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Wednesday, December 10, 2003

Agrahayana 19, 1925 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Fourteenth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



सत्यमेव जयते

7

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CONTENTS

[Thirteenth Series, Vol. XXXVII, Fourteenth Session, 2003/1925 (Saka)]

No. 7, Wednesday, December 10, 2003/Agrahayana 19, 1925 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
OBITUARY REFERENCES	1—2
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 121, 123 to 125	3—29
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 122, 126 to 140	29—76
Unstarred Question Nos. 1199—1419	76—337
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	337—356
MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILLS AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA— <i>Laid</i>	356
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS	
Thirty-seventh Report	357
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES	
Fifteenth Report	357
STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER	
Resignation of Shri Dilip Singh Judev from the Council of Ministers	357—358
Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee	357
COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION	
Twelfth Report	359
MOTION RE: REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN AND SAFETY STANDARDS FOR SOFT DRINKS, FRUIT JUICE AND OTHER BEVERAGES—EXTENSION OF TIME	359—360
DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—GENERAL	360
DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193	
Re: Prime Minister's Statement on the Resignation of Shri Dilip Singh Judev, from the Council of Ministers	365—379, 388—413, 413—466
Shri Ramji Lal Suman	365—367

*The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Anadi Sahu	367—374
Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal	375—379, 388—390
Shri Somnath Chatterjee	390—400
Shri Kirit Somaiya	400—413
Shri Rashid Alvi	413—417
Shri Anant Gudhe	417—420
Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi	420—426
Shri Arun Kumar	426—428
Shri K. Yerrannaidu	428—431
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	431—435
Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot	435—440
Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi	440—451
Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab	451—456
Shri Ajoy Chakraborty	456—459
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	380—388
(i) Need to provide air services connecting Ajmer in Rajasthan	
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	380
(ii) Need to introduce services of A.T.R.-50 planes from Kullu, Shimla and Kangra in Himachal Pradesh	
Shri Maheshwar Singh	380
(iii) Need to take initiatives to evolve tribal-friendly programmes for the benefit of Advasis and Moolvasis of Jharkhand	
Shri Salkhan Murmu	381
(iv) Need to introduce a local passenger train from Ahmedabad to Abu Road and extend the route of Aravali Express up to Mumbai Central	
Shri Haribhai Chaudhary	381
(v) Need to take appropriate measures to check the incidents of fire in the Coal mines of Central Coalfields Limited in the Bokaro-Kargali region	
Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey	382
(vi) Need to provide adequate funds for the projects aimed at checking the menace caused by elephants in the Southern districts of Kamataka	
Shri S.D.N.R. Wadiyar	382—383
(vii) Need to provide 'Pattas' to farmers whose lands were acquired for setting up Bharat Aluminium Company in Korba district, Chhattisgarh	
Dr. Charan Das Mahant	383

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(viii) Need to take steps for all-round development of North Bengal Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi	383
(ix) Need to introduce D.M.U. rail service from Madurai to adjoining towns in Tamil Nadu Shri P. Mohan	384
(x) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up District Rehabilitation Centres Dr. D.V.G. Shankar Rao	385
(xi) Need for early completion of National Highway No. 2 between Auraiya and Sirbhaganj in Etawah Parliamentary Constituency, U.P. Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya	385
(xii) Need to lay a new rail line between Jolarpettai and Hosur via Bargur and Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu Shri V. Vetriselvan	385
(xiii) Need to expedite setting up of Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Jalalpur in Saran district, Bihar Shri Prabhunath Singh	386
(xiv) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Tamil Nadu for implementation of underground drainage and sewerage system in Rasipuram Municipality Dr. V. Saroja	387
(xv) Need to provide rail services linking Parwanoo-Badotiwala-Nalagarh-Dabota areas in Himachal Pradesh with Chandigarh Col. (Retd.) Dr. Dhani Ram Shandil	387
PRESENTATION OF PETITION	413

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 10, 2003/Agrahayana 19, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

11.00 hrs.

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of two of our former colleagues, namely, Dr. Ranan Sen and Shri Daya Ram Shakya.

Dr. Ranan Sen was a Member of the Third, Fourth and Fifth Lok Sabhas from 1962 to 1977. He represented the Calcutta East Parliamentary Constituency of West Bengal in the Third Lok Sabha and the Barasat Parliamentary Constituency of West Bengal in the Fourth and Fifth Lok Sabhas. Earlier, he was elected to the West Bengal Legislative Assembly in 1952 and 1957.

Dr. Sen was a medical practitioner and social worker. He evinced keen interest in the welfare of the people. He began his political career in the pre-Independence era. He played an active role in Bengal Revolutionary Movement. He was an active political worker and Trade Unionist. He served as President, Bengal Provincial Trade Union Congress and Vice-President, All India Trade Union Congress. He was also an office-bearer of several other trade union organisations.

Dr. Sen was a widely travelled person. He visited Sweden in 1947 as a delegate to the International Labour Organisation. He was the Leader of the Indian Trade Union Delegation to the erstwhile USSR in 1955 and a Delegate to the Special Session of the World Peace Council, Stockholm, in 1956.

Dr. Ranan Sen passed away on 13th November, 2003 at Kolkata, West Bengal, at the age of 94.

Shri Daya Ram Shakya was a Member of the Sixth and the Seventh Lok Sabha from 1977 to 1984, representing the Farrukhabad Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

Earlier, Shri Shakya was a Member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1962 to 1967.

Shri Shakya actively participated in the proceedings of the House and was a Member of the Committee on Estimates from 1980 to 1982.

A legal practitioner by profession, Shri Shakya was also an active social worker. He was the President of All India Bhartiya Pratiraksha Mazdoor Sangh; All India Indian Airlines Workers Association; All India Krishak Bhartiya; and All India Shakya Maurya Mahasabha.

Shri Shakya was actively associated with the Scout Movement. He took keen interest in sports.

Shri Shakya was also a Member of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the Spring Meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held at Lagos, Nigeria, in April, 1982.

Shri Daya Ram Shakya passed away at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on 4th December, 2003 at the age of 80.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed souls.

11.02 hrs.

*The Members then stood in silence
for a short while.*

[*Translation*]

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had raised the matter of privilege.

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to raise that matter during Zero Hour.

[*English*]

The notices for other Adjournment Motions have not been acceptable to me. I would only allow some Members to speak on the Adjournment Motions during the 'Zero' hour.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Prime Minister will give a Statement at 12 o'clock.

MR. SPEAKER: If Zero Hour takes place, we will take up this matter.

11.03 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Pune-Mumbai Expressway

[English]

*121. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for reimbursement of 40% of project cost of Pune-Mumbai Expressway has been submitted by Maharashtra to the Union Government;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the details of various sections of Express Highways completed by State Governments which are part of the Golden Quadrilateral Project; and

(d) the policy of the Union Government in reimbursement of the project cost to the State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pune-Mumbai Expressway was constructed by the Government of Maharashtra on commercial basis and the Union Government was not involved in the Project. Therefore, reimbursement of 40% cost of this project is not under consideration of the Union Government. The Union Government has, however, agreed in principle to a proposal subsequently received from Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) for improvement and maintenance of Pune-Mumbai stretch of NH-4 (other than the Expressway) on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis for a period not exceeding 30 years. MSRDC

has accordingly been requested to furnish details in this regard.

(c) Pune-Mumbai Expressway in Maharashtra is the only such section that has been completed by any State Government.

(d) Union Government does not have any policy to reimburse the cost of such projects developed by State Governments.

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Sir, I have gone through the written reply of the hon. Minister. I am sure that now the hon. Minister will pay attention to my request. This Pune-Mumbai Express Highway was built for the first time in the nation as a role model. There was no idea of having the Golden Quadrilateral.

[Translation]

Which is known as "Golden Quadrilateral" was not under implementation at that time. Before that, the government of Maharashtra

[English]

Global tenders were invited by the Government of Maharashtra, under your able leadership. I am sure that an amount of Rs. 3,000 crore was offered by Reliance. But you made it possible to complete the road at a cost of Rs. 1,600 crore. Afterwards, the toll basis has been imposed. As against the investment of Rs. 1,600 crore, the income from the toll is very meagre and it does not even meet the interest part of the capital which has been raised. It has been said that the Pune-Mumbai Express Highway is a commercial basis project of the Government of Maharashtra and the Union Government was not involved in this project. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the Annual Report of 2002-03 which has been published by his Ministry, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways where a beautiful picture of a vehicle, a car which is running on that beautiful highway has been shown. In Section 8, table 8 under the heading Completed/four-laned stretches of NHDP and other contracts, at Sl. No. 11, Mumbai-Pune Expressway on N.H. 4 the length was shown as 10 kilometers and it was shown that the work was completed in July, 2002 and against Sl. No. 12 for a stretch of 80 kilometres it was shown the work was completed in August, 2001.

If it is so, if it was not part of the project of Government of India, why has this been published as a public document in the Annual Report of 2002-2003 ?

I request the Government of India, especially the hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways that looking to the investment of Rs. 1,600 crore and the fact that from the toll the money is not coming back even to meet the interest part of the capital which has already been invested to look into this. I would seek your intervention and would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister and the Government of India to at least adhere to the request of the Government of Maharashtra to meet at least 40 per cent reimbursement. Under your leadership you have already saved Rs. 1,400 crore to the nation and not of the Government of Maharashtra.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question.

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: The Government of Maharashtra is now facing stringency of money. Therefore, I would like to ask the hon. Minister to kindly look into the request of giving 40 per cent subsidy.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, whereas I join the hon. Member Shri Shrinivas Patil in appreciating the then Chief Minister of Maharashtra for doing a wonderful job starting the first Expressway in the country and we are all proud of that, in my Ministry we take a total view of the country as to what is happening in the road sector. If anything has been given in the Annual Report, it is because we want to highlight everything that is happening and not only what the Central Government is doing. I fully join the hon. Member Shri Shrinivas Patil in appreciating what has been done.

When you say it is not a joint venture or it was not considered, it means that there were certain problems which the Government of Maharashtra had at that time. We sat jointly and in fact we have given lease of the land for that Expressway. We gave the land which belongs to the Central Government on Lonawala-Khandala bypass to the State Government because they wanted that land and it was given without any cost. It is not as if we have not participated in that. But, thereafter, the Government of Maharashtra decided that they would do it on a toll basis and, therefore, whatever maintenance has to be done or whatever benefits that would accrue, have to be with them.

Coming to the issue of giving 40 per cent, of the cost of the State Government; it is not as if it is my personal decision. Various aspects of financial responsibility and accountability have to be gone into. I have discussed with various people including the hon. Minister of PWD and the then Chief Minister of Maharashtra and we have tried to work out an

arrangement. The arrangement eventually worked out was that we have two models—one was that we can go in for a joint venture. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The entire National Highway is in bad condition. He is saying that funds are not available. ... (*Interruptions*) What is the condition of N.H. 77 ? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the funds amounting to Rs. 3 crores meant for NH are lying unutilized in Bihar. The Government of Bihar has failed to utilize this amount. ... (*Interruptions*)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Raghuvansh Prasadji, why are you getting so much excited? ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh's question is not on the records. You please reply to the question asked by Shri Shrinivas Patil.

... (*Interruptions*)

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all he should improve the situation of law and order in Bihar. He should be ashamed of what he is speaking about Bihar. The manner in which murders are taking place there, the mismanagement prevailing there ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Do not waste the time of the House which is for Question Hour. No irrelevant things are permitted. Please sit down. Mr. Minister, please complete your reply.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, first you please complete your reply. Please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad ji please speak only when I permit you.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pappu Yadavji, I have not given you the permission to raise question. Let the hon'ble Minister complete his reply.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, discussion is being held on N.H. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you time to speak when discussion would be held on Bihar. You may speak at that time.

[English]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, there were two models. One was that we jointly take it and share whatever the past commitment was. Or, otherwise, the Maharashtra Government takes on its own the NH-4 portion which has not been tolled off. That is why, probably, the toll is less on the main expressway. They would combine these together and improve the NH-4 and then have a joint tolling system for both the roads. We agreed to this and this is what has been done presently. We have asked them for an MoU. Between Maharashtra Government and us, this arrangement has been agreed to and this is going to be implemented.

SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Sir, in reply, the Minister has stated that the Union Government has, however, agreed in principle to a proposal subsequently received from Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation for improvement and maintenance of Pune-Mumbai stretch of NH-4 (other than the Expressway) on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis. I would like to know for how many years; this improvement and maintenance would be done. If it is to be done within one or two years and further, it is not to be done, then the Maharashtra Government will not be compensated as it is expected. I would like to know categorically from the hon. Minister whether he is to have this arrangement for a long time or for many years to come.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: I have replied in the answer that it is for a period of thirty years.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The reply, which has been given by the hon. Minister, is little different from the last reply which the hon. Minister had given on 6.8.03. This is a different type of road. This is a state-of-the-art road which has been constructed in India. I must say that the

credit goes to you as you were the Chief Minister in those days. Though the concept was considered and practically approved by some other people, but it was executed by you. That is why, I have no hesitation to give credit to you.

About Mumbai-Pune Expressway, a specific question was asked by Shri Chandrakant Khaire on 6.8.03. The question was: Whether Mumbai-Pune Express Highway has been covered under Golden Quadrilateral Scheme. That is the specific question. The reply was: The Mumbai-Pune Expressway is being treated as a part of Mumbai-Chennai arm of Golden Quadrilateral. So, The Government of India has accepted that this is a part of that scheme. When it is a part of the scheme and the State Government has raised money, spent money, completed it and shown a model road to the whole country, I think, it is the responsibility of the Government of India to take at least that much financial burden which they were supposed to spend, if it is 30 per cent or 40 per cent. If that money is diverted to the State Government, the entire viability of the road will improve. That is why, since the Government has accepted that it is a portion of that road, it should honour that commitment.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, as regards accepting a part of the road is concerned, there were two options before us. One was that we do not accept that part of the road and improve the other NH-4 to four lanes and start tolling it. But this would have resulted in division of the toll that was to be collected. Therefore, after due discussions we came to the conclusion that let us not create another facility because by doing this both the parties will suffer losses and both the tolls will be divided. Therefore, on that basis we accepted that since it has been constructed, we would treat it as a part of NH-4 and not go in for a separate facility.

Otherwise, I hope that the hon. Member would realise that if the toll had been divided, then, there would have been tremendous problems. Therefore, to solve that problem we did it. Thereafter, all along, the matter has been discussed. I would repeat here that we have given a certain portion of land free of cost. Even now this arrangement that we are making is without asking for anything in return.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: What is the total cost of the land given?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, the question that Shri Sharad Pawar just asked you is this. What is the cost of the land that was given free of cost, and also the cost

for maintenance of the roads that are existing today? If you consider the cost incurred for both, and thereafter if you give the equivalent money—namely 40 per cent of the cost of the Expressway—the matter can be easily resolved. Can you tell me both the figures?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: I can get the figures. But right now I do not have the figures as to how much does the land actually cost on the Lonavala-Khandala section. But I can give the figures.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you agree to this in principle?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, the principle adopted is this. I cannot give 40 per cent of the expenditure incurred by a State Government on its own, without the Central Government's participation in it. If it is set as a precedent, then any State Government can improve its roads and send the bill to us.

MR. SPEAKER: Should I presume that you are not prepared to spend 40 per cent because a prior permission was not taken from the Central Government?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: No, Sir. It is not like that. Financially, I have to cater for that money. The Central Government has got a whole lot of problems. It is not that money is readily available. But we have worked out a mutual agreement. After a mutual discussion a reasonably acceptable model has now come out.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, the hon. Minister is saying that Pune-Mumbai Expressway in Maharashtra is the only such section that has been completed by any State Government. Now, there is no other State Government that has constructed a road of this kind. The hon. Minister is appreciating the job done by the State Government and this has become a model for the Government to emulate in the other States. The only hitch that appears to be here is that the prior permission was not obtained.

A good work has been done and that good work is so good that you have also appreciated the work that has been done in Maharashtra. Should there be any difficulty for the Government of India—which is entitled to make any policy, and entitled to amend any policy—to help in this development? Now, here is a development that has taken place and here is a development, which you appreciate. It is a development in which even the hon. Speaker was involved. What difficulty is there for the Government of India—which is at the apex, which is entitled to make any policy and which can be done retrospectively also—to do it?

Can you say that there is only one road? Why should you not help it? That would really help other States, on their own, to start construction of the roads and help you in your good efforts of having good transport system in the country. Why should it not be there? Why should the Government be so wooden, so mechanical, and so reluctant to help the State Governments, whose works you yourselves appreciate?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Sir, firstly, as I said, the difficulty at the moment is that a number of State Governments have gone in for improving the roads to four-lane facility. This four-lane facility, as we know, is to be tolled. The arrangement that we have reached with a number of States is that they can improve the facility, but they have to do it on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT), collect the toll, etc. The Central Government does not have any financial investment in that.

Now, if I accept this as a principle, then at a number of places already work is being carried out by the other State Governments themselves, under their own BOT. In such a case I will have to give similar facility to everybody else also. Therefore, it is not a one time exception.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: This is a part of the Golden Quadrilateral Project. When Shri Sharad Pawar has raised that issue, you yourself have replied like that. If it is a part of the Golden Quadrilateral Project, you would be happy to get their assistance also.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: So many senior leaders, including yourself, are expressing this view. You have also asked me to work out the financial cost. The cost was Rs. 1,630 crore and 40 per cent of it would come to about Rs. 652 crore. I will try to work it out again. My principle is that if the Central Government makes an open ended commitment like this, then I will have tremendous amount of difficulties when similar things happen again. You have been a Minister much before I came here and you know this. Therefore, we cannot set a precedent which will create problems in future. However, I will have a look at it again.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Maharashtra Government has completed a major work of construction of express highway in the country with the expenditure of Rs. 1600 crore and he is giving assurance to provide 40 percent of the expenditure incurred by the State Government. My submission is that the Government should provide the amount in full to the State Government

keeping in view the commendable job undertaken by the State Government. ... *(Interruptions)* We are constructing express highway. The State Government has spent Rs. 1600 crore in the term of present Government. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: At present, Maharashtra Government is unable to maintain the roads.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: My submission is that 40 percent of the expenditure which comes to Rs. 640 crore, should be provided to the State Government. My second question is that it is really a good thing if Government formulates a scheme to give 25% of the cost of construction to the other State Governments which construct this kind of Express Highway. We seek his reply in this regard. ... *(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, more or less the point is that the Government should give 40 percent. I would like to clarify that I would keep in mind Shri Shivraj Patil's submission as well on Golden Quadrilateral while considering it but at the same time I would like to tell that if the grant upto 40% is given to any State by the Central Government under B.O.T., Central Government have right to collect toll tax of that road. At present we are not going to enjoy this right. We would hold discussion again on all these aspects but so far as the figure of 40% is concerned, though the Government have the right to give grant under B.O.T. but in that case Central Government is empowered to collect toll tax of that road and the entire amount received from it would go to Central Government. Hence, this financial model would not be beneficial to Maharashtra State. All these things have been discussed but as has been ordered, I will look into this matter again.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: My request is that the Government should re-examine it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He said that he would consider it. The issue can go back to him.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that like Mumbai-Pune Express Highway, a proposal for Mumbai-Nasik road has also been sent to him. Be it Mumbai-Pune express Highway of Mumbai-Nasik Highway, what steps the Government propose to take for the improvement and strengthening

of Mumbai-Panwale road on Mumbai-Pune Express Highway within Mumbai city. What arrangements have been made for Mumbai-Nasik road and for the Express way within Mumbai?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: So far as the Express Highway is concerned, the Government have made a provision for the construction of 100 k.m. new expressway in 10th Five Year Plan. For this purpose, arrangements have been made for the acquisition of land during these five years. Keeping in view the traffic density, investigations are going on to identify the places where these express way would be viable and where they should be constructed. The submission made by him would also be considered. So far as maintenance of roads within Mumbai city is concerned, it is the responsibility of the State Government and I can not interfere in it directly. If the State Government needs funds out of Central Road Fund then they should request us and we would consider that. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are not giving even a pie to Bihar. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have gone to the next question. Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath ji, you sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Virendra Kumar ji, you ask your question.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please, do not disturb the House.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the condition of national highways is very horrible. ... *(Interruptions)*. They say that they do not have funds. ... *(Interruptions)* as if they are doing a great job. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: The question related to Bihar also. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You speak when issue relating to Bihar is taken up. Why are you speaking now?

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Radhamohan Singh ji is telling that similar condition prevails in his state also. ... (*Interruptions*) They do not give even a pie. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: When discussion on Bihar is taken up I would give you a chance to speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please hold half-an-hour discussion on this issue. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I can give permission for discussion only if it is approved by Business Advisory Committee.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, what is going on here? How can the House function like this? The Member is confiding with the Minister inside the House.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Prabhunath ji and Mistry ji please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Virendra Kumarji, please ask your question.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Inadequate Health Care facilities in CGHS Dispensaries

*123. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the inadequate health care facilities provided under the Central Government Health Scheme;

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

(c) the remedial measures 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) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The CGHS which was started on 1.5.1954, is presently functioning in 23 cities throughout the country. It has a total of 323 dispensaries that includes 244 Allopathic, 31 Ayurvedic, 34 Homoeopathic, 9 Unani, 2 Siddha and 3 Yoga centers. In addition to this, there are 19 polyclinics, 65 laboratories and 17 dental units. There are a total of nearly 11.00 lakh CGHS cardholders with nearly 44.00 lakh beneficiaries, covering Central Government employees, Central Government pensioners, M.Ps., Ex-M.Ps., Freedom fighters, Ex-Governors, Ex-Vice-Presidents, Accredited Journalists, Judges of Hon'ble Supreme Court and Hon'ble High Courts (both sitting and retired) and some other specified categories.

Besides, nearly 700 private hospitals have been recognized under CGHS in various CGHS covered cities for enabling CGHS cardholders (both serving and retired) to avail of specialized/general purpose medical facilities.

Nearly Rs. 400 crore, including Non-Plan as well as Plan, is being spent during the current financial year by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare alone.

However, it is the constant endeavour of the Government to improve the facilities provided under the CGHS, subject to availability of resources.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the Central Government Health Scheme started on first May, 1954, is being implemented in 23 cities of the country. It covers 323 dispensaries including 244 allopathic, 31 Ayurvedic, 34 Homeopathic, 9 Unani, 2 Siddha and 3 Yoga centres. Besides, there are 19 Polyclinics, 65 laboratories and 17 dental units are also there. But the aforesaid number of dispensaries and centres is insufficient as compared to the number of Card holders. As a result of which, the cardholders have to travel for miles causing inconvenience specially to old persons and pensioners.

Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the scheme of Central Government for

establishing six hospitals on the lines of AIIMS in different parts of the country include the State of Madhya Pradesh also? Alongwith this I would also like to know the scheme of the Government for increasing the number of Health Centres.

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, as the hon. Member has put it, we are having 323 dispensaries in the country owned by the Government under the CGHS. Apart from them, there are 700 private hospitals which are approved under the CGHS. The major cities that have been mentioned by the hon. Member are being covered by the CGHS. The eligible persons, living in those areas which are not covered by the CGHS hospitals or private nursing homes approved by the CGHS, can avail of services under the Central Government Medical Attendance Rules 1944, in recognized, hospitals and can get their expenditure reimbursed.

There is no doubt that the Scheme has to be extended. Even now we are having an expansion scheme under which the dispensaries are being expanded to areas where cardholders are residing. The minimum norm for setting up a CGHS dispensary in an area is at least two thousand cardholders. In those areas where at least two thousand cardholders are residing, we are opening up CGHS dispensaries. It is not possible on the part of the Central Government to establish a CGHS dispensary by sanctioning Plan and Non-Plan expenditure, in an area in which at least two thousand cardholders do not reside.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, one part of hon. Member's question was whether Madhya Pradesh has been included in the list of States wherein six hospitals on the line of AIIMS are proposed to be set up? Sir, through you, I would like to convey to him that 'yes', Madhya Pradesh has been included.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been observed that machines kept in laboratories in several dispensaries and centres under CGHS are lying unused. They are not being maintained properly. At many a places packed machines have not even been opened whereby patients are not able to derive any benefit from them. I would like to ask the hon. Minister—whether the

Government propose to formulate any scheme for timely inspection of said schemes. If so, what steps the Government have taken to utilise the machines lying unused? In addition, I would also like to point out that dispensaries face great rush of patients in the morning as people are in a hurry to go to the offices and because of rush many people are deprived of medical facilities. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Government contemplate to open dispensaries in the evening also so that CGHS card holders can avail this facility even after office hours also. Medicines are also issued in the morning. Whether there is any scheme to provide medicines in the evening also?

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, it is true that the Ministry has come to know that in some dispensaries, some important machines including the x-ray devices were not at all working. Immediately after these complaints came to our notice, we constituted a Task Force on 28.12.2001. In this regard, various Intra-Ministerial Committees have also been framed. The Task Force and these Committees are touring not only Delhi but all over the country.

So, whenever such complaints are received, then and there those complaints are duly attended to.

At present, I can categorically say before this august House that all the machines in the CGHS dispensaries are duly working. But if any complaints are put forward before me or to my Ministry, we will definitely look into them.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the condition of the health and medicine in this country is abysmal considering the large population we have to cater to.

Sir, there is a heavy exodus of people coming from various States which are under-developed like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other such States where the influx of the population to the AIIMS and to other more specialised hospitals in Delhi is so heavy that the indigenous population of the city suffers at the cost of the people who are coming from these areas.

So, my pointed question to the hon. Minister would be that could she take note of the fact that something, on the line of AIIMS or a bigger institute with the availability of ultrasound and other instruments, could be made available to the people in their States.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with regard to what Shrimati Shyama Singh had said perhaps she may be aware that Delhi based AIIMS was over burdened with patients from other states. In view of this the Government conducted survey and identified six new states wherein hospitals on the lines of AIIMS will be set up. It was also revealed that majority of people from Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan came to AIIMS. AIIMS was set up in 1956 and till now i.e. 2003 not a single hospital has been opened on the lines of AIIMS. Keeping all this in view it has been decided to open six hospitals in under-served states. These will be super speciality hospitals. When all these under-served states will have hospitals of their own then burden on Delhi based AIIMS hospital will automatically lessen and people will get health facilities at their doorstep.

[*English*]

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the present spread of the CGHS hospitals is not having any rationale. Some of the areas where a large population of the Central Government employees is staying, are not having this facility.

Is there any scope that the hon. Minister would entrust this work to the Task Force about which the hon. Minister had made a mention and which is already looking into the complaints relating to equipment and other works? They can make a study there for opening new hospitals there. For example, take Vishakhapatnam. It is having a very large population of the Central Government employees and the retired Government employees. There has been a request for opening new hospital there for a very long time because the CGHS facilities are not directly available to them. Could an office be opened and could a hospital be opened in Visakhapatnam?

SHRI A. RAJA: As I have already submitted, the norms for opening a dispensary is that there must be 2,000 cardholders.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: For new cities, it is now 6,000.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: There are more than 5,000 people in Visakhapatnam.

SHRI A. RAJA: If there are 6,000 cardholders, then only we can expand the dispensary facility in a new city.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: You told 2,000, but now you are saying 6,000.

SHRI A. RAJA: For expanding the facility to a new city, it is 6,000.

No doubt, I do admit that we were not able to reach all the people who are residing outside the Metropolitan Cities. For that, the Government has this scheme. Any private hospital which are having super-specialty structure can be approved under CS(19A) Rules persons who are residing in and around that place can avail of the facility of that hospital; then it can be reimbursed.

DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI: What I asked the hon. Minister is whether the task force could be entrusted to make a study in that regard. I am not aware of the criteria that there should be more than 5,000 persons or 10,000 cardholders. The hon. Minister could confirm as to how many are there in Visakhapatnam.

SHRI A. RAJA: We will conduct a study; and the case of Visakhapatnam and other places will be examined.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Question may not be covered under the ambit of this Question but I would like to submit that the Government had launched a scheme—"Health for All". It is unfortunate that today 90% people don't know about their blood group though blood group never changes throughout life. I would like to know whether the Government have any scheme under which health cards are issued to the new born babies indicating their blood group and any disease which the new born baby may be suffering from within a few days of the birth so that the blood group and other health information regarding the child may be known.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Regarding what Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji has said, there is one pre-condition that first the people should utilise our system. If people want to get health card of a new born issue then it is essential that the pregnant women give birth to children under our health system. Therefore, we are making efforts to ensure that there are more institutional deliveries. Health for all—about which you are saying. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I am saying this in general. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Under a scheme, which we are considering, we propose to issue health

cards. It will take some time to shape this scheme as more facts have come before us. Some state governments have initiated efforts in this regard. We are examining it and considering the scheme under which a health card may be issued under Health for All.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA: In the written reply it is stated that an amount of nearly Rs. 400 crore including Non-Plan and Plan, is being spent during the current financial year by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare alone. It does not matter how much money we spend, but it is the quality and the quantity of health care delivery system that is reaching the unreachable, which matter.

NRI Meet is going to take place during the third week of January in Delhi. NRIs are prepared to donate considerable amount of money for primary health care delivery system, especially for the Northern States where the health care delivery system is below normal.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry would make use of this opportunity at least to have a 1000-bed hospital in and around Delhi so that the inflow of patients from the nearby States into the State of Delhi could be minimised. Secondly, will the Government consider upgrading the Delhi's Specialised Hospital into a Super-Speciality Hospital so that only patients who are deserving a super-speciality treatment would come to the City of Delhi so that movement of patients to get basic health care delivery system could be streamlined and the inconvenience caused to patients could be minimised? Thank you.

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, with regard to NRI funds for Health Care Delivery System, as a policy decision, we can invite those NRIs to invest in the Health Care Delivery System. But I think I am exclusively not competent to admit it. It is because prior approval of the Department of Economic Affairs is needed for getting such an external financial assistance.

Second part of the question is with regard to AIIMS-pattern hospitals. As the hon. Minister, Madam Sushmaji, has submitted before the House, we are going to set up six super-speciality hospitals at par with AIIMS throughout the country. Besides this, six more hospitals of the State Governments will be upgraded and brought up at par with AIIMS hospital. Later on, they will be entrusted to the State Governments. Since the hon. Member belongs to Tamil Nadu, I am very happy to announce that the Tiruchy Medical College Hospital has been included in

the list and it will be upgraded and brought up at par with AIIMS.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 124—Shri Abdul Rashid Shaheen.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Even I had to ask one question in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, I have already gone ahead.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: You do not look at me.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: How can I afford not to look at you?

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Can I afford that I do not look at you.

[English]

Expired Medicines In Medical Store Depots

*124. ⁺ SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Medical store depots under the Director-General Health have huge stock of expired medicines;

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

(c) whether any enquiry had been conducted into it; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof including the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The Medical Store Depots under the Directorate General of Health Services have a stock of Rs. 3.92 crore worth of expired medicines. The stock relates to procurement largely made from 1980-81 to 1996-97. The total stocks of expired medicines works out to less than 1% of total procurement by MSO since inception.

The reasons for expiry of drugs in MSDs *inter-alia* include (i) Stores were purchased in anticipation of demand as per Para 29 of Manual for Medical Store Depots but the items could not be issued due to lower demand. (ii) Return of uncosumed drugs by the indentors/user organization.

Due to the above situation, a decision was taken in 2000-2001 to procure stores only against confirmed demands from indentor organization. As a result, no stocks of expired medicines have been added during the last three years.

In order to look into the issue of stocks of expired medicines, a Departmental Committee headed by the Drug Controller General of India was set up to enquire into the matter in 1997. The Committee found the heads of GMSDs responsible for their failure to supervise the purchase and disposal system in the depots and for circumventing the delegated powers. On the basis of the findings of the Committee, action has been taken against the concerned officials in consultation with Central Vigilance Commission (CVC).

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Sir, in the answer given to my question, the Government has admitted that there is a stock worth almost Rs. 4 crore of the expired drugs with the Director-General of Health Services in the Medical Store Depots. But no mention has been made in the answer as to what is the reason for accumulation of this stock for the last 17 years. What is the responsibility of high ups in this? Why they have not looked into the matter in time. I understand from the answer that the Government has the intention of carrying on this inventory as a precious stock. But I do not know for how many years they want to keep it and why? Since no mention has been made as to what has been done with the accumulated stock worth Rs. 4 crore. We want to know why has it not been disposed of or destroyed?

There is a very related point that there is an established practice and procedure that these medicines are getting their way into the rural areas for sale on the outlets. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what procedure and method they are adopting for stopping this practice and to what extent the authorities are in command of stopping this.

SHRI A. RAJA: It is true that till 1996, there was accumulation of expired medicines to the tune of Rs. 3.92 crore. After 1996-97, new guidelines were formulated. Since new guidelines were formulated, some of the procedures were duly adopted to avoid the accumulation. After 1996, there is no accumulation of expired drugs.

We tried to find the reasons for the accumulation of expired drugs with the depots. We constituted an inspection committee for that. As per the report of the Committee, some of the officers who were working in the depots were held responsible for the lacuna on the part of officers. Some strictures were passed against them and those strictures were incorporated in their service books.

Apart from this, we have adopted a few measures to avoid its occurrence in future. We have formulated some procedures. One of the prime principle is: 'first come should be first used'. What was not looked in the past is that whenever we were getting medicines in the depots, some medicines notwithstanding the date of expiry were used then and there.

The first lot of medicines that came to the depots were not disposed of at the first instance. Now we are insisting that the medicines that are indented first should be supplied first and then those medicines that are indented later should be disposed of later.

Sir, for other formulations we are strictly putting the responsibility on the shoulders of those who are working in the depots. The system is working well without any depreciation.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Sir, I am conscious of the constraint of funds in the health care system. I have faith in the intentions of the hon. Minister. But I would like to say that this sector is still low in priority. The first priorities should be tackled first. But this is an important sector that we need to take care of. It is because the rural consumers are being affected by these drugs. Should there not be a system, that with the assistance of the Central Government and also by involving the representatives of the local bodies, of

launching an awareness campaign at all the block levels to educate the people so that it helps in stopping his menace?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, I think, this question does not arise since after 1996-97 there has been no accumulation of expired medicines in the depots. This is our top priority. We are taking meticulous care to see that expired medicines are not distributed at the Central Government Health Scheme depots.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: What is the guarantee that you will hold awareness campaign in all the blocks for educating the people? ... *(Interruptions)* This will entail a small expenditure. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can meet the hon. Minister and make your suggestions.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the one hand there is shortage of medicines in dispensaries of villages and cities and on the other hand there is a stock of expired medicines, worth Rs. 3.92 crores. I would like to know from the Government as to what action has been taken against those who have been found guilty or due to whom the Government have suffered such a huge loss? In his reply, the hon'ble Minister has referred to the return of unused medicines. But it is not clear as to whether these medicines have been returned or the Government are considering to return these medicines. The third part of my supplementary Question is that as you have said that during last three years, there has been no increase in the stock of expired medicines, what does this mean? Even the reply to my Question regarding quantum of expired medicines in the stock, has not been given. In reply to Written Question it has been stated that action has been taken against such officials. I would like to know as to what action has been taken in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: He has told the same thing.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Perhaps the reply, which I have given, has not been understood properly. The word 'return' has been mentioned in the reply which means returning of expired medicines. Now we are not returning the medicines. Shaheenji was saying that we have not given the reasons but we have given the reasons. Those reasons are mentioned in the written

reply. First thing which I would like to say is that we have inherited this stock of expired drugs.

[English]

It is a bad legacy that we have inherited.

[Translation]

It has two reasons. First is that the then officials, while thinking that the demand will be more, ordered for more medicines. Return of unconsumed drugs is another reason. The drugs which were not consumed later on, were returned due to which the stock of expired drugs increased. We are not returning the medicines. The stock of expired drugs increased because the then officials ordered for more medicines than demand and provided them to indenter who did not consume those medicines and returned back to them. Due to these two reasons, the stock increased. Secondly he wanted to know what does it mean that there stock has not increased. As regards expired drugs, the stock is not increasing because after the formation of Government by NDA, we have changed the guidelines and preferred not to procure medicines in anticipation of demand but only as per the confirmed demands from indenter organisation. We decided that if medicines are procured in anticipation of demand and the unconsumed drugs are returned then the stock of expired drugs will go on increasing. We decided that the medicines should be purchased as per the requirement. That is why the stock of expired drugs is not increasing, this is what I have said.

Third thing which I have said is that after the enquiry conducted by that Committee, we have taken action in consultation with CVC. Therefore what Shaheenji was saying that neither we have mentioned the reasons nor hold anyone responsible is not correct. I have written everything in my reply. These were the two reasons, that guidelines have been changed and the expired drugs are no more being allowed to be accumulated and we have taken action with regard to the drugs already accumulated.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Sushmaji to the fact that in the Budget, only 2 percent allocation has been made for health sector and from this is has become clear that if we want to bring modernisation in health sector in the entire country then the State and the Central Government alone cannot do this. In my parliamentary constituency there are two district hospitals one each in Guna and Shivpuri and one in Gwalior. For the modernisation of these hospitals, I formulated a scheme

with the assistance of World-Bank and Japanese aid but it needs the approval of Health and Finance Ministry. About 9 months ago, I submitted this Scheme with the Ministry of Health, after the approval of which it was to be forwarded to the Ministry of Finance. Even after approval from these two Ministries, it will take around one and a half years to acquire equipment. The people of my constituency are desperate for modernisation in health sector. We are not demanding any fund either from the state government or from the Union Government. Hon'ble Prime Minister is also sitting in the House and he has been a resident of Gwalior and this issue also relates to the hospital of Gwalior. Hence it would be better if the hon'ble Minister gives approval to this scheme as early as possible so that we can approach the Finance Ministry and purchase equipments through the world Bank. For the last 9 months this scheme has been lying pending for approval in the Ministry of Health. Since this issue relates to the hospital of Gwalior, I would request the hon'ble Prime Minister to pay attention towards this.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Question is not at all relevant to the original Question but since this matter relates to Scindiaji's constituency and he is emotionally attached to that area therefore I would like to give reply to this Question. He has been in touch with us and so far as purchasing of equipment referred to is concerned, NOC from the State government was also required which has been received just a month ago. This matter is under our consideration and he is likely to meet me personally. Whatever we are required to do, we will do that as early as possible. This Question is not relevant here but I have given reply while considering his sentiments.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What about my case which I referred to you? Is it granted?

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: We will work according to your sentiments also.

[*English*]

Creation of Additional Capacity in Ports

*125. †
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to create additional capacity in major ports during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the participation of private sector for the purpose has been sought;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the funds earmarked for the creation of additional capacity during the said period;

(f) whether tariff authority for major ports has fixed tariff ceiling and floor discount rate as directed by the Government; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI):
(a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The aggregate capacity in the 12 major ports at the end of the 9th Plan period on 31st March, 2002 was 343.95 million tonnes per annum (MTPA). This capacity is anticipated to go upto 470.60 MTPA by the end of the 10th Five Year Plan on 31st March, 2007. Thus, capacity addition of 126.65 MTPA is envisaged during the Tenth Five Year Plan in major ports.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Participation of private sector in expansion and development of the major ports has been sought in order to mobilize the resources required for the purpose and in order to improve efficiency, productivity and quality of service as well as bring in competitiveness in port services in consonance with the general policy of liberalization/globalization of India's economy.

(e) An amount of Rs. 3325 crores has been allocated in the Tenth Plan outlay for projects which will add to the capacity in major ports. This, however, does not include private sector investment in development of ports.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) The Government has issued directions to Tariff authority for Major Ports (TAMP) under Section 111 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 to fix the scale of rates as ceiling rates and to so specify in their notification fixing the rates so that the major ports have the flexibility to charge at reduced rates, if they so desire, to compete with others. Similarly, the discounts and rebates prescribed by TAMP in the Scale of Rates will act as the floor level and the ports trusts will have the flexibility of giving higher discounts and rebates.

Accordingly, in its order passed on 28th August, 2003, TAMP has, *inter alia*, amended the Scale of Rates of all the major port trusts to insert the following general conditionality therein:-

"The rates prescribed in the Scale of Rates are ceiling levels; likewise, rebates and discounts are floor levels. The Port Trust may, if it so desires, charge lower rates and/or allow higher rebates and discounts."

The above order has been notified by TAMP *vide* No. TAMP/53/2003-Genl. dated 29th August, 2003 published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part III-Section 4.

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the port-wise additional capacity likely to be created during the tenth five year plan and the expected cost likely to incur on it, especially regarding the Mumbai port?

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has talked about Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plan. The capacity which was 343.95 million tonne in Ninth Five Year Plan is likely to be enhanced to 470.6 million tonne in Tenth Five Year plan. He has sought information about every ports. Earlier the capacity in Mumbai was 38.5 million tonne. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, the Cabinet Minister of the department will ever be available or not. When he was the Minister of Health even then he never came to the House and now as a Minister of this department also he is never present.

MR. SPEAKER: He has taken my permission.

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: I will answer whatever question you will ask.

Hon'ble Member has asked about Mumbai port. The capacity of this port is going to be enhanced by 11.50

MTPA. Similarly, the capacity of Jawahar Lal Nehru Port is being enhanced by 15.20, Chennai Port by 4.70, Cochin Port by 13.50, Visakhapattanam Port by 10.50, Kandala Port by 19.55, Paradwip Port by 6.60 New Manjore Port 20.20 and Calcutta Port i.e. Haldia Port by 2.0 MTPA.

MR. SPEAKER: It is sufficient.

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the Government have identified the areas for which decision for private sector participation has been taken? If so, the details of those areas and the criteria fixed for it. I would like to ask as to whether priority will be given to Indian companies in the matter of private sector participation. If so, the nature of priorities and if not the reasons therefor?

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the 'Panth Pradhan', Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had announced 'Sagar Mala' on 15th August, 2003. There are 12 major ports in the country. 17 private sector companies have been permitted to participate for the development of these ports and besides this 21 other schemes have been demanded. These issues are under consideration. It is due to environmental clearance and tender procedures that matters are pending. Entire target in this regard has been kept in mind. It will promote trade and we will achieve the international status in this regard.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, incidents of rail and road accidents in the country are rising. We have sufficient number of rivers in the country so, we should pay attention to the development of water transport system. Four year back the Government has announced about water transport between Allahabad and Calcutta, however, no action has been taken in this regard. If the water transport system is developed, the journey through this will be safer in comparison to rail and road. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister the time by when the steps will be taken in this direction. The Cabinet Minister is present in the House and he belongs to Allahabad district. Will he consider to introduce shipping from Allahabad to Calcutta via Varanasi? Whether the Government are proposing to allow private sector participation in this field or not?

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Sir, I would like to extend my thanks to the hon'ble Member Shri C.N. Singh for asking the question. Till now, we have developed three national water-ways system. 1620 K.M. long national waterways number one is there from Haldia to Allahabad on ganga river where 330 days water

transportation facility is available. Your question is right. This facility should be included in basic infrastructure. Like rail and airways, water-ways transportation can be reasonable and cost effective, however, no attention has been paid to this area but the hon'ble 'Panth Pradhan' has made announcement on 15th August in this regard.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: What do you mean by 'Panth Pradhan'? He is mixing both Hindi and Marathi.

MR. SPEAKER: By the word 'Panth Pradhan' he means the Prime Minister.

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Attention is being paid to this sector after the announcement made by the 'Panth Pradhan' or the Prime Minister and private sector companies are also expressing their willingness to participate in this sector. Different types of studies are being conducted in this regard. Presently three national water-ways are functioning and efforts are being made to start other water-ways. I would like to inform the House that full facilities will be provided to those who are willing to participate in this field so that this sector could be developed.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

Women and Child Development Programmes

*122. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:
SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL:

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

(a) the steps taken by the Government for empowerment of Women and Child Welfare during the last three years;

(b) the expenditure incurred thereon, State-wise;

(c) the State-wise quantum of funds allocated under Women and Child Development Programmes during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the number of cases of exploitation of women and children which has come to the notice of the Government during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) The Department of Women and Child Development execute the following two programmes for the Empowerment of Women at the grass-root level:

- (i) Swayamsidha, and
- (ii) Swashakti.

The salient features of these two programmes are—

- Establishment of women's Self-Help Groups (SHGs);
- Creation of confidence and awareness among members of SHGs regarding women's status, health, nutrition, education, legal rights, and other social, economic and political issues;
- Strengthening and institutionalizing the savings habit through thrift and micro-credit activities; and
- Involvement of women in local level planning.

With regard to child welfare measures, the Department of Women and Child Development executes the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme which is the world's largest outreach programme. This is a country-wide programme sanctioned for 5852 blocks, being implemented through the State Governments with the following interventions.

- Supplementary Nutrition
- Immunization
- Health Check-up
- Referral Services
- Pre-school Non Formal Education
- Nutrition and Health Education.

To further motivate the Anganwadi Workers and helpers who are the primary functionaries of the Programme the honorarium of these workers has been doubled by the Centre w.e.f. 2002-2003.

Besides, a

- (a) National Charter for Children & a
- (b) Bill for setting up a National Commission for Children has been tabled in Parliament.

The Government has also amended the constitution to make education for children in the age group 6-14 years compulsory. The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan has been launched to ensure realization of this objective.

(b) A Statement-I showing State-wise expenditure incurred under these schemes is enclosed.

(c) State-wise allocation of funds are not maintained in the Department. However, the year-wise break-up of scheme-wise allocations for the 10th Plan has been attached as statement-II.

(d) The number of cases of exploitation/crimes committed against women and children, in the three preceding years has been attached as statement-III.

Statement I

Name of the Scheme: Swyamsidha

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Release of funds (in lakhs)			Remarks
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11.19	*	38.60	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.16	2.05	9.00	
3.	Assam	7.68	*	71.50	
4.	Bihar	16.95	*	76.00	
5.	Chhattisgarh	5.92	55.00	0.00	
6.	Goa	2.41	*	0.00	
7.	Gujarat	8.43	*	0.00	Huge unspent balance under IMY
8.	Haryana	4.92	1.20	18.00	During 2001-02 the State Govt. of Haryana submitted the State Action Plan only.
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3.66	27.36	0.00	
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4.92	*	33.05	
11.	Jharkhand	7.68	45.00	34.00	
12.	Karnataka	6.67	*	64.00	
13.	Kerala	6.17	15.64	35.00	
14.	Madhya Pradesh	10.68	64.72	51.00	
15.	Maharashtra	10.68	55.25	0.00	Advanced release to the State of Maharashtra in the year 2001-02 for the year of 2002-03
16.	Manipur	2.41	7.00	4.00	
17.	Meghalaya	2.91	15.60	0.00	
18.	Mizoram	2.41	*	11.00	
19.	Nagaland	3.16	14.00	9.00	
20.	Orissa	10.68	23.30	51.00	
21.	Punjab	5.42	49.36	0.00	

1	2	3	4	5	6
22.	Rajasthan	8.43	87.34	0.00	
23.	Sikkim	2.41	7.00	4.00	
24.	Tamil Nadu	12.69	15.00	62.00	
25.	Tripura	2.41	7.00	4.00	
26.	Uttar Pradesh	25.23	159.18	0.00	
27.	Uttaranchal	4.41	22.00	16.00	
28.	West Bengal	11.44	*	49.94	
Union Territories					
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	*	7.90	
2.	Chandigarh	0	*	0.90	
3.	Delhi	2.66	*	7.90	
4.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	6.00	1.00	
5.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	Scheme withdrawn
6.	Lakshadweep	0	*	0.00	
7.	Pondicherry	2.41	4.73	4.00	
Total		210.20	683.73	662.79	

Note: Funds release to States/UTs only on the basis of State Action Plan and two model Block Proposals.

* During 2001-02 the State Action Plan and two Block Proposals not submitted by the State Govt. for release of funds.

Name of the Scheme: Swa-Shakti Project

S. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Release of funds (in lakhs)			Remarks
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Bihar	—	34.00	130.00	Releases not considered in 2000-01 as the State had an unspent balance of Rs. 83.15 lac from 1999-2000.
2.	Chhattisgarh	—	30.00	75.00	The State was formed during 2000-01 after bifurcation of Madhya Pradesh as such no releases shown in 2000-01.
3.	Gujarat	75.00	225.00	200.00	
4.	Haryana	75.00	65.50	200.00	
5.	Jharkhand	—	100.00	175.00	The State was formed during 2000-01 after bifurcation of Bihar as such no releases shown in 2000-01.

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Karnataka	85.00	235.00	535.00	
7.	Madhya Pradesh	100.00	350.00	425.00	
8.	Uttar Pradesh	270.00	225.00	392.83	
9.	Uttaranchal	—	30.00	105.00	The State was formed during 2000-01 after bifurcation of Uttar Pradesh as such no releases shown in 2000-01.
10.	Central Level	195.00	205.50	352.17	
Total		800.00	1500.00	2590.00	

State-wise release of funds under ICDS-General and World Bank assisted ICDS Projects

Name of The Scheme: Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS)

Sl. No.	Name of the States/UTs	Release of funds (in lakhs)		
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6229.00	6580.61	8564.65
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	681.00	1895.39	2522.72
3.	Assam	5070.97	6188.61	7988.33
4.	Bihar	3756.00	2145.11	1934.97
5.	Chattisgarh	625.61	1800.79	2934.24
6.	Goa	284.13	339.35	430.75
7.	Gujarat	3726.10	8070.09	6905.28
8.	Haryana	3593.61	3660.50	4297.19
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1764.28	1984.42	2133.77
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	2266.00	2739.16	3666.22
11.	Jharkhand	865.57	1961.66	836.31
12.	Karnataka	7466.18	7660.68	10541.29
13.	Kerala	3101.90	3516.30	5895.08
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5590.00	3771.08	6040.51
15.	Maharashtra	6688.62	10193.48	12199.16

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Manipur	1254.75	901.07	2360.06
17.	Meghalaya	664.97	1060.15	1156.87
18.	Mizoram	868.85	572.95	1139.16
19.	Nagaland	1941.60	1907.00	2376.47
20.	Orissa	6133.71	6881.86	8676.42
21.	Punjab	3759.46	3730.77	3677.09
22.	Rajasthan	5954.43	5947.07	7324.27
23.	Sikkim	156.01	192.35	280.97
24.	Tamil Nadu	10286.90	9289.80	13410.76
25.	Tripura	630.89	1481.36	1333.21
26.	Uttar Pradesh	11519.28	12696.42	9249.89
27.	Uttaranchal	462.78	1246.76	4767.38
28.	West Bengal	8047.13	12650.02	16229.63
Union Territories				
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	107.88	154.85	164.32
2.	Chandigarh	88.04	93.35	121.50
3.	Delhi	808.47	796.41	986.18
4.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	26.83	31.85	42.00
5.	Daman & Diu	52.56	37.45	43.24
6.	Lakshadweep	25.43	31.62	30.83
7.	Pondicherry	154.85	154.85	237.09
Total		104653.79	122365.19	150497.72

Name of the Scheme: World Bank Assisted ICDS Projects

1.	Andhra Pradesh	2000.00	5000.00	5539.60
2.	Bihar	0.00	1000.00	5251.20
3.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	600.00	3763.69

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	0.00
5.	Jharkhand	0.00	400.00	1432.25
6.	Madhya Pradesh	4712.00	6000.00	7885.83
7.	Orissa	-	-	-
8.	Kerala	1000.00	2900.00	425.80
9.	Maharashtra	700.00	-	6123.83
10.	Rajasthan	1500.00	3500.00	3354.79
11.	Tamil Nadu	1000.00	-	-
12.	Uttar Pradesh	3000.00	2526.00	4053.35
13.	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	West Bengal	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	CPMU (not State/UTs)	89.00	68.00	45.00
Total		14001.00	21994.00	37875.35

Statement-II

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme/ Programme	X-Plan Allocation					Total 2002-07 Outlay	Total Remarks
		2002-03 BE	2003-04 Projected Outlay	2004-05 Projected Outlay	2005-06 Projected Outlay	2006-07 Projected Outlay		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
I. Women and Child Development								
A Central Schemes								
(a) Welfare and Development of Children								
1.	Creches/Day Care Centres for Children of Working/Ailing Mother	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	60.00	—
2.	National Institute of Public Co-operation & Child Development	6.00	7.00	8.00	9.00	10.00	40.00	—
3.	National Commission for Children	0.20	1.00	1.30	2.00	2.50	7.00	—
Total a.		18.20	20.00	21.30	23.00	24.50	107.00	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
(b) Welfare and Development of Women								
4.	Hostels for Working Women	15.00	16.00	17.00	18.00	19.00	85.00	—
5.	Women's Economic Programme (NORAD)	25.00	28.00	31.00	32.00	34.00	150.00	—
6.	Support to Training-cum-Employment Programme (STEP)	25.00	28.00	31.00	32.00	34.00	150.00	—
7.	Distance Education	0.55	0.55	—	—	—	1.10	—
8.	Swadhar	15.00	17.00	21.00	23.00	24.00	100.00	—
9.	National Commission for Women	6.00	6.00	6.00	7.00	7.00	32.00	—
10.	National Credit Fund for Women (RMK)	1.00	5.00	44.00	48.00	50.00	148.00	—
11.	G.I.A. to CSWB	37.30	38.70	65.90	67.30	70.80	280.00	—
	(a) General Grants to CSWB	16.00	17.00	44.00	45.00	48.00	170.00	—
	(b) Short Stay Homes (SSH)	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	75.00	—
	(c) Awareness Generation Projects	4.30	4.30	4.30	4.50	4.50	21.90	—
	(d) Condensed Courses	2.00	2.40	2.60	2.80	3.30	13.10	—
Total b.		124.85	139.25	215.90	227.30	238.80	946.10	—
(c) Other Schemes								
12.	Other Grants-in-Aid	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	6.50	32.50	—
	(a) Research & Monitoring	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	25.00	—
	(b) Innovative Work on Women & Child	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	7.50	—
13.	Information & Mass Media	6.00	6.50	7.00	7.50	8.00	35.00	—
14.	Information Technology	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	2.50	—
Total c.		13.00	13.50	14.00	14.50	15.00	70.00	—
Total (CS)		156.05	172.75	251.20	264.80	278.30	1123.10	—
B. Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)								
Child Development								
15.	Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS)	1635.44	2002.78	2059.00	2,314.87	2379.66	10391.75	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
16.	Training of ICDS functionaries	72.00	260.17	130.09	—	—	462.26	—
17.	World Bank-ICDS Projects Women's Development	288.48	669.62	334.76	—	—	1292.86	—
18.	Swashakti Project	25.00	50.00	—	—	—	75.00	—
19.	Swayamsiddha	20.00	30.00	40.00	50.00	60.00	200.00	—
20.	Balika Samridhi Yojana	—	25.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	100.00	—
Total		2040.92	3037.57	2588.85	2389.87	2464.66	12521.87	—
Total (CS & CSS)		2196.97	3210.32	2840.05	2654.67	2742.96	13644.97	—
II. Food and Nutrition Board								
21.	National Nutrition Policy & Nutrition Education	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	10.00	—
III. New Schemes								
Central Scheme								
22.	National Resource Centre for Women	0.01	3.00	5.00	8.00	8.99	25.00	—
23.	CREME	0.01	—	—	—	—	0.01	—
Centrally Sponsored Scheme								
24.	National Nutrition Mission (NNM)	1.00	25.00	25.00	25.00	24.00	100.00	—
25.	CIDA Asstt. Programme for HP	0.01	—	—	—	—	0.01	—
26.	ICDS IV	—	—	0.01	—	—	0.01	—
Total New Scheme (III)		1.03	28.00	30.01	33.00	32.99	125.03	—
Total (WCD)		2200.00	3240.32	2872.06	2689.67	2777.95	13780.00	—

Note: 1. The earlier allocation of Rs. 0.11 crore for the year 2002-03 under the scheme of Women's Empowerment year 2001 is reallocated with WB-ICDS.

2. The additional funds for 10th Plan i.e. Rs. 180.00 crores is adjusted with the schemes allocation (2004-05 to 2006-07 year-wise) of RMK (Rs. 100.00 crores) and General Grants to CSWB for Family Welfare Scheme (Rs. 80.00 crores)

3. The North Eastern allocation is also within the allocation.

State-wise release of funds during 2002-03 under the Schemes/Projects of Swyamsidha, Swa-Shakti, ICDS-Gnl., World Bank Assisted ICDS Projects and World Bank Assisted ICDS Training Prog. (UDISHA)

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UTs	Name of the Schemes/Projects				
		Swyamsidha	Swa-Shakti	ICDS-Gnl.	World Bank Assisted ICDS	WB-Assisted ICDS-Trng. (UDISHA)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	38.60	-	8564.65	5539.60	780.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	9.00	-	2522.72	-	8.00
3.	Assam	71.50	-	7988.33	-	132.75
4.	Bihar	76.00	130.00	1934.97	5251.20	78.77
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	75.00	2934.24	3763.69	250.00
6.	Goa	0.00	-	430.75	-	5.00
7.	Gujarat	0.00	200.00	6905.28	-	150.00
8.	Haryana	18.00	200.00	4297.19	-	52.22
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	-	2133.77	-	60.63
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	33.05	-	3666.22	-	62.53
11.	Jharkhand	34.00	175.00	836.21	1432.25	100.00
12.	Karnataka	64.00	535.00	10541.29	-	158.00
13.	Kerala	35.00	-	5895.08	425.80	300.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	51.00	425.00	6040.51	7885.83	744.17
15.	Maharashtra	0.00	-	12199.16	6123.83	611.93
16.	Manipur	4.00	-	2360.06	-	-
17.	Meghalaya	0.00	-	1156.87	-	25.00
18.	Mizoram	11.00	-	1139.16	-	10.28
19.	Nagaland	9.00	-	2376.47	-	40.00
20.	Orissa	51.00	-	8676.42	-	50.00
21.	Punjab	0.00	-	3677.09	-	100.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
22.	Rajasthan	0.00	-	7324.27	3354.79	946.27
23.	Sikkim	4.00	-	280.97	-	-
24.	Tamil Nadu	62.00	-	13410.76	-	48.42
25.	Tripura	4.00	-	1333.22	-	70.73
26.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	392.83	9249.89	4053.35	356.15
27.	Uttaranchal	16.00	105.00	4767.38	-	110.94
28.	West Bengal	49.94	-	16229.63	-	400.00
Union Territories						
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	7.90	—	164.32	—	—
2.	Chandigarh	0.90	—	121.50	—	—
3.	Delhi	7.90	—	986.18	—	28.00
4.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.00	—	42.00	—	—
5.	Daman & Diu	0.00	—	43.24	—	—
6.	Lakshadweep	0.00	—	30.83	—	1.00
7.	Pondicherry	4.00	—	237.09	—	3.96
8.	CPMU (not State/UTs)		352.00	—	45.00	230.00
Total		662.79	2589.83	150497.72	37875.35	5914.75

Statement III*Incidence of crimes committed against women reported during 2000, 2001 and 2002*

Sl. No.	Head of Incidence	2000	2001	2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Rape	16496	16075	14806
2.	Kid. & Abduction	15023	14645	14244
3.	Dowry Deaths	6995	6851	6756
4.	Cruelty by Husband and relatives	45778	49170	42080
5.	Molestation	32940	34124	3116
6.	Eve-Teasing	—	—	13731

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Sexual Harrasment	11024	9746	—
8.	Importation of Girls	64	114	151
9.	Sati Prevention Act.	—	—	2
10.	I.T.P.A	9515	8798	5691
11.	Indecent repr. of Women Proh. Act	662	1052	3138
12.	Dowry Proh. Act	2876	3222	2200
Total		141373	143795	133915

Incidence of crimes committed against Children reported during 2000, 2001 and 2002

Sl. No.	Head of Incidence	2000	2001	2002*
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Murder	—	1175	—
2.	Rape (below 16 years)	3132	2113	—
3.	Infanticides	104	133	99
4.	Other Murder	—	1042	—
5.	Foeticide	91	55	77
6.	Abetment of Suicide	18	26	29
7.	Exposure & Abandonment	660	678	598
8.	Kidnapping & Abduction	711	2845	762
9.	Procuration of Minor Girls	147	138	169
10.	Selling of Girls for Prostitution	15	8	9
11.	Bying of Girls for Prostitution	53	6	15
12.	Child Marriage Restraint Act	92	85	85
13.	Other Crimes	—	3685	—
Total		5023	11989	1843

*Figures are provisional

Source: National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs.

*[English]***FDI in Telecom Sector**

*126. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals approved for the telecom sector during 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 till date;

(b) the number of proposals related to domestic private investment approved during the above period;

(c) the extent to which these proposals have been implemented; and

(d) the impact of the FDI proposals on the telecom industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) The total amount of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approved for the telecom sector during the year 2002-03 was Rs. 1,065.2 crores; during 2003-04 upto August, 2003 this is Rs. 844 crores.

(b) and (c) Proposals related to domestic private investment do not require government approval.

(d) Foreign investment has supplemented domestically available financial resources and technical expertise for faster growth of the telecom sector in the country.

*[Translation]***Report of Disinvestment Commission**

*127. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Disinvestment Commission has presented its report to the Government on disinvestment of Government equity in State Farms Corporation of India Limited and National Seeds Corporation Limited in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Government proposes to take action on this report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes Sir. The Disinvestment Commission in its Report No. XIX of April 2003 and Report No. XX of May 2003 has given its recommendations for disinvestment of State Farms Corporation of India Ltd. (SFCIL) and National Seeds Corporation Ltd. (NSCL) respectively.

(b) In the case of SFCIL the Commission has recommended that, though closure/winding up appears to be the only economically viable option, an attempt should be made to disinvest the entire shareholding of the Government to a Strategic Partner along with rationalisation of manpower and financial restructuring to be finalised in consultation with the prospective buyers. In the case of NSCL the Commission has recommended that NSCL should remain as a Government Company for a period not exceeding five years. Further, Government should disinvest upto 49% of its share to a private sector partner, through the competitive bidding route to make the company efficient and for better corporate governance. Disinvestment of upto 100% of Government equity can be considered after five years after the company has become more efficient and competitive.

(c) No decision has been taken on the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission.

*[English]***Education for All Programme**

*128. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL:

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

(a) whether the Government is unable to meet the target in the field of education particularly in education for all programme;

(b) if so, whether the involvement of foreign donors are required for achieving the target;

(c) if so, whether the Government has called on foreign donors, international agencies and developed countries to meet their commitments without imposing any conditions under UNESCO's education for all programme as reported in the 'Pioneer' dated 13th November, 2003;

(d) if so, the facts thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government has applied to the World Bank for funds for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA); and

(f) if so, the details thereof including the amount of funds sought and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Under the normal collaborative relationship of the Government of India and International funding agencies, three funding agencies namely World Bank, Department of International Development of U.K. and European Commission have shown their interest in funding of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) which is India's flagship programme for meeting the 'Education for All' goals. The Ministry's stand is that any foreign proposal in this regard will be considered only without any conditionalities.

India had raised the issue of the need for donor countries to fulfil their commitments of achieving Official Development Assistance (ODA) of 0.7% of GNP, at various forums, including the meeting of the High Level Group on EFA held in New Delhi in November, 2003. This received wide support from many other countries and was reflected in the communique issued at the end of this Meeting of the High Level Group. The donor countries and international agencies were called upon to redress the decline of total ODA that remains below the level of the early 90s, through strengthening the Fast Track and Analytic Fast Track initiatives, increasing ODA to at least the levels agreed upon in Monterrey and to ensure that a higher percentage thereof is allocated to basic education.

[Translation]

BSNL/MTNL Sim Cards

*129. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD:

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

(a) whether the supply of BSNL/MTNL SIM cards is not keeping pace with their demand in the country;

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

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Sir, BSNL and MTNL had planned the switching capacity and the requirement of SIM cards in accordance with forecast at the time of starting of mobile cellular service in their respective service areas. Due to popularity of the services, the capacity was exhausted much earlier than anticipated. Further, the requirements of cellular connections have been more than the earlier forecast on account of high demand, which resulted into shortage of SIM cards temporarily. As the number of SIM cards procured by BSNL is higher than the capacity, BSNL is able to meet the present requirement of SIM cards to meet full capacity utilization at all location over its service areas, through redistribution of SIM cards.

In regard to MTNL there is no shortage of SIM cards.

(c) Additional SIM cards are made available to the field units as and when capacities are created either due to expansion or churn of subscribers. To meet further requirements additional capacities have been planned and procurement action has been initiated by both MTNL and BSNL. Advertisements have been placed in local newspapers listing the locations at which SIM cards are available in the Circle. The status of exchange capacity, SIMs supplied and number of cellular connections provided, service area-wise, is shown as statement.

Statement

Status of SIM Cards as on 30.11.2003

Sl. No.	Licensed-Service Area	Subscriber capacity	SIMs Procured	No. of connections provided
1	2	3	4	5
BSNL				
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5000	10130	4741
2.	Andhra Pradesh	595600	730193	512483
3.	Bihar (Including Jharkhand)	241250	460193	210769
4.	Gujarat	459750	579150	479474

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Haryana	134565	214091	150229
6.	Himachal Pradesh	43800	74238	55886
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	41200	73300	23077
8.	Karnataka	340150	421083	318441
9.	Kerala	326586	477784	334328
10.	Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh)	135850	185348	150232
11.	Maharashtra	495300	633846	563234
12.	Orissa	132950	239410	141528
13.	Punjab	343000	479039	273023
14.	Rajasthan	180550	258870	183613
15.	Tamil Nadu	334900	466884	335000
16.	UP (W) including Uttaranchal	287800	454624	297744
17.	UP (East)	293100	389680	299002
18.	West Bengal	147350	265645	137798
19.	Chennai TD	131000	183750	120450
20.	Kolkata TD	15000	100000	22626
Total		4684701	6697301	4613677
MTNL				
21.	Delhi (Delhi + NCR region of Gurgaon, Faridabad & Noida)	225000	304045	156321
22.	Mumbai (Mumbai + Navi Mumbai + Kalyan + Dombivili)	225000	323400	166456
Total		450000	627445	322777
Grand Total (BSNL + MTNL)		5124701	7324746	49364554

Cargo Traffic

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

(a) the volume of Cargo traffic projected during the Ninth Plan at the various ports;

(b) the details of the achievements made during the said period;

(c) whether certain deficiencies were noticed; and

(d) if so, the details and the reasons therefor and the manner in which the Government tackled those deficiencies?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) The volume of cargo traffic projected during the terminal year (2001-02) of the Ninth Plan for the ports was 423.94 million tonnes.

(b) Significant achievements during the Ninth Plan period are as follows:

- (i) A new major port at Ennore near Chennai, with capacity for handling 12 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) of coal traffic was commissioned.
- (ii) A major project, namely, creation of mechanised coal handling facilities for handling thermal coal with capacity of 20 MTPA was completed in Pradip Port.
- (iii) Aggregate traffic handled in ports increased from 254.09 million tonnes in the terminal year of Eighth Plan (1996-97) to 382.72 million tonnes in the terminal year of the Ninth Plan (2001-02).
- (iv) Since 2000-2001, capacity in major ports (291.45 MTPA) has been exceeding traffic handled (281.11 million tonnes). As a result, capacity in major ports is more than the traffic handled at these ports. This trend is expected to be maintained.
- (v) Principal indicators of port efficiency in major ports, namely, average turn around time, average pre-berthing time and average output per ship berthing showed steady improvement.

(c) and (d) Due to lack of adequate draft in Indian Ports, at present, Indian cargo is predominantly transhipped through the hub ports in neighbouring countries with the result that the shipping costs for Indian cargo is high. Keeping this in view, it has been decided to develop a hub port each on the East and West Coasts of the country, at Chennai and Jawaharlal Nehru Ports respectively. Further, it has been decided to develop an International Container Transshipment Terminal at Vallarpadam, Cochin.

Productivity levels in major ports are not comparable to international standards. Efforts are being made on a continuing basis to improve the productivity levels.

Lack of Infrastructure in Schools

*131. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:

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

(a) whether due to lack of infrastructure in various schools 50% of over three crore class IX students will have to stay out of schools;

(b) if so, whether to avert such a situation, Planning Commission has directed the Ministry and all State Educational Ministries to go in for strengthening vocational and technical education programme;

(c) whether the Government has agreed that there is a huge gap in infrastructure; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (c) No, Sir.

(b) and (d) To cater to the needs of students desirous of pursuing vocational courses after Class VIII, Ministry of Human Resource Development has formulated a National Programme of Vocational Education & Training. Subsequently, Planning Commission also emphasized the importance of vocational education & training in a meeting with several Ministries including Ministry of Human Resource Development.

However, in view of the expected increase in the enrolment for class IX after 2010 as a result of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), the Ministry of Human Resource Development has already written to the State Governments for undertaking advance planning.

These efforts are supplemented by distance education imparted by satellite channels and National Institute of Open Schooling, which not only provide general education but also vocational education to the students.

Planetary Mission

*132. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ISRO has formulated an ambitious planetary mission including landing of robots on the moon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the planetary mission is likely to be launched;

(d) the number of planetary missions proposed to be launched by ISRO in near future;

(e) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred on each of these missions; and

(f) the main benefits likely to be derived by these missions?

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) ISRO has already an approved project for a Mission to Moon called Chandrayaan-1. The main objective of the mission is to launch a lunar probe in a polar orbit of about 100 km altitude around the moon using indigenous launch vehicle from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. Chandrayaan-1 is the first Indian mission to moon devoted to high resolution remote sensing of the lunar surface features and mineral composition in visible, near infrared, low and high energy X-ray regions. This will provide an opportunity to Indian Scientists to study scientific aspects such as origin, features and composition of lunar surface. The mission is planned to be realized in 5 years.

(d) Follow-up planetary missions may be decided based on the progress and outcome of Chandrayaan-1.

(e) The expenditure approved for Chandrayaan-1 is Rs. 386.00 crores.

(f) The benefits likely to be derived for the country from the said Mission are mainly to expand the horizon of our scientific knowledge. For accomplishing such a deep space mission, we will be upgrading our technological capability, in travelling distances of the order of 3.5 lakh km. with precision navigation and guidance systems, which will be another gain in the long run. The Mission would also throw up a challenge to the imagination and vision of growing younger generation of the country, which when nurtured further, would provide

immense benefits to the society at large over a long period of time.

Medical Facilities/Drugs to AIDS Patients

*133. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) the latest number of HIV/AIDS cases in the country, State-wise;

(b) the financial assistance granted/released to each State by the Government during the last three years;

(c) whether a Conference of National Convention of elected representatives on HIV/AIDS was held in New Delhi in July, 2003;

(d) if so, the details of the issues discussed in the Conference;

(e) whether the Government has chalked out any programme to provide free medical facilities and drugs to HIV patients in the country;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to implement this programme especially in high prevalence States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (g) We have in India a system of annual sentinel surveillance to track the spread and prevalence of HIV. Since 1998, this sentinel surveillance is operationalised at consistent sites. The estimated numbers of people living with HIV is 3.82 million at the lower end of the range, and 4.58 million at the higher end of the range at the end December, 2002. The cumulative number of full blown AIDS cases detected and reported by the State AIDS Control Societies as on 30th November, 2003 is 57,781. The six high prevalence states for HIV/AIDS continue to be Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Nagaland and Tamil Nadu.

In order to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS in India, Govt. of India has launched a comprehensive National AIDS Control Programme.

currently under implementation throughout the country as a centrally sponsored scheme.

The National AIDS Control Organisation, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare provides financial assistance to State AIDS Control Societies for the implementation of the programme based on the Annual Action Plans submitted by them. State-wise financial assistance released to each State AIDS Control Society by the Government during the last three years is enclosed as statement-I.

A National Convention of the Parliamentary Forum on HIV/AIDS was held on 26th-27th July, 2003 in New Delhi with the objective to involve elected representatives in the HIV/AIDS programme. The National Convention was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and addressed by Deputy Prime Minister, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, the Leader of Opposition, Dy. Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare and Representatives from other political parties. Executive Director of UNAIDS also addressed the delegates. The Convention was concluded with a declaration of Commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS, which was

endorsed by all major political parties. A copy of the Declaration of the Commitment is enclosed as statement-II.

Government provides free medical treatment to people living with HIV/AIDS for the management of opportunistic infections through the State AIDS Control Societies in government hospitals. Tuberculosis is the most common opportunistic infection. Linkages have been developed with the Revised National Tuberculosis Control Programme in the six high HIV burden States to ensure free availability of good quality anti-tuberculosis drugs for HIV/AIDS patients suffering from tuberculosis. Government also provides the anti-retroviral drug (Nevirapine) for prevention of parent to child transmission of HIV. Antiretroviral drugs for post exposure prophylaxis of health care providers in case of accidental occupational exposure, is also being provided under the National AIDS Control Programme.

Government is actively contemplating expansion of this programme of care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS across the six high prevalence states, so as to include anti-retroviral drugs for specific target groups.

Statement I

National AIDS Control Project-Phase II

Status of Release of funds to SACS

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	State/UT	Release during 2000-01	Release during 2001-02	Release during 2002-03
1	2	3	4	5
World Bank assisted NACP-II				
1.	Andhra Pradesh	824.50	850.00	1290.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	111.00	214.88	130.50
3.	Assam	375.00	653.80	614.50
4.	Bihar	196.00	809.50	600.50
5.	Goa	72.73	99.00	170.50
6.	Gujarat	347.17	450.00	136.00
7.	Haryana	246.50	266.00	315.00

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	262.50	308.50	236.50
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	152.00	244.50	295.50
10.	Karnataka	398.65	785.15	975.00
11.	Kerala	350.63	368.00	470.00
12.	Madhya Pradesh	542.00	780.50	521.50
13.	Maharashtra	852.00	550.00	1025.50
14.	Manipur	415.30	708.15	787.50
15.	Meghalaya	87.50	224.93	90.50
16.	Mizoram	179.00	246.70	311.50
17.	Nagaland	250.50	635.50	626.50
18.	Orissa	358.50	200.00	148.00
19.	Punjab	321.50	266.50	403.50
20.	Rajasthan	380.00	317.50	358.50
21.	Sikkim	66.00	120.02	64.00
22.	Tamil Nadu	1108.30	1393.50	1295.50
23.	Tripura	92.00	196.67	71.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1175.00	1465.65	1674.50
25.	West Bengal	643.15	1059.50	1503.00
26.	Delhi	239.00	334.00	431.00
27.	Pondicherry	21.50	54.00	74.00
28.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	66.44	95.50	89.50
29.	Chandigarh	93.11	152.65	156.50
30.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	9.00	26.00	17.00
31.	Daman & Diu	9.00	31.00	36.00
32.	Lakshadweep	9.16	29.50	25.50
33.	MDACS, Mumbai	431.65	585.65	603.00
34.	Ahmedabad MC	84.61	58.30	129.55
35.	Chennai MC	101.50	62.45	186.45
36.	Uttaranchal	—	98.00	162.00
37.	Chhattisgarh	—	129.50	243.50
38.	Jharkhand	—	156.00	193.00
Total		10872.40	15027.00	16462.00

Statement #**Declaration on Political Leadership in
Combating HIV/AIDS**

Adopted in New Delhi on 26 July 2003 at the India's first National Convention of the Parliamentary Forum on HIV/AIDS, on July 26-27.

We, the activists of the political parties

RECOGNIZE that as political workers we have a crucial role, both individually and collectively as the link between the people and the government, as advocates for the rights and needs of people, as legislators to make laws to protect these rights, and as policy-makers to mobilize resources, involve civil society and create the enabling environment necessary to fight HIV/AIDS.

ARE CONVINCED that together we can overcome the HIV/AIDS epidemic, prevent its further spread, work for an enabling environment and alleviate the impact of the epidemic.

Have gathered at this National Convention of Elected Representatives being held today at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, to reaffirm our collective commitment to mobilize communities against the spread and impact of HIV/AIDS. We solemnly declare to:

ENSURE leadership by everyone in his/her area of responsibility in the fight against HIV/AIDS by intensifying advocacy, allocating and raising resources and guiding the response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic both in prevention and care within our constituencies in particular and the country as a whole;

PROMOTE a positive environment by confronting stigma, silence and denial, eliminating discrimination and ensuring the full enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedom by people living with HIV/AIDS.

ASSURE gender equality and the empowerment of

women as a fundamental element in the reduction of the vulnerability of women and children to HIV/AIDS.

TAKE STEPS to ensure that the response includes a focus on youth.

INTENSIFY AND STRENGTHEN multisectoral collaboration and mobilizing for full and active part of a wide range of non-governmental organizations, the business sector, media, community based organizations, religious leaders, families, citizens as well as people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in the planning, implementation and valuation of the response to HIV/AIDS.

Financial Plans for National Highways

*134. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to double the investments in National Highways during the next five years;

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

(c) whether the Government has worked out financing plans for National Highway projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (d) Development of National Highways is done as per outlays in Five Year Plans. The current plan, i.e. the Tenth Five Year Plan, pertains to the period 2002-2007 and the outlay for National Highways is Rs. 58854.50 crore as against the outlay of Rs. 19,157.38 crore in the Ninth Plan (1997-2002)

The details are given below:

Sl.No.	Sources	Ninth Plan Outlay (Rs. in crore)	Tenth Plan Outlay (Rs. in crore)
1.	Externally Aided	4779.99	13990.50
2.	Cess Fund (Started from the year 2000)	5270.00	10500.00
3.	Budgetary Resources other than (1) and (2) above	5507.39	9664.00
4.	Market Borrowings	3600.00	24700.00
	Total	19157.38	58854.50

Agro-based vocational training courses

*135. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have decided to introduce agro-based vocational training courses in various institutions;

(b) if so, whether students can acquire certificates of skill in different vocations like crop husbandry, horticulture, animal husbandry and dairying regardless of their formal high school education;

(c) if so, whether the Government have also decided to phase out the existing 6700 vocational schools which have not met the desired standards; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) 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. The scheme shall also be available for the persons who have not got any formal high school education. Keeping in view the requirement of industry/user organizations various kind of vocational courses including a large number of agro based courses will be provided under the revised scheme. The schools providing vocational education under the existing scheme will have the option to participate under the proposed revised scheme subject to fulfilling the laid down conditions.

[Translation]

Gap in Health Care Facilities

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

(a) whether the huge gap between rural and urban areas in terms of health care facilities still persists and a huge per cent of the total population are deprived of adequate health care facilities;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to narrow the aforesaid gap?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) No Sir. While in urban areas, health facilities are provided through sub-divisional and district hospitals/tertiary level hospitals/medical colleges and institutions, a comprehensive network of rural health infrastructure has also been set up. A progressive improvement in various health indicators over five decades of planned economic development have helped to substantially narrow down the gap across the rural urban divide. A near doubling in the life expectancy over the same period is indicative of improvement in health care facilities for the citizenry at large.

(c) The main objective of the National Health Policy-2002 is to achieve an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population of the country by establishing new infrastructure in deficient areas and by upgrading the infrastructure in the existing institutions. The Policy envisages increasing allocation for the primary health sector from around 48% to 55% of the total public health investment. The Policy also envisages increasing the total health expenditure from 5.2% of GDP, as at present, to 6% of GDP by 2010, with the public health expenditure increasing from the present level of about 0.9% to 2% of GDP during the same time period.

Various steps have been taken by the Government to reduce the rural-urban gap in terms of health care facilities as also for ensuring adequate health care to the total population.

Central Government extends assistance to various States, which are primarily responsible for the provision of preventive, promotive and curative health care services, for the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Health programmes for control of major diseases like Malaria, TB, Blindness, Leprosy and AIDS. The implementation of the disease control programmes in all the States has brought about a general improvement in various health indicators in the country.

A vast network of rural infrastructure has already been established in the country. Further, to provide quality health care services to the people, especially the rural poor and the under-served, health infrastructure is being upgraded under the State Health System Projects, which are being implemented in select States with World Bank assistance. Assistance is also provided under Prime

Minister Gramodaya Yojana for improving the functional status of rural primary health care institutions. Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana has been launched for setting up institutions on the pattern of AIIMS in certain under-served States and upgrading existing institutions in certain remaining under-served States/Regions to meet the demand for super speciality health services. A community based universal health insurance scheme has been introduced, in which the Government would contribute Rs. 100 per year per family towards the annual premium, so as to ensure the affordability of the scheme to families living below the poverty line.

To improve the availability of doctors in rural areas, some State Governments have already made rural service compulsory before admission to P.G. courses or at the time of initial appointment.

[English]

Optical Fibre Cable in North-East States

*137. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the States in the country have been connected with Optical Fibre Cable for better telecommunication and internet service up to the level of sub-divisional headquarters;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce it in the North-East States;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which this work is likely to be started; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Most of the States have been connected with Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) to the level of District Headquarters (DHQ) and a few Sub-Divisional Headquarters (SDHQ) based on traffic justification, bandwidth requirement and economic viability. Internet Service is available in District Headquarters and Sub-Divisional Headquarters and also in smaller places on dial up basis.

(b) All telephone exchanges in Delhi and Mumbai have OFC connectivity. In the rest of the country, 541 District Headquarters out of 584 District Headquarters and 1498 Sub-Divisional Headquarters out of 1642 Sub-Divisional Headquarters have been connected with Optical Fibre Cable. 41 District Headquarters and 127 Sub-Divisional Headquarters have been provided connectivity on reliable media such as microwave and satellite communication systems depending upon traffic and geographical terrain. 2 District Headquarters and 17 Sub-Divisional Headquarters are not having telephone exchanges due to insufficient demand. Details are given in the Statement attached.

(c) to (f) In the North East States, Optical Fibre Cable connectivity has already been introduced for 49 District Headquarters and 98 Sub-Divisional Headquarters where traffic justification, technical feasibility and economic viability exist. Work for Optical Fibre Cable connectivity has been started for 6 district Headquarters in North-East States. Other district Headquarters and Sub-divisional Head Quarters in very remote locations and hilly terrain are being served by high capacity Satellite communication systems or Microwave systems.

Statement

Details of OFC Connectivity to DHQs & SDHQs

Sl. No.	Name of State	No. of DHQs	No. of DHQs with OFC	No. of SDHQs	No. of SDHQs with OFC
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23	23	73	73
2.	Assam	23	22	48	41
3.	Bihar	38	38	97	94
4.	Jharkhand	22	22	35	35

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Gujarat	25	25	46	46
6.	Haryana	19	19	45	45
7.	Himachal Pradesh	12	10	51	39
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	14	8	12	8
9.	Kerala	14	14	21	21
10.	Karnataka	27	27	52	52
11.	Madhya Pradesh	45	45	146	146
12.	Chhattisgarh	16	16	56	53
13.	Maharashtra	35	35	112	111
14.	Mizoram	8	1	17	2
15.	Nagaland	11	3	22	4
16.	Tripura	4	4	15	14
17.	Arunachal Pradesh	16	4	36	6
18.	Manipur	9	6	34	13
19.	Meghalaya	7	5	15	9
20.	Orissa	30	30	58	57
21.	Punjab	18	18	68	68
22.	Rajasthan	32	32	105	105
23.	Tamil Nadu	28	28	58	58
24.	Uttar Pradesh (E)	50	50	204	191
25.	Uttar Pradesh (W)	20	20	87	87
26.	Uttanchal	13	13	52	43
27.	West Bengal	14	14	58	58
28.	Sikkim	4	4	9	9
29.	Andaman & Nicobar	2	0	0	0
30.	Kolkata (Telecom District)	4	4	10	10
31.	Chennai (Telecom District)	1	1	0	0
Total		584	541	1642	1498

Note: 1. 41 District Headquarters and 127 Sub-Divisional Headquarters have been provided connectivity on reliable media such as microwave and satellite communication systems depending upon traffic and geographical terrain.

2. 2 District Headquarters and 17 Sub-Divisional Headquarters are not having telephone exchanges due to insufficient demand.

Public Health Care System

*138. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

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

(a) whether in view of dismal state of affairs prevailing in the public health care system in the country, the National Human Rights Commission has stressed the need to fix the emergency medical care;

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

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to discuss the matter with the State Governments and implement the public health care system in the country in an effective way; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) In the aftermath of the Uphaar tragedy, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) set up a Core Group headed by late Dr. V. Ramalingaswamy to suggest way and means for improving the state of Emergency Medical Care in the country.

The Core Group was of the view the an efficient health care system must provide holistic protection for medical emergencies by combining preventive and early warning services. The other suggestions included, *inter-alia*, appropriately equipping casualty departments, training in emergency response to health and para-medical staff, establishment of a clearly defined referral system and provision for network of laboratory support services. The Group also recommended involving private tertiary care institutions in this regard.

The Government of India, while agreeing with the conceptual paper prepared by the Core Group, responded as follows:

- (i) To implement this, there is a requirement for involvement of State Governments and Local Bodies for which the State Governments have to be consulted.
- (ii) Continued Medical Education (CME) programme on emergency response should be imparted to Medical and Para-medical staff.

(iii) There is a need for Capacity Building in terms of development of manpower and other infrastructure to handle the disaster of any nature (Flood, Cyclone, Earthquake and Fire etc.)

(iv) There should be identified personnel including the well-defined linkage for coordination of disaster management in each of the District and State level.

(v) Identification of strategic tertiary care, secondary care of hospitals should be made in each part of the country.

After consultations, NHRC, has constituted a Group of Experts to study the existing system for emergency medical care and to make recommendations for improvement wherever necessary. In this Expert Group, a nominee from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is also a member.

The NHRC has decided to co-jointly organize a National Consultation on strengthening Primary Health Care in 2004 by NHRC and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, with a focus on emergency medical care and also to involve various State Governments in this process.

Rebuilding of Iraq

*139. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has recognised the Iraqi Governing Council as the legitimate executive body of Iraq;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether India has pledged a substantial amount for the rebuilding of Iraq at the International Donor Conference;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which this amount is to be disbursed to Iraq;

(e) whether Iraq has sought foreign direct investment for its projects; and

(f) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in the said matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (f)

India is vitally interested in the peace and prosperity of the Gulf region and has, therefore, been monitoring the developments in Iraq very closely. The unanimously adopted UN Security Council Resolution 1511 determines that the Governing Council and its Ministers are the principal bodies of the Iraqi Interim Administration until an internationally recognized representative government is established in Iraq. India has taken positive note of various elements of the Resolution.

In response to the UN Secretary General's Flash Appeal, early this year, India had committed US\$20 million for humanitarian assistance to the Iraqi people. At the Donors Conference held in Madrid on October 23-24, 2003, India has committed an additional amount of US\$10 million through Trust Funds being coordinated by the UNDP and IMF respectively for reconstruction needs of Iraq. A number of proposals including medical assistance, provision of computers, assistance in the Constitution development process and training of Iraqi personnel including those from Foreign Ministry are being processed.

A set of rules and regulations to attract foreign direct investment in Iraq has been announced. Indian business community particularly CII & FICCI are aware of it. During August this year, a 30-member business delegation from FICCI undertook a successful visit to Iraq. FICCI also organized a Conference "Focus Iraq" on October 7, 2003. The Union Government continues to facilitate the Indian business community in their efforts.

Decline in Job Opportunities for Technocrats

*140. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the upper limit for issue of 'H-1B' visas for Indian Technocrats including IT professionals has lately been lowered in different developed countries from 1.95 lakhs to 65,000;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of such visas issued during the year 2001-2002 and till date; and

(d) the likely impact of this move on the job opportunities of these professionals abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (d) H-1B visa is issued by the United States Government to

enable foreign nationals with certain professional qualifications to work in the United States for a limited period of time. This visa is not exclusively for India, although Indian professionals have been the largest beneficiaries, accounting for nearly 50% of all H-1B visas issued over the past decade, according to some U.S. estimates.

In response to an increase in demand for skilled information technology professionals in the United States, the United States Congress had, through the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998, progressively increased the H-1B visa quota between U.S. fiscal years 1999 and 2003. According to that Act, the annual quota was to revert from 195,000 in U.S. fiscal year 2003 to the original level of 65,000 from U.S. fiscal year 2004.

Since the United States Congress has so far taken no legislative measure to increase the quota, the annual ceiling on H-1B visas now stands at 65,000. Government has seen reports that ascribe the absence of any move to increase the H-1B quota in the United States to economic factors, including market and employment conditions in the information technology industry in the United States.

According to information available with the Government, in the U.S. fiscal year 2002 (1.10.2001 to 30.9.2002), against the authorised quota of 195,000, about 70,000 H-1B visas were issued worldwide, out of which about 44,000 were issued in India. In the U.S. fiscal year 2003, which ended on 30.9.2003, against the ceiling of 195,000, about 80,000 H-1B visas were issued worldwide, out of which about 40,000 are estimated to have been issued in India.

Reduction in the annual quota of H-1B visas will adversely affect employment opportunities for information technology professionals from all countries. The annual flow of information technology professionals to the United States also depends on a number of other market-related factors, including the trends in the U.S. information technology market. Employment opportunities in other countries are not affected by visa regime in the United States.

Declaration of Sunderban Rivers as National Waterways

1199. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to declare Sunderban rivers in West Bengal as National Waterways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation from the West Bengal Government or any other quarters in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

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

(a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal being pursued at the moment.

(c) and (d) The West Bengal Government has requested for declaration of Sunderban rivers as National Waterways.

(e) A proposal for declaration of Sunderban waterways as national waterway from Namkhana (Haldia) to Raimongal river on Indo-Bangladesh border had been pursued earlier. However, Ministry of Environment and Forests did not accord environmental clearance to the proposal and suggested exploring an alternate route bypassing Sunderbans tiger reserve area.

[*Translation*]

Dowry Act

1200. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether even after implementation of Prevention of Dowry Act, 1961, the number of dowry deaths has not decreased;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that the provisions of Prevention of Dowry Act, 1961, provide no safeguards to the aggrieved party;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to amend the Act and the process associated with dowry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS

KAUR MEENA): (a) As per the data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Dowry Deaths in the country have shown an overall decline in the last five years. The number of such incidents was 6975 in 1996, 6699 in 1999, 6995 in 2000, 6553 in 2001 and 6087 in 2002.

(b) As per the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, any person who gives, takes or abets the giving or taking of dowry is punishable by imprisonment for a period not less than five years and by fine of not less than Rs. 15,000 or the amount of the value of dowry, whichever is more.

(c) and (d) There is no immediate proposal to amend the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. The taking/giving of dowry is still construed to be an offence.

Hepatitis-A and B Vaccination

1201. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to launch a nation wide drive to combat Hepatitis-A and B;

(b) if so, whether the CGHS and other Government dispensaries do not have facilities for the vaccination against Hepatitis-A and B;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the Government are likely to make necessary arrangements in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) At present, Hepatitis-A vaccination is not included in the routine immunization programme of Government of India. I.C.M.R. has observed that Hepatitis-A virus infection is benign as compared to Hepatitis B, C & E virus infection. The research studies conducted in India have shown that over 90% of children develop natural immunity to Hepatitis-A virus infection without taking a vaccine. This immunity develops early, continues life long and is stronger than vaccine induced immunity.

The Government has launched pilot project of Hepatitis-B vaccination in 15 cities during 2002-2003 and 32 districts during 2003-2004. The main consideration for

selecting these locations is coverage of more than 80 percent eligible children through routine immunization based on coverage evaluation surveys. According to the strategy decided by the Government of India, only children below the age of one year residing in slums of the selected cities and all the infants in selected districts have been offered free Hepatitis-B vaccination.

Hepatitis-B vaccine is provided to CGHS beneficiaries on prescription of the Head of Department of any Government Hospital in cases where there is danger of exposure to Hepatitis-B.

[English]

Promotion of Findings of Young Scientists

1202. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have brought any new system to promote the findings of young scientists from IITs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Government of India have launched several schemes such as 'National Innovation Foundation', 'Biotech Product & Process Development and Commercialisation Awards' to award the inventors. Young Scientists from IITs are also eligible under the above mentioned scheme.

[Translation]

Violence against Women

1203. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute for Public Cooperation and Child Development (Rashtriya Jan Sahyog Avam Bal Vikas Sansthan Vibhag) has identified crime-prone districts to create awareness in regard to crimes and violence against women and to provide legal information in regard thereto;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the district-wise details of funds allocated in Maharashtra for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Awareness camps were organized in 87 districts of 21 States, the details of the same has been given in statement-I.

(c) Details are given in statement-II.

Statement I

S.No.	State	District
1	2	3
1.	Madhya Pradesh	1. Guna 2. Satna 3. Indore 4. Balaghat 5. Chhindwara 6. Sagar 7. Vidisha 8. Raisen 9. Bhopal 10. Ujjain 11. Gwalior 12. Damoh 13. Jabalpur
2.	Chhattisgarh	1. Bilaspur 2. Raipur 3. Durg
3.	Rajasthan	1. Udaipur 2. Banswada 3. Jhalawad 4. Bundi 5. Ajmer

1	2	3
		6. Kota
		7. Bara
		8. Alwar
		9. Ganga Nagar
		10. Jodhpur
		11. Bharatpur
		12. Pali
		13. Bhitwada
		14. Chittorgarh
		15. Hanumangarh
		16. Jaipur
4. Gujarat		1. Ahmedabad
		2. Surender Nagar
		3. Sabarkantha
		4. Banaskantha
		5. Mehsana
		6. Kutch
5. Maharashtra		1. Nanded
		2. Akola
		3. Jalgaon
		4. Ratnagiri
		5. Nasik
		6. Aurangabad
		7. Pune (Urban)
		8. Pune (Rural)
		9. Ahmednagar
		10. Amravati
		11. Yavatmal
		12. Thane (Rural)
		13. Mumbai (U)
		14. Buldana
6. Tamil Nadu		1. Theni
		2. Chengalpet

1	2	3
		3. Cuddalor
		4. Salem
		5. Dharampuri
7. Karnataka		1. Bangalore
		2. Bellari
		3. Bidar
		4. Mandya
		5. Kolar
8. Kerala		1. Wynad
		2. Mallapuram
		3. Calicut
		4. Kollam
		5. Trivandrum
9. Andhra Pradesh		1. Rangareddi
10. Assam		1. Kamrup
		2. Silchar
11. Mizoram		1. Aizwal
12. Manipur		1. Thaubal
13. Nagaland		1. Kohima
		2. Dimapur
14. Tripura		1. West Tripura
15. Uttranchal		1. Dehradun
16. Bihar		1. Nalanda
		2. Lakhisarai
17. Delhi		1. South Delhi
		2. North-west Delhi
18. Jharkhand		1. Ranchi
19. Punjab		1. Ludhiana
20. Himachal Pradesh		1. Shimla
21. Uttar Pradesh		1. Lucknow
		2. Ghaziabad
		3. Mirzapur
		4. Kanpur

Statement II**Details of districts in Maharashtra where awareness camps organized and the expenditure incurred**

S.No.	Name of Districts in Maharashtra	Name of the organisation	Expenditure incurred (in Rs.)
1.	Aurangabad	Swayam Siddha Mahila Mandal, Latur	85,000/-
2.	Ahmed Nagar	Satyadeep Mahila Mandal	85,000/-
3.	Pune Rural	Chaitanya Mahila Mandal	80,811/-
4.	Pune Urban	Chaitanya Mahila Mandal	66,124/-
5.	Akola	Navchaitanya Mahila Vikas Mandal	85,000/-
6.	Jalgaon	Ahilyadevi Holkar Mahila Gram Vikas Mandal	85,000/-
7.	Nanded	Navchaitanya Mahila Vikas Mandal	85,000/-
8.	Ratnagiri	Swami Swaroopanand Sahkari Pat Sanstha Maryadit	85,000/-
9.	Nasik	Ahilyadevi Holkar Mahila Gram Vikas Mandal	49,699/-
10.	Buldana	do-	50,757/-
11.	Thane	do-	58,890/-
12.	Yavatmal	Gayanand Mahan Mahila Mandal	74,525/-
13.	Mumbai	Bhartiya Stri Shakti, Mahim	85,000/-
14.	Amravati	Kranti Jyoti Mahila Mandal	82,506/-

*[English]***UGC Grants to Colleges and Universities**

1204. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of colleges and universities to which U.G.C. grants have been released during each of the last five years, State-wise, University-wise and College-wise;

(b) whether grants have been utilized during the said period; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) A list of universities state-wise to whom grants have been paid by University Grants Commission (UGC) during the last five years, viz. 1998-99 to 2002-2003 is attached as statement. The information relating to colleges is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the University	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andhra Pradesh						
1.	Central Instt. of English & Foreign Languages, Hyderabad	935.44	1127.84	1107.98	981.55	1109.47
2.	Rashtriya Sanskrit Vidyapeeth, Tirupati	310.38	285.28	410.76	624.97	437.09
3.	Shri Satya Sai Instt. of Higher Learning, Anantapur	49.14	65.00	58.30	69.73	68.80
4.	Hyderabad Univ., Hyderabad	3076.89	3017.87	4208.77	3484.59	3930.47
5.	Urdu University, Hyderabad	200.00	400.00	406.50	750.00	672.00
6.	A.P. Univ. of Health & Sc., Vijayawada	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Andhra Pradesh Agriculture, Hyderabad	—	—	—	—	—
8.	Andhra Univ., Visakhapatnam	344.88	457.63	451.43	358.26	446.89
9.	Dr. B.R.A. Open Univ., Hyderabad	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Jawaharlal Nehru Tech., Hyderabad	84.56	38.75	164.15	93.75	173.18
11.	Kakatiya, Warangal	85.70	121.62	122.51	154.46	151.15
12.	Nagarjuna, Guntur	125.34	87.87	100.85	81.83	133.72
13.	Osmania, Hyderabad	407.86	436.31	387.07	453.28	523.08
14.	Sri Krishna Devaraya, Anantapur	124.24	101.81	101.72	72.93	119.41
15.	Sri Venkateswara, Tirupati	314.48	337.52	304.05	284.81	287.76
16.	Sri Padmawathis Mahila V. Vidyalyaya, Tirupati	79.71	81.00	75.98	85.18	109.88
17.	Telugu Univ., Hyderabad	36.35	70.63	55.19	27.25	71.57
18.	Acharya N.G. Raje Agril. Univ., Hyderabad	—	0.10	—	—	—
19.	National Instt. of Tech., Warangal	—	—	—	—	1.26
Arunachal Pradesh						
1.	Arunachal Univ., Itanagar	59.09	84.64	130.18	349.04	199.56
Assam						
1.	Assam Univ., Sillchar	966.32	2166.96	921.86	748.25	1022.61
2.	Tezpur Univ., Tezpur	877.59	1705.75	692.01	572.18	2648.41

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Assam Agril., Jorhat	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Dibrugarh Univ., Dibrugarh	50.12	157.98	70.51	38.66	105.59
5.	Gauhati Univ., Guwahati	151.47	147.79	165.06	162.59	196.56
Bihar						
1.	T.M. Bhagalpur Univ., Bhagalpur	58.98	56.13	58.70	26.42	89.50
2.	Babasaheb BRA Bihar Univ., Muzaffarpur	78.54	94.83	101.16	24.72	114.41
3.	K.S. Dharbhanga Sanskrit, Darbhanga	40.49	66.06	42.00	27.71	46.28
4.	Magadh Univ., Bodh Gaya	83.22	78.17	47.16	24.23	63.43
5.	Jai Prakash Univ., Chapra	—	—	—	—	—
6.	L.N. Mithila, Darbhanga	74.20	52.10	60.90	53.06	64.88
7.	Patna Univ., Patna	71.14	155.26	80.36	87.41	152.23
8.	Rajendra Agril., Samastipur	—	—	—	—	—
Chhattisgarh						
1.	Guru Gasidas University, Bilaspur	47.90	82.97	61.14	21.52	71.67
2.	Indira Kala Sangeet, Khairagarh	0.38	59.98	40.44	26.00	52.79
3.	Indira Gandhi Krishi V. Vidyalyaya, Raipur	40.42	—	—	—	—
4.	Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla Univ., Raipur	37.30	95.88	57.01	53.46	109.87
Delhi						
1.	Delhi University, Delhi	10359.66	11138.24	11665.87	10114.04	13434.46
2.	I.G.N.O.U., New Delhi	0.05	—	—	—	3.30
3.	Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi	3678.44	3680.51	4196.06	3830.01	5560.98
4.	Jawaharlal Nehru Univ., New Delhi	6057.31	5070.34	6592.78	5781.52	7143.00
5.	Indian Agril, Research Instt., New Delhi	6.37	4.43	10.21	12.24	12.52
6.	Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi	679.45	416.52	707.95	736.97	644.07
7.	School of Planning & Architecture, New Delhi	1.07	—	—	—	0.46
8.	Shri Lal B.S.R. Sanskrit Vidyapith, New Delhi	431.88	393.23	4795.35	557.02	563.01
9.	National instt. of the History of Arts Conservation and Museology, New Delhi	1.80	10.44	6.68	12.07	8.81

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha Univ. New Delhi	—	—	—	29.50	48.46
Haryana						
1.	Haryana Agril, Hisar	2.48	1.77	0.70	0.17	4.09
2.	Kurukshetra, Kurukshetra	124.04	190.46	148.52	149.55	191.40
3.	Maharishi Dayanand, Rohtak	97.19	77.52	99.21	119.38	93.68
4.	Guru Jambheswar Univ., Hisar	36.87	40.96	105.22	100.06	131.69
5.	National Dairy Res. Instt., Karnal	—	—	0.67	—	1.50
Gujarat						
1.	Bhavnagar, Bhavnagar	112.37	69.00	431.23	49.89	72.34
2.	Gujarat, Ahmedabad	181.16	165.13	1654.31	147.74	236.05
3.	Gujarat Agril, Dantiwada	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Gujarat Ayurveda, Jamnagar	—	3.00	—	—	—
5.	Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad	877.71	644.97	830.41	688.50	915.66
6.	M.S. Univ. of Baroda, Vadodara	246.29	191.40	497.27	369.23	235.80
7.	North Gujarat Univ., Patan	70.77	42.28	80.73	25.42	79.48
8.	Sardar Patel Univ., Vallabh Vidyanagar	168.51	266.69	150.12	649.03	148.04
9.	Saurashtra Univ., Rajkot	132.84	134.91	367.93	94.86	214.19
10.	South Gujarat Univ., Surat	78.89	99.51	454.39	62.68	85.80
Goa						
1.	Goa Univ., Goa	122.58	123.90	86.36	186.16	177.30
Himachal Pradesh						
1.	Himachal Pradesh, Simla	113.74	142.88	170.15	614.47	200.75
2.	Himachal Pradesh Krishi, Palampur	—	—	—	—	2.44
3.	Dr. Y.S.P. Univ., of Horticulture & Forestry, Solan	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir						
1.	Jammu, Jammu	82.09	94.06	126.90	80.21	135.63
2.	Kashmir, Srinagar	206.95	134.24	140.99	129.82	2200.71
3.	Sher-e-kashmir Univ. of Agril. Sc. & Tech., Srinagar	—	0.72	0.66	1.44	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Jharkhand						
1.	Bisra Agriculture, Ranchi	—	—	—	—	—
2.	Ranchi University, Ranchi	38.13	96.83	72.05	32.26	140.35
3.	B.I.T., Mesra Ranchi	72.15	98.20	181.87	220.38	336.29
4.	Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad	93.39	20.81	12.06	91.17	10.08
5.	Vinoba Bhawe, Hazaribagh	—	—	—	0.74	—
Karnataka						
1.	Bangalore Univ., Bangalore	293.58	235.22	120.07	209.09	271.99
2.	Indian Instt. of Science, Bangalore	266.20	416.73	120.50	205.71	141.00
3.	Central Instt. of Indian Languages	1.55	—	—	—	—
4.	Gulbarga, Gulbarga	96.79	84.95	62.27	81.11	97.60
5.	Kannada, Hampi	—	54.00	29.00	17.86	48.63
6.	Karnataka, Dharwad	208.81	291.51	170.67	636.85	163.78
7.	Kovempu, Shimoga	53.47	77.92	63.35	116.16	91.82
8.	Mangalore, Mangalore	121.54	121.84	94.57	125.99	117.33
9.	Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal	—	—	0.61	1.00	—
10.	Mysore, Mysore	262.63	291.78	209.01	326.19	244.67
11.	National Law Instt. of India, Bangalore	45.91	106.10	66.22	46.92	58.33
12.	National Instt. of Mental Health & Neuro Sci., Bangalore	4.61	9.05	—	—	2.00
13.	Univ. of Agril. Science, Dharwad	—	—	1.00	—	0.71
14.	Univ. of Agril. Science, Bangalore	0.81	—	—	—	—
Kerala						
1.	Calicut, Kozhikode	252.97	174.53	166.39	128.67	210.74
2.	Cochin Univ. of Science & Tech., Kochi	119.73	140.78	165.58	679.48	256.75
3.	Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram	196.84	147.01	265.25	144.48	205.76
4.	Kerala Agril, Thrissur	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Mahatama Gandhi Univ., Kottayam	81.35	163.27	60.75	91.39	113.45
6.	Shree Sankaracharya Univ. of Sanskrit, Kalyadi	—	—	20.67	—	0.71

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	Kannur Univ., Kannur	—	—	0.18	—	—
8.	National Instt. of Tech., Calicut	—	—	—	—	0.58
Manipur						
1.	Manipur Univ., Imphal	140.59	142.32	95.48	123.25	165.92
Madhya Pradesh						
1.	Avdhes P. Singh, Rewa	62.58	58.47	95.84	25.95	68.34
2.	Barkatullah V.V., Bhopal	112.40	284.84	126.83	48.69	91.68
3.	M.G. Chitrakoot Gramodyog V.V., Chitrakoot	27.40	31.42	50.17	34.10	55.23
4.	Devi Ahilya V.V., Indore	167.91	336.19	133.81	466.17	200.88
5.	Dr. H.S. Gour V.V., Sagar	122.68	153.58	239.76	150.83	236.97
6.	Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi, Jabalpur	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Jiwaji, Gwalior	91.81	95.09	72.18	101.86	111.10
8.	Lakshmbai Instt. of Phy. Edu., Gwalior	16.19	42.34	5.26	8.26	71.00
9.	Makhanlal C.R.P. V.V., Bhopal	—	—	—	—	—
10.	Prach Niketan Centre of Advance Study for Indology and Museology	—	0.87	—	—	—
11.	Rani Durgavati V.V., Jabalpur	102.44	143.67	144.11	118.22	176.16
12.	Vikram, Ujjain	79.64	105.33	73.48	78.74	97.53
13.	M.P. Bhoj Univ., Bhopal	—	—	9.71	1.40	1.90
Maharashtra						
1.	Amravati Univ., Amravati	67.08	67.73	61.84	29.21	79.69
2.	Dr. B.S.A. Tech. Univ., Lonere	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Mumbai Univ., Mumbai	518.58	510.65	475.73	492.83	492.76
4.	Konkan Krishi Vidyapith, Dapoli	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Mahatama Phule Krishi, Rahuri	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Marathwada Krishi Vidyapith, Parbhani	3.01	—	—	—	—
7.	Dr. B.A. Marathwada Univ., Aurangabad	99.11	99.78	133.57	74.32	164.69
8.	Nagpur Univ., Nagpur	114.44	80.57	129.11	137.40	252.39
9.	North Maharashtra, Jalgaon	62.82	54.75	59.92	48.52	101.35

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Poona Univ., Pune	449.28	387.75	1078.50	1420.60	358.62
11.	Panjabrao Krishi, Akola	—	4.05	—	—	—
12.	S.N.D.T. Women's, Mumbai	245.02	114.40	93.75	203.12	168.13
13.	Shivaji, Kolhapur	80.76	195.17	123.38	61.35	136.23
14.	Yashwant Rao Chavan, Nasik	—	—	—	—	1.50
15.	S.R.T. Marathwada, Nanded	61.48	32.45	42.34	43.67	70.26
16.	Central Instt. of Fisheries Education, Mumbai	—	—	—	—	—
17.	Deccan College P.G. & Research Instt., Pune	59.00	22.78	3.75	33.54	51.33
18.	Gokhale Instt. of Pol. & Economic, Pune	68.17	55.02	31.03	34.83	76.47
19.	International Instt. of Population Science, Mumbai	10.00	9.35	2.97	2.88	5.04
20.	Tata Instt. of Social Science, Mumbai	881.39	821.09	859.12	789.97	1053.27
21.	Tilak Maharashtra Vidyapith, Pune	36.47	23.30	23.21	1.00	73.48
22.	M.G. Anter-Rashtriya Hindi Vish. V., Wardha	100.49	50.00	—	665.75	502.25
23.	Bharti Vidyapith, Pune	6.80	6.40	12.82	3.30	18.98
24.	Hafkins Instt. for Training & Research	0.49	—	—	—	4.71
Mizoram						
1.	Mizoram Univ., Mizoram	—	—	—	1320.27	2127.98
Meghalaya						
1.	North Eastern Hill Univ., Shillong	3571.24	4095.19	3840.83	3369.31	4035.21
Nagaland						
1.	Nagaland Univ., Kohima	1707.41	1755.57	1669.15	1249.02	2010.34
Orissa						
1.	Berhampur Univ., Berhampur	100.59	205.62	119.35	33.93	129.50
2.	Orissa Univ. of Agril. & Tech., Bhubaneswar	1.21	—	—	—	—
3.	Sambalpur Univ., Sambalpur	106.74	112.57	111.86	124.37	199.73
4.	Shri Jaganath Sanskrit Vidyapith, Puri	28.20	111.91	34.76	42.95	56.83
5.	Utkal Univ., Bhubaneswar	142.39	372.44	248.35	161.73	236.01
Pondicherry						
1.	Pondicherry Univ., Pondicherry	1708.02	1710.99	1043.62	1507.35	1683.83

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Punjab						
1.	Guru Nanak Dev Univ., Amritsar	200.71	192.53	219.42	693.53	277.95
2.	Punjab Univ., Chandigarh	271.95	388.11	399.49	964.92	521.88
3.	Punjab Agril., Ludhiana	4.11	0.75	2.89	1.66	12.13
4.	Punjabi Univ., Patiala	111.72	174.69	123.59	81.39	117.66
5.	Thapar Instt. of Engg. & Tech., Patiala	—	—	107.98	256.37	242.39
Rajasthan						
1.	Banasthali Vidyapith, Banasthali	371.83	99.06	370.42	938.64	40.36
2.	Birla Instt. of Tech. & Science, Pilani	72.15	22.25	104.70	143.52	151.36
3.	Kota Open Univ., Kota	0.35	—	2.34	—	2.24
4.	J.N. Vyas Univ., Jodhpur	176.50	227.28	156.64	132.29	267.40
5.	J.V. Bharathi Instt., Ladrnun	79.24	27.02	65.35	26.63	37.51
6.	M.D.S. Univ., Ajmer	58.06	78.72	49.88	23.34	81.22
7.	M.L. Sukhadia V. Vidyalyaya, Udaipur	125.37	102.77	60.89	34.63	204.08
8.	Rajasthan Vidyapith, Udaipur	30.45	44.81	42.16	33.58	61.45
9.	Rajasthan Agril. Univ., Bikaner	0.05	—	—	—	—
10.	Rajasthan Univ., Jaipur	167.39	285.82	281.90	237.90	206.36
Tamil Nadu						
1.	Alagappa Univ., Karaikudi	74.31	66.31	59.51	31.59	69.84
2.	Annamalai., Annamalai Nagar	151.43	83.51	102.80	171.82	183.31
3.	Anna Univ., Chennai	380.03	266.81	281.72	951.48	493.62
4.	Bharthiar Univ., Coimbatore	86.95	85.31	94.68	103.06	114.82
5.	Bharthidesan Univ., Tiruchirapalli	102.59	167.41	134.77	35.16	140.28
6.	Dr. MGR Medical, Chennai	—	0.53	—	—	—
7.	Madras Univ., Chennai	355.16	313.81	985.80	780.96	355.24
8.	Madurai Kamraj Univ., Madurai	212.79	242.89	154.70	848.90	222.09
9.	Mother Teresa Univ. for Women, Kodaikanal	33.50	40.17	50.60	21.46	62.56
10.	M. Sundamar Univ., Tirunelveli	51.46	50.19	52.32	48.20	79.31
11.	Tamilnadu Agril., Coimbatore	3.00	2.91	4.33	2.33	4.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12.	Tamil Univ., Thanjavur	63.68	64.64	40.09	29.55	77.24
13.	T.N.V. & Animal Science Univ., Chennai	1.38	—	—	—	—
14.	C.L.R.I., Chennai	—	0.30	—	0.30	—
15.	Shri Ramchandra Medical College, Chennai	—	0.13	—	—	—
16.	Gandhigram Rural Instt., Gandhigram	739.31	753.18	821.48	894.36	990.86
17.	Sri Chandrasekharananda Saraswathy Nyayashastra Mahavidyalaya, Kancheepuram	37.52	22.02	67.00	23.00	57.70
18.	Sri Avinashilingam Instt. for Home Science and Higher Education for Women, Coimbatore	789.97	630.36	726.96	714.08	930.90
19.	Shri Ramchandra Medical College & Research Instt., Chennai	—	1.11	1.48	8.80	—
20.	Periyar Univ., Salem	—	—	0.22	—	—
21.	Shan Mhgho Arts, Sci. Tech. & Research Academy, Thanjavur.	—	—	—	16.00	—
22.	Vellore Instt. of Tech., Vellore	—	—	—	—	5.51
Tripura						
1.	Tripura Univ., Agartala	61.29	69.05	56.70	37.57	81.26
Uttaranchal						
1.	G.B. Pant Univ. of Agril. & Tech., Pant Nagar	38.17	6.19	9.68	18.94	20.05
2.	H.N.B. (Garwal) Univ., Srinagar	54.01	111.05	111.83	139.59	116.50
3.	Kumaon Univ., Nainital	72.17	78.37	91.63	73.62	118.73
4.	Roorkee Univ., Roorkee	412.09	464.35	535.22	259.47	0.50
5.	Forest Research Instt., Dehradun	1.08	2.15	3.84	1.40	5.45
6.	Gurukul Kangri V. Vindyalaya, Haridwar	648.86	482.32	610.83	531.96	642.76
Uttar Pradesh						
1.	Allahabad Univ., Allahabad	137.80	338.10	289.80	877.73	329.70
2.	Aligarh Muslim Univ., Aligarh	16338.72	15747.16	15790.24	15354.87	18300.65
3.	Banaras Hindu Univ., Varanasi	17712.79	16241.26	16179.12	15134.81	16785.20

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Bundelkhand Univ., Jhansi	1.09	—	2.09	76.37	50.60
5.	Ch. Charan Singh Univ., Meerut	114.30	177.75	90.89	101.62	121.46
6.	Chandrasekhar Azad Univ. of Agril. & Technology, Kanpur	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Univ., Agra	40.55	72.07	59.88	62.02	81.37
8.	Dr. Ram Monohar Lohia (Avadh) Univ., Faizabad	62.42	51.40	47.87	26.00	58.40
9.	Gorakhpur Univ., Gorakhpur	130.15	159.21	100.15	131.29	178.53
10.	Kanpur Univ., Kanpur	31.95	60.40	30.82	31.31	71.35
11.	Lucknow Univ., Lucknow	117.47	220.79	259.61	209.36	210.36
12.	Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapith, Varanasi	45.80	69.09	57.99	35.71	62.30
13.	M.J.P. Rohilkhand Univ., Bareilly	31.60	89.52	52.58	50.73	73.19
14.	Narendra Deva Univ. of Agril. & Faizabad	—	—	—	—	—
15.	Purvanchal Univ., Jaunpur	—	—	—	103.00	54.28
16.	Sampurnanand Sanskrit V. Vidyalaya, Varanasi	34.02	47.18	45.88	101.57	45.61
17.	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Univ., Lucknow	526.97	370.00	51.50	714.00	812.61
18.	Central Instt. of Higher Tibetan Studies, Varanasi	30.87	11.90	34.00	16.86	31.72
19.	Dayal Bagh Educational Instt., Agra	421.55	360.55	466.87	469.36	512.55
20.	Sanjay Gandhi P.G. Instt. of Medical Science, Lucknow	—	—	—	16.00	—
21.	Motilal Nehru National Instt. of Tech., Allahabad	—	—	—	—	3.00
22.	Allahabad Agril. Instt., Allahabad	—	—	—	—	3.53
23.	Bharatkhande Music Instt., Lucknow	—	—	—	—	1.50
West Bengal						
1.	Burdwan Univ., Burdwan	160.83	287.85	133.25	131.01	116.31
2.	B.C. Krishi V. Vidyalaya, Mohanpur	0.45	1.19	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Bengal Engg. College, Howrah	89.40	17.38	60.75	96.09	91.74
4.	Calcutta Univ., Calcutta	348.21	348.87	228.85	407.14	399.60
5.	Jadavpur Univ., Calcutta	313.23	433.45	828.12	1109.76	466.44
6.	Kalyani Univ., Kalyani	67.47	75.10	84.41	79.21	96.97
7.	North Bengal Univ., Darjeeling	88.36	110.13	71.44	90.60	128.08
8.	Rabindra Bharti Univ., Calcutta	30.79	154.22	74.57	42.66	106.93
9.	Vidya Sagar Univ., Midnapore	93.53	66.99	64.71	32.66	77.33
10.	Viswa Bharti Univ., Santiniketan	4488.93	4046.13	4712.63	3944.56	5157.33
11.	West Bengal Univ. of Animal & Fisheries Sciences, Kolkata	—	—	—	1.01	—

Special Package for HIV Children

1205. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced a special package for HIV children; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of India has decided to provide antiretroviral therapy in government hospitals to children with AIDS under 15 years of age. The treatment programme is proposed to start *w.e.f.* 1st April 2004 in a phased manner in six high prevalence States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Nagaland.

Spurious Drugs

1206. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3062 on August 13, 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The officers of the Drugs Control Department, Government of NCT of Delhi draw random samples of modern allopathic drugs from the manufacturing and sale outlets, hospitals, medical store depot etc. from time to time to test check the quality of the drugs moving in the market. The details of samples taken during last three years and found spurious are given in enclosed statement-I.

On receipt of such type of complaints from CGHS beneficiaries and Medical staff it was decided to get the enquiry conducted by a committee headed by D.G.H.S. with Joint Secretary (ISM&H) and Drug Controller General of India as Members. The Committee set up by the Government for the purpose has given its report on the recommendations for the enquiry committee which is placed in statement-II.

The Government has examined the enquiry report and it has been decided to accept it in toto.

Statement I*Details of samples taken and found spurious during the last three years*

Year	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
No. of samples taken	1249	1557	2545
No. of cases/drugs where Spurious drugs detected	03 cases (05 drugs)*	06 cases (18 drugs)**	12 cases (34 drugs)***

*Out of 05 drugs reported spurious 4 were detected during raid in unlicensed premises.

**Out of 18 drugs reported spurious 12 were detected during raid in unlicensed premises.

***Out of 34 drugs reported spurious 30 were detected during raid in unlicensed premises.

Statement II

The Committee recommends that disciplinary action should be initiated against the following:

- (a) Dr. M. Shamoom, the then In-charge UMSD and Member Secretary of the Purchase Advisory Committee is solely responsible for not getting the approved supply of Tab. Neurotone and received supplies of underweight tablets in spite of the note recorded by the PAC. He did not take up the matter with the concerned firm while placing the supply orders. Not only were the supplies received they were dispatched to the dispensaries for further distribution. Therefore, the work and conduct of the officer is unbecoming of a Government servant and he has failed in performing the duties and responsibilities attached to his post which has resulted in the loss to the exchequer as full payments have been made for the underweight supplies received from the firm. Further, he has tried to mislead the authorities by justifying the irregular act of the firm.
- (b) The Chairman and all Members of the Purchase Advisory Committee have failed in discharging their duties in not outrightly rejecting the underweight medicines while approving it with a clause. No efforts were made even in the next meeting to follow up the note recorded on the approval statement.
- (c) The Members of the Inspection Committee have also failed in discharging their duties effectively while knowing specifically about the objection of underweight medicines recorded by the PAC and failed to ensure proper supply.

- (d) The then Addl. Director, CGHS and Chairman for having put the same member in both, PAC and the Inspection Committee and for not having initiated proper and timely action despite complaints even though he was Chairman of the PAC.

Recommendations:

- (a) At present the Purchase Advisory Committee comprises of Addl. Director, CGHS, MSD, Dy. Advisor, ISM, 4 Unani Physicians, Accounts Officer, CGHS and CMO In-charge, UMSD and the Inspection Committee comprises of Dy. Advisor ISM and 2 Senior most In-charge of CGHS Unani Dispensaries. The Committee recommends that since the Department of Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy is now a separate department of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare; that the Department of Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy is the cadre controlling authority for doctors belonging to Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy streams; that it administers a number of councils belonging to Indian System of medicines and Homoeopathy disciplines, it is not appropriate for doctors from Allopathic stream to head the Purchase Committees/Inspection Committee for drugs for Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, etc. In fact, the credibility of the recommendations of such committees headed by the Modern System of Medicine doctor is itself questionable. In view of these, the Committee recommends that it is for the Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy to constitute both the PAC as well as the Inspection Committee at their level along with terms of reference of each committee separately. The Chairman and

Members could be chosen by the Dept. from amongst the Specialists/Doctors of eminence in the respective fields. The PAC shall be responsible for finalisation of formulary, registration of firms and placement of supply orders. These Committees can however, report to the Director, CGHS.

- (b) The Committee found some of the members of the PAC or the Inspection Committee were common. The Committee recommends that both the Committees should have different set of members and should be revamped as per CVC guidelines periodically.
- (c) The Committee found there were no clear cut guidelines for the PAC or the Inspection Committee or for the store in-Charge. It is suggested that the powers and responsibilities of the PAC; of the Inspection Committee and of the Store in-charge be delineated clearly to ensure greater transparency and for registration of credible firms.
- (d) The Committee was dismayed to note that even basic weighing devices were not available with the Unani Store. The store should be at least reasonably equipped with some basic testing devices.
- (e) Greater official monitoring at all levels is required. Rather than reacting only on complaints. Frequent inspection need to be carried out.
- (f) In-service trainings for CGHS Unani Doctors in Unani Pharmacopia can be arranged which will update and enhance their knowledge/efficiency.
- (g) Since there are no specific Lab tests for these Drugs the Committee recommends that the PAC may consider inserting penalty provisions in the contracts to take action against supplying firms failing to conform to standards/specification as required.
- (h) The Committee recommends that a Special Audit and 100% physical verification of medicines be got conducted in all CGHS Unani dispensaries for the last three years.

Space Cooperation with Israel

1207. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has a proposal to establish bilateral space cooperation with Israel; and

- (b) if so, the details thereof?

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

- (b) An agreement has been signed between the Indian Space Research Organisation and the Israel Space Agency in October 2002 on cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

Revamping of Joint Venture Policy

1208. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to revamp the joint venture policy in major ports for which the guidelines were announced in June 1998;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

- (c) the time by which the said policy is likely to be implemented; and

- (d) the number and details of projects developed so far under the joint venture policy?

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 including the guidelines on formation of joint ventures by 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.

- (d) Nil.

Development of Major Ports

1209. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received any proposal from Kerala Government for the development of major ports in the State during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned by the Union Government for the same; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) Bhubaneswar-Puri Road is a National Highway. The Union Government is responsible for its development and maintenance and the entire expenditure is borne by it. Of the total length of 61.521 km of this road, 59 km has already been improved under various schemes and work on the remaining stretch is in progress. Since declaration of this road as a National Highway in 1999, Government has sanctioned Rs. 21.01 crore for its improvement.

[Translation]

Implementation of Maternity Benefit Scheme

1213. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government provides any antenatal or postnatal financial assistance to the women living below poverty line in urban and rural areas under the National Maternity Benefit Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have set any criteria to ensure that this amount reaches the needy women;

(d) whether any arrangement has been made to give wide publicity to this in order to generate awareness in the remote villages about the Schemes; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Under National Maternity Benefit Scheme financial assistance is extended at the rate Rs. 500/- per pregnancy for the first two live births to the women belonging to house holds below poverty line who have attained 19 years of age or above. The maternity benefit is normally disbursed 12—8 weeks prior to the delivery.

(c) The scheme provides that Gram Panchayats/Municipalities will play an active role in the identification of beneficiaries under the scheme. The scheme also

stipulates that the Central assistance is preferably disbursed in public meetings, such as gram sabha meetings in the rural areas and neighbourhood/mohalla committee meetings in urban areas.

(d) and (e) The State/UT Governments have been advised to ensure wide and continuous publicity to the benefits under the Scheme and the procedures through posters, brochures, media and other means. They shall ensure that application forms are widely available in local languages. Procedure for verification of applications should be prompt and simple. District Collectors or any other officers who have been given the nodal responsibility of implementation of the scheme has also been made responsible for giving wide publicity to the scheme & its procedures in their District. The Panchayats/Municipalities has been made responsible for disseminating information about the scheme and the procedure for obtaining benefits under it. The States & Districts are also provided with funds to meet administrative expenses.

[English]

Ferry Service between Mumbai and Karachi

1214. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to start a ferry service between Mumbai and Karachi; and

(b) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) and (b) The Prime Minister has announced a proposal to start a ferry service between Mumbai and Karachi. The Prime Minister of Pakistan has also agreed that the feasibility of the ferry service could be discussed between the two sides.

External Assistance for Health Projects

1215. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any financial assistance from any external source for the implementation of health projects during the last three years and till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) and (b) Cochin Port is the only major port in Kerala. The Central Government has been receiving proposal from Government of Kerala for the development of International Container Transshipment Terminal (ICTT) at Vallarpadam in Cochin Port area and its connectivity with Railways and National Highways. These projects have been included in the Integrated Development Plan for Cochin Port as part of the on-going process for development of the port.

TRAI Direction for Voice Mail Service

1210. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

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

(a) whether the cellular companies have been directed by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) to provide the voice mail service facility only to those who have specifically asked for it;

(b) if so, whether the direction given by the TRAI is being followed by the cellular companies;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether complaints have been received against the cellular companies in this regard;

(e) if so, the facts thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the TRAI on complaints lodged against the cellular companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Sir, TRAI had issued the instructions to all cellular operators to provide Voice Mail Service only with the consent of cellular subscribers.

(b) The instructions have been followed by all the cellular companies except M/s Bharti Cellular Ltd. The Company has explained that they are taking the consent of subscribers by informing them through SMS (Short Messaging Service) that the subscribers will be charged for retrieving the Voice Mail Message. They have also mentioned that the subscribers can deactivate Voice Mail

Service from mobile phone itself. For new subscriber's M/s. Bharti Cellular has confirmed that they will take subscribers' consent in the applicant's form itself. M/s. Bharti have contended that this should be considered as subscriber's consent.

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

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The complaints are to the effect that Voice Mail Service has been provided on a default basis without the consumer specifically asking for it and/or without consumer consent.

(f) TRAI had issued instructions to cellular companies as in (a) above after receipt of the complaints.

Educational Reforms

1211. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the reported decision of the Assam College Teachers Association (ACTA) to fight the Government's move to privatise education, especially higher education, in the name of educational reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the measures taken/to be taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the impact of such reforms of higher education on the poor and the middle class students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by University Grants Commission (UGC), the UGC is not aware of any such decision of the Assam College Teachers' Association.

Improvement of Bhubaneswar-Puri Road

1212. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa has sought financial assistance from the Union Government for the improvement of Bhubaneswar-Puri Road;

(c) the funds to be provided to each State out of the external assistance for the health projects?

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

Statement

Utilisation of Government Grant/Loan during the last three years

(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
GRANT									
1.	Basic Health Maharashtra	Maharashtra	Germany	DEM	23.7.1996	3284.29	1059.70	0.00	0.00
2.	Basic Health Programme, WB	West Bengal	Germany	DEM	22.6.1999	1998.03	1998.03	0.00	0.00
3.	National Leprosy Eradication Programme Phase II	Central Sector	Denmark	DKK	17.9.1991	70000.0	0.00	4331.84	0.00
4.	Revised National TB Control Programme Phase I	Orissa	Denmark	DKK	2.12.1996	54800.00	0.00	2475.37	911.46
5.	Health Care Project Phase III	Tamil Nadu	Denmark	DKK	24.12.1996	102500.00	0.00	16372.08	0.00
6.	National Programme for Control of Blindness Phase III	Central Sector	Denmark	DKK	7.11.1997	55000.00	4120.54	8700.54	7072.14
7.	Leprosy Eradication Programme Phase III	Central Sector	Denmark	DKK	16.11.1998	76400.00	0.00	0.00	1838.76
8.	Basic Health Services	Madhya Pradesh	Denmark	DKK	15.11.1999	58400.00	0.00	8262.78	6746.82
9.	Basic Health Services	Chhattisgarh	Denmark	DKK	15.11.1999	21000.00	0.00	3875.97	1414.43
10.	Health & Family Welfare Sector Dev.	Central Sector	E.E.C.	EUR	2.9.1997	240000.00	27000.00	31540.00	0.00
11.	Pulse Polio Immunization Programme III	Central Sector	Germany	EUR	29.10.2001	10225.84	0.00	8525.93	1073.09
12.	OPRET Project for Gujarat Health Care	Gujarat	The Netherlands	EUR	27.11.1997	18072.27	0.00	2093.27	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
13.	Basic Health	Maharashtra	Germany	EUR	23.7.1996	10225.84	0.00	1194.96	106.08
14.	Basic Health Programme	West Bengal	Germany	EUR	22.6.1999	0.00	566.16	473.02	—
15.	Partnership for Sexual Health	Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kamataka, Orissa	United Kingdom	GBP	5.10.1999	28100.00	2381.58	2639.86	0.00
16.	Orissa Interim Support to Health & Family Welfare	Orissa	United Kingdom	GBP	29.11.2002	1189.00	0.00	0.00	67.04
17.	Orissa Health & Family Welfare Project Phase III	Orissa	United Kingdom	GBP	21.8.1997	1748.00	289.38	726.34	0.00
18.	ORET Project for Gujarat Health Care	Gujarat	The Netherlands	NLG	27.11.1997	79652.07	4186.53	0.00	0.00
19.	AIDS Prevention & Control Project	Central Sector	USA	USD	30.9.1992	11913.00	1592.22	1340.35	326.67
20.	Innovations in Family Planning Services	Central Sector	USA	USD	30.9.1992	103989.08	8380.00	5783.00	8869.00
21.	Community Based Pro-Poor Initiatives Programme	Central Sector	UNDP	USD	5.9.1997	13500.00	1590.94	1877.98	0.00
22.	Support to Response HIV/AIDS	Central Sector	UNDP	USD	22.3.2001	1500.00	0.00	208.46	0.00
23.	Extension of Non-Scalpel Vasectomy	Central Sector	UNFPA	USD	15.5.1997	1361.26	601.45	304.29	0.00
24.	Integrated Population & Dev. in Rajasthan	Rajasthan	UNFPA	USD	14.7.1998	12062.90	1638.22	1127.95	1314.62
25.	District Reproductive Health Mallapuram	—	UNFPA	USD	9.8.1997	749.57	12495.45	0.00	0.00
26.	Improving the Status of Reproductive Health	Central Sector	UNFPA	USD	3.8.1998	408.09	109.95	21.72	3.05
27.	Support to Gender Issues	Central Sector	UNFPA	USD	15.9.1999	483.55	322.55	161.14	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
28.	Advocacy on Population, Reproductive Health	Central Sector	UNFPA	USD	8.11.1999	139.03	62.28	48.55	28.43
29.	Making Safe Motherhood a Reality	Central Sector	UNFPA	USD	1.4.2000	488.51	282.18	207.46	0.00
30.	Programme for Advancement of Gender Equality	Haryana	UNFPA	USD	22.7.2003	55.67	0.00	0.00	124.44
31.	Integrated Population & Development	Maharashtra	UNFPA	USD	4.2.1999	4595.52	1751.73	1677.66	1770.07
32.	National TB Control Programme	Multistates	IBRD	USD	30.1.2003	5651.00	0.00	0.00	1000.00
33.	Karnataka Sec. Level Hosp. Dev. Project	Karnataka	Germany	DEM	16.1.1997	12676.24	8111.69	0.00	0.00
34.	Karnataka Sec. Level Hosp. Dev. Project	Karnataka	Germany	DEM	16.1.1997	13804.88	0.00	2232.74	1818.63
35.	Polio Eradication Programme	Central Sector	United Kingdom	GBP	2.1.2002	98000.00	19795.95	19590.37	0.00
36.	Umbrella Project	Central Sector	UNFPA	USD	1.4.1997	1.08	0.00	1.10	0.00
37.	Karnataka Integrated Health Nutrition & Family Welfare	Karnataka	IDA	USD	3.1.2002	680.00	0.00	68.00	0.00
LOAN									
1.	Modernisation of NAMCHI Hospital	Sikkim	France	EUR	1.7.1997	3658.78	0.00	284.73	0.00
2.	Supply & Implementation of Medical Equipment to SGPGIS, Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	France	EUR	25.1.1998	4604.10	0.00	309.04	83.55
3.	Modernisation of NAMCHI Hospital	Sikkim	France	FRF	1.7.1997	22103.51	93.09	0.00	0.00
4.	Supply & Implementation of Medical Equipment to SGPGIS, Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	France	FRF	25.1.1998	29521.88	1568.80	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5.	Raichur District Hospital Project	Karnataka	OPEC	USD	6.6.1991	9000.00	728.87	0.00	0.00
6.	Rewa Hospital Project	Madhya Pradesh	OPEC	USD	28.2.1989	10000.00	1686.40	0.00	0.00
7.	Andhra Pradesh Health System Project	Andhra Pradesh	IDA	XDR	22.12.1994	90700.00	11789.90	5917.90	0.00
8.	Family Welfare (Urban Slum) Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	4.2.1994	57700.00	14900.31	8414.60	0.00
9.	Second Integrated Child Development Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	23.3.1993	141600.00	26138.86	11934.86	0.00
10.	Cataract Blindness Control Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	19.5.1994	68762.02.36	18747.88	11916.38	-1937.60
11.	Family Welfare Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	24.6.1994	61608.04	14631.80	8080.53	0.00
12.	TB Control Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	14.3.1997	98400.00	8557.55	11138.66	7926.47
13.	Malaria Control Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	30.7.1997	119200.00	11326.63	8023.21	7059.10
14.	Second National HIV/AIDS Control Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	14.9.1999	140820.00	24841.56	20537.84	7884.78
15.	Immunization Strengthening Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	19.5.2000	106500.00	19045.95	24616.12	16980.46
16.	Second National Leprosy Elimination Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	19.7.2001	23300.00	3137.44	10843.96	3395.40
17.	Reproductive & Child Health Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	30.7.1997	179500.00	54457.08	20144.33	7963.00
18.	Woman & Child Development Project	Central Sector	IDA	XDR	6.7.1999	222500.00	26582.15	45933.98	4202.18
19.	Livelihood Security Project for Earthquake	Gujarat	IDA	XDR	18.2.2002	11650.00	0.00	0.00	735.57
20.	Second Health System Dev.	Multistates	IDA	XDR	18.4.1996	235500	39311.61	38937.80	8121.10
21.	UP Health Systems Development Project	Multistates	IDA	XDR	19.5.2000	82100.00	998.07	6435.98	4775.06
22.	Orissa Health Systems Development	Orissa	IDA	XDR	13.8.1998	5680.00	4045.75	5217.07	2768.43

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
23.	Maharashtra Health System Development Project	Maharashtra	IDA	XDR	14.1.1999	97900.00	7635.03	12984.93	8748.80
Non Government Grant									
1.	Social Marketing by PSS&PSI	Delhi	Germany	EUR	20.12.1996	7669.38	0.00	126.10	0.00

Assistance Received from World Health Organization

Assistance from World Health Organization (WHO) is provided on the biennium basis. A statement indicating allocation of funds for the health projects for the biennium 2000-2001 and 2002-03 is attached.

Plan of Action 2000-2001

Sl. No.	Name of programme	Approved allocation (in US\$)
1	2	3
I. Communicable diseases		
1.	Malaria control & Kala-azar	168,000
2.	Tuberculosis	425,000
3.	Other Communicable Diseases	100,000
II. Non-communicable diseases and Mental Health		
4.	Cancer Control	474,750
5.	Cardiovascular Diseases	170,000
6.	Tobacco	1,062,500
7.	Mental Health and substance abuse	127,500
8.	Disability, injury prevention & rehabilitation + occupational health	255,000
III. Family and Community Health		
9.	HIV/AIDS	170,000
10.	Reproductive and Child Health & Adolescent health	1,275,000
11.	Nursing	735,250

1	2	3
IV. Sustainable development and healthy environment		
12.	Food Safety	337,000
13.	Nutrition	185,000
14.	Health and Environment	219,500
V. Health technology and pharmaceuticals		
15.	Immunization and vaccine development	175,000
16.	Essential medicine	460,000
17.	Traditional medicine	510,000
VI. Evidence and information for policy		
18.	Health information and management	32,000
19.	Research policy and promotion	1,130,000
20.	Organization of Health services & Tribal health	512,250
VII. Others		
21.	Drug De-addiction/Control of substance abuse	115,000
22.	Yaws Eradication	34,000
23.	Leprosy	85,000
24.	Health For All	473,450
25.	Blindness	113,500
26.	Empowerment of Poor	180,000
27.	Women's Health	255,000
28.	Health Concern for sustaining Development	387,000
29.	Deafness	147,000
30.	Health care for elderly	272,000
31.	Water supply and Sanitation (Rural)	210,800
32.	Water supply and Sanitation (Urban)	119,000
33.	Healthy City	188,700
34.	WHO Fellowship	1,733,800
Total		12,838,000

WHO Country Budget 2002-2003 Plan of Action

(Figures in US\$)

Sl. No.	Name of programme	Approved Allocation
1	2	3
i.	Communicable diseases	
1.	Malaria control & Kala-azar	200,000
2.	Tuberculosis	100,000
3.	Other Communicable Diseases	100,000
4.	Communicable disease Surveillance	100,000
ii.	Non-communicable diseases & Mental Health	
5.	Cancer Control	650,000
6.	Cardiovascular Diseases	450,000
7.	Other non-communicable diseases	50,000
8.	Non-communicable diseases surveillance	100,000
9.	Tobacco	1,000,000
10.	Mental Health and substance abuse	500,000
11.	Health promotion	100,000
12.	Disability, injury prevention & rehabilitation + occupational health	185,000
iii.	Family and Community health	
13.	Maternal Health (making pregnancy safer)	350,000
14.	HIV/AIDS	100,000
15.	Reproductive and Child Health & Adolescent Health	350,000
16.	Nursing	600,000
iv.	Sustainable development & healthy environment	
17.	Food Safety	425,000
18.	Nutrition	235,000
19.	Health and Environment	250,000
20.	Emergency preparedness and response	50,000
v.	Health technology and pharmaceuticals	
21.	Blood Safety	50,000
22.	Immunization and vaccine development	135,000
23.	Essential medicine	475,000
24.	Traditional medicine	300,000

1	2	3
VI.	Evidence and information for policy	
25.	Health information and management	50,000
26.	Research policy and promotion	435,000
27.	Organization of Health services & Tribal health	300,000
VII.	Others	
28.	Drug De-addiction/Control of substance abuse	Included in Item No. 10
29.	Leprosy	50,000
30.	Health For All	1,000,000
31.	Blindness	200,000
32.	Women's Health	50,000
33.	Deafness	75,000
34.	Oral health	100,000
35.	Health care for elderly	175,000
36.	Water supply and Sanitation (Rural)	100,000
37.	Water supply and Sanitation (Urban)	125,000
38.	Healthy City	85,000
39.	Health policy and enhancing health system performance	100,000
40.	WHO Fellowship	1,950,000
Total		11,650,000

Relaxing Conditions for Indians by UK

1216. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Britain has relaxed conditions for Indian skilled Personnel intending to go there;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this will facilitate more and more persons going to that country from India for employment there; and

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

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

(b) The British Government has introduced Highly Skilled Migrant Programme [HSMP] for all nationalities on 20th January 2002. According to this programme highly skilled persons could enter UK without having a prior offer of employment for a year. The aim of the programme is to provide an individual route for highly skilled people, required by United Kingdom to enable it to compete in the global economy.

(c) and (d) As HSMP is a points based immigration scheme, it could be availed of by any highly skilled person. The British Home Office in a press release on 31st October 2003 stated that 3721 immigrants have successfully entered UK under this programme. Indians are reported to be the largest single category of applicants availing this programme.

Setting up of Space Navigation System

1217. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have agreed to pool efforts for an unmanned space mission to the moon and the setting up of space navigation system;

(b) if so, whether an MoU has been signed between the two countries in this regard; 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) to (c) An MoU was signed for cooperation in the use of outer space for peaceful purposes. The MoU included joint studies in:

- (i) Mission analysis and utilization of facilities for the Indian Lunar Mission-Chandrayaan-1 and
- (ii) Cooperation in space navigation system.

Target set for Population Control

1218. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States which are achieving target set under the Population Control Programme sponsored by the Union Government;

(b) whether any assistance or incentive is provided to the States for achieving the targets fixed for them; and

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the assistance provided to each State during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Since April 1st, 1996 the 'Target Free Approach (TFA)' has been adopted all over India and focus laid on decentralized participatory planning based on a Community Needs Assessment Approach (CNAA). Under this new

approach, attention is being paid to enlarging areas to basic and essential family welfare services and ensuring community participation in the implementation of the Family Welfare Programme at the grass-root level. For the country as a whole the achievements under the "National Family Welfare Programmes", have been quite substantial. Some States/UTs like Goa, Nagaland, Delhi, Kerala, Pondicherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh and Mizoram have already achieved goals set for the year 2010 and States/UTs like Manipur, Daman & Diu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Punjab, Arunachal Pradesh and Lakshadweep are close to achieving the goals. However, other States are lagging behind primarily on account of slow achievements of socio-economic indicators.

National Family Welfare Programme continues to be a centrally sponsored programme. Assistance given to States has nearly doubled over the last five years for maintenance of family welfare infrastructural units, supply of drugs, contraceptives and extending maternal and child health care services. The States, which show better performance in family welfare, receive higher allocations in the budget depending on the performance particularly in respect of supply of contraceptives, compensation for sterilizations/IUD insertion and area specific programmes.

Production of Typhoid Vaccines

1219. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of Typhoid Vaccines at Haffkine Bio-Pharmaceutical Corporation Ltd. (HBPCCL) was stopped in 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to resume manufacturing of this vaccine; 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) The production of Whole cell killed typhoid vaccine was stopped in 1996 because the vaccine was found to be less efficacious in field practice.

(c) and (d) The Government has permitted M/s Haffkine Bio-Pharmaceuticals Corporation Ltd. (HBPCCL), Mumbai in 2002 to manufacture Whole cell killed (AKD

type) typhoid vaccine for its limited use to the defence personnel only.

[Translation]

Science and Technology Programme for Women

1220. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched any programme for the benefit of women in the country based on science and technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, 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) to (c) the Department of Science and Technology has been implementing the scheme 'S&T for women' with a view to empowering women with inputs of science and technology for about two decades now. The broad objectives of this scheme are to promote development and adaptation of appropriate technology, transfer proven technologies and demonstration of live technology models to benefit women. This programme has made a distinct impact due to its unconventional approach, gender sensitivity and involvement of S&T based voluntary organizations having strong linkages at the grass roots.

To encourage women scientists, the Department of Science & Technology has launched a Scholarship Scheme for Women Scientists in the year 2002. Under this scheme 100 Scholarships are awarded every year to outstanding women scientists in the following categories:

Basic and applied sciences, application of S&T for problems of the weaker sections and application of S&T in IPR related self employed opportunities.

The Department of Biotechnology implements a Scheme: 'Biotechnology based rural and women development programme' for skill development and capacity building of women through the application of biotechnology. National Women Bio Scientist Award (Senior and Young) are announced every year since 1999

to recognize the work of and encourage women bio-scientists.

[English]

Mobile Connections in J&K

1221. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has given instruction to BSNL, J&K circle to carefully scrutinise the applications received for mobile connection;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the number of applications received and the number of connections sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Subscribers of mobile service across the country including J&K State are subjected to verification as per the license conditions issued by the Government of India by insisting on photo-identity as a prerequisite and in accordance with the commercial guidelines of the company in vogue to satisfy itself of the bonafides before release of connections.

(c) The number of applications received for Cellular Mobile connections in J&K as on 30-11-2003 is 39849 and connections sanctioned is 26000.

Payment for Emergency Services

1222. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1509 dated August 1, 2001 and state:

(a) whether the Delhi High Court has since given its verdict in the case;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) The Hon'ble Delhi High Court vide order dated 08.01.2002 in Civil Writ Petition No. 4942/1998 filed by

Shri Madan Mohan Sharma versus UOI stated as under:

"This Petition was filed by Mr. M.M. Sharma seeking directions against the Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Health to scrap the reimbursement system in respect of medical claims of the Central Government employees and pensioners and instead pay full cost of treatment/ diagnostic tests direct to the hospital in question without involving the beneficiaries in any cash transaction. During the pendency of the Petition, Office Memorandum Rec-24/2001/JD(M)/CGHS/Delhi/CGHS(P) dated 7th September, 2001 has been issued by Government of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The Petitioner has referred to Clauses 2 (c), 9 and 11 of the Office Memorandum and states that purpose for filing the Petition is achieved on issuance of this Office Memorandum and states that the Writ Petition is dismissed as infructuous."

(c) As the above Civil Writ Petition has been dismissed by the Hon'ble Court on 08.01.2002, no further action is to be taken by the Government in the said Court case.

Introduction of Injectable Polio Vaccines

1223. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether for the first time Injectable Polio Vaccines (IPVs) are going to be introduced in the country as reported in the *Economic Times* dated November 14, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which vaccines are likely to be introduced in the country; and

(d) the efforts being made to strengthen our R and D on different Vaccines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Countries which have eradicated Polio are using Injectable Polio Vaccines (IPVs) for their immunization programmes. Therefore, Injectable Polio Vaccines (IPVs) will be used only after the polio is eradicated from the country.

(d) The Pastaur Institute of India, Coonoor has taken up Research and Development on combination vaccine i.e. coupling DPT group of vaccine with Hepatitis B so that it can be used in EPI programme.

Research and Development work to adopt Japanese Encephalitis virus on vero cell line is being carried out for manufacture of Tissue Culture Japanese Encephalitis vaccine.

Research and Development work is also initiated to explore the possibility of producing Antibodies against the rabies virus in embrionated Hens Egg.

M/s. Panacea Biotech have been permitted for carrying out research and development activity in respect of IPV.

Private Unaided Professional Colleges

1224. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the position of Private Unaided Professional Colleges after 2004 in view of the agreement entered by the Government of India under GATT & WTO;

(b) whether the Private Universities from outside countries made enquiries either with Government of India or with State Governments about foreign Universities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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.

[*Translation*]

SC/ST and OBC Employees

1225. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 1290 dt. 30.07.2003 and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be collected?

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) A reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 1290 dt. 30.07.2003 has since been sent to the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs on 9.10.2003 for laying it on table of the House.

(c) Does not arise.

Corruption Cases in S.J. Hospital

1226. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to reply given to USQ 2352 dt. August 6, 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) No, Sir. The requisite information is still being collected.

[English]

Shortage of Cables in Kerala

1227. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether due to non-availability of cables new connections are not being issued by the BSNL especially in the newly commissioned Telephone Exchanges in Kerala;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof; 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) There was a requirement of 29,686 LCKM of cables for Kerala Telecom Circle for the year 2002-03. Purchase orders were placed for 15.08 LCKM only because complete tendered quantity of cables was not accepted by the bidders.

- (c) (i) An order of 4.6 LCKM PIJF Cables has been placed on M/s HCL on 17.11.2003 for supply to Kerala Telecom Circle.
- (ii) The tender for the year 2003-04 for procurement of 120 LCKM has already been opened on 3.9.2003. Three vendors have filed a writ petition in Delhi High Court. The Hon'ble Delhi High Court have issued certain directions to BSNL. Accordingly, the tender is being evaluated. Orders for procurement of cables could be placed after finalization of the tender.

Assistance from World Bank

1228. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received any assistance from the World Bank for development of National and State Highways in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether part of the assistance was utilised for development of National and State Highways in Maharashtra;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Union Government is primarily responsible for development and upkeep of National Highways. Assistance from the World Bank has been received for development of various stretches of National Highways.

- (b) The details are given in the statement.

(c) to (e) Four landing of the stretch of NH-8 from Bassein Creek to Manor (58 Km) in Maharashtra was

completed in 2001 under Second National Highway World Bank Project at a cost of about Rs. 250 crore.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Project	State	Loan No./ Amount	Km. Length	Status
1.	World Bank First NH Project	Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal	2534-IN/ US\$ 133 M	496	Completed
2.	Second National Highway Project	Haryana, Punjab, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, West Bengal	3470-IN/ US\$ 306 M	290.90	Completed
3.	Third National Highway Project (TNHP)	Uttar Pradesh Bihar and Jharkhand	4559-IN/ US\$ 516 M	477	Ongoing
4.	Grand Trunk Improvement Project (GTRIP)	Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand	4622-IN/ US\$ 589 M	420	Ongoing
5.	Allahabad Bypass	Uttar Pradesh	4719-IN/ US\$ 240 M	85	To be awarded

[Translation]

Balika Samridhi Yojana

1229. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of interest accrued on the deposits in the accounts of the girl child under the Balika Samridhi Yojana during 2003-04, year-wise; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to popularise the scheme in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) The amount under the Balika Samridhi Yojana is deposited in an interest-bearing account opened in the name of the beneficiary girl child and an officer designated in this behalf by the State Government/Union Territory Administration in the nearest

bank or post office. The choice of a bank or a post office for the purpose of opening the account is of the State Government/UT Administration. The account must earn the maximum possible rate of interest. In this context, the Provident Fund scheme or the National Savings Certificate scheme is given the highest priority and the Savings Bank Account scheme the lowest. The interest accrued therein would depend upon the scheme in which the account has been opened.

(b) The guidelines of the Scheme very clearly stated that the State Government/UT Administration were to ensure wide publicity be provided highlighting the benefits of BSY scheme and the procedures of application through posters, brochures, media and other means.

[English]

Setting up of University for Disabled

1230. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are planning to set up a separate University for disabled;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are also planning to allow lateral entry in technical institutions on some specific grounds; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) No proposal either to set up a separate University for disabled or to allow lateral entry of the disabled in technical institutions is under consideration of the Government of India.

CD on Ayurvedic Formulations

1231. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether CD comprising Ayurvedic formulations was released in October 2003 in project Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) at the National Institute of Science Communication and Information resources (CSIR);

(b) if so, the number of Ayurvedic formulations contained in it;

(c) whether TKDL project for documenting 35,000 ayurvedic formulations was likely to be completed by December 2002 and website operational by September 2002;

(d) if so, the number of Ayurvedic formulations completed as on date;

(e) the present status of website and the number of ayurvedic formulations available/transcribed in website;

(f) whether the website is accessible to all; and

(g) if not, the reason 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) and (b) Yes Sir. Five hundred Ayurvedic formulations are contained in it.

(c) Revised schedule as approved by the project sponsor(s) was 31.08.2003.

(d) 36,000 Ayurvedic formulations were completed till 31.8.2003.

(e) to (g) As announced by Hon'ble Minister of Health & Family Welfare, the access to TKDL website shall be provided to the Patent offices after getting them agreed to a non-disclosure agreement, in the first instance. Subsequently, the access to the website shall be regulated by the inter-ministerial Access Policy Committee.

Navodaya Vidyalayas In Gujarat and Kerala

1232. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts in Gujarat and Kerala where Navodaya Vidyalayas are functioning/approved for opening or pending for approval;

(b) the reasons for delay in according the approval; and

(c) the time by which pending proposals are likely to be cleared by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) have been sanctioned for 19 Districts in Gujarat out of which 17 are functional. In Kerala all the 13 JNVs sanctioned are functional. The details are given in statement-I.

Proposals for opening of JNVs in two districts in Gujarat and 1 district in Kerala have been received and the schools will be sanctioned if these proposals fulfill the requirements of opening the schools. The details of these proposals are given in statement-II.

Statement I

Details of Districts in the States of Gujarat & Kerala where JNVs are sanctioned

Sl. No.	Name of the state	Name of the district where Navodaya Vidyalaya sanctioned.	Functional/non-functional
1	2	3	4
Gujarat			
1.		Banaskantha	Functional
2.		Bharuch	Functional
3.		Bhavnagar	Functional

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
4.	Dahod		Non-Functional	18.	Vadodra		Functional
5.	Dangs		Functional	19.	Panchmahal		Non-Functional
6.	Gandhinagar		Functional		Kerala		
7.	Jamnagar		Functional	1.	Emakulam		Functional
8.	Junagarh		Functional	2.	Pathanamthitta		Functional
9.	Kheda		Functional	3.	Kasargod		Functional
10.	Kutch		Functional	4.	Idukki		Functional
11.	Mehsana		Functional	5.	Cannanore		Functional
12.	Patan		Functional	6.	Calicut		Functional
13.	Porbander		Functional	7.	Kottayam		Functional
14.	Rajkot		Functional	8.	Malapuram		Functional
15.	Sabarkantha		Functional	9.	Palaghat		Functional
16.	Surat		Functional	10.	Trichur		Functional
17.	Surendra Nagar		Functional	11.	Alleppey		Functional
				12.	Kollam		Functional
				13.	Trivendram		Functional

Statement II*Details of Proposals under Consideration/Approval*

Name of the State	Name of the Distt. for which Proposal Received	Status for the Proposal
Gujarat	1. Amreli	A proposal has been received from the District Admn. For opening a JNV at village Mota Bhandariya in the Distt. The proposal is pending for confirmation regarding availability of water.
	2. Navsari	A proposal has been received for opening a JNV at village Parujan in the District. Since it was found that basic amenities viz. approach road etc. are not available District Admn. has been requested to provide the same. Response is awaited.
Kerala	1. Weynad	A proposal received from District Admn. for opening a JNV at village Vythiri in the District. The proposal is under process and pending for confirmation of availability of water/other amenities in the site.

[Translation]

Implementation of NCTE Act

1233. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Western Regional Committee of National Council of Teachers Education of Bhopal has faced difficulties in implementing N.C.T.E. Act in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by W.R.C., Bhopal in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Pending Bills

1234. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Bills have been pending for decades;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government thereon?

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): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The following six Bills have been pending in the Rajya Sabha for over a decade:

1. The Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 1987
2. The Constitution (Sixty-first Amendment) Bill, 1988
3. The Participation of Workers in Management Bill, 1990

4. The Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 1992

5. The Atomic Energy (Amendment) Bill, 1992

6. The Constitution (Seventy-ninth Amendment) Bill, 1992

(c) The status of these as also other Bills pending in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha is reviewed by the Government before the commencement of every Parliament Session and also from time to time, during the Session as well as inter-session period and necessary instructions are issued to the concerned Ministries/ Departments with a view to expediting their consideration and passing or withdrawal, as the case may be, in the Parliament. The above six Bills are being processed in the concerned Ministries/Departments with a view to: (i) carrying out further amendments therein; or (ii) to evolve consensus on provisions of the Bill(s) in consultation with leaders of political parties/groups in Parliament; or (iii) to withdraw and introduce a new comprehensive Bill, etc.,. They will be brought up in Parliament as soon as necessary action in the matter has been completed and approval of competent authority, wherever necessary, has been obtained.

[English]

Privatisation of Retailing Infrastructure of IOCL

1235. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any plans to privatize the retailing infrastructure of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL);

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether privatisation of the retail outlets of IOCL would result in the company losing its position as a profit earning PSU; 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) Government is exploring different options to address the situation arising out of the judgment of the Supreme Court dated 16.9.2003 regarding HPCL and BPCL disinvestment.

Creation of Separate Entities

1236. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to split the Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) to three separate entities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Government is exploring different options to address the situation arising out of the judgment of the Supreme Court dated 16.9.2003 regarding HPCL and BPCL disinvestment.

[*Translation*]

Participation of Women in NGOs

1237. SHRI PRADIP YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the policy framed by the Government for increasing participation of women in Non-Governmental Sector;

(b) whether the Government have issued any guidelines to the Non-Governmental Organisations for providing self-employment to the women;

(c) if so, the results thereof;

(d) whether the Government have reviewed the said results; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) The Department of Women and Child Development has not framed any policy for increasing the participation of women in the NGO sector. However, while sanctioning projects under the various grants-in-aid schemes, the Department takes due care to ensure that there is significant representation of women in the Governing Boards of the grantee NGOs.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Investment by NRI

1238. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the incentives given by the Union Government to NRIs for making investment in India;

(b) the amount of investment made by NRIs in the country during the last three years;

(c) whether NRIs are facing difficulties in the connection; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Details of incentives/facilities available to Non-resident Indians/Persons of Indian Origins are given in statement attached.

(b) Amount of investments made by the NRIs during the last three financial years are as given below:

(US\$ in million)		
2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
12,873	12,192	15,174

(c) and (d) The Government takes appropriate steps whenever NRIs bring to its attention any difficulties.

Statement

Details of Incentives/facilities available to non-residents/ persons of Indian origin

(i) *Bank Accounts and Deposits:*

(a) NRE Accounts (Principal/Interest repatriable)

(b) FCNR (B) Principal/repatriable)

(c) NRO Accounts (Current earnings repatriable) Authorised Dealers can allow remittance/s upto USD 1 million for any purpose per calendar year from balances in NRO Accounts subject to payment of applicable taxes.

(ii) Other investments on repatriation basis:

- Government dated securities/treasury bills.
- Units of domestic mutual funds.
- Bonds issued by public sector undertaking (PSU) in India.
- Shares in Public Sector Enterprises being dis-invested by the Government of India.
- Investments under Portfolio Investment Scheme.
- Deposits with Indian companies/financial institutions.

(iii) Other Investments on Non repatriation basis:

- Units of money market mutual funds in India.
- The capital of a firm of proprietary concern in India, not engaged in any agricultural or plantation activity or real estate business.

(iv) Investments in Immovable property:

- May acquire immovable property in India other than agricultural/plantation property or a farmhouse.

*(v) Facilities to returning NRIs/PIOs:**Returning NRIs/PIOs*

- may continue to hold, own, transfer or invest in foreign currency, foreign security or any immovable property situated outside India, if such currency, security or property was acquired, held or owned when resident outside India.
- may open, hold and maintain with an authorized dealer in India a Resident Foreign Currency (RFC) Account to transfer balances held in NRE/FCNR (B) accounts. Proceeds of assets held outside India at the time of return, can be credited to RFC account. The funds in RFC accounts are free from all restrictions regarding utilisation of foreign currency balances including any restriction on investment in any form outside India.

Exodus of I.T. Experts

1239. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of I.T. experts leaving India every year for U.S.A.;

(b) the pay in terms of dollar being offered by the American companies to them; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) As per the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) the number of IT experts leaving India every year for USA is around 40,000. This includes all categories of employment for short, medium and long term assignments.

(b) and (c) The Government has no definite figures on the pay package being offered by the American companies as it depends on factors like experience of the individual, assignment conditions, type of contracts etc.

[English]

Laws Relating to Women and Children

1240. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether laws relating to women and children have been amended only twice i.e. in 1984 and 1986 whereas other laws have been amended from time to time;

(b) if so, whether the National Commission for women has advocated a separate law for sexual abuse of children; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) There are many laws concerning or affecting women or children. Different Ministries/ Departments are responsible for administering these Acts and making amendment thereto as per felt need. A list of the laws identified in this area is enclosed as statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement*List of laws concerning or affecting women/children*

S.No.	Name of Act and Name of Administrative Ministry/Department
1	2
1.	The Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987 (Department of Women and Child Development)
2.	Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 (Department of Women and Child Development)
3.	Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 (Department of Women and Child Development)
4.	Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 (Department of Women and Child Development)
5.	Family Courts Act, 1984 (Department of Justice)
6.	Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 (Ministry of Labour)
7.	Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966 (Ministry of Labour)
8.	Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 (Ministry of Labour)
9.	Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1979 (Ministry of Labour)
10.	Employees State Insurance Act, 1948 (Ministry of Labour)
11.	Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 (Ministry of Labour)
12.	Factories Act, 1948 (Ministry of Labour)
13.	Inter-state Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 (Min. of Labour)
14.	The Infant Milk Substitutes Feeding Bottles and Infant Foods (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 1992 (Department of Women & Child Development)
15.	Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 (Ministry of Labour)

1	2
16.	Minimum Wages Act, 1948 (Min. of Labour)
17.	Payment of Wages Act, 1936 (Ministry of Labour)
18.	Plantations Labour Act, 1951 (Ministry of Labour)
19.	Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (Ministry of Labour)
20.	Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971 (Department of Family Welfare)
21.	Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation & Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 (Department of Family Welfare)
22.	Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 (Min. of Social Justice & Empowerment)
23.	Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (Legislative Department)
24.	Foreign Marriage Act, 1969 (Legislative Department)
25.	Guardians and Wards Act, 1890 (Legislative Department)
26.	Indian Succession Act, 1925 (Legislative Department)
27.	Married Women's Property Act, 1874 (Legislative Department)
28.	Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 (Legislative Department)
29.	Hindu Succession Act, 1956 (Legislative Department)
30.	Indian Divorce Act, 1869 (Legislative Department)
31.	Hindu Minority & Guardianship Act, 1956 (Legislative Department)
32.	Hindu Adoption & Maintenance Act, 1956 (Legislative Department)
33.	Special Marriage Act, 1954 (Legislative Department)
34.	Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937 (Legislative Department)

1	2
35.	Converts Marriage Dissolution Act, 1966 (Legislative Department)
36.	Mental Health Act, 1987 (Deptt. of Family Welfare)
37.	Cine Workers and Cinema Theatre Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1981 (Ministry of Labour)
38.	Mines Act, 1952 (Ministry of Mines)
39.	Indian Christian Marriage Act, 1872 (Legislative Department)

Dual Passport System

1241. DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow dual passport system to NRIs holding foreign passports;

(b) if so, the present position in this regard;

(c) the time by when the operative steps to implement this decision are likely to be carried out; and

(d) the other relevant details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) to (d) Government have introduced a draft Bill in Rajya Sabha to give effect to Dual Citizenship for Persons of Indian Origin belonging to certain countries. The Bill is under the consideration of the concerned Parliamentary Committee. After the Bill is passed by the Parliament, an appropriate framework for the implementation of the Act will be put in place.

Assistance for Strengthening Diagnostic Facilities

1242. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal for financial assistance to Government Medical Colleges of Orissa for strengthening the Diagnostic facilities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the proposal has been cleared; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by when the proposal is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The position of receipt of proposal and status is as follows:

- (1) A project proposal seeking financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 1.50 crores each for strengthening of diagnostic facilities at SCB Medical Colleges, Cuttack; VSS Medical College, Burla and MKGC Medical College, Berhampur under a pilot project was received from Government of Orissa. The Pilot Project under which the financial assistance was provided to the State Government for strengthening of diagnostic facilities in Government Medical Colleges has since been discontinued. Therefore, the instant proposal could not be supported.
- (2) A project proposal to strengthen and improve physical infrastructure of
 - (i) Sardar Vallav Bhai Patel Post Graduate Institute, Cuttack.
 - (ii) V.S.S. Medical College & Hospital, Burla.
 - (iii) S.C.B. Medical College & Hospital, Cuttack.
 - (iv) M.K.C.G. Medical College & Hospital, Berhampur was received from Government of Orissa for World Bank assistance.

The State Government of Orissa was requested in January, 2003 to send a consolidated proposal for all medical colleges in the state. The consolidated proposal has not been received from the State Government so far.

Undernourishment

1243. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH:
SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that according to FAO data, 51% of world's undernourished are from the region of South Asia;

(b) is so, the share of India in it;

(c) the percentage of undernourished and the stunted growth of children;

(d) the reasons for the widespread undernourishment in India; and

(e) the steps being taken to tide over the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) No, Sir. As per FAO publication titled "The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2003", 36.7% of the undernourished people in the developing world were in South Asia.

(b) 26.8% of the total undernourished people in the world were in India.

(c) The percentage of undernourished and stunted growth children under three years in India as per NFHS 2 (1998-99) is 47% and 45.5%, respectively.

(d) Malnutrition is an outcome of an interrelated set of factors ranging from food insecurity at the household level due to poverty and low purchasing power, ignorance of child feeding practices, poor access to health care, safe drinking water, sanitation and other social services, to high rate of population growth. Natural calamities such as drought further aggravate the problem.

(e) The Government is seized of the problem of malnutrition and has been implementing a number of nutrition related direct and indirect interventions through its different sectors for addressing the multifaceted problem of malnutrition. To quote a few, the national Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme and Nutrition Education Programmes of Department of Women and Child Development, Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme including National Anaemia Control Programme and National Prophylaxis Programme against Vitamin-A Deficiency of Department of Family Welfare, National IDD Control Programme of Department of Health, programmes for ensuring food security for the people by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Poverty Alleviation and Food for Work programmes of Ministry of Rural Development, Mid Day Meal scheme of Department of Education, are being implemented to address the problem of undernourishment in the country.

Opening of New Telephone Exchanges

1244. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open new telephone exchanges in various States;

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

(c) the quantum of fund earmarked for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. It has been planned to open new telephone exchanges in the country.

(b) State-wise details are given in the statement attached.

(c) The quantum of fund earmarked for the purpose is Rs. 1499.267 Crores. State-wise break up is also given in the statement attached.

Statement

State-wise details of New Telephone Exchanges and funds earmarked

S.No.	Name of State	Proposed number of new telephone exchanges to be opened during 2003-04	Funds Earmarked (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	1	0.400
2.	Andhra Pradesh	26	24.330
3.	Assam	20	20.500
4.	Bihar	58	187.850
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	0
6.	Delhi	25	185.000
7.	Gujarat	1	0.277
8.	Haryana	15	4.600
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1	1.550

1	2	3	4
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	98.180
11.	Jharkhand	8	4.000
12.	Karnataka	5	3.000
13.	Kerala	29	73.000
14.	Madhya Pradesh	12	113.230
15.	Maharashtra	35	308.080
16.	North East	0	0
17.	Orissa	19	7.220
18.	Punjab	21	41.010
19.	Rajasthan	32	59.450
20.	Tamil Nadu	15	4.500
21.	Uttaranchal	22	10.500
22.	Uttar Pradesh	28	175.860
23.	West Bengal	50	176.730
Total		426	1499.267

Automatic Refund System

1245. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the Automatic Refund System has been introduced by the MTNL for the subscribers where telephones remain out of order and non-functional for more than seven days;

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

(c) the measures taken to ensure that the scheme is implemented in letter and spirit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In MTNL systems of Delhi and Mumbai, the rental rebate is allowed automatically to all those customers whose telephones remain out of order for seven days or more on the basis of fault reports. However, no rental rebate is admissible in the events of disconnection due to non-payment.

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

Digital Distribution System

1246. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to enact a law to make it compulsory for private companies to provide services in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the number of villages linked with the digital distribution system during the last two years and current year so far;

(d) the names of the new companies who came forward to lay digital distribution system to connect cities, towns and villages so far; and

(e) the names of the States where these facilities are proposed to be provided?

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

Violation of Radiation Safety Norms

1247. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some nuclear medicine centres have been found violating various radiation safety norms;

(b) if so, the number of such medicine centres found violating the safety norms; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against them?

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. As a part of its regulatory function the staff of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board inspects nuclear medicine facilities located in different parts of the country. These inspections reveal at times that some institutions are violating safety norms.

(b) and (c) From April 2002 till November 2003, AERB found that 12 institutions out of the 27 inspected violated some of the safety norms. Based on the inspection reports, AERB issued show cause notices to these institutions before enforcing regulatory restrictions which included suspension of authorisation to procure radioactive material. AERB also directed some institutions to obtain approval for the modified layout. AERB asked some institutions to appoint Radiological Safety Officers. The institutions were allowed to restart work only after the required safety measures were implemented.

CBI Raid

1248. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI made surprise raid at any Indian Institute of Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been ordered into it;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) A group of officers of the CBI conducted a surprise inspection of the books of accounts of IIT, Guwahati on 09.09.2003. The following are the findings of the team:

1. Daily print-out and signing of print-outs of cash books by the DDO (Registrar) has not been done since 2001-2002.
2. An excess of Rs. 347.00 was found to be with the cashier at the time of the inspection.
3. There were pending TA advances against two senior Professors who had superannuated (Rs. 5,80,000.00 and Rs. 2,77,565.00) In spite of this, both of them were allowed to retire.

The matter was looked into by IIT Guwahati and the following actions were initiated as a result of the findings of CBI:

1. Since the system is computerized it was not felt necessary to take a daily print-out of the cash book. However, it has since been done.
2. No action was required.
3. In both the cases outstanding advances of Rs. 5,80,000/-and Rs. 2,77,565-were shown against the former director and a Professor of the institute respectively. In both the cases outstanding advances were not adjusted against the adjustment bills. The adjustment process has since been completed and there are no dues outstanding.

(e) No action was taken against any official as none was deemed necessary. The Accounts Section has been asked to improve its efficiency. This is likely to get boosted up with the deployment of more manpower for the Account Section.

Strengthening of ties with ASEAN countries

1249. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has proposed at a recently held Conference to conduct a motor car rally between India and ASEAN countries to promote ties between the two regions; and

(b) if so, the response of the ASEAN countries to this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) During the ASEAN-India Summit Meeting in Bali, Indonesia, on October 8, 2003, our Prime Minister had floated the idea to organize a Motor Car Rally with a view "to draw dramatic attention to our geographical contiguity" with the ASEAN countries. The Rally would obviously draw commercial interest in infrastructure development along the route, tourism development and long-term economic cooperation in the region. It will also help to create public awareness about growing India-ASEAN relations as part of our 'Look East Policy'.

(b) Prime Minister's idea has been welcomed by the ASEAN countries.

Employment to Land Oustees

1250. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families displaced and the number of farmers whose lands has been acquired for setting up of nuclear power plant at Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the number of affected families who has been provided employment so far; and

(c) the time by when the words of other families are likely to be provided employment?

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) Non agricultural barren land, with no inhabitants, was acquired for the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Project (KKNPP-1&2 2x1000 MW_e). The land was acquired through the State Government of Tamil Nadu in 1989. There has been no displacement of population in connection with the acquisition of land for the project.

(b) 44 affected families (landowners) have been provided employment.

(c) The number of applications from kith and kin of land losers has considerably reduced over a period of time. Preference is given for kith and kin of land losers, if any, for further employment subject to their meeting the eligibility norms. In addition, the project has also provided considerable employment opportunities for the people in the surrounding areas through various contractors who are executing various contracts for the Project.

PCOs to Handicapped Persons

1251. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether there is misuse of the PCOs allotted to handicapped persons;

(b) if so, the number of cases which came to the Government's notice during the last one year till date;

(c) the reasons compelling handicapped person to sell their PCOs;

(d) the Government's policy in this regard;

(e) whether the subletting of PCOs is permissible; 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) A total of 10 such cases, 3 in Delhi and 7 in Uttar Pradesh (West) Telecom Circle, have come to notice during the last one year.

(c) Selling of PCOs is not permitted.

(d) For any misuse of PCOs the services are withdrawn and agreement is terminated.

(e) No, Sir.

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

Capitation Fees

1252. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has banned private professional colleges from charging capitation fees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has appointed two committees, each to be headed by a retired high court judge, to approve fee structures and supervise admission procedures;

(d) if so, the norms fixed by the Supreme Court regarding the private colleges in respect of fee structure;

(e) the extent to which the Government has agreed;

(f) whether the orders of the Supreme Court have been implemented by the State Governments in this regard; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (g) Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Judgement delivered on 14th August, 2003 interpreting the Eleven Judge Bench Judgement in *T.M.A. Pai Foundation Case* held that capitation fees cannot be charged by the educational institutions. The Hon'ble Court directed that the respective State Government's concerned authority shall set up, in each State, two Committees, each headed by a retired High Court Judge to look into the fee structure and to ensure that the tests conducted by the association of colleges are fair and transparent, respectively. Each educational institute is required to place before the Committee its proposed fee structure with all relevant documents. The fee fixed by the Committee shall be binding for a period of three years. The State Governments are required to comply with the orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Disinvestment of NHDCL and NEEPCOL

1253. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to disinvest two public sector companies National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd. (NHDCL) and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd. (NEEPCOL); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) Disinvestment Commission, has recommended that National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd. (NHDCL) should not be disinvested as long as "Hank Yarn Obligation Scheme" for yarn manufacturing mills, and "Mill Gate Price Scheme" (MGPS) are continued as NHDCL is the only authorised agency to implement the latter scheme. If MGPS is discontinued, NHDCL should be disinvested. In the case of North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd. (NEEPCOL), the Commission has recommended disinvestment of 51% of Government's equity in favour of a Strategic Partner through the competitive bidding route, together with necessary manpower rationalisation and capital restructuring. No decision has been taken on the recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission.

[Translation]

Study by Working Group on Road Accidents

1254. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether the Working Group on the Prevention and Control of Road Accidents and Injuries set up in May, 2000 has conducted any study;

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

(c) whether till date the Government do not have data to ascertain the number of persons died in road accidents during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The Working Group on Road Accidents, Injury Prevention and Control, was set up by the Planning Commission in May, 2000 to go into all aspects relating to Road Accidents, Injury Prevention and Control. The Group had submitted its report to the Planning Commission in July, 2001. The report covered a number of issues such as Magnitude of the Road Traffic Fatalities and injuries, International Comparisons, Traffic Situation in India as Compared to Other Countries, Complexities of Traffic Crash Indices, Road Signs and Markings, Vehicle Design, Human Factors and Education, Enforcement of Traffic Laws, Transport Demand Management, Post Crash Management, Hospital Care, Rehabilitation of persons involved in Road Accidents, Social Cost of Road Crashes in India, etc.

(c) The Central Government compiles data on the number of persons killed in Road Accidents on the basis of information received from respective various States/ Union Territories. The data in respect of the last three years is as under:

Year	Persons Killed (All roads)
2000	78911
2001	80688
2002	61045 (Provisional)

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]***Incidents of Blindness**

1255. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether the Government has identified the States where incidents of blindness are on the increase;

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

(c) the financial assistance provided for the purpose so far during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has initiated any fresh action plan for the control of blindness in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) As per recent surveys undertaken in various states of the country, prevalence of blindness has decreased in most of the states except in Karnataka, West Bengal, Punjab and Assam. State-wise prevalence of blindness is given in the statement-I.

(c) Financial assistance provided under NPCB during the last three years and the current year is given in the Statement-II.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Government of India has signed declaration to implement strategies under 'Vision 2020'. The proposal pattern of assistance under NPCB under the 10th Plan includes strategies to control childhood blindness, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, corneal blindness etc. An outlay of Rs. 445 crore has been made to control blindness during the 10th Plan.

Statement I*Prevalence of Blindness in selected major States of India*

States	Prevalence of Blindness (%)		
	Survey 1986-89	Survey 2001-03	Difference+/-in %
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	1.50	1.42	-5.33
Assam	1.34	3.05	127.61
Bihar	1.28	0.78	-39.06
Chhattisgarh	2.01	1.61	-19.90
Gujarat	1.44	1.07	-25.69
Himachal Pradesh	0.87	0.70	-19.54
Karnataka	1.28	1.78	39.06
Kerala	1.31	0.56	-57.25
Madhya Pradesh	2.01	1.16	-42.29
Maharashtra	1.64	0.95	-42.07
Orissa	1.72	1.40	-18.60
Punjab	0.73	1.01	38.36
Rajasthan	2.24	1.55	-30.80

1	2	3	4
Tamilnadu	1.65	0.78	-52.73
Tripura	1.18	0.77	-34.75
Uttar Pradesh	1.58	0.94	-40.51
West Bengal	0.96	1.19	23.96
All States	1.49	1.10	-26.17

Statement II**National Programme for Control of Blindness***Details of Funds Release & Expenditure of States/UTs as Cash, Kind & GIA to DBCS/SBCS/NGOs*

(Rs. In Lakhs)

Sl. No.	States/UTs	2000-2001 Total Release	2001-2002 Total Release	2002-2003 Total Release	2003-2004* Total Release
1	2	3	4	5	6
Major States					
1.	Andhra Pradesh	689.05	1063.81	834.82	342.99
2.	Bihar	306.30	72.50	157.97	190.13
3.	Chhattisgarh	126.98	302.74	165.23	127.61
4.	Goa	41.20	33.95	10.52	17.23
5.	Gujarat	384.00	245.85	231.45	208.00
6.	Haryana	178.00	104.63	45.36	93.95
7.	Himachal Pradesh	131.00	64.03	54.11	64.75
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	106.50	110.04	66.79	72.87
9.	Jharkhand	54.00	29.30	118.57	128.53
10.	Karnataka	305.89	454.43	368.30	447.78
11.	Kerala	294.20	184.85	153.22	153.38
12.	Madhya Pradesh	832.39	908.02	667.29	285.71
13.	Maharashtra	766.38	1251.09	627.15	306.38
14.	Orissa	1,187.45	488.35	324.80	191.25
15.	Punjab	117.60	65.05	189.25	84.58
16.	Rajasthan	946.45	1128.85	526.93	266.20

1	2	3	4	5	6
17.	Tamilnadu	1,111.05	1972.99	1653.03	772.24
18.	Uttar Pradesh	940.39	2166.92	1063.20	654.92
19.	Uttaranchal	80.34	175.03	115.02	95.20
20.	West Bengal	275.00	180.76	305.12	218.68
	Total	8874.17	10983.19	7678.13	4722.38
North Eastern States					
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	48.82	43.81	16.22	18.74
2.	Assam	207.09	62.67	35.70	70.50
3.	Manipur	55.94	50.73	20.13	18.00
4.	Meghalaya	153.84	78.28	25.12	21.75
5.	Mizoram	79.57	35.56	31.72	16.35
6.	Nagaland	40.58	51.10	23.22	12.51
7.	Sikkim	103.39	6.61	20.56	15.43
8.	Tripura	68.80	397.74	39.88	40.74
	Total	758.03	726.50	212.56	214.02
UTs					
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	3.75	16.80	1.59	5.50
2.	Chandigarh	11.00	20.15	10.07	13.97
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	105.64	16.92	4.16	6.47
4.	Daman & Diu	12.60	12.86	4.97	4.54
5.	Delhi	61.29	22.15	22.30	15.05
6.	Lakshadweep	229.59	5.02	1.56	4.52
7.	Pondicherry	14.50	15.50	2.04	9.95
	Total	438.37	109.40	46.69	60.00
	Grand Total	10070.57	11819.10	7937.37	4996.40

*(up to 08.12.2003)

Amendment of Drug Control Act

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

1256. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to amend the Drug Control (Amendment) Act;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) There is no such Act under the administration of

this Ministry. However, the Government has initiated steps to bring forth a legislation for amending various provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1954 on the lines suggested by the Mashelkar Committee. A summary of the recommendations contained in the interim report of the Mashelkar Committee is attached as statement.

Statement

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

- a. The penalty for sale and manufacture of spurious drug that causes grievous hurt or death should be enhanced from life imprisonment to death. Even the penalty for manufacture and sale of spurious drugs that do not cause grievous hurt or death should also be made more severe.
- b. The offences related to spurious drugs should be made cognizable and non-bailable. The bail, if considered by the court should be granted only after a period of three months.
- c. The penalty for not disclosing the source of purchase of drugs by a dealer should be made stringent.
- d. A provision should be included in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act to enable the Central and State Governments to designate special courts for speedy trial of spurious drugs cases.
- e. A provision for compounding of offences should be included in the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.
- f. Under Drugs and Cosmetics Act, besides the Drug Inspectors, Police should also be authorized to file prosecution for offences related to spurious drugs.

Allocation of Funds for IT

1257. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the allocation for HRD in IT has been scaled down from that planned initially this year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the impact of this reduction on the plans to make India a global R&D hub in IT;

(d) whether the Government propose to upgrade some existing engineering institutes in the country as institutes of excellence in IT;

(e) if so, the names of institutes so selected, State/ Union Territory-wise;

(f) the amount earmarked for each of these institutions for the purpose; and

(g) the number of PhDs and M. Techs in IT in the country at present and the target fixed in this regard, if any, for the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), against a budget estimate of Rs. 30.00 crores, a provision of Rs. 1.00 crore has been kept at revised estimate stage.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

(g) As per the report of the Task Force on HRD in IT, about 25 Ph.D and 300 M. Tech. degree holders in computer science are produced every year in the country. No specific targets have been fixed in this regard.

[Translation]

Extradition of Bhopal Gas Tragedy Accused

1258. SHRI KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have not applied for the repatriation of the Chairman of the company responsible for the Bhopal Gas Tragedy even after a lapse of 10 years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) No, the Government have sent a request for the extradition of Warren Anderson, the then Chairman of Union Carbide Corporation, to the United States Government on May 5, 2003 through the Indian Embassy in Washington.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

*[English]***Offloading of Shares in ONGC and Oil PSUs.**

1259. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
 SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
 DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
 SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to off load some of their shares in the ONGC and oil PSUs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the present proposal is in sharp contrast with their earlier commitment of not privatizing oil PSUs; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Currently, there is no decision to offload Government's equity in ONGC and other Oil PSUs except IBP Co. Ltd. (IBP).

(b) and (c) In pursuance of its disinvestment policy, Government has decided in July 2003 to offload its residual equity holding of 26% in IBP in the domestic market through public offer.

(d) No, Sir. The current decision of sale of residual equity holding in IBP is consistent with Government's disinvestment policy.

(e) Does not arise.

Safety Measures in Safdarjung Hospital

1260. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB), Mumbai, has directed the Safdarjung Hospital in New Delhi to stop admitting new patients in radio-therapy department as the Hospital does not comply with required essential safety measures;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; 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) New patients were stopped for radiotherapy treatment for a short while, in the Radio-therapy department of Safdarjung Hospital for want of fulfillment of technical parameters stipulated by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB). The new patients during this period were however, referred to Radio-therapy departments of two government hospitals, namely the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Lok Nayak Hospital. The AERB have inspected it and have already permitted admission of new patients for radio-therapy. The Department of Radio-therapy of the Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi is fully functional now.

Research on Cancer

1261. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether research on Cancer in India is still in a primitive stage;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government proposes to augment the financial resources in order to facilitate more research on it;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the National Cancer Congress was held in September, 2003, in Delhi;

(f) if so, the details of the issues discussed in the Congress;

(g) whether the recommendations of the Congress have been considered by the Government; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) According to the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) which is the nodal apex agency in Medical Research, high priority is given to cancer research in the country. About 70 research project are being currently supported by them. In addition, under the National Cancer

Control Programme (NCCP), this Ministry has recognized 20 Regional Cancer Centres in different States/UTs which are also involved in carrying out research activities in the field of Cancer. The Chittaranjan National Cancer Institute (NCCI), Kolkata which is one of the recognized RCCs, is at present handling about 38 research projects. As such it may not be correct to say that research on cancer in the country is in primitive stage.

(e) to (h) This Ministry has neither organized nor funded the National Cancer Congress held in September, 2003 in Delhi.

Neuro Toxicants In Indian Waters

1262. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mercury based processes and products act as neuro toxicants and their use in the country have increased manifolds despite a reverse trend in other countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the fish in the coastal waters of the country have been diagnosed to have a high quantity of mercury in it; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for substituting mercury-based processes and products?

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 (d) Mercury acting as a neuro toxicant is a well documented fact through various researches conducted world over. There are no comprehensive data available indicating enhanced use of compounds with mercury in India. From the reports available on the permissible levels of mercury in Indian fish products and fish in coastal waters, there is no evidence to indicate enhanced levels of mercury.

Works carried out by NICD

1263. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

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

(a) the details of the works carried out at the National level by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD);

(b) whether NICD has its branches at the State-level;

(c) if so, whether the NICD is unable to respond immediately to the crisis situations;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the funds provided to NICD during the year 2002-2003 and the current year; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to review the role of NICD?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) performs the following functions:

- To advise Government on issues related to control of communicable diseases in the country.
- To initiate enquiries and undertake investigations on communicable diseases.
- To assist the State health authorities in undertaking field investigations and providing them with technical assistance, wherever necessary.
- To undertake operational research on various aspects related to prevention and control of communicable diseases.
- To advise upon and assist in carrying out various interventions for control of communicable diseases and to scientifically evaluate them.

(b) NICD has eight branches in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The funds allocated to NICD during 2002-03 and the current year are as follows:

(Rs. in crore)			
Year	Plan	Non-Plan	Total
2002-03	19.50	9.47	28.97
2003-04	10.40	9.45	19.85

(f) Since NICD is performing its duties well, there is no proposal to review its functioning. However, certain plan schemes are envisaged during the Tenth Plan to further strengthen the activities of the Institute.

[Translation]

Eradication of Hepatitis

1264. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hepatitis patients in the country as on November 20, 2003, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are running any Hepatitis Eradication Programme in the country during the last three years;

(c) if so, the number of persons administered Hepatitis injection in each State during the last three years;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to eradicate Hepatitis in the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) While the details of cases of Hepatitis as on 30.11.2003 are not available, the state-wise details of Viral Hepatitis in the year 2002 as provided by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI), are given in the attached statement-I.

(b) to (d) While there is no vaccine for Hepatitis-C infection and Hepatitis-A is benign as compared to Hepatitis-B & C, Government of India has launched a pilot project of Hepatitis B for children below one year only. During 2002-03, 15 cities and during 2003-04, 32 districts and Andaman & Nicobar Island have been selected for Hepatitis-B vaccination.

At the moment, vaccination of Hepatitis-B of slum infants in the selected cities has been started since 2002-03. The State-wise number of doses of Hepatitis-B given to slum infants (as on September, 2003) is as in the enclosed statement-II.

(e) Government has taken the following steps to prevent the spread of Hepatitis:

Hepatitis-A: It is a water borne disease and is spread through faeco-oral route. Vaccine for prevention of Hepatitis-A is not indigenously produced but is commercially available in the market. As Hepatitis-A is spread through contaminated water, the important prevention and control measures are supply of safe drinking water and sanitation in all areas.

Hepatitis-B: It is spread through unsafe sex, unsafe blood transfusion, unsafe injections etc. and from mother to child. This is preventable by ensuring safe blood transfusion, safe sex, safe injection practices, etc. Vaccine for Hepatitis-B is available. The following measures have been taken to prevent Hepatitis-B:

- Central Government Hospital personnel at high risk are being immunized against Hepatitis-B. State Governments have also been advised to take similar steps;
- Guidelines have been issued for mandatory testing of blood in all blood banks;
- Promotion of safe sex under National AIDS Control Programme is advocated;
- Health Awareness campaigns under National AIDS Control Programme are held;
- Guidelines have been issued to State Health Authorities for use of separate sterile; and
- A Pilot Project to immunize children against Hepatitis-B in selected Cities/Districts have been launched under National Immunization Programme by Department of Family Welfare.

Hepatitis-C: It is spread through unsafe sex, unsafe blood transfusion unsafe injections etc. and from mother to child. This is preventable by ensuring safe blood transfusion, safe sex, safe injection practices etc. Vaccine for Hepatitis-C is not available. The following measures have been taken to prevent Hepatitis-C:

- Mandatory testing of blood in all blood banks;

- Promotion of safe sex under National AIDS Control Programme is advocated;
- Health Awareness campaigns under National AIDS Control Programme are held;
- Guidelines have been issued to State Health Authorities for use of separate sterile syringes and needles for each injection.

Statement I**Reported Cases of Viral Hepatitis during the year 2002**

S.No.	State/UTs	Viral Hepatitis
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16224
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	621
3.	Assam	**
4.	Bihar	**
5.	Chhattisgarh	**
6.	Goa	71
7.	Gujarat	2365
8.	Haryana	1079
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1648
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	6245
11.	Jharkhand	**
12.	Karnataka	25601
13.	Kerala	5323
14.	Madhya Pradesh	6112
15.	Maharashtra	29525
16.	Manipur	397
17.	Meghalaya	472
18.	Mizoram	1164
19.	Nagaland	131
20.	Orissa	648
21.	Punjab	3141
22.	Rajasthan	1758

1	2	3
23.	Sikkim	210
24.	Tamil Nadu	3177
25.	Tripura	105
26.	Uttanchal	**
27.	Uttar Pradesh	518
28.	West Bengal	7032
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	368
30.	Chandigarh	451
31.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	232
32.	Daman & Diu	23
33.	Delhi	5053
34.	Lakshadweep	22
35.	Pondicherry	534
Total		120250

**Not reported.

Statement II

Name of State	Name of Cities	No. of Doses
Maharashtra	Mumbai	73067
	Pune	8088
Gujarat	Vadodara	2620
	Ahmedabad	7366
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	9806
	Indore	7835
Delhi	—	23031
Rajasthan	Jaipur	5841
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	40574
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad	34522
West Bengal	Kolkata	11891
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	—
	Kanpur	—
Bihar	Patna	—
Karnataka	Bangalore	16792

Development on Metal for Mobile Chips

1265. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Indian Scientists have developed a metal which could be used for manufacturing chips of mobile phones indigenously;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said metal is likely to be introduced in the market?

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) Indian Scientists are working on development of materials for various possible applications including development of chips for mobile phones. This specific development has not been brought to the notice of Government.

[English]

Environment Subject in School Syllabus

1266. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has fined various State Governments for not including environment as a syllabus in schools;

(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) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

[Translation]

Overbridge on Rapti River

1267. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to construct a two lane overbridge over Rapti river on the National Highway No. 28 in Uttar Pradesh is pending; and

(b) if so, by when 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) The site of the bridge on River Rapti on NH-28 in Uttar Pradesh falls on the alignment of Phase-II of the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) which is under consideration.

[English]

Permanent Membership in UNSC

1268. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UN Secretary General has observed the formation of a new policy of enlarging the Security Council to make it more representative of twenty first century geopolitical realities;

(b) if so, whether the Secretary General proposes to increase the number of permanent members and the elected membership of the Security Council;

(c) whether he has also proposed not to elect on the council, countries which have issues before it;

(d) whether any report in this regard was submitted to the UN General Assembly by the Secretary General at the recently held session;

(e) if so, whether it was discussed at the General Assembly and if so, the outcome thereof;

(f) whether the issue of permanent membership to India was discussed with leaders of various countries recently; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (g) In his Reports to the 58th UN General Assembly, on

the implementation of the Millennium Declaration and the Annual Report on the Work of the Organisation, the UN Secretary General noted that the Security Council needs to regain the confidence of States and of world public opinion, and will be better able to do so if it is perceived to be broadly representative of the international community as a whole and of the geo-political realities of the contemporary world. The Secretary General, however, has not made any specific proposal on the reform of the Security Council. He has set up a 16-member High Level Panel on Global Security, Threats and Reform of the International System, which has been tasked, inter alia, with the changes necessary to ensure effective collective action including but not limited to a review of the principal organs of the United Nations. The Panel will submit its recommendations before the beginning of the 59th session of the UN General Assembly in 2004 for consideration by member States.

The Government has, in all its recent high-level bilateral interactions, taken up India's case for permanent membership in the UN Security Council.

Setting up of Regional Centres

1269. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from Andhra Pradesh for opening of Regional Centres of National Institute of Virology and National Institute of Communicable Diseases at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto; and

(c) the time by when the Centres are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) A branch of National Institute of Communicable Diseases is already functioning at Rajahmundry. A request received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for sanction of advanced diagnostic Centre for Communicable Diseases including virology Diagnostic Centre at the Institute of Preventive Medicine in Hyderabad is under examination.

Specific Programmes for Poverty Alleviation

1270. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of special programmes being undertaken for poverty eradication in the States where poverty concentration is higher than the national average during the Tenth Plan Period; and

(b) the specific programmes drawn up along with the augmentation of administrative capacity to bring down the poverty ratio of Orissa to that of all India average, where poverty ratio is more than 47 percent of its population almost double of national average?

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 Major Poverty Alleviation Programmes undertaken for poverty alleviation in the various States and Union Territories of the country are Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Sampooma Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) in the rural areas and Swaran Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) and Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana (VAMBAY) in the urban areas. There are no separate poverty alleviation programmes for the States where poverty concentration is higher than national average. However, in the Tenth Plan, Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana has been initiated with the main objective of putting in place programmes with the joint efforts of the Centre and the States which would remove barriers to growth, accelerate the development process and improve the quality of life of the people.

(b) In addition to the existing Poverty Alleviation programmes, a Special Plan has been drawn up by the State Government for the undivided Koraput-Bolangir-Kalahandi (KBK) district of Orissa which is being funded under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana on a 100 per cent grant basis. This Plan include schemes for drought proofing, livelihood support, health services and disadvantaged groups which will also help in mitigating the poverty related problems of this area.

[*Translation*]

Child Development Schemes

1271. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Child Development Schemes are being undertaken in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) buildings constructed under these schemes location-wise during the last three years and by when the remaining buildings are likely to be constructed; and

(d) the amount provided in this regard during the said period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The ICDS Scheme has been sanctioned in Bihar in 294 Projects (Blocks) out of which 171 Projects have been operational.

(c) Civil Works were sanctioned in 146 Projects which were assisted by the World Bank. A statement furnishing the information in respect of Civil Works is attached. Information regarding completion of civil works is being sought from the State Government.

(d) Funds released from the Central Government for the ICDS-II Project during the last three years are as under:

2000-01:	Nil
2001-02:	Rs. 10 crore
2002-03:	Rs. 52.51 crore.

Statement

(I) Construction of CDPO Offices-cum-Godowns

District	Blocks	Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4
Patna	Naobatpur	1	1
	Phulwarisharif	1	1
	Baad	1	1
	Bikan	1	1
	Bakhtiyarpur	1	1
Bhojpur	Badhara	1	1
	Tarari	1	1

1	2	3	4	
Kaimud	Udvatnagar	1	1	
	Sahar	1	1	
	Durgawati	1	1	
	Kudra	1	1	
	Chaand	1	1	
	Rohtas	Sasaram	1	1
	Baksar	Rajpur	1	1
	Nalanda	Noorsaraya	1	1
		Biharsharif (rural)	1	1
		Sarbera	1	1
Islampur		1	1	
Aurangabad	Asthavo	1	1	
	Harnaut	1	1	
	Daudnagar	1	1	
	Madanpur	1	1	
	Varun	1	1	
	Hanspura	1	1	
	Obra	1	1	
	Rafiganj	1	1	
	Gaya	Gaya (rural)	1	1
		Mohanpur	1	1
Gurua		1	1	
Wazeerganj		1	1	
Nawada	Pareya	1	1	
	Atri	1	1	
	Govindpur	1	1	
	Rajoli	1	1	
	Hisuiya	1	1	
	Warsaliganj	1	1	
	Narhat	1	1	
	Pakribarayan	1	1	
Kauakol	1	1		

1	2	3	4
Muzaffarpur	Bauchaha	1	1
	Kanti	1	1
	Boli (Muroi)	1	1
	Meenapur	1	1
Vaishali	Hazipur	1	1
	Mahua	1	1
	Lalganj	1	1
	Jandaha	1	1
	Mehana	1	1
	Gorol	1	1
West Champaran	Ramnagar	1	1
	Bagha	1	1
	Narkatiyaganj	1	1
Sitamarhi	Majerganj	1	1
Shivhar	Piprahi	1	1
Darbhanga	Birol	1	1
	Bahadurpur	1	1
	Bahedi	1	1
Samastipur	Samastipur (rural)	1	1
	Roeda	1	1
	Ujiarpur	1	1
	Tajpur	1	1
Gopalganj	Baroli	1	1
	Vijaipur	1	1
Siwan	Raghunathpur	1	1
	Guthni	1	1
Saharsa	Sonbaras	1	0
	Salkhua	1	0
Supol	Basantpur	1	1
	Radhopur	1	1
Purnia	Kartyanandnagar	1	1
	Badharakothi	1	1

1	2	3	4
Araria	Nargama	1	1
	Sikti	1	1
Katihar	Falka	1	1
	Koda	1	1
Banka	Rajon	1	0
Munger	Sangrampur	1	1
Lakhisarai	Hasli	1	1
Shekhpura	Arlyari	1	1
	Sekhpura	1	1
Begusarai	Bachpada	1	1
	Bhagwanpur	1	1
	Cheriyariyarpur	1	1
Jammui	Khaira	1	1
Total		84	81

(II) Construction of Anganwadi Centres

District	Blocks	Target	Achievement
1	2	3	4
Patna	Neobstpur	40	35
	Phulwarisharif	43	42
	Bead	47	47
	Bikan	50	47
	Bekhtiyarpur	31	30
Bhojpur	Bedhara	44	43
	Tarari	35	29
	Udatnagar	26	22
	Sahar	41	27
Kaimud	Durgawati	23	20
	Kudra	23	23
	Cheand	20	14
Rohtas	Sesaram	40	40
Beksar	Rajpur	43	21

1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Nalanda	Noorsaraya	32	31		Lalganj	55	45
	Biharsharif (rural)	38	38		Jandaha	44	44
	Sarbera	17	17		Mehanar	22	21
	Islampur	33	32		Gorol	53	35
	Asthavo	44	42	West Champaran	Ramnagar	39	22
	Hamaut	31	25		Bagha	31	15
Aurangabad	Daudnagar	28	27		Narkatiyaganj	50	0
	Madanpur	34	31	Sitamarhi	Majerganj	30	29
	Varun	29	27	Shivhar	Piprahi	31	30
	Hanspura	25	24	Darbhanga	Birol	49	42
	Obra	35	31		Bahadurpur	41	41
	Rafiganj	40	40		Bahedi	44	23
Gaya	Gaya (rural)	37	37	Samastipur	Samastipur (rural)	46	40
	Mohanpur	31	31		Rosda	53	53
	Gurua	27	27		Ujiarpur	44	44
	Wazeerganj	44	44		Tajpur	39	36
	Pareya	31	31	Gopalganj	Baroli	51	49
	Atri	41	41		Vijaipur	22	22
Nawada	Govindpur	36	29	Siwan	Raghunathpur	35	35
	Rajoli	28	28		Guthni	21	21
	Hisuiya	31	27	Saharsa	Sonbarasa	39	13
	Warsaliganj	32	30		Salkhua	37	0
	Narhat	24	18	Supol	Basantpur	24	22
	Pakribarayan	32	21		Radhopur	45	34
	Kauakol	28	20	Purnia	Kartyanandnagar	49	26
Muzaffarpur	Bauchaha	36	30		Badharakothi	31	22
	Kanti	62	57	Araria	Nargama	36	0
	Doli (Murof)	38	34		Sikti	23	23
	Meenapur	48	47	Katihar	Falka	36	26
Vaishali	Hazipur	21	19		Koda	37	28
	Mahua	58	51				

1	2	3	4
Banka	Rajon	30	15
Munger	Sangrampur	20	20
Lakhisarai	Hasli	31	20
Shekhpura	Ariyari	27	27
	Sekhpura	29	29
Begusarai	Bachpada	38	35
	Bhagwanpur	33	29
	Cheriyariyarpur	27	21
Jamui	Khaira	39	39
Total		3008	2503

[English]

Telephone Exchanges in Orissa

1272. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone exchanges in Orissa as on October 31, 2003;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up new telephone exchange in the State during 2003-2004; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) 118

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Details of new telephone exchanges proposed to be set up in the state during 2003-2004 are given below:

Sl.No.	Name of District	Name of the Proposed Exchange
1	2	3
1.	Balasore	Bartana
2.	Ganjam	Gaudgoth
3.	Gajapati	Mandalsahi

1	2	3
4.	Kalahandi	Bandhakana
5.	Kalahandi	Madanpur
6.	Kalahandi	Kirkakani
7.	Nuapada	Kuliabandha
8.	Nayagarh	Koehka
9.	Bolangir	Ghumsar
10.	Cuttack	Kulashree
11.	Cuttack	Salapara
12.	Jaipur	Janak
13.	Anugul	Nalam
14.	Keonjhar	Benamunda
15.	Keonjhar	Salinia
16.	Koraput	Digapur
17.	Raygada	Dangasorada
18.	Raygada	Jagadalpur
19.	Sambalpur	Jharibahal

Closure of Mini-Welfare Centres in Chandigarh

1273. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Mini-Welfare Centres were working till recently in slums of Chandigarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these Centres have been closed down;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the number of persons affected thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Eight Mini Family Welfare Centres had been working in Chandigarh from 1995-96 to 1997-98 with Government of India assistance under the India Population Project (IPP)-VII. Financial assistance from GOI under IPP-VII stopped on 31.12.1997 after IPP-VII ended.

Thereafter the Chandigarh Administration closed five centers, namely at Palsora Colony, Colony No. 5, Colony No. 4, Sector 31 and Mauli Jagran. The remaining three centers at Khudda Alisher, Kishangarh and Bapu Dham Colony are functional and are being run by NGOs without any financial assistance.

(e) No beneficiary was directly affected from closure of these centers because the people living near the closed centers are serviced by Dispensaries/Health Centres of the Department of Health and Family Welfare.

Recommendations of MCI

1274. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI:

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

(a) whether the Medical Council of India (MCI) has proposed to the Government that those doctors who have served in rural areas for at least three years be given priority in admission to post graduate courses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to have a specific three years medical course to train physicians to serve exclusively in rural areas;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether despite the recommendations of MCI doctors are showing least interest in serving rural people; and

(f) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government on the recommendations of the MCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (f) No, Sir. The MCI has not made any such recommendation to the Government.

Potable Water from Sea

1275. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre has developed nuclear technology to derive potable water from the sea; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Two processes for the desalination of water from the sea, viz., multi Stage Flash (MSF) and Reverse Osmosis (RO) have been developed by the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC). The plant for production of 1800 m³/day of desalinated water from sea water by RO process at Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu has already been commissioned in August, 2002. The plant with MSF technology will produce 4500 m³/day of desalinated water from sea water and is also located at Kalpakkam. This plant is an advanced stage of construction.

[*Translation*]

National Highways in Uttar Pradesh

1276. SHRI AMIR ALAM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the National Highways passing through Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the number of districts connected with these National Highways;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to connect the remaining districts of Uttar Pradesh with the National Highways; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) 30 Nos. of National Highways pass through Uttar Pradesh.

(b) 60 Nos. of Districts are connected with the National Highways.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

**Funds for Indian Systems of Medicine
and Homoeopathy**

1277. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated by the Government for the development of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether more funds have been sanctioned for the development of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The total allocation for the Ninth Five Year Plan was Rs. 364.43 crores.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. For the Tenth Five Year Plan, the allocation is Rs. 775.00 crores.

[English]

Job Opportunities to OBCs

1278. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided adequate job opportunities to the persons belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBC) in the various Departments under the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the OBC staff strength is far less than what it should be in comparison to the total strength, particularly in Groups A and B;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the remedial measures taken by the Government to provide adequate representation to OBC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes. The Government regulations on reservation of posts for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) provide that 27 per cent of the vacancies in civil services and posts

to be filled through direct recruitment shall be reserved for Other Backward Classes (OBCs). Moreover, Candidates belonging to OBCs recruited on the basis of merit in an open competition on the same standards prescribed for the general candidates shall not be adjusted against the reservation quota. The Government has been providing reservation for the OBCs in all grades where there is an element of direct recruitment.

The details in respect of Ministry of External Affairs Secretariat (MEA), Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Central Passport Organisation (CPO), since 1995 when the reservation for OBCs was introduced, are as under;

MEA Secretariat

Group	Number of OBCs recruited
A	35
B	60
C	42
D	22
Total	159

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)

There has been no direct recruitment in ICCR ever since the introduction of reservation for OBC category. Hence, the number of OBCs recruited in ICCR, since 1995 when the reservation for OBCs was introduced, is Nil.

Central Passport Organisation (CPO)

Group*	Number of OBCs recruited**
C	112
D	11
Total	223

(*There is no direct recruitment in Group A and B level posts in CPO, and hence the number of OBCs recruited in Group A and B is Nil.)

(**Since 1995 when the reservation for OBCs was introduced)

(c) to (e) The following statistics give a picture of implementation of reservation for OBC Category in Group A and B posts in the Ministry of External Affairs:

Group	Percentage of posts filled by OBC Category (as against the prescribed limit of 27%)
A	29%
B	28.7%

It is evident from the above that the Government is providing for representation of OBCs in accordance with the norms and guidelines on the subject. The Government continues to ensure adequate representation of OBCs in posts filled through direct recruitment.

Opening of Medical Colleges

1279. SHRI Y.V. RAO:
SHRI ALAKESH DAS:

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

(a) the number of medical colleges in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have received proposals from the State Governments for the opening of medical colleges;

(c) if so, the number of pending applications for new colleges, State-wise; and

(d) the time by when the pending applications are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Information is given in the enclosed as statement.

(b) and (c) Two proposals from Government of Tamil Nadu and One proposal from Government of Chhattisgarh have been received.

(d) Clearance of these proposals depends on fulfillment of qualifying criteria prescribed in "Establishment of New Medical Colleges Regulations, 1999" of Medical Council of India, availability of infrastructural facility and recommendations of Medical Council of India thereon.

Statement

Number of Medical Colleges in the Country State-wise as on 8.12.2003

S.No.	Name of the State	Total number of Medical College
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27
2.	Assam	3
3.	Bihar	8
4.	Chandigarh	1
5.	Chhattisgarh	2
6.	Delhi	5
7.	Goa	1
8.	Gujarat	12
9.	Haryana	3
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	4
12.	Jharkhand	3
13.	Karnataka	30
14.	Kerala	13
15.	Madhya Pradesh	6
16.	Maharashtra	38
17.	Manipur	1
18.	Orissa	3
19.	Pondicherry	5
20.	Punjab	6
21.	Rajasthan	7
22.	Sikkim	1
23.	Tamil Nadu	19
24.	Uttar Pradesh	12
25.	Uttaranchal	2
26.	West Bengal	7
Total		221

Construction of Roads in South Andaman

1280. SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the name of the five year plan which included the construction of road from Marine to Upper Katchal;

(b) the status of the said construction as on date;

(c) whether the Environment Clearance has been obtained for the construction of road in Hangsapuri and Sholbay 19;

(d) if so, the time by when the clearance is likely to be obtained; and

(e) the time frame fixed for the completion of construction of these roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) Annual Plans 1995-96, 1996-97, and Five Year Plan 2002-2007.

(b) Out of 11 Kms, 2 Km length of road was completed during the years 1995-96 to 1996-97 and for the remaining length from Km 2 to 11, survey work is in progress. After approval of the estimate, construction work will be taken up in a phased manner.

(c) Environmental clearance proposal for construction of road in Hangsapuri has been submitted to the competent authority for approval. Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study for construction of the road in Sholbay 19 has been taken up with National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur. On getting report from NEERI, proposal for environmental clearance will be submitted.

(d) The E.I.A. study report from NEERI, Nagpur for construction of the road in Sholbay 19 is expected by March 2004 and thereafter the proposal would be submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forest.

(e) Construction of these roads would be taken up on getting the environmental clearance.

Setting up of Maritime Academy in Kerala

1281. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for setting up of a Maritime Academy and a Unit of the Department of Hydrographic Survey at Vizhinjam in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Vision Document for Health Sector

1282. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a task force to prepare a vision document for transforming India into a major health destination;

(b) if so, whether the detailed proposals in this regard have been finalized by the task force and submitted to the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and the major centres in the country which are to be developed as health destinations;

(d) whether the centres are proposed to be developed in the private sector, joint sector and or by the Government alone; and

(e) if so, the anticipated financial implications involved in the development of such centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Irregularities in Purchase of CGHS Unani Medicines

1283. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 479 on July 23, 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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee set up by the Government for the purpose has given its report. The recommendations in the Enquiry Report are given in the attached statement.

The Government has examined the Inquiry Report and it has been decided to accept it *in toto*.

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

Statement

The Committee recommends that disciplinary action should be initiated against the follows:

- (a) Dr. M. Shamoom, the then In-charge UMSD and Member Secretary of the Purchase Advisory Committee is solely responsible for not getting the approved supply of Tab. Neurotone and received supplies of underweight tablets in spite of the note recorded by the PAC. He did not take up the matter with the concerned firm while placing the supply orders. Not only were the supplies received they were dispatched to the dispensaries for further distribution. Therefore, the work and conduct of the officer is unbecoming of a Govt. servant and he has failed in performing the duties and responsibilities attached to his post which has resulted in the loss to the exchequer as full payments have been made for the underweight supplies received from the firm. Further, he has tried to mislead the authorities by justifying the irregular act of the firm.
- (b) The Chairman and all Members of the Purchase Advisory Committee have failed in discharging their duties in not out rightly rejecting the underweight medicines while approving it with a clause. No efforts were made even in the next meeting to follow up the note recorded on the approval statement.
- (c) The Members of the Inspection Committee have also failed in discharging their duties effectively while knowing specifically about the objection of underweight medicines recorded by the PAC and failed to ensure proper supply.

- (d) The then Addl. Director, CGHS and Chairman for having put the same member in both, PAC and the Inspection Committee and for not having initiated proper and timely action despite complaints even though he was Chairman of the PAC.

Recommendations:

- (a) At present the Purchase Advisory Committee comprises of Addl. Director, CGHS, MSD, Dy. Advisor, ISM, 4 Unani Physicians, Account Officer, CGHS and CMO In-charge, UMSD and the Inspection Committee comprises of Dy. Advisor ISM and 2 Senior most In-charge of CGHS Unani Dispensaries. The Committee recommends that since the Department of Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy is now a separate department of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare; that the Department of Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy is the cadre controlling authority for doctors belonging to Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy streams; that it administers a number of councils belonging to Indian System of medicines and Homoeopathy disciplines, it is not appropriate for doctors from Allopathic stream to head the Purchase Committees/Inspection Committee for drugs for Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, etc. In fact, the credibility of the recommendations of such committees headed by the Modern System of Medicine doctors is itself questionable. In view of these, the Committee recommends that it is for the Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy to constitute both the PAC as well as the Inspection Committee at their level along with terms of reference of each committee separately. The Chairman and Members could be chosen by the Dept. from amongst the Specialists/Doctors of eminence in the respective fields. The PAC shall be responsible for finalisation of formulary, registration of firms and placement of supply orders. These Committees can however, report to the Director, CGHS.
- (b) The Committee found there were no clear cut guidelines for the PAC or the Inspection Committee were common. The Committee recommends that both the Committees should have different set of members and should be revamped as per CVC guidelines periodically.
- (c) The Committee found there were no clear cut guidelines for the PAC or the Inspection

Committee or for the Store in Charge. It is suggested that the powers and responsibilities of the PAC; of the Inspection Committee and of the Store in charge be delineated clearly to ensure greater transparency and for registration of credible firms.

- (d) The Committee was dismayed to note that even basic weighing devices were not available with the Unani Store. The store should be at least reasonably equipped with some basic testing devices.
- (e) Greater official monitoring at all levels is required. Rather than reacting only on complaints. Frequent inspection need to be carried out.
- (f) In-service trainings for CGHS Unani Doctors in Unani Pharmacopia can be arranged which will update and enhance their knowledge/efficiency.
- (g) Since there are no specific Lab tests for these Drugs the Committee recommends that the PAC may consider inserting penalty provisions in the contracts to take action against supplying firms failing to conform to standards/specification as required.
- (h) The Committee recommends that a Special Audit and 100% physical verification of medicines be got conducted in all CGHS Unani dispensaries for the last three years.

Cargo Handling at Major Ports

1284. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cargo handled at major ports during the last six months has recorded slow growth;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the action taken to improve the existing ports to build cargo volumes in order to attract main line container vessels for fast and direct service to global destinations?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The focus in the major ports during the Tenth Five Year Plan period will, inter-alia, be on improving

productivity through technological upgradation, provision of cost effective services and enhancement of service quality. This is planned to be achieved through upgradation/conversion of existing conventional berths to suit emerging requirements; construction of new berths; upgradation of cargo handling equipment and maintenance procedures; redesigning and upgradation of internal road network and circulation systems where required; upgradation of storage facilities and other port infrastructure, improved equipment and labour productivity, optimization of work force, training, optimal use of information technology, etc.

It has also been decided to develop a hub port each on the East and West coasts of the country, at Chennai and Jawaharlal Nehru Ports respectively and to develop an international container transshipment terminal at Vallarpadam, Cochin so as to tap the increasing potential for container traffic and to attract mainline vessels for fast and direct service to global destinations.

[Translation]

Pulse Rate of Cellular Phone Calls

1285. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2962 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 therefor?

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

(b) The information as applicable at the relevant time is as follows:

The 24th Amendment to Telecom Tariff Order, issued by TRAI on 24th January, 2003 mentions the following in respect of cellular mobile air time charges. "Forbearance provided that: Every service provider shall specify a monthly rental and airtime charge per minute with the pulse duration of 30 seconds, as a "Reference Tariff Package of the Service Provider", the operators are at liberty to offer alternative tariff packages depending upon the usage pattern of the subscribers. TRAI receives tariff

plans being filed by the operators, which, inter-alia, specifies a pulse rate. This pulse rate differs in various alternative tariff packages filed by the operators. The Government has not done monitoring or checking of the pulse rate for any operator so far. No specific complaint to this effect has been received.

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

[English]

Task Force on I.T.

1286. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Information Technology Task Force has submitted a report to the Government; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made and the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) The National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development constituted by the Prime Minister's Office vide Notification dated 22.5.1998 submitted 108 recommendations as "Information Technology Action Plan: Part I". As per the updated status of the Action Taken Report, out of the 108 recommendations, 64 have been implemented, 4 have not been implemented, 37 are in the nature of "On-going" and 3 have not been accepted.

Construction of Bogibeel Bridge

1287. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction of the Bogibeel bridge over Brahmaputra has been undertaken;

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

(c) the stage at which the construction stands at present, and

(d) the time by which the same is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) Construction of the Bogibeel bridge is being undertaken by the Railways. As per the survey report, cost of construction of this bridge has been assessed at about Rs. 1760 crore. The final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition, supply of boulders has been taken up. The work of approach road to bridge site on both North and South banks are in advance stage of completion. Earthwork, minor and major bridges for Railway embankment has been taken up wherever land has been made available.

(d) The project is targeted for completion by April, 2008.

VPTs in Orissa

1288. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Village Public Telephones installed in Orissa during the Ninth Plan period;

(b) the target set for the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether the VPT installed in the Scheduled districts in the State are very less than the developed districts in the States;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard during the Tenth Plan to remove this regional imbalance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) 19175 Village Public Telephone (VPTs) have been installed in the State of Orissa during Ninth Plan period.

(b) Target for the Tenth Five Year Plan period is to provide 10295 VPTs excluding 701 depopulated villages are 636 villages lying in thick forest or naxalite infested areas etc. and till 31.10.2003, 5190 VPTs have already been provided.

(c) to (e) Government has planned to provide telecom facility to all the revenue villages of all scheduled as well as less developed districts of the State. Satellite based VPTs are planned for hilly, remote and inaccessible locations for which tenders have been invited and allotment of fund from Government is awaited.

Setting up of Colleges of Excellence

1289. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission plans to set up 150 colleges of excellence; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the probable colleges selected for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by University Grants Commission (UGC), during the Tenth Plan it is proposed to identify 100 colleges under the scheme "Colleges with Potential for Excellence". These colleges are to be screened at 2 levels—first at the university level and second at the UGC level with the help of Standing Committee. The proposals received by UGC through respective universities will be considered accordingly under the Scheme.

[Translation]

Category-wise Personnel in the Ministry

1290. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2214 dated August 6, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(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) Yes, Sir.

(b) The information is in statement attached.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

(a) Details of personnel groupwise are given below:

Groups	No. of personnel
'A'	-375
'B'	-1827
'C'	-2788
'D'	-731

(b) The details are given below:

Category	No. of personnel
OBCs	-537
STs	-373
SCs	-1042

(c)

Group	OBC	ST	SC
'A'	7	12	39
'B'	127	129	282
'C'	321	161	457
'D'	81	69	232

Assistance to Technology Institutes

1291. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Institutes of Technology financed in the country during the last three years, State-wise, year-wise;

(b) the steps being taken by the Government for the promotion of human resource development related projects in the country;

(c) whether the Government is aware of the cases of diversion of the funds allocated for these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the measures being taken by the Government to check the check the diversion of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) There are more than five thousand approved technical institutes in the country in the field of Engineering & Technology, Pharmacy, Architecture, Management, MCA, etc. These institutes are operating in various sectors namely central, states, self-financing, etc. State-wise details of funds being received by these institutes under various schemes is not maintained centrally. The Ministry occasionally provides financial assistance to the States for specific purpose, such as central assistance to State Governments for implementation of revision of scales of pay of teachers in degree level technical institutions in the States. In order to improve the overall quality of technical education, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) also operates various schemes such as Modernisation and Removal of Obsolescence (MODROB), Research & Development (R&D), Thrust Areas in Technical Education, etc. under which financial assistance are provided to technical institutions in the State. No specific case of diversion of funds has come to the notice of this Ministry.

[English]

Trauma Centres

1292. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of full-fledged Trauma Centres working in the Capital at present;
- (b) whether some of these centers are running without Neuro Surgeon;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether a Trauma Centre was to be set up in Safdarjung Hospital long time back but the same has not yet been set up;
- (e) if so, the reasons for the delay; and
- (f) the time by which the Trauma Centre is likely to be set up in the hospital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) In so far as the Central Government Hospitals in the Capital are concerned there are adequate arrangement for appropriate treatment of trauma victims. Neuro Surgeons are working in Dr. RML Hospital, Safdarjung

Hospital and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS).

(d) to (f) At present no such proposal is under consideration.

UNEP Report on Asian Brown Cloud

1293. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the report of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) about the presence of a three kilometer thick layer of pollutants dubbed "Asian Brown Cloud" over South Asia as reported in the Hindu dated November 19, 2003;
- (b) if so, the details of the report;
- (c) the response of the government thereto; and
- (d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA'): (a) and (b) Yes sir. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) used the term "Asian Brown Cloud" first in August, 2002 referring to a layer of atmospheric pollutants noticed over the Indian Ocean during an observational campaign in winter months of 1996-1999. The report attributed that the pollutant layer was being caused by biomass burning over South Asia and had significant climatic impacts.

(c) and (d) To examine the UNEP report, the Government of India constituted an expert committee with Director General, Indian Meteorological Department as its Chairman. The Committee, in its findings, submitted that uncertainties existed in interpretation of observed data and neither the cause nor the impact could be conclusively ascertained. The UNEP itself later called it "Atmospheric Brown Cloud", admitting that this was not necessarily linked to South Asian region. The India Meteorological Department is setting up a network of stations making observations of aerosols and other pollutant gases so as to identify the amount of pollution that is locally generated and the amount that is transported over long distances across international

boundaries and prepare a budget of atmospheric aerosols over the region.

[*Translation*]

Penalising Parents for Wards

1294. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government intends to penalise/educate the parents whose wards remain absent from the school; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) Level of awareness among parents regarding need to send children regularly to school is being raised through grassroots level education committees and media campaigns.

Resolution of IOC on J&K

1295. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the recently adopted resolution on Jammu and Kashmir by the Organization of Islamic countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

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

(b) The Summit (Putrajaya) Declaration did not contain references to any country/regional issues (including J&K). However the OIC Summit Communiqué, the Statement of the OIC Secretary General, Declaration of the OIC Contact Group on J&K and other routine OIC Resolutions contain references to J&K as in the past but with incremental changes.

(c) The OIC has no locus standi in matters concerning internal affairs. The Government of India therefore rejects all such resolutions and references outright.

[*English*]

India as a Destination for Specialised Treatment

1296. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GWDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is fast emerging as a destination for specialised treatment due to its efficient and low-cost medical facilities;

(b) if so, the number of foreigners who visited India during the last two years for treatment in various Hospitals;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to extend infrastructural facilities to African countries in building their health care system;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the countries which have shown their interest in seeking help from India in this regard?

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

(b) A large number of foreigners particularly from the African countries have been visiting India in the recent years to make use of the low cost quality treatment provided by Indian Hospitals.

(c) and (d) Government of India has been providing assistance from time to time under bilateral agreement to help African countries in the field of Health.

(e) The following countries have expressed their interest to take help from India as evident in the India-Africa Health Summit organised by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Department of Commerce, Government of India-Ghana, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Kenya, Morocco, Angola and Zimbabwe, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Health Sector has also been signed with Seychelles, Sudan and Tanzania.

Upgradation of Medical Facilities

1297. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a plan to upgrade the facilities at the Government Medical Colleges and attached hospitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Bank assistance for this purpose is likely to be sought;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether a proposal to strengthen and upgrade medical colleges and attached hospitals in Maharashtra is pending for a long time with the Central Government; and

(f) if so, 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 (d) Yes, Sir. In 2001 all State Govts./UTs were requested to formulate suitable project proposals for strengthening the quality of medical education and improving the physical infrastructure of the Government Medical Colleges and attached hospitals with World Bank assistance.

(e) and (f) A project proposal with an estimated cost of Rs. 550 crore was received from the State Government in January, 2002 for World Bank assistance. This was sent to Department of Economic Affairs for posing it to World Bank. While observing that focus of World Bank funding in Health and Family Welfare Sector has been on primary health care, disease control programme, RCH, etc., Department of Economic Affairs has stated that the external funding for medical colleges and attached hospitals would take away the focus from primary health care, etc. and have requested for a review of the said project proposal.

CRF Proposals

1298. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals sent by Orissa for assistance under the Central Road Fund in 2002-2003 and 2003-2004;

(b) whether the Union Government have processed these proposals; and

(c) if so, the time by which a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) During 2002-03 and 2003-04, 111 no. of proposals costing Rs. 126.65 crores and 124 no. of proposals costing Rs. 147.70 crores respectively were received from Government of Orissa under the Central Road Fund.

(b) and (c) 101 no. of works costing Rs. 98.89 crores have been sanctioned so far. As per this Ministry's guidelines the Bank of Sanctions to the extent of two times the annual accrual under Central Road Fund (CRF) is maintained. Sanction of further proposals will be taken up after receipt of utilisation certificates from the State Government subject to the Bank of Sanction criteria.

Expansion/Modernisation of Telecom Network

1299. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

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

(a) the details of steps taken for the expansion/modernisation of telecom network in Madhya Pradesh and Orissa during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the amount spent thereon and earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The steps taken by BSNL for expansion/modernisation of telecom network in Madhya Pradesh and Orissa during Tenth Five Year Plan are as follows:

- (1) Connecting all exchanges by reliable media (majority on Optical Fibre cable).
- (2) Change of all Analogue Exchanges into Digital Exchanges.

- (3) Provision of adequate Switching Capacity.
 (4) Conversion of all SBM Switches into RSUs.
 (5) Conversion of 256 P RAX switches into AN RAX.
 (6) Introduction of WLL and GSM Mobile Service.
 (7) Introduction of New Services like ISDN, Internet Broadband & IN Services.

- (8) Opening of Modern Customer Care Centres.

The achievement details of various Telecom Parameters for Madhya Pradesh and Orissa for the year 2002-03 and 2003-04 are furnished in the statement enclosed.

(b) The Budget allocation for the Circles is done on a yearly basis. The details for the same are furnished below:

Year	Madhya Pradesh		Orissa	
	Amount Earmarked	Amount Spent	Amount Earmarked	Amount Spent
2002-2003	392.79 Crores	466.69 Crores	232.14 Crores	361.60 Crores
2003-2004	372.73 Crores	To be finalised as the financial year 2003-04 is not yet over	190.85 Crores	To be finalised as the financial year 2003-04 is not yet over

Statement

Sl. No.	Parameters	Achievements 2002-2003		2003-2004 (Upto 31-10-2003)	
		Madhya Pradesh	Orissa	Madhya Pradesh	Orissa
1.	Switch. Cap. (Lines)	161516	144404	69276	94724
2.	Direct Exch. Lines (Nos.)	167874	151395	82002	93313
3.	Trunk Auto Exch. (Ccts)	20500	20500	19500	16000
4.	VPTs (Nos.)	0	5078	4	112
5.	OFC (Rkms)	4422	1609	363	142
6.	Internet Conn. (Nos.)	11505	5556	8417	3907
7.	Exchanges (Nos.)	82	41	8	14

Immunization of Children Under ICDS

1300. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the functions of the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme (ICDS) is immunization of all children who come under this Scheme;

(b) if so, whether any special emphasis is being given for immunization under this Scheme;

(c) if so, whether any targets in respect of health care for children have been set under the ICDS; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Immunization against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Tetanus, Measles, Poliomyelitis and Tuberculosis is one of the services

provided to children below 6 years of age under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme.

While the actual services are provided by the health functionaries, Anganwadi Workers assist them in the implementation of immunization programmes.

Foreign Agencies for Surveying Ships/ Fishing Vessels

1301. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow foreign agencies to offer their services for surveying ships and fishing vessels flying the Indian flag or waiting to work in Indian waters;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of foreign surveyor firms engaged for this work;

(c) whether the Government propose to privatise this work which is presently being done by the Mercantile Marine Department (MMD); and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to remove the monopoly of MMD in this field?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has already delegated surveying authority to foreign Classification Societies as well as one Indian Classification Society namely, Indian Register of Shipping (IRS). In so far as survey of foreign flagships and fishing vessels are concerned, they are governed by the respective flags' rules. The foreign Classification Societies who have been delegated surveying authority for Indian flag vessels are as follows:

1. American Bureau of Shipping
2. Lloyds Register
3. Bureau Veritas
4. Det Norske Veritas
5. Germanischer Lloyd
6. Nippon Kaiji Kyokai

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There is no possibility of privatizing the statutory survey work which is being done by MMDs. Government has ratified various International Conventions on Safety of Ships and Pollution Prevention

and under the provisions of these Conventions is directly responsible for ensuring that the Indian ships comply fully with the requirements of all the Conventions ratified by it. Hence although major survey work of Indian ships has been delegated to the Classifications Societies, MMDs are required to monitor their work/survey reports. Moreover each Maritime Administration is expected to carry out Port State Control inspections of foreign ships calling its ports in sufficient numbers under the provisions of IMO instruments, so as to ensure that sub-standard ships do not call its ports. The Port State Control inspections have to be carried out by properly trained Administration Surveyors only.

State of Affairs in Emergency Wards

1302. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that due attention is not being paid to those who visit the emergency wards of Government hospitals in Delhi as reported in the *Times of India* dated September 8, 2003;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be 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) So far as Central Government hospitals in Delhi, namely, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated Hospitals as well as All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) are concerned, it is endeavoured to provide due care and adequate attention to all patients attending the emergency department. Occasionally, however, due to sudden rush of patients, there may be instances where patients have to wait for their turn to avail the treatment.

Offensive Portrayal of Hindu God

1303. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHARY:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Hindu community in the U.S. had recently petitioned to the Prime Minister protesting against the nude image of Lord Ganesha printed on the cover of a book containing many offensive passages;

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

(c) the action taken/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) An internet petition signed by members of the Indian Hindu community in the U.S. recently protested against the cover image of Lord Ganesha as well as against some of the passages and interpretations contained in the 2001 edition of Paul Courtright's book *Ganesha: Lord of Obstacles, Lord of Beginnings* published by M/s Motilal Banarsidas Publishers Private Limited. The petition was addressed, *inter alia*, to the Prime Minister.

(c) The Government, through the Indian Embassy in Washington DC, is in touch with the Indian American community and the matter has been taken up with the author as well as with the Emory University where the author is employed at present. Subsequent to the internet petition and protest emails, the publisher has withdrawn the book and issued an apology. The author has confirmed that he had no role in selecting the book cover and also said that he was "distressed that anyone found his discussions of Lord Ganesha offensive."

BSNL Schemes for Mobile Subscribers

1304. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) whether the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has launched any new promotional schemes for its mobile subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of other mobile phone operators and the consumers thereto?

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

(b) Some of the promotional schemes were on all India basis and some in selected areas depending upon availability of capacity.

Schemes like full talk time on recharge coupons offered from 22nd September, 2003 till 31st December, 03 and Student Power-99 from 2nd September, 2003 till 31st October, 2003 were on all India basis.

Some of the schemes launched on area basis were Rs. 600/-free talk time with no activation fees from 19.8.2003 to 31.8.2003, Student Power-99 from 1.11.2003 to 31.1.2004, One+One scheme (1 Cell One connection free on purchase of one Cell One connection) launched from 1.7.2003 to 31.7.2003 and Rs. 600/-talk time free for six months to new CellOne customers from 24.7.2003 to 15.8.2003, etc.

BSNL has also tied up with SBI Cards and ICICI Credit Cards to provide cellular handsets of major brands at attractive monthly instalments to SBI Credit Card holders and ICICI Credit Card holders.

(c) As per information gathered from newspapers, other cellular operators also reacted aggressively and introduced matching schemes in both Post-paid and Pre-paid category.

Customer's reaction was very positive. BSNL experienced a substantial growth in customer base with these schemes.

[Translation]

Development of Robot

1305. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Marine Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) Durgapur has developed a robot namely "ROB-200 MK-2" which can be used for exploration under the sea; and

(b) 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) Yes Sir. Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur has developed a Remotely Operated Vehicle

(ROV-200 MK-II) which has been tested successfully for underwater operations up to a depth of 200 meters off Chennai coast with support from National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai. ROV consists of an open frame structure with cylindrical buoyancy package, landing pads, a sub-sea control box, underwater sensors, a camera system and five A.C. thrusters. It has a payload of 60 Kg. (maxm.) and a propulsion speed of 2.0 knots.

[English]

Bidding for Limited Mobility

1306. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether private fixed line operators have been bidding for offering limited mobility;

(b) if so, the number and details of such operators alongwith the area in which they propose to operate; and

(c) the terms of agreement and the fees leviable on

the operators and phone users (consumers) for such services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Private fixed line (Basic Service) Operators have been granted licenses without any tendering process. There was no limited on number of operators. The details of Private Basic Service Operators along with Service Areas, as on 31.10.2003 are given in the statement attached. The Basic Service Operators were required to pay licence fee @ 12.10 & 8% of Adjusted Gross Revenue and additional spectrum charges @ 2% of Adjusted Gross Revenue earned from wireless local loop subscriber for wireless access spectrum, apart from entry fee payable before signing of the licence agreement. Such Private Basic Service Operators, have however migrated to Unified Access Service licence regime after payment to the tune of Rs. 1643.51 crores. A penalty of Rs. 525.24 crores was levied in respect of one of them. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has prescribed forbearance for tariffs in respect of Limited Mobility to be provided by Basic Service Operators.

Statement

List of Private Basic Service Licensees

S.No.	Name of Service Area	Name of the Private Basic Services licensees
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
2.	Andhra Pradesh	M/s Tata Teleservice Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
3.	Assam	Nil
4.	Bihar	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
5.	Delhi	M/s Bharati Telenet Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
6.	Gujarat	M/s Reliance Telecom Ltd. M/s Tata Teleservice Ltd.
7.	Haryana	M/s Bharati Telenet Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.

1	2	3
8.	Himachal Pradesh	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Nil
10.	Karnataka	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
11.	Kerala	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
12.	Madhya Pradesh	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
13.	Maharashtra	M/s Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
14.	North East	Nil
15.	Orissa	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
16.	Punjab	M/s HFCL Infotel Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
17.	Rajasthan	M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
18.	Tamil Nadu	M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd. M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd. M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd.
19.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
20.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.
21.	West Bengal	M/s Reliance Infocomm Ltd.

National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme

1307. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has recently announced a National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme for the country;

(b) if so, the salient features of the programme including the funds earmarked for it; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Union Government for its implementation, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) A National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme (NVBDCP) by convergence of three ongoing centrally sponsored schemes namely National Anti Malaria Programme (NAMP), National Filaria Control Programme (NFCP) and Kala-azar Control Programme (KACP) and inclusion of prevention and control of Dengue, and Japanese Encephalitis (JE) has been approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on 15th October, 2003. A total outlay of Rs. 1370 crores has been made for Tenth Five Year Plan for NVBDCP, out of which an

amount of Rs. 206.82 crores has been spent during first year and provision of Rs. 245 crores kept for 2nd year leaving the balance amount of Rs. 918.18 crores for the remaining period of the current Five Year Plan.

The broad strategy for control of vector borne diseases includes surveillance, early diagnosis and prompt treatment and sustainable vector control including indoor residual spray with insecticide treated bed nets, use of larvivorous fish etc., besides training and Information Education and Communication (IEC) to enlist community involvement.

For malaria control, the Government of India provides medicines, insecticides and larvicides as per approved policy. The programme is implemented and monitored by the state health authorities and the operational costs are borne by the State Governments. North Eastern States are being provided 100 percent support for programme implementation including operational cost since December 1994. Sikkim has been included as part of NE region for such support from current year. 1045 PHCs predominantly inhabited by tribals in 100 districts in 8 states namely Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan are also being provided additional support since September 1997 including operational expenses under Enhanced Malaria Control Project (EMCP) with World Bank assistance.

For Filaria Control larvicides, adulticides and anti filaria medicine are being provided by the Centre. For Kala-azar Elimination efforts, 100% Central assistance, except for regular staff of concerned State Governments is being provided under NVBDCP.

For prevention and control of Dengue and Japanese Encephalitis need based technical assistance and support for investigation of outbreaks, capacity building through training and insecticides for fogging for outbreak containment is being provided to the States.

[Translation]

Demolition of Jawahar Vatika In Delhi University

1308. COL. (RET.D.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jawahar Vatika located in the premises of Delhi University and constructed in the memory of the first Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru has been demolished;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

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

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 of Delhi, the administrative offices of the University are housed in the old Vice-Regal Lodge which is listed by INTACH as one of the heritage buildings in Delhi. The University is in the process of restoration of this building and as a part of this process the surroundings, including Jawahar Vatika, are also being restored to the earlier natural settings conforming to history and ecology.

[English]

Waiting List for Telephone Connections

1309. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applicants waiting for new telephone connections in Punjab till date;

(b) the number of new connections released in the State during the last two years and the number of applications received by the department during the same period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to clear the backlog?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) A total of 1,02,990 applicants are in the waiting list as on 30-11-2003 for new telephone connections in Punjab.

(b) The number of new connections released in the State during the last two years and number of applications received by BSNL during the same period are as under:

Year	No. of Connections released	Number of applications received
2001-2002	384704	246122
2002-2003	121002	166264

(c) To clear most of the backlog, BSNL has planned a total of 1,69,000 DELs (Direct Exchange Lines) to be provided during 2003-2004 on Fixed and WLL (Wireless in Local Loop) in addition to 2,20,000 No. of Cellular DELs subject to availability of resources.

Telephones to Village Panchayats

1310. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether all village Panchayats have been connected with Telephones with STD facility in Maharashtra and Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to provide telephones to village Panchayat with STD facility; and

(e) the target fixed in this regard during the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) In Maharashtra, out of 24937 Village Panchayat, 22917 Village Panchayat have been provided with telephone facility by BSNL with 160 Village Panchayat having STD facility. In case of Karnataka all the 5692 Village Panchayat have been provided with telephone facilities and out of these 455 Village Panchayat telephones have STD facility.

(c) BSNL has completed its obligation of provisioning of Village Panchayat Telephones but there has been slippages on the part of the private operators. However, the remaining uncovered villages shall be provided with telephone through Universal Service Obligation (USO) fund as a part of rural telephone network programme.

(d) As far as provisioning of STD facility is concerned it can be provided to any village telephone as STD facility is available in all the telephone exchanges and there is no bar to provide STD on Village Panchayat or Village Public Telephones.

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

Supply of Medicines

1311. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that medicines to be made available in CGHS dispensaries are not in supply and mostly these medicines are indented for local purchase causing inconvenience to the beneficiaries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures being taken to improve the condition of CGHS dispensaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Adequate stock of medicines/drugs are available in the CGHS dispensaries. These medicines are supplied to the dispensaries through the CGHS Medical Store Depots/ Govt. Medical Store Depots, 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 authorized local chemists without making any payment so as to avoid any inconvenience to the beneficiaries.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above the question do not arise.

Inclusion of Potable Water in Food Items

1312. SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

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

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to include potable water in the list of food items; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) The Government is considering an amendment in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 for bringing water within the definition of food.

Dental Diseases Programme

1313. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:

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

(a) whether dental diseases among children and young people are taking the shape of epidemic in the country due to continuous increase in the consumption of chocolates, toffees and cold drinks;

(b) if so, whether AIIMS and Dental Association have suggested to include the dental diseases programme in the National Disease Eradication Programme; and

(c) 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 (c) It is true that due to rising consumption of chocolate, toffee and soft drinks, there is an increase in the incidence of dental diseases. The Government have initiated a Pilot Project on National Oral Health Care Programme in five States of Delhi, Punjab, Maharashtra, Kerala and North Eastern States. The main objective of this programme is to develop a low cost, sustainable and accessible preventive programme. The main component of this programme is the oral health education of the community i.e. to generate awareness among the public about the good oral hygiene and to restrict sticky food items and follow healthy practices.

Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

1314. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 49th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference was held in October 2003 in Dhaka;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed during the said Conference;

(c) whether Pakistan is still not considered a member of the Commonwealth;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(e) The steps proposed to be taken by the member nations to implement the decisions taken at the Conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The 49th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference was held from 4-12 October 2003 in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Conference discussed global and intra-Commonwealth partnerships for promoting sustainable development, economic and social development, good democratic governance, international terrorism, reform of the UN and WTO, global peace, human rights and gender issues.

(c) and (d) Pakistan was suspended from membership of the Commonwealth Councils by the Commonwealth Heads of Government in Durban in November, 1999 because of the overthrow of the democratically elected government in Pakistan in October 1999. Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) re-affirmed its decision on September 26, 2003 in New York.

(e) Recommendations of the Conference are sent to Member Nations for action as may be considered appropriate.

VRS in MTNL

1315. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) whether the MTNL has recently introduced VRS for its employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the MTNL employees and its union have opposed this scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. MTNL's proposal is not yet approved.

(c) As per MTNL, the employees and their Union have expressed their reservation during preliminary discussions.

(d) MTNL is a profit making Nav Ratna Public Sector Undertaking. The MTNL Board is competent to devise VRS as per Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) guidelines.

[Translation]

Screening Test of Doctors

1316. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:
SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

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

(a) whether Indian students who obtain medical education from out of India are required to qualify a screening test for practicing in India;

(b) if so, the reasons for imposing such a screening test;

(c) whether the Government propose to do away with the requirement of screening test; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It was noted over a period of time that there was no uniformity in the standards of medical education in various foreign countries and therefore, it was felt that the knowledge and skills of Indian citizens possessing such qualifications should be evaluated before they could be allowed registration to practice medicine in India. Accordingly, the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956

was amended in the year 2001 to provide for Screening test.

(c) and (d) No such decision has been taken by the Government.

[English]

Financial Assistance to Autonomous Colleges

1317. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of autonomous colleges in the country as on date, State-wise and University-wise;

(b) the financial assistance provided to them during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether the Government provide more financial assistance to the autonomous colleges in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) According to the information furnished by the university Grants Commission (UGC), the number of autonomous colleges in the country as on date is 133. A statement indicating State-wise and University-wise break up of these colleges is attached.

(b) The UGC provided financial assistance amounting to Rs. 853.67 lakh, Rs. 121.00 lakh and Rs. 423.27 lakh to the autonomous colleges during the year 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 respectively.

(c) and (d) Financial assistance up to Rs. 12.00 lakh per annum is provided by the UGC to an autonomous college which can be utilized for orientation and re-orientation of teachers; re-designation of courses and development of teaching/learning material; examination reforms; and purchase of equipments, furniture, books and journals, etc.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the State	Name of the University	Number of autonomous colleges
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	(i) Andhra University	8
		(ii) Nagarjuna University	4
		(iii) Osmania University	8

1	2	3	4
2.	Chhattisgarh	(i) Guru Ghasidas University	4
		(ii) Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University	7
3.	Gujarat	(i) Gujarat University	1
4.	Himachal Pradesh	(i) Himachal Pradesh University	5
5.	Madhya Pradesh	(i) Awadhesh Pratap Singh University	4
		(ii) Barkatullah University	2
		(iii) Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya	6
		(iv) Dr. Harisingh Gaur University	4
		(v) Jiwaji University	3
		(vi) Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya	5
		(vii) Vikram University	1
6.	Maharashtra	(i) Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University	1
		(ii) University of Pune	1
		(iii) Shivaji University	1
		(iv) S.N.D.T. Women's University	1
7.	Orissa	(i) Berhampur University	2
		(ii) Sambalpur University	6
		(iii) Utkal University	9
8.	Tamil Nadu	(i) Bharathiar University	11
		(ii) Bharathidasan University	9
		(iii) University of Madras	14
		(iv) Madurai Kamaraj University	10
		(v) Manonmaniam Sundaranar University	2
		(vi) Periyar University	2
9.	Uttar Pradesh	(i) University of Allahabad	1
		(ii) Kanpur University	1
		(iii) Purvanchal University	2

Telecom Services

1318. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWASI:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRI BHERULAL MEENA:
SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI:
DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL:

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

(a) whether some private operators are offering full roaming facilities by forwarding calls in the name of multiple registration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this facility is in violation of norms fixed by the Government;

(d) if so, whether the Government has received complaints regarding quality of telecom services by BSNL/MTNL as well as private operators; and

(e) if so, the details and the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Some private operators offered facilities of multiple registration of their subscribers coupled with forwarding of calls fusing same handheld wireless terminal. In certain areas, these facilities were being invoked by utilising over the Air Activation of handset facilities. As combination of such features was blurring the distinction between limited mobility facilities within a Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) and the Cellular Mobile Telephone Services, the Operators were directed to discontinue the facility of Over the Air Activation as well as use of same handset in more than one SDCA in Wireless Access System for providing multiple registration or Temporary Subscriber Service.

(d) and (e) Telecom Regulatory Authority of India widely publicized the performance of various Operators including BSNL/MTNL in respect of Quality of Service parameters which includes Call Completion Rate, Call Drop Rate, Fault Rate, Restoration Time and Billing Complaints. Various Operators take corrective measures like upgradation of equipment/network, training of staff to reduce complaints for retaining/enrolling subscribers in a competitive environment.

Setting up of International University of Buddhist Studies

1319. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to establish an international University of Buddhist studies in Dharmasala;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the assistance proposed to be provided to the University to construct its own building; and

(c) the help likely to be received from the UNESCO in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

D.P.E.P.

1320. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

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

(a) the total amount released by the Government for the District Primary Education Programme during the last three years; State-wise;

(b) the amount not utilized by States during the said period; State-wise;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the amount allocated has been diverted for other purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) The amount released by the Government of India to the various States under the District Primary Education Programme (DPEP) during the last three years and the unspent balance with the

concerned project States as on 1.4.2003 is given in the statement attached. The unutilized funds with the State Implementation Societies at the close of the financial year are on account of less expenditure than anticipated on certain activities and also include funds released in advance to meet the expenditure on the project during the next financial year.

(d) to (f) No instance of diversion of funds for non-DPEP activities has come to the notice of Central Government.

Statement

(Rupees in lakhs)

S.No.	State	Funds released by GOI during 2000-01 to 2002-03	Unspent balance as on 01.04.2003
1.	Andhra Pradesh	29900	7737
2.	Assam	13695	2133
3.	Bihar/Jharkhand	14400	5539
4.	Jharkhand	6300	982
5.	Gujarat	8388	2617
6.	Haryana	14746	4405
7.	Himachal Pradesh	5000	0
8.	Karnataka	18700	0
9.	Kerala	6650	114
10.	Madhya Pradesh/Chhattisgarh	42100	1241
11.	Chhattisgarh	5900	0
12.	Maharashtra	18748	0
13.	Orissa	16100	1658
14.	Rajasthan	21800	4019
15.	Tamil Nadu	9501	0
16.	Uttar Pradesh	80700	7586
17.	Uttaranchal	3800	5337
18.	West Bengal	15612	4441

Note: Unspent funds are based on cumulative releases and expenditure upto 01.04.2003.

Funds for Population Control

1321. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Population Fund has sanctioned certain amount for control of population in the country, as reported in the 'Navbharat Times' dated August 14, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of States and districts identified for utilizing the said amount; and

(d) the criteria fixed for identifying States and districts in this regard?

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

(b) to (d) The details are in the attached statement.

Statement

The UNFPA has been assisting the Govt. of India in their national effort on population stabilization since 1974 through its five-year programmes known as the UNFPA Country Programmes. So far, five such Country Programmes have been implemented. The last Country Programme (CP-5) (1997-2002) ended in December, 2002. Under this programme activities related to three sub-programme components viz. (i) Reproductive Health; (ii) Population and Development Strategies; and (iii) Advocacy were taken up for implementation. Apart from continuing these activities, the Sixth Country Programme (C.P.6) has included four complementary interventions, namely, (i) HIV/AIDS; (ii) Adolescent Health; (iii) Gender Issues; and (iv) Monitoring through Result Based Programming. CP-6 is to be implemented at national and State levels at a cost of Rs. 365.00 crores for the period 2003-2007.

2. The programme implementation at State level includes 32 districts of 5 States namely Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra and Gujarat. In Kerala, only State level activities are being undertaken. The 32 districts State-wise are as under:

(1)	Rajasthan (8 districts)	Sawai Madhopur, Karauli, Chittaurgarh, Bhiwara, Udaipur, Alwar, Bharatpur and Rajsamand.
(2)	Madhya Pradesh (5 districts)	Satna, Rewa, Siddhi, Panna and Chhatarpur.
(3)	Orissa (4 districts)	Koraput, Rayagada, Malkangiri and Nabrangpur.
(4)	Maharashtra	
	Five Municipal Corporations (Urban)	Thane, Pune, Kalyan, Bhiwandi & Ulhasnagar
	Five Districts Rural	Thane, Nandurbar, Gadchiroli, Dhule and Chandrapur.
(5)	Gujarat (5 districts)	Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Dahod, Surendra-nagar and Kutch.
(6)	Kerala (no specific district focus—programme being implemented at State level).	

3. While the State/District level programmes are being implemented by the respective State Health and Family Welfare Departments, the national level programme is being implemented mainly through the Department of Family Welfare, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare with inter-sectoral coordination from the other Departments of Government of India namely, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Department of Women and Child Development and Department of Rural Development. There is a strong monitoring mechanism through a Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Family Welfare), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare at national level and Review Committees at the State levels.

4. As regards criteria adopted for identifying States and Districts under the programmes, it is the socio-demographic indicators as adopted for the 5th Country Programme, since CP-6 is in continuation of CP-5. The five socio-demographic indicators adopted in CP-5 for selection of districts are (i) age at marriage, (ii) sex ratio, (iii) female literacy rate, (iv) infant mortality rate and (v) total fertility rate. The three States namely, Rajasthan, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh have the lowest socio-demographic indicators in the country. Besides, the other three States, namely, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Kerala have gender inequities, unmet needs, incidences of rising HIV/AIDS prevalence in tribal groups and urban slums.

[Translation]

Collection of Arrears

1322. DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) whether a number of subscribers and companies have not paid their telephone bills to MTNL and BSNL;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount outstanding as on October 31, 2003; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to recover the said amount including the amount recovered during the last three months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL) and Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), the two public sector telephone providers, maintain information on the arrears on telephone dues telephone number-wise, and not Company-wise. However, the total outstanding amount against the defaulting subscribers as on October 31, 2003 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) After corporatization of the operational arm of the Government w.e.f. 1.10.2000, the Government no longer handles operations, including the recovery of outstanding dues. It is Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, which are responsible for recovery of these dues.

For recovery of the outstanding dues, all necessary actions, as indicated below, are taken by MTNL and BSNL:

1. The defaulter telephones are disconnected when the dues continued to be unpaid.
2. High Power Committees and Liquidation Boards have been set up to facilitate liquidation of dues.
3. Targets for liquidation of outstanding is set and performance monitored against them each year.

4. The collection efficiency is monitored each month.
5. Outstanding Pursuit Cells are functioning at Corporate level and also at Circle level.
6. Where necessary, after disconnection of telephone, legal action is also initiated for recovery of the dues.
7. Disputed cases are referred to Arbitrators under the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

Amount recovered during last three months is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Allocation of Funds to IIMs

1323. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated/released to the three IIMs located at Kolkata, Ahmedabad and Bangalore by the Government during the last three years and till date;

(b) whether these IIMs are churning out well trained cheap executives for MNCs;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the extent to which the Government funding is required for the institutions who are working to help MNCs get subsidised recruits; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to stop funding IIMs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The amount released to the IIMs located at Ahmedabad, Bangalore & Calcutta during the last three years & till date, both Plan & Non-Plan, are as under:

IIM Ahmedabad	:	Rs. 3640.22 lakhs
IIM Bangalore		Rs. 3002.56 lakhs
IIM Calcutta	:	Rs. 3468.22 lakhs
Total	:	Rs. 10111.00 lakhs

(b) to (d) IIMs have been set up to serve the needs of business and industry by providing a steady stream of professionally competent and value-oriented management experts. The Management Graduates from IIM are being recruited in various sectors like Public Sector undertakings, Private sector companies, Banks, Financial institutions, Consultancy Firms, IT/Software Industry, Pharmaceutical Industry, Consumer Industry, MNCs, etc. Details regarding placement of graduates to MNCs from the IIMs at Ahmedabad, Bangalore and Calcutta are being collected from the Institutes for the last three years.

(e) IIMs have been set up in the Central Sector. There is no case for stopping funds to these institutions at present.

[Translation]

Shortage of Platelet Kits in Hospitals

1324. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is shortage of Platelet Kits in the Blood Banks of several Government hospitals in Delhi as reported in the 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated October 8, 2003;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) There is no shortage of platelet concentrate (Platelet kits) in Central Government Hospitals in Delhi.

The Government of NCT, Delhi reported that there has been no shortage of platelets in the Blood Banks of GTB and LNJP Hospitals. These hospitals do not have cell separators.

(c) As informed by the Government of NCT of Delhi, proposal for procurement of Cell Separators is under consideration.

[English]

Cash Incentives to Poor Children

1325. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain States have given cash incentives to poor children for the universalisation of primary education;

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

(c) the cost involved and the success achieved therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) to (c) Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal have reported that they are not giving cash incentives. Information in respect of remaining States is being collected.

Assessment of Performance of Teachers

1326. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRI AMBAREESHA:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

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

(a) whether the students of V to XII of the Kendriya Vidyalayas across the country will assess and evaluate the performance of their teachers and decide their fate as reported in the 'Indian Express' dated September 18, 2003;

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

(c) the circumstances which prompted the Government to take such a step; and

(d) the benefits likely to be derived out of it?

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

provided the infliction of the major penalty of removal from service after the second assessment by students upon those who do not improve even after being given a chance after first assessment by the students after giving them a show cause notice before inflicting penalty. Provision for appeal also exists within the framework of the Article.

(c) and (d) According to 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. However, KVS has decided to re-examine the issue.

Targets for Opening of New Telephone Exchanges

1327. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the targets set for opening new telephone exchanges during the Ninth Five Year Plan have been achieved;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the State-wise, targets fixed and achieved during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) BSNL (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) added 9188 new telephone exchanges against a target of 10108 during the Ninth Five Year Plan. Deployment of Wireless in Local Loop

(WLL) System was preferred against opening of balance new telephone exchanges for providing telephone connections due to scattered demand and economic viability.

MTNL added 19.95 lakhs line against a target of 22.85 lakhs line of switching capacity. Marginal shortfall in target of switching capacity was due to reduced demand for new telephone connections.

(c) Circle-wise details of target fixed and achieved in respect of BSNL are given in the attached statement-I.

The details of targets fixed and achieved in respect of MTNL are given in the attached statement-II.

Statement I

Target & achievement of BSNL regarding opening of new telephone exchanges during Ninth Five Year Plan

S.No.	Circle	Target	Achievement
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	23	41
2.	Andhra Pradesh	923	874
3.	Assam	219	180
4.	Bihar	638	466
5.	Madhya Pradesh	290	393
6.	Gujarat	868	756
7.	Haryana	180	178
8.	Himachal Pradesh	265	217
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	179	74
10.	Karnataka	600	407
11.	Kerala	282	142
12.	Maharashtra	1691	1848
13.	North-East	180	122
14.	Orissa	227	240
15.	Punjab	468	377
16.	Rajasthan	530	633
17.	Tamil Nadu	344	325
18.	Uttar Pradesh (East)	1203	1043
19.	Uttar Pradesh (West)	333	343
20.	West Bengal	665	529
	Total	10108	9188

Statement II

Target & achievement of MTNL regarding Switching capacity during Ninth Five Year Plan

Sl. No.	MTNL	Target (lakh lines)	Achieved (lakh lines)
1.	Delhi	11.00	10.06
2.	Mumbai	11.85	9.89
	Total	22.85	19.95

Dump Sites for Burying Nuclear Wastes

1328. SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether dump site has been identified to bury nuclear wastes permanently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the safety measures proposed to be taken 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) Radioactive waste in different categories is generated during operation and maintenance of nuclear reactors. Radioactive waste with low activity content is permanently disposed off in near surface underground-engineered facilities. These facilities are co-located along with major nuclear installations in access controlled area. The high level waste generated in the fuel reprocessing plant is being presently stored in the plant itself. No site has been identified so far for permanent disposal of high level waste.

(c) Safety measures are in position for all existing waste disposal facilities. Waste is immobilized in stable and inert form in cement like materials and is packed in metallic containers. These waste packages are placed in engineered underground structures and sealed. The design, construction and operation conform to international standards and practices. The disposal operations are carried out under the surveillance of regulatory authorities.

Setting up of a Model Institute of ISM & H

1329. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to develop one Model Institute of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homoeopathy in each State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details regarding projects approved/likely to approved, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) A Centrally Sponsored Plan Scheme namely "State Model College of Ayurveda/Siddha/Unani/Homoeopathy" is being implemented from the current financial year for developing one Model Institute per system in each State. So far the proposals received from the State Governments of Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Kerala, Maharashtra and Orissa have been scrutinized and sanctioned as follows:

Karnataka

1. Government Ayurvedic Medical College, Bangalore Rs. 150 lakhs released

Himachal Pradesh

2. H P Govt. Institute of P.G. Education & Research in Ayurveda, Paprola, H.P. Rs. 140 lakhs released

Uttaranchal

3. Rishikul State Ayurvedic College, Haridwar Rs. 100 lakhs released

Kerala

4. Govt. Ayurveda College, Thiruvananthapuram Rs. 150 lakhs released

Maharashtra

5. R.A. Poddar Govt. Ayurveda College, Mumbai Rs. 55 lakhs released

Orissa

6. Dr. A.C. Homoeopathy Med. College & Hospital, Bhubaneshwar Rs. 150 lakhs released

Job Opportunities to OBCs

1330. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided job opportunities to the persons belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the various Departments/Undertakings under the Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the OBC staff strength is far less than the total strength, particularly in Group A and B;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide adequate job opportunities to OBC;

(f) whether the Government have asked for any detailed reports from the various Departments and undertakings under the Ministry regarding the current status of OBC representations in Group A, B, C, and D; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (e) The instructions issued by Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension providing 27% reservation for Other Backward Classes in civil posts/services are followed by the Ministry. The appointments are made in the Ministry on the basis of nominations sent by the Department of Personnel & Training.

(f) and (g) A Consolidated Annual Statement regarding representation of OBCs in the Ministry for every

calendar year is sent to Department of Personnel & Training.

Impact of Globalisation on Health Sector

1331. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has done a comprehensive study and assess the impact of globalisation on health sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, WHO with the help of Apollo Health Street Ltd. has done a study on Cross-Border Trade in Health Services-(E-health). The Report gives the essential ingredients and implications of Globalization of Trade Agreements (GATS) with relation to Mode 1, namely cross-border trade. The broad areas of the study included inter-alia, the policy and strategic framework, the legal framework, the human resource framework, the technology framework, the financial framework and status of cross border trade, all of which have an impact on the progress of the initiative taken.

Upgradation of Engineering Colleges

1332. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to upgrade the Colleges of Engineering into a centre of excellence by providing only academic autonomy without making any administrative reforms in the institution; and

(b) if so, the details of such colleges selected for the purpose during the year 2003-04, State-wise, college-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) As per the information furnished by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), they are considering proposal for providing academic autonomy to technical institutions in order to make them 'Centres of Excellence'. One of the main criteria for granting autonomy is that all the programmes of such institutions must be accredited by the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) of AICTE. AICTE has initiated preparation of consolidated guidelines

for processing such proposals. During the year 2003-2004, no college has so far been selected for providing academic autonomy.

Mahila Samakhya Programme (WCD)

1333. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahila Samakhya Programme for women's empowerment through education is being implemented in the country particularly in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount released or proposed to be released to Karnataka during 2003-04 for the above programme;

(d) whether female literacy rate has increased on account of implementation of the above programme in the country particularly in Karnataka; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The Mahila Samakhya Programme is being implemented in 9 States in the country including Karnataka.

(b) Mahila Samakhya is a programme for the education and empowerment of women in rural areas particularly those from socially and economically marginalized groups.

(c) Mahila Samakhya budget for Karnataka in the current year 2003-04 is Rs. 390.00 lakhs of which Rs. 100.00 lakhs has been released so far.

(d) and (e) Various studies have shown that the Mahila Samakhya programme has had a positive impact on women's education as well as on enrolment and retention of children at school, especially girls in areas in which the programme is functioning. A demand for literacy of women has also been generated and women are actively ensuring educational opportunities for their children, especially girls.

Disinvestment of NBCC

1334. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NBCC (National Building Construction Company) is in the process of being disinvested;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether final bidder has been finalised; and

(d) if so, the percentage of equity being offered?

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

(b) The Government has decided to disinvest 74% of the equity in National Building Construction Company (NBCC) through Strategic Sale alongwith transfer of management control. Expressions of Interest from interested parties have been invited through an open advertisement.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Expressions of Interest have been invited for 74% of the equity in NBCC Ltd.

[Translation]

Category-wise Personnel in the Ministry

1335. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1412 on July 30, 2003 and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Information with regard to Officers and Staff in various categories in the Ministry, its attached/Subordinate Offices and PSUs

Categories	SC	ST	OBC	Gen	Total
Group A (Including officers of PSUs)	460	88	251	2766	3565
Group B (Gazetted)	21	6	2	108	137
Group B (Non-Gazetted)	171	51	43	1260	1525
Group C	1008	250	151	6545	7954
Group D (Including PSUs)	672	159	36	2240	3107

Child Welfare Projects

1336. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the ongoing Child Welfare Projects in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of financial assistance provided by the Government to the States in order to implement these projects during the current financial year and the last three years;

(d) whether there is any proposal to enhance the financial assistance to be provided by the Government during the next financial year; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Setting up of a Technology Incubation Centre

1337. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Orissa has submitted any proposal for setting up of a Technology Incubation Centre at Bhubaneswar; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA'): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Telephone Booths in each Village

1338. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had taken a decision to sanction Telephone Booths in each village in the state:

(b) if so, the number of applications received by the Government to install Telephone Booths during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the number of application cleared so far;

(d) the number of Telephone Booths sanctioned and under operation in those villages; and

(e) the details thereof; State-wise?

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

[Translation]

Violation of Licence Terms by Reliance

1339. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether the Government have made any assessment of the profit earned by Reliance Infocom after violating the licence norms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the criteria fixed for charging penalty from Reliance Infocom for violating licence norms including the outstanding penalty?

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

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

(c) The Government has accepted the expert view of independent Regulator i.e. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI), which is based on the Regulator's own analysis of the situation taking into account the terms and conditions of the licence. Accordingly, a penalty of Rupees 525.24 crores was imposed.

(d) Reliance Infocom is to pay penal interest from date of signing of license agreement till the date of migration of Unified Access Service Regime in addition to the entry fee paid by fourth Cellular Operator in respective service area. The penal interest is charged as per the terms and conditions of the Cellular Mobile Service License dealing with delay in payment of any dues. The amount had been paid and there is no outstanding amount in this respect as on date.

[English]

Import of Ships

1340. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of ships imported during the last three years alongwith the number of second hand ships;

(b) whether the Government have chalked out any plan to promote the growth of the Indian Merchant fleet;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Ministry of Finance has been urged for lifting of customs duty on import of ships; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): (a) The details of number of vessels along with second hand imported during the last three years are as under:

Year	No. of New ships	Second hand ships	Total
2001-02	1	19	20
2002-03	2	9	11
2003-04 (Till 30.11.2003)	6	11	17

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government has a plan to acquire 156 vessels of 3.26 million Gross Tonnes to replace and modernize the Indian fleet during the 10th Five Year Plan. The following steps have also been initiated for the promotion and growth of Indian Merchant fleet:

- (i) A working group has been constituted to study and legislate for the introduction of Tonnage tax as recommended by Rakesh Mohan Committee.
- (ii) Amendment in Section 33 AC of the Income Tax Act is being contemplated to reduce the period of retaining the acquired assets to three years from the current period of eight years.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. At present import of ocean going ships do not attract any custom duty. However, custom duty of 5% on import of tug and dredgers is applicable at present.

Offices of Mercantile Marine Departments

1341. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mercantile Marine Departments (MMD) have offices in various ports in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the ports where MMD have its offices;

(c) whether the Government have not expanded the number of offices of MMD;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the steps proposed to review the total functioning of MMD; and

(f) the number of new offices proposed to be opened by MMD?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. There are 9 Mercantile Marine Departments (MMDs) in various ports in the country. These are divided into 3 maritime districts at Mumbai, Chennai and Kolkata. The MMD offices at Mumbai, Kochi, Goa and Jamnagar are under the control of Mumbai district, MMD offices at Chennai, Tuticorin and Vizag are controlled by the Chennai district and the MMD offices at Kolkata and Port Blair are under Kolkata district. The number of the offices of MMDs could not be expanded owing to the economy instructions of the Government.

(e) and (f) There is a proposal to review the functioning of the MMDs, in view of the ever increasing work load and the number of International Maritime Organisation Conventions/Protocols ratified by the Government of India.

Computerised System for Monitoring a Patient

1342. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the IIT, Kanpur has invented a low cost computerised system for monitoring a patient under anaesthesia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this invention is gathering dust at the IIT, Kanpur;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR.

VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. IIT, Kanpur has invented a low cost computerised system for monitoring a patient under anaesthesia. Anaesthesia Monitor can measure the level of consciousness and overall muscle relaxation during surgical operation under anaesthesia.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The development of this system has just been completed and a patent application has been filed. Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), a government organization, created for the purpose of facilitating intellectual rights is helping IIT Kanpur with the patent application. A meeting with the patent attorney is scheduled on December 30, 2003.

Indo-Pak Discussion on Education

1343. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether the High Commissioner of Pakistan met Minister of Human Resource Development recently and discussed issues of mutual interest in the areas of education as reported in 'Hindu' dated 18.11.2003;

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

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) Yes sir, it was primarily a courtesy call. In passing, it was mentioned that once the dialogue between India and Pakistan gets underway, cooperation in HRD between the two countries could also be considered.

Counterfeit Trade in IT Sector

1344. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that counterfeit trade in IT hardware has increased and it is having negative impact on the growth of leading IT hardware manufacturers;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government with the help of State Governments propose to take concrete steps to check the spread of counterfeit market of IT products; and

(c) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) The Department of Information Technology (DIT) has no information on the quantum of counterfeit trade in IT Hardware. Under the Copyright Act, 1957, a computer programme is protected and not hardware. Violation of Trademarks is a punishable offence and enforcement agencies at Centre and State levels enforce the same vigorously. Department of Revenue State levels enforce the same vigorously. Department of Revenue Intelligence has effected seizures of computer parts in 4 cases valued at Rs. 2.31 crores attempted to be smuggled into India in violation of Provisions of Customs Act, 1962 in this financial year. For curbing counterfeit trade and the grey market, DIT has recommended reduction in levies and tariffs on IT Hardware.

Setting up of IT Software Park

1345. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a 160 acre IT software park in Gurgaon;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total estimated cost of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the State Government of Haryana, 18th July 2001 for setting up STPI Centre at Gurgaon on 1 acre of land. STPI Centre at Gurgaon is designed to provide statutory services, High Speed Data Communication and Incubation facility to the software export industry. The total estimated project cost for setting up of STPI Centre at Gurgaon is Rs. 985 lakhs.

Government of Haryana has granted licenses to the private developers to develop a Software Park/Cyber City in Gurgaon in the private sector as per the details given below:

S.No.	Name of Company	Name of the project	Areas in acres
1.	M/s DLF Universal Ltd.	Cyber City	78.12
2.	M/s Kanwar Sain Jain & Others	Cyber City	13.584

[Translation]

Construction of Super Highway

1346. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work of Super Highway on National Highway Nos. 204 and 211 in Maharashtra is under construction;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the districts through which the National Highways Nos. 204 and 211 pass?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) National Highway No. 204 passes through Ratnagiri and Kolhapur districts and National Highway No. 211 passes through Solapur, Osmanabad, Aurangabad, Beed, Chalisgaon and Dhule districts.

Green Card Facilities to IT Professionals

1347. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had requested the UK, US and European Union countries to extend the green card facilities to Indian IT professionals till the end of 2004;

(b) if so, the response of each of these countries to this request; and

(c) the number of requests from Indian professionals and entrepreneurs for such green cards pending with the Government till April, 2003 and the number out of them already been issued cards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) The Green Card Scheme is applicable only in Germany. The National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) had taken up the issue of extension of the scheme with relevant authorities in Germany. The German Federal Cabinet has approved the extension of the "Green Card Initiative" for foreign IT specialists till 31st December, 2004. The new regulation also removes the earlier fixed ceiling of 20,000 work permits.

(c) The Green Card Scheme was introduced by the German Government in August, 2000. Till 30th October, 2003, a total of 15,360 Green Cards have been granted, out of which 4,174 were given to Indian nationals, the biggest national group of German Green Card holders.

Modernization of Small Scale Drug Units

1348. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the implementation of schedule of notification under GSR No. 894 dated December 11, 2001 has put considerable extra financial burden on small scale drug units;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made available loans/subsidies under the modernization and upgradation scheme to small scale drug units;

(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) The objective of revised Schedule M to the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules, 1945 published vide GSR No. 894 [E] dated 11-12-2003 is to achieve uniform standardization and upgradation of quality of drugs produced. The drug manufacturers are likely to be required to provide for additional inputs in order to make their units conform to the standards under revised Schedule 'M'.

Ministry of Small Scale Industries has launched a scheme in October, 2000 called Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme (CLCSS). The scheme provides for 12% upfront capital subsidy to SSI units including tiny units on institutional finance availed by them through 28 Banks, 12 State Financial Corporation, 34 Corporation Banks, 31 Regional Rural Banks and National Small Industries Corporation for induction of Well Established and Improved Technologies approved under the Scheme relating to 30 specified products/sub-sectors including the drug units. The Scheme is implemented at the national level through two Nodal Agencies, namely, Small Industries Development Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.

The allocation for the scheme is Rs. 600 crore for a period of five years starting from October 1, 2000 or till such time as sanction of capital subsidy by the nodal agencies reaches Rs. 600 crore, whichever is earlier.

Further need based support is also provided by AIDBI to SSI Units for acquiring the ISO 9000 certifications for improving the quality of the products manufactured by these Units.

[Translation]

Assistance from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for AIDS

1349. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL:
SHRI R.L. JALAPPA:

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

(a) whether the Government have received financial assistance from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the prevention of AIDS in India;

(b) if so, the amount received by the Government so far; and

(c) the details of the target for an effective utilization of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government of India has so far not received any funds from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

(c) Does not arise.

Criteria for Below Poverty Line

1350. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the criteria for determining the Poverty Line have recently been revised;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the State-wise details of the estimated number and percentage of the rural and urban population living below 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) and (b) No, Sir. The criteria for determining poverty line was originally recommended by a 'Task Force on Minimum Needs and Effective Consumption Demand' in 1979. The Task Force defined poverty line as the per capita expenditure level at which the average per capita per day calorie intake was 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The monetary equivalent of these norms were calculated as monthly per capita consumption 1993, the 'Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor' recommended disaggregation of these national poverty lines into state specific poverty lines using state specific price indices and inter-state price differential. The full Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister accepted the recommendations of the Expert Group with minor modifications in March, 1997. Since then the estimates of poverty at national and state level are being made using the Expert Group methodology.

(c) The Planning Commission estimates poverty at national and state level from the large sample surveys on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five year. The latest such survey was conducted in 1999-2000 (NSS 55th round). The number and percentage of population living below poverty line, separately for rural and urban areas, for the year 1999-2000 are given in statement.

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

No.	States/U.T.'s	Rural		Urban		Combined	
		No. of Persons Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons	No. of Persons (Lakhs)	% of Persons
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	58.13	11.05	60.88	26.63	119.01	15.77
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.80	40.04	0.18	7.47	3.98	33.47
3.	Assam	92.17	40.04	2.38	7.47	94.55	36.09
4.	Bihar	376.51	44.30	49.13	32.91	425.64	42.60
5.	Goa	0.11	1.35	0.59	7.52	0.70	4.40
6.	Gujarat	39.80	13.17	28.09	15.59	67.89	14.07
7.	Haryana	11.94	8.27	5.39	9.99	17.34	8.74
8.	Himachal Pradesh	4.84	7.94	0.29	4.63	5.12	7.63
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2.97	3.97	0.49	1.98	3.46	3.48
10.	Karnataka	59.91	17.38	44.49	25.25	104.40	20.04
11.	Kerala	20.97	9.38	20.07	20.27	41.04	12.72
12.	Madhya Pradesh	217.32	37.06	81.22	38.44	298.54	37.43
13.	Maharashtra	125.12	23.72	102.87	26.81	227.99	25.02
14.	Manipur	6.53	40.04	0.66	7.47	7.19	28.54
15.	Meghalaya	7.89	40.04	0.34	7.47	8.23	33.87
16.	Mizoram	1.40	40.04	0.45	7.47	1.85	19.47
17.	Nagaland	5.21	40.04	0.28	7.47	5.49	32.67
18.	Orissa	143.69	48.01	25.40	42.83	169.09	47.15
19.	Punjab	10.20	6.35	4.29	5.75	14.49	6.16
20.	Rajasthan	55.06	13.74	26.78	19.85	81.83	15.28
21.	Sikkim	2.00	40.04	0.04	7.47	2.05	36.55
22.	Tamil Nadu	80.51	20.55	49.97	22.11	130.48	21.12
23.	Tripura	12.53	40.04	0.49	7.47	13.02	34.44
24.	Uttar Pradesh	412.01	31.22	117.88	30.89	529.89	31.15
25.	West Bengal	180.11	31.85	33.38	14.86	213.49	27.02

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

Notes:

- Poverty Ratio of Assam is used for Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura.
- Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Goa is used to estimate poverty ratio of Goa.
- Poverty Line of Himachal Pradesh and expenditure distribution of Jammu & Kashmir is used to estimate poverty ratio of Jammu & Kashmir.
- Poverty Ratio of Tamil Nadu is used for Pondicherry and A & N Island.
- Urban Poverty Ratio of Punjab used for both rural and urban poverty of Chandigarh.
- Poverty Line of Maharashtra and expenditure distribution of Dadra & Nagar Haveli is used to estimate poverty ratio of Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
- Poverty Ratio of Goa is used for Daman & Diu.
- Poverty Ratio of Kerala is used for Lakshadweep.
- Urban Poverty Ratio of Rajasthan may be treated as tentative.

*[English]***World Bank Loan for Removing Illiteracy**

1351. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has rejected the World Banks' participation in any educational programmes if it is conditional;

(b) if so, whether the World Bank has agreed to provide aid to India for removing illiteracy;

(c) if so, the main conditions put forward by the World Bank including the Government stand thereon;

(d) the total loan, the World Bank has agreed to provide; and

(e) the main programmes to be undertaken by the Government through this aid?

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

Research and Development for Pharma Industry

1352. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any funds had been proposed/earmarked by the Government for the research and development to support pharma industry during the year 2000-2001;

(b) if so, whether the funds have not been sanctioned and released for the purpose so far; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the future planning of the Government in this regard?

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 Science and Technology, Government of India has been operating a Plan scheme entitled "Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Research Programme" since 1994-95 for promoting drug research jointly with pharma industry. During the year 2000-01, five collaborative Research and Development projects were supported and an expenditure of nearly Rs. 4.0 crores was incurred to support the on-going and new projects.

Lung Cancer

1353. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of lung cancer are on the rise in India as compared to other developing countries;

(b) if so, whether Indian doctors are not able to diagnose the disease at the early stage;

(c) if so, whether the Government have formulated any plan to create awareness among the people about this disease;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the technique proposed to be adopted so that doctors can diagnose the disease at the early stage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) According to data maintained by Population Based Cancer Registry of India Council of Medical Research (ICMR), there is a slight upward trend in the incidence of lung cancer in the country. Lung cancer is often detected in late stages and the efforts for screening of lung cancer have not shown satisfactory results. Detection of lung cancer is done through various methods like X-ray chest, bronchoscopy etc. for which facilities exist under the general health care delivery system.

The main cause of lung cancer is smoking of tobacco in various forms which can be avoided by creating mass awareness. In order to create awareness on the ill effects of smoking, various strategies are adopted through the mass media campaign. A Legislation has also been passed by parliament recently to discourage the consumption of tobacco.

WHO Guidelines for Cancer Treatment

1354. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the WHO has assessed that developing countries need one radiation therapy machine per million of people;

(b) if so, whether the Government follows the WHO's guidelines for cancer treatment;

(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) As per World Health Organization, there is need to augment affordable & available facilities for cancer treatment including radiotherapy machines in developing countries and estimates in this regard may be based on the cancer incidence pattern, population distribution and resources available. At present there are about 300 teletherapy machines in the country. During the successive Plans, efforts are made to augment these facilities through National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP). During the 10th Five Year Plan there is an allocation Rs. 285.00 crores for the NCCP.

National Nutrition Mission (NNM)

1355. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a National Nutrition Mission (NNM);

(b) if so, the aims and objectives thereof;

(c) whether this Mission is also likely to review and revise the goals set out in the National Nutrition Policy, 1993 and the National Plan for Action on Nutrition, 1995;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the bodies working for this Mission; and

(f) the steps proposed for achieving the goals set for the Mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Nutrition Mission would be responsible for policy direction and effective coordination

of nutrition programmes being implemented by the Government.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Terms of Reference of the National Nutrition Mission include the review and revision of the goals set out in the National Nutrition Policy of 1993 and the National Plan of Action on Nutrition, 1995 keeping in view the present nutrition profile of the country.

(e) The National Nutrition Mission is headed by the Prime Minister, and its Executive Committee is chaired by the Minister of State for Human Resource Development. It includes, amongst others, the concerned Union Ministers and some Chief Ministers, academicians, technical experts and NGOs.

(f) The Mission was notified on 31.7.2003. The Terms of Reference of the National Nutrition Mission are:

- (i) To review and revise the goals set out in the National Nutrition Policy, 1993 and the National Plan of Action on Nutrition, 1995 keeping in view the present nutrition profile of the country.
- (ii) To review the existing strategies adopted by the various Ministries concerned with nutrition and to revise them for achieving the goals set out by the Mission.
- (iii) To put in place an effective mechanism for coordinating the efforts of the different Ministries concerned with the implementation of nutrition programmes to subserve the nutrition goals.
- (iv) To review the systems of data collection and monitoring of the nutrition status across different regions, groups and particularly the vulnerable population of the country.
- (v) To review research & development and dissemination in the field of nutrition, specially regarding low-cost balanced diet, safe drinking water & sanitation, women & child development and health & family welfare.
- (vi) To address special problems of nutrition during natural calamities.
- (vii) Any other nutrition related issues arising from time to time.

Condition of National Highway

1356. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the dilapidated condition of National Highway from Panikoili and Rajamunda in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the fund sanctioned for the development and maintenance of this highway is not being properly utilised; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (d) Total length of National Highway from Panikoili to Rajamunda (NH 215) is 269 km. This road was declared as a National Highway in 1999. About 105 km length has been improved under various scheme since then. 10 works have been sanctioned at a total cost of Rs. 47.06 crores for a total length of 146 km. out of the 164 km left. Works in some of these stretches are in progress and works have not been awarded in some other sections. The condition of these sections is not reported to be good. Works on these sections are being carried out as per Ministry's sanctions and funds are being utilized accordingly.

Primary, Secondary, Higher Secondary Schools in Villages/Towns

1357. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI A.C. JOS
SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the number of villages and towns covered by primary, secondary, higher secondary schools sparately, as on date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): As per 6th All India Education Survey conducted with reference date 30.9.1993, State-wise number of villages having primary, upper primary, secondary and higher secondary schools is given in Statement-I and urban areas having different categories of schools is given in Statement-II.

Statement I**Statewise Number of Villages having Schooling Facility at Different Stages**

Sl.No.	State/U.T.	Villages having schools with			
		Primary Stage Number	Upper Primary Stage Number	Secondary Stage Number	Hr. Secondary Stage Number
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	23535	8111	4317	464
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1411	365	114	44
3.	Assam	16513	5701	2472	438
4.	Bihar	43810	11137	2908	394
5.	Goa	322	192	153	29
6.	Gujarat	17298	11559	3431	740
7.	Haryana	5909	2661	1678	240
8.	Himachal Pradesh	6571	1969	1031	179
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	5552	2233	825	110
10.	Karnataka	22725	10935	3428	678
11.	Kerala	1327	1240	1022	247
12.	Madhya Pradesh	55397	11430	2745	1243
13.	Maharashtra	36982	17621	6821	1234
14.	Manipur	1835	613	260	35
15.	Meghalaya	3337	777	276	11
16.	Mizoram	596	367	134	2
17.	Nagaland	1030	347	97	4
18.	Orissa	31175	9500	4358	517
19.	Punjab	10324	2946	1865	354
20.	Rajasthan	29157	9191	2811	445
21.	Sikkim	378	180	80	21
22.	Tamil Nadu	13439	5638	2629	882
23.	Tripura	814	544	338	93
24.	Uttar Pradesh	60487	16049	4040	2346
25.	West Bengal	26815	5163	3353	642
26.	A&N Islands	226	88	54	29

1	2	3	4	5	6
27.	Chandigarh	19	13	11	2
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	69	29	11	5
29.	Daman & Diu	20	14	9	0
30.	Delhi	168	101	78	59
31.	Lakshadweep	6	5	5	1
32.	Pondicherry	175	73	36	12
India		417422	136792	51390	11500

Source: Sixth All India Educational Survey conducted by NCERT (Reference date: 30th September, 1993)

Statement II

State-wise Urban Areas having different categories of Schools

Sl.No.	State/U.T.	No. of Urban areas	No. of Primary Schools	No. of Upper Primary Schools	No. of Secondary Schools	No. of Higher Secondary Schools
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	264	4729	1657	2197	769
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10	37	16	7	14
3.	Assam	89	1306	458	409	161
4.	Bihar	280	2933	2029	839	257
5.	Goa	31	207	26	128	29
6.	Gujarat	264	1501	4140	831	1066
7.	Haryana	94	526	229	508	284
8.	Himachal Pradesh	58	251	52	109	74
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	75	652	432	221	126
10.	Karnataka	306	1758	4717	1761	580
11.	Kerala	219	1192	848	565	90
12.	Madhya Pradesh	465	8229	4432	998	1575
13.	Maharashtra	337	5217	4123	3339	1064
14.	Manipur	34	441	146	155	22
15.	Meghalaya	12	180	77	120	5
16.	Mizoram	22	280	188	115	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
17.	Nagaland	9	44	66	60	4
18.	Orissa	124	2085	723	633	81
19.	Punjab	125	1134	145	437	378
20.	Rajasthan	219	4181	2577	687	743
21.	Sikkim	8	0	0	1	2
22.	Tamil Nadu	469	3485	1360	1041	1242
23.	Tripura	18	87	34	32	56
24.	Uttar Pradesh	702	12456	3975	684	1861
25.	West Bengal	382	8122	550	1405	656
26.	A&N Islands	1	7	6	6	10
27.	Chandigarh	5	28	25	58	41
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	2	4	1	2
29.	Daman & Diu	2	5	9	13	3
30.	Delhi	1	1664	445	273	835
31.	Lakshadweep	4	5	5	3	3
32.	Pondicherry	11	150	65	58	29
India		4641	58145	31902	15497	11293

Source: Sixth All India Educational Survey conducted by NCERT (Reference date: 30th September, 1993)

Dematerialising of Postal Savings Instruments

1358. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to dematerialise the postal savings instruments;

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

(c) the purpose behind the dematerialisation of postal savings instruments; and

(d) the charges to be levied on investors in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) A six-

month pilot on 'Dematerialization of Savings Certificates' (NSC/KVP) has started from 16th October, 2003 to give the option to the investors in 10 Post offices of Mumbai to get their NSC & KVP in a dematerialized form with all the facilities currently available in the paper Savings certificates.

(c) The purpose behind this six-month pilot of 'Dematerialization of Savings Certificates' (NSC/KVP) is to assess the acceptability of certificates in a demat form by the investors as this scheme is investors friendly, and to test the cost effectiveness of the revised procedure.

(d) No extra charges will be levied on the investor.

Eradication of Kala-azar

1359. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering for inclusion of Kala-azar Eradication Programme in the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the amount likely to be spent for the implementation of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Elimination of Kala-azar by 2010 is a National Health Policy goal and the programme is included in the Tenth Five Year Plan within the ambit of National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme. The Programme envisages implementation of following strategy for Kala-azar elimination efforts:

1. Vector Control through indoor residual insecticides in endemic areas.
2. Treatment of Kala-azar cases.
3. Information Education Communication for community involvement and capacity building.

The Government of India provides anti Kala-azar drugs, insecticides and operational expenses while the State Governments implement the programme through the existing health infrastructure. A tentative provision of Rs. 217 crores has been made for Kala-azar elimination out of a total plan outlay of Rs. 1370 crores for the National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Waiving of Charges

1360. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BSNL propose to waive charges for shifting of local telephones;

(b) if so, the time by which such a scheme is likely to come into force;

(c) whether the BSNL propose to reduce the ISD charges to the level prevalent in South-East-Asia;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to make BSNL more popular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Local and as well as All India Shifting charges are waived off.

(b) This scheme has already been introduced by BSNL with effect from 24-11-2003.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. BSNL has already reduced the tariff for ISD calls to Singapore, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand to Rs. 12/min. (6 secs. Pulse). This is a promotional offer valid upto 15.01.2004.

(e) Many steps have been taken to popularize BSNL viz:

1. Customer friendly tariffs are issued within the ambit of TRAI's order.
2. Several promotional schemes for Basic, Cellular, WLL, Internet services etc. have been introduced to remain competitive.
3. Electronic media, print media etc. are being used extensively to popularize BSNL.
4. BSNL is the only cellular service provider who has rolled out the mobile services throughout the country excluding Delhi and Mumbai. The mobile services in Assam and North East are likely to be rolled out during the current financial year.

Pakistan's Nuclear Capability

1361. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan within less than a week of test firing Hatf III missile, test fired another medium range nuclear capable missile Hatf-IV on October 8, 2003 with a range of over 700 kms;

(b) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto; and

(c) the manner in which the Government proposes to counter the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes. Pakistan conducted three missile tests in October 2003. On October 3, 2003, it tested short-range Hatf-II (Ghaznavi missile, reported range of 290 kms) and on October 8 and 14, 2003 it tested Hatf-IV (Shaheen missile, reported range of around 700 kms).

(b) and (c) Government continues to closely monitor all developments related to Pakistan's nuclear and missile programmes and remains fully committed to taking all necessary steps to effectively safeguard India's security and national interests.

Survey Conducted by National Institute of Ocean Technology

1362. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of OCEAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Institute of Ocean Technology recently conducted a survey and found that the large amount of plastic and other wastes found both onshore and offshore could deal administer deathblow to the marine wealth of the region and damage the coral reef in the Andaman and Nicobar Island;

(b) if so, whether it has been proposed that government should take recourse to the international convention for prevention of pollution from ship;

(c) if so, whether the Government have examined the suggestions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir. National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai, did observe accumulation of plastic and other waste along the coast of Great Nicobar Island, in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, during a recent survey conducted in the coastal wasters of the Islands

(b) As per the MARPOL 73/78 Regulation (Annex V), disposal of any plastic garbage into the sea is prohibited which came into enforcement in 1.7.1992. All large ships (>400 tons) are required to have onboard a Garbage Management Plan, with required facilities to deal with garbage and maintain a Garbage Record Book. The Surveyors of Mercantile Marine Department of India are empowered to carry out inspection of ships at port call/offshore installations, and to investigate the compliance of the provision of the Regulation and prosecute the offenders.

(c) The Government of India ratified the convention in June 2003, and the necessary steps have been initiated to comply with the requirements of the Convention.

(d) Currently, adequate reception facilities are made available by the ports, which is a requirement under the Convention. Further, the Directorate General of Shipping would take measures through IMO to declare the coastal waters of Andaman & Nicobar Islands as "Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA)" under the IMO, after providing proper reception facilities at the ports. In September 2003, the Andaman Administration carried out cleaning operations along the coast with the help of Indian Navy and removed 400 nos of Plastic bottles.

Thalassaemics

1363. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of thalassaemics in the country;

(b) the number of said people born in the country every year;

(c) whether ninety per cent thalassaemia carriers are below 20 years of age in the country;

(d) if so, whether it is a fact that several thalassaemics are struggling for life due to non-availability of blood for transfusion; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) There is no centralized registry or mechanism to collect the information on prevalence of thalassaemia cases in the country. As per the estimates of the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi, it is estimated that 10,000 thalassaemic children are born every year in our country.

(c) The Thalassaemia major is mainly prevalent in children below twenty years of age and these children survive only one or two decades. Since Thalassaemia is a genetic disease, thalassaemia carrier cases survive full life carrying the defective gene responsible for the disease.

(d) and (e) The mainstay of treatment of thalassaemia is blood transfusion. Sufficient blood is available in blood banks of various hospitals for this purpose. Thalassaemics struggle because of the complications resulting from the iron overload caused by the repeated blood transfusion and not due to the non-availability of blood.

There could be seasonal and occasional shortage of blood in a few blood banks. For generating enough blood through Voluntary Blood Donation Programme, the Government has taken a number of steps such as media campaigns through television, All India Radio, and News Papers, developing Information Education and Communication material for one to one communication, observation of National Voluntary Blood Donation Day on 1st October every year, encouraging rational use of blood among clinicians and the launching of special campaign to educate masses to support Voluntary Blood Donation.

Setting up of Advanced Centres

1364. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up four new advanced centres for Science, Technology and Education on regional basis;

(b) if so, the main objectives thereof; and

(c) the amount earmarked and sites selected for the purpose in the country?

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) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Launching of Reusable Spacecraft

1365. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has any plan to launch re-usable space craft in future;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of countries, at present, who possess the capability to launch re-usable space craft?

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)

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has taken up preliminary studies in the area of reusable launch vehicle for the future.

(b) The preliminary studies are being made towards identifying technologies to be developed for configuring and flight-testing a suitable demonstrator for 'a Reusable Launch Vehicle.

(c) No nation has a fully reusable launch vehicle. USA possesses a partially reusable launch vehicle namely, the Space Shuttle.

UN Resolution of Right to Self-Determination

1366. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has claimed a big success after a United Nations Committee adopted a resolution on people's right to self-determination;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) According to press reports, it appears that Pakistan has claimed the adoption of the resolution on the right of self-determination in the Third Committee of the 58th United Nations General Assembly as a success. However, the facts are that the resolution was adopted with a vote of 88 in favour, 3 against and 64 abstentions, as opposed to its adoption by consensus for more than two decades. It was India, which called for the vote on the resolution and voted against it, after the delegation of Pakistan made unwarranted remarks challenging the unity and territorial integrity of India in their national statement and made the unacceptable linkage of the situation of palestine with that of the India state of Jammu and Kashmir while introducing the resolution.

Job Opportunities to Other Backward Classes

1367. SHRI P.D. ELANGOAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided adequate job opportunities to the persons belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the various Departments, Autonomous Offices, subsidiary and attached offices of his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in most instances the OBC Staff strength is far less than what it should be in corresponding to the total strength, particularly in Group A and B;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof and the remedial measures taken by the Government to provide adequate representation to the OBCs;

(e) whether the Government has asked for any detailed reports from the various Departments, Autonomous offices, subsidiary and attached offices of his Ministry regarding the current status of OBC representation in Group A,B,C, and D; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

[*Translation*]

Natural Resources Data Management System

1368. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the districts of Bihar have been included in the Natural Resource Data Management System;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the time by which all the districts of the State are likely to be included in the said system; and

(e) the number of districts proposed to be covered in the country under the system during the year 2003-2004, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA'): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) NRDMS District Database Centres are developed on pilot scale in one or few districts in each state/agro climatic region to demonstrate the applicability of NRDMS methodology in District level planning. The upscaling effort is to be done by the concerned State Government.

(d) and (e) During 2003-2004, district database centres are being created in the States where NRDMS centres are not operational. The total number of NRDMS Districts would be 06 (02 in Uttaranchal, 01 in N.E. States and 03 in Karnataka).

[*English*]

Assistance to Control Tuberculosis

1369. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received foreign financial assistance to control tuberculosis in the country;

(b) if so, the financial assistance received from abroad during each of the last three years;

(c) the funds allocated to the States out of these funds, State-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether these funds have been utilized by the States; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes Sir. With an objective of achieving a cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) is being implemented in the country in phased manner for which the following international agencies have agreed to provide assistance as under:

Name of the Agency	(Rs. in crores)
World Bank (From 1997 to 2004)	604.90
Danish International Development Agency support to RNTCP in Orissa from (1997 to 2003)	31.95
Deptt. For International Development, U.K. support to RNTCP in Andhra Pradesh (from 2000 to 2005)	109.93
USAID support to RNTCP in Haryana (from 2003 to 2007)	31.59
GFATM support to RNTCP in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Uttaranchal (from 2003 to 2005)	42.15

(b) Financial assistance is received from concerned agency on the basis of submission of reimbursement claim. First expenditure has to be incurred from Govt. of India funds and then the same has to be got reimbursed from donor agencies. The amount got reimbursed from the above three agencies during the last three years is as under:

Agency	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
World Bank	84.71	52.48	78.08
DANIDA		1.1727	1.74
DFID		0.9058	4.87

GFATM and USAID Projects have started this year only.

(c) For the projects assisted by donor agencies, budget provision is provided under the Externally Aided Component (AEC) out of the Govt. of India funds and same are released to the State/District TB Societies. Based on the expenditure statements received from the Societies, reimbursement is claimed from the donor agencies. A statement indicating year-wise details of funds released to the States and Expenditure under the Programme is attached.

(d) and (e) As RNTCP was a new intervention requiring large number of preparatory activities, in the initial years of the Project there was low expenditure. However, the utilization of funds by the States has an increasing trend from year to year as more and more preparatory districts are starting implementation of RNTCP.

Statement

State-wise Year-wise details of Funds Released Expenditure at State District Societies (excluding commodity assistance) during the last 3 years

(Rs. in lacs)

Sl.No.	State Name	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03	
		Rel.	Exp.	Rel.	Exp.	Rel.	Exp.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andaman Nicobar	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.00	0.30
2.	Andhra Pradesh	405.61	57.76	203.47	195.63	250.00	374.92
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	46.57	1.74	62.28	58.83	37.50	74.83
4.	Assam	8.09	32.65	35.05	14.78	185.22	126.17
5.	Bihar	17.98	72.36	88.75	53.98	85.05	76.98

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
6.	Chandigarh	18.05	0.00	8.39	22.80	16.00	22.10
7.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	36.22	0.00	136.36	137.32
8.	Delhi	111.06	170.40	100.00	165.77	301.00	263.17
9.	Goa	0.00	0.00	7.82	0.17	10.00	3.34
10.	Gujarat	275.53	272.90	285.67	247.06	0.00	331.31
11.	Haryana	16.47	38.48	54.42	42.63	45.28	73.97
12.	Himachal Pradesh	233.29	126.03	113.50	122.19	35.00	194.74
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	54.37	1.27	25.30	25.97	0.00	18.14
14.	Jharkhand	5.10	61.98	54.65	22.05	73.05	71.94
15.	Karnataka	173.68	163.38	232.63	130.17	269.00	425.88
16.	Kerala	83.02	112.86	324.00	363.93	0.00	153.39
17.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.25	0.04
18.	Madhya Pradesh	89.30	52.42	202.60	76.26	496.25	372.36
19.	Maharashtra	765.97	425.28	919.51	622.46	203.43	955.59
20.	Manipur	125.85	38.27	81.90	141.89	64.12	79.79
21.	Meghalaya	0.00	1.24	7.82	4.08	70.10	48.83
22.	Mizoram	1.40	0.00	9.60	2.30	83.15	68.57
23.	Nagaland	49.99	6.94	90.39	80.00	22.50	64.63
24.	Orissa	156.76	94.11	245.00	61.20	331.84	202.95
25.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.13	2.40	0.00	0.00	3.51
26.	Punjab	49.77	12.54	145.34	22.43	85.10	178.41
27.	Rajasthan	627.64	324.64	478.47	634.06	82.50	350.98
28.	Sikkim	46.61	6.52	28.94	59.09	27.10	37.94
29.	Tamil Nadu	617.24	313.61	324.77	509.34	20.00	481.21
30.	Tripura	0.00	0.00	12.47	5.06	40.90	3.62
31.	Uttar Pradesh	156.37	206.99	363.89	186.00	604.20	591.82
32.	Uttanchal	0.00	0.00	15.42	0.00	68.18	45.87
33.	West Bengal	330.78	408.82	428.41	577.34	375.00	751.80
Grand Total		4466.50	3003.22	5019.08	4447.48	4040.06	6586.42

Note: In the year 2002-03 the expenditure is in excess of the funds released in that particular year. This is because of carried forward unutilised balances of the earlier years.

India-EU Summit

1370. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a summit had been held between India and European Union recently;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed during the said summit; and

(c) the decisions taken on each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The Fourth India-EU Summit was held on 29th November 2003 in New Delhi. At the Summit level talks, there was a review of bilateral relations; both political and economic. Both sides exchanged views on regional and international developments of mutual concern.

(c) At the Summit, the Joint Press Statement was adopted, the Financing Agreement for Trade and Investment Development Programme was signed and the Customs Cooperation Agreement was initialed.

Merger of Literacy Programmes

1371. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the National Literacy Programmes are likely to be merged;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reason therefor;

(c) whether there could be huge savings of administrative costs by merging these two programmes;

(d) if so, whether any study has been conducted pertaining to the reduction of administrative costs; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) The two programmes are complementary in nature targeting different age groups. While Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is for children in the age group 6-14 years, the Nation Literacy Programme is for adults in the age group 15-35 years.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Vacant Posts in Central Universities

1372. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that 40% posts of teachers in different grades in Central Universities are lying vacant;

(b) if so, the details thereof, university-wise alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that many universities have adopted contract system for appointing teachers; and

(d) if so, the monthly amount being paid to such teachers?

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.

Encroachment by Limited Mobility Companies

1373. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Disputes Tribunal had directed the Government to detect encroachment by limited mobility companies and public undertakings in the areas earmarked for the cellular companies under a time bound schedule; and

(b) if so, the steps so far taken in compliance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Telecom Disputes Settlement & Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) has directed that the licensee should not be allowed to abuse or misuse the licence provision while providing limited mobility facility to its subscribers. It was observed that two

licensees were providing a combination of features which blurs the distinction between limited mobility facility of Basic Service Operators and the Cellular Mobile Telephone Services. A notice was issued to the licensees to discontinue such features. Meanwhile, the licensees have migrated to Unified Access Service licence regime which enable them to provide fully mobile telephone services.

PM Visit to UN

1374. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether during his visit to UN, bilateral and regional issues figured in the talks between our Prime Minister and leaders of Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Portugal;

(b) if so, whether Afghanistan President has expressed concern over the increased cross-border activity from Pakistan;

(c) if so, whether our Prime Minister took up this issue with all the leaders he met including the US President; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes. Prime Minister met with the leaders of Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and Portugal on the margins of the 58th Session of UN General Assembly in New York in September 2003. Bilateral and regional issues figured in the talks between the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka and the President of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan. During his meeting with the Portuguese Prime Minister, the discussions covered review of bilateral relations including exchange of high level visits and trade & economic cooperation. Current regional and international issues including international terrorism were also discussed.

(b) No. However, in his speech at the 58th UN General Assembly in September 2003, President Karzai said that Governments must stop using extremism as an instrument of policy. He added that as long as terrorism survives in this part of the world, neither Afghanistan nor its neighbours nor indeed the rest of the world can be safe. Referring to the forces of violence, he said that terrorism, embodied in various manifestations, from cross-border militant infiltrations to hateful teachings at places

disguised as madrassas, continue to make inroads into the space of peace and prosperity which he wants to secure for his nation. In an interview with the Pakistani daily, 'The News' in New York in September 2003, President Karzai is reported to have stated, inter alia, that the Taliban question is not being fully addressed by the government of Pakistan.

(c) and (d) Although there was no specific mention about cross border terrorism in the talks with the Portuguese Prime Minister, Mr. Durao Barroso, there was, however, mutual understanding that cooperation in the fight against international terrorism should continue. The Portuguese Prime Minister expressed his country's full support in the war against terrorism.

During his meetings with the leaders of Zimbabwe, South Africa, Nigeria and Mauritius on the margins of UN General Assembly in New York in September 2003, situation in South Asia was discussed, including the question of cross border terrorism. While cross border activity from Pakistan into Afghanistan was not specifically discussed, the issue of terrorism and the need to combat it internationally discussed.

The Prime Minister did not discuss issues on Afghanistan with his counterpart from Sri Lanka.

Prime Minister and US President George Bush discussed progress in the efforts to combat terrorism in the global and regional South Asian contexts.

Education for All Summit

1375. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:

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

(a) whether the Government hosted a three-day International Education for All Summit in November 2003;

(b) if so, the main subjects discussed;

(c) the total number of countries that participated in the Summit;

(d) whether any declaration was made to the effect that children particularly girls had access to free and compulsory primary education by 2015; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) and (b) The third meeting of the High Level Group on Education for All (EFA) was co-hosted by India and UNESCO during 10-12th November 2003.

The main subjects discussed were:

- (i) Review of progress on EFA goals set in Dakar.
 - (ii) Action agenda for achieving gender goals,
 - (iii) National planning and policy reform,
 - (i) International action for support and financing of EFA, and
 - (v) Challenges and opportunities: The path ahead.
- (c) Sixteen.

(d) and (e) The meeting ended with a communique which enjoined on countries to take strategic and supportive action towards achieving gender parity by 2005 and gender equality by 2015, enact legislation for enforcing right of children to free and compulsory quality education, eliminate school fees and reduce other indirect cost of schooling, strengthen teacher competencies, work in partnership with non-governmental and Civil Society organisations and strengthen data collection and monitoring systems. It also called upon donor countries and international agencies to fulfill their commitments made at Dakar and Monterrey and bridge the gap between their current level of support for basic education (US\$ 1.5 billion per year), and the amount needed in external support to reach gender and universalisation goals by 2015 (estimated at an additional US\$ 5.6 billion per year).

Condition of Cuttack-Paradeep National Highway

1376. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the pitiable condition of the Cuttack-Paradeep National Highway in Orissa;
- (b) if so, whether this National Highway has not been repaired despite the Central allocation;
- (c) if so, the reasons for the sanctioned fund not being used for the repair and maintenance of this National Highway; and

(d) the action taken against those who have misused or diverted the fund provided for it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) to (d) The direct road joining Cuttack and Paradeep is not a National Highway and does not come under the purview of the Union Government. The other alignment which joins Cuttack to Chandikhole and Chandikhole to Paradeep are National Highways No. 5 and 5A respectively.

Cuttack to Chandikhole section of National Highway No. 5 has already been four laned under the Golden Quadrilateral project and is in traffic worthy condition.

Improvement works on NH-5A amounting to about Rs. 11.60 crore have been completed in the last four years and the road is in traffic worthy condition. This National Highway is proposed to be four laned under the Port Connectivity Scheme by the National Highways Authority of India (NHA). This project is likely to be started in February, 2004 and completed in February, 2007.

South Asia Forum

1377. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI AMBAREESHA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a South Asia Forum has been set up;
- (b) if so, the objects and functions of the Forum; and
- (c) the number of members including their names and designations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) Some Members of Parliament have recently set up a South Asia Forum. It is understood that the objectives are to strengthen cooperation among the countries of the region, to increase people-to-people contacts and to open a dialogue with the intelligentsia and like minded organizations of South Asia. It is further understood that the members of the Forum are Members of Parliament from various political parties.

Leaking of Question Papers

1378. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

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

(a) whether the CBI has busted a racket involved in leakage of question papers pertaining to the Common Admission Test (CAT) for entrance to premier management institutes;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the number of persons arrested by the CBI;

(d) the persons held responsible for leaking question papers;

(e) the action taken against such persons; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (e) Yes Sir. CBI has busted a racket of leakage of question papers. It was observed that S/Shri Arun Kumar, Kumar Suman Singh, Manoj Kumar and Hari Shankar Chaudhary in conspiracy among themselves and other unknown persons procured CAT question paper by theft or criminal breach of trust. A regular case has been registered by CBI.

(f) The Ministry has also set up a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri V.K. Shunglu, Ex-C&AG to examine the circumstances which led to leakage of question paper and to see whether there was any systemic failure, to fix responsibility on those persons/ Agency responsible for the leakage of question paper and to examine the methodology of conduct of CAT examination and suggest measures to avoid recurrence of such instances in future.

Job Opportunities for Other Backward Classes

1379. SHRI P.D. ELANGOVA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided adequate job opportunities to the persons belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the various Departments, Autonomous offices, subsidiary and attached offices of his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in most instances the OBC Staff strength is far less than what it should be in corresponding to the total strength, particularly in Group A and B;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof and the remedial measures taken by the Government to provide adequate representation to the OBCs;

(e) whether the Government has asked for any detailed reports from the various Departments, Autonomous offices, subsidiary and attached offices of his Ministry regarding the current status of OBC representation in Group A, B, C and D; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) A total of 27% of posts are reserved for persons belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Group 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' Services and posts in appointments made through direct recruitment.

(b) and (c) The sanctioned strength vis-a-vis the persons belonging to OBCs employed in various Group 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' posts in the Ministry is given in the attached statement-I.

(d) Every care is taken by the Ministry to ensure implementation of 27% reservation in favour of OBCs at the time of making recruitment to posts in Group 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D'.

(e) and (f) There are no Subordinate and Attached Offices under the Ministry. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is an Autonomous Authority set up by an Act of Parliament. The position regarding the posts in Groups 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' filled by direct recruitment in NHAI and the number of employees belonging to OBCs in these categories is indicated in the attached statement-II.

Statement-I**Representation of OBC Employees in Group 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' posts in respect of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.**

Category of Posts	Sanctioned Strength	Employees in position	No. of employees belonging to OBCs	OBCs as percentage of employees in position
Group 'A'	239	91	15	16.48%
Group 'B'	213	193	3	1.55%
Group 'C'	372	194	11	5.6%
Group 'D'	205	186	7	3.76%

Statement II**Number of Posts in Groups 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' filled by Direct Recruitment and Number of Employees belonging to Other Backward Classes in National Highways Authority of India**

Category of Posts	No. of posts filled	No. of employees belonging to OBCs	OBCs as percentage of employees in position
Group 'A'	22	2	9%
Group 'B'	5	1	20%
Group 'C'	216	52	24%
Group 'D'	5	1	20%

National Research Development Corporation Programmes/Projects

1380. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the programmes/projects in the pipeline/undertaken by the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years year-wise, till date;

(b) the number out of them in the pipe line and likely to be undertaken by next year; and

(c) the funds earmarked and spent thereon during the said period?

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 National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) has licensed several technologies for commercialization in the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years. These technologies related to Chloroscope, Mobile Four Channel Modular Radar System for Dry Beneficiation of Coal, 4-Axis CNC Cutter and tool Grinder, Anaerobic Reactor System for Pharmaceutical Waste, Furfuryl Alcohol, Auto Rust & Scale Inhibitor, Plantinized Titanium Anodes, Electrolytic Manganese Dioxide, Aero Microbial Filters, Amphoterecin-B, Test Kit for Microbial Quality of Drinking Water, Resorcinol and Drivers Reflexes System. These technologies were licensed to 9 licensees in 2000, 1 licensee in 2001, 2 licensees in 2002 and 1 licensee in 2003. NRDC has helped in creating IPR awareness by

providing a CD on "Interactive Multimedia Training Package" to 22 organisations in Andhra Pradesh. NRDC gave a prize award to National Institute for the Visually Handicapped, Secunderabad impaired children. NRDC's Rural Technology Demonstration cum Training Centres, viz. "Rural Development Organization, Tirupati" and "Asian Academy, Hyderabad" continued to work towards dissemination and demonstration of appropriate rural technologies during the last three years.

(b) A project based on Electrolytic Manganese Dioxide technology, licensed by NRDC to a company in Andhra Pradesh during the said period is in advanced stage of implementation and production is likely to commence next year. NRDC is also likely to sign an MoU with A.N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad next year for transfer of technologies developed in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Since NRDC is a commercial organization and not a funding agency, it has not earmarked any funds for any state including the State of Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

Population Control

1381. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the population growth in China has been stabilized whereas the population growth in India is increasing continuously;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to adopt some strict measures to control the population of the country;

(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) and (b) Yes Sir, the population growth in China has stabilized. In India also, the population growth rate is declining. China's fertility decline started in early 1980s through improved access to family planning services and strict measures for population control. On the contrary, India recorded high population growth in 1970s and 1980s which has widened the age group in the reproductive

zone. This has slowed the decline in population growth of the country.

(c) to (e) No Sir, The Family Welfare Program in India is voluntary in nature. Past experience shows that it is neither feasible nor advisable to enforce coercive measures. In addition, the success of the Family Welfare Program in States such as Kerala, Goa and Tamil Nadu has shown that coercion is not necessary for the success of the Program.

[English]

IITs Agreement with Banks

1382. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether IITs (Indian Institute of Technology) have signed agreements with banks for the development of software and technology for commercial banking;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether IIT, Chennai, has developed a low-cost ATM for banks for use in rural area;

(d) if so, whether any banks have come forward to accept and use this technology; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (e) As per the information provided by IITs they have not signed any agreement with banks for the development of software and technology for commercial banking. IIT Madras is in the process of developing a low cost Automated Teller Machine (ATM) for banks. ICICI is helping the institute to develop it. Some other banks have also shown interest in it.

Pending National Highways Proposals

1383. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI AMBAREESHA:

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

(a) the details of proposals relating to National Highways concerning Southern States pending with the

Government including the proposals to connect historical monuments (world heritage) to the nearest National Highways;

(b) since when these proposals have been pending with the Government;

(c) the reasons for their pendency; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to clear these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) The details of the pending proposals for National Highway works for the Southern States are as under:

State	No. of proposals pending	Total estimated cost (Rs. in crore)	Pending for	
			Less than 3 months	More than 3 months
Karnataka	14	11.39	13	1
Kerala	12	20.13	10	2
Andhra Pradesh	19	56.13	14	5
Tamil Nadu	24	31.08	17	7
Pondicherry	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

No proposal to connect historical monuments (world heritage) to the nearest National Highways is pending.

(c) and (d) Proposals found deficient are considered for sanction only after obtaining the requisite details from the States concerned.

Evolving a Strategy for Iraq

1384. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UN General Assembly came out in favour of the UN playing a more significant role in Iraq;

(b) if so, the details of the UN resolution along with India's stand thereon;

(c) whether India, China and Russia have decided to evolve a joint strategy for restoration of sovereignty of people in war-torn Iraq; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The issue of the U.N. playing a more significant role in Iraq has not come up before the U.N. General Assembly. However, the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolutions

1483 (on 22 May 2003) and 1511 (on 16 October 2003) which state that the U.N. should play a vital role in Iraq.

(b) UN Security Council Resolutions 1483 and 1511 affirm that the U.N. should play a vital role in Iraq, including in areas like provision of humanitarian relief, economic reconstruction and advancement of efforts to restore and establish institutions of representative government in Iraq. India has welcomed both these resolutions since they envisage a vital role for the U.N. in the post-war rebuilding of Iraq; reaffirm the sovereignty of Iraq and mark a positive step towards the restoration of sovereignty to the Iraqi people.

(c) and (d) A trilateral meeting of the Foreign Ministers of India, Russia and China was held on 23 September, 2003 on the margins of the 58th session of the U.N. General Assembly in New York. Several issues of international concern were discussed including the situation in Iraq. There was no 'joint strategy' evolved by the three countries. However, there was a broad convergence of ideas with regard to certain aspects. The three sides expressed the view that the U.N. should have a more substantive and comprehensive role in the political and reconstruction process in Iraq. Agreeing that what was needed was a political rather than a military solution to the crisis, they emphasized the need for a clear road-map to restore sovereignty to the Iraqi people and the right of the Iraqi people to determine their political future.

Guidelines for Natural Asset Companies

1385. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the core group of Secretaries on Disinvestment has framed guidelines for natural asset companies to revive the sell off momentum which had appeared lost after the Supreme Court judgement;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any meeting had been held to discuss programmes related to disinvestment in some PSUs like Shipping Corporation of India; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

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 the reply to part (a) above.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Core Group of Secretaries on Disinvestment meets periodically to review the progress and recommends cases for disinvestment to the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment which takes the final decision.

Setting up of Professional Colleges in Backward Areas

1386. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a need to set up more professional colleges in the backward areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government has issued any guidelines to State Governments in this regard:

(c) if so, the response of the State Governments thereto during the last three years; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Union Government to promote professional education in the backward areas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

(SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (d) As per the information furnished by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), they consider proposals received from various applicants for establishment of Technical Institutes based on the No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the concerned State Government. While issuing the NOC, the State Government is required to keep in view its perspective plan including desirability to promote professional education in the backward areas.

Allocation of Funds to IITs

1387. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated to each of the IIT functioning in the country during the last three years and till date;

(b) the criteria of selection of chairman and Governing Body members in each IIT;

(c) whether the IIT Council ensures more or less identical benefits reach the teachers and non-teaching staff in each IIT;

(d) if so, the manner in which the Government ensure that IITs as national institutes of technology maintain their eminence in respective field in the days to come; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) A statement is attached.

(b) Chairman of the Board of Governors of IITs is nominated by the Visitor (the President of India). By convention, a person of eminence in education, science, engineering, industry is nominated as Chairman.

(c) There are common Pay scales, allowances, perks and services conditions to the faculty and non faculty staff in IITs.

(d) and (e) A new funding mechanism-performance based funding pattern has been implemented in IITs. Under the new funding mechanism, grants are determined based on the numbers of students, research output, performance, infrastructure and other considerations ensuring that high standards of IITs are maintained. The funding mechanism has an inbuilt system for regular monitoring of performance and efficiency of IITs.

Statement*Grants in aid to IITs during 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003, and 2003-2004*

(Rs. In Lakhs)

<i>Plan Grant</i>				
Name of the Institute	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 till Nov. 2003
IIT Bombay	1800.00	1800.00	2000.00	1500.00
IIT Delhi	1800.00	1800.00	2000.00	1000.00
IIT Kanpur	1800.00	1800.00	2000.00	2000.00
IIT Kharagpur	1800.00	1800.00	2000.00	1500.00
IIT Madras	1800.00	1800.00	2000.00	1500.00
IIT Guwahati	8500.00	3060.00	7402.00	500.00
IIT Roorkee	0.00	1219.00	5000.00	1000.00

<i>Non-Plan Grant</i>				
Name of the Institute	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 till Nov. 2003
IIT Bombay	5370.00	7350.00	7200.00	5400.00
IIT Delhi	6600.00	6930.00	7000.00	5050.00
IIT Kanpur	6300.00	6615.00	6800.00	4200.00
IIT Kharagpur	8230.00	7273.00	7000.00	4850.00
IIT Madras	6500.00	6825.00	6825.00	5106.00
IIT Guwahati	—	—	1480.00	750.00
IIT Roorkee	0.00	3478.00	5200.00	2600.00

In addition, IITs receive grants in aid for special purposes and under various schemes/projects of the Government of India.

Proposal of Ceasefire by Pakistan

1388. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DODOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has offered a proposal of ceasefire along the LoC;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Prime Minister of Pakistan, in his address on November 23, 2003 announced, inter alia, that Pakistan Armed Forces deployed along the Line of Control (LOC) have been issued instructions to *ceasefire* along the LOC with effect from Eid-al-Fitr.

(c) India, on November 24, 2003 welcomed the Pakistani decision and announced that it would respond positively. However, it was made clear that in order to establish a full ceasefire on a durable basis, there must be an end to infiltration from across the Line of Control.

To take this process further, India also proposed a ceasefire along the Actual Ground Position Line (AGPL) in Siachen. Subsequently, the Director General Military Operations of the two countries agreed to observe a ceasefire with effect from midnight of November 25, 2003 along the International Border, LOC and AGPL in Jammu & Kashmir.

Inclusion of Witchcraft and Hypnotism in School Curriculum

1389. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

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

(a) whether the Union Government propose to include witchcraft and hypnotism in the school curriculum;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government spend approximately six crore rupees to eradicate superstitions and orthodox traditions;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the achievements made in this field during the last three years?

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

(b), (d) and (e) Do not arise.

Undernutrition in Country

1390. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ongoing efforts to eliminate the undernutrition in the country have not made required any headway;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to have an universal screening of vulnerable groups and initiate targeted food supplementation and health care for the undernourished;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the present level of undernutrition in various States with special reference to Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the nutrition levels of poor or vulnerable groups in the last five years, and the results achieved, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There has been a significant reduction in malnutrition levels both in children as well as in adults, as a result of multifarious activities undertaken by the Government through its different sectors. Undernutrition in pre-school children has come down to 47% as per NFHS-2 1998-99 from 77% as per NNMB 1975-79 while Chronic Energy Deficiency in adults has reduced from 55.6% to 28.6% during this period.

To improve the status of undernutrition further, the Government is already screening vulnerable groups through the nation-wide Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Nutrition Component of Prime Minister Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) and Pilot Project for Adolescent Girls, and is providing food supplements and health care to the undernourished vulnerable groups.

(c) The ICDS scheme has sanctioned projects in 5652 blocks in the country. 4930 projects are operational and are providing food supplements to 4.15 crore beneficiaries comprising children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years, pregnant and lactating mothers. Growth monitoring of children under 6 years is undertaken at the anganwadi centres and children with Grade III and Grade IV undernutrition are provided double the quantity of food supplements alongwith health care. Under the Nutrition Component of PMGY scheme, nutritious food supplements are provided to undernourished children in the age group of 6 months to 3 years. The undernourished adolescent girls weighing less than 35 kg and undernourished pregnant and lactating women weighing less than 40 kg. are provided 6 kg. of wheat/rice per month in 51 backward districts under the Pilot Project for Adolescent Girls.

(d) The statement is attached.

(e) The Government has initiated a number of programmes besides strengthening the existing programmes during the last 5 years for improving the nutritional level of poor and vulnerable groups. The Nutrition Component of PMGY, Pilot Project for the Adolescent Girls, Anotodaya Ana Yojana, Anapurna Scheme, Supply of subsidized Food to Welfare Institutions for poor people, have been initiated during the last five years. The Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, the Targeted Public Distribution System, the Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Sampurna Gramin Rojgar Yojana are some of the schemes strengthened during the last five years.

*Statement**Undernutrition Among Children and Women*

S.No.	State/UT	Percent of children under age three years*			Percent of women with BMI [^] below 18.5 (kmg ²)
		Underweight	Stunted	Wasted	
	India	47.0	45.5	15.5	35.8
	North				
1.	Delhi	34.7	36.8	12.5	12.0
2.	Haryana	34.6	50.0	5.3	25.9
3.	Himachal Pradesh	43.6	41.3	16.9	29.7
4.	J&K	34.5	38.8	11.8	26.4
5.	Punjab	28.7	39.2	7.1	16.9
6.	Rajasthan	50.6	52.0	11.7	36.1
	Central				
7.	Madhya Pradesh	55.1	51.0	19.8	38.2
8.	Uttar Pradesh	51.7	55.5	11.1	35.8
	East				
9.	Bihar	54.4	53.7	21.0	39.3
10.	Orissa	54.4	44.0	24.3	48.0
11.	West Bengal	48.7	41.5	13.6	43.7
	North East				
12.	Arunachal Pradesh	24.3	26.5	7.9	10.7
13.	Assam	36.0	50.2	13.3	27.1
14.	Manipur	27.5	31.3	8.2	18.8
15.	Meghalaya	37.9	44.9	13.3	25.8
16.	Mizoram	27.7	34.6	10.2	22.6
17.	Nagaland	24.1	33.0	10.4	18.4
18.	Sikkim	20.6	31.7	4.8	11.2
	West				
19.	Goa	28.6	18.1	13.1	27.1
20.	Gujarat	45.1	43.6	16.2	37.0
21.	Maharashtra	49.6	39.9	21.2	39.7
	South				
22.	Andhra Pradesh	37.7	38.6	9.1	37.4
23.	Karnataka	43.9	36.6	20.0	38.8
24.	Kerala	26.9	21.9	11.1	18.7
25.	Tamil Nadu	36.7	29.4	19.9	29.0

*Underweight assessed by weight-for age, stunting assessed by height-for-age, wasting assessed by weight-for-height; undernourished children are those more than two standard deviations below the median of the International Reference Population, recommended by the World Health Organisation.

[^]Body mass index.

Source: National Family Health Survey (NFHS 2) 1998-99.

Allocation for Homoeopathic Medicine

1391. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government's allocation for the promotion of Homoeopathic medicine is a mere one per cent;

(b) if so, whether the Government has received any proposals from States to increase the funds;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Union Government has considered to increase the funds for Karnataka for its plan to give loan to anyone coming forward to start Indian Systems of Medicine; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) An amount of Rs. 775 crores has been set apart for promotion of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy during the entire 10th Five Year Plan period. No specific percentage has been earmarked for Homoeopathy or any other system, exclusively.

(b) and (c) The proposals are received from States in response to the specific Centrally Sponsored Schemes and no general proposals have been received for increase of funds.

(d) and (e) There is no such scheme or proposal from the Government of Karnataka.

[Translation]

Construction of National Highway No. 204 and 211

1392. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of National 'super highway' No. 204 and National Highway 211 is going on in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of the districts through which the National Highway No. 204 and National Highway 211 passes?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) National Highway No. 204 passes through Ratnagiri and Kolhapur districts and National Highway No. 211 passes through Solapur, Osmanabad, Aurangabad, Beed, Chalisingaon and Dhule districts.

[English]

Pre-Paying Debt by JNPT

1393. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the JNPT has been authorised to raise a huge loan from the market to pre-pay certain debts;

(b) if so, the details of permission given to the JNPT for the same;

(c) the reasons for pre-paying the World Bank loan by the Port Trust;

(d) whether loans will be available at a low rate in the open market;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the problems associated with taking World Bank debt for investments?

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

(a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) has been authorized to raise Rs. 450 crores to pre-pay principal amount of loan balance as on 31.3.2003 to Government of India/World Bank through commercial borrowings at lower rate of interest. The existing loan carries a higher rate of interest and it is expected that the port will be able to borrow the funds at 5 to 6 per cent interest rate.

(f) Initial loan of Rs. 328.16 crores was taken from World at 11.5% (the then prevailing rate) for funding the port project alongwith loan from other agencies like Mumbai Port, Kandla Port and budgetary support from Government of India. The present decision of pre-paying World Bank loan is only to save on the debt servicing cost due to reduction in the lending rates. It is purely a commercial decision based on the current financial trends.

Banned Drugs in Circulation

1394. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of drugs banned by the Government during the last two years;

(b) whether some banned drugs (viz. Astemizole, Terfenadine, Nimesulid etc. banned across the world) are still in use;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the strict enforcement of ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) A list of drug formulation prohibited during the last two years is attached as statement.

(b) and (c) The drug Astemizone and Terfenadine have been prohibited since April, 2003. However, Nimesulide is permitted to be sold in the country after due examination of its rationality and use in the country. This drug is being marketed in many countries of the world.

(d) The manufacture and sale of prohibited drugs is an offence under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and rules made thereunder and is punishable under its provisions.

Statement

Name of Banned Drugs

- (i) Fixed dose combination of Nitrofurantoin and Trimethoprim.
- (ii) Fixed dose combination of Phenobarbitone with any anti-asthmatic drug.
- (iii) Fixed dose combination of Phenobarbitone with Hyoscin and/or Hyoscyamine.
- (iv) Fixed dose combination of Phenobarbitone with Ergotamine and/or Belladonna.
- (v) Fixed dose combination of Haloperidol with any anti-cholinergic agent including Propenthexine Bromide.
- (vi) Fixed dose combination of Nalidixic acid with any anti-amoebics including Metronidazole.
- (vii) Fixed dose combination of Loperamide Hydrochloride with Furazolidone.
- (viii) Fixed dose combination of Cyproheptadine with Lysine or Peptone.
- (ix) Astemizole.
- (x) Terfenadine.
- (xi) Phenformin.

[Translation]

Pending Projects

1395. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the National Medicinal Plants Board has been successful in the production and trade of medicinal plants during the last three years;

(b) the number of projects pending with the Board at present;

(c) the reasons for delay in their approval; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for the approval of pending projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) An area of 10,500 acres of land has been covered under medicinal plants due to the initiatives taken by the National Medicinal Plants Board during the last two years/since inception.

(b) to (d) One hundred ninety project proposals pending with the Board would be placed before the second meeting of the Project Steering Committee scheduled to be held on 15th December, 2003.

National Creche Fund Scheme

1396. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:

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

(a) whether the Government are able to cope up with increasing demand for creches through implementation of "National Creche Fund Scheme, 1994" in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the number of creches constructed under the scheme, State-wise; and

(c) the number of SC/ST beneficiaries out of them in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA): (a) The National Creche Fund was set up in 1994 with a Corpus fund of Rs. 19.99 crore. The assistance from the National Creche Fund Scheme is provided out of the interest earned on the investment of the Corpus. The rate of interest on fixed deposits has gone down during the last two/three years and as a result the earning on the Corpus has plummeted and correspondingly reduced the capacity of the NCF to cope with increasing demand for creches.

(b) So far 4885 creches have been sanctioned under the scheme. State-wise list of creches is enclosed as statement.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the State	No. of Creches sanctioned under National Creches Fund
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1291
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8
3.	Assam	280
4.	Bihar	104
5.	Delhi	10
6.	Goa	8
7.	Gujarat	79
8.	Haryana	269
9.	Himachal Pradesh	38
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	—
11.	Karnataka	177
12.	Kerala	20
13.	Madhya Pradesh	216
14.	Maharashtra	400
15.	Manipur	29
16.	Meghalaya	8
17.	Mizoram	8
18.	Nagaland	8
19.	Orissa	260
20.	Punjab	36
21.	Rajasthan	76
22.	Sikkim	8
23.	Tamil Nadu	377
24.	Tripura	8
25.	Uttaranchal	180
26.	Uttar Pradesh	368
27.	West Bengal	594
28.	A&N Islands	4
29.	Chandigarh	5
30.	D&N Haveli	4
31.	Daman & Diu	4
32.	Lakshadweep	4
33.	Pondicherry	4
Total		4,895

[Translation]**Import of Coronary Stents/Devices**

1397. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coronary stents and medical devices are being imported from USA;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these items are import registered and are imported under the supervision of the Government; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to regulate the import of medical devices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) According to All India Institute of Medical Sciences, a number of coronary stents and other medical devices are being imported from U.S.A. and other western countries as indigenous manufacture in India has started only recently and is currently being evaluated.

(c) and (d) Cardiac catheters are freely importable.

Restrictions on Outsourcing of IT Services

1398. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several States of USA have imposed restrictions on outsourcing of IT services to India;

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

(c) the impact of such restrictions; and

(d) the estimated value of IT related services provided by India to different countries, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) US States of New Jersey, Washington, Missouri Connecticut have introduced legislative proposals for placing restrictions on contracting of state contracts to entities outside of US. None of these proposals have so far become a law. The Government in association with National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) is constantly reviewing the situation. The Bill, if passed, may have a marginal effect on our exports to USA.

(d) The software exports from India, including IT related services to various countries for the last three years are as under:

Year	Country	Software exports (US\$ Billion)	Total software exports (in US\$ Billion)
2000-2001	US/CANADA	3.71	8.2
	EU	1.33	
	Other Countries	3.16	
2001-2002	US/CANADA	4.91	10.0
	EU	1.79	
	Other Countries	3.30	
2002-2003	US/CANADA	6.13	12.7
	EU	2.19	
	Other Countries	4.38	

Registration of Drugs

1399. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether notification in June 2003 regarding registration of drugs against advance licensees had not been implemented by the Government till September, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether crores of rupees were paid as demurrage by drug units due to this delay;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/being taken in this regard?

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

to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

AIDS/HIV Cases

1400. SHRI SHIVAJI VITHALRAO KAMBLE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey recently regarding the growing incidence of HIV/AIDS in the country;

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

(c) whether any projection has been made regarding the number of HIV/AIDS cases by the year 2010; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Since 1998, Government of India conduct, each year, nation wide Sentinel Surveillance, covering all states and Union Territories, to evaluate the spread and prevalence of the HIV infection in the country. The Sentinel sites are located among High risk segments of the population like STD Clinic Attendees, Injection drug users, commercial sex workers and men who have sex with men, as also among low risk population i.e. women attending antenatal clinics. The State-wise prevalence of HIV infection is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) No Sir. Under the National AIDS Control Programme only short term projections are made based on data from annual round of HIV sentinel surveillance. One such round was conducted in 384 sites in year 2002. On the basis of this set of data, it is estimated that there are 3.82 million to 4.58 million HIV infections in the country.

Statement

HIV Prevalence levels State-wise: 1998-2002

S.No.	Name of State/UT	Number of sites in 2002	HIV Prev. 1998 (%) (180 sites)	HIV Prev. 1999 (%) (180 sites)	HIV Prev. 2000(%) (232 sites)	HIV Prev. 2001 (%) (320 sites)	HIV Prev. 2002 (%) (384 sites)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	STD 8	24.90	29.50	30.00	26.00	30.40
		ANC 14	2.25	2.60	2.00	1.50	1.25
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	STD 4	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.00
		ANC 2	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	STD 5	2.10	2.40	0.61	1.49	0.75
		ANC 4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	STD 8	1.35	0.60	0.50	1.20	1.60
		ANC 7	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.13	0.25
5.	Chhattisgarh	STD 3	—	—	—	1.40	0.80
		ANC 5	—	—	—	0.33	0.25
6.	Delhi	STD 4	1.60	0.80	3.26	4.65	3.23
		ANC 4	0.25	0.30	0.25	0.13	0.25
		IDU 1	—	—	5.00	2.40	7.20
7.	Goa	STD 2	19.40	13.50	12.02	15.00	11.29
		ANC 2	1.20	0.80	1.17	0.50	1.38
		CSW 1	—	—	53.20	50.79	24.00
8.	Gujarat	STD 8	2.50	6.70	4.65	4.14	6.17
		ANC 8	0.00	0.40	0.50	0.50	0.38
9.	Haryana	STD 5	2.60	5.30	2.75	1.08	1.14
		ANC 4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.41	0.38
10.	Himachal Pradesh	STD 5	2.00	0.40	0.40	0.26	0.40
		ANC 7	0.36	0.30	0.89	0.13	0.00
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	STD 2	1.83	1.20	0.40	0.80	0.95
		ANC 3	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.25	0.08
12.	Jharkhand	STD 3	—	—	—	0.25	0.13
		ANC 6	—	—	—	0.08	0.00
13.	Karnataka	STD 7	16.70	15.50	12.80	16.40	13.60
		ANC 10	1.75	1.00	1.68	1.13	1.75
		IDU 1	—	1.30	4.23	2.00	2.26
14.	Kerala	STD 4	2.60	3.20	5.20	6.42	2.45
		ANC 4	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.38
15.	Madhya Pradesh	STD 10	3.50	0.20	1.60	2.69	2.35
		ANC 13	0.00	0.30	0.12	0.25	0.00
16.	Maharashtra	STD 9	16.00	20.00	18.40	9.20	7.60
		ANC 14	2.00	2.10	1.12	1.38	1.25
17.	Mumbai	STD 3	—	—	33.33	21.06	14.84
		ANC 6	—	—	2.00	2.25	0.75
		IDU 1	—	—	23.68	41.37	39.42
		MSM 1	—	—	23.94	23.60	16.80
		CSW 1	—	—	58.67	52.26	54.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
18.	Manipur	IDU 3	70.70	48.80	64.34	56.26	39.06
		STD 2	4.15	12.00	11.60	10.50	9.60
		ANC 10	0.75	2.30	0.75	1.75	1.12
19.	Meghalaya	IDU 1	0.00	0.00	1.41	1.39	0.00
		STD 2	0.13	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.90
		ANC 2	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Mizoram	IDU 1	1.00	1.50	9.61	2.00	1.60
		STD 2	1.49	0.76	2.00	2.20	2.60
		ANC 3	0.48	0.48	0.37	0.33	1.50
21.	Nagaland	IDU 3	13.20	7.60	7.03	5.50	10.28
		STD 1	11.10	4.40	6.90	7.40	2.42
		ANC 4	0.70	1.30	1.35	1.25	1.25
22.	Orissa	STD 8	2.86	1.20	2.60	0.80	0.80
		ANC 4	0.00	0.10	0.27	0.25	0.25
23.	Punjab	STD 3	0.00	2.00	0.80	1.61	1.60
		ANC 4	0.00	0.40	0.00	0.40	0.49
24.	Rajasthan	STD 7	5.20	3.20	2.84	4.00	6.00
		ANC 6	0.00	0.30	0.25	0.00	0.50
25.	Sikkim	STD 1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		ANC 2	0.13	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.13
26.	Tamil Nadu	STD 11	16.30	10.40	16.80	12.60	14.7
		ANC 10	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.13	0.88
		IDU 1	—	—	26.70	24.56	33.80
		MSM 2	—	—	4.00	2.40	2.40
27.	Tripura	STD 2	0.00	0.80	1.34	3.20	1.40
		ANC 1	—	—	—	0.25	0.00
28.	Uttar Pradesh	STD 17	1.60	0.60	1.80	0.90	0.80
		ANC 17	0.24	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.25
29.	Uttanchal	STD 4	—	—	—	0.40	0.26
		ANC 3	—	—	—	0.00	0.23
30.	West Bengal	STD 8	0.40	1.40	1.96	0.60	0.47
		ANC 9	0.62	0.10	0.50	0.13	0.00
		IDU 1	—	—	—	—	1.50

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
31.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	STD 2	1.20	0.40	1.20	1.20	2.60
		ANC 3	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.16	0.00
32.	Chandigarh	STD 2	2.95	1.80	3.35	3.78	0.80
		ANC 1	0.47	0.80	0.00	0.00	0.25
33.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	STD 0	0.00	0.00	—	—	—
		ANC 1	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	1.00
34.	Daman & Diu	STD 0	0.00	0.00	—	—	—
		ANC 2	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.22
35.	Lakshdweep	STD 1	0.00	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
		ANC 2	0.60	0.00	0.00	—	0.00
36.	Pondicherry	STD 3	7.20	5.80	4.14	2.0	2.02
		ANC 2	0.50	0.90	0.25	0.25	0.25

[English]

Establishment of Medical College in Tripura

1401. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Medical Colleges/Hospitals per one lakh population in the country during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether it is in accordance with the rate of population increase;

(c) if not, the manner in which the Government proposes to deal with the situation;

(d) whether the Prasad Rao Committee has recommended setting up of a Medical College in Tripura; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) Health being a State subject, setting up of hospitals are regulated by the respective State Govts. in accordance with their policies. The data relating to the number of hospitals set up state-wise, year-wise is not maintained centrally. However, establishment of medical colleges in the country is regulated by the provisions of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and the Regulations framed thereunder. The number of new medical colleges established during the last three years, state-wise are as under:

Name of the State	No. of Medical Colleges permitted		
	2001	2002	2003 (as on date 9.12.03)
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	—	5	6
Chhattisgarh	1	—	—

1	2	3	4
Karnataka	2	5	—
Kerala	—	4	2
Madhya Pradesh	1	—	—
Maharashtra	1	—	3
Pondicherry	1	2	—
Rajasthan	1	—	—
Sikkim	1	—	—
Tamil Nadu	—	—	2
Uttar Pradesh	2	—	—
Uttaranchal	—	—	1

(d) and (e) On account of the inadequate availability of the medical seats as compared to the manpower requirement in the State of Tripura, the Committee has recommended for setting up of a medical college with 50 seats in the State which is at present having no medical college. It is for the Govt. of Tripura to take further necessary action for fulfilling the eligibility and qualifying criteria for setting up of a new medical college as per the provisions of India Medical Council Act, 1956 and the Regulations made thereunder.

Indian aid to Afghanistan

1402. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRI AMBAREESHA:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Afghanistan had sought certain vehicles and ambulances from India to meet its security related requirements;

(b) if so, whether the Government has decided to provide 300 vehicles for the use of Afghanistan army;

(c) whether Pakistan is not giving clearance to Afghanistan to receive the delivery of about 150 vehicles proposed to be sent by India;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any discussions have been held to get the clearance of Pakistan in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes. As part of our contribution to the establishment of the new Afghan National Army, the Indian Government had decided to gift 300 vehicles. 115 of these vehicles are in the process of despatch.

(c) to (f) The Pakistan Government has not permitted transit of these vehicles through its territory, despite requests from the Government of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan.

Licence to Telecom Players

1403. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

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

(a) the present policy of the Government to give licence for telecommunications;

(b) whether the Government propose to do away with the requirement of performance of bank guarantees;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any financial bank guarantee has been taken from the private players;

(e) if so, the details thereof:

(f) if not, the reasons therefor:

(g) the number of defaulters who has not paid the licence fees during the last two years and current year so far, and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to recover the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The Government has adopted policy to grant licence for National Long Distance, International Long Distance, Unified Access Services and various other Value Added Services at present.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Consequent upon migration to revenue sharing regime, financial Bank Guarantees equivalent to licence fee of two quarters is taken from the Licence fee valid for one year subject to review/renewal from time. At the initial stage a fixed amount is prescribed depending on the type of service.

(f) Does not arise in view of (d) & (e) above.

(g) and (h) The License fee is paid on a quarterly basis by the Licensee based on self certified Adjusted Gross Revenue. Finalization of accounts is done on the basis of audited accounts from time to time. The Cellular Mobile Telephone Services licence of M/s Koshika Telecom Ltd. for UP (East) Service area was terminated in last two years for defaulting in making payments. The matter is at present before the arbitrator. The Bank Guarantees of Radio Paging Operators were encashed for recovery of Licence Fees dues.

Indian Information Technology Services

1404. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the US financial services sector has thrown open ample opportunities for the Indian information technology services in the area of high-technology cooperation in the recent years;

(b) if so, the details of the US financial sector offering for Indian IT industry;

(c) whether this has been welcomed by the Union Government;

(d) if so, whether the collaboration of various industrial sectors with the Indian IT services sector has been on the rise; and

(e) if so, the extent to which it has been beneficial for the Indian IT industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) to (c) The US financial services sector, which is a large user of IT services, has shown higher readiness to outsource its requirements of IT Services. US has been the largest destination for India's IT Software Services and BPO exports. As per estimates of Nasscom, financial services sector accounts for 35% of India's total IT Software Services and BPO exports. Government welcomes outsourcing of IT services, including financial services by US to India.

(d) and (e) Various US industrial sectors have been collaborating with Indian IT services sector. These collaborations are mutually beneficial to both the countries.

Combating Diabetes

1405. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has the highest number of diabetics in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken effective measures for the control of this disease;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether children are being afflicted with Type 2 diabetes which normally affects adults;

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

(g) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken to check the spread of diabetes to children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (g) As per WHO estimates, India currently has a diabetic population of 32 million. According to ICMR no community based data is available about children being afflicted with type 2 diabetes. However, the clinical impression of practicing diabetologist indicates an increase in type 2 diabetes in children in the country. This may be due to increasing prevalence of obesity and stress among children. Since diabetes is a life style related diseases, it is very important to adopt preventive life style intervention for control of diabetes among children and adults in the country. These interventions are emphasized through information education and communication activities of the Government including through Central Health Education Bureau.

Merger of BSNL and MTNL

1406. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the merger plan of BSNL and MTNL was floated to strengthen two firms to take on competition from the private sector;

(b) if so, the whether steps have been initiated in this regard;

(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 ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The possibility of merger was considered. However, at present no merger of BSNL and MTNL is proposed.

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

Tariff Charges

1407. SHRI J.S. BRAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether TRAI has allowed the fixed line operators in the telecom sector to reduce rates;

(b) if so, the facts thereof alongwith the impact thereof on the MTNL and BSNL;

(c) whether tariffs charges of MTNL and BSNL are more than private operators;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the rates of MTNL and BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, vide 28th Amendment Order of Telecommunication Tariff Order notified on 5/11/2003, has forborne tariff for basic service (other than ISDN) except for rural fixed line service including WLL (Fixed). Under forbearance, the service providers can fix the tariff under intimation to TRAI. After the issue of the aforesaid order, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited have not revised their tariff for fixed line services and their tariffs are already below the ceiling/level prescribed by TRAI with effect from 1.05.2003.

(c) and (d) The tariffs charged by all service providers vary depending upon the features of the various tariff packages offered by them to customers. Therefore, a direct comparison of tariff between service providers is not feasible.

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

Indo-Sri Lanka Economic Ties

1408. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Joint India-Sri Lanka study group has worked out a framework for negotiations on a comprehensive economic partnership agreement between the two countries;

(b) if so, whether this report was placed before the Prime Minister when both the Prime Minister met in New Delhi in October, 2003;

(c) if so, the extent to which both the leaders have accepted and agreed to sign the agreement;

(d) the main features of the agreement; and

(e) the extent to which the Indo-Sri Lanka economic pact will be helpful for both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): (a) Yes. A Joint Study Group was set up to make recommendations for the establishment of a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

(b) Yes. The Co-Chairmen of the Joint Study Group presented their recommendations to the two Prime Ministers on October 20, 2003.

(c) The two Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction at the speed with which the Joint Study Group prepared its comprehensive report and directed that negotiations begin immediately with the target of concluding the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement by the end of March 2004.

(d) The main features of the Agreement will be known only after it has been negotiated.

(e) It is hoped that the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement will enable the two countries to reap the early benefits of freer trade in goods and services and enhanced investment and economic cooperation. It would take the two countries to a qualitatively new level of engagement by intensifying and deepening bilateral economic cooperation.

Golden Triangle Strategy

1409. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated a new "Golden Triangle" strategy for the Ayurvedic System of Medicine;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Ayurvedic drugs subjected to scientific codes, techniques and studies and classified with modern medicines during the last five years including the new thrust being given to this drive under the golden triangle strategy;

(d) whether any Ayurvedic formulations have proved to be effective in the treatment of Cancer particularly blood cancer; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Golden Triangle concept is a recent idea to undertake research on Ayurveda to develop new drugs to meet the national and global needs. Under Golden Triangle three partners-Department of Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) will work in collaboration. The concept has been approved in principle but the detailed strategies, targets and resources requirements are yet to be worked out.

(c) Large number of Ayurvedic colleges, medical institutions, research councils e.g., Central Council for Research in Ayurveda & Siddha, Indian Council of Medical Research, Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, various University departments, Department of Science & Technology, Defence Research & Development Organization are undertaking research on Ayurveda but the consolidated information is not available.

(d) and (e) Under the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda & Siddha (CCRAS) has undertaken an Extra Mural Project on clinical research in the patients of acute promyelocytic leukaemia and the results are encouraging.

Omission of India's Name

1410. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had taken note of the fact that the U.S. President in his address to the recent U.N. General Assembly Session (2003) omitted the name of India while recounting the names of countries which were victims of terrorism;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government in this regard;

(c) the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken to bring home to the U.S. and other U.N. members the conspicuous omission of India's name; and

(d) the response of the U.S. Government thereto?

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

his address to the U.N. General Assembly in September 2003, the U.S. President gave some examples of cities that had terrorist incidents in the recent past and did not specifically describe any country as a victim of terrorism.

(b) to (d) The U.S. Administration has on a number of occasions condemned terrorist incidents in India and acknowledged India as a victim of terrorism. It recognises the nature and source of terrorism in India and has called upon Pakistan to take steps to put a permanent end to cross border terrorism in India. On October 29, 2003, a senior U.S. official specifically described India as a victim of terrorism during a testimony before the U.S. Congress and cited the tragic attack on the Indian Parliament on December 13, 2001, as well as the terrorist bombing in Mumbai in August 2003.

Disease Surveillance System

1411. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is unable to predict, prevent the recent outbreaks of diseases in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal;

(b) if so, the reasons for the failure;

(c) whether there is no disease surveillance system in the country to provide early warning signals of outbreaks of diseases;

(d) whether the lack of epidemiological intelligence with the Government is responsible for the hundreds of deaths from the under privileged sections of the society; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (e) The National Institute of Communicable Disease (NICD) carries out the investigations of outbreaks on the request of the State Government and suggest suitable control measures. NICD is also involved in carrying out training of instruct level health personnel in surveillance and control of epidemic prone diseases including detection of early warning signals of outbreaks. During the year 2003, the teams from NICD assisted the State Health Authorities of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal in investigating the outbreaks. For surveillance of disease, the Government of India initiated National Surveillance Programme for Communicable

Diseases (NSPCD) in the year 1997 which at present is being implemented in 101 districts of the country. A state based decentralized Integrated Diseases Surveillance Programme (IDSP) is on the anvil to cover all the districts during the 10th plan period.

Exempting Penicillin-G from Import Registration Requirements

1412. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Pharma Industry Association IDMA has made representation to DCGI regarding exemption of Penicillin-G and its salts from import registration requirements as it is used as an intermediate; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the DCGI in this regard?

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

(b) The representations received by various manufacturers regarding giving exemption to Penicillin-G and its salts from registration requirements was considered by DCG (I). Penicillin-G is a drug falling within the definition of a drug under Section 3 (b) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and hence, rules made under Drug and Cosmetics Rules will apply according to which the drug is required to be registered for the purpose of import. The representation seeks to imply that since it is used as an intermediate for the manufacture of other drugs and not as a drug, registration should not be insisted upon. However, as per provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, a drug, which can also be used as such, even if used as a raw material for the manufacturer of other drugs will require registration. The Indian Penicillin Manufacturers Association have made a plea that Penicillin-G and its salts should be covered under the Registration procedure for the reasons that:

1. Penicillin-G is covered under Drug Price Control Order.
2. All the Penicillin-G manufacturers are having manufacturing licence for Penicillin endorsed by the Drug Controller.
3. Penicillin G is also used for direct manufacture of Pen-G tablets.

Taking above into the consideration it has been opined that Penicillin-G is a drug and requires registration though it may be used as intermediate for the manufacture of other drugs.

Grant-in-aid to Government Homoeopathic Medical College/Hospital

1413. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has sanctioned grant-in-aid to Government Homoeopathic Medical College and Hospital, Bangalore during the year 2003-04; and

(b) if so, the amount released during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No grant-in-aid has been sanctioned to the Government Homoeopathic Medical College, Bangalore during 2003-2004 so far.

Job Opportunities to OBCs

1414. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has provided adequate job opportunities to the persons belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in the various Departments, Autonomous offices, subsidiary and attached offices of his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in most instances the OBC Staff strength is far less than what it should be in corresponding to the total strength, particularly in Group A and B;

(d) if so, the reasons thereof and the remedial measures taken by the Government to provide adequate representation to the OBCs;

(e) whether the Government has asked for any detailed reports from the various Departments, Autonomous offices, subsidiary and attached offices of his Ministry regarding the current status of OBC representation in Group A, B, C and D; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (f) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Development of NH-47

1415. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take up the project proposal for the development of 200 KM stretch from Cherthala to Kanyakumari of NH-47 into four lane with the financial assistance from foreign funding agency or budgetary resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the agency to which the feasibility study has been entrusted by the Government;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to develop Thiruvananthapuram-Kanyakumari stretch of NH-47 as Model Road;

(d) if so, the details of financial sanction proposed to be provided for the said development;

(e) the time by when the land acquisition for the Tellicheri-Mahi NH by-pass corridor is likely to be done;

(f) the time frame decided for the completion of the project;

(g) whether there is also a proposal to link Thiruvananthapuram with Thirunelveli through Kattakkada Kottur-Ambasamudram in order to provide connectivity with Tuticorin; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON. RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) At present, there is no firm proposal for four laning of the stretch from Cherthala to Kanyakumari of NH-47.

(c) There is no such proposal.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Total length of Tellicheri-Mahi bypass on NH-17 is 18.031 km. Land acquisition for 9 km has been

completed. Land acquisition in balance reach has not yet been taken up.

(f) It is premature to indicate the time frame for the completion of the project;

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Health Insurance Scheme

1416. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a good response to the health insurance scheme that has been considered by the Government;

(b) if so, the whether the Government has permitted private companies to undertake health insurance in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the extent to which this scheme will cover all persons;

(e) whether even the poorest people can afford to go in for health insurance in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Encroachment on National Highways

1417. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the national highways in Bihar and Jharkhand encroached upon at present; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to remove the said encroachments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI PON.

RADHAKRISHNAN): (a) National Highways in the states of Bihar and Jharkhand are encroached upon at some places, where they pass through built-up areas.

(b) Encroachment removal drives are taken up by the concerned State Governments from time to time. Instructions have been issued by the Government of Bihar to the concerned District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police to remove encroachments and speed-breakers.

[English]

AIDS Vaccines

1418. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on two AIDS vaccines has shown positive result at the animal testing stage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the trial of these vaccines on human is yet to start;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which phase III trials are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) No Sir. However, there are two HIV-1 sub type C candidate AIDS vaccines under the process of development in India namely: (i) HIV-1 sub-type 'C' DNA vaccine candidate being developed at the National HIV Reference Center, Deptt. of Microbiology, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi under the Prime Minister's 'Jai Vigyan' Mission Programme. The Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India has funded this programme. The vaccine candidate has still to undergo pre-clinical toxicity testing in animals, and (ii) Modified Vaccinia Ankara multi-epitope candidate vaccine developed under a tripartite agreement between ICMR-NACO and IAVI. The work is being carried out by two ICMR institutions namely National AIDS Research Instt., Pune and National Instt. of Cholera & Enteric Diseases, Kolkatta, in collaboration with Therion biologics USA. Animal toxicity and immunogenicity tests are yet to be completed.

(c) to (e) The candidate vaccine once developed would go through pre-clinical safety and toxicity studies

in animal before phase I, II and III clinical trials are undertaken in human beings. At this stage, no definite time line for phase III can be spelt out.

Empowering MCI and SMCs

1419. SHRI AMBAREESHA:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI;
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

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

(a) whether the Government is going to empower the Medical Council of India and the State Medical Councils to take action against doctors for medical negligence;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Medical Council of India and the State Medical Councils are empowered under the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002 to take action against the doctors for medical negligence. Upon receipt of any complaint of professional misconduct against a medical practitioner and in case he is found to be guilty of the charges levelled against him by the appropriate Medical Council after conducting an enquiry in the matter, it may award such punishment as deemed necessary or may direct the removal, altogether or for a specified period, or the name of the said doctor from the register.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Sir, I beg to lay a copy of the Explanatory Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Ordinance, 2003 (No. 8 of 2003)

[Placed in Library See No. LT. 8138/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHABHAI KATHIRIA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, 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 Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8139/2003]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 23 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954:
 - (i) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 656 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 2003.
 - (ii) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (3rd Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 771 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th September, 2003.
 - (iii) The Prevention of Food Adulteration (4th Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 832 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st October, 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8140/2003]

- (2) 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 Hindustan Latex Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2002-2003.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Latex Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and

comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8141/2003]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, 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 Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, 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. 8142/2003]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences and Kasturba Hospital, Sevagram, 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 Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences and Kasturba Hospital, Sevagram, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8143/2003]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Acharya Tulsi Regional Cancer Treatment and Research Institute, Bikaner, for the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Acharya Tulsi Regional Cancer Treatment and Research Institute, Bikaner, for the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the Annual Report and Audited Accounts of the Acharya Tulsi Regional Cancer Treatment and Research Institute, Bikaner for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8144/2003]

[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 the following papers on the Table of the House.

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian National Academy of Engineering, 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 Indian National Academy of Engineering, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8145/2003]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories, 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 Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8146/2003]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8147/2003]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Satyendra Nath Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Satyendra Nath Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8148/2003]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, 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 Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune, for the year 2002-2003.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8149/2003]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow, for the year 2002-03, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Birbal Sahni institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow, for the year 2002-2003.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8150/2003]
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian National Science Academy, 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 Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8151/03]
- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Association for Cultivation of Science, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Association for Cultivation of Science, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8152/2003]
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Raman Research Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Raman Research Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8153/2003]
- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehra Dun, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8154/2003]
(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehra Dun, for the year 2002-2003.
- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Academy of Science, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Academy of Science, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8155/2003]
- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Science Congress Association, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8156/2003]
(ii) Statement Regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Science Congress Association, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Vigyan Prasar, 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 Vigyan Prasar, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8157/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (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. 739 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 5 (Madras-Vijayawada section) in the Prakasam district in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- (ii) S.O. 740 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 5 (Madras-Vijayawada section) in the Nellore district in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- (iii) S.O. 741 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27 the June, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 5 (Chennai-Vijayawada section) in the Nellore district in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- (iv) S.O. 830 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Chennai-Ranipet section) in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- (v) S.O. 881 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet section) in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- (vi) S.O. 882 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet section) in Dharampuri district in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- (vii) S.O. 883 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 45 (Tambaram-Tindivanam section) in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- (viii) S.O. 942 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2003 making certain amendments in Notification No. S.O. 464 (E) dated the 26th May, 1998.
- (ix) S.O. 943 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning on National Highway No. 4 (Nelamangala to Tumkur section) in the State of Karnataka.
- (x) S.O. 944 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning on National Highway No. 4 (Nelamangala to Tumkur section) in the State of Karnataka.
- (xi) S.O. 945 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building, maintenance, management and operation of (Deesa-Radhanpur Section) of National Highway No. 14 in District Boundary Patan in the State of Gujarat.
- (xii) S.O. 946 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building, maintenance, management and operation of Deesa-Radhanpur section, (District Border Banaskantha to Radhanpur) of National Highway No. 14 and four laning of National Highway No. 15 (Radhanpur-Samakhiali section to District Border Kachchh) in the State of Gujarat.
- (xiii) S.O. 947 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for public purpose of building, maintenance, management and

- operation of Bamanbore-Samakhieli section, District Boundary Rajkot on National Highway No. 8A of Samakhieli-Radhanpur Section, District Boundary Patan on National Highway No. 15 in the state of Gujarat.
- (xiv) S.O. 957 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd August, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 60 (Balasore to Laxmannath Section) in the State of Orissa.
- (xv) S.O. 958 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd August, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for construction of National Highway No. 60 (Balasore to Laxmannath Section) in the State of Orissa.
- (xvi) S.O. 959 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd August, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for construction of National Highway No. 60 Balasore to Laxmannath Section) in the State of Orissa.
- (xvii) S.O. 960 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd August, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 60 (Balasore to Laxmannath Section) in the State of Orissa.
- (xviii) S.O. 961 (E) published in Gazette of India date the 22nd August, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for construction of National Highway No. 60 (Balasore to Laxmannath Section) in the State of Orissa.
- (xix) S.O. 962 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th August, 2003 making certain amendment in the Notification No. S.O. 218(E) dated the 20th February, 2002.
- (xx) S.O. 963 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th August, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building of National Highway No. 5 (Ganjam to Narayani Junction of Visakhapatnam-Bhubaneswar section) in Ganjam district in the state of Orissa.
- (xxi) S.O. 976 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 9 and construction of toll plaza in the district of Krishna in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- (xxii) S.O. 995 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) in Vellore district in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxiii) S.O. 998 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for six laning of National Highway No. 7 (Devanahalli to Hebbal Section) in the state of Karnataka.
- (xxiv) S.O. 999 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for widening of National Highway No. 7 (Yelahanka and Channasandra section of Hyderabad-Bangalore section) in the state of Karnataka.
- (xxv) S.O. 1012 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 2003 regarding appointment of officers as the competent authority to acquire land in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar border section of National Highway No. 28 in the state of Uttar Pradesh.
- (xxvi) S.O. 1013 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th September, 2003 regarding appointment of officers as the competent authority to acquire land in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar border to Muzaffarpur section of National Highway No. 28 in the state of Bihar.
- (xxvii) S.O. 1042 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th September, 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Nelamangala to Tumkur Section) in the state of Karnataka.
- (xxviii) S.O. 1038 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th September 2003 regarding acquisition of land for building, maintenance management and operation of National Highway No. 45B in the state of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxix) S.O. 1060 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th September 2003 regarding acquisition of land for four laning of National Highway No. 4 (Nelamangala to Tumkur section) in the state of Karnataka.
- (xxx) S.O. 1178 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th October, 2003 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.R.O. 1181 dated the 4th April, 1957.

- (xxxi) S.O. 1290 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th November, 2003 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.R.O. 1181 dated the 4th April, 1957.
- (2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item Nos. (i to xix) of (1) above.
- (3) A copy of the Central Motor Vehicle (Second Amendment) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 720(E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th September, 2003 under sub-section (4) of section 212 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1998 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (4) A copy of the National Highways (Collection of Fees by any person for the use of Section of National Highways/permanent bridge/temporary bridge on National Highway) Amendment Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 843 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th November, 2003 under sub-section (3) of section 9 of the National Highways Act, 1956.
- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 11 of the National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988:
- (i) S.O. 1179 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th October, 2003 entrusting certain stretches as mentioned in the Notification of National Highway No. 7A to the National Highways Authority of India.
- (ii) S.O. 1291 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th November, 2003 entrusting certain stretches as mentioned in the Notification of National Highway Nos. 5A, 47, 17, 48 and 13 to the National Highways Authority of India.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8158/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table of the House—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 37 of the

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997:—

- (i) The Telecommunication Interconnection Usage Charges Regulation 2003 published in Notification No. F. No. 409-5/2003-FN in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 2003.
- (ii) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Salaries, Allowances and Other Conditions of Service of Chairperson and whole-time Members) Amendment Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 716 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 2003.
- (iii) The Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (Salaries, Allowances and Other Conditions of Service of the Officers and Employees) Amendment Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 766 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th September 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8159/2003]

- (2) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the ITI Limited and the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8160/2003]

- (3) 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 ITI Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the ITI 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. 8161/2003]

[English]

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): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on the assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Lok Sabha:

TENTH LOK SABHA

1. Statement No. XXXV Fifth Session, 1992
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8162/2003]

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

2. Statement No. XXXII Second Session, 1996
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8163/2003]

TWELFTH LOK SABHA

3. Statement No. XXXI Second Session, 1998
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8164/2003]
4. Statement No. XXV Third Session, 1998
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8165/2003]
5. Statement No. XXVI Fourth Session, 1999
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8166/2003]

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

6. Statement No. XXV Second Session, 1999
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8167/2003]
7. Statement No. XXV Third Session, 2000
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8168/2003]
8. Statement No. XX Fourth Session, 2000
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8169/2003]
9. Statement No. XIX Fifth Session, 2000
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8170/2003]
10. Statement No. XVIII Sixth Session, 2001
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8171/2003]
11. Statement No. XVI Seventh Session, 2001
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8172/2003]
12. Statement No. XIII Eighth Session, 2001
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8173/2003]

13. Statement No. XI Ninth Session, 2002
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8174/2003]
14. Statement No. VIII Tenth Session, 2002
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8175/2003]
15. Statement No. VI Eleventh Session, 2002
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8178/2003]
16. Statement No. IV (Volumes I-V) Twelfth Session, 2003
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8177/2003]
17. Statement No. I Thirteenth Session, 2003
[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8178/2003]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table of the House:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bihar Education Project Council (Bihar Shiksha Pariyojana Pralshad), Patna, for the year 2001-02, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Bihar Education Project Council (Bihar Shiksha Pariyojana Parishad), Patna, 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. 8179/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI): Sir, I beg to lay the following papers on the Table of the House.

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Paradip Port Trust, Paradip, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working

of the Paradip Port Trust, Paradip, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8180/2003]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8181/2003]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8182/2003]
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mormugao Port Trust, Goa, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mormugao Port Trust, Goa, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8183/2003]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the New Mangalore Port Trust, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the New Mangalore Port Trust, for the year 2002-2003.
- [Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8184/2003]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cochin Port Trust, Cochin, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Cochin Port Trust, Cochin for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8185/2003]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kandla Port Trust, Kandla, for the year 2002-2003.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kandla Port Trust, Kandla for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8186/2003]

(8) A copy each of the following Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 103 of the Major Port Trust Act, 1963:

(a) (i) Annual Accounts of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Visakhapatnam for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

(ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Visakhapatnam for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8187/2003]

(b) (i) Annual Accounts of the Kandla Port Trust, Kandla, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

(ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Kandla Port Trust, Kandla, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8188/2003]

(c) (i) Annual Accounts of the Mormugao Port Trust, Mormugao, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

(ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Mormugao Port Trust, Mormugao, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8189/2003]

(d) (i) Annual Accounts of the New Mangalore Port, Trust, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

(ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the New Mangalore Port Trust, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8190/2003]

- (e) (i) Annual Accounts of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8191/2003]

- (9) 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 Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8192/2003]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers 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. 8193/2003]

- (10) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:

- (i) G.S.R. 648 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th August, 2003 approving the Visakhapatnam Port Trust (Festival Advance) Amendment Regulations, 2003.
- (ii) G.S.R. 649 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th August, 2003 approving the Visakhapatnam Port Trust (Classification Control and Appeal) Amendment Regulations, 2003.
- (iii) G.S.R. 728 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th September, 2003 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees (Medical Attendance) Amendment Regulations, 2003.

- (iv) G.S.R. 739 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 2003 approving the Tuticorin Port Trust Employees (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2003.

- (v) G.S.R. 846 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th October, 2003 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotions) Amendment Regulations, 2003.

- (vi) G.S.R. 876 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th November, 2003 approving the Cochin Port Trust (Recruitment of Heads of Departments) Amendment Regulations, 2003.

- (vii) Notification No. A-23020/1/2003-TAMP published in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 2003 making certain amendments in the Tariff Authority for Major Ports (Transaction of Business) Regulations, 1998.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8194/2003]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): 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 Semiconductor Complex Limited, S.A.S. Nagar, for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Semiconductor Complex Limited, S.A.S. Nagar, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8195/2003]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council, 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 Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8196/2003]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology, Pune 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 Centre for Materials for Electronics Technology, Pune, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8197/2003]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Software Technology Parks of India, 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 Software Technology Parks of India, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8198/2003]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering Research (SAMEER), 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 Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering Research (SAMEER), Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8199/2003]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VINOD KHANNA): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi, for the year 2001-2002, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8200/2003]

12.01 hrs.

**MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA
AND
BILLS 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 the rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2003 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 5th December, 2003."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of the rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2003 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 8th December, 2003."

(iii) "In accordance with the provisions of the rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the British Statutes (Repeal) Bill, 2003 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 8th December, 2003."

Sir, I lay on the Table the Indian Medicine Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2003, passed by Rajya Sabha on 5.12.2003, the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2003 and the British Statutes (Repeal) Bill, 2003 which were passed by Rajya Sabha on 8.12.2003.

12.02 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Thirty-seventh Report

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep): I beg to present the Thirty-seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.02¹/₂ hrs.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

Fifteenth Report

[English]

SHRI RAMAKANT ANGLE (Marmagao): I beg to present the Fifteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

12.03 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

Resignation of Shri Dilip Singh Judev from the Council of Ministers

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): The Delhi edition of *The Indian Express* dated 16.11.2003 carried a News story and VCD visuals allegedly showing Shri Dilip Singh Judev, then Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests, receiving cash from one Shri Rahul in the presence of Shri Natwar Rateria, Assistant Private Secretary to the Minister. Shri Dilip Singh Judev submitted his resignation which was accepted by the President on my recommendation on 17.11.2003. On my direction, the Cabinet Secretariat forwarded on 17.11.2003 press clippings from various newspapers to the CBI for appropriate action.

On the basis of the above *Indian Express* News story and other print and electronic media reports, the CBI registered a Preliminary Enquiry on 18.11.2003 against Shri Judev, his APS Shri Natwar Rateria and

Shri Rahul, purportedly a representative of an Australian Mining Company.

The decision to register a Preliminary Enquiry or a regular case or file a chargesheet is a decision taken by the CBI. The Government does not interfere in these decisions. ... (Interruptions)

The CBI has also sent notices to both Shri Judev and Shri Rateria requiring them to appear before the CBI.

It has been the policy of my Government that all allegations pertaining to corruption should be thoroughly inquired into. ... (Interruptions) Accordingly, the CBI is inquiring into this whole matter and it would be premature to state anything till the inquiry is complete.

As hon. Members are aware, the CBI has full functional autonomy and, under the recently enacted Central Vigilance Commission Act, the superintendence of the CBI in relation to offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act has been vested by the Government in the Central Vigilance Commission.

There should, therefore, be no fear or misgiving regarding the independence of this inquiry.

I would like to assure this august House that the truth will soon be out and the law will take its own course.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8201/2003]

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar): Sir, what happens to the matter related to Jogi, it should also be discussed here. ... (Interruptions) A statement has been given regarding Judev episode, however, nothing has been said about Jogi. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Prime Minister has made a statement and we are going to start a discussion on his statement now.

... (Interruptions)

on Pesticide Residues in and safety standards for soft drinks, fruit juice and other beverages—Extension of time

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I would like to know as to what happened to Jogi episode.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We are going to start the discussion on the Prime Minister's statement. During the discussion you can raise the point which you want to raise. I have no objection if you want to ask certain questions during the course of the discussion also on some other issue which may be indirectly relating to this question, but not at this stage. But before that, there is a little bit of business pending and I would like to complete it now. Dr. Ramaiah.

12.06 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

Twelfth Report

[English]

DR. B.B. RAMAIAH (Eluru): Sir, I beg to present the Twelfth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

12.07 hrs.

MOTION RE: REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON PESTICIDE RESIDUES IN AND SAFETY STANDARDS FOR SOFT DRINKS, FRUIT JUICE AND OTHER BEVERAGES—EXTENSION OF TIME

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do extend upto the beginning of the Budget Session, the time for presentation of the Report of Joint Committee on Pesticide residues in and safety standards for soft drinks, fruit juice and other beverages."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do extend upto the beginning of the Budget Session, the time for presentation of the Report of Joint Committee on Pesticide residues in and safety standards for soft drinks, fruit juice and other beverages."

The motion was adopted.

12.06 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS—GENERAL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): Sir, on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to present a statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT. 8201A/2003]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we start the discussion under Rule 193. Shri Ramji Lal Sumar.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR (Dadra and Nagar Haveli): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 30 children lost their lives in Daman incident but it has not been taken seriously. I have demanded for this. Since then, four months have elapsed however, no action has been taken so far in this regard. I have demanded for independent inquiry in this matter. 30 children have lost their lives. ... (Interruptions)

MOHAMMAD ANWARUL HAQUE (Sheohar): 30 students and teachers were killed in that incident.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: Today, whole Daman is closed. The people have announced for Daman Bandh and as a result of which today entire Daman is closed. It is so serious incident however, the House is not taking it seriously. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am going to take up a Calling Attention on this matter tomorrow instead of today because the concerned Minister is not available today. Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, before that the Government should give statement in this regard. It was due to the negligence the incident occurred and 30 children were killed. ... (Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice for Calling Attention on the issue of sugarcane. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You know that your notice has been admitted for tomorrow so you can certainly speak on it tomorrow.

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: But before that statement should be given by the Government. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Today there is bandh and you want to speak so I have given you permission.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: What have I demanded? I have demanded only for judicial inquiry. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Today there is no 'Zero Hour'.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ashok Kumar Singh Chandel, yesterday you gave me privilege notice. What do you want to say in this regard?

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL (Hamirpur U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is due to the antagonistic attitude of the UP Government and Administration that I am being mistreated and because of that I am unable to address the problems of the people of my parliamentary constituency. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen.

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: A case was lodged against me in Kanpur. At that time I was

staying in the guest house of Uttaranchal Government after getting treated from Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia hospital as the doctor had advised me. I have payment receipt of it. From 30.09.03 to 8.10.03 I stayed there and a case was lodged against me on 6.10.03. I and my family members were implicated in it. Thereafter, I withdrew Rs. 5 lakh from State Bank of India, Parliament Street Branch on 18.10.03 and went to Kanpur on the same day by Delhi-Guwahati-Rajdhani Express. When I reached my home I came to know that forged cases have also been lodged against the Panchayat members of Hamirpur then I went to my parliamentary constituency, Hamirpur. On 9.10.03 Kanpur police forcibly entered my home and mistreated my wife and took away my brief case. The police personnel beat up my handicapped wife and my servants. Such type of injustice is being done to me and all these things are being done at the instance of the U.P. Government.

I have given notice twice in this regard and on the basis of that you have written two letters, however, you did not get any reply neither from the Ministry of Home Affairs nor from Uttar Pradesh Government. So I want that you should refer it to the Privilege Committee and provide me your protection in this regard.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is not the case of privilege.

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am finding it difficult to visit my parliamentary constituency. Police is against me and trying to entrap me. My family Members are being mistreated and conspiracy is there to kill me. It is open murder of democracy. So I would like to submit that if I am not able to visit my parliamentary constituency and address the problem of the people then it would be the breach of privilege. So I want your protection. All these things are being done due to the political vendetta. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Uttar Pradesh Government is not functioning on the basis of political vendetta. The UP Government is functioning on the basis of merit and demerit. Uttar Pradesh Government is well aware of its duty and no hindrance is being created for the hon'ble Member in the way of discharging duty. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: How can you speak on behalf of the UP Government in the House?

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR SINGH CHANDEL: He is replying on behalf of the UP Government. I am demanding that fair and impartial enquiry be conducted in this regard. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Chandelji I got your notice. I have written the UP Government twice in this regard. The reply to it must have been sent by this time. I will give last chance to the UP Government and if no reply is received in 15 days, I will take next decision in this regard.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter of Bihar is very serious. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Today there is no 'Zero Hour'. So you can take up your matter tomorrow. You will be given an opportunity tomorrow.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a discussion has been initiated. Earlier it was told that will be initiated on Monday, however, that discussion has not been held till today. The people of the country want to know the reaction of the House in this regard. That discussion is still incomplete. The Minister of Railways also want to intervene in it. The Government too have to reply and till now the discussion has not been completed. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It has been decided in BAC regarding the time of the discussion. The date will be intimated in its report. We have fixed up a date for its discussion.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): The discussion should be completed. That discussion has not been concluded. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Time has been fixed for this purpose in BAC's meeting. Since Sushma ji is not available here, so I cannot tell what date has been fixed for it. I would let you know the date, after consulting Sushma ji when she arrives.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: It should not be fixed for Friday as there is a poor attendance in the House on that day. It is a very important issue and last time also discussion was scheduled on Friday. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would let you know after knowing it from Sushma ji.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur) I have come to know that it has been fixed for Friday. But Friday will not be appropriate day. Please let it be tomorrow. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sushma ji will tell it.

... *(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had given Adjournment Notice on the issue of sugar. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please let me make it clear that I do not fix up the date for discussion here. The dates are fixed in a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee. If you want to say anything, you can talk to your Leader. Let your Leader bring the issue before the Business Advisory Committee for discussion.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now the discussion on Prime Minister's statement will start.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give me assurance that you would take up sugar issue tomorrow. It is a very serious matter. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: On Sushmaji's arrival I would ask her about the date and then I would tell you as to which date has been fixed for it.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, not one but two Ministers of Parliamentary Affairs are sitting here and they may be knowing as to which date has been fixed for this purpose. ... *(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice for Adjournment Motion and I want to give your ruling on that.

MR. SPEAKER: I have not admitted notice for Adjournment Motion. If you want discussion to be taken up on this issue then ask your leaders to move a proposal in Business Advisory Committee for holding discussion on this issue.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Sir, let this issue be taken up tomorrow for discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: Pappu Yadav ji, I have told you that no sooner Sushma Swaraj ji comes here I would ask her and let you know. You, please sit down.

12.16 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Prime Minister's Statement on the Resignation of Shri Dilip Singh Judev from the Council of Ministers

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Ferozabad): Sir, the statement of hon. Prime Minister on resignation of former Minister of Environment and Forests, Shri Dilip Singh Judev and its acceptance by the Prime Minister is not factual. The Statement should have highlighted everything about the reasons behind tendering of resignation by Shri Dilip Singh Judev and its acceptance by the hon. Prime Minister. But the Prime Minister just performed this duty by giving a vague statement. But one thing is there, that the matter is being investigated by the CBI and the Government does not interfere in CBI's working.

Sir, my charge is that the most deplorable deed done by the present Government is that it has tarnished the credibility and image of CBI in the country. It has been the most corrupt Government since independence and it is not only involved in Judev scam but several other scams like, match-fixing, Tehelka, UTI Scam, Share Scam, Petrol Pump Scam and DDA Scam and many other scams the Government are involved in it. There is a long list of scams of this Government. Quite humbly, I would like to submit that some how or the other, the Government have been influencing the inquiry process being conducted by the CBI.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Indian Express dated 16 November carried a story featuring Judev Sahab and his Secretary taking money as bribe from an Australian firm for granting mining rights to that. All the newspapers covered this news item. But the then Minister Shri Judev refuted it saying that he knows nothing about it and that it is false and fabricated. People like our learned friend, Law Minister Shri Arun Jaitley and President of BJP Shri Venkaiah Naidu gave him a clean-chit and said that this all has been doctored to entrap Judev ji. Initially, hon. Prime Minister also wanted to shield him as he had said that he would get this matter inquired and there is no need for Judev ji to resign.

Sir, I would like to tell that had there been no Vidhan Sabha elections, hon. Prime Minister would not have accepted that resignation of Judev ji. The Government wanted to shield him. Hon. Prime Minister stated that the matter has been handed over to CBI. But as far as I know, no FIR has been lodged in this regard and Judev ji had said that he was not at all involved in it and that he had not taken bribe. But giving an interview to NDTV, he accepted having taken money. What a hateful misdeed he did! He said what I took as bribe—even Mahatama Gandhi, Chandrashekhar Azad ji and Bhagat Singh used to take money. He is comparing his act of bribery with leading freedom fighters of country who helped our country getting it freed from the bondage. I think there can be no more shameful act than this.

I would like to ask the Government what is the need for investigation when the man who took money has himself accepted that he took bribe. I think his statement of acceptance is sufficient for sending him to jail. Sir, so far as CBI inquiry is concerned, senior officer of CBI say that certain portions of CD made available to them are being edited. Tape featuring Judev accepting money is with CBI. But it is trying to obtain the original tape. As and when original tape is available they would send it for forensic test.

Sir, through you, I would like to submit that same thing happened in Tehelka episode. Similarly the Government has tried to cover up its fault in Tehelka case. On the basis of authenticity of Tehelka tape, officers of Armed forces have been court martialed. The authenticity of tapes is being investigated. It is nothing more than delaying tactics. Judev has not been interrogated in this case so far. Sir, my charge is that the Government are deliberately trying to shield Judev and there is nothing new in it.

[Shri Ramji Lal Suman]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell that state Finance Minister Shri G.G. Ramchandran was removed from the Cabinet in the month of May on the charges of corruption. It was alleged that his PA took bribe. He was sworn in again in the month of September. A clean chit that Shri Ramchandran is innocent was given to him even before CBI started the inquiry. CBI interrogated Shri Ramchandran two days after he was re-sworn as a Minister. It is merely to influence CBI inquiry. Sir, hon. Prime Minister said that he did not want to protect any one and wanted a fair and impartial probe but what is being done by these people. I have with me the statement made by the hon. Deputy Prime Minister Shri L.K. Advani in that "Jogi ke rupya sata ke liye and Judev ne Party ke liye paise liye, L.K. Advani". Sir, what is this if not a conspiracy to protect Judev. Without knowing about the facts and without any conclusion Shri Advaniji is saying that the money accepted by Judev was meant for the party. The same thing was said when Bangaru Laxman was accused of accepting money. He is deliberately trying to conceal the facts and the misdeeds committed by Judev. Sir, the situation has come to such a stage that even the CBI has lost its credibility. I am of the opinion that in view of the facts that have come to light and after the acceptance by Shri Judev that he has taken money, there is no appropriate place other than jail for Judev.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request that all these facts be thoroughly probed into by a Joint Parliamentary Committee within a specific period, so that truth could be come out. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Athawaleji, you speak at last.

[*English*]

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Thank you Mr. Speaker Sir. Before I speak on Judev issue, I would like to quote an English Sonnet. The part of the English Sonnet is: "It is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing." The Judev affair is just that. It is sound and fury, signifying nothing. The hon. Prime Minister has indicated as to what steps are being taken by the CBI.

Sir, for the kind information of the hon. Member, may I say that the CBI starts a preliminary enquiry also; and if it is satisfied that there is *prima facie* evidence to go ahead with a criminal case, they register a case and take up investigation in a proper line.

Sir, may I inform this House that under the Prevention of Corruption Act, there have to be two factors, namely, one is, whoever accepts money or agrees to accept money or attempts to obtain money for gratification—whatever may be the type of gratification—he is said to be taking illegal gratification. The other is the giver, so, in illegal gratification, Sir, two persons or more than two persons are to be involved. In the so-called videotape, which is available on the Internet also, it is there. This morning also, I had a look at that Internet tape also. Only two persons have been shown Shri Natwar Rateria and hon. Shri Dilip Singh Judev. There is no picture of the person who is supposed to have given the money. Now, Sir, the person, so called Rahul, who is supposed to have given the money, is supposed to be representing an Australian firm.

Sir, if Australians are dealing with Ministers, they must be having an efficient way of knowing as to what type of influence a particular Minister can exert in a Government for giving any benefit.

May I inform this House, Sir, that Shri Judev was in no way capable of giving any mining lease or anything of this sort. You kindly see, Sir, that in the List of Allocation of Business to Shri Judev, the Cabinet Minister had given him four types of works. The first one is relating to wildlife, the second is relating to Eco-Development Board, the third is regarding National Awards Committee, and the fourth is environment education. It has nothing to do with mining leases. The so-called firm that had come all the way from Australia—it has not been indicated which firm it is from Australia, and what type of work it was supposed to take—has nothing to do with Judev. He had no authority to give it also. I am sure an Australian firm is not a dumb firm to go for spending money on that.

Sir, may I remind this House that the Government, under the able leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has taken prompt steps. As the Prime Minister said just now, the incident was of 16th November. On the 17th, Shri Judev was asked to resign and he resigned promptly.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): There was no way. That is why he has resigned.

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Kindly listen to me. Do not disturb me. When you get a chance, you can talk about it.

The papers were given to the CBI to go ahead with the enquiry. The CBI, as you know, is an autonomous

body. This House has given autonomy to the CBI with the power of superintendence to the Central Vigilance Commission. The power of superintendence is not a small thing. Those Members who were there in the Joint Parliamentary Committee would kindly appreciate this fact. They had also discussed this matter, notably about superintendence by the CVC.

Now, enquiry is going on. But look at the other aspects of things. This Government has taken all the steps but look at the fact relating to Ajit Jogi. No action was taken immediately although he tried to desecrate the Constitution, he tried to create problems for the Constitution itself.

Sir, again I would quote Shakespeare only. ...
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): You tell about the bribe taken in regard to mining. ...
(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Sir, I am not yielding. ...
(Interruptions)

Sir, it has been indicated again and I quote Shakespeare. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Stop eating. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Who is eating? What is to be stopped.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Sir, I quote Shakespeare that a Leopard does not change its spot nor an Ethiopian changes his colour. And it is so in the case of Shri Ajit Jogi. Taken the case of BALCO. He raised lots of hullabaloo, created a storm and what has happened? When I had been to Chhattisgarh for elections, I was told—I do not know it is a fact or not—by many persons that an underhand dealing had been struck, under the table deal had been struck by him with BALCO, as a

result of which, he started mewing instead of roaring as he was doing earlier.

Take the case of 13 MLAs who were taken when he became the Chief Minister of that State. He engineered defection. A Mayor of Raipur also was taken. He engineered defection. Sir, when the election results were out, when the Chief Minister was caught off after the 1st December, what has happened? ... (Interruptions) A conspiracy was started by Shri Ajit Jogi, who, I would say, is a megalomaniac, megalomaniac in the sense that he wants to be in power by hook or by crook. What did he do, Sir? He tried to create problem for this very Constitution, very democracy itself.

Only recently we have placed the Report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs relating to the 97th Constitution (Amendment) Bill. Shri Pranab Mukherjee is the Chairman of that Committee, who has said very clearly in that Committee Report itself that there is necessity of creating an atmosphere so that Rule 3 of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution is not violated by splits, by creating problem. And the people of the category of Shri Ajit Jogi have been creating these type of things. The Congress had tried to. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Is this a discussion on Shri Ajit Jogi? He is not connected at all. ...
(Interruptions)

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Sir, I am not yielding. Please allow me to speak.

I would invite the attention of this House to the JMM bribery case in which money was offered by the Congress Party, by the Prime Minister of that day to bribe people so as to vote for a particular action. They had sown the seed. They had started. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, I am not disturbing him. I only submit that the Prime Minister has made a statement today and you were kind enough to permit a discussion on it. His statement is precisely in the context of the resignation of his colleague, a Minister in his Cabinet, and subsequent action initiated by CBI, and nothing beyond that. If he wants to bring this thing, I think, he is doing injustice to the statement of the Prime Minister. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Sir, I am giving a comparative fact. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): Sir, a conspiracy was hatched by Shri Ajit Jogi. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. He is making his observation. Let him make his observation.

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Sir, I again repeat. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, a conspiracy was hatched by the Goddess to send Ramba and Urvashi to break the *tapasya* of Vishwamitra but Vishwamitra did not break the *tapasya* and Urvashi had to return. Here, the *tapasya* was broken by Judev. That is the point we are discussing. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Sir, again I would like to repeat that in the case of Shri Ajit Jogi, it was an exercise to torpedo the very foundation of democracy by encouraging defection.

His conversation with Shri Pandey, the first instalment of Rs. 20 lakh through Shri Khunte's son, the second instalment of Rs. 25 lakh through Shri Amit Jogi and the letter of authorisation for an alternative support source for forming a Government in Chhattisgarh are indicative of the fact that Shri Ajit Jogi had consulted the high command. These are indicative of the fact that he had consulted the Congress high command in taking the abominable steps. Unless he had consulted the high command and the leader of the Congress Party itself, he would not have gone ahead with that thing.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, I am on a point of order.

Sir, what we are discussing is known to the House. It is a statement given by the Prime Minister that is being discussed. Now, the debate has to be relevant to the statement given by the Prime Minister. Moreover, if any allegation is made against any person who is not a Member of this House and that allegation is of incriminatory nature, then who is going to respond to it? As per the rules, as per the law, a person outside has not to be criticised. So, first of all, it is not relevant. Secondly, the person against whom the allegations are made is not here to defend himself, and extending it to anybody sitting in the House is not correct. It is because the same thing can be said against others who have themselves agreed on TV whether they were having a hand in organising the trap or not. So, we are not extending to that extent. The hon. Member should be very careful. We request you, Sir, to give the ruling on this point. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE: He pays from his pocket. The people have not objected to it. ... *(Interruptions)* It looks like that.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Please do not do that. The statement made by the Leader of the House is this. I will read it out for the benefit of the Speaker. ... *(Interruptions)* The statement is, "I express my anguish..." ... *(Interruptions)* But he was suspended. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Shri Ramji Lal Suman referred to Shri Jogi also. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Then, there can be no discussion on that also.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: There are others also against whom the allegation can be made. They have gone on TV saying that they are responsible for it. We are not mentioning their names. If we mention their names, they would also be required to be answerable to the law. So, while in enthusiasm, let us be careful to say certain things. The Prime Minister has made a correct statement. That principle should apply to all the cases. We are not finding fault with his statement. But if you are unnecessarily increasing the ambit of the discussion in this manner, we warn that those who are involved in this matter also become answerable under the Telecommunications Act, Indian Penal Code and others. We are not extending to it. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Right now, Shri Ramjilal Suman told about ten Scams, you did not react at that time. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House must consider the existing rules today, and whatever is permitted in the rules should be observed by everybody. You are all aware that the rules in this respect are correct. The rules, which are shown by Shri Shivraj V. Patil, are also correct. Therefore, you can make your point without mentioning the names also, and that would be in the interest of the entire debate. I would also like the House to note that this is an important debate.

We are discussing the issue of Shri Judev as per the notice which is given. Therefore, his name can be very well mentioned because the name is mentioned in the notice itself and the Prime Minister had also replied referring to the notice. But normally there has been a practice and also it is provided in the rules that about those persons, who are not present in the House, you

can make an indirect reference. So, please do not mention the names again and again.

Now, you can go ahead.

SHRI ANADI SAHU: I will not mention the names. Again, I will come to Shri Judev and Section 24 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

May I, with your permission, quote that Section itself? It says:

"Statement by bribe giver not to be subject to any prosecution and the bribe giver can also say as to how he has given, what he has given, why he has given."

Now, so far as the Australian firm, or the person who is supposed to have given bribe or whatever money he has given or is supposed to have given to Shri Judev is concerned, is not coming forward and I do not know how a manipulative action has been taken to see that a good person is maligned. This is what has happened in the case of Shri Judev. In the case of other person—I am not naming him—I would like to say that because the persons in the Opposition, particularly the Congress people are vociferous in supporting the action of somebody who has been disgraced.

I would like to quote again from Saint Beuve, an Italian Priest, who was beatified like Mother Teresa. His quotation is relevant here. He says:

"Tell me whom you admire and I will tell you what you are, at least, as regards your talents, tastes and character. do you admire mean men? Your own nature is mean."

That is all I would like to say and this is what is happening. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): You are admiring Judev. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, please do not disturb. I have given my ruling. My ruling is very clear.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANADI SAHU: They are admiring mean men and a person who was trying to create problem for this democracy and for this Constitution itself. The Congress Party did not take any action at all for days together because the CBI investigation has been mooted and has been started. Yesterday only they were able to muster

some courage to say that action has to be taken and all those things. We have to take into consideration the facts relating to the situation which has been prevalent in this country now as to how we should get over the difficulties relating to defections and why, by lure of money, the representatives are being taken. I must admire the prompt steps taken by Shri L.K. Advani and Shri Arun Jaitely to bring to the notice of people of this country as to what type of action is being taken by some people who, I said, are megalomaniac in character. This has to be kept in mind. It is rather unfortunate that men of rank, of wealth and education succumb to the unprincipled action which make them dead fish and like dead fish, they cannot go against the current and they have to float with the current.

I would like to say something about Brinda Kavi I cannot say the entire *Doha*, only a portion of it I can say here:

[*Translation*]

If you try to dig pits for others, it may turn as canyon for you.

[*English*]

That is what Brinda Kavi had said and this is what is happening when you try to dig a hole for others, you get into the moat and in the moat only dead fish float. That is what is happening to the Congress Party now. Only dead fish are floating and I do not know what will happen to them when that entire moat gets polluted because of such actions. We have to get rid of dead fish. Everybody has to come together, this House has to come together, the Parliament has to come together to see that when a democratically elected Government takes shape, it has to be given all support. In the case of Shri Judev, he has not taken any money to thwart the democratic set up itself. If he has taken money, it is for any other thing—relating to conversions into Christianity or for some other thing. He might have taken. I do not know about it because he is a person who sees to it that. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): You should not forget the Arunachal Pradesh episode. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have this humble submission before you that the way the level of debate on corruption being

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

held under the Rule 193 going on the issue of corruption may take the backseat. Hence I submit to you to maintain the dignity of the House. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU: I am only speaking on that. He might have taken, I said. He missed my statement. I would like the Congress Party Members particularly to keep in mind that they must speak out as to what type of action was taken by some people to torpedo the Chhattisgarh Government. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: We need not be sermonised by you. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Sir, I would like to stop here by quoting again from the Bible because there are many other people here to speak. For their information, I quote from the Bible, Psalms 115;

"They have mouths and speak not; eyes they have and see not; ears they have and hear not; noses they have and smell not; feet they have and walk not; neither speak they through their throat."

The Congress is groaning. They are not speaking out as to what their Members have been doing. For days together they did not come forward to say that it was a dastardly act. ... (*Interruptions*) Let them face the CBI probe. Shri Judev is facing the CBI probe. Let all the Members of the Congress, who have been instrumental in trying for defection, face the CBI probe and let us see what would be the result. That is all. Thank you.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Prime Minister for, at long last, coming to this House to make a statement on Shri Dilip Singh Judev—a cryptic one though, which conceals more than it reveals. There are two sentences or words in his statement which stand out distinctly. One is where he says that it has been the policy of his Government to thoroughly enquire into all cases of corruption and immediately he contradicts himself by saying that the *Indian Express* of 16th November, 2003 allegedly shows Shri Dilip Singh Judev taking money.

That precisely brings to focus what was the response of this Government, of the members of this Government, immediately after this incident took place. A glimpse of that is what we have got from Shri Anadi Sahu today, and from the hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Deputy Prime Minister and other Members of his Cabinet, during their

election campaign and thereafter. You leave aside what Shri Judev said when he compared himself, or had the audacity to compare himself, with Mahatma Gandhi. I would not refer to that because that is beneath contempt. I would only refer to what these worthies from the Government said. They said, it was a sting operation in which, as I could very well quote Shri Anadi Sahu when he said, 'manipulative action of some people to malign a good person' was there. This is what they said "here was Mr. Judev taking up his fight, his crusade for the cause of the tribals and the *Hindutva* and we were trying to malign him. ..." ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

It is astonishing to know that for there who talk of *Hindutva* the damned money is God. They have forgotten as is what was said by Shri Judev at that time, I would like to quote him.

"Mana ki Paise Khuda To Nahin

Lekin Khuda Ki Kasam, Khuda Se Kam Bhi Nahin"

It is quite clear before you as to how much the people talking of *Hindutva* give importance to the money.

[English]

The hon. Prime Minister's statement brings to our mind immediately that day in 2001 when the people were aghast and were rendered speechless on seeing the President of the BJP accepting money on videotape. We expected this Government to take immediate action in that case. What happened after two-and-a-half years? An inquiry commission was set up. One of the terms of reference was—permit me to quote—'inter alia inquire into all aspects relating to the making and publication of these allegations'.

The emphasis was not on whether he took money or not; the emphasis was on inquiring into all aspects relating to making and publication of these allegations. That proof was equated with an allegation. This term of reference is nothing but wanting to thwart any investigative journalism in future. It was intended to intimidate, to threaten all those journalists who take up the cudgels to expose corruption in our system, in our society.

Sir, the matter does not end there. Just two days after Shri Judev's this incident happened, Shri L.K. Advani goes to Raipur and says "it is for the first time that Indian politics and elections have been influenced by sting

operation." The Supreme Court, and on the directions of the Supreme Court, the Election Commission has laid down elaborate forms for the candidates to declare their assets, to declare if they have ever been involved in any criminal case, but here, the Deputy Prime Minister of the country wants that all these matters should not be exposed during the election period. Further, permit me to quote the hon. Deputy Prime Minister. He said, "I hope, CBI will not only probe whether Judev is guilty or not but would also investigate how this operation happened."

The Prime Minister assured this House and, through this House, the country that it is the policy of this Government that all these matters should be exposed and should be investigated thoroughly, and that the CBI is professionally independent and has functional authority. Now, I do not want to refer to any matter, but the things are brazenly before us. We cannot escape but take notice of those things. Double standards are adopted by this Government in different cases.

Shri Sahu, as renowned officer, a learned person and a senior Member of this House, referred to the provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act and also about the procedures followed by the CBI to say that firstly, there is a preliminary inquiry and after the preliminary inquiry, an FIR is lodged. ... *(Interruptions)* What does happen here? Sir, I hold no brief, let me assure this House, for Shri Jogi or for anyone other than the matter that I am referring to now. But what happened in that case? The CBI lodges an FIR immediately and in the case of Shri Judev, that preliminary inquiry is going on even till this date. This is the functional autonomy you have accorded to the CBI! I know that CBI has officers who are par excellence and who are known for their integrity, but what can they do if there is a Government like the one sitting here, the Government whose Members cite scriptures? I do not want to say who cites scriptures. Devils cite scriptures. ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, Shri Sahu referred, again legalistically, to the provisions of Prevention of Corruption Act and said that a person who could be guilty of the act of bribery, of taking bribe, must be in a position to grant the benefit for that consideration and only then that illegal gratification could be attributed to him. He further went on to cite the portfolios held by Shri Dilip Singh Judev to say that he had no authority to grant a mining lease. This rather proves the double fraud that these people can indulge in. The person who has no authority to grant a licence still accepts money for that purpose. ... *(Interruptions)*

This is precisely what this Government is up to. It is not just a double fraud; it shows the enormity of the greed and the depth of the depravity and the nadir to which the Members on the BJP side have descended. This just proves that irrespective of whether you can give something to a person or not, anyone who approaches you with some consideration, is welcome. You take him to five-star hotel, sit with him and accept money, and then say "Khuda To Nahin Lekin Khuda Se Kam Bi Nahin."

Sir, a distinction is being brought out that here money was taken for breaking a party and that money was taken for helping him prevent conversions. This is the distinction that is being drawn. Sir, what is material is not the end use of the money, though at times that also becomes material yet the important thing that has to be seen is that people holding important positions in the Government devise means to accept illegal gratification, Please do not go by these legalistic things. Those things can also be proved against them. What is important? That is the grave-men of our charge here, that not one, but there are scam after scams, and there are acts of malfeasance, one after the other. If you want me to name, I would just name one or two, namely when the hon. Prime Minister said that "this is the policy of the Government." What has happened to the DDA scam, the JPC's Report on Stock Scam, and thereafter the CVC's observations on the defence purchases? We repeatedly keep asking for its discussion in the House and the matter is not taken up. The House is being told and the country is being told that we want those matters which are of very sensitive nature, and which can compromise the security and integrity of the country. Those are the words that you pick up from the statute to keep away what is embarrassing to you or what could embarrass you otherwise, and what could have exposed this Government. That is the refuge you take behind those things for not being transparent enough. The hon. Prime Minister here tells us that this is the policy of my Government. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, in the last Session, a date was fixed for discussion in the House, but the House was not allowed to be run by the Opposition. That is the reason why it was not discussed. The date was fixed, and everybody knows that fact. Sir, they did not allow this House to run, and they are now blaming us that we did not allow the JPC's report to be discussed in the House.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, the hon. Prime Minister told us that it was on his direction that this matter was referred and press clippings were sent to the CBI for investigation. He immediately asked for the resignation of Shri Judeo, facing opposition from his rank and file and sent the resignation letter for acceptance to the hon. President. When I read that, I could not but appreciate the hon. Prime Minister for taking that step. But, as usual, the next day there was ambivalence in his approach. Not only was there ambivalence, as I said earlier, but he goes to the election campaigns defending Shri Judeo. He goes abroad and makes comments against others who are holding important Constitutional positions, which he could have just avoided. Even those were without substance and without any basis. How do we—despite the pious words that we have heard from the hon. Prime Minister today, and despite the fact that we want to believe the hon. Prime Minister and believe his Government? That is our predicament and that is certainly the predicament of the people of this country.

This Government is more adept at distributing patronage to the greedy than food to the hungry. This is the Government for which money is the motivating factor, whatever be its source and whosoever is the person giving it to them.

Encomiums were showered on Shri Judeo. Sir, we wanted to move an Adjournment Motion, but we went by your observations. We bow to your observations and we are grateful to you that you have in any case found the means of asking the hon. Prime Minister to come to this House and enable us to have this debate on this issue.

Sir, coming back to Shri Sahu, I am not a philosopher as he is or as learned a person as he is, but besides other words I could also mark his caustic remarks saying that when we admired mean men—I would not complete because I did not really get him—and in the same breath he goes on to admire Shri Judeo.

13.00 hrs.

He says that we have manipulated the action to malign a good person.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): "A good person!"

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bansal, as you are on your legs, you can continue your speech after lunch.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I will conclude in two minutes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You can continue after lunch.

13.01 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Before I adjourn the House for lunch, the 'Matters under Rule 377' will be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

(i) Need to provide air services connecting Ajmer in Rajasthan

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, while on one hand the various cities of the different states of the country are having air-connectivity, on the other Ajmer, the city well renowned in the country from historical and tourism viewpoint and in the world from the viewpoint of religion and culture is yet to attain air-connectivity. The city which was the centre of the activities of the freedom fighter during the Rajputana regime and had the Union territory status till 1956 and which remained as the centre of important political activities during the medieval (Mughal) and British periods, is still deprived of the air connectivity despite the passage of 56 years of independence. The Government of India have also made an announcement for setting up an international airport in city of Ajmer and the representation sometimes signed by 30 MPs to 100 MPs for setting up the airport there have been submitted to the Government.

I request the Union Government to take initiative to allot the land for setting up the international airport at the Ajmer city so as to connect it with air service.

(ii) Need to introduce services of ATR-50 planes from Kullu, Shimla and Kangra in Himachal Pradesh

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandi): Sir, last year on the occasion of world famous Vijaydashmi Mela at Kullu the then Civil Aviation Minister addressing a public rally had announced that shortly Kullu, Shimla and Kangra in Himachal Pradesh will be connected with ATR-50 flights. The hon. Minister while replying to points raised in the House in this regard had also assured me that they are purchasing the aircrafts and as soon as the aircrafts are received Himachal Pradesh will be the first state where these aircrafts will operate. Now I have been told that Government has purchased four aircrafts and they will operate only in North East states and Himachal Pradesh is being deprived. The people of Himachal

*Treated as laid.

Pradesh and hoteliers association met me during my last visit to the Himachal Pradesh and have expressed their anguish over the decision of the Government. Had the flights of ATR-50 been introduced they would have gained substantially from the point of view of tourism and in turn there would have been overall development of the region. I, therefore, urge upon the Civil Aviation Minister to honour the announcement made without any further delay.

- (iii) **Need to take initiatives to evolve tribal friendly programmes for the benefit of Adivasis and Moolvasis of Jharkhand**

[English]

SHRI SALKHAN MURMU (Mayurbhanj): The creation of Jharkhand State is proving to be disadvantageous for Adivasis and Moolvasis because the Domicile Policy, even after three years, is still not framed. Reservation Policy is not justified. Besides, class 3 and 4 jobs should have been reserved for local people and the education policy should have been reframed basing the tribal language and culture including Santhali as the official language of Jharkhand. The Agriculture and Forestry based initiative should have taken top priority for development. The above factors are bound to be take care of in Jharkhand for peace and progress.

- (iv) **Need to introduce a local passenger train from Ahmedabad to Abu Road and extend the route of Aravali Express upto Mumbai Central**

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (Banaskantha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the need to introduce rail service in my Parliamentary constituency. There are several express trains between Ahmedabad and Abu Road but there is not a single local train due to which the people face many problems in traveling, on the one hand they have to pay more and on the other there is a problem of ticket reservation etc.

I request the Union Government to introduce a local train service between Ahmedabad and Abu Road and also to extend the Aravali rail service between Jaipur and Bandra upto Mumbai Central so that the facility could be provided to the passengers.

- (v) **Need to take appropriate measures to check the incidents of fire in the coal mines of Central Coalfields Limited in the Bokaro-Kargli Region**

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (Giridih): Mr. Speaker, Sir, lakhs of tonnes of high quality coking coal has burnt due to the spread of fire in various coal mines and the reject located in the Bokaro Kargli area of Central Coalfields Limited and no efforts have been taken to control this fire. Besides, unemployment is increasing at an alarming level as a result of coal being loaded through the CHP instead of labourers in Jarangdih Coal Mine of Kathara area for local sale.

Many labourers organisations drew the attention of the Government towards the incidents of fire in the coal mines, but no action was taken at all. And now the fire is spreading inquiry number one and two of Kargli Project Kargli OCP excavation and also in the petrol-diesel pumps located nearby. Production of coal is getting obstructed as a result of water logging and so, it would give benefit to unemployed persons and revenue to the company if the reject coal which caught fire may be sold to them through open sale.

Fire is spreading towards the 'Hindustan Petroleum' beside the road as also the residential area nearby and common people are getting affected by poisonous gas. And no concerned department is taking any action.

Therefore, through you, I urge upon the Government that effective steps may kindly be taken to extinguish fire in the coal mines and arrangements may kindly be made for loading the coal for local sale through labourers instead of the CHP.

- (vi) **Need to provide adequate funds for the projects aimed at checking the menace caused by elephants in the Southern districts of Karnataka**

[English]

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR (Mysore): The conservation of elephants is facing a major challenge in Karnataka due to the growing Elephant-Man conflict in that State. There are more than 2600 cases of crop raiding by elephants every year and this figure has been increasing year after year. There are also many cases of human injuries and deaths annually caused by wild elephants. There has been increasing anger of the public against elephants. They are destroying the small huts and hamlets

[Shri S.D.N.R. Wadiyar]

and destroying the standing crops. So, electrocution of elephants has been taking a toll of nearly 25 elephants every year apart from shooting them down in and around agricultural fields and coffee plantations.

As such, there is an urgent need to reduce Elephants-Man conflict by erecting barriers between man and elephant habitats and preventing poaching, particularly in the Southern districts.

The State Government is not financially sound to bear the cost of creation of elephant proof barriers, i.e. elephant proof trenches, solar/power fences, dry rubble walls etc. to stop the movement of the elephants outside the reserves. I demand adequate funding by the Government of India to implement such projects.

- (vii) **Need to provide 'Pattas' to farmers whose lands were acquired for setting up Bharat Aluminium Company in Korba district, Chhattisgarh**

[Translation]

DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT (Janjgir): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bharat Aluminum Company (BALCO) had acquired land of farmers and house owners in village Rieda Patwari Halka No. 4 Tehsil and district Korba, Chhattisgarh in 1968-69 for establishing a factory.

Each of the land owner was given seven (7) decimals of kind in Patwai Halka No. 4 Khasra No. 422 Rakba 36.72 acres of grazing land (Charai) and two (2) decimals of land for agricultural purposes, by the land Acquisition Officer, which has been used by farmers partly for constructing their houses and partly for other agricultural needs since 1972-73. But they have not been given the land ownership rights on lease basis despite the fact that they have given written representations to the Government, the Collector, the Commissioner and also to the Minister.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to give land ownership rights on lease basis to the extent of 7 to 9 decimals to each of those farmers and land owner whose lands have been acquired by BALCO for establishment of factory.

- (viii) **Need to take steps for all round development of North Bengal**

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): The Tenth Plan document, in spite of several assurances by

the West Bengal Government and the Union Government, indicates no positive support to compensate the regional imbalances of North Bengal pertaining to flood management, river erosion management, industrial infrastructure, additional power generation and modern health infrastructure in this region for its progress and prosperity. Negative approach to the growth and expansion of the tea gardens and to accord them necessary financial moratorium, has also not found any sympathy from the Union Government.

Raw Jute producers are suffering for not having any modern jute mill in this region, specially in Uttar Dinajpur and Jalpaiguri. University expansion, creation of Central Institute of Technology and Medical college is still a dream. For ethnics like Rajbansi community people, protection of their social, cultural heritage and opportunities as Scheduled Castes, has remained unfulfilled. I draw the attention of the Union Government to advise the Desk of Planning to interact immediately with the West Bengal Desk for comprehensive review of the Plan Document pertaining to North Bengal region.

- (ix) **Need to Introduce D.M.U. rail service from Madurai to adjoining towns in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI P. MOHAN (Madurai): Madurai is the second big city in Tamil Nadu next to Chennai. This is the District Headquarters and an ancient tourist centre. That apart, many small-scale industrial units area also functioning here.

For all the day-to-day needs of the people of Madurai, essential commodities such as vegetables, grains, fruits, milk, oil, fast food items etc., are being brought from towns situated around Madurai.

Many vendors and office-goers are commuting daily between Madurai-Dindigul; Madurai-Rajapalayam; Madurai-Kovilpatti; Madurai-Manamadurai; and Madurai-Bodinaickanur with season tickets.

For their regular trips which are mostly during the day time, the present train services and their frequency to these places are quite inadequate.

Therefore, Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) trains otherwise called Push Pull Train Service from Madurai to Dindigul, Rajapalayam, Kovilpatti, Manamadurai, and Bodinaickanur may please be introduced. This system is certain to boost the revenue of the Railways. At present, such DMU service is being operated successfully, keeping Tiruchirapalli as centre. Madurai needs such DMU service.

I request the Hon'ble Railway Minister to order early introduction of DMU service as suggested.

- (x) **Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for setting up District Rehabilitation Centres**

DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO (Parvathipuram): The Disability Act puts significant responsibility on the Government to provide total rehabilitation services to persons with disability. There is a crucial vacuum in providing services to the disabled, particularly in the rural areas. Andhra Pradesh has taken up rehabilitation of disabled as a special intervention.

So, I would request the Central Government to provide funding support to the Andhra Pradesh State Government for setting up District Rehabilitation Centres in all districts of the State.

- (xi) **Need for early completion of National Highway No. 2 between Auraiya and Sirbhaganj in Etawah Parliamentary Constituency, U.P.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah): Sir, the work of construction from Auraiya to Sirbhaganj under National Highway No. 2 between Agra and Kanpur in my Constituency Etawah is not being executed under the construction norms, the work *vis-a-vis* is being done on a very slow pace. Construction work being carried out on one line has led to so much deterioration on the other line that accidents are occurring very frequently. Alongwith this, the construction work of by-pass in Etawah which was to be completed by 2004, has been discontinued by the construction company which shows that this work would not be completed even by the year 2008. The work is also not been executed per the construction norms.

I, therefore, through you, make a personal request that the said work may kindly be expedited and also executed as per the norms so that the common people may get relieved of the inconvenience.

- (xii) **Need to lay a new rail line between Jolarpettai and Hosur via Bargur and Krishnagiri in Tamil Nadu**

[English]

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN (Krishnagiri): Time and again for the past many decades, there has been a demand

for a new railway route between Jolarpettai and Hosur via Bargur and Krishnagiri. All the Members of Parliament elected from Krishnagiri constituency had made such representations, but in vain.

Even though there are ample avenues for the expected level of revenue from this area for this new project, the Government has not taken action on the repeated requests and representations.

We expected the Government to make an announcement of this project during the Budget Session, but it was not done. When, I placed before the Minister the facts comprising the available potentialities and the expected revenues, he had agreed in principle to consider my request for laying of the new railway route between Jolarpettai and Hosur via Bargur and Krishnagiri and to allot necessary funds for it, but so far the work has not been taken up and the people of this area are very much angry and unhappy over this.

Now, Krishnagiri District is newly formed with Krishnagiri as the District Headquarters. As per the laid down norms, Krishnagiri should be in the railway map and the proposed new line will solve all the problems.

Hence, I request the Minister of Railways to instruct the authorities concerned for re-survey and early action in this regard.

- (xiii) **Need to expedite setting up of Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Jalalpur in Saran District, Bihar**

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, work for construction of Krishi Vigyan Kendra in Jalalpur under Saran district of Bihar has still not been undertaken despite approval given 3 years back, though government land is available in Jalalpur. I have made repeated requests to the hon. Minister of Agriculture in this regard, but the already approved scheme has not been started due to the frequent change of Ministers of Agriculture. Former Agriculture Minister had announced in a gathering in Jalalpur that Krishi Vigyan Kendra has been approved to be set up in Jalalpur and work would be immediately started, but no work has been initiated even after three years.

I, therefore, through you, request the Government to allocate funds and get the construction work of Krishi Vigyan Kendra started immediately.

(xiv) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Tamil Nadu for implementation of underground drainage and sewerage system in Rasipuram Municipality

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Rasipuram is a first class Municipality in Namakkal district of Tamil Nadu. It comes under my Parliamentary Constituency. It is situated at about 30 kms from Namakkal. The projected population of this Municipality in the year 2005 is 75,000. The average annual rainfall of this town is 584.52 mm. At present, there is no underground drainage system. There is an open drain of about 36 kms. Now, the Central Government is providing full financial assistance for implementing underground drainage and sewerage scheme at Municipalities/Historical Tourism Centres. Rasipuram Municipality is also selected for the implementation of the above scheme and the design norms are already adopted as per the guidelines mentioned in DPR under NRAP. The estimated cost of this project is Rs. 15 crores which includes land acquisition, construction of flush tanks, manholes and ventilating shafts. The project also includes waste water treatment plant, reuse of the treated water for agricultural purpose.

I request the Government through this House to kindly consider the proposal favourably and to provide full financial assistance to Rasipuram Municipality through the Ministry concerned for implementation of the underground drainage and sewerage system in order to protect the people of this area from health hazard.

(xv) Need to provide rail services linking Parwanoo-Badoti-wala-Nalagarh-Badota areas in Himachal Pradesh with Chandigarh

[Translation]

COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL (Shimla): Sir, the area starting from Parwanoo and extending further to Baddi-Badoti-wala-Nalagarh-Dabota area is very important from industrial point of view. Many industrialists have made investments here and many units have been established. But the modern industrialisation needs strengthened and systematised basic facilities. The Union Government have, very recently, encouraged investment in the industrial sector by taking important and concrete steps in providing many facilities, but this area is still deprived of its basic requirement of rail facilities.

Sir, the on hand rail facility would facilitate the transportation of good connected with industries, it would

also facilitate the commutation of employees and labourers from Chandigarh and nearby town. This route can easily be linked with the Chandigarh-Kalka line.

I request the Union Government especially the Minister of Railways that this important rail link route may kindly be given approval on priority basis in the coming Budget Session. This would not only encourage the industries, but would also facilitate the transportation of agriculture, horticultural products to the whole sale markets. Besides, it would also encourage tourism.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

13.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till fourteen of the Clock.

14.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at two minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Prime Minister's Statement on the Resignation of Shri Dilip Singh Judev from the Council of Ministers—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal was on his legs. He will continue now.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, today there is a brazen attempt by the Government to deflect attention from an incontrovertible act of corruption by a Minister. Shri Judev, we have seen ourselves, accepts cash, raises it to his forehead and then utters those famous words. But the official spokesman of the Ruling Party calls the tape a "fabricated, doctored and manipulated" thing. He calls it an act of well-thought conspiracy. This reminds us of the ruthless way in which Tehelka Dotcom was targeted after it exposed corruption

in defence deals. Therefore, today it is the credibility of this Government which is at stake.

Four-five years back this Government came to power promising to be a party with a difference, promising transparency, promising probity in public life. Today, it is before us displaying as to what steps they can take to see that corruption does not come to light. I would only want to, with all humility, remind Shri Sahu that sting operations is an accepted form of collecting evidence against a suspected wrongdoer or against an act of malfeasance.

I am sure, he knows of thousands and thousands of cases where trap witnesses have been sent to rope in people charged with corruption and where decoy customers have been sent to nab people indulging in illegal trafficking.

Sir, it is an accepted form and an effective form of investigation and we cannot play it down the way it is sought to be done. When I say that it is sought to be done, I am again reminded of the *Tehelka* days. We know all that happened. I would not like to repeat that. I would only like to say that one hon. Member of this Government who perhaps has earned or maybe about to earn the distinction of entering the Guinness Book of World Records for being boycotted by the major Opposition for the whole of his term, Shri George Fernandes, at that time that: "There is a need to have a legislation to take care or to deal with sting operation." Therefore, I say what is at stake today is the credibility of this Government.

Sir, today, unfortunately, primarily and rather solely I can say that because of the propensity towards licentious behaviour shown by this Government during the last five years, there is a prevalent mood of cynicism amongst the public, cynicism that 'politics has become a tool of corruption than a catalyst of change, a catalyst of development.'

Sir, there is a responsibility on each one of us today and the Government cannot shy away from that by trying to save or shield its people, its Ministers who have been exposed to this corruption. The responsibility is greater on them today. From time to time, we have brought to the notice of this House and to the nation that the way the reform process has been stymied is only because of corruption of the people manning the affairs of the country today.

Sir, the hon. Prime Minister assured the House that there was no need of fear or misgiving. I want to believe him. But I cannot persuade myself to believe it. I only want, if they are true to what they say, 'there is no disparity between the action and perception', that our demand of JPC on this be met with forthright. There is a need to form a JPC on this. I hope, this Government, as is done in many other cases, does not come with a claim of privilege so that damning observations and findings remain shrouded under the veil of secrecy.

Finally, I would only refer to what Shri Anadi Sahu once again said quoting Shakespeare about the leopard not changing its colours. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): I was only quoting Shakespeare. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Shri Sahu, I am correcting your Shakespeare. What he said is not colour, it is spots. He said: "A leopard cannot change its spots nor an Ethiope his hue." He did not say, 'colour'. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, let us not drag the name of great Shakespeare in 'Judeo video tape'. ... (*Interruptions*) Let us quote him in other cases. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): I would remind him of Shakespeare where Antony says: "But Brutus is an honourable man and so are they all, all honourable men." Sir, Shri Judeo, the ex-Minister is an honourable man and so are they all, all honourable men!

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister's statement is a grand example of a tongue-in-cheek observation made by him. Of course, we are not surprised.

This regime led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has become synonymous with worst forms of political and administrative manipulation. This regime has unfolded a saga of unlimited corruption, sleaze political vendetta, nepotism, favouritism and total distortion of the political and moral fabric of this country.

Sir, what this Government thinks—as a matter of policy—would only provide for their survival; they have not only communalised the political and cultural fabric of this country, they have pauperised the people with their economic policy; they have also at the same time glamourised corruption.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

Why we say that during this Government's tenure public administration has reached its nadir is because of the double standard it has played in the political life of this country. Today's governance has been symbolised by an opportunistic alliance which believes in policies of 'give and take'—'you give me votes and I will give you something'. This is the whole basis of this Government's survival. The shameless manner in which it is applying double standards in respect of similar actions and behaviour shows the depth to which this Government has gone and can go for the purpose of remaining in power.

Shri Sahu mentioned about 'hook and crook'. This should apply to this Government! We have before us, numerous instances of sordid behaviour on the part of this Government, of its impropriety which strikes at the very concept of probity and accountability in our administration. As we said, we all know—they cannot hide it—that there have been series of scams and misdemeanours, acts of corruption. What is most dangerous is the Government's conscious approval, if it relates to their own people and then, an impervious attitude to serious allegations of corruption and wrongdoings which are eating the very vitals of the public life in this country. Today, the biggest group of people or the masses are looking at the politicians with a lot of incredulity. That is because of the way politics is being handled by this opportunistic alliance where the principles of morality, governance and probity have been given a go-by. Therefore, every politician is today considered to be a crook. The onus is not now on us to show that we are not dishonest.

This is the shameful situation and a very worrisome situation that we have come into in this country. That is why, young people are losing faith in politics. But here, all sorts of statements are being made. I would quote what the Deputy Prime Minister, Shri Advani said: 'Somebody was caught with his pants down'. Even in those cases there is some sort of a concerted and an orchestrated attempt to glamorise it.

I am trying to find out and the country needs an answer: does this Government not feel disturbed, if it has got any conscience? The Prime Minister come and he did not disclose anything other than what had appeared in the newspapers. Why was the time taken that the Prime Minister would make a statement? It was

rightly observed by Shri Bansal that he concealed more than he disclosed. Not even one word has been said about the action taken.

A certificate has been given to the CBI. I am sorry to charge the Prime Minister that it is a deliberate ploy to mislead the people of this country about the true role of CBI. It has become a tool in the hands of this unprincipled Government which is encouraging corruption. I am charging this Government. That is why, you are giving protection to people like that. Does this Government have any self-respect and any commitment to minimum public morality and decency? This is very essential that this Government should answer.

What have we seen in the present case? The gentleman whom we are discussing—I had mentioned earlier also—was seen chaperoning the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister throughout this election campaign. He was put on the dais and was being eulogised. Judgements have been delivered by the Prime Minister of India and the Deputy Prime Minister of India that he is the paragon of virtue, and an angel accompanying the Prime Minister was seen twirling his moustache to show how supposedly wronged he has been. A sort of bravado was also being displayed with a brazenness in which any person who has any faith in probity and honesty would hang his head in shame.

Sir, we wish to make it clear from our point of view that we strongly condemn all acts of corruption and misdemeanour and malfeasance and financial impropriety in public life. In all the cases we have demanded the strictest action according to the law. But is the law being applied in the present case? According to us, there is a deliberate cover up operation and the CBI, the most important investigative agency is being misused for political purposes and it has further become—which is very dangerous—an instrument to harass the political opponents.

Sir, what is the allegation? We have seen a report in a newspaper of impeccable journalistic credentials published on 16th November, 2003 with photographs showing that the ministerial colleague of the Prime Minister was taking money in a hotel room after being sufficiently energised with specific liquids. What did he do with the money? He first took the bundle of notes and touched his forehead by saying what a beautiful present he has got from the God. Then he said what Shri Bansal has quoted. He said:

[Translation]

"Paisa Khuda To Nahin Par Khuda ki Kasam, Khuda Se Kam Bhi Nahin."

[English]

When this gentleman was approached by a reporter, what did he say? I am quoting from the *Outlook* magazine.

"To hell with everything. This is a conspiracy hatched by Jogi and anti-Hindu forces."

He probably had taken only 'Hindu' money. He said, 'There is only one thing I am good at, converting people to Hinduism. Whenever there are minorities, there is terrorism. There will be another diversion of the country. The Northeast will separate, then Kashmir. But people like me who work for the Hindu cause are persecuted'. The irony was that he was quoting the Bible in his case. He himself admitted to have received money.

Sir, Shri Sahu with his great knowledge as a former policeman and lawyer said—I have high respects for him but he is one man who shows how some good people always go stray because of bad company—how there can be a crime when there is no bribe-giver shown there. But at least he knows a little less than the Prime Minister. He said that the tape showed that he was receiving cash from one Shri Rahul in the presence of one Shri Rateria. So, there was a bribe-giver. If there was no giver, then how did he get the money? Was it dropped from the Heavens to Room no. 822 of the Taj Mahal hotel? Were monies pouring in from the sky? Even our good friend, Swami Chinmayananda who has now been entrusted with the job of maintaining the law and order of the country, having breached every law in this country, would not be able to persuade God to drop some money for him. But this gentleman by twirling his moustache was getting money from the heavens.

Sir, what was the response of the great leaders of the BJP? This is very important. The youthful president of the BJP—who is dreaming of something in 2004, just waiting for the fall—and also the Deputy-Prime Minister, who is in charge of the law and order in this country and thereby of the national morality said that Judeo was being framed and that the tape was manipulated and interpolated. A judgement was delivered by the Deputy-Prime Minister and the CBI would obviously be influenced by this because he is expecting to sit next in the Chair

of the Prime Minister. So, an immediate clearance was given.

Sir, then there is something else about which our good friend Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal has already mentioned. Now, what did one of the General Secretaries—who has made electioneering a matter of event management,—elections are no longer political struggle, it is a matter of event management—of the Party say? He said, 'interests could have coalesced to ensure that Judeo committed political harakiri. There can be both political and business interests behind it. I do not rule it out'. This was one judgement delivered. Another was by the youthful Law Minister who has brazen-facedly violated law—I will come to that later—said, 'the whole thing smacks of a sting operation. While it is true that political parties collect funds for electioneering, no Central Minister should go to a hotel room personally to collect cash'. What did he go there for? The hiring charge of a room for one night in that hotel is Rs. 20,000/-. Did he hire it himself? Somebody else hired for him. Who was he?

Whose interest was it to entertain him there in that room by paying Rs. 20,000 for that room? ... (Interruptions) Or did he hire it himself? He was the main actor. This is the distorted vision that you have. Then, what did their mentor, the RSS spokesman, say? He has said, 'This is a conspiracy involving the Christian Missionaries and the Congress Party.' It is for them to answer. I do not hold brief for them. But one also hears that other interests are involved, that is, the Christians plus the Congress plus somebody. The full truth will come out after the CBI completes its investigation which has not yet started. It is still in the stage of inquiry. Shri Sahu knows the difference between inquiry and investigation. Therefore, as he has rightly stressed on it, it is only in the stage of inquiry. From 16th of November, we are today on 10th December. It is still inquiring. And as regards the other person, we are very happy to get hold of him. I do not know about the truth or otherwise. He has been spotted and a chargesheet has been filed the next day.

Now, what does another General-Secretary say who sometimes, I find, is a spokesman and not a spokesperson? However, he says:

"It is clearly a deep rooted conspiracy and the chief beneficiaries are Ajit Jogi and the Congress Party. Definitely, there has to be some business interests also. They either have interests in Chhattisgarh or are backers of Jogi and the Congress."

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

Sir, why am I reading this? They are finding out who has been responsible in disclosing this. But nobody is saying one word about why money has been taken by that gentleman.

Now, the Prime Minister asked him to resign. Why? If nothing wrong was done, why did the Prime Minister ask him to resign? Then, when the Prime Minister asked him to resign, what he says? He has reminded us that Gandhiji used to take money and Bhagat Singh used to take money. And somewhere he said that if he takes money for a social cause, what is wrong. Let us know this. I would have thought that the Prime Minister would tell us because he was working under them. He belongs to that party. They have not jettisoned him. He has not been suspended. He was adorning the election platform during the campaign and they were trying to get votes from the people by saying, "How wronged he has been—the Raja of Jaspur" Is this the way you deal with public affairs and serious charges of corruption? Not one word has come from the hon. Prime Minister.

Let us look at the way the investigation is being carried out. I would like to say about a statement made by Shri Advani. When the inquiry came up, Shri Advani who landed in the State capital, Raipur, the day after the scandal broke out has this to say. "Perhaps this is the first time that politics has been reduced to the level of a sting operation." Now, who is directing the CBI? Under what jurisdiction is he directing the CBI? Is the CBI under the Home Minister in this country? "The CBI will not only investigate the charges against Judeo but also who made the tape." Who has to issue that instruction? And it was the next day before a final order has been issued for the CBI investigation, the Prime Minister said that only reference had been made, papers had been sent to the Cabinet Secretary to be forwarded to the CBI. No investigation has started.

Then, it has been directed to go into as to who made the tape. I shall come to that later. This is the real catch in this. See how they have diverted the *Tehelka* inquiry! They have entirely vitiated the *Tehelka* inquiry. They have manipulated it for their party purpose and for their partisan ends. It is a travesty of justice that has taken place in the *Tehelka* case. Precisely that has been their attempt in this case also.

Now, so far as the inquiry is concerned, after Shri Advani's statement, what happened? Here we have this obliging CBI Director, who has just retired. What did he say? He went to the Press and made a statement. He

spelt out to the *Outlook* the broad framework of the investigation. Within a few days he has decided the course of action. He said that the authenticity of the recording will have to be first established. Tests will have to be carried out to ascertain if any voice had been dubbed later. What for? The issue is taking money. That has been admitted. For what purpose and for whom has he taken the money? What further inquiry is necessary in this case? He has never denied having received the money. On whom the onus falls? He has received the money. He has to state as to how this money has been received by him. Is there a case of proving that he has taken the money, which was sought to be disputed in another case? CBI has priorities. They said that establishing the authenticity of the tape is the priority for them. The room in the five star hotel of Delhi has been established. So, the next priority is tracking the persons who hired the room. Maybe to find out the accomplices. But the main issue is whether Shri Judeo as taken money and for what purpose and for whom.

The face of the man, Shri Rahul shown on the tape handing over the money is not visible. So, his identity has to be established. Then the conspiracy angle has to be established. Shri Sahu, does it not disturb your conscience? You were a sincere policeman. I have never heard of this. This was started from the *Tehelka* regime. This is the biggest cover up operation being carried out to divert the attention of the people from the main issue. That money was sought to be utilised for the election which was in the offing at that time.

What has CBI got to do in this? What is the scope of inquiry? I would request the Prime Minister to tell us as to what is the scope of inquiry in this. Who has dictated the CBI course of inquiry regarding authenticity of the tape and about the persons responsible for it, as desired by Shri Advani? He is carrying out Shri Advani's decision. I would like to be informed by the hon. Prime Minister whether the inquiry has been completed. That is one. Secondly, we would like to know whether any question has been put to Shri Judeo by the CBI. I would like to know this. I would like to have a specific answer on this. Has, at least, any polite conversation been carried out between the CBI and Shri Judeo? What has been the inquiry from 17th November to 10th December? What is the result of this inquiry? Has there been any move apart from some supposed inquiry which is going on, which nobody knows? Shri Sahu, does this case not merit an FIR? I would like the hon. Prime Minister to inform us. Let him be advised rightly or wrongly by his Law Minister. He should tell us this. He should take the

country into confidence. Twenty-four days have elapsed. What are they doing? Till today only this Preliminary Enquiry, what they call PE, is being supposedly carried out. The objective is nothing but to permit that gentleman to remain out of jail and to be utilised as a specimen of being a wronged person by the machinations of Shri Ajit Jogi who was the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh. I am making it very clear. I have nothing against him. I am not shedding even one tear for him. I am not holding any brief for him. If he is guilty, he should suffer. His Party, I find, has already taken some steps which the BJP has not shown the courage to do that.

Then, he talks of the CBI revealing to the media the copies. This is another very serious thing. An investigating agency goes to the Press only if they have some concrete evidence in some matter. Leaks are regularly being made to the Press. The CBI revealed to the media that it got copies of Amit Jogi's e-mail communication showing that Shri Jeremiah, a Director of the Raipur-based Akash television channel had discussed plans to trap Judev. I would like to know with all sincerity and humility this question. What is the relevance of who was taking the pictures, who had organised the television video films to be taken? How is it relevant for the main issue or whether Shri Judev was responsible or not? This is what is being informed to the Press; leaked to the media as if those are the real issues in the investigation or a sort of an inquiry. Is it the main issue? The whole country is being today told by the hon. Prime Minister of India that the CBI is acting according to its own dictates without being interfered within its investigation.

So for, this investigation is about the identity of the bribe giver. There is no dispute about the bribe-taker. It is deliberately a mis-direction on the part of the CBI to show that this is the real inquiry; it wants to find out the person who has been responsible for taking the video pictures. Can there be any explanation?

We have a very celebrated lawyer here, Shri Mukherjee, for whom, I have highest regards. He is one of the best legal brains. I am sure he is feeling uncomfortable that till today, the CBI has not taken any steps to interrogate the persons involved, namely, Shri Judev and the other gentleman Rateria. They have not even taken into custody any document. I do not know where is this money. With whom is that money? How much money is involved and where is it? I do not know. What has the CBI done with regard to the recovery of that money? Till today, nothing has been done.

If the CBI has pursued a normal process of inquiry on the basis of a *prima facie* case by lodging an FIR, arresting Shri Judev, issuing search warrants against him and freezing his bank accounts, it would still have some impact on the method of inquiry, on the public mind as to the Government's sincerity and seriousness. But the premier agency in our country is now being tainted by political bias. Can we forget here one thing? What has this Government done through the agency of CBI in the case of Tehelka? We know that the Army officers, as some of our friends mentioned here, who were shown accepting money on Tehelka tapes, have been court-martialled.

But Shri Bangaru Laxman has faced no action and the leader of another political party is saying that there has been a wrong doing so far as she is concerned. Here, again, a big campaign is going on about the authenticity of the tapes. One learned judge who headed the Commission said that they are perfectly in order, there has been no doctoring and they are original tapes but another learned judge has now directed exactly the opposite. Now, the whole country does not know and the Parliament also does not know what is the position regarding that inquiry. In the mean time, what has happened? There was a search for the secret backers of Tehelka. Tehelka, as an organisation, has been totally destroyed and decimated. Their web-site has been closed. Its owner is deeply in debt. Two investors in Tehelka have had their lives destroyed. Tehelka's staff have been harassed, humiliated and arrested. About 14 prosecutions have been launched against them and the Ministers are sitting here and glibly talking about morality. The Prime Minister is telling us that the CBI is proceeding on its own. I would submit that this is the worst type of cover up operation ever undertaken, I think, in any civilised country. This is the position with regard to Tehelka episode.

Sir, as has been rightly pointed out by Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, sting operations are carried out in many cases and decoy witnesses are there. The Privy Council has observed and it has also been approved by our Supreme Court. I quote:

"If evidence was admissible, it matters not how it was obtained. Cases of bribery and vice rely on the evidence of trap witnesses or bogus customers"

Sir, very important and high functionaries of different departments of the Government had been arrested in the past on many occasions with trap witnesses, with decoys.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

Now, what is special in this case? It is special because the gentleman involved belongs to the BJP and also because they were facing an election. What has happened now? We should look at the difference in approach and attitude of the Government. The next day after Ajit Jogi episode, a CBI inquiry has been instituted and rightly so. I do not mind that. An FIR was filed immediately. If there is a *prima facie* case it should be done and I have no objection, but in this case, for 24 days no *prima facie* case is seen on a person who has confessed to have taken money.

Sir, we would like to know and the country would like to know as to what was the social cause for which he has taken money which makes the Prime Minister happy. If he is so satisfied, there was no reason for getting rid of him from the Council of Ministers. Now, the Prime Minister is allowing the same person, whom he had asked to resign from the Council of Ministers, to go along with him and the Deputy Prime Minister is giving him certificates of honesty and giving him credibility before the people of this country saying that he has been wronged. It is like saying: 'Look at me, I am Atal Bihari Vajpayee. I am so strict. I have asked him to resign, but I am keeping him on my lap. I am providing him lollipops.' This is the credibility of the BJP, this is the morality of the BJP and it is expected that we, Members of the House, would have to ditto their line. They are utilising it for political purposes, for vitiating the atmosphere in this country. That gentleman talks about his war against Christianity and it does not disturb their conscience.

Sir, I thought this was a case of self-confessed guilt.

It is the only case of punishment, but punishment that BJP has given to him cannot satisfy anybody.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): It is only to save the skin.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He has been supposedly punished by asking him to resign. But we have the wonderful example here. A minister resigned on the ground of allegations of moral turpitude but was unfortunately reinstated even before the inquiry was over. There is ample evidence of that. A minister who resigned committed to the people of this country over Doordarshan—official channels: "I shall never go back to the Ministry unless I am exonerated." Today he is so-called 'adorning' the Treasury Benches, restored as a Minister. The Opposition obviously cannot treat him as a bonafide Minister of Defence.

I think, the future of this country cannot be left in the hands of people who apply double standards in case of important public occasions. The question is whether this country should be allowed to be overtaken by corrupt elements, whether politics should become the battle field of corrupt, whether probity in the administration has any relevance. This country has tremendous problems to solve—mounting unemployment, greater and greater penury of the people, serious economic distress, and so on. The whole national fabric is being ripped apart on the basis of religion. Can we afford that this country should be governed by people who indulge in this type of corrupt activities? Therefore, the least this Government can do is this. We demand that if they have any sense of propriety, if they have any sense of faith in the parliamentary system, they should accept a Joint Parliamentary Committee to go into that. According to the facts of the case, there is a clear interference by the Deputy Prime Minister and important leaders of the BJP. So far as CBI is concerned, we have no faith any longer in the investigation—at least in this case—by the CBI. Therefore, we demand appointment of a Joint Parliamentary Committee to, at least, take the people into confidence.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shri Kirit Somaiya.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU: Oh, he is taking the field.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Let us not worry because I am going to support Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the views expressed by Shri Somnath Babu. The guilty should be punished. Corrupt and those who take bribe should be punished.

14.48 hrs.

[SHRI P.H. PANDIAN in the Chair]

Somnath Babu, Pawanji and Suman ji have raised some points in the discussion. Judev should be punished, guilty should be punished. If Judev is guilty he must be punished. Tomorrow if I am found guilty of corruption, accepting bribe and favouring someone, I should also be punished. If Judev is guilty, he should be punished. If someone is backing Judev and Jogi they must also be punished. I would like to support you in this matter. (Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Hon'ble Kirit Somaiya ji should be appointed the Minister of Home Affairs.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was expecting that the level of discussion will be elevated however, it is not so I have gone through the statement of hon'ble Prime Minister. About BJP and NDA Government he has submitted in the House and outside of it that we should elevate our social and public character. It is not merely the question of elevation. recently during the Legislative Assembly election I had gone to Ajmer district of Rajasthan. I stayed there for 15 days. Every day news and photograph of Judev published in newspapers about his involvement in bribery case and the question used to be asked whether one should vote for such BJP. This campaign continued in newspapers for 15 days. If Judev has done anything wrong in Delhi, will the people of Chhattisgarh punish him? Not only the opposition parties campaigned in this way but the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha also had no issue except that Judev belongs to BJP and is corrupt and BJP will be wiped out in election. We are the democratically elected representatives of people. Not a single day passed when such advertisement was not published. Besides this video CD were distributed in the villages of Chhattisgarh and recording used to start at 10 O'clock.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we can befool ourselves but we cannot befool the people of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh the people of these states taught a lesson to the politicians through voting and told them that democracy prevails. As I had said in the beginning. (Interruptions)

SHRI RASHID ALVI (Amroha): He did not mention about Jogi.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I am coming to that however, the way the name of Judev was propagated in election, they should have faced its consequence. Despite that I would like to submit that the hon'ble Prime Minister in this statement has clearly stated that:

[English]

The Delhi Edition of Indian Express, Dated 16th November, carried out a news story, and I have recommended the resignation to the President on 17th November." He also mentions that, "on my direction the Cabinet Secretary had forwarded all the Press Clippings on 17th and on 18th the investigation started."

SHRI ANIL BASU: It was an enquiry. The Press Clippings were sent to the CBI.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Everything was submitted to the CBI and the CBI started its action immediately on 18th of November.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: For 23 days, what did they do? The preliminary enquiry was there for 23 days; and 23 hours to file an FIR against Shri Jogi. What kind of symmetry is there in the treatment of cases of both these persons?

Don't let me to defend you because I want you to replace him. We have found out how inefficient and unreliable he is as the Minister of State.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from Shri Mani Shankar ji whether he and his other colleagues are concerned about Judev or Jogi. If it is about Jogi then I am ready to discuss it. I will talk about Jogi also however first of all I would like to know as to what is behind the scene, whether it is Judev episode or Jogi episode. In fact my submission is that if any discussion is held in the House we should not get involved in allegation or counter allegation and mud slinging towards each other. Rather it will be better if we concentrate our attention to tackle the problem of black money and political corruption and how can we improve our political system. This is the need of the hour.

Sir, when the cassette was being played, one of my journalist friend was sitting with me. When I asked whether it was comparison between Judev and Jogi he told that one small mistake of BJP is being projected as a very serious matter. While if one looks into the history of Congress it is full of serious bribery episodes. But they are innocent. We accepted our constitution in 1950.

[English]

The first incident was of Shri Mudgal.

[Translation]

In 1950, the Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha was caught taking bribe. One business house bribed Members of Parliament to ask parliamentary question as that was to benefit that business house. Probably you have forgotten that episode. (Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I did not forget, rather you have forgotten. He was expelled from party and the House. Will you give the same treatment to Shri George Fernandes and Shri Bangaru Laxman? (Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (Jahanabad): Do you not remember Laloo Yadav? (Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I honour the sentiment of Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar and accept his argument that he was expelled from the party, but what about after that. The history of Congress does not halt here. Shri T. Krishnamachari was expelled. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Shri Krishnamachari was not removed because of this. What are you talking?

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I have not talked about Krishnamachari. I have talked about Shri Mudgal. Why are you intervening?

[Translation]

Since it is in his mind so he is mentioning it. Shri Krishna Menon ji did not discharge his responsibility during China war in 1961 so he had to resign. (Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to inform the hon'ble Member that the China war was fought in 1962. He does not remember even the date correctly.

[English]

He does not even know the dates what history is he going to tell us? It is absurd. The man is looking through piles of papers to pull out a piece of paper which is full of wrong information.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Member should be interested in the resignation and not the date of the war. (Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I was informing the hon'ble Member of the date.

15.00 hrs.

Just now he mentioned that Chinese aggression war in 1961 and I am telling him that it was not in 1961 but in

1962 and he is keen on telling without knowing the date. How can I accept that whatever he is telling is correct. (Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to Shri Mani Shankar ji that he did not deny the resignation of Shri Krishna Menon rather he objected to the date only that it was 1962 instead of 1961. He came back to the Government. (Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Sir, later on he changed from Krishnamachari to Krishna Menon. (Interruptions) What is going on, first it was about the date of war and now it is about the person. (Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have pity for the pathetic condition of the Congress. For his information I would like to inform him that there was case of Krishnamachari and also Krishna Menon. (Interruptions) I would like to inform him further that both were forced to resign and both were reinstated. (Interruptions)

[English]

I want to tell that point when you are talking about Shri George Fernandes and other Ministers. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: He should tell me when was Shri Krishna Menon reinstated? (Interruptions) Murlu Manohar Joshi ji is right professor of History. (Interruptions)

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is trying to stop the revelation of facts, by creating disturbance. (Interruptions) What does he want to say in the House. (Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the history of Congress does not end here. Its history goes from Dularam, Nagarwala, Lalit Narayan Mishra to Bofors Scandal. It began with Mudgal, then Munda scandal took place and the Krishnachari and Krishna Menon had to leave the Cabinet due to some reason or the other. They also staged come back but the history does not end here. The House needs to be reminded about the allegations levelled against Shri Narsimha Rao when he was the Prime Minister. (Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Finally, you level wrong allegations then the Court exonerate the accused person and now you mention that the case in which that Prime Minister was freed by the Court is the symbol of corruption. (Interruptions) You tell about Judev. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kirit Somaiya, the discussion under rule 193 is about Judev case and not about historical things.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAYA: Sir, I am talking about corruption.

[Translation]

I want to reproduce history because they try to level allegations and counter allegation against each other. If Bhartiya Janata Party commits a mistake as a journalist was saying me because the BJP has a clean image, the people are likely to raise questions about it and the corruption is synonym with Congress as the coldness is related to ice and wetness to water so as the corruption is intertwined with Congress, and the people won't raise any questions as it is very much expected from them. Congress and corruption are synonym with each other. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATERJEE: Are you following them?

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Hence I wanted to say to you that.

[English]

Yes certainly.

[Translation]

I said initially that.

[English]

Yes we agree.

[Translation]

We must raise the standard of politics and character. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, he is raising the standard of debate. (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: By raising his hand gesture. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: You asked about Ajit Jogi. (Interruptions) As I said now that you mentioned about Ajit Jogi. (Interruptions) If you have said about it, I would certainly like to take about that also. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, he says that we have raised the question of Shri Ajit Jogi. Where have we done that? He is not relevant to this issue. We are asking about Shri Dilip Singh Judev. If there is any relevance of the Ajit Jogi case to the Judev case, then there can be a mention of it, but he wants to come to the Ajit Jogi case. How can he do so?

Sir, I am raising a point of order. He has to yield.

My point of order is under rule 353 and rule 356 of the Rules of Procedure. They clearly specify that no allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature shall be made by a Member against any person, unless the Member has given adequate advance notice to the Speaker and also to the Minister concerned so that the Minister may be able to make an investigation into the matter for the purpose of a reply. If Shri Kirit Somaiya wishes to say anything about Shri Ajit Jogi, he has to give you a notice and you have to give it to Shri Swami. We have to listen with glowing amusement to whatever Shri Swami has to say. Only then is he allowed to raise Shri Ajit Jogi's case. Sir, I seek your ruling under rule 353.

I also draw your attention to rule 356 which says that the Speaker, after having called the attention of the House to the conduct of a Member, who persists in irrelevant repetition of arguments—and he is really persisting in irrelevance—may direct him to discontinue his speech. Under rule 353, I request you to direct him to discontinue his irrelevant speech.

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Hon. Chairman, may I intervene? Can I speak on the point of order? (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly refrain from referring to any matter other than the one before us for discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Chairman. Sir, while allowing to hold the discussion, Mr. Speaker had directed to hold discussion about Ajit Jogi, this is the ruling of the speaker. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I have not said one sentence about Shri Ajit Jogi. (Interruptions) then, where is the question of refraining?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The discussion is on the statement made by the Prime Minister. If the Prime Minister's statement refers to Shri Ajit Jogi, you refer to him. If the Prime Minister's statement refers to Shri Ajit Jogi, you refer to him. If there is no reference to Shri Ajit Jogi there, then you refrain from it.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Hon. Chairman, Sir, since beginning, all the speakers have referred to it. In connection with that, they have referred to *Tehelka*. They have referred to the leaders of the political parties on the other side. You have to check the record. I am not passing any defamatory remarks. (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Different approach has been taken in another recent case. I have not gone into the merits of the case. (Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I have not passed any observation. I am still putting my argument. I have not passed any observation. But you have built up your case, I am building up my case.

SHRI ANIL BASU: But, Sir, he has raised a valid point of order. You have to give the ruling.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: There is no question of point of order.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Who will decide whether there is a question of point of order or not? (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There was reference about some persons who are outside the House. That was brought to the notice of the chair by the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party saying that somebody's name has been

dragged who is not here to defend himself. At that point of time, even I wanted to raise it. Since he has already raised it, the rule is there that we should not level any allegation against a person who is not inside the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): He is mentioning what has come already in the newspaper. He is not making any new allegation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The logic would be that there cannot be any debate on the conduct of a person who is sitting outside. If that is so, we can discuss only about ourselves. You cannot discuss about the society outside. They are the majority.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: One can go to the court. One can file a case over there and anybody can appear in the court whereas we are not allowing anybody to come to this House and defend himself. We are duty-bound to see that the reputation of a person outside this House is not sullied.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, in that case, we can discuss only about the conduct of the 544 Members. That is the logic.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: This House can decide about the conduct of the persons there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is the rule. I follow the rule.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: There is another forum. (Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Shri Ramji Lal Suman were speaking. (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I never referred to the culpability or otherwise of Shri Ajit Jogi. I said if he is guilty, he should be punished. But different standards have been applied. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You confine yourself to the discussion on Shri Judev because that is the matter before the House.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I would like to say that the person who accepted money is guilty but it is also to be

known as to for what purpose the money was accepted.
.... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANADI SAHU: I am on the point of order which Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has raised. (Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I want to know under what rule he has raised it, because otherwise the Chair is obliged to rule it out of order. Let him tell us what is the rule. (Interruptions) I raised a point of order under some rule. (Interruptions)

SHRI ANADI SAHU: After the sting operation itself, there was a conversation between persons here and in Chhattisgarh and Shri Ajit Jogi comes into picture. So, when you are discussing this matter, naturally Shri Ajit Jogi also comes into picture because you are better knowing about the evidence, the relevant facts and the facts in issue. Fact in issue is money and relevant facts are all these things that he is quoting. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Here we are not concerned about the Evidence Act, the Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code. We are governed by the rules. If that is the case, if you read Section 58 of the Indian Evidence Act, it is admitted. It need not be proved and there need not be a discussion.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I am not a lawyer and I am not a legal expert. (Interruptions) Please allow me to speak. (Interruptions)

SHRI ANADI SAHU: The hon. Speaker also has given the ruling. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you read Section 58 of the Indian Evidence Act, then it need not be proved. There need not be any discussion. Now, we are discussing under the rule, not under any ordinary law. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I accept that argument of the opposition that they also mentioned other scandals besides Tehnika. They also named some persons and also referred to the leaders of some political parties. If the Judicial Commission set up to probe into Judev episode finds him guilty then he should certainly be punished but I would also like to know as to who that

person Rahul is who was spying on Judev and from where did he get the money and also by whom was he sent?

SHRI ANIL BASU: You handover the case to CBI.
.... (Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Who had sent Rahul? Did the sender of Rahul belong to Chhattisgarh? Was any working Chief Minister behind the cassette coverage involving Rahul and Judev? This is to be found but whether he was asked by the leader of his party to hatch this planning? It is also to be found out whether the incident which took place after Judev episode was in anyway linked with it or not. (Interruptions) Everything behind the scene will have to be found out. (Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU: Who got the money? (Interruptions)

[English]

Who is the beneficiary? That is the point. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: You ask this to Ajit Jogi. Why do you ask it to me? (Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the whole game came to an end once the money was taken. (Interruptions)

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, who owns this Akash Channel who is behind this all this conspiracy? This discussion can not be completed without making a mention of what has been reported in the newspaper regarding it. It should be found out as to who owns this Akash Channel. (Interruptions) This discussion can not be completed without knowing it. (Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, when I was talking about politics and corruption then I was trying to make this point. You listen my entire version. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kirit Somaiya is standing. He is not yielding.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I would like to draw your attention to one thing. We contest elections and we have to submit our daily accounts to the Election Commission. We submit most of the accounts and we submit the expenditure account also. But what about the receipts about the money received? (Interruptions) Please listen to me and you will agree with me.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Should we take money from anybody and give it to the Press? (Interruptions) This is getting intolerable. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I would like to say that you may check the account of any political party say Congress account. The expenditure might be found to be done through cheque payment. However now many donors make payment by cheque if we look at the income stock.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: That may be his experience and his party's experience. He cannot say that everybody is doing this? (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not generalise.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Sir, we can stop this.

[Translation]

When T.N. Seshan heading the Election Commission, tried to introduce several measures for electoral reforms he got a lot of success also. Today I would like to state in the House that those indulged in corruption should certainly be punished but at the same time there is a need to make the whole scenario transparent and efficient by bringing in electoral reforms. It should not be the end of road to electoral reforms. There should also be a provision that the majority party be given an opportunity to form the Government and also safeguards be provided and mechanism be evolved to check the sting operation launched to break majority party's Government. We should certainly hold discussion on Judev episode but the guilty in this case be certainly be punished. The Judev episode was followed by Jogi case and there is a possibility that any such case might also come to the fore connected to Telhaka episode. Where are we heading? An MP offers money to another MP to switch his political party and one MP entices other MP for Chief Ministership.

(Interruptions) A Chief Minister asks an MP to bring seven MLA's with him. A Chief Minister also says that he has the permission of his party. (Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: The same thing has happened in Arunachal Pradesh. You ask as whether it has not been so there, you did the same there. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: I am concluding. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

There should not be any difference between what we preach and what we practice. If we want to eliminate corruption, then we should be ready to work together and we are ready for it. We ordered the inquiry into Judev episode very next day. I would like to say that under the hon. leadership of hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji we didn't indulge in the scams like Bofors or Nagarwala scam. Here Somnath Da said that.

[English]

I am worried about the future of the country.

[Translation]

"I would like to quote the same Indian Express to whom Somnath Da was referring which says,"

[English]

A welcome decision. 'Well done Prime Minister!'

[Translation]

I would like to quote further. The same Indian Express has written.

[English]

The NDA Government has many achievements to its credit. It should certainly clean its ugly blot.

[Translation]

Anyone who is guilty should be punished. Lastly I would like to say.

[English]

Let us not worry about our future.

[*Translation*]

Our future is golden as well as secure. I have already said that the foreign exchange reserve that had dipped so low that the gold had to be mortgaged to maintain it has now crossed the 100 billion dollar mark. We have given the credit worth Rs. 70,000 crore to the farmers within four years. Similarly we have given 1 lakh crore rupees as housing loan to the people. You built 500 kilometer long National Highway in 50 years of rule. While we constructed 5000 km long additional highways.

Lastly I would like to say that the 19th century belonged to England 20th century to America and the 21st century would belong to India under the able leadership of hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

[*English*]

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, if both sides of the House have agreed on this point, what is use of continuing the debate? Let us direct the CBI to lodge a FIR and take action. (*Interruptions*) Let this House give a direction. (*Interruptions*)

15.18 hrs.

PRESENTATION OF PETITION

MR. CHAIRMAN: With the leave of the House, I will allow Shri K.P. Singh Deo to present a petition as listed at item no. 18 in the List of Business.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (*Dhenkanal*): Sir, I thank you very much for giving me permission to present a petition signed by Shri Rasa Behari Nath and other teachers of Talcher Thermal High School and Primary Schools, NTPC/TTPS, District Angul (*Orissa*) regarding inclusion of teaching staff of Talcher Thermal High School and Primary Schools into NTPC stream.

15.20 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

RE: *prime Minister's Statement on the Resignation of Shri Dilip Singh Judev from the Council of Ministers—Contd.*

[*Translation*]

SHRI RASHID ALVI (*Amroha*): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing here a very serious and delicate issue.

It is painful enough that everyone saw it on CD but what is more painful is that the ruling side is keeping its eyes closed to it. If an error is admitted then there is at least a possibility that it would not be repeated. After listening to Kirit Somaiya ji, one gets an impression that BJP is trying to justify its deeds on the plea that Congress has also been committing the same deeds. Instead of giving clarifications they are quoting or misquoting history to claim that what they did was justified because ministers and Leaders of Other parties committed the same acts and thus Shri Judev should be pardoned; it is rather very dangerous.

If Government had only said that Judev did was wrong and an FIR would be lodged and then the law would take its own course, then probably it would not have become a subject of discussion here, but no FIR has been registered against him so far. CBI is inquiring into it. What is being inquired? One gets an impression from Shri Kirit ji's speech that the inquiry is against the person who gave money. But what about the responsibility of the person who received money? All the newspapers and TV channels of the country had a full coverage of the incident. It is absolutely wrong to say that money was taken for electoral expenses. The transcript of the conversation printed in the newspapers clearly indicate that he not only promises an Australian company for mining lease in Chhattisgarh but also in Orissa. Even the name of Orissa Chief Minister has been mentioned. Many leaders of BJP Chief Minister has been mentioned. Many leaders of BJP were seen on TV saying in their speeches that Shri Jogi has mentioned the name of Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and she should be prosecuted. But nobody said that Orissa Chief Minister should be prosecuted. I regret to say that if the BJP Government continues to work in the same manner, it will destroy all the institutions of the country. (*Interruptions*) CBI is acting completely under political pressure. One cannot hope that CBI would work in an impartial manner. Truth behind the CD is being investigated. But what aspect? Kirit Somaiyaji, I am ashamed to say that it is the same BJP, which wanted to rule the country in the name of Lord Ram, which wanted to bring Ramrajya and which used to show the people visions of what would be Ramrajya and that is what they want to do. Now they are trying to emulate what Congress did. They did not get power to tell us what Congress did in 50 years of its governance. Their Government was made possible only due to misdeeds of the Congress rule. The misdeeds of the Congress party forced people to hand over reigns of power to the BJP. BJP was handed over power because people believed that they would bring about some change, would work

[Shri Rashid Alvi]

with honesty but now its real face is exposed before the people. Every other day we hear of a new scam. They need not be happy because they have assumed power in three states. Kirit ji, you are my friend and I would like to tell you that a crime is not justified if you have won or lost elections in a particular state. Simply because they have won elections, their crimes cannot be washed away. They have not won in those states. They have not done anything in the five years which would have made them victorious. This is more a defeat of Congress party. If the Congress had governed well in the three states, they could not have won. But the victory of Congress party in Delhi is defeat of BJP and the Union Government. Mark my words, their fate will be the same in the coming Lok Sabha elections, as was in Delhi. Anti-incumbency factor, which worked in the three states due to which they won, will also work in the country and will ensure their defeat.

Ajit Jogiji is being repeatedly mentioned. I do not want to defend him. But its heartening that Congress Party took immediate action against Jogiji. In addition, I would also like to condemn what Shri Jogi did. But believe me, they do it almost on daily basis.* They might also think about it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Alvi, you cannot refer to the conduct of the Speaker of a State Assembly. No, it is not proper. I expunge that portion. The name of the Speaker of any State Legislature cannot be dragged in here.

.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV (Purnea): Its not proper to refer to Speaker here.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has been expunged.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: You said and I agreed. As you said, I ought not to have named any Speaker, I withdraw that. But please believe me that simply withdrawing my statement would not alter the truth. It will remain.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

It is quite bewildering to see how CBI and other institutions are functioning in the country. The Supreme Court Judge who ordered lodging of FIR against Ms. Mayawati, was made the Chairman of Consumer forum the very next day. Whether this will not create misconception? Whether such acts will not give indications of wrong intentions of the BJP Government?

[English]

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North East): Sir, I am on a point of order. His party is making remarks on a judge of the Supreme Court, and his behaviour. The Supreme Court Judge had given some judgement and the next day he was being lured and made the Chairman of some Consumer Forum. (Interruptions) Sir, I think that it is not proper to pass strictures against a Supreme Court Judge's behaviour.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladutarai): Can you deny that fact? Is that not a fact? Do you refute that fact?

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI: It is true and where would I mention it if not in Lok Sabha. How can the House remain unconcerned to the fact that they intend not only to make CBI dishonest but also want to turn judiciary into a puppet in their hand. What can be more disconcerting than it. The people of the country should know this.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: What did he do with the Chairman of the Inquiry Commission?

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): It is objectionable. The mention made by the hon. Member that we want to run judiciary on our wish is not true. It should be expunged from the proceedings. It is correct to say that he is working under any influence.

SHRI RASHID ALVI: Sir, the entire country should know the truth. I know that they would make lot of hue and cry over it as it always hurts to rub one's achilles' heel. If it is so, he should try to bear the pain. It is difficult, however, after the result of Parliament he would forget this pain. I do not want to go into detail but only want to say that this is a corrupt government and there can not be a more shameful act than defending Judev. I want that Joint Parliamentary Committee be constituted to probe into the matter. If the Government have even an iota of faith in democracy then it should try to find the truth. Bhartiya Janata Party always claims that they

want to strengthen the democracy. I want to urge upon that the truth be found out and it can happen only if the Joint Parliamentary Committee inquire into the matter. Judev should be immediately arrested and matter be investigated.

It is really unfortunate that the DIG who called on Judev for investigation was transferred. When Kirit Somaiyaji was speaking, having listened his first two sentences I felt that BJP might expel him because he was speaking the truth. However ultimately, he adopted the same tone that was expected.

He adopted the usual stance. (*Interruptions*) They can not survive without BJP. Though they failed to reach any alliance with BSP, they gave the slogan of BSP is Bijali Sarak and Pani and they could won the election in the name of BSP. They can not win election without BSP. Sir, I submit that a Joint Parliamentary Committee be constituted, FIR be registered against Shri Judev and he be arrested immediately.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE (Amravati): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Rashid Alviji presented his views with conviction and aplomb. He said that people did not vote for BJP due to the lack of performance by Congress but due to its electoral mistakes. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the elections in three states were not won on account of the mistakes made by Congress on electoral front but due to the rapid development and progress made by BJP under the leadership of hon. Prime Minister. The people of three States have come to know that development can only be brought by the BJP and its allies. Hence they have voted BJP back to power. The discussion on the corruption has taken place several times in the House.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi had said that if one rupee is allocated for the development of the people by the Centre, Only 15 paise reach to the villages that is 85 paise are vaish pocketed. This was stated when Congress had Government at the centre as well as almost in all the States. In a way he had accepted that Congress is responsible for corruption in the country hence the Country's development is not taking place. As far Judev corruption case is concerned, hon. Prime Minister has made a statement in this regard and it is being debated in the House. The word corruption has been termed as formality in States being ruled by Congress. Earlier Tehlaka episode took place that was brought to the fore by electronic media but the people do not believe in them. It was shown on camera that packets of money were accepted but no body knew what

exactly was there in packets. Everything is possible in this electronic and computer age so nothing can be said with certainty about this episode. Here it has been said that except Judev issue nothing be discussed but how can it be possible? Telgi scam of Rs. 23000 crore took place in Maharashtra. Entire world, entire media is blaming the Ministers and Maharashtra and rest of the States i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka have ordered CBI inquiry to probe into the scam but Maharashtra Government have taken two months to order CBI inquiry into the matter.

[*English*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, the matter is pending in the High Court. The Maharashtra Government had said that they had no objection if the matter was referred to the CBI. The only point is that it is in the court. If they are referring to the Ministers, they should know as to about Ministers of which Government people have information.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): It is only recently that the Government of Maharashtra said that they did not have any objection.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: From the beginning that was the stand taken.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: I read it in the newspapers.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I am giving you the information. From the beginning the stand taken as far as that matter is concerned, was that if you want to refer it to CBI or any other organisation, you do it. But the matter is before the High Court. When the matter is before the High Court we cannot direct the High Court to do this or that. But we have no objection.

If the hon. Member is mentioning anything about Ministers, he should have to be very careful.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I respect hon. Shivraj Patilji but I only said that whereas some other states ordered on CBI inquiry into Telgi scam two months ago Maharashtra Government is feeling reluctant to get the matter interrogated by CBI. Yesterday only has mentioned about holding CBI inquiry during the Nagpur session of legislative assembly.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I repeat that the hon. Member is giving wrong information. Not today and not yesterday, but this was done long time back.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, not only this, the police officers involved in the case had been given the clean chit by the Ministers of Maharashtra Government several times. Not only this, until they retire. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) Sir, it is a State matter. Why is he referring to the State matters here? This is too much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Member, we are having discussion under Rule 193 on Judeo and not on State matters. You cannot refer to State subjects here. Please confine yourself to the subject under discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: It is a case of corruption. I am talking about Judev case. (Interruptions). I am first citing examples as to what has been happening in the country? The bad practices have been going on for years. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The Telgi issue is likely to be discussed in the House. It is the decision of the BAC.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will have a separate discussion on Telgi.

.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Jogi issue was discussed in the House. Today morning Mr. Speaker said that the matter is also related to that. We saw during elections as to how much corruption is there. The code of conduct is violated even after the announcement of elections. We also saw as to how many things like school bags were distributed among the people during the period. Several persons had been nabbed in

this regard. Even the Chief Election Commissioner Shri Lingdoh has said that nowhere the Code of Conduct was violated to the degree that was violated in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Every corruption case be it Judev case or Jogi case be inquired into. The day the news of Judev case was heard by hon. Prime Minister he asked him to resign and talked of holding an inquiry into the matter, hence it does not make any sense to raise this issue here. The corruption has been going on in the country. Since Congress regime. NDA Government and hon. Prime Minister has himself made efforts to root out the corruption. The effort to bring Ramrajya is being made but the corruption is rampant. We are trying to weed out corruption and being a transparent and honest regime. However it would take some time to remove the corruption that has been going on for the last 50 years. The Government have done very good works within a short span of time. The Government is paying its full attention to deal with a few cases of corruption that have come to light. Judev case is not one of corruption. Hence I oppose it.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the Prime Minister gave statement regarding the corruption of one person Shri Dilip Singh Judev, however, I would like to submit that there is something more dangerous than this. It is essential for us to understand it. Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies in the National Democratic Alliance have two types of masks, one is mask of morality which is for the public and another is the mask of corruptions which has nothing to do with the morality. But their actual fact is full of hypocrisy, double standard and several other such cases.

Today the hon'ble Prime Minister said several times in the House and outside of it that he would not compromise on the issue of corruptions and that he wanted to conduct fair and impartial inquiry alongwith the necessary action in this regard. The statement is good but on the other hand, it is essential to know the character of this party.

Therefore, I would like to cite a few examples in this regard. The House proceeding remained suspended for 13 days on the issue of Sakharam and the BJP created hindrance in the House proceedings. The moment we expelled him from the party, they immediately welcomed him and included in their party. Thereafter, they formed government in Himachal Pradesh with the help of Sakhram and got his son elected as the Members of Rajya Sabha. (Interruptions) The moment their political

*Not recorded.

equation was favourable, the corruptions became the accepted norms. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Sir, what he says is not connected with the subject. We should confine our speeches only to the subject under discussion.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was telling about their double standard.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please confine yourself to the subject under discussion.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am confining myself to the main subject. Prior to me several leaders exposed several matters and references were being given from 1957 to till date. The entire nation witnessed Tehlka episode on Television. Earlier corruption was hidden now money transaction are being shown on the television. Corruption cases are going on against persons like Bangaru Laxman and Shri George Fernandes. All these stories expose difference in speech and action of BJP. What is their statement and what is reality? As far the question of Judev case is concerned, the hon'ble Prime Minister said that CBI inquiry should be held. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajan), Bihar: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have given ruling that speakers should confine themselves to the subject under discussion. They are very much concerned with Shri George Fernandes however why no mention was made about the theft of statue from our country?

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am fully aware of it.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: If he is aware then others also know the record and everything will come before the people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, he wants to waste my time. His inferences should not be counted in my time. I would like to give references of two things. They told about the history of Congress since 1937, but when I gave 2-4 references they are feeling uncomfortable. Mr. Chairman, Sir, though the matter has been handed over to CBI for inquiry, however everyone is aware of the outcome of the CBI inquiry. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am being interrupted so it should be expunged from the record. When the court had give judgement regarding Shri Sajjan Kumar in Delhi, CBI had appealed against the judgement but we had not objected to it. The agency has every right to appeal. However when the Court gives judgement relating to Shri Advani in Babri Masjid case, CBI does not appeal against it. Obviously CBI is being pressurised for political gain. So how can one rely on the CBI which prestige and credibility has been tainted? As Shri Somnath Chatterjee said that right from the Deputy Prime Minister to Prime Minister and the Minister of Law gave a statement giving clean chit to him before the judgement of the court. Now CBI is being instructed and dictated to hold investigation on specific line.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through the House I would like to draw your attention to 2-3 discrepancies.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, first that I would like to submit is that in the case of Jogi ji a complaint was made and within five days FIR was registered against him. Thereafter investigation has been initiated. No one talk about preliminary inquiry though there is a audiotape about which Jogi ji himself is saying that it is not his voice. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): Then why was he suspended?

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I am not defending him. He was immediately suspended by our party and our leader condemned it. Not a single person of our party had given statement in support of Jogiji? As far their party is concerned, right from the party President to the hon. Prime Minister and party Spokesperson every one defended the corrupt Minister and supported corruptions. Since they defend corruption, they do not have any moral right to ask question from us.

[Shri Satyavrat Chaturvedi]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, on the other hand a person is clearly shown on TV screen accepting bribe and touching it his forehead. It is being said by the Government about this case, that preliminary inquiry is essential and then CBI will decide whether FIR be registered or not. I would like to know as to why two types of yardsticks are being adopted though both are the same type of cases. Why efforts were made by the Government to defer the case for 24 days in the name of preliminary inquiry and then efforts are being made to gradually hush up the entire issue? So my first objection is CBI is being pressurised. I do not find that CBI will be able to hold any fair and impartial inquiry against a Minister. So I support the statement of Shri Somnath Chatterjee in which he submitted that Joint Parliamentary Committee should be constituted to conduct inquiry in this matter.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a peculiar discrepancy. As far the Judev episode is concerned, investigation is essential as to who is behind the sting operation. The Government also accept it and CBI director also feels so. Who was behind the entire episode. However, contrary to it, in the case of Ajit Jogi episode, Arun Jaitley, the Minister of Law himself accepts that the Deputy Prime Minister was aware of the sting operation and he conducted this operation in coordination with him. But it is not considered essential to take action against him. However, CBI will collect information as to who is involved in video recording.

CBI is of the view that those involved in video recording are guilty in Judev episode. On the contrary Shri Arun Jaitley himself is saying that the Deputy Prime Minister was aware of this sting operation against Shri Ajit Jogi. Then why Deputy Prime Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley etc. are not being held guilty in Jogi episode. I want to know as to why a case is not being filed against them. Why double standards are being adopted? I would like to know as to why CBI, the Government, the Prime Minister and the Law Minister of the country are silent in this case. Through this discussion, through you and through this House, I would like to put a question that why double standards are being adopted in this matter. As such how have there ordered to register FIR directly in a particular case and to conduct preliminary inquiry in other case. I do not understand as to why the persons involved in sting operation are considered as guilty in one case but in other case persons involving in such operation are not considered as guilty while they themselves are admitting it and feeling so.

Sir, telephone tapping is a legal offence. Legally, they should take permission from the authorities before tapping a telephone. Then, only a telephone can be tapped. Hence telephone tapping in this case was also illegal. And why all this was done? Why are responsible for this and why the Government is silent on it.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Go to court.
(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: I will go where I have to go. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am going to conclude in two minutes. (Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Every time he mentions Amar Singh in the discussion. (Interruptions)*
[English]

Sir, I withdraw my word.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I apologise for having used an obscene expression. But I was provoked by this man. I am sorry. I withdraw my word.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (Jahanabad): When his name is mentioned why he becomes upset.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Because he praises him. (Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will conclude after raising two points. Firstly, it is neither the first nor the final discussion in the House on corruption. (Interruptions)

I would request you to give me a little more time to speak. This is not the first and last discussion on corruption. Allegations and counter-allegation will continue. I also feel and would like to ask all of you to ponder over it as to in which direction we are moving and what is our image in the eyes of the people. The reality is that by levelling charges and counter charges on each other, we the politicians have lost our credibility and faith among the people. Technically and legally we may save ourselves or our friends involved in any episode but the point is that what will happen if the credibility of this entire political system and the democracy is lowered among the people. Then the common man would not be ready to tolerate us. What would be the consequence of

*Not recorded.

all this? Therefore, I would like to request all of you to put an end such a dangerous game be it Jogi episode or Judev episode. Today all the political parties should take a resolution that tainted persons will not be protected at all and if they are found guilty, legal action should be taken against them. We should not find ways to protect them on the ground of words like if and but. The truth is that under the present circumstances, which I have mentioned, it is impossible that CBI would be able to conduct an impartial and fair inquiry. Therefore, I request you and this House also that a Joint Parliamentary Committee should be constituted. The truth would be revealed when they would look into the matter. They should submit their report after thoroughly investigating the Judev episode.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that BJP members shout when Judev episode is raised in the House and Congress members shout when other case is raised. Shri Raghuvansh Babu gets annoyed when fodder scam is raised, if it is Taj corridor issue, members of Mayawati party start shouting and we also oppose when Tehalka episode is raised here. Thus each and every political party makes hue and cry in the House whenever an issue concerning them is raised here. Every political party has been named in one or other corruption case. What message is going to the people of the country by all this?

Sir, I would request you to constitute a Joint Committee to conduct inquiries against all the corrupt persons whose names have come to light. This will solve the problem and a message would go to the people of the country that action is being taken against the corrupt people. (Interruptions) What is the use of levelling charges and counter charges against each other daily. (Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): A Minister is caught while taking bribe and no action is taken against him. (Interruptions) This is not applicable for those who are in Government.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I am talking of all. (Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the reforms take place if he wishes so?" (Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

16.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: All unparliamentary words will be expunged. Shri Chaturvedi's reference to Dr. Jayalalitha will also not go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (Jahanabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the House is discussing Judev issue today. Hon. Prime Minister made a statement in this regard and I feel that there was no need to discuss it further thereafter.

After Prime Minister's statement, when we were conducting post-mortem of this issue, we were no doubt diverted from the basic issue. Prabhunath ji has quite rightly said that when we discuss corruption, the discussion covers all other issues such as Bofors, Tehalka, Taj corridor, Fodder Scam and Telagi. Then we boast of morality and clean-administration legislature, no doubt, plays most important role in democracy. Political parties should introspect themselves to curb corruption and they should evolve a code of conduct. It has become a common perception of the people that each political party tries to cover up corruption when its turn comes and that all the politicians are promoting corruption.

What we have observed, when we discuss the functioning of CBI, certain Members praise its role positively if it suits them and if it is otherwise, then they say CBI is acting partially. CBI is secondary forum, primary forum is Legislature and we have made them an instrument. When we take up such issue for discussion, we should have a code of conduct. Though I am not blaming any political party, all parties be it the Congress or BJP or any other party, in place of handing over the case to CBI, should introspect so that common-man may also know as to who is corrupt. Leaders of political parties also know as to how for they protect corrupt persons and the public knows it well. Without pointing out towards any particular person, I would like to say that corruption has taken a serious turn today.

16.04 hrs.

(SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV in the Chair)

People who are deeply involved in corruption as well as people who are symbol of honesty are speaking on corruption. Therefore, public is in dilemma and perplexed as it has to elect people out of these corrupts. Public

[Shri Arun Kumar]

respects the corrupts and innocent equally because of different reasons. And there is no discrimination in this regard. 56 years have elapsed since we achieved independence. During this span of 56 years, since hon. Prime Minister formed the Government under the leadership of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, we have been observing moral degradation constantly. It should come to a halt somewhere. The people of our country expect this from hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Personally, I feel he is a symbol of honesty and therefore he should take initiative in this regard. It is different that CBI inquiry has been ordered and it would be altogether different if it is handed over to JPC. I do not want to comment on role of JPC. But the way JPC handled UTI SCAM created controversy. Now he is questioning the role of CBI. It is we, who influence CBI as well as JPC.

Core of people of our country have transferred power of this democracy to us and if the Parliament do not respect these moral values, then I am sure we will be in people's court. Public have realised that corruption is no more such an important issue now as people involved in corruption when come out of jail, act like martyrs of our freedom struggle, come on elephants back with great celebrations. Though it may not be sponsored by anyone I am not personalising it. It just came to my mind that is why I said so. I feel that condition prevailing today.
(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Shri Raghuvansh Babu is quite responsible person and his role is an open secret.
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Arun Kumar ji, what ever he says, will not go on record. You may continue.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: His role is an open secret.
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Arun Kumar ji, you may continue your speech. Whatever he is telling is not going on record.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: I have learnt a lot from him but whenever he says something from his heart, I am

compelled to say something. (Interruptions) When he speak I do not take it so serious.

Mr. Chairman, I wanted to say that after such a long time since independence, several examples of that era are before us which have set standards before us, which are source of inspiration for us. Those standards have been set in our parliamentary history and we should surely take lessons from those source of inspiration and introspect ourselves. One or the other party will remain in power but people are feeling suffocation because of rampant corruption. It has become a burning issue and people have accepted it as a way of life. People have gone upto the extent of identifying the corrupt persons with their caste and the religion. When Somnath Chatterjee speaks on corruption, he wants to know whether it is secular-corruption, or non-secular corruption. Now, when the situation has become so grave it is high time that we should introspect. If political parties disassociate themselves from corrupt persons and criminals then the people will take it a positive way. I would like to sum up that it should be covered under code of conduct.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikulam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are debating the Judev episode. The hon. Prime Minister has made a statement regarding this issue today. In the screening of tapes, we saw him accepting money on 16th November. It was reported in the newspapers. On 17th, he tendered his resignation. The Prime Minister accepted it and sent it to the President of India. On 18th, it was referred to the CBI for preliminary investigation and further action.

After 54 years of Independence, who is responsible for all these things? If the previous Governments, after the Independence, had combated corruption on the soil, they could be appreciated. This is the need of the hour. We have to combat corruption in all the areas. In every area, there is corruption. It is not only prevalent with politicians but also with bureaucrats etc. Even the former Chief Justice of India also mentioned about corruption. So many district level judicial officers were caught while accepting bribe. (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He mentioned about the High Court Judges. (Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Yes. Even the district level officers were also caught by the ACB. There are so many incidents which have been reported.

Fighting corruption is the main agenda of my Party. Even for any election, corruption free administration is the main agenda of my party. Why? It is because of the fact that corruption is eating into the development, efficiency and quality. So, after 54 years of Independence, why have we become like this? It is due to corruption only. So, we are losing the quality and efficiency in almost all spheres.

We are coming to the House and discussing so many issues. The need of the hour is to debate exclusively on corruption for two or three days. We should not blame each other. I was an MLA. Now, I am an MP. Across the table, so many things take place. If the Congress Party is in power, they are criticising the CBI. If this Party is in power, we are criticising the CBI. Everybody is criticising the CBI. Where is the authority to investigate in our country?

The CBI is an autonomous organisation, an independent organisation. We have to give credit. We have to maintain the dignity and decorum of the CBI. Tomorrow, whoever may come to power, we have to depend on the CBI for investigation. We have to correct the lapses and inefficiency. That being so, why have we to blame the organisation? That is the only organisation since independence which is carrying out such investigations. This Government has referred the matter to the CBI.

We are discussing about population, water, roads and all these things. Comparing all these aspects, we have to discuss corruption for two or three days. We have to evolve a consensus. What are the defects prevailing in our system even after 54 years of independence? Why are such things happening in the political parties, in the bureaucracy etc.? The Government has a lot of information. Even the Income-tax chiefs are caught by the CBI. The police officers are caught. In Maharashtra, Mumbai city is a supreme city. Why have they chosen such types of officers? So, we have to discuss the matters prevailing at all levels. What are the lapses in selecting good officers for top positions? If we commit a mistake in selecting a top person, the entire sector will go in for corruption. So, my Party's view is that corruption is the root cause of everything. We have to debate the matter on the floor of the House for two or three days. There should be no other issue on such days. We have to debate it at all levels, at the village, block, district, the State and the Government of India levels, at the village, block, district, the State and the Government of India levels. We have to give more thrust.

The citizens of this country have to discuss about corruption. Who is responsible? Which party is responsible for it? This country was ruled by the Congress Party for so many years. This Party is now ruling for the last five years. Why have they not taken steps to combat corruption? We have to discuss all these things without attributing motives to each other. If we attribute motives to each other, then it will continue for another fifty years. What are the remedies? Recently, I read in the newspaper, *The Indian Express* about the Whistleblower Act.

The draft Bill came. So, we have to think of innovative methods to combat corruption. We should not blame each other. The law will take its own course. Now, the Government has entrusted the case to the CBI. Previously also, many cases were entrusted to the CBI. This is not the first case of corruption that we are discussing on the floor of the House. Since independence many issues came up for discussion and they were debated on the floor of the House. They were entrusted to CBI. Some cases are disposed of and some are still pending with the CBI. The CBI will take care of them and the law will take its course. That is the only way. So, we have to discuss, evolve a consensus and we have to find out innovative methods to combat corruption at all levels. So, further discussion is required on this matter and my party firmly believes in that.

Now, we have many agencies in Andhra Pradesh. We have been amending laws for the last four years there. We have been debating those laws and we have been taking opinion from the public also. We have strengthened the Vigilance Department and we have strengthened the Anti Corruption Bureau in Andhra Pradesh. Previously, the Anti Corruption Bureau was having power to investigate people, but they did not have powers to arrest them. We have amended the law now. So, they can immediately arrest the people indulging in corrupt practices. Similarly, here also we have to discuss, evolve a consensus and make good laws. In this way we can prevent corruption. Now, corruption is deep-rooted everywhere in our country and everybody is talking about corruption. There is no value for politicians and bureaucrats. To some extent, judiciary is also blamed by the Chief Justice of India and others. This is the scenario in our country.

My party's philosophy is to fight corruption at all levels. The issue should be discussed thoroughly on the floor of the House and this issue has to be discussed with the leaders of all the political parties in the country.

[Shri K. Yerrannaidu]

This is the main issue according to me and my party. So, we have to allot two or three days for discussing this issue on the floor of the House so that all the political parties can express their views freely, about the lapses and gaps in the laws. After the discussion, we have to evolve a consensus. Then only we can combat corruption to a certain extent in our country.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to mention the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister on the Judev case. He gave a balanced written statement in the House. In the statement it has been said that his Government has always favoured a policy that all the cases of corruption be thoroughly looked into. It reflects that only the probe will be conducted but no action will be taken and the policy has been explicit in sending the message that no action will be taken against the guilty in a bribery case, only investigation be held in the case and I can cite the example to prove it that this policy is being adhered to cent percent and accordingly C.B.I. is investigating in this matter and it would be too early to say anything in this regard before the completion of the probe. This was the statement made by the Prime Minister and the hon. Deputy Prime Minister said something else in this regard. Initially he said that it should be found out as to who was behind the incident of videotaping. Both have made different statements. Initially it was said that the tape is a doctored one. All the Ministers including Arun Jaitley visiting Chhattisgarh tried to shift the blame to others but when Judev himself accepted that he had taken the money and even Gandhiji used to accept donations. I would like to know as to what action would be taken against the persons found guilty of suppression of facts in this corruption case? I think that even the inquiry would not be instituted against them. Tehlaka episode was witnessed by the entire world. Then there is no need to look into it. Now the era has bygone when the fair and impartial decision used to be taken like the ordering of probe by setting up an Inquiry Committee during the regime of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru to look into the Mudgal episode and member was dismissed from the Party. Similarly, inquiry was held against T. Krishnamachari and he was found guilty and dismissed from his post. However the present Government is promoting and glorifying the corrupt. Hence this debate on corruption is meaningless. Kirt Somaiya ji was saying that even though caught red handed taking bribe, one won the elections. The same thing applies to all of the Ministers of this Government who win the election despite having been caught taking

bribe in nearby areas like Connaught Place, Boat Club etc. If all the Ministers sticks to the same formula then all the seats would be won. He was telling as to what is the criteria of corruption.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Does he feel that the same thing has happened in Bihar?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: He is talking of Bihar.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Instead of making comments you may continue your speech.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: There is a limit to nuisance but now there is no limit to it. Suppose, an alleged scam took place be it fodder scam, C.B.I. inquiry was held and the accused was sent to jail. However now what is happening is that no action is being taken though probe is being held into the case and thus the corruption is being promoted. The law says that the guilty as decided by the Court would be punished and imprisoned. However the entire evidence are tampered with and the matter is hushed up before it goes the Court. Prime Minister will make another statement then.

After Tehelka episode did not the hon. Prime Minister direct his Cabinet colleagues to wake up and not to take bribe openly and rather accept it in hidden places as the media has become too active. But Dilep Singhji was inducted into Cabinet later on hence he was not aware of it. If this is not the case then could any member from that side tell me as to who is not minting money and taking bribe. The Deputy Prime Minister himself has said that the money has been taken for party. The Santnaman Committee was set up during the regime of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru when Acharia Kriplani had said that the corruption was increasing and it was clearly being reflected. The Committee found that corruption was not there in Government and administration.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Are all the Minister taking bribe?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: May be one or two are not taking. However no one dare to say that he does not take bribe—Santanam Committee found that there was no corruption. Bribe is being taken in various forms, it is donation for the Minister, Salami for the inspectors, percentage Commission for the engineers, speed money for banks and somewhere it is gift money and for some people it is money to purchase sweets and paan etc. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pappu ji, you please don't interrupt. Raghuvanshi, you address the Chair.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Action against Ajit Jogi is being taken and FIR has been registered against him on allegation of splitting the party by adopting the way of defection but he was not successful. On the contrary Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister defected three Members of our party by giving them money and inducting them into Cabinet. I would like to know as to what action was taken in this regard? This is double standard.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: So many parties were broken in Bihar. C.P.I. (M), Samata Party, Jharkhand Party all were divided.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Pappu ji, you please sit down. I am not allowing you.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: As has been said by Shri Chaturvedi that double standards are being adopted. This is being investigated into as to who was behind staging all this episode. On the other hand action is being taken against Jogi ji and he is being investigated and the persons who are responsible for doing so are being promoted. I wanted to speak against them but some people asked me not to speak. It is being said that Ministers are dropped. I would like to know as to why 41 Ministers were removed. They speak Jaishram but act to follow Jai Sukhram i.e. adopt most corrupt practices. Their Cabinet is working on the same principle. The Government maintains that the decision to institute Primary Investigation to register first information report (FIR) or to file chargesheet is taken by CBI and the Government do not interfere in its decision and process. Hon. Prime Minister has himself said that 1700 persons were sent to the Cabinet Secretariat. Hence CBI. registered FIR. It is said that there are three stages namely registering preliminary registering FIR, regular FIR and then filing the chargesheet. I would like to know from the Government as to on whose behest the FIR was registered and whether or not FIR has been included in the Primary Investigation and the regular investigation. This episode occurred on 16th and FIR was registered by CBI on 16th. I want to know as to what action was taken in these 22 days. Hon'ble Prime Minister has tried to hush up this matter. Otherwise he must have informed the House about the progress made during these 12 days. I would like to know as to why FIR was not registered. The Government says that it has a policy that all the allegations of corruption should be thoroughly

investigated. It was reported in the Times of India that one of the Minister of this Government has taken bribe of lakhs of rupees from a NGO. Whether it was investigated or not. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Who is the Minister?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Someone close to you who was lured to defect from opposition to join the ruling party. I don't know what was your share in it. Six persons defected to become Minister. Costly cars were distributed. It is wrong to say that a poor person is the one who takes bribe as dishonesty lies in one's blood and nature. Hon. Judevji, though having a royal background was caught taking bribe and then took the pretext that the money was taken for party's sake. Hon. Prime Minister says that the money was taken as donation for the party. Bangaru also used to maintain that the money was taken for party's sake. Everyone has his own defence. When an Inspector takes bribe he says that he has accepted 'Salam', Engineer says that he has taken his percentage share. BJP has come to be known as Bangaru Judev Party. They can not check the corruption. Now the people will have to decide. Since the people at that juncture were committed to cast their votes, it is wrong to say that they have approved their corrupt practices as it takes 6 months time for a message to reach the public. Only 6 to 7 crore families have TV. Thus if each family has 3-4 members then also 28-30 crore people may have viewed it. Newspaper, too, is not available in every village. When this matter reaches the public, these people will face the consequences. A person was telling that Congress won in Delhi because hon. Sheila Dixit, played a woman card. Congress projected Sheila Dixit that is why she won. And similarly Vasundhara Raje and Kumari Uma Bharti won since they are women. The opposition parties will project Shrimati Sonai Gandhi as a probable leader and this formula would lead them to victory in Lok Sabha elections. Sir, corruption is an enemy to the nation and it has paralysed the administration. It is the duty of the Government to root it out. We are observing that hon. Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister are responsible for corruption. They are nurturing, shielding and encouraging the corruption. If we analyse their statements and also clippings of newspapers, we would realise that their tongue acts as a guggle in Cricket and they are well-versed in twisting their statement as per the occasion. They are expert in changing their statement. Thus, through this House, I would like to say that corruption is number one enemy of the country. People have been caught taking bribe.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

Nothing happened to the people involved in Tehelka case. People have lost their faith. A traffic policeman, caught by the people while taking bribe told promptly that he is taking just 10-12 rupees, whereas people have also seen Bangaru and Judev taking bribe and no action has been taken against them. People have developed the mentality, be it court, office or police-station, officers and employees say that people at top are looting and we are being termed as corrupt. Therefore, this issue needs to be taken seriously. On the other hand, the Prime Minister is asking all the Ministers to be very cautious while taking money, least they may be photographed. Since Judev was a new minister, therefore he was caught. They have won despite taking bribe, it means corruption has become pre-eminent. He openly took the money and accepted it. I warn the Government not to shield them. The Government just order the inquiry and hush up the matter. I conclude by preying that the corruption and this corrupt cabinet should come to an end.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, under Rule 193 the House is discussing about the authenticity of Video Cassette relating to Judev. On this occasion I want to congratulate hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee and praise the steps taken by him as several of my previous speakers have commented upon him and the hon. Dy. Prime Minister. Therefore, I am compelled to praise them and I really wanted to praise them.

Sir, prior to this episode, not only several Minister, but Prime Minister also were found involved in corruption and were charge-sheeted. But, neither the Ministers were removed from the Cabinet, nor Prime Minister tendered his resignation, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has been the first Prime Minister since independence who promptly took steps, if at all any of his colleagues in the Cabinet, was reported to be involved in any case, be it a preposterous matter, a doctored one or a conspired one. This matter came to light on 16th. On 17th CBI inquiry was ordered and directions were given for the action. CBI started investigation on 18. In view of this fact, my previous speakers and opposition parties should have praised the steps taken by Atal ji.

Sir, we have many laws in India. We have Evidence Act and organisations to conduct inquiry so that offenders can be punished. CBI is apex investigation agency in the country. There is no reason to distrust them. So far, in all the cases handed over to them, they have acted honestly with dedication and submitted their findings in the concerned courts and also have been successful in bringing the culprits to the book. With full trust in them,

hon. Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee handed over this case to the CBI and directed them to take measures in order to penalise the culprit as per the law. Now, CBI is pursuing the matter. Thereafter I do not find it appropriate to criticize the Prime Minister. BJP is engrossed in value-based politics.

Advaniji was accused in Hawala case. Over that issue he resigned from Membership of Parliament and resolved that until and unless he is proved innocent he will not enter the premises of this House. Advani ji stood to his words. He did not enter the House unless he was proved innocent. Rather he did not enter this premises. On the other hand, there had been two Prime Ministers who were stated to have won election by violating Code of Conduct. The Court pronounced judgement against that Prime Minister declaring the election null and void. But the said Prime Minister violated order of hon. Court and imposed emergency in the country.

There was another Prime Minister who was reported to be involved in Bofors kick-back case. Charge-sheet was filed against him, matter was taken to the Court but he did not even think of rendering resignation. I am citing example of two Prime Ministers. Later on, the Court held him guilty in Bofors case. Despite this all he struck to the Chair and did not even think of resigning. Their Cabinet colleagues in Communication Ministry and Ministry of Urban Development were found involved in misappropriation and the Court gave its verdict against them yet they were never asked to resign. On the contrary, if charges are levelled against any of the Cabinet-colleague of Shri Vajpayee be it preposterous, he asks them to resign. So, what can be more praise-worthy step than this. Therefore, I praise Vajpayee ji and I would like to submit to the House that everyone should boldly say that as a Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has taken very good step and we praise it. It seems, they are speaking under the influence of a particular party.

I would also like to add that even at election time he took such a step. He knows that it could back-fire and BJP may lose in Chhattisgarh and it could adversely affect election-outcome in other two states. Without bothering for that he asked Judev to resign. Has any Prime Minister taken such a step in the past? No, in the beginning itself, I had requested hon. Speaker that we would also discuss the role played by the then Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Shri Ajit Jogi in view of the nature of involvement of Shri Judev in this scam, the needle of suspicion regarding hatching conspiracy points towards

him. Hon'ble Speaker had permitted me, so with your permission I would like to say something about them. Coincidentally, I am from Madhya Pradesh and before division Chhattisgarh had been the part of Madhya Pradesh. So, I know both the persons—Shri Judev and Shri Jogi. Shri Jogi had been collector of Indore district which is neighbouring district of my parliamentary constituency and Shri Judev ji is son-in-law of the district from where I was elected as MLA and later became Minister. He belongs to royal family. He is a person of great virtues. He is imbued with the quality of benevolence and sacrifice. He is millionaire-billionaire and donates money for the welfare of poor, backward and tribal people. On the other hand, when Shri Jogi was collector of Indore he was not rich. Today he is millionaire. I know his whole history. The people of Indore had lodged complaints against him and I have authorised copy of that. I would not like to say something specific about him however, I would certainly like to submit that he is expert in preparing forged document. He is expert in forgery. I am very sorry to inform you that he changed his caste. I belong to scheduled caste. His father Shri Kashi Prasad ji writes Satnami as title. His brother Satya Prakash ji has certificate of Satnami. All the members of his family call themselves tribals. How can his father, Shri Kashi Prasad ji be scheduled caste and one of his brother who is son of Shri Kashi Prasad can call himself a tribal. Fake certificate has been prepared for the purpose. Not only this one of his son lived in America and was not citizen of India, however, he acquired domicile certificate. The court cancelled his certificate. However he did not accept it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, besides it is quite painful for me to mention inhuman incident. His daughter died in Indore.
.... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You might be remembering that hon'ble Speaker had given ruling in the morning that speakers should express their views without mentioning anyone's name. He is not the member of the House and is not present here even then. You are speaking pointing towards him.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am following your instruction. Shri Judev ji is not the Member of House. When this incident took place he was a Minister. Keeping in view this fact there is no justification to hold discussion on this topic. If this discussion had been held in Rajya Sabha, he would have been able to give clarification.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not preventing you to speak, however, you please confine yourself to the specific incident.

.... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please take your seat. He is not yielding.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing should go on record except the speech of Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot.

.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am citing few such examples because he had been doing such acts. His daughter died in Indore and being the resident of Indore she was buried there. However, when he became the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, after two year her dead body was exhumed and reburied in Chhattisgarh. Thus efforts were made to mislead the people of Chhattisgarh. He declared that he had given up all such activities and he wanted to sacrifice everything for the people of Chhattisgarh. When he can do such inhuman, antisocial and irreligious act, it is quite natural that he can also hatch conspiracy. It is a part of the conspiracy that he was involved in horse trading of MLA and his dream could not be fulfilled. I was wanting to say many things about it and I have documentary proof to it that the Judev incident was a part of the conspiracy. Moreover, Shri Judev ji is also telling that he did not accept any money.

Sir, his Secretary, Shri Rateria told that he did not visit hotel and did not accept any bribe. The CBI is conducting investigation in this regard. They are projecting that their party has taken action against Shri Jogi and has suspended him. He wrote a letter and it was accepted. The whereabouts of Rahul, agent of the said Australian company is not known. The whereabouts of Shri Rateria is not known. Shri Judev ji is telling that he did not do anything and did not accept bribe. What can be done in this situation. Inquiry can be held only as per the Judicial Process and Evidence Act. As per the Act if the person who takes bribe is guilty then the person who

*Not recorded.

[Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot]

gives bribe is equally guilty and the person who hatch such conspiracy is also guilty and if action is to be taken in this regard then who will take action against such persons? It is not the procedure that any Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister or the Minister of Law will directly give order in this regard. There is a procedure for this purpose in our country. And CBI is a suitable agency. That is why hon'ble Prime Minister said that CBI should hold inquiry and the guilty should be punished. Thus the step that has been taken by the Prime Minister is commendable.

Sir, I would like to submit to my Congress colleagues that the politics should be based on values and the leaders should be men of character. The party leader had full information about the leader of the party who had been the Chief Minister. If the party does not have, I am giving. This party has such leaders who are involved in such acts and they must be expelled from political scenario.

Sir, on this occasion I would like to describe one more incident. The person who was collector of Indore somehow managed to acquire nuclear secret from one of the Atomic installation as a Collector and had handed it over to America. When the inquiry in this regard was initiated and he was found prima-facie involved, and as per your instruction, I am not mentioning his name, the Governor of Punjab and the then Chief Minister of MP told the then Collector of Indore, who later became the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh, that they were unable to do anything for him as inquiry was going on. When he did not remain the Chief Minister and was appointed the Governor of Punjab, the next Chief Minister, who was also of the same party, was inclined to hold investigation and it was initiated. The then Governor of Punjab who is a high profile leader of Congress these day advised the then Collector of Indore that if he wanted to escape inquiry he should resign only then they would be able to protect him. Thus, the ex-collector of Indore had been treacherous, dishonest corrupt and oppressor who later became the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh. Not once but on many occasions, I have seen him in various forms.

Sir, I would like to submit that conspiracy is being hatched and is being propagated that Judev ji accepted money but currency was not visible on the video tape. In the case of Bangaru Laxman currencies of the denomination of Rs. 100 were clearly visible. But where was bundle of currency in Judev case. A black shadow was visible that appeared like a statue which was shown as lifting a bag. Who will inquire about it as to what was content inside the bag. It was money or something else?

So, the hon'ble Prime Minister took decision with his discretion that legal process should be adopted to find out the contents of the bag. So, following the legal process, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee told that CBI inquiry should be held. Till now the image of CBI is of a honest and dutiful agency. He said that CBI should hold inquiry in this matter and if crime is proved against Judev ji, action should be taken against him. Sir, similarly earlier also, former Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh levelled charges of same kind in another case. Documents furnished by him were sent to CBI for investigation by the Prime Minister. On CBI's inquiring it was revealed that the documents furnished by the then Chief Minister were fake. CBI registered a case on this account in the court. Congress leadership has no guts to suspend or expel him from the party. On the contrary they are telling us that we have not done anything. Therefore, my submission is that with a view to encourage value based politics, they should try to bring the people of anti-national thinking and cheats, if anyone in their party, on right track. And help them in leading a clear and value-based political life, otherwise misleading the country in this way will not do. He tried to mislead the people in Chhattisgarh which back fired.

Sir, I am greatly thankful to you since you gave me an opportunity to speak and request the Government to take action against son of Shri Ajit Jogi who though being a non-resident has obtained a certificate of resident Indian. This matter should be investigated. He has committed many crimes. He is an SC and belongs to Satnami caste. Prakash Jain from Indore has made a written complaint in this regard. He has obtained a fake certificate that he is an ST and belong to Kunwar Caste. This issue should also be inquired into. The law should take its course and he should be punished if found guilty.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister for having instantly agreed to initiate the CBI investigation and accepting the resignation of Shri Dilip Singh Judev from the Council of Ministers. I never expected this debate to be initiated on behalf of the Opposition's demand. If I understand the proceedings of the House correctly and if I take the example of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, on such incidents it was he who used to react fast and the Opposition goes on enquiring into the matter. A number of examples have been cited by many on this side. I do not like to go into them—be it Mudgal case, be it T.T. Krishnamachari case or be it Malviya case or be it V.K. Krishna Menon case.

I sincerely expected it from them.

16.53 hrs.

(DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH *in the Chair*)

I told my colleagues that on 2nd December the House will meet and as I know Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, they could take it from me that after introducing his Cabinet colleagues on 2nd December, it would be the hon. Prime Minister who would come forward to the House on his own to say as to what had happened to his colleague Shri Dilip Singh Judev and as to why he accepted the resignation. I know that Shri Vajpayee still continues to believe the high traditions of parliamentary democracy and the moral obligation of the Treasury Benches in accordance with article 74(3) of the Constitution of India.

My colleagues differed with me saying—'no, the hon. Prime Minister will not do it.' I said—the hon. Prime Minister would do it. You believe me, we discussed this amongst ourselves. Hon. Prime Minister, on his return from abroad, made it abundantly clear. I do not like to quote the newspapers because it will take time. I was in campaign trail in Rajasthan on that day. The hon. Prime Minister made it abundantly clear that—'yes, if find him guilty, he will have to quit'. That was in quotation in the *Indian Express*.

There are two stories. One is that Shri Judev resigned which was contradicted by the President of the BJP on the same day. The other was that Shri Judev was asked to resign. The hon. Prime Minister has got to clarify one point first—whether before the arrival of the hon. Prime Minister Shri Judev tendered his resignation and the hon. Prime Minister received the paper on his table and he accepted it; or Shri Judev was asked, after the arrival of the hon. Prime Minister, to resign and the hon. Prime Minister accepted it. There are two things.

If he on his own conscience resigned, I thank Shri Judev. If he said, 'Yes, I resign. Let it be enquired and I will stand on my moral ground till the end of the inquiry', I thank him. But if the Prime Minister asked him to resign, the Prime Minister possibly *prima facie* was convinced that there was a case for which his resignation was necessary. So, there are two aspect. If the first thing has happened, then I support and thank Shri Judev for his conduct on high morality that if he is exposed in this fashion, he will not sit in the Council of Ministers till he

did not come clear. If the Prime Minister asked him to resign, then the Prime Minister possibly *prima facie* is convinced that his resignation is called for. I do not like to build this debate on personal acrimony.

It is said that for the last few months, if not a few years, an exercise is going on in the entire country only to find how politicians are bad and that rest are all clean. The Judev incident is not an embarrassment of BJP. I do not count it that way. It is an embarrassment for all who are holding public offices today and who will hold public offices tomorrow. It is an embarrassment for all of us. Do not undermine the electorate within the age group of 18 to 25. Be it any side, their apathy to political system, their apathy to politicians, their agony, I can predict in what direction it will spread tomorrow and I am afraid. Whether somebody is caught in camera and somebody is not, I will not bring the distinction in that way.

The Prime Minister, as the Leader of the House, is answerable to Lok Sabha on four counts. First, did he accept the resignation on his asking, being *prima facie* satisfied, or did he receive the resignation because the Minister felt on moral ground that till the probe was not there, he would resign? The Prime Minister has got to answer this. If the Prime Minister says that he resigned on his advice, then CBI has to act in the direction that the Prime Minister gave to it. I do not know what direction was given by the Cabinet Secretary.

Secondly, as the Leader of the House and head of the Government, is he satisfied with the role played by CBI to justify the transparency of various investigations, including this, up till now held. Why do I say so? I take Prime Minister's statement first. It says: 'Dilip Singh Judev submitted his resignation which was accepted by the President on my recommendation on 17th.' The Prime Minister arrived on 18th. It has not been made clear to the House whether Shri Dilip Singh Judev resigned on 16th or 17th. The Prime Minister should make this clear.

The Prime Minister said and I quote: "CBI has also sent notices to both Shri Judev and Shri Rateria requiring them to appear before the CBI." My question will be on which date—18th, 19th or 20th of November—the CBI has sent notices and on which day they have asked them to appear before them. The Prime Minister gave the direction on 17th of November and today is December 10. I understand till before the debate began, no interrogation had been made by CBI.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

17.00 hrs.

The CBI has not interrogated either Shri Dilip Singh Judev or Shri Natwar Rateria.

On the other hand, within 48 hours, the CBI, by its own wisdom and excellence, came in possession of several purported e-mails, and one person who was alleged to have booked the hotel, etc. These were in possession of the CBI within 48 hours and they gave them to the press. But, to recover the money alleged to have been paid—I use the word 'alleged'—or to make a raid, at least, on the APS residence as to whether it is kept there or to have a first hand interrogation even over the phone, the CBI asked:

"Dear Excellency Sir, I am a representative of CBI speaking. Can you find it convenient if I come to you for an interrogation or for asking questions?"

So far as my knowledge goes, the CBI did not do any such thing. The whole angle of investigation was reported in the media. I do not know. The hon. Prime Minister has to clarify on behalf of the CBI. It began on who booked the hotel; who brought the camera; who gave the money; and who were behind it. It was not the positive side of any investigating agency. Shri Sahu—whom I admire and respect highly was with us even on that day, when he was on that bench and even today. Any investigation, of any nature on bribe or corruption goes simultaneously on two directions. Firstly, who took the bribe, then where from you got the money; and then who gave the bribe? Yet the investigation began as to who gave the bribe, and not with who took the bribe. This I consider is not an efficient, and impartial objective exposure of the CBI. For the last 10 days I was quoting to my friends that this Session of Parliament possibly would be exhausted over the 'Judev, Audio and Video'.

In the matter of audio, I found CBI's efficiency to start the investigation within a particular time, namely, right after the oath of the Chief Minister and an FIR was lodged. I thank the CBI. I do not denounce CBI. I thank them for such competence; such efficiency; and such prompt investigation done on any such kind of deal. But I do not know who prevented CBI to continue with the same speed in case of video.

As far as I understand, the video camera's speed is much more than that of the audio cassette. The CBI, perhaps, failed to keep pace with the speed of video in this case, but possibly energised itself much more than

required in the audio case. This competence and efficiency of CBI are only eroding CBI's institutional credibility.

I strongly feel that the people who work in CBI are great sons of India. They are the most devoted police officers of the different States. I have no personal complaint against any officer, be it a retired DG or the present DG, Director or anybody else. They are all competent. Even I do not question their integrity, but will the hon. Prime Minister take the House into confidence on the case that I am presenting one after another to ensure that the CBI functions in an efficient, objective manner that is free from interferences?

I come to examples. The Prime Minister says:

"It has been the policy of my Government that all allegations pertaining to corruption should be thoroughly inquired into. Accordingly, the CBI is inquiring into this whole matter and it would be premature to state anything till inquiry is complete."

I agree with the Prime Minister that it is really premature to make any comment until the inquiry is over. My dear friend, Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot, took the chance to divert the debate by bringing in Bofors and everything else. He can do it and I do not mind that because it is his freedom. However, for his information, I would like to inform him that the ex-Law Minister of the NDA Government, Shri Ram Jethmalani, who used to question the *bona fide* of the innocent former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi, made it clear on the floor of the House that Shri Rajiv Gandhi was innocent and wrongly persecuted. He can also enquire from the Prime Minister and, possibly, he will reply tomorrow. The CBI found that there was nothing against the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. So far as the later Shri Rajiv Gandhi is concerned, the matter is closed and my friend should know that.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: The Court hold him guilty. Since the Court pronounced the judgement after his death, thus he was not punished. (Interruptions) It is Court's verdict. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am not yielding to him. Please confirm your own statement by authentication and tell us as to which court found the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi as guilty. He should produce that here or he should ask the Prime Minister to confirm his views.

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer): Otherwise, he should apologise to the House.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, we cannot bring the debate to that level on some unfounded allegation. I never said that whatever wrong was committed by Shri Bangaru Laxman was committed at the behest of the Prime Minister. This kind of irresponsible statement or irresponsible utterance can generate heat in the debate but it does not carry any conviction.

I would like to give you one example. I am neither prepared to give any confirmed view nor am I making any allegation. Let us take up the *Tehelka* issue as an example. *Tehelka* issue was divided into three parts. The first part is about the Opposition's demand that a JPC should inquire into it; the second part is when the Government said, "No, and wanted an Inquiry Commission, the Venkataswamy Commission, to look into the *Tehelka* issue. The Government, then, decided that the Commission's role would be confined to the *Tehelka* part of in regard to the other part, that is, who were behind *Tehelka* and who financed it, it said that it would not be referred to the Inquiry Commission, and that it would be referred to the CBI. Is it a composite, comprehensive, transparent and an objective view that the Government of the day should take?

The basic issue which you referred to the Inquiry Commission was about the journalists, that is, wherefrom they were getting their salaries, who did the sting operation under the fake name of West End, etc. However, on the question as to who backed it, you have referred the matter to the CBI.

In this present case, the priority angle for the CBI is to find out as to who paid the money and who organised the camera and it is not the priority angle of the CBI to find out who took the money. It is being delayed to allow the evidence to be tampered with, to allow the money to change hands. I do not know whether the money which was shown in the Press Conference a few days back and the money which was transferred was the same or not.

This is how the CBI is working. What moral authority have you got to stand here, when you have bifurcated and truncated the *Tehelka* issue, when you asked the CBI to let the Venkataswamy Commission go on and it should root out Tarun Tejpal and the First Global from this country in a manner that you like? It seems that till

the last journalist is hounded out, nothing will be compromised. Is it a comprehensive approach or the objective of any investigation? I can tell you that even if the CBI targeted the First Global, I have no objection to that. If they have done any wrong, they will have to pay for it.

While the CBI targeted the First Global, the same CBI did not link it up with the Mauritius-based companies, who looted this empire. In this respect, the reply of the Finance Minister has been delayed again and again and, with great difficulty, a few things were extracted yesterday.

This is my complaint. The Prime Minister is either kept in the dark; or the Prime Minister, knowing full well, under pressure and counter pressure, could not focus on the issue as he desired and dreamed for the country, the Parliament and democracy while he was sitting on the other side. This is the helplessness of the Prime Minister.

Any colleague of mine either from that side or this side respects his colleagues. If you make an unfounded allegation against me, I will go and cry at home. I do not like to see Shri Dilip Singh Judev's family treated as untouchables in the society for a crime not established. Politicians can score points. I do not say so. I only say that whenever you say something, it should not only be good, but it should also appear to be good. When the Prime Minister says that he refers the matter to CBI, that he directs the Cabinet Secretary to do so, it is good. But when the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister accompany him in public and make praising statements about him, it does not appear to be good.

Is there any police officer in the country who has the capacity and the guts to interrogate an accused ex-Minister, if he finds that the top two people in the country, the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister, glorify him in public—one in words and the other in gestures? Does any officer dare to do that? This is what I say. It should not only be good, but it should appear to be good also. The Prime Minister on that count failed to make it appear to be good. Therefore, the needle of suspicion falls on the CBI. It makes us feel that CBI is not enough. Why does the Government not refer the matter to a Joint Parliamentary Committee where Members from both sides would be present? Why should a Member of the other House be accused for nothing unless there is something in hand? This is how the Government is using the CBI?

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will give you a glaring example. This is the answer given by a Minister of this Government, not mine. CBI is working under Prime Minister with full autonomy. The Prime Minister says that and there is no doubt about it. I have explained a bit as to what kind of autonomy that is. If we erode the credibility of CBI, you accuse us, you abuse us. That is why you are in the office. You improve it. You restore its credibility.

I was not joking when I made those remarks about CBI. Till a few years ago, CBI was known as the Central Bureau of Investigation. Now, if a case involves investigation of a person belonging to the ruling party, the name of the CBI changes to 'Clear Before Investigation'. If it is a case that involves a person belonging to the opposition parties, the CBI becomes 'Charge Before Investigation'. That is how CBI is now being projected. Does it give any credibility to those loyal police officials who did everything for this country, to build their careers in police, to serve the highest and paramount agencies of the country? American's feel proud of their FBI. The British feel proud of their Scotland Yard. As a citizen of my country, I also wish to feel proud of CBI. Why do you not let me feel so? That is my question.

The DDA scam was referred to CBI. The main culprit in that case, according to CBI, the then as Vice-Chairman of the DDA, Subhash Sharma. He was not a politician. I do not want to take the time of the House and go through all these documents. His house was raided, money was found and documents were found. Yet, he got a bail. On what ground? Shri Satya Brata Mookherjee can educate me on this. His is a legal luminary. We all feel proud of him. He is a great son of Bengal, a great lawyer.

So efficient an organisation, CBI, could not file charge sheet against Subhash Sharma within 90 days. That was why he got bail. Following that through administrative mechanism, he got reinstated. This was stated by the Urban Development Minister yesterday, in answer to a question.

The CBI takes the plea that they are not bound to file a charge sheet within 90 days. I do not say that they are bound, but I say: "Are they not that competent and efficient to file the charge-sheet within 90 days."

Sir, in the case of DDA scam, pinpointing one man and an ex-Judge, they could not find time to file charge-sheet within 90 days and in other cases they find time to file the charge sheets within 30 days, 40 days or 50

days! If I allege that Subhash Sharma has high links with some political high-ups and on the eve of Delhi Elections, and he threatened the department saying: "If you do not bail me out, I will disclose more", and that is why some arrangement had been made to bail him out. I am saying, 'If I allege'. If anybody alleges this, how will the CBI retain its credibility? How will the Government defend this case? The Government can easily say that the CBI is an autonomous body and they do not know as to when it will file the charge-sheet or not file the charge-sheet.

In the audio case, they find the FIR ready within 48 hours but in the video case they find that even 20 days are not enough, and, in Subhash Sharma's case they find that even 90 days are not enough! That is why I say that the credibility of the CBI is dwindling today. Let us restore it.

Sir, Shri Sajjan Kumar, an ex-MP of this august House was charged and accused in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. Later, the High Court acquitted him. But the CBI went to appeal saying: "We are not advocating the acquittal. We shall go to appeal in the Supreme Court to defend our apprehension of his involvement." I thank the CBI for this. That is how they should proceed always. Who prevented the CBI to go to the Higher Court to appeal on the *Hawala* case whether there was involvement of the Congress Ministers or the persons sitting on that side? If it is Narasimharao, accuse him; if it is Deve Gowda, accuse him; if it is a BJP Minister, accuse him. I do not mind. But let us restore the credibility of the CBI.

In the case of Sajjan Kumar, the CBI appeals in the case of Babri Masjid demolition, the Raebarelli Court charges Dr. Muri Manohar Joshi, and he sheds his tears and resigns. But when the same Raebarelli Court discharges Shri Advani, the CBI does not go for appeal! The CBI does not go for appeal in the case of Shri Advani! How do we justify this act?

So, how will the Prime Minister explain to this House that his own autonomous investigating agency, the CBI, speaks something against a Minister in the other court and speaks something else against another Minister in the other court and changes the whole contention of contesting? If Dr. Muri Manohar Joshi can contest saying: "What you are charging is wrong; I will go to the higher court", being a Minister of the same Council of Ministers, the same agency and the same Government cannot contest in the higher court saying as to why Shri Advani was discharged.

Here lies the apprehension, here lies the question. But I do understand. Had it been done to us, I think, the Parliament would not have been allowed to work for 19 days. This is how they are eroding the credibility of the CBI. I would request them to please do not do it.

Shri Judev may be exonerated or he may be convicted. It is not the issue. Let the institution remain with its glory. Let us present the convincing picture to the nation that here is an investigation agency which is fearless.

Therefore, the time has come for the Parliament. I would request the hon. Prime Minister to call an all-party meeting for all the future days to come. Be it we rule or be it they who rule, we want more strength and teeth to be added to the CBI for an objective fearless investigating agency, for which the citizens will feel proud, as the citizens feel proud of FBI in America or as the citizens feel proud of the Scotland Yard in England.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in his Statement, the Prime Minister has further stated:

"As the hon. Members are aware, the CBI has full functional autonomy and, under the recently enacted Central Vigilance Commission Act, the superintendence of the CBI in relation to offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act has been vested by the Government in the Central Vigilance Commission."

Taking money in an illegal manner is an offence under the Prevention of Corruption Act.

Shri Bangaru Laxman is one of the senior leaders of the country. Maybe, he is a victim of his innocence or of the camera operations. But he resigned or he was asked to resign. Look at the way we shout in respect of the Kargil issue. Our patriotism comes out like anything during electioneering, as to who can cry the most for the mortal. But in such cases, within 24 hours, he finds time to punish men in uniform by court martialling. For men without uniform, who figured taking money and who were shown on the tape 'having talks for money', you do not find time even to file a case under Prevention of Corruption Act. Till today, not a single case has been registered in any place in Delhi either by the CBI or by this Government. In such cases, case are to be registered by the Union Government, at least in Delhi. But nothing is done.

Where is Shri R.K. Gupta? Where are those who were found in the Defence Minister's house? I am not

talking about Defence Minister, but I am talking about those who were in the Defence Minister's house. Nothing is there. But they say that the Government is active. Men in uniform are court martialled. But what happened to men without uniform? They may be with you or they may be with us. But should this Parliament encourage this trend? Should this Parliament endorse this behaviour of any Government, today or tomorrow? Is this the way things will move in this country? It is against moral obligations and it is like tampering with all the physical exposition of transparency. This is what the Government is doing today.

The Prime Minister is obliged to take the House into confidence as to why men in uniform have been punished and why men without uniform have not even been booked. This is the question today. Pursuant to the Prime Minister's statement, is there any case under Prevention of Corruption Act launched by the CBI till today or till the Prime Minister gave the statement? His own agency has not filed any case till the time the statement was made. To belittle Prime Minister's moral authority in the House, I can only say that my great Prime Minister is great in his knowledge, in his wisdom, in his career, but he is helpless! On what count? It is for the NDA to decide.

Then the Prime Minister said: 'There should, therefore, be no fear or misgiving regarding independence of this inquiry'. In the end, Mr. Chairman, Sir, you can judge or the Government may judge whether I said anything beyond the scope of this debate.

The hon. Prime Minister may reply tomorrow—this is what I understand from the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs. I am sorry, I will be deprived of hearing him tomorrow; I will not be present in the House tomorrow because of some preoccupation outside. But I appeal to the hon. Prime Minister not to throw mud on either 'X' or 'Y' or 'Z'. The time has come to lift the credibility of public life to a new height and to lift the credibility of the CBI to height.

If we, from the Congress, have failed while we were ruling, the hon. Prime Minister may please do it so that the nation will be convinced that this Parliament is not just to score political points, but this Parliament has a purpose, to lift the standard of public life to a new height, whereby people of 18-30 age group, in future, will come to this Parliament and will salute this Parliament, saying that somebody has sacrificed his life to protect Parliament at the Gate, fighting against terrorists and somebody has left a tradition in Parliament which we enter thinking that it is a temple.

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

Let us not treat this case as a simple issue of raising political slogan against BJP or Congress or the rest of the Opposition. In terms of total accountability of the Council of Ministers, the Prime Minister failed in his duty to take the House into confidence on the first day. The Prime Minister failed in his duty to scrutinise instruction to CBI by the Cabinet Secretary as to the basic issue of bribery which should be taken up first and then, investigation should follow. The Prime Minister failed to take cognisance for CBI's pressure-pulling work, in several cases, especially in the case of Shri Advani. I wrote to the Prime Minister; he acknowledged my letter. At least time has come to prove his innocence and justify the autonomy of CBI. The CBI should go on appeal against Shri Advani on the issue of discharging him in Rei Bareilly court. He could not reply to that. We all will be forgotten. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee will be remembered in the history. We all will be forgotten. No Judeo, no Ajit Jogi, no video, no P.R. Dasmunsi, and no Opposition Members will be remembered but he will be remembered if he can show his strength without being pressurised by his Deputy Prime Minister or the forces outside. If he cannot, I am sorry we will record that there was one Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee who ruled the country for five years with 40 party-coalition, with critical work crawling here and crawling there, but he could not create an example for the future generations, at least, in fighting corruption.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cutback): After a very elucidating and emotional speech of Shri P.R. Dasmunsi, I am delighted that I have been asked to speak on this discussion. The statement of the Prime Minister was delivered just in the forenoon and already around four and a half hours have passed.

I am reminded of a judgement of the Orissa High Court relating to a case under the Prevention of Corruption Act. The case was relating to a political activist who was a Minister during that period and the matter referred to is some eight or ten years before. It was relating to a mining lease where money was given by that person who is a mine owner, and who was by that time the Minister. The case went on for eight to ten years. Finally, when the judgement came, the pathetic the situation was that the Minister was convicted because he was a bribe giver. The judgement was that a bribe giver is equally culpable as a bribe taker. The case, of course, went up to the Supreme Court and the Minister was exonerated and again he became a Minister.

Here I would like to remind this House that a bribe taker, of course, is prosecuted and so also the bribe

giver. That is the main reason why I find CBI enquiring into the circumstances how a bribe giver came into the picture. I had seen those videotapes on 16 and 17 November. It was not that visible. Let us be very clear on that. He was not that visible. The audio was also not that audible. I am not going into the details as that is a part which the CBI has to inquire into. But what Shri Dasmunsi has referred to? He started on a very bright note. I support that stand. He has mentioned about the 'Mundra' scandal. You yourself, in your speech, have mentioned the episodes that have happened within the last 50 quite a long time. An allegation was made by a person against a person who was on a very high pedestal in the administration. The debate also took place in this House and also outside why prosecution was not being done, why such and such person was not being prosecuted and why she/he was not being asked questions. These things have been happening.

Culprits of Bofors, of course, are still roaming free. They are yet to be booked. I agree, as has been mentioned by some hon. members, that a code of conduct for Ministers and persons who hold office has to be implemented. It has to be done by this House. This reminds me of one statement made some 25 years back. It was said that corruption is a global phenomenon. It is happening everywhere. It is happening in Japan; it is happening in Italy, it is happening in the United States of America and it is happening in Great Britain. At that point of time a number of issues concerning corruption were also being debated in most of these democratic countries. People were being caught on camera. That was the situation then. Now in our country it may be on audio, or it may be on video, but things are coming to light. This again reminds me of one statement that my science teacher used to tell me during my schools days and that is, you believe what you see. That is how the students of primary and high schools develop a scientific temper. Seeing is believing.

Sir, this reminds me of an incident that took place in my district town. The person was a freedom fighter. Later he became a Minister. He was a very respected person. He had only one bicycle to move around his constituency. At times he hired a rickshaw. He never obliged any dealer or any person who wanted to get any type of support from the Government in a very illegal manner. One morning a number of people had gathered in front of his house. A lady also came there. I am referring to this because seeing is believing. This incident happened sometimes in the year 1969. But this incident because my science teacher had emphasised that seeing is

believing and that is what scientific temper is all about. In a laboratory you experiment by mixing certain things and observe it and then come to conclusions. The lady came there with a *khadi chaddar* folded in her hand. The Minister was enquiring from people about their difficulties, his associates were taking notes and he was attending to the problems of the people then and there. He came before this lady and asked her about her problem. Some people there knew about the character of this lady. She was a lady of easy virtue. She just handed over the *khadi chaddar* to the Minister and paid her respects and said that she had nothing more to say. The whole crowd was astonished. Then she said that he had left that *khadi chaddar* at her house. This is seeing is believing. We see many things in videos, in photographs and we also hear about many things about persons who are in public life. You can just imagine as to what would have happened to that person. Fortunately, the Minister did not know that lady. But his constituents, the people who had gathered around his house, what kind of an impression did they carry and what would have they talked about when they came out of his house? They must have thought that this man who had fought for this country and had been jailed during the British period could have been of immoral character. This became the main election issue in the next elections that were held in 1971.

You can denigrate a person by many ways. That is why, there is a necessity to inquire into who is behind the sting. This also reminds me of two things the two things that have been referred to. One is, a comparison which has also been made irrespective of party affiliations from both the sides. Two comparisons have been made relating to investigation. One is relating to the incident at Raipur and another is relating to the incident in a hotel here in Delhi.

This reminds me of two other incidents which had occurred in the United States of America. I would like to remind the hon. Members of this House of John F. Kennedy. An audio cassette went round just before his assassination and, after his assassination also, it was a topic of discussion during the campaign for next election. It is also said that the audio tape was done in a very secretive manner by some mysterious group of persons. The audio cassette was recorded and it was matched. Certain things which he had not spoken to a person but had spoken to a lady, Marilyn Monroe, were interpolated and it went round as if he had spoken to somebody else. And after a long inquiry, all things have come to public but the damage was done. Another audio was also done which is very widely known as Watergate

scandal that was also done very secretly. Thanks to the media which brought it to light because it was delivered for public consumption. Here you are making a comparison between two incidents. The two incidents which were done are immoral and unethical, I would say, in both the cases. Without the knowledge of the person, you wanted to trap him with a certain motive. It is illegal and unethical. I cannot say that it is done in an ethical way. But, at the same time, one should deduce for what purpose was it done? The purpose is, it is for the public good. If the purpose is to do something stealthily and do not make himself public, then there is a motive which is not good for the society. In the case of Shri Judeo, the person who has done that and who has recorded it, is yet to make it public. He has not come to the forefront declaring himself that he has done it. But in the case of the recording which was done at Raipur, they have come out openly. The similar case is of John F. Kennedy who is yet to make himself public. That is why, the Americans have not accepted what is being said relating to Kennedy but they have accepted how Mr. Nixon has utilised his agency for his political purpose. This is the basic difference.

I would refer to another point. Here, many things have been said. Of course, I will come to the CBI part later. But, in this world, there are two types of jurisprudence. The learned Members are aware of it. There is the British jurisprudence to which we all adhere to. The Indian system is of British jurisprudence. In certain cases of the CrPC, this Parliament has changed it to French jurisprudence. The basic difference is this and Shri Sahu will agree with me on this point, that until a person is proved guilty, he is innocent and this is British jurisprudence. But in French jurisprudence, a person who is apprehended has to prove that he is not guilty and the onus of proof lies with the person who is apprehended.

What do you want to do here? We have the person caught in the camera. Immediately in the public eye he is denigrated and we want to throw him to dustbin. That is not the jurisprudence prevalent in this country now. Had French jurisprudence been there, then I would not have said something which I said. According to our law, a person is to be treated innocent until and unless he is proved guilty. Our Criminal Procedure Code is very clear in that respect. That is why inquiry is required. That is why investigation is also required.

Questions are being asked as to why the CBI is still undertaking preliminary inquiry and why a regular case

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab]

has not started. Oh! The Minister resigned on 17th November and the case was referred to the CBI on 18th November. Some hon. Members said, since a regular case has not started yet, that is why we want a JPC. How can JPC help in that? They asked as to why the charge sheet has not been filed yet. I would humbly submit that the persons who are posing these questions are actually questioning the functioning of the CBI. Please do not denigrate the system, when there is nothing else to rely upon.

There was a time when corruption took place in the form of providing concession in excise, in helping evading the tax, or by enhancing the Budgetary support or estimate to a specific project. These were the cases which were inquired into and people were apprehended. This was happening, say 30 years back, 20 years back, or even 10 years back. It did not affect the people directly.

When Shri Yerrannaidu mentioned about corruption, I am reminded of the situation that was prevailing ten years back. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you yourself are a very experienced person in public life. What was the position ten years back?

I would refer to the incidents that are happening in the cricket arena in a nutshell. What happened five or six years back? In a video things came out. Somebody made an allegation. Some former cricket player made an allegation that to win or lose a game, money had been transacted. It is part of corruption. Inquiry was conducted. Audio visual tape was also played. This was the case in cricket. But now we hear that to get selected in a team, money is being offered. In this case no less a person than Shri Kapil Dev came out very openly. After seeing that allegation in the electronic media that a person to get selected in the cricket team had offered money, I was crestfallen. The BCCI is investigating the matter. To what level have we come to! In public life people are being denigrated day in and day out. These boys are our true representatives in the international arena, of whom many of us are really proud of. Has this country come to such a level that to get selected into a team, money is being offered and it is being complied with?

At that time, I only read through the newspapers the statement of Shri Kapil Dev who had come out openly in support of that boy. I am not naming anyone because we are confining ourselves to the statement of the hon. Prime Minister.

I come from Orissa. People are also very much eager to play cricket. But, from our State, boys from lower

middle class have been selected to play international cricket. Only a single parent earns livelihood in our State. From our State, if Debashish Mohanty or Shiv Sundar Das can get selected to the Indian team to play the international cricket game, how can I believe that money is being given by the players to get selected? We have to see the positive side in our society.

I would end my speech with this. The problem today is about the person who mans an office. He is supposed to be in a perfect position. There are, of course, some aberrations. People are there to earn money illegally. The society is always vigilant to punish such people. Only a vigilant society can check corruption at the core.

A question is often asked in our villages—Sir, you must have also heard it in your village—“can you find out whether a fish drinks water or not when it is in the pond?” This question has been often asked by our peers. It is very difficult to know about it. But a person who holds high position, who sits in a chair and decides upon matters, must be perfect. The onus lies on him to prove it. That is what *Ram Rajya* is. How is he going to discharge his duty? In a transparent society, nothing is hidden. Specially, in our society, nothing is kept hidden. In the beginning of my speech I had referred to a person, a freedom fighter, a former Minister who is still alive. He is still revered by the people. He might have lost the election, but in public life, he is held in high esteem. That is what this society always looks up to.

I would end my speech by saying that India is not a Banana Republic that you catch hold of somebody, prosecute him and put him in jail without doing any investigation or inquiry. That is not the law of this land. This is a vibrant democracy. In a vibrant democracy, the judiciary and the investigating agency should be provided all support.

In the end, I would say that once the hon. Prime Minister has assured that there should not be any fear or misgiving regarding the independence of this inquiry, I do not see any reason for a JPC. There is no need to have a double inquiry.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. First of all, I would like to convey my heartfelt thanks to the hon. Speaker as he has allowed this House to discuss about the corrupt practice of a Minister of the present Government.

After a lapse of two days, the hon. Prime Minister came to the House and made a statement. In his statement, he assured this august House that his Government is determined to take action against any wrong-doer, against any corrupt practitioner. The last portion of his statement says that the law will take its own course.

I would like to ask as to what is the course taken by the law nearly one month after this episode has taken place. No case has been registered and no FIR has been lodged by the CBI in this case till now. I am not defending Shri Ajit Jogi. He should be punished and all wrong doers should be punished. But why is the CBI refraining from lodging an FIR or registering a case against Shri Dilip Singh Judev, who was one of the Ministers in the Council of Ministers headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Sir, it was known to everybody that Shri Dilip Singh Judev was caught on camera while he was receiving money from one of the agents of an Australian company in order to lease mining rights in Chhattisgarh and Orissa. It is very much shameful that Shri Dilip Singh Judev defended himself in the media by comparing himself with the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, Netaji Subash Chandra Bose and Shaheed Bhagat Singh. He said that these people, about whom the entire nation is proud, took money from different persons and he particularly said that Mahatma Gandhi took money from the Birla Company for the cause of freedom struggle. Now, with favourable results in Chhattisgarh, I have no hesitation that he would come back again in Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Ministry just as the Defence Minister was inducted into the Cabinet earlier.

Sir, what did we see in the Tehelka episode? The reporters and cameramen of Tehelka exposed the corrupt practices of the Defence Ministry before the nation. As a citizen of this country, I am proud of the acts of Tehelka and they deserve to be congratulated for exposing the corrupt practices of the Defence Ministry. Instead of thanking and congratulating them, they are being harassed and 14 cases have been registered by the CBI against the staff, reporters and cameramen of Tehelka.

Sir, after tendering his resignation at that time, the Defence Minister misused Doordarshan. He had made a speech before the nation through Doordarshan and said that he would not join the Cabinet until and unless he was cleared by Justice Venkataswami Commission of inquiry; not only that, the hon. Prime Minister also assured

before the House that he would not be inducted into the Cabinet until and unless he was cleared by the Commission of Inquiry. We do not know what is the fate of that Commission of Inquiry now. Our Defence Minister, who is also the Convenor of the NDA, is trying to make a good rapport sometimes with Kumari Jayalalitha and sometimes with Kumari Mamata Banerjee, requesting them not to disturb this Government. Suddenly, one fine morning, he was inducted into the Cabinet headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Sir, the tenure of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Government started with scam and corrupt practices and is continuing with scams and corrupt practices. My apprehension is that its tenure will also end with corrupt practices and scams. We have witnessed many scams and corrupt deals. There was a Joint Parliamentary Committee which inquired into the Share Market Scam. Another Minister of State has also been referred to. It appeared in the media that he took money from the NGOs in order to sanction money to such NGOs. There have been *Tehelka* and so many other scams in spite of the fact that Shri Vajpayee assured the nation that his Government would be a corruption-free Government.

Shri Dasmuni mentioned why people had lost faith in the CBI. I am not referring to the points referred to by him due to constraint of time. The CBI is the highest investigating agency of our country. There is no doubt that the CBI has lost its credibility. It is being misused by the ruling party as an instrument to harass the Opposition political parties.

So far as the ingredients of the CrPC are concerned, there is a difference between an inquiry and an investigation. Shri Dilip Singh Judev's case is under the process of an inquiry while that of Shri Ajit Jogi is under investigation. This Government is playing a dual role. They are having a grudge against the political parties. The Opposition parties apprehended that when the Government introduced POTA in this country, it would be used against its political opponents and also against the people belonging to the minority communities. They might have won in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. But this Government has lost its credibility in the eyes of the people of this nation. Not only that, the tenure of Shri Vajpayee's Government is full of corruption and scams. Many Ministers are indulging in corrupt practices. There have been a lot of scams. The Chief Vigilance Commissioner has complained to the Prime Minister that at least six Ministers of his Cabinet are constantly pressuring the Executives of PSUs to extract favouritism from them. This is the position of the Government. Shri

[Shri Ajay Chakraborty]

Vajpayee is not present here. I think, he will reply tomorrow. He might have won in the elections to the three State Assemblies, but they cannot win the minds of the people because his Government is full of corruption. It is not free from corruption. Many of his Ministers are corrupt. Every day, both the electronic media and the print media are exposing the corruption of the Ministers and the leaders of the Government. Not only that, even the Deputy Prime Minister defended Shri Judev. Our jubilant Minister of Law and also the President of the BJP defended the wrong acts of Shri Judev.

18.00 hrs.

Not only one Judeo is in their Cabinet, but so many Judeos are there in their Cabinet. What will happen to our country? This Government may come or may go and another Government may come in the power, but what will be the fate of the nation?

Sir, I think, you will also appreciate, cutting across party lines, that the common people of our country have lost faith in the political leaders and political parties. They are getting frustrated now.

[Translation]

DR. CHAIRMAN: How much more time you will take.

.... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, it is up to you. (Interruptions)

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM (Nagaland): We shall continue tomorrow. Such an important debate is going on and only a few Members are present here.

[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. Chairman, Sir, as many hon. Members are to speak therefore, please extend time of the House. (Interruptions)

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Please get this discussion concluded tomorrow as it is very important discussion.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as hon. Prime Minister's reply is fixed for tomorrow immediately after the Question-hour, therefore, please let this discussion be completed today itself.

.... (Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Chairman, Sir, please get it completed tomorrow. (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Akhileshji, what are you telling? (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do all agree to extend time of the House by an hour?

.... (Interruptions)

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No.

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is very important discussion and there is no quorum in the House. Therefore, let it be completed tomorrow. (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, please extend the time of the House by an hour. The Members who want to speak, may speak today. Tomorrow, the hon. Prime Minister will reply immediately after the Question-hour. (Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: It is like slow speed news. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, quorum is required for such an issue. (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): Mr. Chairman, Sir, please extend time of the House by an hour more as hon. Prime Minister is slated to reply tomorrow at 12 o' clock. (Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, please get this discussion be completed tomorrow. Now you adjourn the House.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is so serious issue and no senior leader

is present in the House. As no senior leader of Congress is present in the House, thus there is no use of this discussion. (*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: That is why, I am saying that please get it completed tomorrow. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Shall I continue tomorrow. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, not a single senior leader of Congress is present here and nor any CPM leader is present. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tomorrow hon. Prime Minister is to give reply at 12 o' clock.

.... (*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: If the discussion is not completed, what reply he would give? Was his reply also not deferred? He was to reply yesterday, whereas he replied today. Even otherwise, there is no quorum today. Thus, the House should be adjourned today. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the question of discussion on this issue was being considered that time only was going to be decided that the hon. Prime Minister would give reply the very same day at 5.00 or 5.15 PM but we were aware that Members of all the parties would like to speak on this issue since it is very serious. We never wanted that the duration of this discussion to be curtailed. And that is why we decided not to impose a time restriction on the hon. Prime Minister as this would cut short the discussion. As many hon. Members, who wish, can speak so that the hon. Prime Minister may give his reply tomorrow at 12.00 noon immediately after the Question Hour. It has been done so in order to give opportunity to the opposition. Discussion would be over today, this is not happening for the first time. Whenever there is a lengthy discussion, we continue it even after six o'clock. And the concerned Minister or hon. Prime Minister gives reply the very next day. Infact this discussion was taken on the

very same lines. The hon. Prime Minister would give reply only tomorrow even if the discussion is completed today. Otherwise it would be said that many Members who were willing to speak, have been left out. It would be better if all the willing Members speak today. Now he says that there is no senior leader present here. It is already six fifteen P.M. We are leaving our two senior Cabinet Ministers. They would be present here. Shri Satyavrat Mookherjee, from the hon. Prime Minister's office is present here and is taking notes. Although Cabinet meeting is being held, my submission is that let the discussion be complete today. And discussion would be considered as complete even if the House adjourns at six o' clock. The hon. Prime Minister would give reply tomorrow. Please decide. (*Interruptions*) Discussion would be considered as complete if the House adjourns even at six o' clock (*Interruptions*). We are ready to listen to him if he wishes to. (*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion is going on. How would this discussion be considered complete. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Not many Members are here.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Please continue with the discussion. Two Cabinet Ministers are also present here from the Government side. One of his colleagues from the Prime Minister's office is also present here. (*Interruptions*) Hon. Members may speak for as much time as they wish. The House should be adjourned only after the discussion is completed. Let the discussion continue till 7-8 o' clock. Hon. Prime Minister would give reply tomorrow. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (Kolar): We have no objection in the Prime Minister's replying the debate at one o' clock.

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Hon. Prime Minister should give reply tomorrow at five o' clock. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: It is not possible tomorrow at five o' clock. Tomorrow we have the

[Shrimati Sushma Swaraj]

legislative business too ... *(Interruptions)*. Decisions taken in the BAC are to be completed here too. Government also has to conduct the legislative business. It has its own importance. ... *(Interruptions)*. Tomorrow is the day for legislative business. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: It was decided in the BAC that today the discussion would be held and tomorrow its reply would be given.

... *(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Whether it was decided in the BAC that House would be held without quorum? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: There is no question of quorum after six o' clock. Discussion would be considered as complete if the House is to be adjourned on the question of quorum and the hon. Prime Minister would give reply tomorrow at 5 o' clock. ... *(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: It was not decided in the BAC that House would run without the quorum. ... *(Interruptions)* It is inappropriate on the part of the hon. Minister of Parliament to say that since there is no quorum today, so the discussion may be considered as complete today. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I can very well draw his attention towards the provision under Rule 193, if he is so much going by the rules. The provision has laid a fixed time limit for discussion under the said rule and if the discussion is not completed within that time period, it would be 'considered' as complete. ... *(Interruptions)*. Whether he is accepting this fact? He should co-operate to this extent atleast. But it is not good that he is not co-operating. ... *(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: He is wasting the valuable time of the House for ten minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is now six o' clock. The issue is whether the House agrees to continue discussion after six or not.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: If Akhilesh ji is raising the question of quorum he may kindly give attention that it is the duty of the Government side to see that here is

quorum during legislative business but here the opposition has asked for discussion and they are not able to complete it, only four Members are sitting, so they are saying that the House be adjourned today. It would have been my responsibility to see that there is quorum, had it been the Legislative Business. Both the things would not go like this. ... *(Interruptions)* He demands for holding discussion and he himself raises the issue of quorum. ... *(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is evading her responsibility by giving such vague arguments. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: He demands for holding discussion and himself raises the question of quorum. He wants to run away from discussion. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Let the Prime Minister reply at one o'clock tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Member who had asked for holding discussion is sitting. His associates demanded discussion and now he is raising the question of quorum—how can one accede to both the things. Ramji Lal Surman ji belongs to his party only. Surman ji demands for discussion and he raises the question of quorum. ... *(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, she is raising a question mark on our legislative position. ... *(Interruptions)* It is a point of order. ... *(Interruptions)*. I have objection on the statement of the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. How far does her statement that proceedings of the House would continue even if the quorum is not complete, is not as per the rules, please clarify it. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is the responsibility of the Opposition to see that there is quorum. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: It is the responsibility of the government to see that there is quorum in the House.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: He has demanded for discussion and now he is raising the question of quorum. I have great objection to his statement. ... (Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: She is trying to evade her responsibility and intends to continue with the Proceedings of the House even without quorum. ... (Interruptions)

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah): Members raising discussion in the House are themselves not present in the House. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD JAISWAL (Varanasi): Members raising discussion are not present here. ... (Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: They may be here or not, but I want to straightaway put on thing, I have great objection to the statement of hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. She wishes to run the House against the rules. ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: I too have objection to his raising the issue of quorum. ... (Interruptions) He asks for discussion and is not serious towards it. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please ring the Quorum bell.

[English]

The bell is being rung—

18.15 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We had twice rung the quorum bell. There is no quorum in the House. Therefore, I am compelled to adjourn the House. The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow the 11th December, 2003 at 11 a.m.

18.18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, December 11, 2003/Agrahayana 20, 1925 (Saka).

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