyakumari Section) and widening of National Highway No. 7 including construction of by-passes in the State of Tamil Nadu.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8349/2003]

- (viii) S.O. 925 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8350/2003]

- (ix) S.O. 1065 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th September, 2003 making certain amendments in three Notifications mentioned therein.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8351/2003]

- (x) S.O. 1070 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highway No. 4 (Nelamangla-Tumkur Section) in the State of Karnataka.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8352/2003]

- (xi) S.O. 1071 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highway No. 79A (Kishangarh-Nasirabad) and National Highway No. 79 (Nasirabad-Baral) in the State of Rajasthan.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8353/2003]

- (xii) S.O. 1078 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th September, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National

Highway No. 5 (Madras-Vijayawada Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8354/2003]

- (xiii) S.O. 1079 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th September, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highway No. 5 (Chennai-Vijayawada Section) in Prakasam District in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8355/2003]

- (xiv) S.O. 1080 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th September, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four-laning of National Highway No. 5 (Madras-Vijayawada Section) in Thiruvallur District in the State of Tamil Nadu.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8356/2003]

- (xv) S.O. 1081 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th September, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Madras-Vijayawada Section) in Thiruvallur District in the State of Tamil Nadu.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8357/2003]

- (xvi) S.O. 1082 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th September, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 5 (Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam Section) in East Godavari District in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8358/2003]

- (xvii) S.O. 1903 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd September, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8359/2003]

- (xviii) S.O. 1084 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd September, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (i to viii) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8360/2003]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 50 of Control of National Highways Land and Traffic Act, 2002:

- (i) The National Highways Tribunal (Procedure for appointment as Presiding Officer of the Tribunal) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 883 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th November, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8361/2003]

- (ii) The National Highways Tribunal (Procedure for investigation of misbehavior or incapacity of Presiding Officer) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 884 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th November, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8362/2003]

- (iii) The National Highways Tribunal (Procedure) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 885(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th November, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8363/2003]

- (4) A copy of the Central Motor Vehicles (Third Amendment) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 927 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th December, 2003 under sub-section (4) of section 212 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, together with an Explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8364/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:
- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Rare Earths Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Rare Earths Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8365/2003]
- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited, Jharkhand, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited, Jharkhand, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comment of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8366/2003]
- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8367/2003]
- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Antrix Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Antrix Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8368/2003]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8369/2003]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8370/2003]
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8371/2003]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Harish Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Harish Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8372/2003]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 8373/2003]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8374/2003]

(8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National MST Radar Facility, Gandanki, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National MST Radar Facility, Gandanki, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8375/2003]

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8376/2003]

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Space Applications Centre, Shillong, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Space Applications Centre, Shillong, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8377/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8378/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 33 of the National Council for Teacher Education Act, 1993:

(i) The National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 801 (E) in the Gazette of India dated 9th October, 2003.

(ii) The NCTE (From of application for recognition, the time limit of submission of application, determination of norms and standards for recognition of teacher education programmes and permission to start new course or training) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. F. 48-6/2003-NCTE (N&S) in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2003.

(iii) The National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 747 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th September, 2003.

(iv) The NCTE (From of application for recognition, the time limit of submission of application, determination of norms and standards for recognition of teacher education programmes and permission to start new course or training) (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. F. 48-6/2003-NCTE (N&S) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd June, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8379/2003]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the District Primary Education Programme-III (Uttaranchal Sabhi Ke Liye Shiksha Parishad) Dehradun for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the District Primary Education Programme-III (Uttaranchal Sabhi Ke Liye Shiksha Parishad) Deharadun) for the year 2001-2002.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8380/2003]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Primary Education Development Society of Kerala, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Primary Education Development Society of Kerala, for the year 2001-2002.

(5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8381/2003]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jharkhand Educational Project Council, Ranchi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jharkhand Educational Project Council, Ranchi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8382/2003]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Guwahati, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Axom Sarba Siksha Abhijan Mission, Guwahati, for the year 2001-2002.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8383/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): On behalf of Shri Dilip Kumar M. Gandhi, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) Annual Report of the Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi, for the year 2002-2003, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8384/2003]

(2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 905 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th November, 2003 approving the Kandla Port Employees (Festival Advance) Amendment Regulations, 2003, under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8385/2003]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kolkata Port Trust, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kolkata Port Trust, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) on the Audited Accounts of the Kolkata Port Trust, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8386/2003]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chennai Port Trust, Chennai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Chennai Port Trust, Chennai, for the year 2002-2003.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) on the Audited Accounts of the Chennai Port Trust, Chennai, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8387/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the ERNET India, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the ERNET India, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8388/2003]

- (2) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) of the Affairs of CMC Limited for the period from the 1st April, 2001 to 16th October, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 8389/2003]

12.01 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA
AND
BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA—*Laid*

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2003 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 15th December, 2003."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th December, 2003, agreed without any amendment to the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Repeal Bill, 2003, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th December, 2003."
- (iii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of Rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th December, 2003 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (iv) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th December, 2003, agreed without any amendment to the Representation of the People (Second Amendment) Bill, 2003 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th December, 2003."
- (v) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th December, 2003, agreed without any amendment to the Delimitation (Amendment) Bill, 2003, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 9th December, 2003."

Sir, I lay on the Table the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2003, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 15th December, 2003.

12.02-¹/₄ hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

Thirty-Eighth Report

[English]

SHRI DENZIL B. ATKINSON (Nominated): Sir, I beg to present the Thirty-eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.02-¹/₂ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Action Taken Statements

[English]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table (Hindi and English versions) Statement showing further follow up action taken on the recommendations contained in Chapter I of the following Reports:

- (1) Twelfth Report (13th Lok Sabha) on "Premature procurement of equipment and delay in construction";
- (2) Forty-Fourth Report (13th Lok Sabha) on "Procurement of 2 Giga Hertz Digital Microwave System";
- (3) Forty-Seventh Report (13th Lok Sabha) on "Design and Development of Pilotless target Aircraft; and
- (4) Fiftieth Report (13th Lok Sabha) on "Development of Tourism Infrastructure".

12.03-³/₄ hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED
CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES**

Reports of Study Tours

[English]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhanduka): Sir, I beg to lay on the table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following:

- (1) Report of the Study Tour of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on their visit to Bangalore, Thiruvananthapuram, Cochin and Mumbai during June, 2002.
- (2) Report of the Study Tour of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on their visit to Kolkata, Port Blair, Chennai, Mumbai, Ahmadabad during August-September, 2002.

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Forty-Fifth Report

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Sir, I beg to present the Forty-Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on 'Drought Situation in the Country' relating to Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation).

12.03-¹/₄ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Action Taken Statements

[English]

SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM (Thanjavur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following Statements of the Standing Committee on Agriculture:

- (1) Statement showing further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 37th Action Taken Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2002) on the recommendations contained in the 32nd Report (13th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2002-2003)' of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying); and
- (2) Statement showing further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained

in the 38th Action Taken Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2002) on the recommendations contained in the 33rd Report (13th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2002-2003)' of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

12.03-1/2 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Twelfth Report

[English]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (Jadavpur): Sir, I beg to present the Twelfth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on External Affairs on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 11th Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2003-2004.

12.03-3/4 hrs.

JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON THE FUNCTIONING OF WAKF BOARDS

Ninth and Tenth Reports

[English]

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following Reports of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the functioning of Wakf Boards:

- (1) Ninth Report on the Implementation of Wakf Act, 1995 in Manipur; and
- (2) Tenth Report on the Implementation of Wakf Act, 1995 in Tripura.

12.04 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Need for a financial package to Bihar for developmental works in the State

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up item No. 22— Calling Attention regarding need for a financial package to Bihar for developmental works in the state, the Prime Minister to make a statement in response to the clarificatory questions asked by the Members on 12th December, 2003. Hon. Prime Minister.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Prime Minister towards the main issue. If the Hon'ble Prime Minister could have done justice to the 8 crore poor people of Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)* 100 districts from all over the country have been selected under it but none of the district of Bihar figures there. Government of India have not provided even a single penny for power generation which is an important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. The hon. Prime Minister is on his legs. He will make a statement.

[Translation]

He has considerably a detailed statement to make.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was apprised of the concern expressed by hon. Members regarding developmental problems of Bihar and here I would like to assure that this issue has always been drawing my attention as to what effective steps are to be taken to solve the problems of poverty and backwardness of some areas including Bihar and we have started *Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojna* in the Tenth Five Year Plan which includes a special economic package for Bihar. Under this scheme, all those projects of the important areas have been identified which requires attention and full central assistance will be provided for their implementation.

As you are aware that as per Gadgil-Mukherjee formula central assistance is continuously being provided to finance the State plans under which population and per capita income are given 58% weightage to provide assistance to states like Bihar. Besides for funding state plans, additional central assistance is also provided for many selected programmes and special projects. Actually, out of Rs. 3320 crore plan outlay for Bihar, for the current year, 83 percent has been funded as central assistance.

Now, I would like to state in detail, the efforts made by the central government for the development of those important areas of Bihar to which the hon. Members have drawn the attention of the House.

ROADS:

Out of 3408 Km. National Highways in Bihar, stretch of 723 Km. has been included under National Highways Development Project to convert it into 4 lane roads. This includes 206 Km. long road of National Highway No. 2 and 517 Km. long road of East-West Corridor under Golden Quadrilateral Project. Rest of the roads are being developed by the State Government and other agencies. Under the Rastriya Sam Vikas Yojna, a special project is being funded to upgrade and strengthen state highways. Major district roads/other district roads will be improved by using the funds of rural based Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna of NABARD. An amount of Rs. 150 crore is being allocated to Bihar every year for the development of rural roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna. Unfortunately, no funds could be released during the year 2002-2003 due to slow expenditure rate of the State Government.

ELECTRICITY:

At present, most of the power requirements of Bihar are being met with the Central Utility Services. Besides, National Thermal Power Corporation is planning to start three mega projects of total 4480 MW capacity with the estimated cost of Rs. 18,700 crore during the Tenth/Eleventh plan-periods. Apart from this, additional power from Hydel project at North-East will be available for this area. There is no problem of availability of Power, but the problem lies with the capacity of Bihar to utilize more quantity of power. That's why, under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojna a project to strengthen the Sub-Transmission System of the state is being started with the cost of Rs. 3.65 crore. Besides, under Accelerated Power Development and Reform Programme plans to reform the basic structure of distribution system with a cost of

Rs. 765 crore have been finalised which will be completed within two years. With this investment, State of Bihar can improve its economy by more consumption of power. Some of the Members have mentioned about low Plant Load Factor on the power centres operated by State. NTPC is ready to take over Muzaffarpur Power Station, to invest on its modernisation and to improve its Plant Load Factor provided the state Government is ready for it.

IRRIGATION AND FLOOD:

Though, irrigation and flood control are state subjects, yet the central government is aware of this problem and is helping the state government through various projects. Observing the problems of flood situation of Northern Bihar due to rivers like Kamala, Baghmata and Kosi originating from Nepal. Government of India has already signed an agreement with Nepal to start testing to construct reservoirs on Sapta Kosi and Sun Kosi rivers and to prepare a project report. Consultations are in progress to start same type of projects on the remaining two rivers also. Central Government has approved four projects also to maintain embankments on Kosi and Gandak rivers in flood-prone areas, to make them impregnable against flood, to expand embankments in Nepal area and to check soil erosion. State Government should benefit from these projects and it should fully utilize the funds available for the purpose.

Under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme, the Central Government has already approved seven projects to create the additional irrigation capacity for approximately three lakh hectares of land. But during the last two years, the withdrawal of funds by the State Government has been substantially less in comparison to the prescribed limit. The State Government should fully utilize the allocated funds to complete the ongoing projects.

The Central Government has also agreed to finance fully the revival project of eastern Gandak canal system amounting to Rs. 294 crore under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana. This project will restore the irrigation capacity of around 3.5 lakh hectare of land that would get destroyed due to siltation of canal system and this dilapidated condition.

A programme under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana in being introduced to install ten lakh shallow tubewells for irrigating two million hectare of land. I have been told that one lakh tubewells would be installed by the end of

[Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee]

this year. I believe that lakhs of farmers in Bihar will be benefited by this programme and their income will increase. Special projects are being taken up for the development of mango, litchi, makhana crops and spice farming in four districts of Bihar to improve their horticulture economy.

Railways

Thirteen projects of construction of new rail lines,

ten projects of gauge conversion, fifteen projects of laying double rail lines and two projects of electrification have been started in Bihar.

RASHTRIYA SAM VIKAS YOJANA:

Under this programme, during the 10th plan, following projects costing Rs. 2531.35 crore have been selected for implementation—

Name of the project	Amount (Rs. in crores)
1. Ten lakh shallow Tubewells programme (subsidy content)	578.28
2. Strengthening of Sub-transmission system in Bihar	365.00
3. Development of State Highways in Bihar	846.29
4. Revival of eastern Gandak canal	294.00
5. Development of Horticulture (subsidy content)	36.78
6. Integrated forest management	351.00
7. Integrated reservoir development	60.00
Total	2531.35

I would like to assure you that as per the commitment of the Planning Commission, the implementation of these projects, that have been selected after a detailed discussion, will be given top priority and there will be no shortage of funds for these projects. During the 10th plan, a Central assistance at the rate of Rs. 1000 crore annually will be granted provided it is actually utilized. Central agencies will be involved in the timely implementation of the projects.

Under the initiative for backward district, eight extremism affected districts of Bihar have been included. Each of these districts will get a grant at the rate of Rs. 15 crore annually. My attention has been drawn towards separating Bihar and Orissa from the general content of this initiative. I would like to assure you that eligible district of these two states will also be included under this programme.

Thus, multi-dimensional efforts are being made to solve the problems related to the development of Bihar. However, the hon. Member will agree with me that conducive environment, effective administration and early decision by all concerned are needed for successful implementation of the project. The State Government is required to streamline its system to complete the projects

in time so that funds allocated to the state under various schemes are utilized and its desired benefits can reach to the state and ultimately to the beneficiaries. With joint efforts of the state and the Central Government I hope that the initiative taken through special scheme under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana will help in accelerating the process of development in the state.

12.16 hrs.

MOTION RE: FIFTY-EIGHTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up item No. 23. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move the following motion:

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-eight Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 16th December, 2003."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-eight Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 16th December, 2003."

The motion was adopted.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It is not discussed. You are aware of the rule that no discussion takes place on the statement of the Prime Minister. Discussion can also not take place on the reply to a calling attention notice.

12.17 hrs.

(At this stage, Shrimati Kanti Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

MR. SPEAKER: As you know the rule of the House does not allow it. If you want to have a discussion then you can do this through some other way. This is not the proper way that you come into the well. Please take your seats. This is not the way. I would request you to take your seats. You cannot stand here otherwise I would not be able to run the business. This is not proper.

Prabhunath Singh ji, what is your privilege notice?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take you seats. I shall run the proceedings as per fixed programme. I will not allow you to ask any question from this place. If you do want to ask a question please take your seat. By standing here no purpose will be served. I have received notice given by Shri Yerennaidu and his name is written here. Please take you seats.

12.19 hrs.

(At this stage, Shrimati Kanti Singh and some other hon. Members went back to their seats)

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the question on procedure on this subject.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have not started taking up the 'Zero Hour'. When I take up the 'Zero Hour', I will give you an opportunity to speak. Please take your seats now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have been kind enough to grant permission to speak on calling attention motion regarding the development of Bihar. The population of Bihar is 8 crore and 42 lakh. Out of which 42 percent people live below the poverty line. Bihar is being ruined every year by natural calamity, flood, drought, water logging and soil erosion. In addition to this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your question is not related to procedure. What is the question relating to procedure. This is not a procedural question, therefore, I will not allow you.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): What is this, he is speaking out of context. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: There is no question of procedure. Whatever I am doing is procedurally correct. This is the way how the business of the House would conduct. Prabhunath Singhji, please ask your question.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri Prabhunath Singh's privilege notice.

...(Interruptions)...*

MR. SPEAKER: After Shri Prabhuanth Singh, I will give you a chance.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I request you, please take your seat. I would like to say to all hon. Members of this House that the question of Bihar is of importance, therefore, I have given permission for discussion on calling attention notice. The time allotted for discussion of calling attention notice is half an hour even then I have given permission to speak for one and a half hour or even two hours on the subject. Thereafter, I myself requested the Prime Minister to make a statement in the House on the subject as the matter is of great importance. It is possible that every statement given by a Minister may not be acceptable to every Member. For this, there is a way you can raise such questions in a different way.

I am ready to permit you to raise the question again. But, the other business in the House is also important. All of you are like brothers and you know that other Members also have to raise their questions, so please cooperate. If all of you want to raise your question about Bihar again, then, I shall permit it and at that time you can ask questions of your choice from the Minister.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The real question has not been asked.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall permit if you raise that question again. At present, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Many hon. Members have to raise issues during Zero Hour, so all of you should cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath Singh ji, you have given a Privilege Notice, so please speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not permitted you to speak. Your speech is not going on record. Prabhunath Singh ji, I want to take on record the privilege notice given by you. Please speak.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request that a special discussion should be taken up on Bihar. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We shall decide it in B.A.C.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Rules 222 and 223, the opposition. ...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): What is this? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice is under my consideration.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: He has given a privilege notice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not taken the decision so far.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall take decision offer hearing the privilege notice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has given the privilege notice, so I have to read it. I have to hear the notice otherwise I shall not allow.

12.25 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Avtar Singh Bhadana and some other hon. Members cam and stood on the floor near the Table)

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, this is not correct. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this cannot be allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me hear his notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I shall disallow if it is not so.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not given any discussion on this issue. Let me take a decision.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats. I have called Prabhunath ji.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

12.26 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav came and stood on the floor near the Table)

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have told the hon. Member that the notice about it is under my consideration.

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Television camera may be switched off.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Members have to raise many issues during zero hour. I appeal all of you to go to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No. slogan will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House is adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

12.29 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at three minutes past
Fourteen of the Clock.*

[Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention in regard to infringement of a particular rule and the established tradition of the House. I would like to only quote what I conveyed to the custodian of the House, the hon. Speaker, I quote from page 296 of *Practice and Procedure of Parliament* written by M.N. Kaul and S.L. Shakhder an observation on Rule 222. It says:

"When a member seeks to raise a question of privilege against another member, the Speaker, before giving his consent to the raising of the matter in the House, always gives an opportunity to the member complained against to place before the Speaker or the House such facts as may be pertinent to the matter."

*Not recorded.

Sir, in regard to the matter, which had been raised just before the adjournment of the House, against three distinguished sitting Members of the House—Shri Somnath Chatterjee of CPI (M), Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh of RJD and the distinguished Leader of the Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi—I desire that in the best tradition of the House, the contribution in this regard, which was irrelevant, should be expunged.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister had given a statement before lunch break about Bihar package in the presence of the Speaker. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is another matter.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am telling about Privilege Motion itself. ...*(Interruptions)*

I wanted some clarifications from the hon. Speaker about the statement of the hon. Minister. Prabhunath Singh ji stood up just when I had started my speech and the hon. Speaker thought that they would ask questions about Bihar. He assured me to give an opportunity to speak afterwards and asked me to take my seat. It seemed that the question will be raised regarding package but he stood up in between and started talking about breach of privilege in a hurry. For that, prior permission of the Speaker is required. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he was given an opportunity to ask question about package but he talked about breach of privilege ...*(Interruptions)* That includes my name also. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has already raised the matter. Now, let me give the ruling.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, whatever we heard in the motion of privilege as told by Dasmunshiji that all those who are the Members of the House, they, as a matter of courtesy, also have a tradition. We are present in the House against someone and we even do not know anything and motion of privilege was read out. That includes my name also.

Sir, I submit to you that I shall speak against coffin scandal inside and out side the House. If any Member wants to give notice of privilege in this regard, then he should not be allowed to withdraw it and it should be referred to the committee on privileges but those who are thieves, they will be called thieves only. 'Kaffan Chor and coffin scandal ...*(Interruptions)*. It will continue and this country is not going to forgive thieves ...*(Interruptions)*. Whoever are thieves in this Council of Ministers. We will continue to expose them within and outside this House by launching movements. Now it is the privilege of the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I would like to say that they should not be allowed to withdraw it. We will face it but those Ministers who are thieves, they will be called thieves. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, please....

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Member Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has raised a point of Order, and has also placed his contention under Kaul and Shakhder Practice.

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI (Amreli): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, It is not proper to call a Minister as a thief. This word should be expunged from the proceedings. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Whatever is an improper word will be expunged from the proceedings.

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...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, nothing will go on record except.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please, let me give the ruling for his contention.

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is happening here?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Raghuvanshji, this is not the time for a debate.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I will speak truth inside and outside the House, I will not conceal the truth and I will not even allow to get it suppressed. ...*(Interruptions)* A kind of loot is going on. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Page 296

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please hear me. Let me...

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Regarding this issue, I was also there in the House at that time. The hon. Speaker gave him the floor. You have come to know all that he has stated here. You all also know what happened after that. I had a word with the hon. Speaker. Now, whatever he has raised is correct and, therefore, whatever has gone on record will not remain on record.

Now, let us take the next item of business.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It means that people of Bihar suffered. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Not in that regard.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: What happened to that ...*(Interruptions)*. I stood up to speak on that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: This is regarding privilege notice.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Injustice has been done to the people of Bihar by the Central Government. ...*(Interruptions)* Cheating and fraud is going on ...*(Interruptions)*. What happened to that this was my question which was subtagged ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Matters under Rule 377.

14.10 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (I) **Need to evolve a policy of time-bound environmental clearances for hydro-electric power generation projects in the hilly areas of the country**

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandl): Sir, it is true that the present Government has given top priority to power generation keeping in view of the need of the country and the hon'ble Prime Minister has taken an initiative for generation of 50,000 Mega Watt of power. Most of the 162 hydro electric projects are related to hilly areas. The soil conservation Act, 1980 is the biggest hurdle in the construction of these projects. It has been observed that the Ministry of Environment and Forests takes a number of years in giving clearance to these projects.

I urge upon the Government to fix a time limit for environmental clearance and formulate a policy so that Environmental clearance and approval of the project can be obtained simultaneously and these projects can be accomplished timely.

- (II) **Need to release funds from Central Road Fund for construction of roads in Bharuch Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat**

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA (Bharuch): Sir, there are several roads in my Parliamentary Constituency Bharuch and Narmada which have economic importance and the development of these districts depends on these roads. The State Transport Corporation and other vehicles face a lot of difficulties in movement. Netan, Didiya Para, Sagwara wall Road, second, Jammusar Tankari, Devyala road and third, Ilavu Kharj road and other roads are in a very bad condition. The clearance has already been given to undertake work on these roads but the Central

Government has not yet released funds to start work on these projects. The proposal for these roads by the State Governments was sent long back. Due to bad construction of these roads and due to uneven course, the development of these districts is adversely affected. Similarly, tribal and other roads having economic importance, in Gujarat are not being constructed, resulting in negative affect on the development of Gujarat.

I request the Government to immediately release funds for starting work in my parliamentary constituency for the construction of roads already cleared by the Central Road Fund.

(iii) Need to improve the functioning of telephones in Banaskantha Parliamentary Constituency, Gujarat

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (Banaskantha): Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the bad condition of telecommunication in my Parliamentary Constituency Banaskantha. In this Parliamentary Constituency, the waiting list for telephones is existing for the last eleven years i.e. since 1994 and the existing telephone exchanges are also out of order. In this regard, whenever, people enquire about them, BSNL gives the excuse of shortage of staff and power. Due to all this, the target fixed by the Government has not been achieved. In this connection, I have so many times drawn the attention of the House, but there is no progress. This is not proper from the point of view of public interest and democracy. The opinions and suggestions of public representatives should be looked into seriously. In this constituency WLL has a significant scope but no work is being done in this direction also. This work should be accelerated and mobile telephone facilities may be made available at the earliest as it is very much in demand here.

Through the House, I request the Union Government to review the works regarding telephone services in my Parliamentary Constituency and actual benefit of telecommunication may be made available to the people by rectifying the shortcomings found in it.

(iv) Need to release a lumpsum amount for early completion of gauge conversion work between Narkatia Ganj and Darbhanga in North Bihar

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the gauge conversion work of narrow gauge rail line between Narkatia Ganj, and Darbhanga in North Bihar. With this rail service, a

direct rail line can be started from the various parts of North Bihar to other parts of the country. This work is very important, but it is continuing for the last three years. Only earth work has been done which is incomplete too. In view of the importance of this work, it is very necessary to complete it immediately. This will help Railways to increase its revenue. For immediate completion of this work a lumpsum amount should be granted so that it is completed in the next financial year 2004-05.

I request through the House that this work should be got completed in the next financial year 2004-05 positively by releasing a lumpsum amount on priority basis.

(v) Need for a Special Package to check increasing pollution in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I have drawn the attention of the House to the problem of pollution in Kanpur many times earlier also. Central Pollution Control Board has declared Kanpur as the most polluted city in the world. It is a matter of shame for us. The world's most polluted city is situated in our country but, as far as I have information, no significant steps have been taken by the Government even after such a report has come out and consequently the situation of Kanpur is worsening. Sewerage water continue to flow on the roads due to faulty sewerage system and garbage heaps can be seen in all the colonies of the city. Almost all the parks of the city have been reduced to garbage heaps due to non-functional sanitation system. These colonies also are facing severe pollution situation due to lack of any well planned scheme for carving out new colonies. Almost half of the city faces the problem of water logging during rains.

For this, it is necessary that the Government should allot a special package in order to check the pollution in Kanpur so that its roads, sewerage system, drainage system are made more efficient, prevalent filth is removed and parks and trees are maintained.

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilaur) Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Mayor of the Kanpur belongs to his party. This responsibility should be fulfilled by the hon'ble Member. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: ~~Nothing~~ will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Right now Rule 377 is going on.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Are you turning it to Zero Hour? There was no Zero Hour today, therefore, are you taking it as a Zero Hour now?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You should talk about Rule 377 and not Kanpur.

(vi) Need to Introduce Mobile Telephone Services in Yavatmal District, Maharashtra

SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL (Yavatmal): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the demand for introducing a mobile service in Aarni, Ghatanji, Ner, Babhulgaon Nabuka under Yavatmal district has been made repeatedly. A written assurance had been given by the Walwick Maharashtra Telecom to introduce mobile service on Nagpur-Highway in Aarni Tehsil by March end. That service has also been not started as yet.

I request the hon'ble Minister to give special attention in this regard.

(vii) Need to Allot Land on Lease to Andhra Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation to Undertake Export and Import of Foodgrains.

[English]

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Sir, Andhra Pradesh State Warehousing Corporation (APSWC) is the sole storage organisation in Andhra Pradesh with an equity participation of 50:50 by the State Government and the Central Warehousing Corporation. The Government of Andhra Pradesh wants to take up activities aligned to the Vision-2020 to make the State a top logistic hub in the country for storage. Andhra Pradesh is one of the major rice-producing States and has the distinction of having two major ports namely, Visakhapatnam and Kakinada, ideally suited for bulk handling of foodgrains and other items for import and export purposes.

The APSWC has taken initiatives for identifying the land for the purpose of construction of godowns on the coast of Visakhapatnam in the port area. I request the Union Government to accord the required clearance to

the Chairman, Vizag Port Trust to allot the identified land on lease, or on nomination basis, immediately to take up warehousing for export and import of foodgrains.

(viii) Need to formulate a comprehensive legislation for granting recognition to trade unions in the country

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Sir, there are many trade unions which are functioning for the welfare of the workers in various organisations. Various State Governments follow the system of recognition of trade unions differently and at some places, minority trade union is given the recognition by private industries, especially in Tamil Nadu. Though Evaluation and Implementation Committee is there to give their recommendations about which majority union is to be recognised, their recommendations are not binding on the employers and the employees choose their own proxy, minority union as the recognised union. This, many times, leads to industrial unrest and loss of production and man-days. It also creates law and order problems at times.

There is an urgent need to review the situation and bring legislation recognising the trade unions and to formulate guidelines to conduct secret ballot for purpose of granting recognition to trade unions. Hence, I urge upon the hon. Labour Minister to bring forward appropriate legislation for recognition of trade unions.

(ix) Need to safeguard the interests of local people while implementing Sethu Samudram Ship Canal Project in Tamil Nadu

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram): Sir, the Sethu Samudram Ship Canal Project is an age-old project initiated several decades back but did not materialise all these years. But luckily it is taking shape. Thanks to the Commitment and pursuit now shown. It is now learnt that the feasibility and viability report has been almost ready and is in the process of finalisation. While so, it is rumoured that the proposed feasibility report has grossly bypassed the interest and aspirations of the local area of the project under some pretext or the other by taking the course (route) of the canal for beyond the land area neglecting and ignoring the formation of a fishing harbour/port in the Rameswaram Coastal Belt. If it is so, it would be a gross injustice to the area, and it would be just and fair to have a re-look of this aspect, in general, and the project area (Rameswaram neighbourhood) in particular.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister for Shipping and the hon. Prime Minister of India to personally

intervene and arrange for safeguarding the interest and promotion of the local area first and foremost.

(x) Need to revise Minimum Support Price for paddy and to waive the interest on loans raised by paddy growing farmers

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur): Sir, the Union Government has been revising the Minimum Support Price of various agricultural produce from time to time to give relief to the farmers but in the case of paddy growing farmers, the Government has not given any support or relief to them by revising the Minimum support Price of paddy adequately. As a result, they are being exploited by private purchasers of paddy. The price of fertilisers and other inputs is very high and the paddy growing has become most uneconomical to the farmers.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to revise the Minimum Support Price of paddy adequately so as to give relief to paddy growing farmers. The Government should also come to their help by waiving the interest to be paid by these paddy growing farmers on the agricultural loans raised by them from banks.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the House shall take up Supplementary Demands for Grants (General).

Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, before that I would just like to make one submission. The hon. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs is present here. It was agreed in Business Advisory Committee that we shall allot four hours for discussing Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), and we are ready for that. Today's agenda paper says that item no. 34 will be taken up after item nos. 25-27 are disposed of. If we start this debate at 2.30 p.m. and finish this by giving four hours for discussion including voting, then it will be around 6.30 p.m. on 7 p.m. If we take up the discussion on JPC after that, it would be absolutely useless.

I, therefore, submit to you—if the Government agrees—that the discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants may get full justice of four hours or maybe, a little spill over also. The discussion on the JPC may be taken up tomorrow. Otherwise, there is no meaning of this debate. What is the meaning of this debate? We have not come here only to talk, We want to do justice also. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I addressed it to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and not to Shri Kirit Somaiya.

Sir, I conveyed it to the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, through you. This is the practice in the House. It is not for any Member to get up and respond.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North-East): Sir, I am a member of the BAC. Shri Dasmunsi may know that tomorrow we have another discussion on the stamp paper scam.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: That is slated for Friday and not for tomorrow.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: yesterday evening, it was proposed that both the subjects can be taken up today; otherwise, the discussion on the JPC may be postponed also. In any case, the discussion on the stamp paper scam should not be postponed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The discussion that you are mentioning is slated for Friday. That is why, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether we could take up the discussion on the JPC tomorrow.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Government business will be taken up tomorrow. It was decided in BAC that this subject and the discussion on JPC will be concluded today by sitting late in the night.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I agree with the hon. Minister. She is absolutely truthful. The BAC agreed to allot four hours for the Supplementary Demands for Grants, and if necessary even more and that it could go even up to midnight. We agreed to that. That is why I said that the Supplementary Demands for Grants—and not the JPC—was supposed to be taken up yesterday, but we could not take it up. Today it is being taken up. Four hours are allotted for this. If you extend it, it can go up to midnight; we do not mind. But the discussion on the JPC should be fixed for tomorrow. That is what I said. This should be the attitude.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: The Deputy Leader of the Congress Party, Shri Shivraj Patil yesterday evening also said that the Supplementary Demands for Grants could be taken up first and then the discussion on the JPC.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I will appeal to you. In Parliament, we should do justice to all debates; it is not that we have to simply dispose of the agenda items. Many times, we cooperate with the Government to dispose of the agenda items in five minutes. But the present ones are principal debates.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, the discussion on the JPC should be taken up tomorrow. Let full justice be done to the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT (Barabanki): I was very much there and was sitting at the back seat.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I called out your name. How could you not hear me?

[*Translation*]

I also called out your name.

SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT: I had put on headphone, but I could not see. That is why I raised my hand I am sorry for that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right, speak now.

(xi) **Need to include the name of a freedom fighter from Uttar Pradesh 'late Uda Devi' in the list of Freedom Fighters**

SHRI RAMSAGAR RAWAT (Barabanki): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, people belonging to Pasi Community, residing in various parts of India come in the category of scheduled castes. Population of this community is more than one crore alone in Uttar Pradesh. From the time immemorial the Pasi Community has a glorious history for their honesty, Integrity and bravery. Late Uda Devi, born in Pasi Community fought against Britishers till her last breath and in a battle against cruel British army at Lucknow she killed 36 soldiers of British army and sacrificed her life. But the name of the valiant warrior late Uda Devi does not feature in the list of freedom fighters. To honour the late Uda Devi, government should include her name in the list of freedom fighters.

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): I may again request you. Yesterday it was announced that today at 12 o'clock, we will take up the Supplementary Demands for Grants. For whatever reasons, we are starting it only now, that is, at 2.30. p.m. I have another proposal for the Government to consider. I give room to the Government to consider it. We may continue now with the discussion on the Supplementary demands and at 4.00 o'clock we may stop that discussion and start discussion on JPC and finish it also and then again continue with the discussion on the Supplementary Demands. We do not mind sitting late at night. This is the way we would like to accommodate the Government.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has got a suggestion that we may discuss Supplementary Demands up to 4.00 o'clock and then start with the discussion on JPC and after disposal of discussion on JPC we may again continue with the discussion on Supplementary Demands. The hon. Member's proposal is that the House may sit late and finish off all the items on the Agenda. Will that be all right?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Sir, please conclude supplementary demand first then take up JPC it has been decided.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: There is no need to say this, both the debates are very important. All the Members of the House want to listen it. J.P.C can also be taken up today.

[*English*]

Sir, kindly understand my point. The same Finance Minister has to reply to both the debates. We do not want to put the Finance Minister to any inconvenience.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will start with the Supplementary Demands. Meanwhile, the Minister may interact with the Government and the Opposition and get it settled.

14.31 hrs.

**DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY
GRANTS—GENERAL**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and

Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2004, in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof—Demands Nos. 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 15 to 17, 29, to 31, 33, 35, 39, 41, 45, 46, 48, 49, 55, 56, 60, 62, 64, 65, 67, 68, 72, 77, 80, 85, 87 to 92, 98, 99 and 101 to 103."

*Supplementary Demands for Grants—Second Batch (General) for 2003-2004
submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha*

No. & Title of Demand		Amount of Demand for Grant to be submitted to the Vote of the House	
1	2	3	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY			
5.	Atomic Energy	44,60,00,000	1,00,000
6.	Nuclear Power Schemes	—	42,40,00,000
MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS			
8.	Department of Fertilisers	432,60,00,000	—
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY			
12.	Department of Commerce	2,00,000	—
13.	Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion	2,00,000	—
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY			
15.	Department of Telecommunications	2300,01,00,000	—
16.	Department of Information Technology	5,00,00,000	—
MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION			
17.	Department of Consumer Affairs	—	4,50,00,000
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS			
29.	Ministry of Environment and Forests	30,43,00,000	5,01,00,000
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS			
30.	Ministry of External Affairs	—	13,00,00,000
MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS			
31.	Department of Economic Affairs	288,84,00,000	—
33.	Payments to Financial Institutions	1,00,000	—
35.	Transfers to State and Union Territory Governments	6,00,00,000	—

1	2	3	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
39.	Pensions	1,00,000	—
41.	Department of Revenue	—	43,00,00,000
MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES			
45.	Ministry of Food Processing Industries	1,00,000	—
MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE			
46.	Department of Health	1,00,000	—
48.	Department of Family Welfare	1,00,000	—
MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES			
49.	Department of Heavy Industry	—	1,00,000
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS			
55.	Transfers to Union territory Governments	100,28,00,000	—
MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT			
56.	Department of Elementary Education and Literacy	550,00,00,000	—
MINISTRY OF LABOUR			
60.	Ministry of Labour	1,00,000	—
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE			
62.	Law and Justice	34,99,00,000	6,47,00,000
MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES			
64.	Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources	1,00,000	—
DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT			
65.	Department of Ocean Development	1,00,000	—
MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS			
67.	Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions	1,00,000	—
MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS			
68.	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	348,64,00,000	—
THE PRESIDENT, PARLIAMENT, UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION AND THE SECRETARIAT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT			
72.	Lok Sabha	60,00,00,000	—
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT			
77.	Department of Rural Development	1579,75,00,000	—
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY			
80.	Department of Science and Technology	—	6,21,00,000

1	2	3	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT			
85.	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment	2,00,000	—
MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION			
87.	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation	1,00,000	—
MINISTRY OF STEEL			
88.	Ministry Steel	952,10,00,000	—
MINISTRY OF TEXTILES			
89.	Ministry of Textiles	3,00,000	—
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE			
90.	Department of Culture	1,00,000	18,10,00,000
91.	Department of Tourism	7,00,00,000	41,70,00,000
MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS			
92.	Ministry of Tribal Affairs	1,00,000	—
MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION			
98.	Department of Urban Development	—	187,30,00,000
99.	Public Works	—	1,00,000
101.	Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation	50,51,00,000	—
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES			
102.	Ministry of Water Resources	1,00,000	—
MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS			
103.	Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports	2,00,000	—
Grand Total		6790,99,00,000	367,72,00,000

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am deeply grateful to the hon. the Minister of Finance for having circulated in conjunction with the Supplementary Demands of the Government, a mid-year review of the economy. Sir, the Mid-year Review of the economy and other statements made outside the House appear to indicate that in the current year, 2003-04, there has been some recovery. Indeed, a growth rate of seven per cent for this year has been projected and that is all to the good. But might I remind the house

that the annual average rate of growth in the last five years of the NDA Government has been just a sliver over five per cent. Even if the economy grows at seven per cent in 2003-04, the average growth rate for the last six years would be a mere 5.8 per cent, which is way below the average annual growth rate of 6.6 per cent achieved in the first five years after Manmohanomics took off, that is, 1992-97. Indeed, Sir, for three of those years, 1994-97, growth was at over seven per cent per annum, peaking at close to eight per cent in the final year. What

the National Democratic Alliance has done, has been to bring us down a whole two percentage points per year. Even if we achieve seven per cent this year, we would have lost nearly 12 percentage points of growth over the six years.

I ask this House to please note that even in the second half of the eighties—I am talking about the period 1985-90—our average annual rate of growth had already almost reached six per cent. If you look at that period, it was 5.8 per cent, which is the same as we are getting now. Fifteen years ago, indeed the highest rate of growth ever achieved by India was under Shri Rajiv Gandhi, that is 10.8 per cent in 1988-89, the only year ever that the Indian economy has grown in double digit figures.

Please also note that in the previous year to 1988-89, that is 1987-88 we had suffered a drought worse than the drought from which we are recovering in this year, 2003-04.

Sir, in that year of recovery, 1988-89, we grew at close to 11 per cent. This year, the economy will, at best, be growing at seven per cent, all of four percentage points below the last year of recovery. What then is there to celebrate in this year? The fact is that the near six per cent annual average growth rate attained over six years of NDA governance is no more than the rate at which the economy has been growing for the past 20 years since Indiraji's second coming. There is no improvement. They are just stuck where they were. Had the NDA sustained the increase in the growth rate that the Congress had bequeathed its successor governments, India today would be in the big league giving the People's Republic of China a run for its money. But we are floundering because the economy under the National Democratic Alliance has not been performance, it has been public relations.

We read in the papers that the hon. the Minister of Finance is predicting 'explosive growth'. That is the language one would expect from an advertising executive. But a responsible Finance Minister should not be feeding his fantasies. How can so dismal a performance as the NDA's six years in office augur for explosive growth unless, of course, the hon. Minister is expecting that the NDA Government will be demitting office next year?

Sir, we have heard such hype so often that it beggars credibility. I recall the hon. Prime Minister going to the United States of America in October-November, 2001 and proclaiming that India would attain nine per cent growth. Our actual growth in that year was a miserable 4.4 per cent and even that 4.4 per cent fell to 4.3 per cent two years later. Who can believe this kind of hype?

Sir, what causes us, on the Opposition Benches, the most concern is not the poor performance on the GDP front so much as the dreadful performance on the six per cent growth per year. But at the same time employment was rising according to the annual Economic Survey, at an average of 76 lakh jobs per year. The economy was growing at six per cent and employment was growing at 76 lakh jobs per year before the NDA Government took over. The NDA Government took over and in their common agenda blazently proclaimed a slogan '*berozghari hatao*' and the Prime Minister blithely promised a crore of jobs a year, including, of course, self-employment. The Prime Minister has even claimed in this House in the Budget Session in his reply to the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President that the target has been more or less achieved. He said that nearly 84 lakh jobs net had been created in the last year, that is, 2002-03. He is on record here in this House as saying that net job creation in the year 2002-03 was 84 lakh. This was in response to the hon. Leader of the Opposition. Now, the Treasury Benches are, of course, free to chose whatever figures they fancy. But we, the humble Members of the Opposition, are obliged to stick to the neutral truth.

That neutral truth is not of our invention, it is a truth told in the Government's own annual Economic Survey. The latest Economic Survey, for 2002-03 says that the total increase in employment between 1994-2000 averaged around 20 lakhs a year. Now, we asked in the debate on the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Labour, how employment growth at 20 lakhs a year in a period of high growth had suddenly jumped to net increase of 84 lakhs a year, in a year of exceptionally low growth. How is it possible? The poor Labour Minister, of course, was unable to reply. But the hon. the Finance Minister is a wizard with figures. So, would he please explain how a four-fold increase in employment has been secured in 2002-03 as claimed by the hon. Prime Minister with the precipitate drop in that year in GDP growth to a miserable 4.3 per cent? Please explain this conundrum to us. How is it that when growth dips, your employment shoots up and when your growth slightly increases, your employment collapses? I do not understand this conundrum. It is for the hon. Finance Minister to explain to the country through this House.

Sir, moreover, I would like to request the hon. Minister to kindly explain as to how net employment can grow at the fantastic speed claimed by the hon. Prime Minister when the Economic Survey tells us that unemployment

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

has risen. Please note, unemployment has risen, not employment has risen. According to the Economic Survey, 2002-03, unemployment has risen at an average of 65 lakhs a year, even before the poor years of growth we have experienced in recent years. Unemployment has increased. I am particularly surprised at the Prime Minister's figures because the same Economic Survey of this Government also informed us that—NSSO, National Sample Survey Organisation, as reported in the Economic Survey—in the previous NSSO period the notional job loss, that is job loss owing to deceleration in employment is running at 60 lakhs per year in the agricultural sector, ten lakhs per year in the construction sector, six lakhs per year in the manufacturing sector and 1.5 lakhs per year in the mining sector.

Sir, if in every sector of the economy job creation is lower than it was earlier, how can this Government claim that their employment targets are being fulfilled? When notional job loss is running at over one crore jobs a year, then from where are they getting a net addition to employment of one crore a year which the hon. Prime Minister has claimed on the sacred floor of this House? What growth is there is jobless growth. There are now nine lakhs fewer jobs in the organised sector than in the year in which the NDA Government was sworn in. There are about nine lakh fewer jobs in the organised sector.

Sir, unemployment, particularly amongst the young and even more particularly amongst the educated youth, has attained truly alarming proportions. For example, recently, for 20,000 'D' category jobs of *khalasis* in the Railways—it is the lowest possible job in the Railways—does this House know how many valid applications there were? I am not talking about applications. I am talking about valid applications. There were 55 lakh valid applications for 20,000 jobs for *khalasis* in the Railways. This is the measure of unemployment among the youth in this country. That is why I say that it has attained alarming proportions. Our youth do not need learned debates to know that they are unemployed. They know from their bitter personal experience that growth under the NDA has been growth for the rich and the supper rich and the poor have had to make do with empty promises.

I now turn to the poverty ratio. Clearly, an average rate of 5 to 6 per cent growth a year will have some impact on the poverty ratio. But the NDA have thrown all comparisons out of gear by so altering the basis on which poverty is estimated that all comparisons to the past have been rendered impossible. I have brought this up before

the House earlier also. I have asked the Minister of Statistics of those days about it and he had confirmed on the floor of the House that he could not compare the 55th Round, which was the last Round, with any previous Round because they altered the basis. He also said on the floor of the House that they had not attempted even to make whatever deflations are required to make it comparable.

Now, I draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister to the *Economic and Political Weekly* of the last week of November which contains an excellent article on the spatial distribution of poverty. The author says that they are not able to take into account the results of the latest 55th Round because of non-comparability. This is an academic opinion and not a political bias. So, to go by the results of the comparable Rounds, the decline in poverty ratios associated with the NDA's rate of GDP growth is lower than in the early 1990s and much lower than in the 1980s. Instead of increasing the rate of decrease of poverty, that rate is being decreased. The NDA's six years have been years of slow growth in employment and slow rates of poverty reduction. Whatever little growth there has been, has been the growth for the better off and not growth with equity.

The Mid Year Review circulated by the Finance Minister refers to the strong supply base of foodgrains. Yes, there are massive bufferstocks and yes, there are massive exports of foodgrains. But foodgrains are first meant for those of our fellow Indians whose need is the greatest. Tragically, the NDA has fiddled so much with our public distribution system that, notwithstanding the huge stocks of foodgrains available with the Government, The Economic Survey itself confessed at Table 1.7 that food availability per capita per day is decreasing and not increasing. Today, that, is, in the year 2002-03, the last one for which we have figures, the *per capita* per day availability of foodgrains is nearly 100 grams below what it was in 1991 when we had a major economic crisis. What this means is, the rates are getting fatter in the FCI godowns while malnourishment and under-nourishment among human beings are deepening. BPL foodgrains have been so priced that they are out of the reach of the poorest of the poor and so inefficient is the system of public distribution and disaster relief that even what is released in so niggardly a fashion does not reach the most desperate section of the poor. The problem is that this Government keeps trying to find answers to poverty through the market. They keep trying to find answers to poverty through the market, little realising that while the market may be fine for about 200 million Indians who

are strong enough to stand on their own in the market place, at least 500 millions of our people are on the margins of the market and some 300 millions are out of it altogether. In consequence, the NDA's policies propitiate *Kubera* and they do not propitiate *Daridra Narayana*. That is why their political philosophy is *Paisa To Khuda Se Com Nahin*. It sums up the mental attitude of the NDA.

I have attempted an analysis from the data available in the latest Economic Survey, of where the Indian economy would have been if the NDA had maintained the sectoral rates of growth of the Rajiv Gandhi—Manmohan Singh period, that is approximately from 1985 to 1996. I have had the honour of these findings being published in the first week of this month, in the *Economic and Political Weekly*. That gives it a certain academic worth.

My findings are first on agriculture. In the last four years of Shrimati Indira Gandhi's period, total agricultural output grew by sixteen per cent. In the first four years of Shri Rajiv Gandhi's period, agricultural output grew by a further seventeen per cent. But under the NDA, agricultural output, between 1998 and 2003-04, has collapsed to just six per cent. Foodgrains production went up by 36 per cent in the eighties. From 1980 to 1990, foodgrains production went up by 36 per cent. Now, in the last six years, it is up by less than ten per cent.

The hon. Minister's mid-term review confesses at Table 1, page 3, that notwithstanding the best monsoon that we have had this year—we had the best monsoon this year, that is 2003—*kharif* output of foodgrains is likely to be three millions lower tonnes than what it was two years ago. It may be higher than last year. But their estimate is that they are going to have 108 million tonnes this *kharif* season compared to 111 million tonnes two years ago.

Coming to oilseeds, under Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the output was doubled from 9.4 million tonnes to 18.6 million tonnes. The *kharif* figure for the current year, as per the hon. Minister's own estimate is that our production will be only one million tonne more than what it was two years ago. In the eighties, the import of edible oil was slashed from nearly 900 million dollars at the start of eighties to less than 200 million dollars at the end of the decade. Imports have now risen so dizzily that they are close to ten times the figure of 1990-91. Is this the way to treat the poorest of the poor farmers? It is they who are engaged in the back-breaking task of producing oil seeds under dry-land farming and in rain-fed conditions.

Let me come to electricity generation. It is another area of shame for the NDA. It rose at 140 per cent. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): You were in the government for 40 years and did nothing even then you are not feeling ashamed of, how we can do it in four years.

[*English*]

He cannot use such words like 'shame'. He can criticise. He can point out. But he cannot use these words like 'shame' and all that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Paranjpe, your name is there. You are going to speak. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, let me re-frame it. I want to know from my Shiv Sena friend there whether he feels any sense of shame over the fact that from 1980 to 1990, electricity generation in India increased by 140 per cent whereas the additional generation in the last six years is under 40 per cent. Previously, it was 140 per cent, now, it is less than 40 per cent! Shri Geete is here. He can confirm it. Power generation has been increased in the last three years at between three and three-and-a-half per cent a year. The commercial owings in the power sector now exceed Rs. 35,000 crore. The NDA's solution is to set up Regulatory Authorities when what the country needs is regular supplies. The Ninth Plan target for additional capacity was slashed by half. Even that slashed target has not been attained by this Government.

The output of coal has declined from a growth of 88 per cent in the 1980s to merely 14 per cent in the NDA period. The saddest tale of all is cotton textiles where output expanded by 86 per cent in the decade of the 1980s and has registered no more than a five per cent increase in the NDA period.

The Mid-Year Review confesses with regard to textiles that there is no improvement in textiles even in this year of recovery. Is this a record of development to boast about? I agree that the number of cell phones may have gone up. ...(*Interruptions*) Yes, the number of cell phones certainly has gone up. I am not surprised because, after all, this Government's reliance on big business houses

[Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar]

makes it clear that they are very solicitous about telecom. True, there may be no more waiting for gas connections. I also grant that compared to the misery of last year, there are some signs of hope in the economy now. Among these, foreign exchange reserves are getting to a close to \$100 billion. The Golden Quadrilateral is a badge of pride that we can wear upon our breasts. But there are so many areas of concern. Is the kind of hyperbole that we hear from the hon. the Minister of Finance—whether in this House or outside—justified? Perhaps one has to really ask oneself whether this is justified. Is this stoking of a feel-good factor compatible with the actual state of our economy? Too many of the fundamentals are deeply disturbing.

For example, savings and investment rates are not increasing. They peaked in our time. Nearly ten years ago, they peaked in our time. The rates have been coming down. They are stagnating. In the stock market, it is the secondary market which is once again booming. I draw the attention of the Chairman of the JPC to that. We said it in the JPC that the root cause of what went wrong last time was that the secondary market was booming when the primary market was stagnating.

I draw the hon. Finance Minister's attention to page 10 of his own Review. I am not sure that Finance Ministers always read what they circulate. So, I would like to draw your attention most earnestly to page 10 of your own Review in which you say that investment in the primary market between April and September of 2003 has been of the order of Rs. 1,300 crore but the Mutual Funds alone have pumped more than Rs. 33,000 crore into the stock market. We are running a ratio of at least 1:33 between the Primary Market and the Secondary Market.

15.00 hrs.

Sir, the secondary market is a casino. It is a *Satta Bazaar*. You go there, you buy some shares and sell them off. The primary market is where you invest and if for every rupee invested, 33 rupees are being used on gambling, this is not healthy for the economy. You cannot draw attention to the SENSEX and say: 'look, it has already crossed 5,000' without also considering that, as the JPC said more than a year ago, that a primary market that is growing on slowly and a secondary market that is booming is the first sign of danger, is the red alert for the economy.

Similarly, there is a massive increase in FII inflow into India. Where is the increase in FDI inflows? FII

money comes into the Stock Market and goes out and it comes into the Stock Market in order to make money. So, always more is going out than is coming in. We would be happy if, as a result of FII interest in our Stock Market, there were to be a corresponding boom in FDI which remains in the country, but no, investment by FIIs increases, FDI stagnates.

Sir, the capital output ratio remains exactly where it was. So, if you do not increase your investment rate up to 32 per cent, you cannot get a growth rate of eight per cent. What is the actual investment rate? It is about 24 per cent. So, we are struck where we are. But while this is happening, even more dangerously, capital-intensive investment in the private sector is not improving productivity, but is seriously diminishing employment. While the NDA does its damndest to shut down the public sector—they are doing everything they can to shut down our public sector-organised employment in the private sector, says the latest Economic Survey, is growing at the magnificent rate of 0.1 per cent per annum. The whole of the private sector, which is organised, is increasing their labour force at the rate of 0.1 per cent per annum. While this is the situation that obtains in the private sector, the Government is busily closing down whatever it can of the public sector.

I would like to mention one final point and this is a slightly technical point. The Economic Survey confesses that the employment elasticity of output in virtually all sectors of our economy is declining. It means that for every addition of output, the addition to employment is declining, not rising.

Sir, on the fiscal front, the Director-General of the National Council of Applied Economic Research, Dr. Suman Berry, in a recent public presentation of his mid-term review, pointed out that the fiscal deficit in the first six months of the current fiscal year has risen by a staggering 40 per cent and today's newspaper say that Standard and Poor have estimated that if you add the Centre's deficit to all the deficits of the States, then the combined fiscal deficit is 85 per cent of our Gross Domestic Product. Now, what is their answer? Their answer is 'disinvestment'. They have done nothing to build it, but they want to sell it off in order that they may cover up their fiscal deficit. How does their disinvestment take place? We have been asking for a policy, but there is no policy on disinvestment. It is done on a case-by-case basis. They say: 'Show me the buyer and I will tell you what the rules are'. That is why there is no belief in the integrity of this Government. When they started their

disinvestment process, for example in BALCO, there were many foreign buyers. The Americans came, the French came. They all walked out because they know that there will come a day when members of this Government, some of their greatest election managers, will step into the act. That is why, it is the lack of faith in the integrity of this Government that is responsible for serious businessmen from outside not coming to India. It is a rampant example of crony capitalism under Shri Yashwant Sinha and later on under the hon. Shri Jaswant Singh.

Sir, the tax-GDP ratio is lower than it was at the start of Manmohanomics 12 years ago. The black economy has been estimated by Prof. Arun Kumar, who is the resident expert at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, as constituting 40 per cent of our GDP. He and his fellow economists have estimated that if the black economy is taken into account, the richest three per cent of our population have an income that is 57 times higher than of 40 per cent of our population. I am not talking about the poor alone. I am talking about the poor and the near poor. I am talking about the middle class. Three per cent are having an income 57 times higher than what 40 per cent people of this country are earning. I suggest that it is entirely significant that the hon. Minister' Mid-Year Review barely touches on the problems of the poor and the unemployed. There is nothing in the Review about the handlooms sector, which is the second largest generator of employment in this country. There is nothing in this Review about unorganised labour which constitutes 93 per cent of this country's labour force. There is nothing in this Review about youth unemployment or about employment for educated youth. There is nothing in this Review about malnutrition and under-nourishment. Worst of all, in my view, notwithstanding the 37th Report of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural Development and the excellent debate we had on this subject in the Monsoon Session in both the Houses, there is not a word in the Minister's Review about Panchayati Raj, that is, development through empowerment which is widely accepted even by the World Bank as the key to rural development and to poverty alleviation. Not a word is there.

I am just coming to the end. So, please do not feel so concerned. I will be through in about 90 seconds.

This Mid-Year Review reads like a brochure designed for Wall Street brokers and Dalal Street *dalals*. This is probably because it is addressed to Wall Street brokers and Dalal Street *dalals*. It is not addressed to the poor of India. It is not addressed to the unemployed of India.

It is addressed only to the brokers and *dalals* who are hailing the hon. Finance Minister's feel-good economics. This is a Government which has a pocket book where its heart should be. The Mid-Year Review is such a complacent exercise in self-praise that I have no faith in the Government's Supplementary Demands. So, notwithstanding the change at the helm of the Ministry of Finance, I am afraid, the Nation Democratic Alliance is still to find its 'Manmohan Singh'.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North-East): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am unable to decide what to speak after such a brilliant speech given by Manishankar ji. Such a glorious history, past, the story of Gandhi family, indeed, a thought came to my mind for a while to ask you whether I would be able to speak something after such a brilliant speech. In fact, I wanted to ask you, whether I can support this demand in one sentence and take my seat because the data he has produced, the labyrinth of these data, data and money—both are his charisma. Money is there in his name itself and money is also the money of data.

Sir, he painted a glorious picture of the history of the regime of Indiaraji and Rajivji and said that economic development had reached its highest peak during that period. The comparison that was being made, thereafter I felt that. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): I am not disturbing. White money is with us and black money is with them.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let us hear him seriously.

[*Translation*]

Give your support to us.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: The statement of Ramdasji reminded me of a story which I had told in the House earlier also. I did not want to speak about the jaundiced eye that was being talked about.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Do both of you hail from Mumbai?

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJAPE: He is from Pandharpur, he is Bhagwan Vitthal's man. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your turn is about to come, now please listen to Mr. Kirit Somaiya.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: The duo, who are talking about black and black money are sitting that side. I had told a story in the House earlier also that there should be an eye, a vision to see. Whether you see from the eyes of Manishankarji or a common man, a historian or from the eyes of a small technical man like Kirit Somaiya. Ramdasji, you are talking about biased vision, you know the story that when a pupil completed his education and after getting the blessings of his guru he made a beautiful painting beneath the shade of a bush at the cross road of a village and wrote that if there was any error, point that out. When he saw in the evening, the entire painting was marked as error. He went to his guru and said that he had failed. The guru told, no my son, it depends upon the vision of the viewer, you go there with a white-red chalk. The next day he put the painting there and wrote that if you see anything good in the painting, mark there. Next day he found the entire painting marked with red because everything looked good to everyone in the painting. Now, Manishankarji will come with a black chalk and Ramdasji will say that nose is black, ear is ill-shaped and finger is deformed and then everything will look black.

I would like to tell Manishankarji about their history that 56 years have elapsed since we attained independence. Like Manishankarji I would not like to go much into data but in the history of 56 years, Gandhi and Nehru family has ruled over the country for 42 years, one family has ruled for 42 years.

[English]

Shri Manishankar Aiyar was explaining to us what was the economy of our country at the end of 42nd year of our independence. If you have to compare it, compare those 42 years with the 42 months of NDA Government. I can challenge that these 42 months are far better than those 42 years.

[Translation]

Further, I would like to tell him his data, too. Out of those 56 years, this country was ruled for 51 years by the Prime Ministers of the Congress Culture. It is for the first time that Shri Atal Bihari Bajpayee who believes in national ideology has become the Prime Minister of the country. The issue hon. Manishankar Aiyarji was talking about, when our country become independent in 1947, what was our foreign exchange reserve at that time and

who was the Prime Minister. Hon. Pandit Jawarhar Lal Nehru was the Prime Minister. I am talking about economic policy and not about a person. When I make mention of a person, I related him to that period. When hon. Rajiv Gandhiji *bade adieu*, 42 years of Gandhi-Nehru era came to an end. When the country got independence, the foreign exchange reserve of our country was \$2.1 billion. When Rajiv ji *bade adieu* and his term came to an end, the foreign exchange reserve at that time was \$3.9 billion.

Last week I had welcomed Shri Jaswant Singhji and said that like Dravid and Ganguly you would also score a century. Today, I have confirmed it

[English]

today India has crossed 100 billion dollar foreign exchange reserves.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, how much was the foreign exchange reserve when Shri Atal Bihari Bajpayeeji took oath?

[English]

From 1947 to 1985, just you have grown from 2.1 to 3.9.

[Translation]

Today, we have crossed 100 billion dollar. If you like, I can read out the remaining data, too. Foreign exchange reserve came down in the regimes of Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi. I can tell you about that also. Regarding standard and poor, Ramdas Athawaleji as I have told, there should be a vision to see. Shri Manishankar Aiyarji sees poor performance even in standard and poor but the reference of standard and poor which has been published in today's newspaper is

[English]

"S&P hikes India's forex ratings." But conveniently he ignores it.

[Translation]

because the vision to see it is not healthy.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Kindly also enlighten us on the rupee-dollar ratio of Nehru's era and rupee-dollar ratio of today. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Right now I told that it was just 50 billion dollar in the year 2000. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You are speaking well. I am thankful to you. Kindly also enlighten the House about rupee-dollar ratio linked with the GDP. Do not simply go for the foreign exchange basket. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Do not worry. Priya Ranjan Dasmunsiji, this is the first step only. As we say in Marathi—'KUTHE GELE PRAKASH PARANJAPE, KAHIN MIRCHI JOMBLI KA? ASSAA MAHANTAT.' I have stated only one point and both of you stood up. Just now, I am coming to second point.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is because of Nehru-Gandhi family, the parliamentary democracy still exists and we are sitting here.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: After foreign exchange reserve, I will come to dollar and rupee. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to give another figure about comparative value of dollar and rupee. There has never been a Prime Minister so far in whose tenure rupee might not have been devalued against dollar. I want to give figure in this regard. Shrimati Indira Gandhi ruled the country from 1982 to 84 then value of a rupee against a dollar was Rs. 7.9. Once when her tenure ended in 1984 the value of rupee was 10.34. When Shri Rajiv Gandhi took over from 1984 to 1989..

[English]

This is also I am referring from the same book, the same library, the same Reserve Bank figures.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: In spite of the devaluation, what was the amount invested in public sector?

Sir, it is a healthy debate. What was invested in the public sector, which you built in the country? You tell about that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let Shri Kirit Somaiya be heard.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Dear Priya Ranjan Dasmunsiji, I am going to tell you about the enhancement of Public Sector Investment also. Do not worry. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I know you will have these topics in view but you also articulate this view.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You please keep quiet.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: During the tenure of Shri Rajiv Gandhi from 1984 to 1989, value of rupee was Rs. 10.34 against dollar. I repeat once again that after the tenure of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, when Shri Rajiv Gandhi ji took over, the value of rupee was Rs. 10.34.

[English]

And when the era ended, it was Rs. 14.48.

[Translation]

I want to inform you that first time it happened in India, when Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee took over in 1999 when I came to Lok Sabha the value of rupee against dollar was Rs. 43.50 and now when this Government has completed four years, it is Rs. 45. I can firmly say that once five years tenure of this Government gets completed, this value will come down to Rs. 43.50.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, he is on record and I am thankful to him. From Indiraji to Rajiv ji,

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

it went from 10 to 24 and during Atalji's time, it went from 43 to 45. I am thankful to him for his confession. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: If they want to heap insult upon themselves, let them do so. During the tenure of Shri Narsimha Rao, the rupee was devalued against dollar rapidly. When Shri Narsimha Rao took over, when you were the Minister, one dollar was Rs. 19. When his tenure ended, devaluation of rupee was at its peak in the history of India. When his tenure ended, value of one dollar was Rs. 34. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: If it has been the devaluation of the rupee, the foreign exchange would not have risen. The foreign exchanges has risen precisely because of the devaluation of the rupee and precisely because we increased the interest rates. We went up in foreign exchange in five years from one billion to 40 billion dollars but they have only taken it up to two and a half times. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: This is exactly what I want to know. I will also come to the point as how much foreign exchange reserve was revised during the tenure of Shri Narsimha Rao.

[English]

Do not take credit for going from one to forty billion dollars. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

When the tenure of Shri Narsimha Rao ended, the foreign exchange was not even 14 billion dollar. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: You please just ask them how much the black money was used by Mr. Narsimha Rao in order to stay in power. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Paranjpe, you are going to get your chance.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: I am going to get it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Do not exhaust it now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let there be silence in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Financial Institutions Performance—Actually I was about to ask to the Minister of Finance about UTI that while submitting demands for grants for UTI-64, US-64, UTI-1 for financial support, you have not written—

[English]

because you are committed to small investors.

[Translation]

I was in a hurry to ask, then I went into detail and I got the Press cutting.

[English]

UTI I redeem five per cent more of SUS 1999 for Rs. 300 crore.

[Translation]

The I read the history about US-64 and Dipak Parekh Committee. In 1998 when this Government came to power then.

[English]

US-64 NAV went below 10 per cent.

[Translation]

Government appointed Dipak Parekh Committee and then Dipak Parekh recommended that we would not be able to pay dividend of US-64 to investors. Otherwise UTI will have to be declared bankrupt. Our Government was newly appointed. At that time Government decided that.

[English]

We would support UTI and US 64-Rs. 3300 crore.

[Translation]

When Government support UTI against US 64 then its actual book value was only Rs. 1516 crore. That deficit of Rs. 1800 crore was the very first day's deficit of NDA

Government. Today it has been paid Rs. 3300 crore this is the performance of this Government during these five years. The miracle performed by Mr. Jaswant Singh by supporting US-64 has resulted in the recovery of loss and today it has crossed Rs. 1800 crore.

[English]

That SUS 1999 is now running into 70 percent profit.

[Translation]

This miracle has been performed by NDA Government.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: After the loot of UTI. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I have said that it requires a vision to look things into right perspective. One vision belongs to Goldman and one is that of Hon'ble Mr. President. While addressing the nation, the hon. President has also said that we should cherish the vision-2020. We had set a target of 8 per cent growth in G.D.P. and we are going to exceed 5 per cent G.D.P. growth. The next time we can easily cross the limit of 8 per cent growth in G.D.P. If we set a target of 10 per cent growth because we have to take India in the group of most developed G5 category by the year 2020. It was said by our hon. President. I am also quoting the same S.N.P. of Goldman Sax which was referred by you. He has said.

[English]

"India will be the third largest economy in the world by 2050."

[Translation]

He stated that the way in which Indian democracy is taking shape and the way in which Feel Good Sector, Service Sector, Industry Sector, Agriculture Sector, Infrastructure have been given a new vision by the government in addition to providing political stability. He has also said,

[English]

"The Indian GDP is growing at nearly eight per cent while the world average is hovering around three per

cent." Goldman Sachs has written that 'a fifth of Microsoft engineers are Indians.' Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, he has further written that we are the only one in three nations who have built super computer. He has also written that we are the only one of the five who have launched communication satellite. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, he has further written that out of the Fortune 500 companies of the world, 100 companies have set up their R&D centres in India. What have we developed? What have we built up? We have developed brand India.

[Translation]

India did not have any identity even in recent past. The other countries used to say that they (Indian) must have come to get some grant. But, the Indian Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has shown to them that he can grant funds to other countries. At present, industries ranging from readymade garments to automobile are being established here by the people from different countries.

[English]

This is another Press clipping. The heading is 'Venture capital firms bullish on India.' Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, what is venture capital fund? They are only there to help the new industry (the listed company) what have they suggested? They have suggested that funding by venture capital companies topped an estimated 500 million dollar by the end of September. "India's growing political stability and rapid economic growth are proving attractive for venture capitalists." It is also mentioned that it is just equivalent to Japan and South Korea.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to read out from a news item published in yesterday's newspaper.

[English]

What is the feel good factor? The feel good factor is nothing else but we have created an atmosphere of confidence. We have created a climate of good development. Steel plants are to pump in Rs. 50,000 crore.

[Translation]

If there is an investment of 50,000 crore rupee by big companies like IOC, Balco, Nalco, Tata Chemicals, B.S.E.S., Hyundai, Indo Rama, LG Electronics, Jindal etc., it is sure to boost development.

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

[English]

These companies have already announced their plans for development, expansion and growth. Rs. 50,000 crore is going to be invested in the next couple of years.

[Translation]

When these 50,000 crore rupees are invested, we will achieve lot of progress.

A monthly magazine of repute has written, this is about BPO. Manishankar ji was telling about employment. The system of employment generation in 21st century is changing. You may look at the BPO. You are not getting computer operators, telephone operators, communication operators, lineman in Noida, Mumbai, Hyderabad.

[English]

In the BPO sector, they are getting good job and good salary. What was our market in BPO? It is Rs. 11,300 crore during 2002-03. What is projected? It is not projected by me. I can tell you several companies. The first one is NASSCOM-Mckinsey, the second is Gardner, third is BPG, fourth is Forex Reserve and the fifth is IDBI. What has been stated as India's potential in these field? What will be the business through BPO in India? It will be totally in foreign exchange. It has been stated separately, for example it is Rs. 11,300 crore in the year 2003-2004. In 2008, half of them have predicted that our BPO will be Rs. 1,13,000 crore per annum. Another group of 10 have projected that it would not be less than Rs. 2,26,000 crore per annum.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we should have a sense of pride. In the past, the East India Company used to import raw material and it exported finished goods but now we have young people and politicians of young generation.

[English]

with a clear mind and with determination. They have created such an atmosphere that outsourcing of various types are accounting processes, insurance, banking, finance, airlines, telecom, automotive, manufacturing, direct marketing, utilities, transportation and so on.

[Translation]

We are achieving all this through BPO. At present the strike called in British telecom comes from its Union.

That is against whom? They claim that Indian entrepreneurs are snatching business from their countries. So, they call for strike in London. We are proud that we have done it. We are driving our economy in that direction. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the telephone operator stationed in Navi Mumbai handles enquiry of British Metro. Their payroll writing is done by a person stationed in Bangalore and their reservation and booking is done by someone stationed in Hyderabad. I appeal to hon. Finance Minister as well as to the House that we should get united. One state in America passes a resolution and adopts a Bill that BPO should be stopped from going to India. They say that jobs are shifting to other cries. When Manishankar Aiyar and Kirit Somaiya can fight in W.T.O. forum as one voice, then we should speak in unison when developed nations try to check the future progress of India. I want to appeal that BPO is our future. Today, the Bill has been passed by one state named Indiana in America, the next day some other state in that country will pass the same Bill. Today, the Parliament of England is discussing the methods to check the shifting of jobs. There is a need. So, I shall want to appeal to the hon. Members sitting in the opposition to make united efforts to check the efforts of those countries who are trying to check outsourcing. When I was in Ajmer, I has seen people discussing Gramin Sadak Yojna and the National Highway project of the Prime Minister. The Government has come out with a project of Rs. 50,000 crore. The production of cement and steel will be increased and the people will get employment.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: How many people were given employment by this Government? Has the unemployment been wiped out? In fact it is increasing.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Kirit Somaiya.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I am making a walk-out from the House.

15.34 hrs.

(Shri Ramdas Athawale then left the House)

*Not recorded.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Total 556 kms of roads were constructed in the country during the last 55 years and we are going to construct 15000 kms. of roads in these 5 years.

[English]

That is the achievement of the NDA Government.

[Translation]

Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to give one more figure.

[English]

During the regime of Shrimati Indira Gandhi only Rs. 389 crore were disbursed under housing finance. During late Shri Rajiv Gandhi's regime it was Rs. 1,062 crore.

[Translation]

All these works have been completed in these 5 years rule of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji and the NDA. I feel proud to say that we have spent Rs. 50,000 crore on this schemes this year and we have disbursed rupees one lakh crore through housing finance in the last 5 years. Disbursing rupees one lakh in this scheme will give rise to housing activities and construction work. Not only this, the rate of interest which was 15% when we took over has now come down to 7.5%. An economist friend of mine has rightly said—

[English]

A new concept has been developing in our country and that is a grandfather's concept. It is a grandfather's concept that you people have developed.

[Translation]

Earlier, the situation was that a person worked, married, lived in a rented accommodation and always dreamt of having his own house after retirement. He thought that he would have his house built with the help of the provident fund and gratuity after retirement. But, we have changed this kind of thinking today. A person goes for a housing loan immediately after getting married at the age of 25 years. Firstly, he purchased his own house and by the time he reached the age of 28-30 years he is able to buy a two-wheeler and at the age of 40 years, he reaches in a situation where he can buy his own four-wheeler. We have thus made the economic situation like this.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, now I would like to express my opinion about Kisan Credit Card. A lot of discussion has already taken place on this subject. I would like to tell the House that the Bhartiya Janta Party did not get votes by chance in the recent elections in the three states. Our Government has disbursed finance to the farmers.

[English]

How much finance have you disbursed during your 42 year's regime and how much finance was disbursed during the last 51 years of Nehru and Gandhi family? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Kirit Somaiya says.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we have provided the facility of credit Card to 3,41,34,517 kisans as on 30th September, 2003.

[English]

We have given Rs. 82,825 crore finance to the agriculturists and farming sector.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we made arrangement of providing 10 kgs of foodgrains through Kisan Credit Card, Gramin Sadak Yojanas and Annapurna Yojana. We have tried to transform Mother India into Annapurna. This is the work done by the Bhartiya Janata party and the NDA Government.

[English]

Sir, I would like to give one more figure. My colleague was discussing about the manufacturing sector. This manufacturing sector. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I want to present figures for cement production. Firstly, I will give figures for the last three years and after that I will give figures during their rule. Steel and cement production has to be taken into account if the economy of a country has to be judged. In the year 2000-01, 93.61 million tonnes cement was produced out of which 90 million tonnes was consumed

*Not recorded.

[Shri Kirit Somaiya]

in the country itself while 3.15 million tonnes cement was exported.

[English]

Last year, that is, 2002-03, it was Rs. 111.35 crore.

[Translation]

Cement production has increased by 113 million tonnes as compared to 1993.

[English]

This year, the Indian cement manufacturers are going to cross the production of about 118 million tonnes and consumption will be not less than 114 million tonnes.

[Translation]

I don't have the figures for 1947, 1987 and it is 18 million tonnes less in 1997. The development of our country does not stop here. The economic situation of the country is getting strong. Besides, the Bhartiya Janata Party and the NDA Government have made two other announcements. The rate of interest of the debt given to the States is very high. They have been given debts at lower rates.

[English]

This Government has, for the very first time, during the history of India.

[Translation]

made early repayment of the external debt.

[English]

The total external receipts including grants during 2002-2003 were Rs. 13,528 crore and the total repayments made during the same year were Rs. 24,286 crore.

[Translation]

We have not made the repayments by taking new loans.

[English]

Another thing is that it includes Rs. 14,669 crore towards premature repayment of high-cost debt.

[Translation]

We have extended this scheme to the State Government also. I have many more figures as Mani Shankarji has.

[English]

If financial assistance by national banks for agricultural and rural development

[Translation]

is compared, I have got comparative figures for that also. If we compare from the time when Indira Gandhi was in power, we have gone 700 times more. Similarly, if you want to know about some other figures, I am ready to produce it before the House. During the time of Indiraji, approximately Rs. 34,397 crore were given as on agricultural finance. During the regime of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Rs. 2,71,950 crore alongwith Kisan Credit Card were given. These figures are from the same Reserve Bank, you have got where from. I would like to conclude by inviting your attention towards education and some other two-three points. I would like to thank the Finance Minister for announcing the Senior Citizen Pension Scheme in the Budget for the last year that we had demanded for senior citizens. I have just come to know that more than two lakh policies were issued within six months and Rs. 3625 crore were received as premium. Today, senior citizens have full confidence in us. As regards the states' debts, I can produce figures for that also. I can produce telecom to many other points before the House. What were the figure for tele-density; gas connection, I can produce all these figures.

In the end, I would like to say that if we want to accelerate the pace of our economy, we will have to create a conducive atmosphere in the country for which we will have to work united. To see it, today if a person or a young entrepreneur goes in BPO or does his own work or does a small business or is in a small job and if we go to him and explain it, what will he think? Today, after hearing Mani Shankarji's speech, it seemed to us as if we should commit suicide. In this situation, if someone remains living, he will have wandering on roads because Mani Shankarji has said that this Government has ruined the country, GDP has ended, there is no agricultural finance, no employment, all have become unemployed, there is no shelter and people are wearing rags. It seemed to me that we would go out and think that earlier the situation was not like that, what has happened suddenly within four-five hours now, how will we go out in such a situation. Mani Shankarji, this is not the way to do work. The opposition should also have courage to say that yes, you have done such and such good works and there is need to do more. Today, the country has entered the 21st Century, and in this 21st

Century, the leadership is in Bhartiya Janata Party's hands. They should not worry about it. In the 20th Century, the leadership was in their party's hands. Not for half a decade but for about one hundred years the Congress have ruled this country. What they had done in 20th Century? Yes, we have a dream and we will realize that dream. We will make 21st Century, India's Century.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly): Sir, neither the mid-term review of our economy nor the Supplementary Demands for Grants has cared to address the burning problems confronting our countrymen. The illusory feel-good factor sought to be created by the NDA Government is to mislead the countrymen and cover up the dismal performance of the NDA in almost all sectors—agriculture, industry, employment, poverty reduction etc.

We find that in the mid-term review, it has been said that the GDP will grow by seven per cent. It is said in November 14th mid-year *Economic Review*. As per the announcement made earlier during the Budget, according to Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, it is to be quarterly reviewed. Elections were there and just to influence the electorate, a rosy picture was sought to be presented before the countrymen, but the reality is that GDP growth is accepted by the economists as one of the yardsticks for development. Whatever be the growth, I am not going into the arithmetic of what the GDP growth was during Congress regime and what it is during the present regime, whether it is six, seven or eight per cent on an average. That is one of the yardsticks for development, but the real test is how far this arithmetic is translated into reality.

I want to ask directly the hon. Finance Minister: Has the employment scenario in the country deteriorated or not? Is it not alarming, as said in the *Economic Survey*? The latest single illustration is the recruitment of 20,000 *khalasis* by the Railways. What has happened in Assam? What is happening elsewhere? I am not mentioning that. That has been taken up elsewhere at a different time. Fifty-five lakh valid applicants have applied—Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has not mentioned—and amongst them, there are candidates who are MBAs, doctors and engineers. Is it not alarming to the Government?

Everyday, we are discussing terrorism, terrorism and terrorism. We are parroting what is being said in Washington. All sorts of terrorism are menace. Have we

not looked into what is happening to our educated young people, what is happening to the frustrated young folk? They have no option left. If the Government is, at all, serious, instead of indulging in figures and saying in the mid-year review that 84 lakh jobs have been created in one year, it could have done at least something in the Supplementary Budget, to rectify the situation. They have not done it. They are disinvesting merrily. Even profit-making undertakings are being sold to their friends. Corruption has been revealed at many levels. Even those who have opted for VRS—even the skilled people, technical people about whom we should be proud—are being driven out of jobs and their statutory dues are yet to be given which amount to Rs. 2,000 crore.

Sir, let me mention about one case. Burn Standard Company Limited is one of the prestigious organisations in the public sector. It is in the business of manufacturing wagons. The Railways are not giving them necessary orders. That is a different story. After it was referred to BIFR, there was a revival package. They are badly in need of Government support. No support is seen here although there is a mention about Andrew Yule and Co. What is that? From their savings only, something like Rs. 43 crore will be put into their equity. Are they serious? I am giving another example. The other day my esteemed colleague Shri Jos was referring to Dunlop India Limited while discussing about rubber and all these things.

He has said that it is a private organisation, and the owner has siphoned off the money. What can be done now since he is dead? It was sent to BIFR, and from BIFR to AAIFR. Now, it is in the appellate tribunal. Mr. Minister, for your information, 34 per cent of the stake in Dunlop India Limited belongs to the financial institutions like UTI, UBI, SBI, and such other organisations.

I just want to share my feelings. During the Kargil war, the Prime Minister had requested the then Chief Minister of West Bengal that although Dunlop India Limited is under lock out—the technical name is suspension of work—for months together, and the workers are starving, but for the Kargil war we need the aero tyres for our Air Force. Hence, would you please help us without creating any obstruction? The Chief Minister instantly called us and told us that: "It involves our security, our prestige, and our national honour. I know that the workers are starving, but allow the Government of India, and allow our defence people to take out whatever is available there because they badly need—during the course of the war—the aero covers for the Air Force."

[Shri Rupchand Pal]

It was a spectacle to be seen. The top officials from the Air Force were entering the Dunlop India Limited, and the starving workers and their families were standing in a row giving them ovation with small placards that read: "We love our country, but our children are starving." The officers stated that: "It is such a good factory, and they can produce the best quality aero covers for the Air Force." Even today they are capable to do so.

I had approached the Government for the other products that are used by the army-men. I had met then Minister, I had written to all the important leaders, and I had even written to the NDA Government. Do you know what they had said? They said: "Yes, we agree to what you say. It is a very important unit. Their technology is superb, we need their products in the defence forces, and we have been doing so. But our philosophy is that we cannot nationalise the unit as the philosophy of market economy and disinvestment is our goal today."

Is it an argument? You are taking the savings of Rs. 43 crore from the NGOs. Is there any equity in that? Why don't you consider the fact that-if you have any interest in our national economy, in self-reliance, in our defence—Dunlop India Limited can still produce the best products for us? They have the skilled workers, the technology, and the Government has 34 per cent of the stake in it. So, I say that this Government is not at all interested in the real interest of the people of this country.

I would like to mention about BSNL. They proposed that they are giving Rs. 2,300 crore to BSNL because they are suffering a loss. But, today in a reply they have said that they have not suffered a loss, but their profit margin has come down. We ourselves had asked as to what will happen to the rural telecom, and what will happen to the village public telephones when the new telecom policy comes into effect? Our apprehensions proved true that no private sector had any obligation with regard to providing telephones in the rural areas.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: It is shameful.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: In one case we have found that in Maharashtra out of 5012 connections, the private sector had given only 12 connections, and the whole burden had to be borne by BSNL only. Throughout this entire period, the public undertakings were sought to be there, and their profit margins were sought to be eroded. Now, they say that Rs. 2,300 crore will be given to BSNL so that they can compensate the loss. How will you give it? Will it be from their earnings, spectrum charges,

licencing fees etc? Of course, there is a Bill pending about universal service obligation, but that money will go to the Consolidated Fund. The Bill is pending. It should be a dedicated fund.

You talk about market economy. Why do you not allow the public sector bodies or the undertakings to compete with them on a level playing field? What is the result or the performance of the public sector undertakings during the last six months or eighteen months? Even after continuous efforts by this Government to weaken them, the public sector organisations have made profits. In the Supplementary Budget, there is no substantial support for these bodies.

I am not going into the issues pertaining to cell phones, rural phones and how lakhs of people are surrendering their landlines and all those things. What I want to ask this Government is this:

Sarva Sikhsha Abhiyan was stated to be one of the most important Schemes of the Government. However, at the instance of the Prime Minister, when the Planning Commission prepared a list of priorities, we found that this was excluded. How serious can this Government be on this issue? Are they serious with regard to removal of illiteracy and with regard to elementary education? They are waxing eloquent about compulsory universal elementary education. They are speaking about this and that, that they will be spending such and such amount during the coming five years and all those things. However, we do find that this Government could not spend a huge amount and that is being readjusted in the Supplementary Budget.

Sir, with your permission, I wish to read one particular portion relating to *Sarva Sikhsha Abhiyan*.

"For providing grant under the Scheme, *Sarva Sikhsha Abhiyan*, Rs. 800.57 crore; *Lok Jumbish*, Rs. 55 crore; and an additionality of 1,056.57 crore will be partly met by savings of Rs. 506 crore."

What does this mean? It means that they are excluding it from the priorities. The Planning Commission told the Prime Minister that it was not a priority, that cell phone gets more priority. There is this advertisement that talks about "Bharat shining". We can have telephones; we can go to the market and have some cell phones, but what is happening to our literacy programme, what is happening to our elementary education and what is happening to our public health care? Social sector is ailing. Now, we find that the Government does not care for these things.

They are waxing eloquent about Forex and that reserves have risen up to U.S. \$1.0 billion. Is it good for a country of our size? The economists have expressed their apprehensions that it is not a good thing unless we know how to use it. We do not know how to use it. What is happening now? There is a pressure on the rupee and the rupee is appreciating. We are losing our competitive edge in exports, and our exporters are asking as to what will happen to them. The dollar is appreciating in a planned manner whereas our rupee is appreciating in such a manner that we cannot be competitive in the export market. There is no concern for this.

What is the scenario in the banking system?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I do not know whether the discussion on the ATR on JPC recommendations will start at four o'clock or whether I should continue with my speech? I will take another five minutes before I conclude my speech.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, we can start the discussion on the ATR on JPC recommendations now and come back to this later or have the discussion on the ATR on JPC tomorrow.

16.00 hrs.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I will do as you say, Sir. I can continue for five to ten minutes, if you permit me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: According to the list, your party's time is over.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I know that, Sir. Please give me five minutes more and I will conclude.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You kindly conclude.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: I am concluding, Sir.

I now come to the banking system. The interest rates have been slashed in the case of term deposits from 13 per cent to 5.75 per cent, to six per cent in some cases. In spite of that, people are putting their money in the banks and PSUs only. They are flush with money. What is reflected in the balance sheets of banks is solely for treasury earnings and trading. There is hardly any off-take. People are putting their money in banks in spite of the fact that interest rates have been brought down artificially, because there is hardly any social security for

the middle-class and for the senior citizens. People have burnt their fingers in the capital markets. They have learnt that capital market have become the most insecure places for small investors and now they put their money in the banks. The banks are wondering as to what would happen if this situation continues.

Coming to small savings, small savings in the country are used by the States for development purposes. In many States the Governments themselves are organising, mobilising and encouraging small savings because our savings rates have gone down during their regime. Investments have also gone down. What we find is that there is a severe lack of stationery. The agents do not have the requisite receipt books. They do not have the certificates because the printing press is not able to supply them in such huge numbers. I have repeatedly approached this Government on this. I have repeatedly requested the Finance Minister also. Let the States be given the responsibility of organising and mobilising the stationery. Then they will be accountable for that. You are withholding the small savings and you are discouraging the small savings which can benefit the State Governments.

I say that this Government, in these Supplementary Demands for Grants, has not addressed any of the burning problems—be it poverty, unemployment, industry, or agriculture—confronting the countrymen. I, therefore, oppose these Supplementary Demands for Grants.

16.03 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am really not happy to speak now because our Finance Minister is not sitting here in the House. I know that the Minister of State is here. However, I do not know if our Finance Minister will read any of the points that I am going to raise now. I say this because wherever we meet him, he says,

[*Translation*]

"I hate papers. Do not bring papers. Do not bring letters." I want to read out but he is not present in the House at present.

[*English*]

So, I do not know if the valid suggestions I am going to make will be gone through by our Finance Minister or not.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, whatever the hon. Member speaks, hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance will listen, write and send it to him.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Hon. Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I know that whatever I speak, the hon. Minister of State will write that and send it to the hon. Finance Minister, but as I said, he will not read that because he says that he hates papers.

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Member that whatever he speaks, our Minister of State will tell whole of that to the hon. Finance Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, whatever I speak hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance will not complete that.

[English]

The bureaucrats do not listen to the Ministers of State. The bureaucracy does not listen to the Ministers of State. This has been our experience. You can ask any Minister of State as to how much the Secretaries and bureaucrats do listen to him or her. So, do not tell me that they will listen to the Minister of State. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, this is a very serious matter. An hon. Member belonging to the ruling party is saying that the bureaucrats do not listen to the Ministers of State. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Sir, it is strange that a Member from the Treasury Benches should blame the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: This is very correct observation made by him, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir I am telling the fact. We are also elected Members. I am not criticising the Government, I am merely giving suggestions. I am putting forward what I feel in the form of suggestions.

[English]

This is my experience of the last six years. I am going to give the examples of my experience. That is why I have categorically said that the Finance Minister always says: 'I do not believe in papers. Do not bring letter' If our letter is received he will read it I will be thankful to him. Sir, I have listened to the speech of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar very attentively. Then, I listened to the speech of Shri Kirit Somaiya also. What a nice presentation Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar had made!

[Translation]

How wrongs things are stated in right way, I have learnt a lot. He told us what was not happened and why the things didn't happen. But please give us some suggestion to do the things which have not happened so far.

[English]

I was expecting that from him. He is such a learned person. If he is made the Finance Minister, how he is going to solve the points or the drawbacks where the NDA Government has failed? That way, I was expecting suggestions from him. Had he done so, I would have become more happy. But the easiest thing in India is to criticise others saying you are wrong.

[Translation]

You had been in power for the last 40 years but we didn't say that you are wrong. Our NDA Government is doing well for the last five years. We have come to the power in three states and it is the result of the work done by us. There is no need to say what you have got. If you had come to the power for six months what could have you done. You said about power. I do not want to go through each point but the things which have not been done we should do those things.

[English]

I was expecting that from him.

[Translation]

Which things have not been done, we know very well. Everything can not be done in four years.

[English]

What is the solution? I was expecting from Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar that he would not only criticise the Government—because Budget is not a political thing—

but he would also make concrete suggestions. Budget is not a political thing. Everybody has to contribute as to how best he can do for the development of my nation *Hindustan*.

So, instead of doing that, he has only shown the bad lines, the bad books of the Government. I would be thankful to Shri Mani Shankar Aiyarji, if he can write privately to me the solutions on the criticisms that he had made in his speech.

[Translation]

Sir, I want to give few suggestions here.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: There is a very simple solution. Let us come back to power, and we will do it. So long as you are there, it is not possible. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: What can we do if they do not have any solution?

[English]

Sir, I am just referring to all my speeches made during the last six years. The fundamental rule of economics is that whatever you have saved, you have gained. We had given a number of suggestions to the present Government stating where they can save their expenditure. But unfortunately, not a single suggestion of ours has been accepted. I do not know whether they are thrown away.

Sir, I am giving a simple example of the Finance Ministry. It is the policy of the present Government to promote indigenous manufacturers.

[Translation]

Adsulji, are you listening to me?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VIDHOBHA ADSUL): Yes I am listening

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: The fundamental job of this Government is to promote the indigenous

manufacturers. There is one Indian who has manufactured ink, which is used for printing notes. His price is below the price at which we are importing this ink. His ink was tested in the laboratory and it was certified also that it stood as per the requirements of the Department. Now, there is no reason not to place him the order for that. Then, the bureaucracy asked him to supply ink of Rs. 18 lakh as a sample. I do not know whether the Finance Minister is aware of this thing or not. ...*(Interruptions)* His ink was technically accepted by the Department. They give such notices and impose such conditions in tender that the indigenous manufacturer will not stand.

I would ask my friend, the Minister to look into this matter. I would be happy even if order worth 25 per cent of the total requirement of ink is placed to that indigenous manufacturer. Then, I can say that whatever the Government is saying, it is doing that. Otherwise, simply saying to promote indigenous manufacturer' and not actually placing the orders to the indigenous manufacturer will not help. When somebody comes forward with a cheaper price, with a better quality, the bureaucrats are not placing orders to the indigenous manufacturers. I do not know what interest the bureaucrats have got in importing.

[Translation]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Swadeshi.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: I am saying that.

[English]

I am saying this. I am from the ruling coalition. I am saying this. ...*(Interruptions)* It pinches me ...*(Interruptions)*. These things are pinching us because we are moving with the society. When people question us, what reply have we got? If that ink was not approved technically, it would not have been tested in the laboratory, and the order could be rejected.

Same is the case with my Defence Minister.

One Colonel is producing bullet proof tyres which cost 40 per cent less than the imported tyres. There is one Mr. Yeso, who is the General Manager, sitting in Hyderabad. For the last two years, he is making some correspondence on not placing orders. I approached the Minister.

[Shri Prakash Paranjpe]

[Translation]

What he said I do not want to speak in the House, but I also appeal to him.

[English]

They had tested the tyres which are manufactured by this Colonel. They are being used by the PMO also; they are being used at a number of places. The tyres have been certified technically. They are refusing only on one reason that he does not have his own factory. But the Colonel says that he would buy tyre from the factory which is producing it, but he wants them to place order in good number. For the last two years, I am after that, but unfortunately he has not received any orders so far.

On the same lines, one person from Pune is manufacturing some product called 'shells' which are used in the manufacture of bombs. He is selling that at 50 per cent of the price on which we are importing. A letter was sent to him, saying 'whenever required, we will contact you'. One year has elapsed but we did not receive any requirement. I don't know what you got. So, if the policy of the Government is to promote indigenous manufacturers, then you have to show it. I can give you thousands of examples, but I am giving only two—one relating to the Finance Ministry and another to the Defence Ministry. They say that they always want to promote indigenous manufacturers, but their actions are totally against it. Otherwise, they could just admit that they do not have any control over the bureaucrats. Secretary do not listen to me, please say it openly. In that case, we can withdraw ourselves.

Secondly, I have given certain suggestions in my Budget speech saying that reducing the rate of taxes will not reduce revenue.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I want to know if this is a TV show that he is giving this 'commercial break'! Is it allowed in this House to promote individual companies?

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: I have not taken anybody's name.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: He is entitled to argue that we should have *Swadeshi* as a policy. I would entirely then support him. But I think, as far as I know, it is against the practice in this House to refer to individual cases and to promote them in this manner. That will be all right in a TV show, but not in this House.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: If we talk about *swadeshi* then it is also wrong and if we talk about foreigner it becomes anti national.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not the duty of the Member of Parliament to take up issues like this, and it cannot be debated here also.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: I am not debating it. I am just informing the House. I am not asking an answer from the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When it is informed, it leads to a debate.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Anything said in this House gives a different meaning outside.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: If some indigenous manufacturer is promoted, I am happy about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We can talk about the policy.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: I am only talking about the policy.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The floor of the House cannot be used to promote a particular company.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: I have not taken any company's name.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please refrain from doing that again.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: Sir, I have given some suggestions in my speech on Budget. I was expecting that at least a one-line letter will come from the Department saying whether they have accepted my suggestion or whether they are thinking on those lines. But no correspondence has come from the Finance Ministry.

My suggestion was this. We have an income tax slab like this: from Rs. 50,000-Rs. 60,000-10 per cent; from Rs. 60,000-Rs. 1,50,000-20 per cent and from Rs. 1,50,000-Rs. 8,00,000-30 per cent. I have given this suggestion in my Budget speech itself. Can we not think of having 15 per cent income tax with a surcharge of 10 per cent for those who declare their incomes which are

above Rs. 8,00,000. By reducing tax, more people will declare their incomes. But no reply was received from the Finance Ministry as to whether they are accepting my proposal or they are rejecting my proposal. When I did not receive anything, that means, they have rejected my proposal. I have to take like that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted to your Party is over.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: I have taken just two minutes. I will conclude in another four minutes. That was my first suggestion that if you reduce tax at higher level, revenue will definitely increase.

We always compare the policy of China with the policy of India—the industrial policy. I would like to narrate only two points. In China, there is no income tax on the profits earned on exports. But in India whatever profits we earn by way of export are taxed. Will the Government think of giving that advantage to those persons who are exporting something and earning profits by not taxing them up to a certain level?

I referred to the banks. Phateja Company at Sambhaji Nagar has been granted loan to the tune of Rs. 550 crore by the Punjab National Bank. That company has nothing but a land worth Rs. 1 crore. How is the Government going to recover this money? Will the Government enquire from the MD on what basis such a huge loan was sanctioned to that company? This is only one example. There are a number of companies where such loans have been sanctioned. We do not know how they were sanctioned and there is no way now to recover those loans. What steps will the Government take in this regard? Will the Government punish the concerned officers who had granted such loans illegally? When they knew that there was no way to recover the loan, how such huge loans could have been sanctioned?

On the other side, HOCL at Raigarh is asking the Government for some guarantee. They were given Rs. 100 crore, because of which they had reduced the higher rate interest loan and have earned profit. They are asking for additional Rs. 200 crore only as a guarantee from the Central Government so that the higher rate interest loan is repaid. The banks are ready to give them the loan at six per cent but the file is moving from one department to the other. The company's name is, Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd., Maharashtra. ...(*Interruptions*)

Last but not the least, I am, for the last six years, fighting for an increase in the MPLAD fund on a technical ground. This year's Budget will be presented somewhere in February and will be passed in the month of April. Elections will be held and the code of conduct will apply. The rainy season will start. The amount of Rs. 2 crore which will be sanctioned in the coming Budget will not be useful to us. That is why we are asking for an increase of Rs. 1 crore at least to the present MPs. But there is no reply to that. The Finance Minister says that he has sent the proposal to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister says that he has sent it to Speaker because it comes under his purview. Ultimately, our own demand—the entire House had agreed in a meeting held at Speaker's Office—to have an increase of Rs. 1 crore is not being replied to by the Government.

[*Translation*]

When I staged dharna then they promised me that it would be done.

[*English*]

So, at least today I expect, if not the Prime Minister at least the Finance Minister, will make an announcement in this regard. The Government can have a condition that only those MPs who have exhausted Rs. 2 crore allocation to them will be released this extra Rs. 1 crore. It is not necessary to sanction it to all the MPs and pay interest on the unspent amount. Agree with that. This is my viewpoint. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: By one stroke of pen an MP has been given Rs. 2 crore. Do you mean to say that since he has exhausted the money, he is entitled for further payment? No.

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: The argument put forward by the Finance Minister is that the Government is paying heavy interest on the amount which is not utilised. So, I agree with that. Only those MPs who have utilised Rs. 2 crore allotted to them, can be given extra Rs. 1 crore. Will the Government think about it?

[*Translation*]

Madam, atleast do this immediately.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: As Chairman of the MPLAD Committee, I request the Minister to consider it

[Mr. Chairman]

immediately. The Minister can talk to the Prime Minister and see that the Members are disbursed the money before the end of their term.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga): Let it be before the end of this Session. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: In my speech on Budget, I had said that the repayment of loan by companies is not possible. Can the Government give one opportunity to the industrialists to repay their loans in any way, either in cash, gold, silver or land and the income tax department will not question them? When we can have VDS to bring out the black money, why can the industrialists not be given a chance? They have got property but everything is in number two and so, they cannot repay though they want to repay. Will the Finance Minister give some period, say till March 31st, within which anybody who has borrowed money and is not in a position to pay in white money can repay his loan either in cash, land, silver or gold and the income tax department will not question as to where from they have got this money? I am hundred per cent sure that 60 to 70 per cent loans will be recovered by the banks and the position of the banks will improve. I am not simply criticising. We are giving some suggestions to the Government. But unfortunately I have received no reply whether they have been accepted or rejected or they are being considered.

Again I will say that our Finance Minister wants us not to write letters, so I am saying orally. I hope the Minister will take cognisance of the suggestions which I have put forth and he will do something about it. These suggestions will improve the financial position of my Hindustan.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a normal practice to present the Supplementary Demands for Grants in every Session because many estimates are likely to be changed due to various circumstances. That is why, the Supplementary Demands come into the picture. This time also the hon. Finance Minister has come with it.

One Demand is regarding fertiliser which is probably for supporting the subsidy. The Department of Telecommunication requires a lot of expansion and they have provided some funds for their own Department, namely, the Department of Economic Affairs. A substantial amount has been granted for elementary education which

is very important. They have granted Rs. 1600 crore for rural development. It is very useful. They have given something for natural gas, steel industry, and other things also.

But coming to Demands, we always look for various other aspects as per our economy. Many things have been mentioned by many hon. Members. I would only like to mention a few items which are required for the immediate needs of the country. Of course, various Governments have adopted different types of approaches. There may be some lapses and there may be some improvements. But our main concern is what is required in the future. We look forward as to what we need to do in future and how we should proceed in order to make this country progressive. Today I could see one big booklet in which they asked: "Will India catch up with China?"

This is a challenge that we have to take up. We have to catch up with a developing country, if not a developed country. That is the point which we have to see. The major thrust is agriculture. Today, India has more than 65 per cent people living on agriculture. Secondly, we have to go for industrial development which requires infrastructure. These two aspects are very important. One should try to develop them. It has got employment potentialities. It could earn revenue for the Government. All these things are inter-dependent.

Another item which we have had to face in the last 3-4 years is the frequent natural calamities. They have become big problems. Somehow or the other, the Finance Minister has not kept enough fund for the National Calamity Relief Fund. Only two days back in Andhra Pradesh, there was a big cyclone. The entire coastal area has been affected and millions of acres of land has submerged. The paddy crop has been damaged at the time of harvesting. In fact, I wanted to show the pictures to the hon. Finance Minister. The houses have collapsed, people are sitting on top of the roofs, telephone and electric lines have collapsed because of the wind velocity and heavy rains. The losses are colossal. What is required is the immediate support from the Government of India. People require immediate support. They cannot wait for verification. If it can be done quickly, one can understand. But if you do not do it in time, it is not useful. A sick man requires immediate treatment. It is not that we can give him treatment when he collapses. What I feel is that the Government should be able to come to their rescue quickly. In the last two years, there were drought conditions which have affected the country badly. The

Government of India must consider the immediate requirements of the people. It should try to give proper help for those people.

The Government is creating infrastructure. As Shri Somaiya has mentioned, Rs. 50,000 crore have been kept for the National Highways. It is a good thing.

This is being done without any support from the Ministry of Finance. They are doing it by raising road tax. Similar kind of a thing is being done by the Railways through levying safety tax. The Railways are utilising this money for improvement of passenger amenities. A very minimum percentage of people in this country pays tax. What is important is the distribution of tax revenues. This needs to be widened in order to undertake various developmental activities that would help the country to move forward.

1626. hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Sir, I would like to make a point in regard to natural climates. Inter-linking of rivers is one very important issue. This project is under the consideration of the Government. A number of States are suffering owing to natural calamities like floods, cyclones and drought. Inter-linking of rivers would help to lessen damage on such calamities and would also help in providing better irrigation and drinking water facilities. This would require investment in this sector. But it is a question of taking the decision to do it. In the case of National Highways the Government has taken a decision to spend Rs. 50,000 crore and are going ahead with it because the Government has taken the decision to do it.

Sir, my next point is about power generation. This is absolutely necessary for the development of agriculture and industry. The Government should provide maximum support for the development of infrastructure. Rural development is another thing on which I would like to lay emphasis on. The hon. Prime Minister had made a statement in the month of December last year that those persons who pay ten per cent stipulated under the *Swajaldhara* Scheme within a stipulated time, the Government would pay the remaining amount and would implement the scheme. But unfortunately those who have paid the money have not yet got the benefit of this Scheme owing to shortage of fund. But once the hon. Prime Minister has promised it, this should be implemented without delay.

Sir, I would also like to make a point about housing and education. Educational facilities should be improved. The *Sarvasiksha Abhiyan* should be strengthened which, in turn, would help to spread education in rural areas. This is one of the basic needs today. The Government should do something more than what is being done to improve the conditions of the people in rural India.

Sir, in the case of the banking sector, the interest rate have come down. That is good thing in one respect. But it is affecting the people who have retired from their jobs. They are not able to get more money out of their investments from the banks. The advances of the banks have increased but the deposits have reduced. The Government should do something to protect the interest of the retired people so that they can also survive.

Sir, the textile industry has assumed importance in the context of global competition. What is required today is to have a review of the various duty structures, like customs and excise, that are in place. Same is the case in regard to the sugar mills. If the Government does not take some serious steps in this regard, then the sugar mills would virtually collapse. Many hon. Members have mentioned about edible oils. This sector should be given adequate protection. There is also a difference in the duty structure of refined and non-refined oils. I feel, this is very important. The Government should take care of this aspect. The Government supported the UTI by allocating Rs. 14,000 crore and so the Government should also come forward to give relief to the people who are suffering on account of natural calamities like flood, cyclones and drought. Millions of people are affected by natural calamities and people also lose their means of livelihood.

Sir, the scheme for rural ladies, namely, DW CRA is a successful scheme. This sort of scheme should be devised for rural development. Indian talents have been recognised internationally today. We need to pay more attention for education of our younger generations.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramaiah, your time is over. Please conclude now. We have to finish the entire debate by six o'clock today.

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: These are my suggestions to the hon. Finance Minister and I request him to take these aspects into consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: Before Kumar Akhilesh Singh Speaks, the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs wants to say something.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Sir, while the discussion on supplementary demand for grants was going on, a question was raised. We had decided in BAC meeting yesterday that after 'POTA' we would discuss supplementary demands for grants for four hours. Next day there will be reply. As it was late yesterday, it was said that we should take up supplementary demands for grants today instead of this subject and after concluding that we can hold discussion on ATR on JPC. Last time, a question was raised in which it was said that we should defer the discussion on supplementary demands for grants and start discussion on ATR on JPC and there after the Finance Minister should give reply. My submission is that the business of Supplementary Demands for Grants is the most important financial business and therefore we should conclude the discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants today and after reply voting should take place and there after House should be adjourned. Whatever the time we want to fix for discussion on ATR on JPC, we should decide in the meeting. By clubbing both the discussion neither we can do justice with the supplementary Demands for Grants nor with the ATR on JPC. Therefore, it would be better to conclude the discussion on Supplementary Demands For Grants after getting the reply and conducting voting. So far ATR is concerned, we should fix the time in a meeting with the leaders.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: What is the agenda for tomorrow?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: There are two constraints for tomorrow. First, the reply on ATR will have to be given by the Finance Minister. Finance Minister is the member of Rajya Sabha and tomorrow the constitution Amendment Bill as well as POTA is to be discussed in Rajya Sabha. His presence may be required for voting there and is possible that he may intervene in the matter. Therefore, tomorrow will not suit him. In the BAC meeting, I had demanded that tomorrow the whole day may be allotted for transacting legislative Business and we would move Bills on Thursday. Priority has to be given to those ordinance which are to be replaced by Bills. Therefore, we are taking up Bills tomorrow. Some discussions may take place on Friday. ATR should be taken up instead of those discussions. We can take discussion in this regard in a meeting. It would not be possible to discuss everything simultaneously in the House. We will agree to that

whatever time you proposed. The Government has accepted the discussion on ATR on JPC. Therefore, there is no constraint from outside. If you want to sit in the night or till late hours, we are ready. Keeping in view the discussion on supplementary Demands For Grants, yesterday also we had made arrangements for dinner but the House was adjourned earlier and the food gone waste. We don't have any problem in sitting in the night or till late hours. But please accept my submission today that the House should be adjourned only after the voting is over by 6 o'clock. Because this is the 200th session of Rajya Sabha and a cultural evening to celebrate the same has been organized by the Chairman of Rajya Sabha. Hon. Finance Minister is also the leader of the House in Rajya Sabha. He has also to attend the celebration. Therefore, after the discussion is over, voting may be done before 6 O'clock. Whatever adhere time is decided by the leaders on ATR. We would to that.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: So, I presume that the House agrees with this and I go ahead. But let me make it clear that there are ten more Members to speak. I would not be able to give more than five minutes to each speaker. So, all the speakers are requested to conclude within five minutes. This is compulsory to all the speakers because we have to take up voting on this subject today itself as there is a cultural programme organised by Rajya Sabha and we all have to go there.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I feel that both the Government and the Opposition have some common issues and problems. The discussions which were proposed by the Opposition were on three subjects. On one subject, both the Opposition and the Government agreed and regarding the other two, the Opposition proposed and the Government agreed. The first subject is for a discussion regarding the JPC under rule 193, the second subject is about the Telegi Scam and the third one is on unemployment. Three days had been decisively fixed, that is, today, day after tomorrow and Monday, and the rest of the hours are to be given for legislative business.

It happened yesterday that the discussion could not be continued and it has come up today. Now, we can sit in the Chamber and discuss on how we can sacrifice as regards the debates. If I say that discussion on Telegi Scam may be sacrificed, many of us will not agree. If I say that discussion on unemployment may be sacrificed, many of us will not agree. It has already been decided by the Business Advisory Committee.

So, my appeal, through you, to the Government is this. I do appreciate the position that the hon. Finance Minister would be extremely preoccupied tomorrow, as he is Leader of the other House, with voting, intervening in the debates on the Constitutional Amendment and POTA. I do feel strongly that if we take up the discussion under 193 on this subject at 4 o'clock, by 6 o'clock the hon. Finance Minister's personal preoccupation of voting on both these subjects will be over in the Rajya Sabha. Then, he can come here and reply to the debate at 6 o'clock or 7 o'clock. We can seek his convenience at that time. Otherwise, one of the subjects will be completely shelved or sacrificed which may not be possible for other Members to agree because everybody gave the consent in your presence in the BAC. That is why my submission is that the Government can accommodate this. We are accommodating all the legislations. The Government cannot say that we have disrupted any legislation.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already said, there is no question of denying any discussion from the Government side. You have observed our attitude in BAC meeting and here also I am telling the same thing. We are ready to sit late. But at the same time you are saying that the discussion should be concluded by 6 o'clock. Yesterday, we said that POTA would be taken up at 2 p.m. and discussion will be concluded by 4 p.m. but this could not be done. Therefore, uncertainty prevails. When the discussion on 97th Constitution Amendment will be concluded in Rajya Sabha nothing can be said at this movement. We are trying to take up it at 12 noon and conclude by 2 p.m. Thereafter, there will be lunch and after that we would start discussion on POTA and pass it but we could not complete the discussion within the stipulated time. The discussion will continue till late hours. Therefore, uncertainty will prevail as to when the discussion will be over. It would not be size to reply without hearing the discussion on ATR. I have made a submission to you that we have no problem and the discussion can be held as per convenience. Now, I am requesting you to conclude discussion and Supplementary Demands for Grants may be put up for vote. Whether the ATR is to be taken up tomorrow or day after tomorrow or in place of Telgi or after Telgi—you please get it decided and we are ready for that. Out of all these discussions which one has to be adjusted and which one is to be taken up later on, we are fully ready for that. I am to say that appropriation Bill is to be introduced in Rajya Sabha for consideration. Today we may conclude by holding

discussion, reply and voting on supplementary demands for grants.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I think we can sit in the Chamber and decide.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I agree with you. That is why I said let us accommodate this debate tomorrow.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: We may do so. We may include it in tomorrow's list of business, there is no problem. After that we may decide which item should be taken up.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We have full cooperation with you.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Thank you for your cooperation. I would like to say that I am fully cooperating with you.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: In your absence, third umpire is not able to tell the fact and we are declared as out by the wrong way.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Sir, my submission is that House should be adjourned at 6.00 p.m. after passing and voting for the demands.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Every Member will be allowed to speak for only five minutes.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for permitting me to participate in supplementary demands for grants. From the supplementary demands for grants presented by the Government we were expecting that it will bring improvement in agricultural and rural system but we felt deeply desperate by the supplementary demand for grants. In these demands no efforts has been made for the development of farmers and villagers. Today agriculture sector is facing the toughest challenges from the requirements of W.T.O., Government has not shown its will power to face the challenges in earlier General Budget

[Kunwar Akhilesh Singh]

also. Even in these supplementary demands for grants the government has not shown any will power. Today developed and developing countries of the world are providing more and more concessions to agriculture which has continuously hampered our world trade in agricultural production. This has put a question mark on the future of our farmers. If we do not make development in agriculture sector and improve the conditions of farmers. We can not required progress.

Hon'ble Finance Minister have placed a demand of Rs. 1195.73 crore for special component of the Sampurna Gramin Rojgar Yojana of Ministry of Agriculture. A demand of Rs. 380 crore has been placed for food component. Recently Rural Development Ministry constituted vigilance and monitoring committee, comprising members of Parliament in every states of the country. Minister of Rural Development is sitting here. No efforts have been made to lock into the minutes of the meetings of vigilance and monitoring committees which were held in states or districts. If you have constituted vigilance and monitoring committee and we have worked by devoting our time and attention then you should certainly have perused the proceedings and the State Governments should have been directed clearly to solve the points raised. The Government of India did nothing in the field of its implementation. Kansiram Rana Ji I can say it that out of the funds provided by the Ministry of Rural Development to the states, even 50% amount is not being utilised properly. If you can get 50 percent fund utilised properly you may see the changes in villages as I have observed that the situation of the villages is unchanged and roads of villages where *Kharanja* were laid now have turned into a quag. What is happening at those places is that the "Kharanja" that are being laid are being digged out and used for their private houses by village heads and other people. In this context, I would like to say that the funds being granted by you, is a welcome step, but if a system is developed to see whether the funds are being used or not, required progress can certainly be achieved.

Rs. 380 crore have been demanded for foodgrains. My experience is that where the foodgrains are being given, they are misused by the quota holders, contractors, local public representatives. They sell it in the open market. The people for which you are sending the foodgrains are not receiving the foodgrains meant for them. This is the fact. This aspect should also be considered.

Funds have also been demanded for water resources. Mr. Speaker, Sir, a discussion on the floods was held on

your direction in the House. I do not want to raise the issue of flood by our internal rivers. But a devastation is caused to the lives and properties of crores of rupees in eastern UP and Bihar every year by floods caused by rivers originating in Nepal and entering in India Poorvanchal and Bihar suffered with a devastating flood in 1998. The present Prime Minister was holding the office at that time also. He promised to the people of Poorvanchal and Bihar in Gorakhpur that the Government would do some concrete arrangement to save the lives of people from the devastation caused by floods by the rivers originating in Nepal and entering into India. But I regret to say that during 1998 to 2003, no step has been taken in the direction to fulfil the promise made by the Prime Minister to the people. The MPs from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have repeatedly demanded in this House that an Indo-Nepal joint working group be set up to check the devastating caused by floods by rivers originating in Nepal. But neither any action has been taken by the Government nor any budgetary provision has been made so far.

Funds have also been demanded for the improvement in rural telephone system. Telecommunication Sector is in a very bad condition. I have got the facts in this regard. I am talking about an American company *Daglas Sleepen*. CBI have investigated and filed a case. One hundred and fifty companies have deposited two crores of rupees under BSNL through Mauritius way. ...*(Interruptions)* It is the American company *Daglas Sleepen* against which CBI have registered a case of illegal telephone business. This company has caused a loss of Rs. 9.72 crores to the Department. But no action has been taken for its extradition. If Non-technology private Ltd. episode of the telephone department is seen, the reality will come to light. One of the leading newspapers *Janasatta* had published the news on 08.04.03. If action is taken even on the basis of that Newspaper, I think, a 300 crore rupees scam will come to light. Today, the situation is that all the hon. members are being pressurised for the sim cards of the mobile service. According to the consumers, the supply is not as per the demand. Only 10 per cent supply is being made. A problem has arisen in the constituencies of all the MPs. I would like that there should be a coordination between the demand and the supply and for that directions should be given.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the condition of Income Tax Department is also very bad. You are going to convene a meeting for discussion in JPC and we will be invited in that meeting. In the meeting it will come to light as to

why the JPC has put Adani Export Corporate Sector at number one in its report. I am also a member of the Estimate Committee. This Committee had gone to Gujarat on a study tour last days. I noticed that Income Tax Officers had waived off a tax to the tune of more than Rs. 80 crore under an appeal. Small tax payers are targeted, whereas income tax to the tune of Rs. 80 crore are being waived off. These companies are entangled in the share market, but this tax is waived off on their appeal-way?

Mr. Speaker, Sir, similarly, the Government have made demand for funds for the Ministry of Fertilizer and Chemicals. Gorakhpur Fertilizer factory is lying closed for many years. As far as I know, Government of India have set up a cabinet committee to run Gorakhpur Fertilizer factory. But no arrangement has so far been made to run the fertilizer factory. People have been demanding, workers have been demanding, public representatives have been demanding but no action has been taken. If this Naphtha based plant cannot run, steps should be taken to run this plant on the basis of new technology. The Prime Minister had given assurance in this direction but no action has so far been taken in this direction. I urge upon the Government that it should take initiative to run the Gorakhpur Fertilizer factory.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ministry of Textile have also made a demand for funds. I would like to state that NTC establishment Ganesh Sugar Mill under my Parliamentary constituency Maharajganj was being run under the Ministry of Textile, but this sugar mill has been lying closed for the past 10 years. Its workers are struggling to get their dues. Neither the workers have been paid their dues nor an adequate arrangements has been made by the Government to run the sugar mill. The different attitude is being adopted with the labourers of a mill in Kanpur under Ministry of Textile while other attitude is being adopted in the case of the labourers of Ganesh Sugar Mill. Through you Sir, I make a demand to the Government to solve this problem.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the last point now that the Ministry of Culture and Tourism has asked to increase the various demands for grants. Buddhist circuit is very important. The birth place of Gautam Buddha, Lumbini and His Nirvana place, Kushinagar, both are located within my Lok Sabha constituency. If the Government come forward to strengthen the Buddhist circuit and connect the Birth place of Gautam Buddha and His Nirvana place by constructing road to Thuthibari and Kushinagar via

Khanuwa-Nautanwa it will facilitate to pilgrims to visit these places.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with these concluding words I strongly oppose the supplementary demands for grants as these do not do justice with the farmers.

[English]

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN (Tirunelveli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to place my views on the Supplementary Demands.

Sir, when I gave a cursory reading to this Supplementary Demand Note, I was amazed to see that there is no mention about all our deliberations of the last four years. As early as in 2001-02, we had asked for the implementation of the *Sethu Samuthiram* project. While replying, the Minister said that about Rs. 1,500 crore have been allocated for that project. They have earmarked a few crores of rupees for investigation of the project. Now there is no mention about the total cost of the project to implement it. So, has the Government any inclination to implement the project? It is not mentioned in the Supplementary Demands.

I went through the Demands of the Ministry of Law and Justice. We have been consistently pursuing with the Government for establishment of a Bench of the Supreme Court in South India. A person from Kanyakumari has to come to Delhi. As early as in the first Report of the Law Commission by late Shri Setalwad, there was a recommendation that a Circuit Bench of the Supreme Court should be established in South India. About 150 Reports of the Law Commission have been passed. But so far, the Centre has not complied with the establishment of a Circuit Bench of the Supreme Court. I would now urge upon the Government to implement it.

There is no mention about the recovery of loans from the chronic defaulters, the rich defaulters, the parasites, and the leaches living on public banks and public money. Right from 1999, I have been consistently pleading before this House that the heavy loan defaulters should be brought to book. The All-India Bank Employee's Association has published a book containing the names of about 5,000 defaulters. We have deliberated on that. But what has happened to that? Was there any recovery? One of my friends referred to some big defaulter in the Punjab National Bank in Maharashtra. It has prompted me again to urge upon the Minister of Finance to recover the loans from the chronic defaulters.

[Shri P.H. Pandian]

Then there is no mention about the location of money for implementation of the project relating to nationalisation of rivers. There was a hue and cry. A decision was taken at the Prime Minister's level. The Prime Minister was pleased to appoint Shri Suresh Prabhu as Chairman of the Nationalisation of Rivers Project. What has happened to that? How much progress have they made? How much allocation has been made for early implementation of that project? It is all in letter but not in spirit. It is all in the Budget speech. It is all in the public announcement. It has come out. So, I would now urge upon the Government on behalf of my Party that there must be some allocation for implementation of that project.

Then there was a reference two years ago regarding measures by the Centre for the physically handicapped. The Government had also asked the MPs to allocate money from the MPLADS for this project. We are allocating money. But the Government has not taken up this project seriously. They have not allocated money. I would request the Government to allocate more money.

Finally, the disinvestment is the order of the arguments today. When disinvestment of BALCO was taking place, it was challenged before the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court said: "It was a policy matter. We will not interfere." But when HPCL and BPCL were taken up, it was challenged before the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court admitted and heard that case. Then they said: "the approval of the Parliament is necessary." in one matter, they interfered and admitted it. In another matter, they did not do so. So, I do not know which one is correct. What is the position of law passed by the Supreme Court on the question of disinvestment? So, let the Government come out with a clear proposition whether the Supreme Court has got powers to enquire, adjudicate and hear the question of disinvestment. The judgement varies from case to case. There is no general judgement on that.

There is no mention about the allocation of funds for the provision of basic amenities for rural areas.

MR. SPEAKER: Your time is over. You can understand the difficulty better.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: I will finish it now. It is the duty of every Member to support the Supplementary Demands because we cannot oppose it as the money has already been given. The Government has to run, so we support the Demand. But I would request the hon.

Minister to take into consideration our viewpoints and serve the people.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Amidst the brouhaha of economic prospects as is being orchestrated by this Government, there are so many seamy-sides which are overlooked or intended to be diluted.

Sir, as per the Reserve Bank of India report, till September 2003, the gross fiscal deficit has been registered at Rs. 81014 crore. It is higher by 43 per cent over the corresponding period in the last year. It is accounted for 52.7 per cent of Budget Estimates in the current year. So far as revenue deficit is concerned, it is hovering around Rs. 65,247 crore, higher by 37.4 per cent over the corresponding period last year, which also constitutes 58.3 per cent of Budget Estimates in the current year.

Sir, from April to September, the growth in exports has been registered at only 10 per cent, which is 18 per cent lower than the corresponding year when the growth was registered at 18 per cent. On the other hand, growth in imports was higher by 21.4 per cent against 9.2 per cent in the previous year.

The Government may boast of its foreign exchange reserves, yes it is as robust as 92.6 million by the end of October and the exchange rate of rupee appreciated by 4.8 per cent against dollar, but depreciated against Euro, against Yen and against Pound. The short-term debt increased from 4.6 billion dollar to 5.8 billion dollar.

16.58 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIAN *in the Chair*)

Sir, decline in credit growth has been observed in coal, petroleum, rubber and food processing sector. The persistent of large aggregate borrowing by the Central and State Governments still is an area of major concern. Annual inflation is higher by WIP and external debt has raised to 109 billion dollars. However, it was 104 billion dollar in the last year.

The Government has failed to widen any revenue base. The Government has failed so far as fiscal deficit is concerned. Already the expenditure has risen by 50 per cent. The range of public sector banks in priority lending rate is 9 to 12.25 per cent. The overall trade deficit is at 7.1 billion dollar higher than the deficit of

3.5 billion dollar. The balance of payments showed a deficit of 1.2 billion dollars.

The International Monetary Fund has projected the growth of our economy at 5.6 per cent in the year 2002-03 and 5.9 per cent in the year 2003-04. It has also been observed that due to the slow pace of reforms, the other structural adjustments and fiscal discipline, the Central Government is set to reach at ten per cent deficit for the five years, however, India becomes a creditor of International Monetary Fund under its Financial Transaction Plan.

17.00 hrs.

Sir, this time, we are discussing our economic scenario in the background of the arrest of Saddam Hussain. Sir, may I know from the Government whether the arrest of Saddam Hussain and the resurgent capital market in America will pour out the FII from Indian market or not. We all acknowledge that agriculture is the key element of our economy as still two-thirds of our population eke out its livelihood from agriculture sector. However, over the long years, agriculture has been subjected to sheer negligence and deprivation.

Sir, during the First Five Year Plan, that is during 1951-56, the Centre's share of allocation to the agriculture sector was 14.9 per cent and during the Tenth Plan period, it has been reduced to 5.2 per cent. Even the share of agriculture in GDP also has declined. It was around 61 per cent in the year 1950-51. Now, it has come down to only 24 per cent. However, still 14.7 per cent of our export earnings is generating from agriculture sector. That is, on the one hand, two-thirds of our population are being given sustenance from agriculture, on the other hand, 14.7 per cent foreign exchange earning are being generated from agriculture. Sir, dependence of population in agriculture declined only from 77 to 69 per cent during this period. Investment in agriculture has been declining from 1993-94. In 1993-94 it was 1.6 per cent and now it is merely 1.3 per cent. Growth in agriculture GDP was 3.1 per cent during the eighties but during the nineties it has declined to 2.7 per cent.

We are all concerned about the GM crops and GM foods. The Government has not yet declared and explicit policy on GM food and GM crops. Already, Genetic Engineering Approval Committee has approved the commercial production of 3 bt cotton. GM Food has already been banned in Europe. In European countries, a moratorium has been imposed on GM Foods and GM

crops. But, so far as India is concerned, the entire agriculture sector is unaware of what is happening on GM Food. The Government should not indulge in playing hide and seek game with the agriculturists. Therefore, Sir, the Government is totally anti-farmer and the Government is totally indifferent to the agriculturists. This is my conclusion. Thereby I am concluding my speech also. Because of the paucity of time, I cannot express myself. So, with regret, I am concluding.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala): Thank you, Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in favour of supplementary demands for grants moved by Hon'ble Minister.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate Hon'ble Minister and NDA leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji who has transformed India into a fourth economic power of the world through his dynamic leadership in the last five year. Just now my friend Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar ji from Congress was speaking that the time since this Government has come to power it has done nothing on the economic front. I would like to apprise him that our G.D.P. in 1998 was Rs. 13,90,148 crore which has gone up to Rs. 2,36,128 crore during the last five years. In the year 1998 our export was Rs. 130101 crore which has now increased to Rs. 2,50,130 crore in the year 2003. Our turnover in I.T. sector was Rs. 10,940 crore only which now has been enhanced to Rs. 45,500 crore. Moreover, there were only 12 lakh internet users in our country in 1998, and now their number has gone up to 1.25 crore approximately. Our balance of payment has been negative during the last 24 years but today we have become positive in this respect courtesy to the efforts made by Shri Atal jee. Today we have not only made our country economically strong but also made prepayment of the external loans amounting to three billion dollars. This time we even gave loan to IMF also. Our export has increased by 20 percent per year. The average inflation during past five year has been less than three per cent. This Government provided Rs. 25000 crore to revolutionize Textile industry. You can evaluate the progress of India through this. Today 100 top companies of the world among world level companies are working in India.

Sir, we are exporting cars and we are exporting auto mobile parts to 12 countries. Housing sector has been revolutionized in the new way by providing housing loan at the rate of 8 per cent. Metro rail work in Delhi has been started at the cost of Rs. 12,500 crore. Only

[Shri Rattan Lal Kataria]

16 new trains had been started from 1986 till last year. This Government has started Swarn Jayanti Shatabdi Train during its short term tenure. We have made tremendous progress in the power sector. we generated 3712 megawatt unit of power and set up five lakh bio-gas units in our country.

Sir, power is very much necessary for the economic development of our country. I would like to say that any amount made available for the power generation work being carried out in the fields of hydro power and atomic power is not sufficient. You can judge from the way how our respect has grown worldwide. In the past, whenever our top leader used to go on a world tour, the newspapers used to write "Give in the name of God, international Fakirs have come. They have come to beg either for foodgrains or money." Today, we have taken revolutionary steps in the field of foodgrains under the leadership of Atal ji. Today, the buffer stock of foodgrain is six crore metric tonnes and our foreign exchange reserve is also more than 100 billion US Dollars. And you want to compete with us. We challenge the Congress and the other alliance parties that we have achieved all this only during a short span of 5 years and we have set new records of developmental work what they could not achieve in the last 50 years. We provided 3.5 crore telephone connections in five years while only 86 lakh connections were provided during the 50 years. We have given 3.5 crore LPG gas connections in five years while 3.37 crore connections were given in the 50 years. We have disbursed more than Rs. 75 thousand crore to improve the condition of the farmers by providing them 3.5 crore Kisan Credit Cards during last two years. Today, in our country five kilometre road of six lanes is being constructed everyday. On an average, 11 kilometre road of 4 lanes is being constructed and the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana Yajana has connected the entire nation. Whether it is road connectivity or rail or air connectivity revolutionary steps are being taken for all of them. The condition of our airports is being improved. ...*(Interruptions)* Hardly 2 minutes have passed since I began speaking.

Today, we are running the largest PDS in the world. We are providing wheat at the rate of Rs. 2 per kg. and rice at Rs. 3 per kg. to 1.5 crore people by spending rupees 15 thousand crore which has given us a chance to bring crores of people above the poverty line. Even in the field of education we have spent rupees 7004 crores under *Sarva Siksha Abhiyan*. Government of India has taken many revolutionary steps in order to provide education to the poor children. We have bridged the gap between rich and poor children. Atleast 18 lakh children

belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have been given scholarship by the Government so that they can progress in life. Similarly, work has been done in every field.

For the first time in the country Agriculture Policy was introduced, Health Policy was introduced where insurance cover upto rupees 25 thousand was provided by giving Re. 1 everyday. More than six percent of GDP is being spent on health sector and six AIIMS hospitals of national level are being set up. I would like to request you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given you enough time. There are so many speakers. We have to finish it at six o'clock. The Minister has to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: I only need 3 to 4 minutes.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am giving only one minute. Time management is very difficult.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: I would like to say that even for the North East region, we have set up a new ministry for this. Prime Minister gave a separate package for it. Whether it is the question of modernisation of our police force or security of the country, our finance minister has provided funds generously for every sector and worked day and night for strengthening the economic condition of the country in every way. This Government is committed to the unity and integrity of the country. For achieving the dreams of our President H.H. Abdul Kalam and the Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee of making India a powerful country by 2020. I fully support all these supplementary demands for grant.

[English]

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (Cuddalore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very much thankful to you for allowing me to participate in this discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants.

During your speech, you had correctly pointed out about the lack of allocation for the Sethu Samudhram Project. When the dynamic Minister Shri Su.

Thirunavukkarasar was the Minister of State in charge of Shipping, there was some allocation but now there is totally no allocation. On the 15th December, our party conducted a very big picketing in Chennai and all over Tamil Nadu. Nearly three lakh cadres of the DMK were arrested for demanding allocation for the Sethu Samudhram Project. That was one of our demands because now there is no allocation at all for this project.

You had also very correctly pointed out the problem of non-recovery of loans and chronic defaulters. During discussions on the General Budget also, I had mentioned about the problem of chronic defaulters. In my State and particularly in my constituency and in my district, there are two big businessmen who have got loans worth Rs. 200 crore from various banks like the State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Indian Bank and Indian Overseas Bank. They have not repaid even a single paisa. I mentioned about this earlier during the debate on the General Budget and you have also raised the problem of chronic defaulters. So, the hon. Minister of Finance, the Prime Minister and the Central Government should take steps to recover these loans.

Coming to the agriculture sector, the growth rate has been severely affected by drought conditions in the country as a result of which production has decreased. Steps have to be taken to enable farmers to purchase seeds and agricultural implements. The farming community is not able to get loan from banks. Our hon. Prime Minister has announced that interest on loans taken by farmers would be waived but only 50 per cent of interest on loans are waived. So, this has to be looked into.

Hon. Member Shri Kirit Somaiya has mentioned in his speech about the Kisan Credit Cards. It is a welcome measure taken by our NDA Government. Nearly four crore farmers have got Kisan Credit Cards and are enjoying the benefits of Kisan Credit Cards.

Another problem that we are facing is that nowadays jobs are not being created. The youths need employment. There is unrest in most parts of our country because of unemployment. So, employment generation has to be there and employment opportunities have to be created.

The inter-linking of rivers would very much help the farming community. It is very necessary to take speedy action on inter-linking of rivers.

In the industrial sector and in the manufacturing sector, we have made very good progress.

It is an indication of the success of the NDA Government that in the last five years nearly 15,000 kilometres of national highways have been added and roads are being constructed.

It is true not only in the case of National Highways but it is true in the case of rural roads also. Now, rural villages are connected. So, in the industrial sector, in the manufacturing sector, in the National Highways and in the rural sector, our NDA Government has done a very good work.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduars): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the discussion initiated on Supplementary Demands for Grants (General). I think that many such important issues which should have been taken into consideration, have been ignored. Unless an endeavour is made to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor, the self-praise exercise being done by our colleagues sitting in treasury benches would be futile.

I want to say that the announcement to provide facilities to the farmers should not remain the announcement only, it should be implemented. But it is not being implemented. This Government is not paying that much attention towards the plight of the workers and the labourers as it should have. For example, I want to cite the case of the tea industry. The people running the tea-industry say that the industry is in deep crisis due to export-import scenario in international market. But, according to my analysis, the crisis is artificial and it is due to the lack of farsightedness on the part of tea-estate owners and there is a bit of exploitation also. I want to say that the number of workers in tea industry is ten lakh and they are spread out in South India, Darjeeling, Tarai and Assam and half of them are women. The condition of the dependent children of the workers is very serious. You get cess from green leaves of tea and you provide some relief to the tea industry through Tea Board. You should continue your efforts to improve the condition of tea industry through Tea Board but you should also pay attention to the plight of those children of tea workers who have discontinued their education. They should not be provided relief through Tea Board. Some part of the money collected from tea industries through Indian Cess Act, 1953 should be given to the workers of the tea estates and to their children for welfare

[Shri Joachim Baxla]

activities. Presently, about 23 tea estates in Duars, Tarai and Darjeeling in West Bengal are closed. The unemployed youth are facing a lot of problems there. The school-going children do not go to school anymore because they did not get food there. The Government of West Bengal is trying its best to solve their problem but it is not adequate. So, I urge upon the Union Government that arrangement should be made to provide immediate relief and medicines to the labourers working in tea industry of South India, West Bengal and Assam through Tea Board.

In the same way, I want to raise the issue related to Indo-Bhutan Joint River Commission. I reportedly demand that efforts should be made to improve the economic situation particularly miserable condition which have arisen in the Northern Bengal as a result of setting up of India-Bhutan Joint River Commission. In addition to this, the rivers of North Bengal come under the jurisdiction of Brahmaputra-River Board, but the funds needed to look after the rivers of North Bengal are not being paid. The Government of India should look into it. I also demand that the Government should monitor the implementation process of the announcements made so far. Unless the poor farmers, the youth and the labourers of this country start reaping the benefits of these projects, all these projects will remain futile. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Arun Kumar to speak now. Five minutes' time is given to each Member. Please limit yourself to this. Please be conscious of the time.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (Jahanabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, one can not discuss all the issues related to the Supplementary Demands for Grants in such a short time, but still I want to express my views as suggestion. Even after-56 years of independence, this country is struggling with the basic problems of its 100 crores of population. Regardless of the data pertaining to the food, clothes, shelter, health and education. If we see the reality, then we will certainly find that a vast majority of our population is still struggling with these problems. We can see all this by visiting hospitals of Delhi, where poor people suffering from incurable disease of kidney, liver and heart are struggling for their life and they have no other option except death. The facilities are inadequate. The Government headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has

done development work in such a short span of time and I do not agree with the data given by hon. Mani Shankar Aiyar that the Government is doing all kinds of destruction. At the same time, I do not agree with those who say that we need not do anything as we have done a lot. I believe that there are numerous problems before us even today and there are the competitions of global village and many others before the country and there are certainly many practical difficulties before us in this global village. It is because of these difficulties that we are unable to find solution to all those problems. But there was lack of infrastructure that is required for development whether in power sector, road sector, telecommunication, rail or air connectivity, there was lack of the basic infrastructure required for developing and developed countries till today, and some revolutionary initiatives have been taken in this field and its benefit would be seen in the coming years. I wanted to put forth some facts in detail but there is dearth of time. It may be that I may miss the basic point, therefore, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Finance Minister towards two-three issues. Recently, the employees of rural banks have held a demonstration in Delhi. Perhaps, the Government propose to merge all rural banks with their sponsored commercial banks. I would like to suggest that all rural banks should be merged and a National Rural Bank should be constituted. I believe that commercial banks are not that much conscious towards the basic problems of the farmers as the rural banks are. Besides, the basic purpose for which the rural banks were constituted would also be defeated. Therefore, I would like to request the Government that the rural banks should be made a national organization for rural areas where 80 percent of our population live. If we do not strengthen the economy there, our consumers buying capacity will not increase, in that condition despite having a huge foreign exchange reserve and high GDP growth rate, the conditions of farmers and labourers will not improve and we would not be able to do much to improve their lot. Therefore, we should under this work to strengthen rural economy.

In many respects, Bihar is a backward state. If I say something Raghuvansh Babu will be disturbed, therefore, I do not want to mention that. But complete anarchy is prevailing there. They are in power there with the support of the Congress Party. Just now, Mani Shankar was presenting and extensive data that the condition there is beyond imagination. The condition of Bihar is quite anarchic and social, economic and law and order situation have completely collapsed there. Where there is nothing like Government, there does exist such a thing like Barauni Fertilizer Factory. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman,

Sir, I would conclude in one minute. There were three factories in Barauni, Anjhor and Sindri in Bihar. Which have thousands of crores of assets with them. Today, it takes 1500 crore to set up a new factory. Such a big infrastructure should not be wasted in such way. I do not think that it is a state solely based on agriculture. Therefore, the plants at Barauni, Sindri and Anjhor should be renovated with new technology and big infrastructure. With these words, I conclude my speech and support it.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Who listens to you and is there any value of that? You get allowance from this place for speaking against Bihar. You do not speak the language of the people. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: If you have even the slightest of self-respect please go through the remark made by the Chief Justice there.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The NDA Government is distributing allowance to those who speak on Bihar. The people of Bihar elect and send us here to raise their problems. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Arun Kumar and Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, do not address each other. Please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: I have spoken against the Government of Bihar because anarchic conditions prevail there. Therefore, the people have elected me and sent here.

...*(Interruptions)**

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Hon. Finance Minister, please increase his allowance. ...*(Interruptions)* Allowance is given for speaking against the Bihar Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The exchanges which have taken place between Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and Shri Arun Kumar will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record. I have expunged it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajesh Ranjan, I have not allowed you to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has been expunged.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have not allowed me. ...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajesh Ranjan, order please.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Finance Minister has introduced the Appropriation Bill for 76 arab, 60 crore and 21 lakh rupees supplementary demands for grants in the House. We have seen that he has made supplementary demands for Rs. 1579 crore, 75 lakh for rural development also. Sir, I am reminded of a song "Umariya badhati Jaye, chunariya ghatai jaye". Unemployment is increasing and hon. learned Mani Shankar Aiyar has made detailed analysis and said that unemployment is increasing.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): His language should be checked. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It is a famous song of a film. ...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there anything unparliamentary that he said?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am asking the Members whether there is anything unparliamentary.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (Bolangir): He should withdraw his words.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there is anything unparliamentary, it will not go on record. Kindly resume your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: He should withdraw his words.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If there is anything unparliamentary, it will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: He has used unparliamentary language.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already said that, if there is anything unparliamentary, it will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already expunged it. If it is unparliamentary, it will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Hon'ble Member should withdraw his words.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What did he say? I have already said that if there is anything unparliamentary, it will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please continue.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Sir, I am on Point of order.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, Point of Order now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: He should ask for apology. ...(Interruptions) He should withdraw his words.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is this? I have already said that if there is anything unparliamentary, It will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you kindly address the Chair.

17.39 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar, what is the problem?

[Translation]

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to listen his point of order. What is your point of order?

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: He has used unparliamentary language.

MR. SPEAKER: It is O.K. If anything is unparliamentary, I am ready to expunge it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If it is unparliamentary, it will be removed from the record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. All other members, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, dignity and decorum have to be maintained in the House. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh ji is a senior member of the House. He should think before speaking anything. ...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, please also listen to what I have said. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already heard you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, House has its own dignity*. It is not proper to repeat such things in the House. You must take stern action against such things. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, while standing and pointing towards me he has said "Umeria Badati Jaye, Chuneria Gatati Jaye" can I ask him whose 'Chuneria' is getting shortened in this House. This is an insult to women. ...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): He abuses everyone and you offer him chair to preside. This is wrong. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I expect everyone to behave in a decent manner.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he will have to withdraw his words. He will have to ask for apology for this. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. It is very simple matter and I can sort it out within no time. All parliamentary words have been removed from the record.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Yesterday he said...* and today he said about women. Does he have a right to abuse? Will this single man abuse the whole House? Is there no decorum? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: As I have already said, the discussion on these Supplementary Demands for Grants has to be completed by six o'clock.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA: He will have to withdraw his words. He will have to ask for an apology. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have told him as well as other members to use civilized language in the House. Unparliamentary words should not be used.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been permitted to speak on supplementary budget. ...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: He will have to ask for an apology.

...(Interruptions)

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already told in the House, Hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has expressed her views in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: When I am speaking, then you should not speak.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is also not a discipline, when I am speaking, you are also speaking in between.

I want to convey to all the Members that this is the apex House of the country. I want that every Members of this House should behave in a responsible manner. One Member should not level charge against other and hurt his sentiments. No Member should behave in such a manner which creates embarrassment. I do not want that such situation should arise in the House at any time. At the same time it is my request to you all to speak consciously whenever you are given opportunity to speak. I also want to say in the House that the Members should not use such words which may hurt other's sentiments. No one should utter loose talks here.

Those members who say such things may be initiated action against them. Therefore, I warn all those members in this regard. I request that the grants moved by the Government be passed. I understand that members are wise enough. They will understand what I am saying? I have to get approved these supplementary demands at 6-O' clock today. The hon. Minister has also come here to get these demands passed. Presently, now I want to take up supplementary demands. Raghuvanshi you please conclude your speech now.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: Sir, he must apologize. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you please conclude your speech now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we will not allow him to speak. First, he must apologize. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, despite your repeated efforts, he is unmoved. It has never happened earlier. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have read three lines related to it. I have not at all said such a thing against any woman. I have not made any comment against any member. It was just a famous song of olden days. Since the allocation of funds has been reduced in rural development, I said that thing through the line of that song. ...(Interruptions) By raising her hand she said, not at all. This is totally wrong. What does it mean? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Try to understand whatever I have said.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair will go into the details. If the warning is required, he will be warned not to use such words in future.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What more you expect from the chair?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: No, Sir. We will not allow him to speak unless he apologises. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Member will be warned if the words used by him are hurting others, insulting others and insulting the women, specially.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Mahale ji, I am giving you two minutes time to speak. You please speak. Raghuvanshi, your time is over. You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not spoken even a single line. I have never said anything against women.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad, your time is over. Please sit down now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that I will warn those members who have used unparliamentary words. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we will not allow him to speak. His time is over. First of all he should apologize. ...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The hon. Finance Minister has presented a supplementary budget for Rs. 76,07,21,00000/-. I want to say that hon. Member Mani Shankar ji has done the calculations and told that Rs. 18,374 crore have been spent on rural development. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Your time is over. Please sit down.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: This is not fair. Will you not allow me to speak even four line? Since we are highlighting the mistakes of the Government, we are not being allowed to speak. ...(Interruptions) Every individual, whether man or woman, should be given respect. ...(Interruptions) These people are deliberately not allowing me to speak. I rise to put forward my views. Mr. Speaker, Sir, my party has given a much less time. ...(Interruptions) I was talking about rural development. A provision of Rs. 18,376 crore has been made for rural development in the year 2002. But in the year 2003 it was reduced to Rs. 14,000 crore. I would like to ask the hon. Finance Minister as to why this allocation of funds is being reduced. ...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, today dearness is increasing day by day and the poor is not able to meet both the ends. In this way poverty is not decreasing. ...(Interruptions) Regional disparity is mounting.

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state as to what provisions have been made in the plan to eradicate this regional disparity? This supplementary budget does not reflect such a thing. ...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, the behaviour of the ruling party must be noticed. Here I am raising the issue of crores of rupees. ...(Interruptions) The Government is crushing the people of Bihar. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence. All of you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hari Shankar Mahale ji, you please speak. Any other thing will not be recorded.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE (Malegaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to express my views on supplementary demands for grants.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, 10 districts are drought affected in Maharashtra. Seven tehsils under my district Nasik are included in this. There is no drinking water, no fodder for animals and people are dying of hunger. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down please. He is from Maharashtra and I will provide complete protection to him.

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I urge the Central Government to provide maximum funds to the Maharashtra Government so that the plans can be implemented.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very important to pay attention to make Crop Insurance Scheme a success. Even soil can fetch a higher price than paddy, which is available in the market at Rs. 4/- kg. This also needs to be looked into.

Central Government has set up an independent Ministry for tribal people but enough funds are not provided for it. There is need for more funds in this regard.

Pant Pradhan Yojna is all right. But it should be handed over to PWD instead of Zila Parishad.

WLL phone scheme has been introduced but it is necessary to provide handset in it. People are demanding BSNL mobile but no tower has been set up which is very much required and needs to be provided.

*Not recorded.

[Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale]

The power situation is very bad in the country and needs improvement.

FCI in Manmad is very famous but today its condition is very bad. Its workers are facing problems and the Central Government should look into that.

Credit giving institutions are facing a crisis in view of the stringent rules made by the RBI. I, therefore, demand that the RBI should relax its rules.

There is a need for conducting a survey on poverty and to eradicate unemployment in the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, his further speech will not be recorded. Now you speak.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Sir, has my name been struck off?

MR. SPEAKER: Your name was not in the list, therefore where does the question of striking off your name arise?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): I am grateful to the hon. Members who have participated in today's discussion. The discussion itself was limited to the Supplementary Demands for Grants but it is encouraging and is also indicative of the interest that the hon. Members have taken with regard to the economic development of the country. Various issues outside of the specific aspect of the Supplementary Demands, inevitably, understandably, got covered here, again because the discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants, and just little later on the Appropriation Bill which follows, has been preceded by the submission by the Ministry of Finance to both the House of Parliament of a mid year review of the state-of-economy, as we had announced. Inevitably, the issues that Mid Year Review covered have also come up for consideration. I am sure you will appreciate, Sir, as will the hon. Members, that had it been a discussion on the Mid Year Review, I would have then endeavoured to answer all the points raised by all the hon. Members in as much detail as I can. But I have to limit it to the scope of the discussion.

*Not recorded.

Hon. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar's entire intervention was on an assessment of the Mid Year Review and also on the performance of the economy. He, of course, is not satisfied with the performance of the economy. That is his viewpoint that is not shared by many others. But we need not alter his mind. The central thesis that he propounded was that his Party and his Party's Leadership is much better than the NDA Government. That is his viewpoint again and I am sure he will understand that we do not actually share self-assessment. Much more important, I think for him and for his Party, is that not only do we not share, unfortunately for them the electorate also does not share the view. That again is the subject that can be discussed at considerable length subsequently.

18.00 hrs.

Subsequently, the questions of growth, food availability, poverty alleviation, etc. were also raised. These are substantial questions and I do not want to belittle the points that have been raised in this regard as also about employment or about Foreign Direct Investment or ICOR. These are substantial issues that have been raised. I really wish that there were—as I think the other House is doing—a fuller discussion on the Mid-year Review and that would provide me the more suitable opportunity to respond.

I would submit to all the hon. Members that the Supplementary Demands were naturally over-shadowed by the large coverage of the Mid-year Review. I would request the hon. Members to appreciate that whether it is a quarterly review or a Mid-year Review or subsequent reviews about the Budget, they cannot cover the totality of the economy. It only a quarterly report. We submitted first ever such report last year when we presented the Budget. This is a new process that we have started. It cannot cover all aspects. Therefore, some hon. Members suggested that.

[Translation]

There is little mention about villages or rural economy.

[English]

The central point which hon. Shri Rupchand Pal made is actually related to the Supplementary Demands and he said that it appears that the *Sarva-Shiksha Abhiyan* Scheme is not a priority. I think that is an erroneous reading of the objective data that has been provided. If the original provision in the Budget was for Rs. 1,951 crore for the Scheme which is part of the BE of 2003-04, the additional amount of Rs. 801 crore is now being provided—Rs. 505 crore through Supplementary Demand

and the balance through savings. You would find it, if you would study the papers given by the Ministry of Human Resource Development itself.

[Translation]

Many hon'ble members have said that no attention has been paid to the villages. Even in the present supplementary demands the provision of Rs. 2300 crores has been made for taking telecommunications to the villages. I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to go through the statistics before levelling any allegation that the villages have been neglected. I too believe that Hon'ble Raghuvansh Prasad Singh must have delivered his deep rooted and thoughtful speech but I regret to say that he was not able to speak aloud. Had he spoken more loudly I might have heard him. So I am sorry I will not be able to comment on the views expressed by him.

One point was definitely raised regarding arrangements made to deal with drought situation in 11 Talukas of Maharashtra. Many representatives as well as M.Ps from Maharashtra met me in this regard. Moreover we submitted earlier that state Government should make a official declaration regarding drought as such situations also require a procedure to be followed. State Government have to made a declaration about it. Even though it is a rain shed area of Maharashtra yet it faces such problems particularly this year it has been facing lot of problems. Government is aware of it and the team constituted by the Ministry of Agriculture which was to visit the area has already left. We have also received applications from the State Government of Maharashtra demanding funds from the National Calamity Relief Fund. In this regard a meeting is going to be held.

Government will make proper arrangements for drought in Maharashtra as discussed by you and no stone will be left unturned in this regard.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the Hon'ble member to take some measure to raise social level.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a right thing and a very good thought. My submission is that since the supplementary demand is a limited subject itself. The further debate on the budget can be held in case there are short-comings or requirement of more funds in the budget passed by the Parliament. You may see that there are mainly three or four items which we have brought before the House for its approval. Other issues which have been raised here are very important

and serious and hence requires discussion thereon. Had a discussion on mid-year-review been held a detailed reply could have been given certainly all the points will be taken into consideration when a discussion on budget and finance Bill take place. I request you and hon'ble members to vote for supplementary demands.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I have to object. All the point that we raised, not even an attempt has been made a answer them. I do not know why the Mid-year Review should be issued in conjunction with the Supplementary Demands and we cannot discuss it within the framework of the debate. When the Economic Survey is issued along with the Annual Budget, then at that time we do discuss it. If the Minister is of the view that we are out of order, in sense, in bringing up the Mid-year Review when we are discussing it, my request to you is that at least for the future let us make it a *practice* that as at the time we discuss the Budget, we also discuss the Economic Survey, which is an old convention, so when we discuss the Supplementary Demands, we should also take into account the Mid-year Review.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I am ready to do that.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to ask only for the point of information.
...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a convention. You know it very well that it is not even a practice.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, may I give the reply for this question? ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All other members will also ask questions.

[English]

He has made a good suggestion you can consider it. You consider it at the right time.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, I think, it is reasonable to suggest that the Mid-year Review also be discussed. The point whether it should be discussed separately, as

the other House is doing, or whether it should be discussed along with the Supplementary Demands is really a matter of convenience and that should be decided by you. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Sir, I want only one information. I may please be allowed to ask it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No more questions and clarifications.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, in the course of my speech I made a point. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow Members to start the 'Question Hour' here. When there is Question Hour, you do not permit the Chair to run the Question Hour and when there is no 'Question Hour' you want to put questions.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Sir, I had sought a clarification. The HRD Minister had written to the hon. Prime Minister saying that while the hon. Prime Minister had asked the Planning Commission to prepare a list of priorities of schemes, it did not contain the *Sarvasiksha Abhiyan* scheme in that. It was complaint of the hon. HRD Minister. I sought to know whether the *Sarvasiksha Abhiyan* scheme is in the list of priorities of the hon. Prime Minister or not. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker Sir, my point is that the matter of MPLADS is very important, I urge hon'ble minister to do something in this regard so that we may get elected for next term as well. Through you I would like to make this request only to Hon'ble Minister and nothing else.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2003-2004 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2004, in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof—Demands Nos. 5, 6, 8, 12, 13, 15 to 17, 29 to 31, 33, 35, 39, 41, 45, 46, 48, 49, 55, 56, 60, 62, 64, 65, 67, 68, 72, 77, 80, 85, 87 to 92, 98, 99 and 101 to 103."

The motion was adopted.

18.11 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (NO. 5) BILL,* 2003

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2003-2004.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2003-2004."

The motion was adopted

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I introduce** the Bill.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2003-2004, be taken into consideration."

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dt. 17.12.03

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2003-2004, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

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.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

The House now stands adjourned till 11.00 a.m. tomorrow.

18.14 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, December 18, 2003/Agrahayana, 27, 1925 (Saka).

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