

M.A.

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Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Agrahayana 14, 1929 (Saka)

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## (English Version)

Twelfth Session  
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 5, 2007/Agrahayana 14, 1929 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: He has been kind to me today.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q. No. 281. Shri Sanat Kumar Mandal. Is that is that your seat?

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): Yes.

11.01 hrs.

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

#### Development of Infrastructure Sector

\*281. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) the details of targets set in the Eleventh Five Year Plan for the development of infrastructure sector;

(b) the strategy to be implemented to achieve the targets; and

(c) the targets set and achieved in this Sector during the Tenth Plan Period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) The total investment proposed by the Central and the State government and the private sector in physical

infrastructure sectors over the Eleventh Plan Period is projected at Rs. 2,060,193 crores. Of this total investment, the shares of Central, States, and Private Sector are expected to be about 37 per cent, 33 per cent, and 30 per cent, respectively. The sector-wise projected investment is given below:

#### Sector-wise Investment Projected for the Eleventh Plan

(Rs. crore at 2006-07 price)

Sectors	Rs. crore
Electricity (Including Non-Conventional Energy)	666,525
Roads and Bridges	314,152
Telecommunication	258,439
Railways (Including Metro Railway)	261,808
Irrigation (Including Watershed)	257,344
Water Supply and Sanitation	143,730
Ports	87,995
Airports	30,968
Storage	22,378
Gas	16,855
<b>Total (Rs. crore)</b>	<b>2,060,193</b>

(b) The strategy for infrastructure development in the Eleventh Plan reflects the dominant role of the state in building infrastructure. However, it also recognises that the total resources required to meet the deficit in infrastructure exceed the capacity of the public sector. It is, therefore, necessary to attract private investment requirements. The relative role of the public and private sectors will vary. In some sectors such as irrigation and water resources management, construction of rural roads, capital dredging at major ports, as well as in certain economically or situationally disadvantaged regions, the bulk of the investment in infrastructure would have to come from the public sector. In other sectors, such as telecommunications and ports, competition and private investment will expand capacity and quality of service.

(c) Sector-wise details of the targets and achievements during the Tenth Plan Period are as under:

- (i) Power: During the Tenth Plan capacity addition of 21,080 MW was achieved as against target of 41,110 MW. The likely expenditure of the central power sector during the Tenth Plan is about Rs. 90,678 crore as against an outlay of Rs. 1,77,051 crore.
- (ii) Railways: The Railways has seen a turn around during the Tenth Plan. The originating freight traffic during the terminal year of the Tenth Plan was 728 MT as against a target of 624 MT. Similarly, the originating passenger traffic for the terminal year of the Tenth Plan was 6352 million passengers as against a target of 5686 million.
- (iii) Roads: The expenditure of the central sector was Rs. 48,594 crore as against the 10th Plan outlay of Rs. 59,490 crore.
- (iv) Ports: The major ports handled 464 MT cargo in 2006-07 as against a projected traffic of 415 MT. The expenditure of the central port sector during the Tenth plan was Rs. 2,891 crore as against an outlay of Rs. 5,418 crore.
- (v) Civil Aviation: During the Tenth Plan, the expenditure of the Ministry of Civil Aviation was Rs. 7,792 crore as against an outlay of Rs. 12,928 crore.
- (vi) Telecom: During the Tenth Plan period, the total telephone connections increased from 44.97 million as on 31.3.2002 to 205.86 million as on 31.3.2007 thereby achieving a teledensity of 18.31% by March, 2007 as against the Tenth Plan target of achieving 9.91% by March, 2007.

*[English]*

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to various media reports, a massive investment of about \$ 500 billion needed for implementing infrastructure projects during the Eleventh Plan period. Further a Committee on Infrastructure (Col) under the chairmanship of hon. Prime Minister has been constituted. In this context, I would like to know that if it is so, what are the policies and action plans made by the Col for the implementation of projects for the development of highways, railways, ports, airports and power in the country.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, as the hon. Member himself has pointed out, hon. Prime Minister himself is monitoring the implementation of all infrastructure projects. As far as Empowered Sub-Committee of Col is concerned, it regularly reviews the projects on infrastructure. Sir, that is the reason why, if you compare, the Tenth Plan targets with the projections made in the Eleventh Plan, you will find that a considerable progress has been made.

As far as Eleventh Five Year Plan is concerned, on the 19th of this month, the National Development Council is going to meet and approve the Eleventh Five Year Plan. As far as these figures are concerned, I would be most happy to share after the National Development Council meeting approves the Eleventh Plan.

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: What are the deficiencies of funds expected while investing such a huge amount for infrastructure projects? I would also like to know the details of steps taken to fill the funds' gap for effective implementation of the infrastructure projects within the period.

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know whether you will have funds.

SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, sufficient care has been taken under the Eleventh Five Year Plan. That is the reason why, apart from public sector investments, we have been deliberately encouraging the private sector to foot the funds so that we can achieve our target growth rate of between nine and ten per cent of GDP. Therefore, sufficient funds have already been taken into consideration and that has been ensured.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIBHAU JAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask only one supplementary question from the Hon. Minister. The hon. Minister has stated that investment to the tune of Rs. 3.14 lakh crore has been made an infrastructure for roads and bridges. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would like to make some investment for the roads passing through the agriculture fields?

*[English]*

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, as far as that question is concerned, I shall be most happy to respond to, if the hon. Member sends a separate notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, that is right.

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Sir, in the last two consecutive Economic Surveys, in the infrastructure part, airports at Patiala, North-East, Navi Mumbai, Cannanore, etc., were considered for more development. I would like to bring to the kind attention of the hon. Minister the unnecessary delay of infrastructure development in the country. For example, Cannanore airport in my constituency has been given defence and environment clearances. All technical studies have cleared this project. It is waiting only for the Cabinet clearance. The Government does not have to spend any money on this.

MR. SPEAKER: Does it really apply to this question?

SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Sir, the State Government is providing 2,000 acres of land for this. Private investors are ready to take up this project based on the model of Kochi airport. I would like to know the actual reason for delay in the Cabinet clearance.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you can send it to Shri Praful Patel.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: I will be very happy to refer it to him, Sir.

Prime Minister is sitting, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: So what? There is no question of Prime Minister's day in this country. You know very well. I am trying to get you the information. Mr. Minister, please request Praful Pateltji to send him information.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: I will do that, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to the eighth report of the World Bank, India cannot be come a developed country of the world unless it develops its agriculture sector. The achievements and targets of the Tenth Plan discussed so far do not refer to irrigation anywhere, where as the very basis of agriculture is irrigation. Irrigation did not priority either in the Tenth or in the Eleventh Five Year plan. Through you, I would like to know from the Government if it proposes to concentrate on irrigation by according priority to it for developing agriculture in the 11th Five Year Plan?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There is a figure of Rs. 2,57,000 crore. It is written here.

SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN: Sir, I would like to submit through you to the hon. Member's consideration that under Bharat Nirman the Government of India has taken care to invest Rs. 1,74,000 crore. Under that, irrigation has been given the highest priority. Under the accelerated irrigation project the Government of India has taken all the care to see that all the projects which have been pending are completed as early as possible and the benefit of that is given to the farmers. Therefore, the UPA Government from the very beginning is giving the highest priority to increase the irrigation potential in the country and sufficient funds have already been made available.

MR. SPEAKER: No. 282, Dr. Satynarayan Jatiya. Not present.

#### New Atomic Energy Research Centres

\*283. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:  
DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up new Atomic Energy Research Centres on the Eastern Coast of the country;

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

(c) whether the Government also proposes to expand the existing Nuclear Power Plants in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of funds allocated by the Government for the said purpose against the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred in each of such Plants; and

(f) the time by which all these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) Yes, Sir, near Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.

(b) it is a new campus of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Trombay to carry out advanced R & D work in the field of Nuclear Science.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Work on eight indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) with a total capacity of 5600 MWe and ten Light Water Reactors (LWRs) with a total capacity of 10,000 MWe based on imports by NPCIL, one Advanced Heavy Water Reactor (AHWR) of 300 MWe by BARC and Pre project activities for future FBRs by Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR) Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam (BHAVINI) has been

proposed to be commenced in the XI Plan. The commencement of work on Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) expansion programme is linked to establishment of fuel linkages for the indigenous PHWRs and positive developments on international co-operation for imported LWRs.

(e) XI Plan proposals envisage an expenditure of Rs. 23,671 crore on these projects in the Plan. Out of this, an expenditure of Rs. 22,660 crore for expansion programme of NPCIL is planned to be funded through a combination of equity from reserves and surpluses of NPCIL, market borrowings and foreign credit for LWRs. The remaining expenditure of Rs. 1011 crore for AHWR and pre project activities for FBRs is proposed to be met from budgetary support.

The project wise details are:

(Rs. in Crore)

Expansion Programme	Outlay in XI Plan at 2006-07 price	Proposed Outlay beyond XI Plan
KAPP 3&4 (7 NP-1&2)	3592	4688
RAPP 7&8 (7NP-3&4)	2188	6102
7NP-5&6	535	7631
7NP-7&8 (Pre-Project in XI Plan)	153	8013
KK 3&4 (LWR-3&4)	7572	5374
Jaitapur 1&2 (LWR-5&6)	5353	9091
KK-5&6	1468	11578
LWR-11&12	1353	13152
Jaitapur-3&4	446	14018
AHWR	806	1058
Pre Project activities FBRs	205	—

(f) The projects, depending on the start up date, will get completed progressively in the XII and XIII Plan.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the setting up of heavy water reactors and light water reactors are depending on the implementation and on developments on openings up of international civil nuclear

cooperation. So, the projection of expenditure of Rs. 23,671 crore on these projects during the 11th Plan period depends on the international civil nuclear cooperation, the fate of which is uncertain.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, what is the position now of this nuclear



cooperation; whether the Government will give importance to this indigenous way of power generation and how far we have progressed with Thorium based nuclear power technology?

I want to know one more thing.

MR. SPEAKER: That can be the second supplementary.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: In addition to this, when the world is moving backward and are withdrawing from the nuclear power generation because of the risk factor, whether it will be wise for us to go ahead with this nuclear power generation, depending always on foreign countries for fuel supply?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, the hon. Member has combined 3-4 supplementaries.

MR. SPEAKER: That is true.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: First of all, I would not say anything on the progress of the international cooperation because the House has just discussed the whole issue and the other House is continuing to discuss the hole matter. The whole issue is before the House and the country; we are hoping to get a clearance, both unanimity in the country and the international agreement. That will come soon; and we will inform the House when it happens.

The programme that has been planned for the future expansion of indigenous nuclear power, consists of eight indigenous 700 MW capacity pressurised heavy water reactors. This will be entirely done with indigenous Sources of Uranium. This has been planned now. In addition, we are planning some light water reactors based on imported reactors, which will be subjected to international cooperation.

We are also planning for new advanced heavy water reactors of 300 MW capacity, which will be taken up soon and as you all know, the 500 MW capacity, fast breeder reactor is under construction at Kalpakkam. So, the indigenous programme is going ahead and the international programme will depend on the international cooperation.

The hon. Member also asked about Thorium utilization. Last week, I answered a detailed question on

Thorium; I would not get into that. The research on Thorium is completely on track. We are going ahead with it. If the international cooperation happens, it will go on a much faster pace.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put the second supplementary, though it will be the seventh!

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Now, we are going ahead with the technology depending on foreign countries and we are not giving more importance to the indigenous technology. Now, the Government is also diverting NTPC, which was producing power from coal by thermal way.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is not on that.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, it is coming from the answer. They are producing nuclear power. Now, the NTPC is diverting to produce nuclear power. Whether the Government has decided to divert the work of NTPC from thermal power generation to nuclear power generation?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: It is not the intention at all to divert from thermal power generation. The hon. Member had also earlier asked whether the whole world is moving away from nuclear power. The fact is exactly actually the reverse—the entire world, particularly because of the global warming concerns, now going towards more of nuclear energy; that is why, the phrase 'nuclear renaissance' is used. It is not correct to say that the world is going away from nuclear power capacity.

The NTCP has decided to enter the field of nuclear power, provided the entire sector is opened up. The current law provides that any Central Government company can enter the field of nuclear power generation. At present, NPCIL, under the Department of Atomic Energy, is the only company which is producing nuclear energy.

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. M. Jagannath-not present.

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN: I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, about the work being done at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, regarding development of technology for utilizing thorium-bearing indigenous Monazite sand in fast breeder reactors for generation of power.

What are the targets set for the 11th Plan in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: Does it arise from this question?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, it does not really arise from the question but all that I can say is that research work is carried out at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre at Mumbai and the question is about the second facility of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre which is being opened in Visakhapatnam. The research on the thorium technology is going on track but it is a long three-phased programme. Unless and until, we complete the second phase Fast Breeder Reactor Programme, we cannot really start generating power from thorium. But the research is going on track.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, it is a known fact that the indigenous nuclear power plants have long gestation. It has taken 10 to 12 years to complete. One power plant. One of the reasons is, as you have mentioned to the private players. What I want to know from the Minister is that leaving the critical side, if the other side is given to the private sector totally, then the gestation can be really reduced. What is the gestation so far and how much you feel it would come down due to outsourcing?

Also in the US the private sector is being given even the critical side of the power plant manufacturing. Is that policy going to be there for India as well?

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a debate on this. I have not stopped you but this is my comment on this.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, I am talking about the gestation and the time factor.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, I think the hon. Member is wrong on both the counts. Our completion time for the indigenous pressurized heavy water reactors is the fastest in the world. The reactors are completed in a record time and even before the schedule time of five to six years. The plants are operating at the most highest efficiency anywhere in the world. These types of reactors are used in a few countries which use uranium in a most efficient manner.

The second part of the supplementary was about sourcing out to private sector. I would like to inform the

House that almost 95 per cent of the work of building atomic power plant is done by the Indian private sector because the Government of India has no company except on which produces critical parts of the power plant. But almost entire civil engineering work and entire construction is done by the Indian private sector will get a lot of work.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Adhalrao Patil Shivajirao to ask the supplementary.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to put any supplementary?

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Yes, of course. That is why, I have stood up. But there was no light. It seems there is shortage of power every where.

MR. SPEAKER: But you are opposing it. You do not have to bother, we shall look after you.

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Thank you, Sir. Our country is going in the right direction, particularly in terms of atomic energy technology. I want to ask from the hon. Minister whether our scientists in the Department of Atomic Energy and particularly in BERC or NPCIL or ICAR has the capability to cope up with the latest technology in terms of advanced heavy reactor, nuclear science, latest computer software and hardware technology relating to atomic energy.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, I second the concern of the hon. Member about shortage of power in the country. That is why, the whole exercise about international cooperation is being done. But about the research done on advanced heavy water technology, we are doing research on advanced heavy water reactors in BARC and at various other locations. We intend to set up an advanced heavy water reactor 300 MW capacity soon.

In order to expand research activities we are opening up the second centre of BARC at Visakhapatnam. The main question is about that. We are absolutely tracking international developments in this field and BARC scientists are at par, or are even better than any in the world.

MR. SPEAKER: We should compliment them.

### Planning at Grass-Root Levels by the Panchayats

\*284. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken initiatives for people's planning by which planning is done at the grass-root level by the Panchayats and local bodies as it obtains in Kerala;

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

(c) the steps taken to strengthen the financial conditions of the Panchayats?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

(a) and (b) Kerala commenced the process of decentralized planning through the people's planning campaign during the 9th Five Year Plan and continued the same approach during the 10th Plan. It has launched the next phase of People's Plan on 17th August 2007 to consolidate the gains of decentralized planning and address second generation issues to institutionalise decentralization in the State during the 11th Plan.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India has been very proactive in promoting decentralised planning with the States and UTs.

At the Second Round Table of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj held at Mysore in August 2004, it was resolved that the Planning Commission be requested to ensure that the 11th Plan begins with and is founded on District Plans prepared in accordance with the provisions of part-IX and IXA of the Constitution. Following this, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj constituted an Expert Group on Grassroots Level Planning in May 2005, in order to work out the modalities and make suggestions regarding the process of district planning from the grassroots level upwards. Following the submission of the report of the Expert Group in March 2006, its suggestions were shared with the States and the Planning Commission. Based on the feedback received, the Planning Commission, have

issued guidelines on 25.8.2006 to all States for preparation of district plans for the 11th Five Year Plan period. These guidelines set out the sequential steps for decentralized planning, through decentralised visioning and stocktaking exercises, followed by a planning exercise at each local body level and consolidation and integration of these plans at the level of the District planning Committee.

The process of district planning has begun in most States though the pace of progress varies from State to State.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has adopted *in toto* the Planning Commission's guidelines dated 25-8-06 for preparation of district plans for implementation of the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Programme. The BRGF guidelines mandate that integrated development will commence with each district undertaking a diagnostic study of its backwardness by enlisting professional planning support. This will include the preparation of a baseline survey which can be used for undertaking evaluation at a later date. Each district is to prepare a well-conceived participatory district development perspective plan to address its backwardness, during 2006-07 and the period of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The panchayats at the village, intermediate and district level, referred to in Part IX of the Constitution, will undertake planning and implementation of the programme, in keeping with the letter and spirit of Article 243G, while the Municipalities referred to in Part IX A will similarly plan and implement the programme in urban areas in conformity with the letter and spirit of Article 243W, read with Article 243 ZD of the Constitution. An advance of Rs. 10 lakhs per district has been released to the States for preparation of district plans, with professional support from reputed institutions if necessary, in all 250 district included under BRGF scheme.

(c) "Sound finances" of the Panchayats is a Constitutional obligation enjoined on the States by Article 243 I. To this end, the devolution of finances to the three tiers of the Panchayati Raj System should be patterned on activity mapping for the devolution of functions and functionaries, thus securing effective devolution of powers of the PRIs through the linking of the devolution of finances to the devolution of functions and functionaries. Funds flow to Panchayats from three sources, namely, devolution from the central Government, from the State and own revenues. The key to effective performance by the Panchayat lies in the devolution of adequate united funds to them, so that they can perform their assigned

public services. The State Finance Commissions (SFCs) set up under Article 243 I of the Constitution are required to review the financial position of the Panchayats and to make recommendations inter-alia regarding the determination of duties, tolls and fees which may be assigned to or appropriated by the Panchayats.

A consensus was reached at the First Round Table Conference of the State Ministers of Panchayati Raj, held in Kolkata in July 2004, that State Governments should prepare road maps for the inclusion of a PRI component in their budget, devolution of untied funds to the Panchayats and take steps to encourage PRIs to raise their own resources. This has been followed up with the States during the meetings of the Committee of State Secretaries of Panchayati Raj, Council of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj, and the Joint Statement of Conclusions signed by Union Minister of Panchayati Raj with Chief Ministers of States and Union Territories. 22 Joint Statements of Conclusions have been signed so far.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj organised a National Seminar on Panchayati Level Resource mobilization and efficient fiscal transfer on 6-7th July 2007. It was recommended there that the State Governments should assist the State Finance Commissions to lead policy work in respect of exploring the appropriate tax and non-tax revenue assignments to the Panchayats. Besides, State Government while undertaking the assignment of tax revenues to Panchayats must try to ensure that each level of Panchayati is given a basket of at one or two important tax handles.

The Twelfth Finance Commission has recommended a transfer of Rs. 20,000 crore to Panchayat from the Central Government for the period 2005-2010.

There is a need to considerably increase the absolute amounts devolved to the Panchayats by the Central Finance Commission as also to retain the primarily untied character of the same. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj aims to ensure that the 13th Finance Commission carries forward the process of devolution of untied non-plan grants and is taking preparatory steps in this regard. In pursuance of a decision taken in the third meeting of the Council of Ministers, held in August 2007 at Thiruvananthapuram, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has constituted a separate sub-Committee of State Ministers, chaired by Professor Thomas Isaac, Finance Minister of Kerala to prepare detailed recommendations in this regard, that could be placed before the 13th Finance Commission when it is constituted.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, decentralization of power and planning process has been of great importance in our nation. In a nation where the population is so large, real development can take place only through grassroots planning. This has been approved by the Planning Commission and I am happy that this Ministry has made a lot of efforts to bring this matter into the thought process of the planning Commission.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has given an elaborate answer.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: My question is, what results have been obtained by the efforts made by the Ministry to implement the planning process at the grassroots level taking into consideration the efforts which have been taken by the Planning Commission?

MR. SPEAKER: Let us have brief supplementaries.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, while confessing that this is work in progress, let me assure the hon. Member and the House that very considerable progress has been made in sensitizing the different States to the importance of district planning and actually obtaining plans from them, particularly in consequence of the Backward regions Grants fund being administered by my Ministry. We will succeed in reaching and crossing the half way point in releases this year itself on the basis of district plans prepared by the District Planning Committees. The way in which we are getting satisfactory responses from the most of the backward districts of this region is an augury, I think, for a good response all along the line from all the districts of India and from all the States of India. On the whole, I would express satisfaction and emphasise once again that this work is in progress and there is a great deal to be done in every single State of India.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, I am really happy and also rather proud to say that Kerala has been standing in the forefront with regard to peoples planning. The Government of Kerala has taken very active interest and many steps in this regard and has launched the third step. I would like to know from the Minister as to what support the Ministry and the Government of India could give to the State of Kerala which has been one of the pioneers in the peoples planning programme and whether the Ministry can also think of giving some extra funds to the States to see that some of the development activities which come out of the people's planning are taken through.

MR. SPEAKER: The entire Panchayati Raj system cannot be discussed here.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that Kerala has really progressed far down the path of people's planning and I have myself had the honour of having inaugurated the latest phase of the people's planning programme. I am afraid that my Ministry is far too poverty-stricken to give any funds to Kerala other than through the Backward Regions Grant Fund. There, of course, their due share would be made available to them. I believe that if the funds of the Central Government directed towards rural development and rural welfare are planned and implemented by the Panchayats, as the State of Kerala has shown, then the bang for the buck will be much bigger. To the extent to which bureaucratic methods of delivery are resorted to, I am afraid the Rajiv Gandhi syndrome of 85 paise in the rupee going into administrative expenses will persist. So, the most efficient way of using existing funds would be to channel them through the Panchayati Raj system and this Ministry stands at the disposal of all the State Governments of India to improve the efficiency of delivery and until we get this kind of inclusive governance, I do not believe that inclusive growth is possible

*[Translation]*

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I would like to express my gratitude to the hon. Minister for his considerable efforts for strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions. Parts 'C' of this question is quite important

*[English]*

"The steps taken to strengthen the financial conditions of the Panchayats."

*[Translation]*

Until the Panchayats have their own source of income, the three sources referred to by the hon. Minister in his reply...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We do not ask Question but add long preface to the Question.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Sir, all this is necessary...(Interruption)

MR. SPEAKER: Everything is necessary.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Panchayats have three sources of funds the Central Government, State Government and own resources—however, there are a few Panchayats which have their own resources. Presently tax is collected from Panchayat area and given to State Government and then it is given to the Central Government. Now Central Government gives the amount as grant to the State Government. In this process there is lot of leakage. Do the Government propose to provide a specified share of tax to the Panchayats from where it is collected?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, there is no such provision as of now to earmark a specified share of tax for the Panchayats, however, I am glad that after meeting my other Panchayati Raj Minister we have arrived at a consensus as to how to proceed further. We had a detailed discussion on this issue in a workshop which was organized by us recently. I hope that every State and the respective State Finance Commissions would give it to due consideration. We would be giving a memorandum to the 13th Finance Commission in which we would take measures to draw attention to this issue.

As far as the question of providing resources to the Panchayats by the State Governments is concerned, I would like to inform the House that Karnataka and Kerala have made a very good provision in this regard. There are five such States which have made considerable progress however, there is scope for improvement. These States are Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. They have expressed their intentions that they would carve out funds for Panchayats from their State budget. However, nothing concrete has been done so far. The States which have moved ahead in this direction are West Bengal, Haryana, Orissa, Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Assam. I believe that something concrete would be done in these States in the next financial year. However, there are ten such States where no progress has been made in this regard. I would like to request my colleagues that if we move ahead in this direction in Bihar, Uttaranchal, Tripura, Goa, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and even Jharkhand then probably the objectives of the hon. Member Shri Avinash Rai Ji could be fulfilled.

*[English]*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for Panchayati Raj for taking good initiatives in this regard.

As far as grass-root planning is concerned, in most of the States, you know that they need power for planning. I want to know from the hon. Minister as to how many States have completed the devolution of power as per the Constitutional Amendment and the steps taken by the Government to see that proper devolution of powers is done for the panchayats so that they are enabled to go for real grass-foot planning.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: No State has completed the effective devolution of finances, functions and functionaries. But some States have made very considerable progress, that too over a long period of time, including the State from where the hon. Member comes. I am happy to say that all the States are now progressing in that direction except for Jharkhand where elections are still to be held to the panchayats. I am hoping that as a result of incentivisation from Delhi, of the rationalization of our Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the on-going dialogue at the bilateral level with all the Chief Minister and Ministers of Panchayati Raj of States, the combined efforts that we make in the Council of Ministers for Panchyati Raj which is serviced by a Committee of Secretaries for Panchayati Raj and the work of the Empowered Sub-Committee of the National Development Council, we will be able to progress rather faster than we have made in the past.

Certainly, the pace at which we have progressed in the last three to four years has been much more considerable than in the past.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank hon. Minister for a very elaborate answer. I share his agony that the States from which maximum rural population goes out in search of livelihood have extended minimum support for setting up the decentralized system of governance. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Union Government would take initiatives for providing Central assistance directly to the grass root level in villages and implement the Kerala model, whose success has been so evident, after getting it approved from all the States?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, efforts are on in this direction. I hope that we would achieve success, however, we need cooperation from States. According to the constitution, Panchayati Raj is a State subject and responsibility of the States. I am glad that there is no difference of opinion as to the target. A little mutual cooperation is required on what steps should be taken. We all know our destination and the way to reach it. We also know that there are 18 points on which we have to achieve success and we have reached consensus on 150 measures as to what should be our course of action. The States which are lagging behind should follow the pioneering states so that are able to reach their destination in the next five-six year.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, please put relevant questions.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir the present Government has taken an appropriate step by allocating funds through Panchayats for the development of villages. Bihar is not only backward but a less developed and poor State. He proposes to allocate funds to the tune of Rs. 15 crore for the construction works in villages in that State. Through you, I would like to know if the Government of Bihar has sent any proposals for the completion of pending schemes. He has evolved a very important scheme for allocating Rs. 15 crore for the upliftment of districts in the backward region. I would like to know as to how much funds have been released by him so far, how many proposals have received by him from the Bihar Government and how much allocation he has made against them?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: This is with regard to only one State. I do not know whether the Minister has got the information or not.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have had talks with the Government of Bihar. I hope we will receive many proposals from every district within this month. On a very large scale...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Has no proposal been received so far? It's been one and a half years, yet no proposal has been sent by the Government of Bihar...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: I know, that is why I am replying. I hope that the funds which have not been able to reach there, would be sent this month or by the next month at the most.

[*English*]

#### Setting upon Nursing and ANM Schools

\*285 SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise quantum of funds approved for setting up of Nursing and ANM Schools under the National Rural Health Mission programme in 2006-07 so far alongwith the number of such schools proposed to be set up in each State; and

(b) the State-wise details of the number of proposals pending in this regard?

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

#### Statement

Funds under NRHM are approved on the basis of proposals of State in their Programme Implementation Plan. Based on information provided in these Plans for 2006-07, an Annexure on State-wise quantum of funds approved for setting up of Nursing and ANM Schools under NRHM is enclosed.

Nor Proposal with regard to setting up of Nursing and ANM schools under the National Rural Health Mission is pending for approval.

#### Annexure

Sl.No	Name of the State	Approval/Record of Proceedings of State PIPs for 2006-07
1	2	3
1.	Rajasthan	An amount of Rs. 50.00 Lakhs approved for reviving ANM Training Centre at Zanana Hospital, Jaipur, Rajasthan.

1	2	3
2.	Chhattisgarh	An amount of Rs. 305.00 Lakhs approved for strengthening 15 ANM/Nursing centres as a RCH-II activities for 2006-07. The approval is subject to submission of component-wise and operational details by the State to this Ministry.  Rs. 80 lakhs is approved as a NRHM activity, subject to submission of component-wise and operational details for setting up 4 New Nursing Colleges.
3.	Uttar Pradesh	An amount of Rs. 1228.20 lakhs approved for strengthening Training Institution for ANM and MPW and Rs. 920 lakhs for strengthening Nursing Training Institutions in UP.
4.	Uttaranchal	An amount of Rs. 204.00 lakhs approved for reconstruction of ANM Training Centre at Chamoli subject to submission of component-wise details and costs.
5.	Assam	An amount of Rs. 3525.00 lakhs approved for setting up of 8 new GNM Schools, strengthening of 15 GNM Schools and 17 ANM Schools.
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	An amount of Rs. 122.00 lakhs approved for strengthening of Nursing School at General Hospital, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh subject to submission of detailed project report to this Ministry, which is still awaited.
7.	Nagaland	An amount of Rs. 505.50 Lakhs approved for upgradation of Nursing School to Nursing College at Kohima and strengthening of Nursing School and Training Schools at

1	2	3
		Mokokchung and Tuensang subject to submission of detailed project report to this Ministry, which is still awaited.
8.	Meghalaya	An amount of Rs. 200.00 lakhs approved for 2 new GNM School at Tura and Jowai Civil Hospital subject to submission of detailed project report to this Ministry. The report is under examination of this Ministry.
9.	Tripura	An amount of Rs. 2372.00 lakhs approved for establishment of Nursing College at B.R Ambedkar Hospital, Agartala, Tripura, subject to submission of detailed project report to this Ministry, which is still awaited.
10.	Tamil Nadu	An amount of Rs. 50.00 lakhs approved for 5 ANM schools and 20 RHTC
11.	Madhya Pradesh	An amount of Rs. 50 lakhs approved for 27 ANMTC and Rs. 9 lakhs approved for Nursing Schools.
12.	Maharashtra	An amount of Rs. 10 lakhs for strengthening capacity of PHN school at Nagpur approved, subject to submission of operational details.

*[English]*

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: Sir, as per the hon. Minister's reply, 12 States had availed funds under the NRHM.

Will the Government consider allotting funds for the left-out States? Have the Government received any proposal from the State Governments? If not, will the Government call for proposals?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, usually a proposal will come from the State Government through the Programme Implementation Plan which we call as PIP. Every year, they give these PIPs. According to the total

funding, they could derive the programme for funding these colleges and schools of nursing, that is, ANM schools or GNM schools or even B. Sc. Nursing colleges.

I would like to inform the hon. Member, through you, Sir, and the other Members also that in the Tent Five Year Plan, the total allocation for the entire nursing sector was only Rs. 82 crore. In the Eleventh Five Year Plan, we have envisaged to allocate nearly about Rs. 2900 crore. From Rs. 82 crore, it goes up to Rs. 2900 crore. This is non-inclusive of the allocation under the National Rural Health Mission. That is extra, other than this. Under this Plan, we have planned upgradation of schools of nursing into colleges of nursing. We are going to give nearly Rs. 6 crore for each institution. Earlier, under the Tenth Plan, we gave rupees one-and-a-half crore. But now we have envisaged giving Rs. 6 crore. Nearly, 32 of them are going to be there through the country.

For strengthening the colleges, I would like to say that we are giving nearly about Rs. 25 lakh per institution for nearly about 46 colleges which will be there. Then, for opening of Diploma Nursing Schools in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhatisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir and the North Eastern States, nearly 170 of them are going to be there. Nearly 170 new diploma nursing schools are going to come. Then, there is opening of ANM School-Auxiliary Nurse Midwife. Nearly about Rs. 5 crore each is given to the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Bihar, Jharkhand, Chhatisgarh, Jammu and Kashmir, North-Eastern States. Nearly about 155 of them are to be put in place. Then, for the establishment of Colleges of Nursing, Rs. 12 crore per institution is given in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar and Jharkhand. Four of them are there. Then, there is the establishment of regional institutions of nursing. There are four metros. These are going to be the most-premier institutions. We have envisaged about Rs. 15-25 crore for each of the Centres. Then, in each State in this country, we are going to have a Centre of Excellence in Nursing at the cost of about Rs. 20 crore each. This will have Nurse Practitioners Programme, M.Sc. Nursing Programme, Speciality Training Programme and speciality for nurses in Cardiology or Anaesthesia. Nearly 26 of them are planned. For the strengthening of nursing cells for each State, we have envisaged giving rupees one crore. For strengthening of the Nursing Council, rupees one crore is given. So, a lot of activities are going to happen in the Eleventh Five year Plan. I would like to assure the hon. Member that whether it is Tamil Nadu or



to other States, we are definitely considering this because we have been planning. We have to have health human resource planning for the next 30-40 years and health human resource is not only to do nursing but to do with doctors, dentists, nursing, paramedical staff, ANM, ASHAS as well as our Indian Systems of Medicines like Ayurveda programmes.

MR. SPEAKER: You have given more information than he asked for. Is there any other supplementary? He has covered everything.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN: I thank the hon. Minister for the efforts taken by the Health Ministry. Secondly, have States Governments which received funds, fully utilized funds allotted for them?

MR. SPEAKER: That is a big question.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I will definitely get back to the hon. Member if there are any dues because we have given them flexible allocation. I have already mentioned about the Programme Implementation Plan. They go ahead with it. We give total funds for that. Then, they say that they have the priorities for that. Some of the States take up these as priority and some of the other States do not take up that as priority. As and when the States want them, we are giving them the funds required.

PROF. K.M. KADER MOHIDEEN: Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to put a supplementary question.

The Government of India has identified 90 Minority Muslim-concentrated districts in the country. According to our hon. Prime Minister's 15-Point Programme, in these 90 districts, educational institutions will be set up. That is one of the promises made in the 15-point Programme, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Nursing and ANM Schools established by the Health Ministry have been set up in any of the 90 districts.

If not, is there any proposal from the Ministry to set up nursing and ANM schools in such districts?

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: I will collect the information and give it to the hon. Member. If any State Government wants to bring any proposal, we are happy to support it.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: National Rural Health Mission is one of the good steps taken by this Government which is aimed at providing basic health care to rural masses. Its aim is also to provide accessible, affordable, accountable and effective health system. As a part of the expansion of health care to extensive rural areas, the thrust is more on ANMs training and enlarge its utility. Despite all this, the question is the health care in rural areas is inadequate. Is there any proposal for legal changes, i.e., the change in existing law, to allow the ANMs to dispense the medication and MBBS doctors to administer anesthesia. In this background, I want to know whether Government has already drawn specific schemes to give training to ANMs and whether there is any proposal from the Government of Karnataka?

MR. SPEAKER: You can gather information and give it to him.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, to augment the deficit in the rural areas, we have launched the National Rural Health Mission and under that we are providing a lot of nurses, ANMs. Then, we have been upgrading all these infrastructure centres and mobile medical units, which I have been saying to the august House. For anesthesia, because of the high rate of maternal mortality in the country and deficiency of anesthetists, we are having 18-week emergency anesthesia training on obstetric care for MBBS doctors, MBBS could have an 18 week training only for obstetric care and delivery and that we have initiated for MBBS students so that they could give anesthesia for caesarian or difficult labour cases. For ANMs or auxiliary midwives, whatever is under the guidelines, they have been doing that. She cannot become a doctor as such. But, we have been upskilling her and training her more. We feel happy in saying that we are giving one more ANM to all the sub centres in the country. There are nearly 146 thousand. We are giving 3 nurses for each of the PHCs in the country. If there are more than 9 extra nurses, we will be paying them under the National Rural Health Mission.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 286. Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey-not present.

Shri Chandra Mani Tripathi-not present. Q. 287.

[*Translation*]

#### Density of Herbal Plants

+  
\*287. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:  
PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the density of herbal plants in the forest areas of the hilly region in Central India is on the constant decline;

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

(c) whether the Government has evolved any scheme to check the illegal exploitation and smuggling of rare herbs and herbal plants from these reserved forest areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement**

(a) and (b) There is no scientific study against a time-series data giving quantified figures regarding constant decline in the density of the hilly region in Central India. However, as per the information received from some States like Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Jharkhand, and Botanical Survey of India, there is a general perception that the density of herbal plants may be declining due to various anthropogenic factors.

(c) and (d) Under the provisions of Biological Diversity Act, 2002 Government of India has set up the National Biodiversity Authority and the said Act also provided for setting up of State Biodiversity Boards and Biodiversity Management Committees. The Act provides for checking illegal exploitation and smuggling of materials of biological origin, including rare herbs and herbal plants. Conservation and protection of wildlife, including herbal plants, is also dealt through enforcement of Indian Forest Act, 1927; Wildlife (protection) Act, 1972; and, Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the rules under these Acts. However, due to the open access nature of biological resources, the possibility of illegal exploitation and smuggling cannot be totally ruled out.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very important question. Out of 45000 species of medicinal plants found worldwide, more than 15,000 are

found in India alone. I would like to know about the initiative being taken in this regard by the Ministry of Health or by any other sector. Recently, the Minister of Health had stated that four herbal garden zones would be set up in the four metropolises of the country and a mention was also made about the setting up of processing zones for promoting the use of herbal medicines. If one remembers, the medicinal properties of herbs are mentioned even in Ramayana wherein Hanuman is said to have lifted the entire mountain on which a lot of herbs were existing when Laxman became unconscious. May be some of the people consider it a mere myth.

MR. SPEAKER: What do others think about it?

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Dr. Jagannath Sharma, the head of Pharmacology in AIMS has done a lot of research in this regard and he that there is truth in it. He is engaged in the research of rare medicines. The hon'ble Minister in his written reply has stated that no scientific study against a time-series data giving quantified figures regarding constant decline in the density of herbal plants in the forest areas of the hilly regions in central India has been conducted so far. While the export of more than 3 lac crore rupees has been made. He has stated that man made factors could be responsible for it. Besides I would like to say that if we do not pay adequate attention towards checking the smuggling of herbal plants and the illegal exploitation thereof then we would not be able to achieve our objective and the decline in the density of herbal plants in our country would continue. As per the reply given it has also been stated that the National Medicinal Plants Board was set up in the country in the year 2000 to promote the cultivation and preservation of medicinal plants in the country. The work of promoting the cultivation and preservation of medicinal plants mainly falls under the jurisdiction of three Ministry, the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Forests and Environment. The cultivation of medicinal plants also helps in maintaining ecological balance.

MR. SPEAKER: Leave something to be asked by Mr. Malhotra also, if you ask all the questions what will be left him.

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR: Through you I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether there is any scope of improvement in the present state of affairs and whether any efforts are being made in this regard or not?

**SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, as has been said by the Hon'ble Member, this subject comes under the jurisdiction of several Ministeries. There is National Medicinal Plant Board under AYUSH Department Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. The research is conducted by a number of Institution of Ministry of Science and Technology. There are Horticulture Board, Horticulture Mission and ICAR under the Ministry of Agriculture and they are concerned with the subject and the marketing aspect is looked after by the Ministry of Commerce. As far as conservation and protection is concerned, it is to be dealt with by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. It is true that no study has been conducted so far to know about the decline in the density of medicinal plant but a general perception has been received from various States that the number of these medicinal plants is declining. There are several reasons behind it and one of the reasons could be the overexploitation of 19 of these plants leading to the extinction of several species of medical plants from our country.

Regarding exports, it has been stated that almost 56,000 tonnes of products comprising medicinal plants are exported from our country which fetch almost 500 to 600 crore. As far as conservation aspect by the Ministry of Environment and Forests is concerned,

*[English]*

there is a National Programme on promoting conservation of medicinal plants and traditional knowledge for enhancing health and livelihood security.

*[Translation]*

This is a UNDP project involving an outlay of 12 crore rupees which is presently running in 9 States in which the inventory of medicinal plants and traditional knowledge is being prepared. Besides, network areas are being set up and seeds are being provided so that any shortage could be avoided. We have issued guidelines to the states to plant medicinal plant in atleast 10% of the area under the NAB scheme. Besides, the plantation and conservation of herbal plants is promoted by giving subsidy under the various programmes of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Health Affairs.

**MR. SPEAKER:** You have asked everything, you have even referred to Hanumanji.

**SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:** Sir, in the reply it has been stated that no scientific study has been conducted. My straight-forward question was whether the Government

propose to conduct any study in this regard or not? However, I would like to state that our exports are only one and half to two percent of the total exports in the world and the hon'ble Minister has stated the value of our exports to the tune of Rs. 500 to 600 crore.

**MR. SPEAKER,** Sir, now a days the medicinal plants like Chirayata and Sanay found in Himalayas are grown even in Russia. Still it is really unfortunate that we are not paying adequate attention towards promoting Aryurveda in our country. The Ministry of Environment and Forests can play a very important role in this regard and it is doing so also. This is not a subject of debate that tree felling is taking place and they are also exploiting the medicinal plants. He has rightly stated out that the rare species are getting destroyed.

I would like that a special action plan be prepared in this regard the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the Ministry of Agriculture are looking in it. To ensure as to how this destruction could be stopped and how the Ayurveda and the cultivation of medicinal plants be promoted. I would like to know whether any positive initiative has been taken or any guidelines prepared in this regard.

**SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA:** As I had apprised the hon'ble Member that several schemes by various Ministries are undergoing and subsidy is provided for encouraging the cultivation of more and more herbal plants. As far as scientific study is concerned some progress has definitely been made in this regard. Some work has been done in this regard. The Center of Excellence in Bangalore our department has also collected some information about 200 species of medicinal plants which are facing threat of extinction as per the report coming out in year 1995. Our department has set up National Board of Medicinal Plants. Under the ministry of Health and Family Welfare as the nodal agency for framing, development, processing and marketing of herbal plants and it also looks in the rare species of the medicinal plants. Various Ministries have been trying to boost the cultivation and conservation of medicinal plants. I agree to the suggestion of the hon'ble Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:** You invite him for tea and show him every thing.

*[Translation]*

**PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:** The Hon'ble Minister has given two replies and in both the replies he has stated that.

*[English]*

There is no scientific study and the possibility of illegal exploitation and smuggling cannot be ruled out.

*[Translation]*

Will the Government conduct any scientific study? Further, I would like to know as to what steps are being taken by the Government to check the exploitation and smuggling of herbal plants. This Department is under the Prime Minister's office. Do the Government, considering the importance of Ayurvedic and Unani Medicine, propose to create a separate Ministry for it?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very good and a very pointed question.

*[Translation]*

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the Question of a nodal Ministry for herbal plants is concerned, we have made the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as the nodal ministry. I agree to his suggestion that a scientific study should be conducted and these days emphasis is being laid on it also. This study must be conducted. I would apprise you of the Medical and Health Department with which he is concerned. An authority at national level, boards at State level and management committees at district level have been constituted under the Bio-diversity Act for the protection of herbal plants and for creating an inventory therefor to keep an account of all herbal plants and to make a digital library to check the illegal smuggling of medicinal plants. All this work is being done in my 'Department' to protect and promote the Herbal plants.

*[English]*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his answer, the Minister has said...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think, it has covered all possible questions.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I have got another question which has not been covered. He said that various Ministries are handling this. It is too many cooks spoiling the broth. The question that I would like to ask is this. Some of the very rare medicinal herbs, which are of Indian origin, are being patented by WTO in America and all that.

One typical case is kurumthotti which is famous for treating arthritis. There are turmeric and many such other things also ...*(Interruption)*

MR. SPEAKER: The question is about the density of herbal plants and whether there is any illegal exploitation.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Sir, this is illegal...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The patent in another country is illegal exploitation!

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: Our own heritage plant—it could be said like that—has been patented by other countries, and the concerned Ministry is not taking any action...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Can you suggest any action?

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I would like to know what action the Ministry has taken to preserve our plants and get our own patent for these things.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, as I have said earlier, there is an Act called 'Biological Diversity Act'. As per that Act, no plant can be taken out of the country without the prior approval of the authority. That is one thing.

Secondly, regarding patent, I have told earlier that a digital library is being created in our country so that if any plant or any medicine which is sent outside, we can contest the case in that particular country.

MR. SPEAKER : You have almost covered it.

Dr. Sujan Chakraborty.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, the Question relates to the density of herbal plants, and the way the discussion has gone it is the Question of Ayurveda. The herbal plants have many other advantages, just not Ayurved ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question. I will now insist on your question. Do not put all these prefaces.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: It is the content of natural oil, natural colour and everything.

Sir, the Medicinal Plant Board is under the Ministry of Health. India's system of medicine is also under the Ministry of Health. But it is true that the Botanical Survey of this Ministry is having the most effective knowledge on the subject. It is being distributed in many places...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: My specific question is this. In order to really effectively utilize the herbal plants, I would like to know whether the Ministry is going to propose any National Institute of Herbal Plants or National Institute of Herbal Research so as to coordinate all these things. After all, it is remaining non-coordinated and non-effective. It is the question of effectiveness, and we are not in a position to utilize it. So, for better coordination, I would like to know whether the Ministry is proposing a Central coordination may be in the name of the National Institute of Herbal Research or something like that.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a suggestion.

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, as I have told earlier, the nodal Ministry is the Ministry of Health, and the National Medicinal Board is the coordinating body. That is the main body. There are so many research institutions which are engaged in research of the herbal plants under the Ministry of Science and Technology, DVT, DST and CSIR. They are doing research work for promotion purposes. In the Ministry of Agriculture ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He only wants to know whether you would constitute one National Health Research Institute for all these. That is what he is asking.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA: Sir, I agree that here should be one, and this is being looked after. All the Ministries have a different role. I think, the hon. Member is right that it should be coordinated. For the time being, the National Medicinal Plant Board is coordinating all the Ministries.

[*Translation*]

**Assessment regarding shortage of Blood Banks**

+  
\*288. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:  
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

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

(a) whether any assessment about the shortage of blood-banks in the country has been carried out by the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to increase the number of blood banks in the country; and

(d) the State-wise details of the number of existing blood-banks?

[*English*]

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

**Statement**

The assessment of the infrastructure available in the district level Blood banks was done during the planning of National AIDS Control Programme Phase III. 39 districts do not have a Blood bank in the public sector. The State-wise list of these 39 districts is at Annexure-I

The Government of India is supporting State Government to establish Blood banks in these 39 districts by providing one time equipment grant and annual recurring grant for salary of one Laboratory Technician and for kits and consumables while the building and manpower is provided by the State.

The State-wise list of blood banks supported by National AIDS Control Organisation under Modernisation of blood banks is at Annexure-II

**Annexure-I**

*List of Distt. Level Blood Banks approved under NACP-III*

Sl.No	State	Name of Districts
1	2	3
1.	Bihar	Distt., Arwal
2.	Chhattiegarh	Distt., Bastar
3.		Distt., Sarguja
4.,		Distt., Garhwa
5.		Distt., Chatra
6.		Distt., Koderma
7.		Distt., Pakur

1	2	3	1	2	3
8.		Distt., Dumka	24.		Distt., Rudraprayag
9.	Jharkhand	Distt., Gumla	25.		Distt., Ambedkar Nagar
10.		Distt., Godda	26.		Distt., Auraiya
11.		Distt., Sahebgunj	27.		Distt., Bagpat
12.		Distt., Simdega	28.		Distt., Balrampur
13.		Distt., Seraikela	29.		Distt., Chandrauli
14.		Distt., Jamtara	30.		Distt., Chitrakoot
15.	Kerala	Distt., Idukki	31.		Distt., Gautam Buddha Nagar
16.		Distt., Chamrajnagar	32.	Uttar Pradesh	Distt., Hathras
17.	Karnataka	Distt., Gadag	33.		Distt., Jyotiba Phule Nagar
18.		Distt., Haveri	34.		Distt., Kannauj
19.		Distt., Koppal	35.		Distt., Kaushambi
20.	Mizoram	Distt., Mamit	36.		Distt., Khushi Nagar
21.		Distt., Lawngtlai	37.		Distt., Maharajganj
22.		Distt., Bageswar	38.		Distt., Sant Kabir Nagar
23.	Uttarakhand	Distt., Champawat	39.		Distt., Sant Ravidas Nagar

**Annexure-II***Number of Blood Banks Supported by NACO: State-wise*

Name of the State	District Level Blood Banks (DLBB)	Major Blood Bank (MBB)	Blood Component Separation Units (BCSU)	Model Blood Bank	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	69	22	4	0	95
A & N Islands	2	1	1	0	4
Arunachal Pradesh	14	1	0	0	15
Assam	30	4	2	2	38
Bihar	38	5	1	1	45
Chandigarh	2	3	1	0	6

1	2	3	4	5	6
Chhattisgarh	14	2	1	1	18
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2	0	0	0	2
Daman & Diu	3	0	0	0	3
Delhi	6	13	4	0	23
Goa	1	2	1	0	4
Ahmedabad	8	3	0	0	11
Gujarat	44	12	6	0	62
Haryana	17	4	2	0	23
Himachal Pradesh	10	3	1	0	14
Jammu & Kashmir	11	8	3	0	22
Jharkhand	25	4	2	1	32
Karnataka	57	14	5	0	76
Kerala	31	15	6	0	52
Lakshadweep	1	0	0	0	1
Madhya Pradesh	49	8	5	1	63
Mumbai	7	17	2	0	26
Maharashtra	55	14	7	0	76
Manipur	8	2	1	0	11
Meghalaya	9	2	1	0	12
Mizoram	5	2	1	0	8
Nagaland	7	1	0	0	8
Orissa	51	7	1	0	59
Pondicherry	4	1	1	0	6
Punjab	44	8	2	0	54
Rajasthan	20	8	2	2	32
Sikkim	1	1	0	0	2
Chennai	10	10	2	0	22
Tamilnadu	70	18	4	0	92
Tripura	4	3	1	0	8

1	2	3	4	5	6
Uttaranchal	13	2	0	1	16
Uttar Pradesh	49	20	7	1	77
West Bengal	62	15	5	0	82
Others	30	0	0	0	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>883</b>	<b>255</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1230</b>

[Translation]

SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in his reply the hon'ble Minister has stated that there is shortage of blood banks in the entire country. Throughout the country, there are many district head quarters where there is shortage of blood banks, while in Rajasthan alone, there is no blood bank in 12 district headquarters. I would like to know whether the Government would fix any time limit to provide financial assistance to them?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Have you got any time-bound programme for Rajasthan?

1200 hrs.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS: Sir, in my written statement, I have given my answer that about 39 districts do not have blood banks. Definitely, whatever districts under the Public Sector and the Charitable Organisations are there, the Government of India under National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) has been supporting them; we will be supporting them. In Rajasthan, if there is an issue, definitely, we will be happy to support them.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

### Utilization of Central Road Fund

\*282. DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state the State-wise latest details of the roads sanctioned under the Central Road Fund and the Central assistance granted and utilized for these roads during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): The state-wise details up to October 2007 of number of works, cost approved under the Central Road Fund and the number of works, cost sanctioned under the schemes of Economic Importance & Inter-State Connectivity (EI & ISC) since the year 2004-05 are given in statement-I enclosed. The allocation and release of fund from the Central Road Fund for the above mentioned works for the last three years are given statement II enclosed.

### Statement I

*Details of CRF and EI & ISC works since the year 2004-05 and upto 31.10.2007.*

Sl.No.	State	Details of works approved under CRF		Details of works sanctioned under EI & ISC	
		No.	Amount (Rs. in cr.)	No.	Amount (Rs. in Cr.)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	156	363.98	2	8.70
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	15	58.52	3	33.51



1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Assam	28	106.34	8	17.73
4.	Bihar	6	18.63	2	12.17
5.	Chandigarh	0	0.00	0	0.00
6.	Chhattisgarh	16	74.01	0	0.00
7.	Daman & Diu	0	0.00	2	6.51
8.	Delhi	27	45.27	0	0.00
9.	Goa	4	12.73	0	0.00
10.	Gujarat	182	307.87	30	60.94
11.	Haryana	26	245.85	0	0.00
12.	Himachal Pradesh	15	37.73	0	0.00
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	22	257.06	0	0.00
14.	Jharkhand	8	88.97	0	0.00
15.	Karnataka	630	484.78	25	100.10
16.	Kerala	23	142.52	2	19.68
17.	Madhya Pradesh	79	310.68	7	27.81
18.	Maharashtra	202	542.55	18	41.11
19.	Manipur	4	13.45	1	4.57
20.	Meghalaya	4	19.58	1	4.29
21.	Mizoram	5	11.97	4	38.45
22.	Nagaland	4	16.24	4	39.47
23.	Orissa	41	169.99	9	47.27
24.	Pudducherry	2	5.45	0	0.00
25.	Punjab	23	93.48	0	0.00
26.	Rajasthan	328	542.80	13	30.10
27.	Sikkim	7	6.94	9	88.50
28.	Tamil Nadu	168	286.23	1	13.42
29.	Tripura	3	20.40	1	7.53
30.	Uttar Pradesh	60	620.32	1	7.34
31.	Uttarakhand	1	6.00	1	4.85
32.	West Bengal	14	221.80	4	53.60
	Total	2103	5132.12	148	667.65

**Statement II**

*Allocation and release of fund from Central Road Fund and Economic Importance & Inter-State Connectivity Schemes for the last three years (2004-05 to 2006-07)*

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl.No	State/UTs	Allocation	Release
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	365.23	248.40
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	59.72	45.80
3.	Assam	102.50	66.22
4.	Bihar	112.06	51.02
5.	Chhattisgarh	102.46	47.43
6.	Delhi	112.66	22.27
7.	Goa	19.51	3.09
8.	Gujarat	298.18	269.80
9.	Haryana	160.63	128.69
10.	Himachal Pradesh	48.31	34.70
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	127.36	90.03
12.	Jharkhand	84.06	34.25
13.	Karnataka	304.15	297.64
14.	Kerala	117.58	102.33
15.	Madhya Pradesh	258.85	224.59
16.	Maharashtra	483.11	374.96
17.	Manipur	15.41	11.34
18.	Meghalaya	22.53	17.57
19.	Mizoram	19.16	14.25
20.	Nagaland	20.53	13.92
21.	Orissa	156.60	127.98
22.	Punjab	174.46	120.43
23.	Rajasthan	340.99	337.10

1	2	3	4
24.	Sikkim	21.43	14.10
25.	Tamil Nadu	290.47	259.02
26.	Tripura	12.22	9.09
27.	Uttarakhand	68.81	35.88
28.	Uttar Pradesh	443.80	389.78
29.	West Bengal	164.01	167.93
	Union Territory		
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Island	6.45	1.33
31.	Chandigarh	7.75	4.04
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	4.76	0.41
33.	Daman & Diu	5.09	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.26	0.00
35.	Puduchery	9.22	1.64
	Total	4540.32	3565.03

**Bharat Dhara Scheme**

\*286. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:  
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated a new scheme called 'Bharat Dhara' with a view to conserve the rivers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to hand over the responsibility of river conservation to the State;

(d) if so, whether the Government has taken up the issue with the State in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), a Centrally sponsored Scheme administered by the Ministry of Environment & Forests

presently covers pollution abatement works in 35 rivers spread over 164 towns in 20 States of the country at an approved cost of Rs. 4793 crore. Conservation of rivers is a dynamic activity. With the ever increasing pollution load due to increase in population, review of the strategies of conservation policy and identification of additional towns and rivers is a continuous process.

(c) to (e) Water being a State subject, it is the responsibility of State Governments to maintain the desired water quality by creating inter alia proper sewerage infrastructure to prevent pollution from entering the rivers. Central Government only supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing technical and financial support.

The pollution abatement works are implemented through Implementing Agencies nominated by the State Governments. A multi-tier monitoring mechanism at the Centre and State level reviews the policy issues, funding pattern and progress of works from time to time. The State have been advised to ensure coordination among various Departments/agencies at the implementation level through holding regular meetings by Principal Secretary/Chief Secretary and to sort out inter-sectoral issues like acquisition of land, power supply, mobilization of resources among others.

#### **Discontinuation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes**

\*289 SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:  
SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to discontinue various Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the said schemes have been evaluated; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof, Scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) Plan Schemes are discontinued on the basis of Zero Based Budgeting (ZBB) exercise while preparing a plan. The Primary purpose of ZBB exercise is to ensure convergence, efficiency and efficacy of schemes according

to Plan objectives & priorities and also the use of available resources in the most judicious and economically efficient manner. Such an exercise has been undertaken for the Eleventh Five Year Plan also. As a result, the number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) has been reduced from 155 in 2006-07 to 82 in 2007-08. However, 17 new CSS were included in 2007-08 taking the total to 99.

*[English]*

#### **Working Group on Population Stabilization**

\*290 SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the recommendations and proposals made by the Working Group on population stabilization targets for the 11th Five Year Plan; and

(b) the action taken to implement the recommendations of the Working Group?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) Planning Commission has constituted the Working Group on Population Stabilisation for 11th Five Year Plan (2007-12) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on 25th May, 2006. The major recommendations made by the Working Group are given in the enclosed statement.

The Working Group recommended no specific target as it adopted the target set under both National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) and National Population Policy (NPP), 200. The major goals of NRHM in respect of population stabilisation are—reduction of Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) to 30/1000 live births, reduction of maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) to 100/100,000 live births and reduction of Total Fertility Rate (TFR) to 2.1 by 2012.

Under NRHM, the emphasis has been on provision of accessible, affordable, accountable, effective, reliable and quality primary health care through creation of a cadre of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA), improved hospital care measured through Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS), decentralization of programme to district level to improve intra and Inter-sectoral convergence and effective utilization of resources. As a part of NRHM, fixed day services both for terminal and spacing methods of family planning in all the upgraded Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres,

District Hospitals and Sub-District Hospital has been recommended to all the states/UTs. The RCH programme aims to reduce TFR, IMR and MMR in the country. Under NRHM & RCH programme, flexibility is provided to the States to devise need based Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) to address infrastructure & manpower gaps, unmet need for contraception, promotion of skilled Care at birth, increase coverage of immunization, enhance the availability of facilities for institutional deliveries and emergency obstetric care, skilled care to pregnant women at the community level, ante-natal and postnatal care and address other related reproductive, maternal and child care needs.

In order to encourage acceptance of Family Planning services, Government has launched a Family Planning Insurance Scheme in November, 2005 to compensate the sterilization acceptors for failures, complications and deaths and also to provide indemnity insurance cover to doctors. The Government has increased the compensation package for Sterilization and also for accredited private providers. The initiatives like strengthening of quality health delivery under NRHM, partnership with the non-governmental sector, presence of Accredited Social Health Activists in villages, expanding contraceptive choice for family welfare, skill upgradations and thrust on quality care would go a long way in achieving the goal of population stabilization. Planning Commission constituted the Working Group on Population Stabilisation for the formulation of 11th Five Year Plan (2007-12) under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare on 25th May 2006. The major recommendations made by the Working Group are given below:-

1. A large percentage of couples report unmet need for contraception. Even meeting half of the unmet need could make significant dent on the birth rate. As more than half of the unmet need is for limiting family size, meeting the unmet need would call for significant expansion of sterilization services, especially in the large north Indian states. ANMs and ASHAs could be asked to identify the couples with unmet need in their area, and address their concerns.
2. The Family Welfare programme placed heavy emphasize on sterilization as the major method of family planning. Providing sterilization services requires well-trained medical personnel and well-equipped facilities. A permanent method may not be preferred when levels of infant and child

mortality are high, or because of religious beliefs. So there is a need to expand the range of choices of contraceptives as well as to improve the quality of services provided to couples, both in rural and urban areas.

3. There is an urgent need to restructure the existing PHCs and SCs as per the framework of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM).
4. There is a need for specially focusing on poorly performing districts based on the available data from the DLHS and Facility Surveys. To bridge the gap in essential health infrastructure and manpower, state should have a more flexible approach. Care should be taken to ensure the uninterrupted supply of essential drugs, vaccines and contraceptives of required quality and quantity to all the CHCs and SCs.
5. The Panchayat Raj Institutions should play a bigger role in the supervision and monitoring of PHCs. There is the need to develop better co-ordination mechanism between local self-governments and health care institutions. It is necessary to orient the PRI members about their roles and responsibilities in providing better public health services as well as the need for assigning top priority to health issues among the activities of the PRIs.
6. Concerted efforts are necessary to improve the coverage and quality of registration of births, deaths, marriages and pregnancies. A motivated ANM, Anganwadi Worker or ASHA can play an important role in this regard. The responsibility of ensuring the complete registration can be entrusted to the local bodies with clear-cut guidelines.
7. Strict enforcement of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1976, implying prevention of marriages of girls and boys below the legally permissible ages of 18 and 21, respectively, would facilitate not only reduction of high risk teenage pregnancies but also help in human resource development amongst these younger girls and boys during their formative years towards improvement in the quality of life in the long run. The Group recommends a national campaign against Child Marriages, sex selection against the girl child & for promoting institutional delivery by the Central & State Governments.

8. Focused attention on antenatal and institutional delivery care would help towards reduction in neo-natal component of infant mortality as well as maternal mortality, which in turn has externalities towards better acceptance of the family welfare program interventions and thus accelerate the process of fertility transition and population stabilization.
9. To improve the operational efficiency of the programmes, the Health Management Information System (HMIS) needs to be strengthened. The timely and accurate information gives the health managers the ability to monitor inputs and outputs of the system and help them to assess the costs and returns from various procedures.
10. The success of the Family Welfare Programmed depends to a great extent on the personnel working in various institutions. Regular in-service training to enhance their knowledge and skills and to familiarize them with the new programmes should become a part of regular activity of the health department. They should also be in a position to develop local level health plans taking into account the health conditions of the people and their requirements.
11. It is important to periodically assess the utilization of health services and customer satisfaction. Regular surveys, both for clients as well as for health care providers, to be undertaken. The findings from these periodic surveys should provide feedback to the health department as well as to the local bodies.

#### **Diabetes Cases**

\*291 SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether AIIMS has conducted any study about the number of persons suffering from diabetes or running the risk of being affected by the disease;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any study to find out the number of persons suffering from the disease in the rural and urban areas, separately;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of age groups in males and females prone to this disease; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) Several studies on prevalence of diabetes have been conducted by AIMS over the last four decades. The first pan-Indian study was conducted under the leadership of Prof. M.M.S. Ahuja in 1972. This involved an assessment of diabetes in 6 major Indian cities. Subsequently, another study was conducted by Prof. Ahuja and his research team assessing the impact of migration and the prevalence of diabetes— not only in India but also in migrant Indians in Malaysia and the West Indies. In more recent years, a study conducted by Prof. K.S. Reddy evaluated prevalence of cardiovascular risk factors, including diabetes in urban Delhi and adjacent rural Haryana. The study showed that the prevalence of diabetes in adults in urban Delhi was approximately 10% while it was 4% in rural Haryana. In a more extensive study led by Prof. Reddy, the prevalence of diabetes and pre-diabetes was seen in 10 industrial populations all over the country. This study assessed 35,000 people from across India and showed that the age-adjusted prevalence of diabetes was 8% in men and 9% in women. A smaller study conducted in a slum in Delhi also showed a similar high prevalence.

The ICMR has coordinated a multicentre study in early seventies which indicated the prevalence of Diabetes Mellitus in urban areas as 3%. ICMR's report entitled "Assessment of burden of Non-Communicable Diseases-2006" has indicated Prevalence of Diabetes range from 26 to 200 per thousand for urban females and 78 to 333 for males for the age ranging from 30 to 89 years. It was low for rural population, age 30-89 years (8.6 to 66.6 for females, 26.0 to 111.0 for males). It has estimated that there were 3,77,68,402 case of Diabetes mellitus in India. The break up is given in the table below.

Area	Cases
Urban	2,14,04,225
Rural	1,63,64,177
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,77,68,402</b>

The Council has also initiated Task Force on "Registry of people with Diabetes with Young age of onset"

In a recently conducted National Urban Diabetes Survey by the Diabetes Epidemiology Study Group in India (DESI) in 2001 on 11,216 subjects over 20 years of age in six cities (viz Chennai, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata) indicated prevalence of 12.1% with a variation from 9.3% for Mumbai, 11.7% in Kolkata to 16.6% for Hyderabad.

A National Programme for Prevention and Control of Diabetes, cardiovascular and Stroke is approved for launch during the XIth Five Year Plan. The Pilot phase of this Programme will extend to six States.

#### Proposal for Four Laning of NH

\*292. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from various State Governments for conversion of stretches of National Highways into four lanes;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Central Government is responsible for development of National Highways (NHs) including four laning of NHs, which are not included in any programme of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) is decided based on the traffic density, availability of funds, inter-se priority and provisions in the Annual Plan. The State-wise details of the proposals and estimates received from various State Governments for the Annual Plan 2007-08 for conversion of stretches of National Highways (NHs) into four lanes and the action taken in this regard are given in the enclosed Statement. These stretches of NHs are other than the stretches of NHs being developed to four/six lane standards under different phase of NHDP.

#### Statement

*Details of the proposals and estimates received from State Government under Annual Plan 2007-08 for conversion of stretches of National Highways into four lanes and action taken thereof.*

S.No.	State	NH No.	Stretch/Section	Length (km)	Amount (Rs.Crore)	Status
1.	Bihar	NH 98	km 0 to km 3.25 (patna Town)	3.25	7.56	Under examination
2.	Haryana	NH 10	km 224.6 to 226.06 (Dariyapur)	2.00	3.03	Sanctioned
		NH 64	km 0.0 to km 0.48 (Punjab/Haryana border to Dabwali)	0.48	1.34	Sanctioned
3.	Karnataka	NH 206	km 194.5 to 202.0 Bhadravati Town	7.50	13.80	Sanctioned
		NH 206	km 102.1 to 105.6 (Arskire Town)	3.50	7.68	Sanctioned
4.	Manipur	NH 39	km 321.17 to 323.33 (Imphal)	2.15	10.00	Returned to State Government for modifications.
		NH 39	km 323.33 to 326.66 (Imphal)	3.33	8.54	Under examination
5.	Punjab	NH 15	km 312.0 to 317 (Gidderbaha Town)	5.00	10.19	Sanctioned
		NH 64	km 119 to 120 (Sangrur Barnala section near Gurdwara Mastuana)	1.00	2.04	Sanctioned
		NH 21	km 11.4 to 15.54 (Desumajra to Kurali)	4.14	13.00	Under examination
		NH 64 A	km 5.37 to 11.37 (Bathinda Town)	6.00	3.00	Under examination
6.	Rajasthan	NH 11	km 557.8 to 563.3 (Bikaner City)	5.70	7.59	Returned to State Government for modifications
7.	Uttar Pradesh	NH 91	km 418.0 to 422.0 (Kanpur City)	4.00	6.29	Sanctioned
8.	Uttarakhand	NH 73	km 0.0 to 6.50 (Roorkee Town)	6.50	13.75	Returned to State Government for modifications.

*[Translation]***Reservation of Coal Blocks for Power Generation**

\*293. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reserved some coal blocks for power generation; and

(b) if so, the details of the reserved coal blocks along with the production of coal therefrom during the last three years, years-wise, book-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Till date, 172 coal blocks have been allocated to public and private sector companies for specified end uses. Out of these, 78 coal blocks with 24319.65 million tonnes of reserves have been allocated to 62 Companies (44 public sector and 18 Private Sector companies) for generation of power.

The details of coal production during the last three years from the coal blocks allocated for power generation are given below:

Sl.No	Name of Coal block	Name of company	Year wise Production in Million tonnes			
			2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08 (upto Oct. 07)
1.	Sarshatali	RPG Industries/CESC Ltd	2.247	2.524	2.570	1.622
2.	Talabra -1	Hindalco	0.491	0.922	1.164	0.764
3-4.	Tara (East), Tara (West)	WBPDC	3.799	4.189	4.681	2.402
5.	Panchwara Central	Punjab State Electricity Board	-	0.021	1.488	1.724
6-7.	Gare Palma IV/2 & IV/3	Jindal Power Ltd	-	-	-	0.096

**Strike by Chemists**

\*294. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of occasions the chemists supplying medicines under the Central Government Health Scheme has been on strike during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for repeated strikes by these chemists;

(d) the impact of repeated strikes by the said chemists on the CGHS beneficiaries; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) Chemists at the CGHS, Delhi, had resorted to strike during the last 3 years on the dates as mentioned below:-

8.3.2004 to 4.4.2004

26.8.2004 to 31.8.2004

17.2.2005 to 28.2.2005

25.3.2005 to 18.4.2005

24.11.2005 to 14.12.2005

16.01.2007 to 17.01.2007

The reasons for the strike was mostly due to non-payment of their bills due to paucity of funds near the end of the financial year and it took time to seek additional funds for clearing the bills of the Chemists. In March, 2005, the Chemists had also raised the issue of introduction of VAT by the Government of NCT of Delhi.

Authorised Local Chemists in CGHS, Thiruvananthapuram, had stopped supply of medicines to dispensaries in that city due to non-payment of bills w.e.f.

29.10.2007. Now the Chemists have resumed supply of medicine to the dispensaries in Thiruvananthapuram on 7.11.2007. During February-March, 2005, two out of the three authorized local chemists with the CGHS, Patna, stopped supply of medicines due to non-payment.

Whenever Chemists resorted to strike, the beneficiarise were allowed to purchase the same from the open market and claim reimbursement.

*[English]*

#### **Development of Inland Waterways**

\*295. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

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

(a) the details of the proposals for the development/upgradation of inland waterways in the country during the 11th Five Year Plan along with the funds allocated for purpose;

(b) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) the length of inland waterways created during the Tenth Plan; and

(d) the funds sanctioned for the purpose during 10th plan and utilised therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) In the Report of the Working Group on Shipping and Inland Water Transport (TWT) for 11th Five Plan (2007-12), several proposals have been suggested for the development of IWT sector in an integrated manner. These components are given in statement enclosed. For implementation of these proposals an outlay of Rs. 9,000 crore has been suggested Working Group. This includes Rs. 5,580 crore for Government Budgetary Support (GBS) and Rs. 3,420 crore of Extra Budgetary Resources (EBR). 11th Plan outlay for IWT sector will be known only after the said Plan is approved by the National Development Council.

(c) During 10th Plan, no new National Waterway had been declared. However, various projects for development

and maintenance of inland water transport infrastructure on the three National Waterways i.e. the Ganga, the Brahmaputra and the West Coast Canal (total length-2716 km), were taken up.

(d) The approved budget (BE and RE) and the expenditure of IWAI during the 10th plan is given below:

B.E	Rs. 559.14 cr
R.E	Rs. 496.27 cr
Expenditure (IWAI)	Rs. 384.83 cr

#### **Statement**

The important components for development of IWT sector in the Report of the Working Group on Shipping and Inland Water Transport for 11th Five Year Plan (2007-12) are as under:

- i Throughput oriented strategy
- ii. Quantum Jump in public funding
- iii Institutional Capacity Building of IWAI and State level Institutions
- iv. Organic integration of IWT and Coastal Shipping
- v. Composite transportation projects to be the mainstay
- vi. Improving Productivity
- vii. Coverage of National Waterways (NWs)
- viii. Setting up of a Committee to study Integrated Transport Planning
- ix. Connecting remote areas by adopting fish bone model & Development of State Waterways
- xi. Reaching threshold level of IWT development by Public investment during 11th Plan
- xii. Training on STCW 95 pattern & Network of Training Institutes
- xiii. Fleet Augmentation
- xiv. Brining about uniformity in legal regime for IWT operations
- xv. Promoting passenger transport on Rivers



- xvi. New emphasis on co-operation with Bangladesh
- xvii. Encouraging Modal Shift through close ended Incentives

[Translation]

**Investment in Coal Mines Abroad**

\*296. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:  
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken a decision to invest in coal mines in foreign countries;

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

(c) the details of availability of coal from domestic reserves and its adequacy to meet the domestic demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has approved formation of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) with Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), Coal India Limited (CIL), National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) as constituents for acquiring coal properties abroad. This is to ensure security of supply of coking coal and high quality (low ash) thermal coal to meet the coal demand of steel industry, power sector and other industries. The approved initial authorised capital of the SPV is Rs. 10,000 crore and the initial equity capital is Rs. 3500 crore which is to be contributed by the Central Public Sector Undertaking in the following manner:

1. SAIL	Rs. 1000 crore
2. RINL	Rs. 500 crore
3. CIL	Rs.1000 crore
4. NMDC	Rs. 500 crore
5. NTPC	Rs. 500 crore

CIL through it's "Coal Videsh" department has also been exploring opportunities for acquisition of coal properties in Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Canada and Australia.

(c) The total coal reserves in the country are 255.17 billion tonnes (Bt) (222.90 Bt of non coking coal +32.27 Bt. of coking coal), out of which proved reserves are 97.92 Bt, indicated reserves are 118.99 Bt and inferred reserves are 38.26 Bt. Of the non coking coal, about two third is of high ash content. Due to limited availability of coking coal and low ash non coking coal, a part of the demand of such coal is met through imports. The actual coal imports in 2006-07 were 45 million tonnes (Mt.). For the terminal year 2011-12 of the XI Plan, the projected gap between demand and indigenous supply is 51.10 Mt.

**Production of Heavy Water**

\*297. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether production of heavy water from the plants in the country is far below its target;

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

(c) the details of the installed capacity and the actual production of each plant during the last three years, year-wise and plant-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Heavy Water being a strategic material, the figures of actual production are not disclosed.

The capacities of the operating Heavy Water Plant are given below:

Plant	Capacity
Manuguru	185 MT
Kota	80 MT
Hazira	80 MT
Thal	78 MT
Tuticorin	49 MT
Baroda	17.7 MT

(d) Not applicable.

**Pollution Control Equipment in Sponge  
Iron Industries**

\*298. SHRI DEVWRAT SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for the sponge iron industries to install pollution control equipment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against those sponge iron companies which violate the pollution norms in the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The sponge iron plants are required to install pollution control equipments for abatement of pollution and to comply with the standards prescribed by the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs). To comply with standards, majority of the sponge iron plants have installed pollution control facilities such as Electrostatic Precipitator (ESP), Bag Filters, Wet Scrubbing system etc. In addition, for control of fugitive emission from raw material and product handling units, industries have been advised to provide adequate water sprinkling facilities.

- The action initiated for control of pollution from sponge iron plants include:
- Inventorization of sponge iron plants for assessing pollution load;
- Directing the sponge iron plants to install adequate pollution control measures;
- Regular monitoring of sponge iron plants for compliance of standards;
- In case of non-compliance, initiation of necessary legal action including issuance of show-cause notices.

*[English]*

**Environmental Clearance for Ports**

\*299. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals for establishing ports received from various State Governments for environmental clearance in the last three years;

(b) the details of the projects cleared/pending clearance along with the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the projects pending clearance along with the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the proposals would be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The Government had received 13 Port projects including fishing harbours in the last three years.

(b) Of the above 13 projects 12 have been accorded clearance from environmental angle.

(c) One project pertaining to Shipyard-cum-minor port at Kattupalli, Ennore, Tamil Nadu was received on 1st November, 2007 and has been considered in the meeting of the Expert Committee for Infrastructure Development & Miscellaneous Projects held on 30.11.2007. The Committee has suggested additional Terms of Reference for preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for the project and Public Consultation to be carried out by the proponent as per EIA Notification, 2006.

(d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

**Dumping of Urban Waste by Developed Countries**

\*300. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain Developed Countries have dumped their urban waste by dispatching them in containers to certain Indian Ports recently; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken by the Government to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) As per information made available by the Kerala State pollution Control Board and the Chief Commissioner Customs (Preventive), Chennai, incidents have come to light of imports of a banned item namely

urban waste, falsely classified as paper waste which is on Open General License. The incidents occurred at Kochi (September-October, 2007) and Tuticorin port (September, 2005). The cargo has been recommended for re-export by a team of officials in the shifting of the containers and re-examination of the contents for deciding on the re-export or proper disposal.

The Ministry on 10.2.2006 and 23.6.2006 communicated the following detailed guidelines in respect of contaminants in waste paper imported:-

1. A maximum of 8% content of recyclable material could be permitted.
2. Recyclable materials may consist upto 8% by weight of High Density polyethylene (HDPE) Low Density Polyethylene (LDPE)/Acrylic waste/ scrap (except halogenated polymer scrap)
3. The waste paper imported shall not consists of any putrefiable organic matter.
4. The maximum content of 8% of recyclable material shall be verified by custom authorities.
5. The importers would ensure that all recyclable materials are actually recycled, either by them or by other firms in the business of recycling. There should be no disposal of materials other than by recycling. Further that adherence to this condition would be verified by the concerned State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) and Pollution Control Committee (PCC) and the Ministry and the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) Regional Offices.

#### **Losses due to Aryan Coal Company**

2670: SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:  
SHRI KIREN RIJJU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat is suffering losses due to Aryan Coal Company as published in *Dainik Bhaskar* dated September 20, 2007.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The Government of Gujarat have informed that it is not incurring any loss.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply given to part (a) above.

*[English]*

#### **Introduction of Means-Cum-Merit Scholarship**

2671. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce means-cum-merit scholarship for the wards of Indians living abroad for study in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) A Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) for wards of people of Indian Origin/Non-Resident Indians has been started since 2006. Selection of eligible students for the scholarship is based on a test conducted through Education Consultants India Ltd. Presently there is no means-cum-merit basis for the scholarship.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Deep Vein Thrombosis Disease**

2672. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Leiden University Medical Centre, Netherlands has conducted a study, according to which regular air travelers are more likely to develop deep vein Thrombosis, a formation of blood clot in vein;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, in order to avoid Deep Vein Thrombosis, that directorate has directed airlines operating long flights to introduce announcements on the subject of medical advice and light exercises etc. Which includes legs with up and down movements of feet and stretching legs while seated. Passengers are advised to avoid wearing tight clothes/socks/shoes/belts etc., Keep hydration of body by consuming enough fluids. Expectant mothers are recommended not to undertake travel in the last month of pregnancy or within seven days after the delivery.

[Translation]

#### National Highways Act, 2002

2673. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the provisions of National Highways (Land and Traffic Control) Act, 2002 have been implemented;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the updation of land records of National Highways has been completed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002 provides for the establishment of National Highway Administrations for implementation of the provisions of the Act, Accordingly, the constitution of 192 National Highway Administrations has been notified. The Act also provides for establishment of Tribunals for the redressal of the grievances arising out of the orders or action taken by the Highway Administrations. The constitution of 8 National Highway Tribunals has also been notified.

(c) and (d) The work relating to the preparation of Land Registers has been taken up by the Highways Administrations, but the desired level of success could not be achieved due to bottlenecks in retrieving the original updated land records from the local revenue authorities in the State/UTs.

[English]

#### Setting up of Medical Parks

2674. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up "Medical Parks" in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the State-wise locations identified for the same and the time by which such parks are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is considering to set up a state of art vaccine manufacturing facility and a "Medical Park" at Chengalpattu near Chennai. Hindustan Latex Limited, a Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has been entrusted with the task of preparing detailed project report. The "Medical Park" may include manufacturing industries for medical diagnostics, equipments, disposables and devices alongwith facilities for Research & Development.

#### Proposals for Sports Facilities

2675. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals regarding sports facilities received from the State of Karnataka during the last three years;

(b) the number of proposals pending so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) Till 31.3.2005, the Ministry was supplementing the efforts of State Governments for creating sports facilities in various places, including rural areas, by providing assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Schemes. But

with effect from 1.4.2005, the Sports Infrastructure Schemes have been transferred to the State Governments. In view this, no fresh projects have been considered after 1.4.2005. During 2004-05, 4 proposals were received from the State Government of Karnataka but none of these was found viable for consideration for assistance under the "Scheme of Grants for Creation of Sports Infrastructure."

Apart from this, details of financial assistance provided to the State Government of Karnataka during the last 3 years towards the committed liabilities in respect of already approved projects, under the afore-mentioned Scheme are given below:

(Rs. in lakh)

2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
Amount released	No. of projects	Amount released	No. of projects	Amount released	No. of projects
101.3	9	0.00	0	42.60	2

*[Translation]*

#### Role of Nehru Youth Centres in Implementation of NREGS

2676. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Nehru Youth Centre/Nehru Yuva Kendra have been entrusted with the responsibility of Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana in some of the districts of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the programmes organized by the centres and the amount allocated for the purpose during the last three years;

(c) whether the programmes have been discontinued in some of the districts;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to revive the other activities of the Nehru Yuva Kendra/Nehru Youth Centres all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF

DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Rural Development has entrusted the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan with the implementation of 4 Special projects under the Swaranjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana in 14 districts of the country. In all these 14 districts, the project activities such as (i) Training for Project Implementation, (ii) Training of Motivators /National Service Volunteers, (iii) Motivational Campaigns, (iv) Participatory Learning Appraisal on Self Help Group, (v) Orientation Training, (vi) Grading of Self Help Group (vii) Disbursement of Revolving Fund and (viii) Preparation of Project Proposal have already been completed. A total allocation of Rs. 22.72 Crores was sanctioned in 2000-01 for the implementation of these 4 projects.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) is in the midst of launching campaigns at district and block levels to strengthen youth clubs and enable them to identify sports and social issues for achieving convergence between Youth & Sports. The other programmes of NYKS include: (i) Youth Leadership and Personality Development (YLDP), (ii) National Integration, Communal Harmony, Sadbhavna and peace, (iii) Entrepreneurship Development, (iv) Launching of Panchayat Yuva Shakti Abhiyan in a phased manner in various states, (v) Youth Exchange Programme for North-Eastern, Tribal and J & K Youth (vi) Know India programme, (vii) Red Ribbon Express Project and (viii) Adolescents Empowerment and Development Project etc with support from other Ministries and organizations.

*[English]*

#### NH Across the Core Area of Project Tiger

2677. SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of National Highways running through the core area of 'Project Tiger'.

(b) whether any action has been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of tigers who have lost their lives due to accidents during the last five years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):

(a) Details of major roads/highways, passing through Tiger Reserves in the country are given in the enclosed statement I.

(b) and (c) This Ministry provides funding support to tiger States based on their proposals, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, for providing tiger

reserve specific managerial inputs to conserve tigers, which, inter alia, includes diversion of roads/highways passing through tiger reserves.

(d) The details relating to death of wild animals and tigers due to accidents including road hits, in tiger reserves and other areas during the last five years, as reported by States, are given in the enclosed statement II.

**Statement I**

*Details of major roads/highways passing through Tiger Reserves*

Sl.No.	Name of the tiger reserve	National Highway (NH)	State High (SH)	Remark
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Buxa	NH No.31 C	—	Passing through the buffer zone along southern fringe of the reserve
2.	Indravati	NH No. 16	—	Passes through the southern boundary of the Reserve.
3.	Pench (Madhya Pradesh)	NH No. 7	—	Passes through the border of the Pench Sanctuary in the buffer zone
4.	Pench (Maharashtra)	NH No. 7	—	Passes through the Reserve
5.	Bandipur	—	1. Mysore-Ooty 2. Gundlupet-Sultanbathery	Passes through the reserve
6.	Corbett	—	SH No. 4 Moradabad-Tehri	Passes on the eastern boundary of Corbett Tiger Reserve from Ramnagar to Marchula for about 35 km.
7.	Dampa	—	1. West Phaileng-Tripubar (Northwest) 2. West Phaileng-Marpara (East-Nort)	Runs along the boundary of the Reserve.
8.	Meighat	—	1. Paratwada-Burhanpur 2. Akot-Harisal	Passes through the reserve
9.	Nagarjunasagar	—	1. Mannanur-Domal 2. Nallaguntala-Bairlutty	Passes through the reserve and on the southern boundary of the reserve
10.	Palamau	—	Daltonganj-Ranchi	Passes through the northern fringe of the reserve

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Panna	—	SH No. 6 Jhansi-Chhatarpur-Panna-Rewa	Passes through the reserve and makes the reserve boundary (Madia range)
12.	Sariska	—	2. State Highways	Passes through the heart of the reserve.
13.	Kanha	—	—	A public highway between Balhar and Chlpi runs 28 km inside the NP and 20 km through the buffer zone
14.	Bandhavgarh	—	—	Two highways namely; Umaria-Rewa and Katni-Parasi-Tala pass through the Tiger Reserve for a considerable length
15.	Tadobe-Andhari	—	—	Few metalled roads of PWD go through the tiger reserve.
16.	Valmiki	—	—	2 public roads with a total length of 26 km pass through the buffer area

**Statement II**

*Details of death of major wild animals due to accidents (including road hits) during the last five years as reported by States in Tiger Reserves and other areas*

Year	Location	Date of incidence	Species
1	2	3	4
2003	Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Karnataka.	01.09.2003	1 Tiger
2003	Village Nakroncha, Dehradun.	11.11.2003	1 Panther
2003	National Highway, Kuppam range, Andhra Pradesh.	27.12.2003	1 Panther
2004	Chintagura beat, Andhra Pradesh.	15.01.2004	1 Panther
2004	Corbett Tiger Reserve, Uttaranchal.	16.09.2004	1 Elephant calf
2005	Katemiaghat Wildlife Division Beharalch (Dudhwa Tiger Reserve)	22.3.2005	1 Panther
2005	Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve, M.P.	23.11.2005	1 Tiger
2005	Bandhavagarh Tiger Reserve, Madhya Pradesh	23.11.2005	1 Panther
2006.	Plot No. 2, Rudrapur, Haldwani.	1.2.2006	1 Panther
2006	Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, U.P.	15.4.2006	1 Tiger

1	2	3	4
2006	Dudhwa Tiger Reserve, U.P.	17.4.2006	1 Panther
2007	Haldwani, Distt. Nainital, Uttaranchal.	8.4.2007	1 Tiger
2007	Ghoksadanga railway station, Coochbehar District, West Bengal.	18.6.2007	1 Tiger
2007	Corbett Tiger Reserve.	28.1.2007	1 Elephant
2007	Dehradun Forest Division, Uttarakhand.	28.7.2007	1 Leopard
2007	National Highway Dehradun Haridwar.	7.10.2007	1 Leopard

### National Discipline Scheme

2678. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has not released Rs. 19,04,47,879/-under the National Discipline Scheme to the State Government as yet;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the Union Government of India is likely to release the grant?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry had received proposals from 21 State Governments amounting to Rs. 258.86 crore towards reimbursement of pay and allowances of NDS Instructors (NDSI) for the period so long as they remained in service. As per the terms of transfer of NDSIs, the Central Government will meet the expenditure on the pay and allowances of those NDSIs, who were absorbed in the State Government services. In view of this, reimbursement claims of the state Government/UT Administration are assessed only upto the date of retirement of the last NDSI. During the current financial year, the following grants have been released to various State:

S.No.	Name of the State Government	Amount sanctioned
1.	Government of Gujarat	Rs. 7,30,000/-
2.	Government of Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 14,37,000/-
3.	Government of Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 20,90,000/-
4.	Government of Haryana	Rs. 5, 62,000/-
5.	Government of Rajasthan	Rs. 16,80,000/-
6.	Government of Kerala	Rs. 3,35,000/-
7.	Government of Maharashtra	Rs. 16,50,000/-
8.	Government of Punjab	Rs. 10,16,000/-
9.	Government of Himachal Pradesh	Rs. 5,00,000/-
Total		Rs. 1,00,00,000/-



*[Translation]***Development Projects for Punjab**

2679. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has sanctioned certain development projects for Punjab;

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

(c) the project-wise amount released during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Yes, the following projects were sanctioned by Planning Commission for Punjab between 2005-06 and 2007-08:

- (i) Improving Health and Education Facilities in the Border Blocks of Punjab.
- (ii) Integrated Development of Urban Infrastructure in Bathinda City.
- (iii) Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) now replaced with Backward Regions Grant Fund BRGF.

(b) Respective location of these projects is as under:

- (i) Eighteen Border Blocks abutting the International Border located in the Border Districts of Amritsar, Ferozepur, Gurdaspur and Taran Taran i.e. Ajuala, Chowgawan, Bhikhiwing, Gandiwind, Valtaha, Fazilka, Ferozepur, Guru Harshai, Jalalabad, Khuan Sarvar, Mamdot, Bamial, Dera Baba Nanak, Dina Nagar, Dorangla, Gurdaspur, Kalanaur & Narot Jaimal Singh.
- (ii) Bathinda City.
- (iii) Distt. Hoshiarpur.

(c) Project-wise amount released between 2005-06 and 2007-08:

	(Rs. crore)		
	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
(i)	0.00	137.00	0.00
(ii)	20.00	0.00	0.00
(iii)	7.50	15.00	7.50

*[English]***Elected Members in Panchayati Raj Institutions**

2680. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of SC, ST and women elected members in the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the country 'State-wise' particularly in Karnataka;

(b) whether the Government proposes to consider training programme for members belonging to weaker sections and women in particular; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The requisite information is enclosed as statement.

(b) and (c) A Scheme entitled Panchayati Mahila Evam Yuva Shaakti Abhiyan has been launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj for empowering the Elected Women and Youth Representatives (including those of the weaker sections of society) in a systematic manner. The components of the Panchayat Mahila Shakti Abhiyan include:

- (i) State-level, divisional and district-level sammelans of EWRs which provide a platform for the EWRs to articulate their experiences and their problems. After deliberations during the Sammelan the EWRs would formulate a charter of issues to be mainstreamed into policy and advocacy support so that their concerns are addressed by the process of development in the State.
- (ii) Training and sensitization programmes for EWRs to equip them with the knowledge and skills required for effectively discharging their functions. These training programmes would cover aspects like participatory skills, record-keeping and accounts, legal rights etc.
- (iii) Setting up of State Support Centers either NGO based or Government affiliated to support the elected associations of EWRs which would serve as knowledge support and resource institutions.

The States of Rajasthan, Punjab, Karnataka, Uttaranchal, Manipur, Goa, Sikkim, Chattisgarh, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh have already organized the State Sammelan of the Panchayat

Mahila Shakti Abhiyan. The other States are likely to hold similar Sammelan in near future. States which have already held the PMSA Sammelans are shortly due to commence training programmes for EWRs.

**Statement**

*No. of Elected Representatives Including the Total Number of SC, ST, and Women Elected Members in the Panchayati Raj Institutions in the Country (State/UTs-Wise) Including the State of Karnataka*

Sl.No	State/UT	No. of Panchayats	Total for Panchayats at all levels				Number of elected representatives			
			General (Non-SC/ST categories)	SC		ST		Total	Women	
			No.	%	No.	%		No.	%	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22845	172136	34025	15.2	17842	8.0	224003	74019	33.0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1789	0	0	0.0	8260	100.0	8260	3183	38.5
3.	Assam	2431	23206	1344	5.3	886	3.5	25436	9903	38.9
4.	Bihar	9040	109767	19440	14.9	884	0.7	130091	70400	54.1
5.	Chhattisgarh	9982	76013	17540	10.9	66833	41.7	160386	54102	33.7
6.	Goa	191	1372	0	0.0	187	11.99	1559	1116	71.58
7.	Gujarat	14068	83982	7970	7.0	22235	19.5	114187	38068	33.3
8.	Haryana	6325	54508	14965	21.5	0	0.0	69473	24994	36.0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3330	16793	8724	32.0	1753	6.4	27270	9128	33.5
10.	Jharkhand	3979								
11.	Karnataka	5856	67920	17859	18.6	10311	10.7	96090	41210	42.9
12.	Kerala	1165	16246	2005	10.8	232	1.3	18483	6515	35.2
13.	Madhya Pradesh	23412	222836	61103	15.4	112938	28.5	396877	134368	33.9
14.	Maharashtra	28277	114823	25269	15.06	27597	16.45	167689	76581	45.66
15.	Manipur	169	1684	43	2.4	41	2.3	1768	646	36.5
16.	Orissa	6578	27667	16036	17.34	24114	26.08	92452	33659	36.4
17.	Punjab	12600	59434	28436	32.36	0	0.0	87870	31900	36.30
18.	Rajasthan	9457	73030	25364	21.2	21410	17.9	119804	42402	35.4
19.	Sikkim	170	639	57	5.7	309	30.7	1005	384	38.2
20.	Tamil Nadu	13031	91958	23653	20.3	877	0.8	116488	39364	33.8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
21.	Tripura	540	3914	1509	26.3	310	5.4	5733	1986	34.6
22.	Uttar Pradesh	52890	578984	191950	24.9	727	0.1	771661	299025	38.8
23.	Uttarakhand	7335	44450	11077	19.3	1973	3.4	57500	21517	37.4
24.	West Bengal	3713	37277	17158	29.2	4314	7.3	58749	21428	36.5
Union Territories:										
25.	A & N Islands	75	856	0	0.0	0	0.0	856	296	34.6
26.	Chandigarh	14	105	20	16	0	0.0	125	42	33.6
27.	D & N Haveli	12	7	3	2.4	115	92.0	125	49	39.2
28.	Daman & Diu	15	71	4	4.1	22	22.7	97	37	38.1
29.	Lakshadweep	11	1	0	0.0	100	99.0	101	38	37.6
30.	Puduchery	108	784	237	23.2	0	0.0	1021	370	36.2
Total		239508	1880463	335794	12.2	327570	11.9	2755759	1036730	37.62

General (Non-SC/ST) categories, Males & Females;

SC: Scheduled Caste Males & Females;

ST: Scheduled Tribes Males & Females;

Women: Combined SC, ST and General categories.

#### Allotment of Coal Blocks

2681. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal blocks allotted to Private parties in E.C.L.;

(b) if so, the company-wise details during the last three years; and

(c) the revenue earned by Coal India Ltd. due to allotment of coal blocks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) 03 coal blocks with geological reserves (GR) of about 316.72 million tonnes have been allocated to private parties in the command area of E.C.L.

(b) The company-wise details in respect of allocation of coal blocks to private parties in E.C.L. command area during the last three years are given as under:-

Sl.No.	Name of the party	Date of Allotment	Name of block	GR (MT)
1.	M/s Bankura DRI Mining Manufacturers Co. Pvt. Ltd.	20.02.2007	Biharinath	95.16
2.	M/s Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.	20.02.2007	Jitpur	81.09

(c) Coal India Limited does not earn any revenue from allotment of coal blocks.

**Improvement of NH in J & K and Pondicherry**

2682. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA:  
PROF. M. RAMADASS:

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

(a) the National Highways projects taken up/likely to be taken up in J & K and the Union Territory of Pondicherry for last three years and current year, project-wise;

(b) the states of the works undertaken; and

(c) the funds spent on the project till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) The details/status of National Highway projects taken up/ likely to be taken up in the State of J & K and Union Territory of Pondicherry during the last three years including the current year are enclosed as statement I & II.

**Statement I**

S.No.	Name of work	NH No.	Length (in km)	Cost (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure (Rs. in crore)	STATUS
Projects taken up in Jammu & Kashmir						
1.	Pathankot to Jammu & Kashmir Border Km 110.45 to km 117.6 and km 4.0 to km 16.5	IA	19.65	97.73	50.59	In progress
2.	Vijaypur to Pathankot km 50 to 80	IA	30.00	166.27	34.92	In progress
3.	Vijaypur to Pathankot Km 16.35 to 50.00	IA	33.65	193.09	48.5	In progress
4.	Jammu to Kunjwani (Jammu Bypass) km 0.00 to km 15	IA	15.00	85.34	46.18	In progress
5.	Srinagar Bypass (Bridge portion) km 286 to km 303.8	IA	1.23	62.96	34.92	In progress
6.	Srinagar-Baramulla-Uri	IA	94	439.39	195.83	In progress
7.	Batote-Kishtwar-Sinthanpass-Anantnag	IB	265	703.30	114.70	In progress
8.	Dornel-katra	IC	15	34.00	25.96	In progress
9.	Srinagar-Kargil-Leh	1D	430	807.03	80.60	In progress

**Projects Likely to be Taken up in Jammu & Kashmir**

S.No.	Name of work	NH No.	Length (in km)	Cost (Rs in crore)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Srinagar to Quazigund	IA	30.00 km	633.00
2.	Srinagar to Quazigund	IA	36.00 km	475.80
3.	Quazigund to Bannihal	IA	31.00 km	130.4
4.	Quazigund of Bannihal	IA	15.25 km including two tunnel (8.45 km+0.69km)	1629.4
5.	Ramsu to Banihal	IA	12.90 km	320.4

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Ramban to Ramsukm	IA	19.20 km	727.8
7.	Nashri to Rambankm	IA	19.31 km	453.2
8.	Udhampur to Chenanni	IA	20.76 km	452.7
9.	Chenani to Nashri	IA	12.00 km Main Tunnel = 9km. Escape Tunnel = 9 km.	1983.4
10.	Jammu Bypass & Nagrota Bypass	IA	17.40 km	481.7
11.	Nandani Wild Life Sanctuary and Ramnagar Sanctuary	IA	5.80 km	346.4
12.	Khanpur Nagrota-Pilata (Gamai)	IA	23.10 km	488.2
13.	Udhampur Bypass	IA	18.50 km	334.0

**Statement II**

S.No.	Name of work	NH No.	Length (in km)	Cost (Rs. in crore)	Expenditure (Rs. in crore)	Status
<b>Project Taken up in Pondicherry</b>						
1.	Construction of paved shoulders from km 46/500 to 54/180	45A	7.68	2.33	2.33	completed
2.	Widening existing two lane pavement to 4 lane from km 38/400 to 39/400	45A	1	1.64	1.64	completed
3.	Construction of new bridge Araasalar at km 176/300	45A		7.09	3.50	In progress
4.	Improvement of riding quality in km 0.00 to 3.57, including paved shoulders in km 0/54 to 1/40, construction of Chainage and widening of existing cross drainage structures	66	3.57	3.075	2.08	In progress
5.	Improvement of riding quality in km 173/400 to 186/800	45A	13.4	4.61	2.35	In progress

**Projects Likely to be Taken in Pondicherry**

S.No	Name of work	NH No.	Length (in km)	Cost (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Four laning of Pondicherry- Tindivanam on BOT basis	66	4.0 (41)	25.30* (approx) (260.00)

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Construction of paved shoulders from km 41/600 to 43/180	45A	1.58	1.00
3.	Construction of paved shoulders from km 22/100 to 24/000	45A	1.90	1.25
4.	Reconstruction of 8 Nos. of culverts in km 166/600 171/900, 178/400, 178/600, 181/900 and 184/300	45A	8 Nos.	0.50
5.	Reconstruction of Uppanar bridge at km 176/500 at Melaoduthurai in Karaikal region	45A	1 No.	3.54
6.	Reconstruction of Mullaiyar bridge at km 178/000 at Karaikal region	45A	1 No.	1.50

\*the total length of project is 41 km at the cost of Rs. 260.00 crore.

#### Import of Mercury

2683. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the cost and quantity of mercury imported during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether it is proposed to phase out the use of mercury in medical instruments as it is a hazardous substance;

(c) if so, the details therefor;

(d) whether any alternatives to mercury have been developed; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) As per information received from Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Directorate General of Foreign Trade, the cost and quantity of mercury imported during the last three years is given below:-

HS Code	Quantity in thousands kg.			Value in Rs. Lakhs		
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
28054000	174.82	155.43	220.42	929.02	1,165.40	11,382.59

(b) to (e) At present, there is no proposal for phasing out of use of mercury in medical instruments. However, some of the units have started manufacturing digital thermo-meter based on sensors.

#### New Scheme for Deserted Indian Women

2684. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases sponsored under the New Scheme for Deserted Indian Women for giving legal/financial assurance to women deserted by their overseas Indian spouse; and

(b) the names of Indian Women's Association/NGO's empanelled with the Indian Missions under the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) The Indian Missions abroad have sponsored 13 cases under the scheme to provide legal/financial assistance to Indian women deserted by their overseas Indian spouses.

(b) A list of Indian Women's Organizations/Indian Community Associations and NGOs empanelled with the Indian Mission/Posts abroad is enclosed as statement.

**Statement**

*List of Indian Women's Organizations/Indian Community Associations/NGOs empanelled with the Indian Missions/Posts Abroad to provide legal/financial assistance to Indian women deserted by their overseas spouses*

Sr.No.	Indian Mission	Indian Women's Association/NGOs empanelled with the Indian Mission
1.	Embassy of India Washington DC, USA	ASHA (Asian Women's Self-help Association), Post Box 2084, Rockville, MD 20847-2084
2.	Consulate General of India San Francisco USA	(i) MAIRI, 234 East Gish Road, Suite 200, San Jose, CA 95112 (ii) NARIKA Post Box No. 14014, Berkeley, CA 94714 (iii) Seva Legal Aid 37053 Cherry Street # 207 Newark, CA 94560
3.	Consulate General of India, New York, USA	(i) SAKHI, New York (ii) AWAKE, (Asian Women's Alliance for kinship and equality) (iii) MANAVI, New Jersey (iv) SERVICE AND EDUCATION FOR WOMEN AGAINST ABUSE 9 SEV) PHILADELPHIA (v) INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTION OF BUFFALO
4.	Consulate General of India Chicago, USA	Apna Ghar INC (Our Home) Chicago
5.	Embassy of India, Qatar	Indian Community Benevolent Fund (ICBF), Doha, Qatar
6.	High Commission of India, Canberra, Australia	The Indian Welfare & Resources Centre (IWRC), the Welfare wing of Federation of Indian Association of Victoria, Melbourne.
7.	High Commission of India, Ottawa Canada	(i) Indian Canada Association 1301 Prestone Drive, Ottawa, ON K 1E, 272 (ii) Ottawa Community immigrant Services Organization, 959 Wellington Street West, Ottawa, ON K1Y 2x5. (iii) National Association of Canadians of Indian Origin, 24 Saint-Paul East, Suite 201. Montréal, QC H2Y 1 G3. (iv) AWIC Community & Social Services 3030 Don Mills Road, Peanut Plaza, North York, ON M2J 3C1.
8.	Indian Embassy, New Zealand	Shakti Community Council INC, Auckland.

*[Translation]*

**Supply of Uranium to India by Australia**

2685. SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australia intends to review the matter relating to supply of Uranium to India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether India has conducted any negotiations with Australia in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) The then Prime Minister of Australia Mr. John Howard called Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on 16.8.2007 to inform him of the decision of the Australian Government regarding sale of uranium to India. The Prime Minister thanked Mr. Howard. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed further at the official level. Such discussions have not yet taken place.

*[English]***Tele medicine Units in the Country**

2686. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tele-medicine units presently located in the country and its functions thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether the ISRO has any proposal to set up more tele-medicine units;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time which the above units are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Presently, 258 tele-medicine centres consisting of 215 remote/rural/district hospitals (including 8 Mobile units) connected to 43 speciality hospitals, are located all over the country covering most of the States. The State-wise list is enclosed as statement. These Telemedicine Centres are used for tele-consultation and continuing medical education.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) It is planned to set up 30 more telemedicine centres covering the States of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and North Eastern Region by middle of 2008.

**Statement**

*Details of Tele-medicine Centres established in various states & UTs*

Sl.No	State/UT	No. of Telemedicine Centres
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12
2.	A & N Island	4
3.	Bihar	1
4.	West Bengal	7
5.	Chhattisgarh	16

1	2	3
6.	Gujarat	1
7.	Himachal Pradesh	1
8.	Haryana	2
9.	Jharkhand	1
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	12
11.	Karnataka	44
12.	Kerala	26
13.	Lakshadweep Islands	5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	1
15.	Maharashtra	12
16.	New Delhi	4
17.	Orissa	7
18.	Punjab	5
19.	Pondicherry	5
20.	Rajasthan	39
21.	Tamilnadu	16
22.	Uttar Pradesh	3
23.	Uttaranchal	1
	<b>Services</b>	
24.	Army	6
25.	Air Force	5
26.	Navy	1
	<b>North-Eastern States</b>	
27.	Assam	4
28.	Sikkim	1
29.	Manipur	1
30.	Arunachal Pradesh	4
31.	Nagaland	2
32.	Meghalaya	1
33.	Mizoram	4
34.	Tripura	4



*[Translation]***Joint Mechanism to Combat Terrorism**

2687. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made by the joint mechanism between India and Pakistan to deal with terrorism; and

(b) the issues on which a consensus was reached during the joint meeting held recently between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In pursuance of the decision of the Prime Minister of India and President of Pakistan in Havana, Cuba on 16th September 2006, the second meeting of the Joint Anti-Terrorism Mechanism was held in New Delhi on 22nd October 2007. The Two sides reviewed the follow up steps taken on the information shared during the first meeting of the Joint Anti Terrorism Mechanism held in Islamabad on 6th March 2007 and in the intervening period. Both sides shared new information on terrorist incidents including those which have occurred since the last meeting. They agreed to continue to work to identify measures, exchange specific information and assist in investigations.

**Cargo Shipping Service with Pakistan**

2688. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to re-start Cargo Shipping Service with Pakistan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) A Joint Shipping Agreement dated 14th December, 2006 has been entered into between India and Pakistan. Cargo Shipping Service between the two countries will be governed under the said agreement.

*[English]***By-Passes along NH-52 and NH-37**

2689. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of construction of by-passes at Mongoldoi and North Lakhimpur Town along NH-52 as well as Tinsukia and Dibrugarh town along NH-37; and

(b) the time frame fixed for completion of the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The alignments of all the four bypasses are being explored. There is, however, no firm proposal for construction of these bypasses, at present.

(b) Does not arise.

*[Translation]***Request to Augment the Capacity of Aryan Coal Washery**

2690. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any request for augmenting the existing capacity of Aryan Coal Washery, Dipika from 7 million to 12 million;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A request from M/s Aryan Coal Beneficiation Private Limited (ACBPL) was received in the Ministry of Coal in August 2006 for expansion of capacity of their existing Dipika washery from 7million tonnes per annum to 12 million tonnes per annum. Accordingly, a committee headed by Shri K.K. Saran, Director (Technical/Operation), Western Coalfields Limited was constituted by Coal India Limited on capacity assessment of Dipika Washery of M/s Aryan Coal Beneficiation Private Limited and others. The Committee in its interim report submitted in January 2007 has assessed the capacity of M/s ACBPL as 9 million tonnes as per which the coal company has commenced dispatches of coal to the linked consumer for washing. However in the final report submitted by the Committee in April 2007 to Coal India Limited, the capacity of M/s ACBPL has been recommended as 12 million tonnes per annum which is under consideration of CIL.

*[English]***Tobacco Free Campus for Universities**

2691. SHRI PRATIK P. PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Lung, Foundation (WLF-SA) has formulated a two years project to make Delhi University campus a tobacco free zone;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to encourage such projects in other Universities and Hospitals also; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) World Lung Foundation (WLF-SA) has formulated a two years project to make Delhi University Campus a tobacco free zone. The details of the project are as under:-

1. Mass Scale intensive ACSM (Advocacy Communication Social Mobilisation) IEC (Information, Education and Communication) activities.
2. Formation of tobacco free brigades in the colleges of Delhi University.
3. Sensitization of Teachers, Karamchari, Students and Tobacco Vendors against the negative impact of tobacco use and the existing legal provisions.
4. Holding the street shows.
5. Putting of hoarding and other educational material in the colleges/campus of Delhi University.

(c) and (d) Section 4 of the Tobacco Control Act, 2003 prohibits smoking in public places, which include Hospitals and Educational Institutes.

The State Government are the implementing agencies and they are being repeatedly impressed upon to effectively enforce the provisions of the Act/Rules framed thereunder.

Government of India has launched National Tobacco Control Programme for effective enforcement of the tobacco control legislation with a focus on;

- (i) building awareness about ill effects of tobacco at the community level.
- (ii) Building enforcement capacity of the State Governments.

**Decreasing Gharials**

2692. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of Gharials is reducing day by day in the country;

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

(c) if so, whether the Government has conducted any survey regarding their number at present in comparison to the last survey;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):

(a) to (d) The population of Gharials has been fairly stable as per the population estimation carried out by the State Governments of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The estimated number of Gharials in the current survey has been about 1654 as against the number of 1555 during the previous survey.

(e) The Steps taken by the Government to protect Gharial include the following:

- (i) Gharial has been included in the Schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 thereby affording them highest degree of protection.
- (ii) Breeding of Gharials in captivity has been successfully standardized and as and when required, captive bred Gharials are released in wild also.
- (iii) Financial & technical assistance is provided to State Governments under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for conservation and protection of wildlife including Gharial and their habitats.

- (iv) All efforts have been made by the State Governments to stop illegal sand mining thus avoiding any damage to the habitat of Gharials. Further, the States of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are collaborating for the conservation and management of Gharials and their habitats.

#### **Carbon Credit Scheme**

2693. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government has introduced a scheme regarding carbon credit;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) the modalities for implementation of the scheme with reference to purchase and sale of carbon credit; and
- (d) the implication for India in the context of environment protection and conservation of nature?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Central Government has constituted a National Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Authority for the purpose of protecting and improving the quality of environment in terms of the Kyoto Protocol and with a purpose to assist developing country parties in achieving Sustainable Development. The purpose is also to contribute to the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and to assist developed country Parties in achieving compliance with their quantified emission limitation and reduction commitments;

(c) The National CDM Authority evaluates the CDM project for grant of host country approval and confirms that the project activity assist the country in achieving Sustainable Development. The Authority also ensures that the market environment of the CDM project is not conducive to under-valuation of Certified Emission Reduction (CERs).

(d) The CDM projects are in accordance with National Sustainable Priorities and other related environmental issues.

#### **Treatment of Spinal Injury Through Stem Cell**

2694. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Stem-Cell treatment for spinal injury patients are available in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of places/hospitals in the country where Stem-Cell treatment have already started;
- (d) whether the Government servants are allowed for free treatment for such treatment, particularly the retired Government servants; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has noted claims of autologous bone marrow stem cell in patients with spinal cord injury which was presented to the media on the 12th June, 2007 in Chennai by the NCRM (Nichi-in centre for regeneration- under HOPE)-Life line team. The Manipal hospital's regenerative medicine department also claimed to have carried out clinical trials in stem cell therapy in 15 spinal cord injury patients. However, presently there is no approved indication for stem cell therapy as a part of routine medical practice, other than Bone Marrow Transplantation.

*[Translation]*

#### **Pictorial Warning on Junk Food Packets**

2695. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to print statutory warning on the packets of the junk food in view of its adverse effect on health;
- (b) if so, the time frame by which the packets are likely to carry the statutory warning; 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 (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) At present there is no proposal to print any statutory warning on the packets of junk food.

Government is making efforts to discourage consumption of junk foods including carbonated beverages and make people aware of nutritious and healthy foods.

The Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare has written to Health Ministers of all States & UTs and Union Minister of Human Resource Development to consider issuing instructions for withdrawal of junk food and carbonated drinks from school and college canteens. Letters have also been written to Chief Ministers of all States & UTs to seriously consider issuing instructions to the Vice Chancellors of all Universities including Medical and Agricultural Universities of their respective States for withdrawal of junk food and carbonated drinks from canteens of educational institutes.

*[English]*

#### NH Project in Daman and Diu

2696. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Road/Bridge/By-pass/Inter State Roads under various schemes/projects of National Highways implemented/proposed to be implemented in the Union Territory of Daman and Diu;

(b) the funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years, scheme and year-wise; and

(c) the present status of the each project along with the time frame fixed for the ongoing projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) There is no National Highways passing through Union Territory of Daman & Diu. However, the details of the Road/Bridge projects under Centrally Sponsored Schemes of this Ministry taken up during the last three years and proposed to be taken up during the current year in the Union Territory of Daman & Diu are as under:

Amount in Rs. lakhs

Sl.No.	Name of work	Sanctioned Cost	Funds Released	Present Status	Likely date of completion
Year 2004-05			Nil		
Year 2005-06					
1.	Reconstruction of bridge across rive connecting Daman with Gujarat State.	334.38		Work not awarded	
2.	Reconstruction of bridge across Tad Diu connecting Gujarat State.	316.27	210.00	Work in progress	March, 2008
Year 2006-07 & 2007-08 (till date)				Nil	

#### Loss Due to Forest Fire

2697. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the loss of Rs. 500 annually is suffered due to forest fires in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):

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

#### Pollution Free Transport System

2698. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes a pollution free transport system between the stretch of Jhelum from Khamabal in South Kashmir to Khadinyar in the North;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to utilize the navigation potential of Jhelum and other rivers in the State.

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) to (c) As per information provided by the Government of J & K the proposed pollution free transport system between Kharanabal and Khadinyar on river Jhelum Mainly comprises of navigational lock and gated structure for augmenting draft in the river during October to February (Winter months) when required draft (1.22 meters) for navigation is not available. Construction (on the navigation lock) started in 1984. Pakistan objected to the project alleging that storage is prohibited in river Jhelum. This resulted in suspension of work since 1987 when Government of India went for Government level dialogue instead of Commissioner level talks. Issue continues to be unresolved despite several rounds of Secretary level talks held since 1998 as part of composite dialogue. Periodic discussions are being held by Ministry of Water Resources (Indus Wing) with the State Government officials in this regard. So far as other rivers in the State, rivers flowing in Jammu province have a steep gradient and are not suitable for navigation. In Kashmir valley, for practical purposes, the development of water transport is confined to certain stretches of river Jhelum and various lakes.

#### NACO Programmes

2699. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO) could not provide treatment to 5000 patients affected with HIV due to financial crunch;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Eligible patients attending ART centres are being provided free treatment. As on 31.10.2007, a total of 1,12,928 patients are receiving treatment at 136 ART centres in the country.

#### Setting up of Medicinal Plants Board

2700. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR:  
SHRI K. VIRUPAKSHAPPA:

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

(a) the number of States who have constituted National Medicinal Plants Board to ensure protection & promotion of Medicinal Plants;

(b) whether the work of such Board has been reviewed;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether subsidy amount of Rs. 3 crores was taken back which was due to Karnataka Farmers;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) None of the States have constituted National Medicinal Plants Board. However the National Medicinal Plants Board has been set up by Central Government vide Resolution notified on 24th November, 2000. The National Medicinal Plants Board has facilitated setting up of state level Boards in 35 States/UTs called the 'State Medicinal Plants Boards (SMPBs)' to coordinate matters relating to development of medicinal plants and to implement and monitor the schemes.

(b) and (c) Performance of these Boards is periodically reviewed by organizing national and regional level workshops and meetings of SMPBs. The last national workshop was held at New Delhi on 18th, 19th April, 2007. The working of SMPBs is also reviewed by senior officers while on tours to the States. So far the performance of these State/UT Boards has not been up to desired level for want of required infrastructure, officers, staff and funds from State/UT governments.

(d) to (f) No, Sir. However, some projects sanctioned under Contractual Farming Scheme of National Medicinal Plants Board, in the State of Karnataka had to be cancelled for non compliance by the beneficiaries with guidelines of the scheme. Matter has already been taken up with State government of Karnataka to strengthen the Board for better implementation and monitoring of the scheme.

**Committee to Review ICS Syllabus**

2701. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:  
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has constituted a Committee to review the syllabus of Indian Civil Services (ICS) examination;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has submitted its report;

(c) if so, the salient features of the recommendations of the Committee;

(d) the time by which the recommendations of the Committee are likely to be implemented;

(e) whether the Government has a proposal to revamp the recruitment process and examination system of the civil services;

(f) if so, the changes proposed to be brought about in the existing system; and

(g) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of above.

(e) to (g) At present, there is no proposal to revamp the recruitment process and examination system of civil services. However, the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) had constituted a Committee headed by Prof. Y. K. Alagh to review the existing scheme of Civil Service Examination. The recommendations made by this Committee have been referred to Administrative Reforms Commission for their views.

**Launch of Space Craft to Mars**

2702. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:  
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is capable to send Space Craft to Mars;

(b) if so, the details of the scientific objectives to be achieved by sending the space craft to Mars; and

(c) the total expenditure involved in the whole process for launching space craft to Mars?

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

(b) The scientific objective is to understand the evolution of the planet Mars through studies of Martian atmosphere and ionosphere, dust storms, interaction of solar radiation and particles with Mars, magnetic field and plasma environment around Mars, surface topography, composition and distribution of water-ice.

(c) The approximate cost of sending a spacecraft to Mars is about Rs. 500 crores.

**Funds Allocated to Maharashtra**

2703. SHRI PRAKASH B. JADHAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation of funds during 2007-08 for Maharashtra;

(b) the various schemes/projects for which the funds have been allocated; and

(c) the progress made so far in the implementation of work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) Outlay for the Annual Plan of Maharashtra 2007-08 was approved at Rs. 20,200 crore. Details of the sector-wise allocation are given below:

Sl.No.	Sectors	Approved Outlay
1	2	3
1.	Agriculture & Allied Activities	775.82
2.	Rural Development	1519.15
3.	Special Areas Programmes	1093.53

1	2	3
4.	Irrigation & Flood Control	4144.16
5.	Energy	1930.55
6.	Industry & Minerals	110.79
7.	Transport	1994.05
8.	Science, Technology & Environment	16.50
9.	General Economic Services	555.82
10.	Social Services	7832.03
11.	General Services	227.60
Total		20200.00

Progress of the projects/schemes covered under the Plans of the States is monitored on regular basis both at central & state level.

[*Translation*]

#### Committee for Preservation of Life Forms

2704. SHRI GANESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to constitute a Committee for preservation of like forms in the Mannar gulf;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the *modus operandi* and main objectives of the said Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Government has not constituted a Committee for preservation of like forms in the Mannar gulf.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

#### Road Transport Act

2705. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to enact a new Road Transport Act in place of the Carriers Act, 1965;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith provisions therein;

(c) whether any working group has been constituted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said Act is likely to be enacted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The Carriage by Road Act, 2007 has been notified in the Gazette of India on 1.10.07 which would replace the Carriers Act, 1865.

(b) The Act has 22 Sections covering various aspects such as mandatory registration of common carriers, liability aspects of common carrier, requirement of goods forwarding notes and goods receipts, scope for an agreement between the consignor and the common carrier for transportation of the consignment at a higher risk rate in return for higher liability, empowering common carrier to dispose of the consignment to recover its dues in the event of failure of the consignee to take the delivery of the consignment, requirement of insurance for transportation of hazardous/dangerous goods, force majeure provision to exonerate common carrier from his liabilities under certain circumstances, penalty for violating the provisions of the Act, etc.

(c) and (d) A working group under the chairmanship of Shri S.K. Dash Joint Secretary (Transport), Department of Road Transport & Highways has been constituted on 15.11.07 for the purpose of framing of rules under the Carriage by Road Act, 2007. The working group has been asked to submit its report within a period of 6 months.

(e) Keeping in view the procedural requirements involved in the framing of rules under the Act, it is not possible to envisage a specific date for enforcement of the Act at this stage.

#### Punishment for Denial of Emergency treatment

2706. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Law Commission has recommended a legislation to stipulate punishment to the doctor or person running the hospital, if an emergency treatment is denied;

(b) if so, whether the Government has accepted the recommendation of Law Commission;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to bring a legislation in this regard; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Law Commission of India in the 201st report on "Emergency Medical Care to Victims of Accidents and during Emergency Medical Condition and Women under Labour" have suggested a model law which, inter-alia, provides for punishment for the Doctor or persons running the hospital if an emergency treatment is denied. The said report of the Law Commission of India has been laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 7.9.2007. Health being a State subject, it is for the State Governments to get enacted legislation based on this model law.

#### **Satellite Technology for Curing Disease**

2707. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the plan of the Gujarat Government to cure diseases by using satellite technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to use this technology all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The State Government of Gujarat is implementing Telemedicine Pilot project to connect

Community Health Centres to higher level institutions via satellite for seeking technical advice. The VSAT connectivity, for this purpose, is provided by ISRO and the project is proposed to be extended to 25 units. The State of Gujarat is also implementing Hospital Management Information System in 25 District Hospitals and six teaching hospitals.

The Global Positioning System (GPS) is being used in Gujarat to monitor movement of Mobile Medical Units. At present, 40 MHUs are being monitored through GPS. The State is also using satellite-based technologies for disease surveillance and monitoring.

The Government of India is supporting telemedicine projects being managed by various stakeholders and funding for continuation/scale up are given on case to case basis after evaluation.

#### **GDP of Bihar States**

2708. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to rid the State of Madhya Pradesh of the tag of "BIMARU"

(b) if so, the specific factors taken into account in this regard; and

(c) the comparative performance of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar and other States comprising the BIMARU group of States and other States, on the scale of Gross Domestic Product during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) The term BIMARU States is not part of official nomenclature. It is used as an abridged form of reference to the State to the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

(c) A Statement showing State wise estimate of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at constant (1999-2000) prices alongwith percentage growth over previous year for 2003-04 to 2005-06 is enclosed.



**Statement**

Gross State Domestic Product			(Rupees Crore)			(% Growth over previous year)		
Sl.No	State/UT	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	164213	174375	188623	9.3	6.2	8.2	
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2146	2408	2510	10.6	12.2	4.2	
3.	Assam	41595	43806	46393	6.0	5.3	5.9	
4.	Bihar	59386	65909'	65956	-4.2	11.0	0.1	
5.	Jharkhand	36564	46401	49528	7.5	26.9	6.7	
6.	Goa	7329	8076	8596	7.5	10.2	6.4	
7.	Gujarat	140598	150979	169354	14.8	7.4	12.2	
8.	Haryana	66176	71880	77666	8.4	8.6	8.0	
9.	Himachal Pradesh	17925	19279	20919	8.1	7.6	8.5	
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	18278	19234	NA	5.2	5.2	NA	
11.	Karnataka	114604	127664	138784	3.4	11.4	8.7	
12.	Kerala	85253	92075	98817	6.2	8.0	7.3	
13.	Madhya Pradesh	85530	88254	94158	11.4	3.2	6.7	
14.	Chhattisgarh	34465	37457	42065	16.8	8.7	12.3	
15.	Maharashtra	286904	310837	339425	7.0	8.3	9.2	
16.	Manipur	3598	4477	4962	10.8	24.4	10.8	
17.	Meghalaya	4551	4846	5106	7.3	6.5	5.4	
18.	Mizoram	1974	2056	NA	3.2	4.2	NA	
19.	Nagaland	4349	4638	NA	10.2	6.6	NA	
20.	Orissa	51675	58192	NA	14.7	12.6	NA	
21.	Punjab	77260	81081	84851	5.2	4.9	4.6	
22.	Rajasthan	103982	101527	105135	28.7	-2.4	3.6	
23.	Sikkim	1204	1297	1401	7.9	7.7	8.0	
24.	Tamil Nadu	150915	167775	180120	6.0	11.2	7.4	
25.	Tripura	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
26.	Uttar Pradesh	198394	206941	219494	5.0	4.3	6.1	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
27.	Uttaranchal	17796	19180	21152	7.7	7.8	10.3
28.	West Bengal	165406	176393	190728	5.7	6.6	8.1
29.	A & N Islands	1152	1104	1223	11.3	-4.2	10.8
30.	Chandigarh	6020	6819	7743	11.3	13.3	13.6
31.	Delhi	69825	77010	84078	7.3	10.3	9.2
32.	Pondicherry	4530	4044	4295	5.1	-10.7	6.2
All-India GDP (1999-2000 base)		2222591	2389660	2604532	8.5	7.5	9.0

Source: Central Statistical Organisation.

#### **Bannerghatta Biological Park**

2709. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bannerghatta Biological Park (near Bangalore) has been elevated to international standards;

(b) if so, whether under this project many new animals like Jaguars (from Singapore), Raccoons and Squirrel, Monkeys (from South Africa) and Hyenas from Jharkhand will be added to the park;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether other changes that are being envisaged to bring this park to international standards; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (e) A project is under implementation to develop Bannerghatta Biological Park upto international standards. It includes introduction of new animal like jaguars, raccoons, monkeys and hyenas etc. Other changes like better civic facilities to visitors, and improved infrastructure in the park are also part of the project.

#### **Allocation of Coal Blocks**

2710. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has offered to jointly allocate two coal blocks to six companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to allot more coal blocks in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to allocate Rampia (geological reserves of 275.24 million tonnes) and Dipside of Rampia (geological reserves of 360 million tonnes) coal blocks, located in the State of Orissa to the following six companies for generation of power:

- i) M/s Sterlite Energy Ltd.
- ii) M/s GMR Energy Ltd.
- iii) M/s Lanco Group Ltd.
- iv) M/s Navbharat Power Pvt. Ltd.
- v) M/s Mittal Steel India Ltd.
- vi) M/s Reliance Energy Ltd.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Screening Committee in the Ministry of Coal will consider the applications received for allocation of 23 non-power coal blocks.

**Clean Development Strategy For Climate Change**

2711. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to the Planning Commission to incorporate clean development strategies into the sectional plans in the proposals for the Eleventh Plan and make climate change an intrinsic part of the Eleventh Plan strategy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any meeting of the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change was held recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any major programme has been taken/proposed to be taken for afforestation programme in view of climate change; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M. V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) In the first meeting of the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change held on 13th July, 2007, various decisions were identified for follow up. Major decisions were preparation of National Document compiling action taken by India for addressing the challenge of climate change and the action that it proposes to take, incorporate climate change-related research agenda, strengthening institutional capacity and other areas of sectoral action to be built into the Eleventh Plan and promotion of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) opportunities for the public sector entities who are currently not utilizing/under-utilising the facility, etc.

(c) and (d): Yes, Sir. As stated above, the first meeting of the PM's Council on Climate Change was held on 13th July, 2007 and the second meeting was held on 26th November, 2007. While the major decisions taken in the first meeting have already been highlighted in paras (a) and b) above, the minutes of the second meeting are awaited from the Prime Minister's Office.

(e) and (f) In the first meeting of the said Council, it was decided that a major afforestation programme called 'Green India' for greening 6 million hectares of degraded

land may be finalized for Cabinet clearance which is under consideration of the Government.

**Indian Workers In Gulf Countries**

2712. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY:  
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

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

(a) the estimated number of Indian workers illegally working in the foreign countries, particularly in the Gulf countries;

(b) whether the passport and other document of the workers of India are being seized by their employers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether such workers have been/being deported by these countries;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to render necessary assistance and project such workers from deportation/harassment?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) There are no official figures available with regard to the number of illegal Indians working in these countries.

(b) and (c) It is reported that in Gulf countries, the passport of the Indian workers are normally kept by their employers till the time the employment contract is completed. The Indian Missions have requested the local authorities from time to time for retention of the passports by the workers concerned and also for penalizing the employers retaining the passports of workers without their consent.

(d) and (e) Gulf countries deport foreign workers including Indians from time to time for violation of local laws, non-possession of valid visas/residence permits etc., as part of the normal law enforcement process. During the year 2007 (till October, the number of such workers deported/ECS issued are as under from Gulf countries:

Kuwait	Bahrain	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Oman	Qatar
8234	1481	40088	28904	1086	2050

(f) The Indian Missions organize smooth issue of Emergency Certificates by making special drives involving the local Indian communities. The complaints of ill treatment, harassment, breach of contracts etc., received from the Indian workers are taken up by the Mission with the sponsors / employers, Labour Department and local police authorities for appropriate action.

To protect the various rights of the workers, the Ministry has also entered into bilateral labour agreements with the UAE and Kuwait. These MOUs provide for a Joint Committee consisting of representatives of both countries to meet periodically to discuss and resolve grievances of workers. An additional protocol has also been signed with Qatar recently. MOU with Malaysia and Oman has been initiated. Dialogue has been initiated for similar agreements with KSA and Bahrain.

[Translation]

#### Implementation of The Recommendations of 8th World Hindi Conference

2713. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any monitoring mechanism has been evolved for the implementation of the recommendations of 8th World Hindi Conference; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

#### Scraping State Level Common Entrance Tests

2714. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has asked the Centre to scrap State-level common entrance tests and conduct all India entrance test for admission to medical colleges as reported in the 'Times of India' dated November 12, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Knowledge Commission has called for overhauling of the present system;

(d) if so, the response of the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the working group sent by the National Knowledge Commission has submitted its report;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (g) The National Knowledge Commission has recently presented a compilation of its recommendations on education which includes medical education. It *inter alia* mentions "...there should be only one All India Common Entrance Test for all students who would like to get admission to Self-Financing Medical Colleges. Since the CBSE conducted examination for 15 per cent All India quota in Government Medical Colleges is taken by a very large number of students, this would appear to be the ideal examination whose ambit can be expanded." The recommendation are being examined.

[Translation]

#### Asean Conference

2715. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian delegation led by the Prime Minister has participated in the ASEAN Conference held in Singapore recently;

(b) if so, the details of the issues discussed therein and agreements signed by India with various countries during the said Conference;

(c) whether India urged all the ASEAN member countries to adopt parliamentary democratic systems; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the member countries there?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Hon'ble PM attended the 6th India-ASEAN Summit held in Singapore on 21st November 2007.

(b) Hon'ble PM discussed measures with ASEAN leaders to further strengthen and deepen multi-faceted ties India has with ASEAN countries. The Statement made by Hon'ble PM at the Summit is enclosed. No agreement was signed by India at the Summit.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Statement**

*Statement by Prime Minister at the 6th India-ASEAN Summit 21/11/2007*

Your Excellency Prime Minister Lee,  
Your Majesty,  
Excellencies,

I thank you for your warm welcome, the friendly atmosphere and your generous hospitality. I am very happy to be here in Singapore, a country that epitomizes the qualities of courage, strength and excellence.

It is always a pleasure to be among friends. India is privileged to be part of a process that is contributing to ever widening circles of prosperity. Our relationship with the ASEAN countries is the pillar of our "Look East" policy. Ever since we became Sectoral Dialogue partners of ASEAN 15 years ago, we are determined to take this process forward because we are convinced that it is win-win formula for both of us.

India is now on a growth trajectory, where sustained economic growth of 9-10% per year seem possible. Our expanding market, human resources and strengths in S & T and the knowledge economy are what we contribute to the process of economic integration.

Since our last Summit, we have made concrete progress.

The most striking achievement of our engagement so far is that the target of bilateral trade of 30 billion US dollars that we had set for ourselves for the year 2007 has already been achieved.

Exports of ASEAN member countries to India have grown at a phenomenal rate of over 65% last year. This shows that India is a willing partner in the integration of our economies, and is committed to free trade. Our officials have been engaged in active negotiations to conclude the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement. I have no doubt that we all share a common political will to reach an agreement at the earliest. I want to assure you that on its part India has shown, and will continue to show, the necessary flexibility and determination to achieve this objective. We will work together with you to conclude the negotiations, the negotiations, as agreed, by March next years.

We have achieved progress in the key area of connectivity. Today, there are over 215 direct and indirect flights every week between India and Singapore, 115 flights with Thailand and 50 with Malaysia. But we seek much more from our Open Skies Policy with ASEAN. We are also keen to join the Open Skies regime amongst the ASEAN countries, when it is finalized.

I would like to commend our hosts for organising the exhibition "On the Nalanda Trail: Buddhism in India, China and Southeast Asia" and a conference on the subject "Early Indian influences in Southeast Asia" We would welcome proposals that revive interest in our ancient civilisational links and common heritage.

In Cebu, I had proposed the early operationalisation of the India-ASEAN Science and Technology Fund. I am happy to announce that we have created this Fund with an initial corpus fund of 1 million US dollars. This Fund should be used to encourage collaborative R & D and technology development so that we can harness knowledge for the creation of wealth.

Our exchange programmes for students and diplomats from ASEAN have received enthusiastic responses. I am happy to announce that we will make the training courses for ASEAN diplomats a yearly feature. I would further suggest that we organize seminars for such trainees with their peer groups from India in ASEAN capitals.

This year we have concluded Memorandums of Understanding for the establishment of Centres for English Language Training in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam. Together with Entrepreneurship Development Centres in these countries, this initiative will contribute to capacity building and empowerment of youth in these countries.

*As we look ahead, we need to closely monitor the implementation of the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity. I seek your support.*

*Given the results so far, I propose that we set a bilateral trade target of 50 billion US dollars by the year 2010.*

To facilitate this, we should agree on a process to simplify the visa regime for businessmen to travel from India to ASEAN and vice-versa. I propose that our authorities in consultation with industry representatives formulate simple criteria for issue of visas to bona fide businessmen the same day.

India-ASEAN cooperation in the important area of health has focused on challenge posed by avian influenza. India will be hosting an International Conference on the subject in December. I propose that the India-ASEAN Working Group dealing with health be directed to prepare a "India-ASEAN Working Health Care Initiative". The focus will be on providing basic drugs at low cost to our public health systems through steps such as joint production of medical formulations. A second focus could be to develop a framework for cooperation in traditional medicine systems, which are popular in all our countries.

Climate change has emerged as a major challenge, especially for developing countries. We can gain from a knowledge partnership in this area. Our individual approaches to this global issue must be based on strong scientific foundations and on our respective local experiences and needs. In India we are already in the process of indentifying a centre of excellence for climate change. I would propose the setting up of an India - ASEAN Network on Climate Change that would pool and share expertise, exchange best practices and submit recommendations for common positions taking into account national priorities.

To give a boost to this cooperation, I propose to set up an India-ASEAN Green Fund with an initial contribution of US\$ 5 million for pilot projects to promote adaptation and mitigation technologies. Once the Fund is established I invite other countries to make contributions as well.

In the final analysis, if the India-ASEAN process is to take root, it must become a peoples movement. Encouraged by our success with exchange programmes for students and diplomats, I propose that we have a Special Programme for Regular Exchanges among our Parliamentarians.

*I am happy that our tourists are increasingly looking eastward and more than 2 million tourists from India are expected to travel to ASEAN holiday destinations this year. The number of tourists arrivals from ASEAN countries to India has gone up to 280,000 but it is evident that there is huge scope for expansion. I would therefore propose that we agree to work towards a target of one million tourist arrivals from ASEAN to India by the year 2010.*

On earlier occasions, I have shared with you India's vision of an Asian economic community consisting of an integrated market and linked by efficient road, rail, air and shipping services. The creation of this "arc of advantage" will be possible if we can successfully create a robust institutional architecture for regional cooperation and action. The elements I have outlined earlier are the building blocks of this architecture.

I am extremely optimistic about the future of our partnership. The multi-sectoral approach towards our cooperation is the right one. I want to assure you that you will find an enthusiastic partner in India.

India has a stake in ASEAN's stability and prosperity just as we believe ASEAN has a stake in the transformation that India is experiencing.

Thank you.

#### **Cases Disposed by CBI**

2716. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:  
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases investigated and disposed by the CBI during the last three years; and

(b) the number of persons convicted in said cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI):  
(a) Year-wise number of cases registered, investigated and disposed off from investigation during last three years and current year upto 31.10.2007. is under:

Year	Number of cases registered	Number of cases investigated	Number of cases disposed off from investigation
2004	1193	2628	1282
2005	1267	2621	1231
2006	1156	2558	1143
2007 (upto 31.10.2007)	750	2167	883

(b) Year-wise number of cases ended in conviction and number of persons convicted in these cases during the last three years and current year upto 31.10.2007. is as under

Year	Number of cases ended in conviction	Number of persons convicted in these cases
2004	329	583
2005	341	710
2006	436	719
2007 (upto 31.10.2007)	328	516

#### Demolition of Lord Buddha Statue in Pakistan

2717. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY:  
SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:  
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:  
SHRI KIREN RIJJU:  
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the terrorists have attempted to blow up an ancient statue of Lord Buddha in the violence-hit swat valley in the north-west part of Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the issue has been taken up with the Government of Pakistan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the response of Pakistan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) According to reports, the image has been badly damaged.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### Central Sponsored Scheme

2718. PROF. M. RAMADASS:  
SHRI PRAKASH B. JADHAO:  
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

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

(a) the details of Centrally sponsored health schemes formulated and implemented in various States including Maharashtra during the last three years and the current year till date;

(b) the details of the funds allocated, released and actually utilized under the schemes during the said period, district-wise, year-wise in each State;

(c) the details of the achievements made in this regard, State-wise; and

(d) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government against the States which failed to utilize the funds allocated under the scheme and to bridge the gap between the funds allocated and spent therefrom?

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

**Decreasing Population of Tigers**

2719. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:  
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Conservationists have warned against the decreasing tiger population in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the 'Project Tiger' launched by the Central Government has proved completely ineffective in controlling the fall in population of tigers in the country;

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

(e) whether any new strategy has been made to protect the tigers in the country with the help of foreign countries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHR S. REGUPATHY):

(a) and (b) This Ministry is aware of the concerns expressed from several quarters, including conservationists, regarding decrease in tiger population.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Project Tiger has put the endangered tiger on a course of recovery. Recent tiger estimation figures relating to four States (Rajasthan, Chattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra) as per the refined methodology endorsed by the Tiger Task Force, indicated a decline in tiger population in areas outside tiger reserves and protected areas. However, the tiger population in tiger reserves and protected areas of such States do not show a significant change.

(e) and (f) The Government of India has taken several initiatives to reinforce tiger conservation in the country, as indicated in statement enclosed which inter alia include the urgent recommendations of the Tiger Task Force, constituted by the National Board for Wildlife. Further, India, along with the United States of America and United Kingdom has joined the 'Coalition Against Wildlife Trafficking' which is a global coalition of governments and international business and conservation organizations

working together to support each others efforts to end the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

**Statement**

The steps taken by the Government to protect wild animals including tigers are as below:-

**Legal steps**

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau. The punishment in cases of offence within a tiger reserve has been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wild like offence.

**Administrative steps**

2. Strengthening of antipoaching activities including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel/home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people, in addition to strengthening of communication/wireless facilities.
3. Constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority with effect from 4.09.2006, for strengthening tiger conservation by, inter alia, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management, preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual/audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Ministers and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.
4. Constitution of a multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 comprising of officers from police, Forest, Customs and other enforcement agencies to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.



5. In principle approval accorded for declaring eight new Tiger Reserves.
6. The All India estimation of tigers and other wild animals, including habitat status evaluation, is ongoing as per the revised, enhanced methodology endorsed by the Tiger Task Force from November, 2005. Estimation relating to four States (Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Chattisgarh) has been completed, and the country level figures are expected to be available by December, 2007.
7. The independent evaluation of tiger reserves carried out by a panel of experts has been peer reviewed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). The report as well as the review have been placed before the Parliament.
8. Action has been taken for initiating the process for enhancing the relocation rehabilitation package for villages in the core areas of tiger reserves, apart from developing related norms, based on the report of a professional agency mandated with the task.
9. Action has been taken for providing eco-developmental inputs in the buffer areas of tiger reserves to foster coexistence with local people. The States having Tiger Reserves have been asked to prepare a plan for coexistence with local people by delineating a buffer zone, with cross sectoral eco-development inputs in such areas.
10. Action has been taken for preparing eco-tourism guidelines to benefit local people.

#### **Financial steps**

11. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals.

#### **International Co-operation**

12. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.

13. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.
14. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at The Hague, India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, which contains directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a commercial scale, for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. This was adopted as a decision with minor amendments. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tigers was emphasized.

#### **Surgery for Diabetic Patients**

2720. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment with regard to the number of diabetics who undergo surgery for gangrene or amputations of any kind;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any research has been conducted on methods to clean diabetics wounds and spur new skin growth and heal up Peripheral arterial disease (PAD); and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Health being a State subject, no such information is maintained centrally. However, a multi-center study published in 2005 reported over all 3.9% Diabetics underwent minor or major amputation. This rate was varying from center to center.

(c) and (d) According to ICMR, a study done from Chennai has shown that about 5% of diabetic patients have peripheral arterial disease. The risk factors for gangrene are smoking and long duration of diabetes.

When severe peripheral arterial disease is present, the treatment options are either angioplasty or bypass surgery. Management of Diabetic foot ulcers have undergone a lot of research and have tried different modalities like honey, maggots, fibroblast cells, stem cells, new surgical correction methods and antibiotics, traditional molecules, oxygen. Various researchers and clinicians in India as well as outside have tried these modalities of treating wound and ulcers in diabetic patients with varying success. Researchers in Egypt have tried the use of Maggot debridement therapy (MDT) in management of diabetic foot ulcer unresponsive to traditional treatment and surgical intervention. Researchers in Greece have demonstrated that Protease-modulating dressing act synergistically with autologous growth factors and enhance their efficacy in diabetic foot ulcers. Researchers in Cuba have shown that local injection of recombinant human epidermal growth factor enhances advanced diabetic foot ulcer healing and reduces the risk of major amputation.

#### Rate of Growth of Various Sectors

2721. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of growth of various sectors in the economy during the last three years;

(b) whether low growth rate was registered in some of the sectors; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Based on the latest available estimates of the Central Statistical Organisation, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the rate of growth of growth of agriculture, industry and services sectors during the last three years is given below.

Sectors	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Agriculture & Allied	(-) 0.04	6.02	2.68
Industry	9.75	9.58	10.92
Services	9.55	9.83	11.02

(b) and (c) In agriculture sector, the realised growth rate in 2004-05 and 2006-07 has been lower than the Tenth Plan target. Deficient rainfall is the main reason

behind low growth rate in agriculture sector for the year 2004-05

#### Mandatory Test for Soft Drink Water

2722. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has laid down any mandatory tests for use of water in soft drinks;

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

(c) whether the Government has any monitoring methods to check the compliance of such standards by the soft drink companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The standards of carbonated water laid down under PFA Rules, 1955 prescribe that water used in the manufacture of carbonated water shall conform to the standards prescribed for packaged drinking water laid down under PFA Rules, 1955. Quality of water used in the manufacture of carbonated water is checked by the State/UT Government who implement the PFA Act, 1954 and the Rules made there under.

[Translation]

#### Scrap at Ports

2723. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:  
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

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

(a) whether large quantities of scrap are lying at certain ports in the country;

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

(c) whether it has been a big hindrance in loading and unloading of ships; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) None of the major ports have large quantities of scrap lying in their area. A limited quantity of scrap is lying at the Kandla Port. However, this is not causing any hindrance to either loading or unloading of ships as the Kandla port has sufficient storage space.

*[English]*

**Hurdles in The Implementation  
of MPLAD Scheme**

2724. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the hurdles encountered in the smooth implementation of MI LAD Scheme; and

(b) the efforts made by the Government to overcome the hurdles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) The performance of the MPLAD Scheme is commendable. The cumulative percentage utilization of funds over release since inception of the Scheme is as high as 89.31% as on 31-10-2007 and the percentage of works completed to sanctioned is 91.97%. Various proactive policy initiatives have been undertaken by the Ministry, including the revision of MPLADS Guidelines in November, 2005, which have resulted in further streamlining the implementation of the Scheme. There are as such no major hurdles or problems which require any major policy interventions by the Ministry. Local hurdles and bottlenecks such as non-submission of Audit Certificates, Utilization Certificates, eligible Monthly Progress Reports etc., which delay the process of release of funds, are taken up with the State Governments. Review meetings are also held regularly with the States/UTs Government officials.

*[Translation]*

**Arrest of Indians by Kuwaiti Government**

2725. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:  
SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kuwait has arrested more than 200 people of Indian origin;

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

(c) whether the government of India has taken up the matter with the government of Kuwait; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

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

(b) The Kuwaiti police authorities, in the course of raids conducted by them at several places in Kuwait during 11-13 September 2007, detained over 200 Indian nationals, apart from nationals from other countries. According to the local laws, a domestic worker (under Visa No. 20) is not supposed to work or stay outside the house of his sponsor. The detained India nationals were in Kuwait as domestic workers under Visa No. 20, and they were detained when they were found staying/working outside their sponsor's residence.

(c) Yes. The Embassy of India in Kuwait took up the matter with the Kuwaiti Government authorities at various levels both in writing and verbally. The Embassy was informed that the raids were a part of the Kuwaiti Government's drive against violators of residency laws of the country.

(d) All the detained Indian nationals have since been deported to India in batches. Their deportation was completed by the end of October 2007.

*[English]*

**Acceptance of China-Taiwan Relationship**

2726. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India proposes to accept One-China theory in the context of China-Taiwan relationship;

(b) if so, the details of the India's Policy in this regard;

(c) whether there is any policy to have a separate trade and commerce ties with Taiwan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Joint Declaration issued during the visit of Chinese President Hu Jintao to India in November 2006 states, "The Indian side recalls that India was among the first countries to recognize that there is one China and that its one China policy has remained unaltered. The Indian side states that it would continue to abide by its one China policy. The Chinese side expresses its appreciation for the Indian position."

Government of India do not have diplomatic or official relations with Taiwan. There exist non-governmental trade, economic, cultural, S & T, educational and people-to-people contacts between the two sides.

#### **Ingredients Permitted in Beverages**

2727. DR. ARVIND SHARMA:  
SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY:

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

(a) whether there are a number of additives and ingredients permitted for use in beverages in most countries which are yet to be considered for use in India by the Central Committee on Food Standards (CCFS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Consideration of requests for permitting food additives/ingredients for use in various food products, including beverages, is an ongoing process. These are considered, as and when such requests are

received, by the technical sub committees of CCFS taking into consideration the codex guidelines, the regulatory provisions in other countries wherever available, the technological necessity and consumer safety.

*[Translation]*

#### **Modernization of Ports**

2728. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:  
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:  
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:  
SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY:

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

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to modernize the India Ports to make their functioning efficient and smooth;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the work undertaken/likely to be undertaken at each of the port, port-wise;

(c) the fund spent for last three years in the development of ports, port-wise; and

(d) the scheme-wise fund allocated/likely to be allocated for the same, port-wise?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Modernisation of the 12 Major Ports which are under the control of the Central Government is an on going process keeping in view the demands of maritime trade. Under the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP) launched in December, 2005, a total of 276 projects have been identified in the Major Ports to be taken up for implementation upto 2011-12. The projects cover the entire gamut of activities in the ports including deepening of channels/berths (25 projects), construction/reconstruction of berths/jetties (76 projects), procurement of equipments (52 projects), rail and road connectivity works (45 projects) and other associated projects (78 projects). Port-wise status of the NMDP projects as also the actual expenditure on development in the Major Ports during the last three years is given in the table below:

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the Port	Name of Projects under NMDP	No. of Projects Completed	No. of Projects Under execution	No. of Projects to be taken up	Outlay under NMDP	Actual exp. last three years
1.	Kolkata	40	4	5	31	6494.45	167.21
2.	Paradip	28	3	13	12	2402.83	96.16
3.	Vizag	38	2	6	30	2621.00	240.96
4.	Ennore	14	—	4	10	6466.00	69.42
5.	Chennai	14	—	4	10	2247.14	225.41
6.	Tuticorin	24	2	4	18	4571.25	85.52
7.	Cochin	14	1	5	8	7920.00	712.52
8.	New Mangalore	20	—	4	16	7148.00	66.41
9.	Mormugao	12	1	1	10	808.00	205.96
10.	Mumbai	14	1	2	11	2766.00	79.31
11.	JN Port	32	6	6	20	7278.00	1220.04
12.	Kandla	26	6	9	11	5081.00	1331.22
Total		276	26	63	187	55803.67	4500.14

Non-Major Ports are under the overall jurisdiction of the respective State Government in whom the responsibility for their development vests.

**Financial Assistance to NGOs and Medical Colleges**

2729. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has provided financial assistance to NGOs and medical colleges in Rajasthan for effective implementation of various health schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) the details of financial assistance provided to each NGO and medical college during the said period;

(d) whether the Government has reviewed utilisation of funds allocated to the NGOs and the medical colleges; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken against any discrepancy found thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes Sir, the funds are provided through State Health Society, Rajasthan under Reproductive Child Health Programme of the Centre for NGOs only.

(b) The total year wise funds provided is as follows:-

2004-05	Rs. 150 Lakh;
2005-06	Rs. 310 Lakh
2006-07	Nil

(c) Centre only provides a lumpsum funds to State Health Society Rajasthan and further disbursement is carried out by it, which also maintains the records.

(d) The review is done by the State Health Deptt. Govt. of Rajasthan.

(e) No discrepancy has been reported by the State Govt. of Rajasthan.

*[English]*

**Non-Availability of Vaccines In  
CGHS Dispensaries.**

2730. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether vaccines for Typhoid, Rabies, Hepatitis B etc. are not regularly available in the CGHS Dispensaries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) steps taken to ensure regular supply of such vaccines in the Dispensaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Anti Rabies Vaccine are made available to the beneficiaries regularly through CGHS dispensaries. So far as Typhoid & Hepatitis B vaccines etc. are concerned, these vaccines under National Immunisation Programme are provided to various agencies in Delhi from Directorate of Family Welfare, Government of Delhi including CGHS through Medical Store Depot, CGHS. These vaccines are mostly available in the CGHS dispensaries. For dispensaries outside Delhi, these vaccines are made available to beneficiaries on prescription and are either purchased locally or are indented.

(b) Occasional no-availability of vaccines in the CGHS dispensaries in Delhi is mainly due to non availability with Government of Delhi.

(c) Constant monitoring is done by Family Welfare Cell of CGHS/MSD, to ensure regular supply of approved vaccines in the dispensaries.

*[Translation]*

**Non-Availability of Medical Books  
in Hindi Medium**

2731. DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL:  
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) whether medical books in Hindi Medium are not available due to which medical education could not be imparted in Hindi medium;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Since medical books are available in English language & most of the books are from the foreign authors and teachers in medical college have obtained their medial education in English medium, it is, therefore, not possible at present to impart medical education in Hindi medium.

Maintaining the standard of medical education is the prime responsibility of Medical Council of India (MCI). The issue of introduction of Hindi medium in medical education was taken up with MCI. The Council is of the view that in a country with a variety of languages, it is essential that medical education should be conducted in a common language throughout the country for mobility of students, teachers, doctors and examiners etc.

**Outsourcing of Work by CIL**

2732. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of work executed through outsourcing agencies and consultancy service in Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries during the last three years;

(b) the details of profits or losses incurred to Coal India Limited and each of its ancillary companies as a result thereof;

(c) the details of works entrusted and Project-wise allocation of funds made to each outsourcing agency by Coal India Limited and each of its ancillary companies;

(d) whether the such scheme are being profitable for coal companies and its subsidiaries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (e) information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

#### Collection of Funds for Afforestation

2733. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has planned to use funds collected through a Supreme Court directive for conservation to fund afforestation;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme prepared by the Union Government in this regard;

(c) whether the State Government and private companies have opposed the move on the collection of such a fund;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The money received towards Compensatory Afforestation (CA), Penal Compensatory Afforestation (PCA), Net Present Value (NPV), etc. received in lieu of diversion of forest land for non-forestry uses under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is to be used for afforestation of degraded forests besides taking up Compensatory Afforestation, natural assisted regeneration, forest management, protection, infrastructure development and wildlife protection etc. The programme

is at an advanced stage of approval. As such, no State Government or private companies except the State of Jammu & Kashmir have opposed it as the State of Jammu & Kashmir has its own Forest (Conservation), Act.

[Translation]

#### Expired Polio Drops

2734. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in many parts of the country, children were given Polio drops after its expiry dates during the last few years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has asked the State Governments to submit a report in this regard; and

(d) the amount of money spent on Pulse Polio campaign during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The amount spent on Pulse Polio campaign during the last three years.

Year	Amount
2004-05	Rs. 925.00 Crores
2005-06	Rs. 918.08 Crores
2006-07	Rs. 1064.61 Crores
2007-08 (BE)	Rs.1341.48 Crores

[English]

#### NH Projects in North-East

2735. SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of four-laning of east-west corridor in North-East, Particularly in Assam;

(b) the details of by-passes and bridges constructed/proposed to be constructed in the region, location-wise;

(c) whether the whole NH-37 and 52 in the region has been converted into two-lane under SARDP and are in traffic worthy conditions;

(d) if not, the steps taken in this regard;

(e) whether the Government proposes to extend the four-laning of NH upto the border of Bordumsa, Margherita and from Dibrugarh to Jairampur; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and time-frame fixed for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) The entire 678 km of National Highway (NH) length of east-west corridor in North-East lies in Assam. The four laning project has been awarded to various contractors, except 31 km and construction is in progress. Overall progress of the project is 7.3%.

(b) The information in respect of NHs is being collected from concerned agencies and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) The entire stretch of NH-37 is already 2-lane except for 8.92 km, which is less than 2-lane. 2-laning of the remaining portion of NH-37 is not included in SARDP-NE. Baihatacharli (km0) to North Lakhimpur (km 345) section of NH52 is already 2-lane and the portions from North Lakhimpur to Jonai (km 510) and Dirak (km 845) to Rupai (km 876) in Assam have been sanctioned under Special Accelerated Road Development Programme for North East (SARDP-NE) for 2-lane with paved shoulders and target date of completion is march, 2009. Widening to 2-lane of Jonai-Dirak section of NH 52 in Arunachal Pradesh is included in Phase 'B' of SARDP -NE which has been approved by Government for preparation of Detailed Project Reports only. NH-37 and NH-52 are maintained in traffic worthy condition within the availability of limited funds.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

### **Destruction of Mangroves**

2736. SHRIMATI C.S. SUJATHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large scale destruction of mangroves is taking place in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) As per the State of Forest Report 2003, published by Forest Survey of India (FSI), the mangrove cover which was 4482 km<sup>2</sup> in 2001, has reduced to 4461 km<sup>2</sup> in 2003. There was increase in the mangrove areas during this period in West Bengal from 2081 sq. km. to 2120 sq. km. in Gujarat from 911 sq. km to 960 sq. km. in Goa from 5 sq. km. to 10 sq. km. in Kerala from 0 sq. km. to 8 sq. km. and in Tamil Nadu from 23 sq. km. to 35sq. km. There has been reduction in the area in Andaman and Nicobar islands from 789 sq. km. to 671 sq. km. In Andhra Pradesh from 333 sq. km. to 329 sq. km. and Orissa from 219 sq. km. to 207 sq. kms. It is primarily because of decrease of 118 sq. km. in Andaman and Nicobar Islands that net area has reduced by 21 sq. km. According to FSI this net decrease is not loss of mangrove cover but is an interpretational correction. Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 has been issued by Government for the purpose of protecting the coastal areas which *inter alia* also aims at conservation of mangroves. The said notification prohibits developmental activities in the mangrove areas other than those essential activities specified in the same notification. Besides, the Ministry also has a Scheme on Conservation and Management of mangroves.

### **Resurfacing of Tigers**

2737. SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some tigers have resurfaced in Forests of Maharashtra as appeared in the Financial Express dated September 12, 2007;

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

(c) whether Government proposes to declare Sahyadries a protected tiger reserve;



(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be declared a protected tiger reserve; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (e) Information in this regard is being collected from State and would be laid on the table of the House.

#### **Introducing Smart Card**

2738. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has received a proposal for the Eleventh Five Year Plan to introduce smart cards to buy subsidized food grains, cooking gas, kerosene etc;

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

(c) the method by which it would safeguard the interest of the poor people particularly in the remote and backward region like North-East?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Planning Commission had set up a Working Group on Integrated Smart Card System in the context of formulation of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The Working Group submitted its Report in January, 2007. The Working Group has, *inter-alia*, recommended that the Government may initiate steps for the introduction of Integrated Smart Card System for the major entitlement schemes. The Smart Cards can be used by the beneficiaries of the Targeted Public Distribution System, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, Integrated Child Development Service, and other welfare programmes. Planning Commission has sought the views and comments of the concerned Departments on the recommendations contained in the Report of the Working Group.

(c) The introduction of Smart Cards is expected to solve many of the problems, particularly that of targeting errors and spurious beneficiaries, in the implementation of various welfare/subsidy programmes/schemes of the Government. Besides, Smart cards would help in enhancing the efficiency of delivery of various welfare programmes of the Government. As a consequence, the interest of the poor people in the country, including in

the North-East would be safeguarded in a more effective manner.

#### **Special LTC Packages for Employees of North East Region**

2739. DR. H.T. SANGLIANA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special package in terms of grant of air travel etc is proposed to be provided to the Government employees from the North East Region in view of poor connectivity to that region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal from the Ministry of DONER in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) No such special package under LTC is proposed.

(c) and (d) With a view to promoting tourism in NER, a proposal was received from the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region to allow Government servants to travel by air to visit North Eastern Region for the next 2 years in relaxation of LTC Rules. The proposal was examined in consultation with Ministry of Finance but not approved.

#### **Difficulties Faced by Foreigners in Getting Visa**

2740. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign tourists are facing difficulties in getting visas from our embassies/consulates in their countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government is considering to issue visas to the tourists on arrival at all the major international airports in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(c) and (d) Issue of visa to tourists on arrival at international airports has not been found feasible to implement at present.

**Suicides Deaths and Injuries to the Indian National Abroad**

2741. DR. K.S. MANOJ:  
SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL:

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

(a) whether the information relating to the accidents, deaths, injuries and suicides involving Indian workers working abroad has come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents during the last three years including current years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Development Plan of Eastern Coastal Part of Mumbai**

2742. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:  
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:  
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

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

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sent any proposal to the Union Government for advising the authorities of Mumbai Port Trust to jointly work with Maharashtra Government for preparing development plan of Eastern Coastal part of Mumbai;

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal;

(c) whether the Government has advised Mumbai Port Trust to jointly work for this development project;

(d) if so, the viewpoint of the Mumbai Port trust; and

(e) by when the Mumbai Port Trust will work jointly for this project?

THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to set up a Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Maharashtra with Chairman, Mumbai Port Trust and other state-holders as members to sort out various issues of Mumbai Port vis-a-vis development of Mumbai city.

*[Translation]*

**Protected Forest Land**

2743. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether pavements on either sides of NH-26 passing through Lalitpur district in U.P came under the protected forest area;

(b) if so, whether the Government of India has issued No-Objection Certificate for forestry use of forest land meant for widening of said NH-26 by NHAI;

(c) if so, whether protected forest land has been transferred to NHAI for widening of the said NH;

(d) if not, whether NHAI has widened the said NH on protected forest land without transfer of said land;

(e) if so, whether the Government propose to take action against persons/bodies/organization and forest officers for carrying out road widening work on protected forest land;

(f) if so, the time by when it is proposed to be taken; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (g) Yes, Sir. The areas on both sides of Highways have been declared as Protected Forest by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. The proposals received

under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for widening of National highway-26 in Lalitpur District are at various stages of processing in the Central Government. However, violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, has come to the notice of the Central Government. Penal compensatory afforestation has been stipulated in the in-principle approval issued by the Central Government in respect of one stretch of the National Highway-26. Further, the State Government has been requested to furnish the details of persons/organizations responsible for the violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, and to take necessary action against them.

[English]

#### Afforestation Project

2744. SHRI MANI CHARENAMEI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Afforestation projects sanctioned in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government provide any assistance to the Non-Government Organisations under these projects;

(c) if, so, whether the Government has received any complaints against the Non-Governmental Organisation for missing the funds;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(f) the number of Project sanctioned under NAP for the year 2007-08, State-wise and area-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme for regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas through a two-tier setup of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level. During the last three years (2004-05 to 2006-07), 214 new FDA projects were approved under the NAP Scheme. In addition to NAP scheme, the Ministry is implementing the Grants-in-Aid for Greening India Scheme under which funding assistance is provided to various organizations,

including Non-Governmental Organizations. The State-wise number of projects approved under the two scheme is given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) to (e) No such complaint has been received in this Ministry.

(f) The number of projects sanctioned under NAP scheme including projects continuing from the Tenth Five Year Plan during 2007-08 (upto 19.11.2007) State-wise is given in enclosed statement-II.

#### Statement I

*State-wise number of new projects sanctioned under National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme and Grants-in-Aid for Greening India Scheme\* during last three years (2004-05 to 2006-07)*

S.No.	State	NAP Scheme	Grants-in-Aid for Greening India Scheme*
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	23
2.	Chhattisgarh	6	1
3.	Gujarat	9	22
4.	Harayana	3	0
5.	Himachal Pradesh	11	3
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	7
7.	Karnataka	10	3
8.	Madhya Pradesh	21	16
9.	Maharashtra	12	9
10.	Orissa	12	34
11.	Punjab	6	0
12.	Rajasthan	20	22
13.	Tamil Nadu	7	19
14.	Uttar Pradesh	4	37
15.	Uttarakhand	18	27

\*During 2004-05 the Scheme was implemented as Grants-in-Aid to Voluntary Agencies. The Scheme was modified and implemented as Grants-in-Aid for Greening India Scheme in 2005-06.

1	2	3	4
16.	Goa	0	0
17.	Jharkhand	11	4
18.	Bihar	5	0
19.	Kerala	11	5
20.	West Bengal	4	13
	Sub-Total (Other States)	178	245
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	6	18
22.	Assam	12	11
23.	Manipur	3	21
24.	Nagaland	2	31
25.	Sikkim	0	1
26.	Tripura	4	0
27.	Mizoram	2	14
28.	Meghalaya	7	16
	Sub-Total (North East States)	36	112
	Grand Total	214	357

**Statement II**

*State-wise number of Forests Development Agency Projects sanctioned under National Afforestation Programme Scheme (NAP) during 2007-08*

S.No	State	No. of project approved
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9
2.	Chhattisgarh	19
3.	Gujarat	13
4.	Haryana	5
5.	Himachal Pradesh	3
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	12
7.	Karnataka	6
8.	Madhya Pradesh	7
9.	Maharashtra	12

1	2	3
10.	Orissa	9
11.	Punjab	6
12.	Rajasthan	2
13.	Tamil Nadu	5
14.	Uttar Pradesh	18
15.	Uttarakhand	10
16.	Goa	0
17.	Jharkhand	19
18.	Bihar	6
19.	Kerala	1
20.	West Bengal	14
	Sub-Total (Other States)	176
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	11
22.	Assam	3
23.	Manipur	11
24.	Nagaland	3
25.	Sikkim	7
26.	Tripura	1
27.	Mizoram	12
28.	Meghalaya	2
	Sub-Total (North East States)	50
	Grand Total	226

**Autonomy to Major Ports**

2745. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

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

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to give financial and function autonomy to major ports as reported in the *Business Standard* dated October 22, 2007;

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

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be cleared; and

(d) the limit of FII investment in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (c) A Bill was earlier introduced in the Lok Sabha on 31.08.2001 to amend the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 by bringing in enabling provisions to facilitate corporatisation of Major Ports. The Bill was referred to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism & Culture for examination. The report of this Committee was submitted to the Parliament in February, 2003. While the Government was formulating its response to the observations and recommendations given in the report, the 13th Lok Sabha was dissolved. Consequently, the Bill lapsed. The Government decided to conduct an evaluation of the performance of Ennore Port Limited (EPL), which is a company, by a Committee of Experts. The Committee has submitted its Report, which is under examination of the Ministry.

(d) Foreign Direct Investment upto 100% under automatic route is permitted in projects for construction and maintenance of ports and harbours.

#### **Tropical Dry Forest**

2746. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 75% of India's forest are tropical dry forest;

(b) if so, whether the fire, grazing, weed, infection and encroachment continue to create problems for sustainable forest development in the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) As per the information provided by Forest Survey of India, Dehradun, area of tropical dry forests is 35.6% of the total forest cover of the country;

(b) it is a fact that forest fires, grazing, weed, infestation by pests and diseases and encroachments do adversely affect the sustainable forest management.

(c) Under the Centrally Sponsored Integrated Forest Protection Scheme, financial assistance is being provided to States/UTs to take up effective measures for protection and management of existing forests. In addition, various States/UTs Governments also take up protection measures under the respective schemes of the State/UT plan.

#### **Setting up of Independent National Commission for Naturopathy and Yoga**

2747. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up a statutory regulatory council on the lines of the Medical Council of India to provide registration of Naturopathy and Yogic Practitioners;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to constitute National Commission for Naturopathy and Yogic sciences?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Government does not propose to set up a statutory regulatory council on the lines of the Medical Council of India to provide registration of Naturopathy and Yogic practitioners.

(c) There does not seem to be any justification to constitute a National Commission for Naturopathy and Yogic Sciences and, therefore, no steps towards this have been taken.

#### **Procedure for Appointment of Agents in SCI**

2748. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL. Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the procedure for appointment of Agents in the Shipping Corporation of India require any bank guarantee form such agents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of agents with SCI during 2006 and 2007 and the number of agents who have submitted their bank guarantees to the company; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The procedure followed by Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) for appointment of agents provides for

obtaining bank guarantee from agents. In June, 2000, separate guidelines have also been framed for obtaining bank guarantees. Based on the above, bank guarantees are obtained from agents taking into account the following factors:

- Bank guarantees are to be obtained from those agents, having annual freight collection exceeding U.S \$ 1million.
- The quantum of bank guarantee is to be decided by the SCI's Standing Committee on Agents, equivalent to 4-6 weeks freight collection.
- In case of tramp agents, bank guarantee may be taken on the basis of estimated volume of disbursement. (Tramp Agents are those who attend to the vessels husbanding/servicing requirements of vessels) (Bulk Carriers and Tankers) which call at various ports as per the Shipowners/Charters requirement. They do not attend to any liner vessels hence they are not involved in marketing and solicitation of cargo. They look after connecting and coordinating with the supply of stores, spares, bunkers, fresh water, personnel and meet the medical requirements of the officers and crew).

(c) The number of agents registered during 2006 & 2007 (so far) are 5 and 4 respectively. Out of this, a bank guarantee of US\$ 50,000 has been obtained from one agent, M/s Ocean Masters L.L.C., Agents at Dubai and U.A.E ports. The other agents did not fall within the purview of the guidelines mentioned at (a) & (b) above. The total number of agents registered with SCI is 128 and out of this bank guarantees have been obtained from 18 agents as per the guidelines mentioned at (a) & (b) above. Bank guarantees have not been taken from the agents who are collecting freight cheques in the name

of SCI and depositing the same in the dedicated SCI bank accounts.

(d) Government has directed SCI to review and revise the agency agreement executed with its agents and to open separate bank accounts for collection and disbursement. the progress in this regard is being monitored.

*[Translation]*

#### **Curtailment of Staff Strength in CIL Subsidiaries.**

2749. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether staff strength in the Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries is being curtailed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of curtailment in staff strength during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) No, Sir, However, the total strength of Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries coal companies is being reduced on account of superannuation retirements, medical unfitness, death, dismissal/termination of services etc. In those Coal subsidiary companies, where manpower is surplus mainly in certain unskilled categories, reduction is also taking place, due to Voluntary Retirement Scheme. However, recruitment of the staff from outside and selection from within is being continued for filling of statutory and essential posts, wherever required. The above reduction in manpower is not effecting the Coal production Company-wise details of the number of posts vacated due to various reasons as stated above during the last three years and the resultant reduction in manpower position is indicated in the statement enclosed.

#### **Statement**

##### *Company-wise details of posts vacated and resultant reduction in manpower.*

Factor of Decrease (2004-05)	ECL	BCCL	CCL	WCL	SECL	MCL	NCL	NEC	CMPDIL	DCC	CIL(HQ)	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Retirement	2954	2943	1558	852	1177	300	206	48	53	4	37	10132
Resignation	31	73	11	119	180	49	4	15	3	0	0	485

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Medical Unfitness	7	17	6	32	31	0	2	0	0	1	0	96
Death	743	584	514	388	508	102	89	21	13	2	4	2908
Special Female VR Scheme	0	10	0	236	14	5	0	0	0	0	0	265
VRS (DPE)	1330	1230	891	565	95	61	0	0	12	0	8	4192
Dismissal/Termination	174	452	156	155	477	58	5	6	2	0	2	1487
<b>Total Decrease</b>	<b>5239</b>	<b>5289</b>	<b>3136</b>	<b>2327</b>	<b>2480</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>19563</b>

However, net reduction has been only = 16,253

#### Factor of Decrease (2005-06)

Retirement	2960	2953	1560	984	1129	416	267	42	42	4	43	10400
Resignation	41	93	3	85	196	38	5	11	1	0	0	473
Medical Unfitness	0	3	8	50	12	0	2	0	0	0	0	75
Death	770	588	582	386	474	114	77	26	12	5	6	3020
Special Female VR Scheme	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
VRS (DPE)	720	1118	792	507	14	54	0	0	7	0	8	3220
Dismissal/Termination	179	661	101	124	363	57	11	4	1	0	0	1501
<b>Total Decrease</b>	<b>4670</b>	<b>5416</b>	<b>3026</b>	<b>2157</b>	<b>2188</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>18710</b>

However, net reduction has been only= 16,163

#### Factor of Decrease (2006-07)

Retirement	3132	3386	1911	1092	1339	354	220	72	62	2	47	11597
Resignation	22	108	8	97	184	45	4	19	7	0	0	494
Medical Unfitness	3	0	6	33	32	0	4	0	0	0	0	78
Death	756	600	530	379	464	98	67	14	25	1	5	2939
Special Female VR Scheme	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VRS (DPE)	658	51	626	546	3	132	1	79	7	0	2	2105
Dismissal/Termination	130	283	74	109	216	183	5	8	0	0	0	1008
<b>Total Decrease</b>	<b>4701</b>	<b>4408</b>	<b>3155</b>	<b>2256</b>	<b>2238</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>18221</b>

However, net reduction has been only= 12,944

*[Translation]***Uniform Registration for Transport Vehicles**

2750. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to computerise all RTOs in the country and introduce Zonal permit/uniform registration series for Transport Vehicles (TVs) across the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the PAN Card number has been made mandatory for registration of vehicles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the vehicles exempted from it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) With a view to inducting information technology in Road Transport Sector through issuance of Driving Licence and Registration Certificate in Smart Card mode, the Government has already developed a software and made it available to all States/ U.Ts free of cost. Computerisation of the offices of R.T.Os in the country is an essential pre-requisite for this purpose. There is, however, no proposal to introduce zonal permit/ uniform registration series for transport vehicles across the country.

(c) No, Sir.

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

*[Translation]***Increase Forest Cover**

2751. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:  
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:  
SHRI KIREN RIJJU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to formulate any scheme to increase forest cover in the northern States and to bring uniformity in forest policies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received any proposal from various State Government to increase their forest cover;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the State-wise details of the assistance provided to the States for increasing the forest cover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India has mooted a scheme namely, Gram Van Yojana for afforestation on non-forest lands to increase forest and tree cover including in the northern States, by involving the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). The National Forest Policy 1988 envisages a national goal to have a minimum one-third of the total land area of the country under forest or tree cover. The policy also envisages that in the hills and in mountainous regions, the aim should be to maintain two-third of the area under such cover.

(c) to (e) The Ministry is already implementing National Afforestation Programme Scheme aimed at regeneration of degraded forests and adjoining areas. The scheme is being implemented through Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) at forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level. During 2007-08 (upto 19.11.2007), proposals for financial assistance to 486 FDA projects have been received in this Ministry from various States, against which 226 proposals have been approved and Rs. 193.23 crores have been released. A statement showing State-wise details is enclosed.

**Statement**

*State-wise details of the assistance provided upto 19.11.07 during 2007-08 under National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme*

S.No.	State	Amount Released (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5.10
2.	Chhattisgarh	25.10
3.	Gujarat	19.89
4.	Haryana	6.50



1	2	3
5.	Himachal Pradesh	2.17
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	8.66
7.	Karnataka	4.05
8.	Madhya Pradesh	4.47
9.	Maharashtra	15.96
10.	Orissa	4.52
11.	Punjab	4.28
12.	Rajasthan	0.62
13.	Tamil Nadu	2.73
14.	Uttar Pradesh	12.03
15.	Uttarakhand	6.44
16.	Goa	0.00
17.	Jharkhand	17.70
18.	Bihar	6.08
19.	Kerala	0.64
20.	West Bengal	5.67
	Sub-Total (Other States)	152.59
21.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.85
22.	Assam	1.86
23.	Manipur	12.46
24.	Nagaland	2.66
25.	Sikkim	8.88
26.	Tripura	0.40
27.	Mizoram	9.83
28.	Meghalaya	1.70
	Sub-Total (North East State)	40.64
	Grand Total	193.23

*[English]***Mandatory Permission From NHAI**

2752. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NOC to get a permission from the National Highways Authority of India is necessary for laying water supply pipelines and also use of NHAI land for approval of Petrol Pump across the National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of such proposals pending for clearance during the last three years State-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For the stretches entrusted to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the user agency is required to get permission from NHAI wherever the water supply pipeline is required to be laid within right of way (ROW) of National Highway. Permission for access to Petrol Pumps is accorded by Ministry as per relevant guidelines.

(c) and (d) The details of proposals pending for clearance during the last three years, State-wise and the action taken thereon, are being compiled.

*[Translation]***Promotion of Vasectomy/Tubectomy**

2753. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the schemes being implemented by the Government to promote Vasectomy/tubectomy; and

(b) the numbers of Vasectomy/Tubectomy operated during the last three years and the details of the amount given as an incentive in various States, especially in Rajasthan.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The names of the schemes being

implemented by the Govt. to promote Vasectomy/  
Tubectomy are:

- (1) Revised Compensation package to acceptors of Sterilization and IUD insertions at public health facilities and private accredited health facilities.
- (2) Special Contingency policy Family Planning

Insurance Scheme (Parjwar Niyojan Bima Yojana).

(b) The information on number of Vasectomy/  
Tubectomy operated during the last three years is  
enclosed as statement I.

The details of the compensation amount given during  
the last three years enclosed as statement II.

**Statement I**

**State-wise Vasectomy and Tubectomy During last 3 years**

S.No.	State/UT/Agency	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07		
		Vasectomy	Tubectomy	% of Tubectomy to total sterilizations	Vasectomy	Tubectomy	% of Tubectomy to total sterilizations	Vasectomy	Tubectomy	% of Tubectomy to total sterilizations
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>I. Major States (Population &gt;20m)</b>										
1.	Andhra Pradesh	28,808	707,809	96.1	26,683	717,588	96.4	26,266	741,327	96.6
2.	Assam	366	39,189	99.1	84	24,117	99.7	110	17,172	99.4
3.	Bihar	916	87,210	99.0	555	95,786	99.4	1,134	118,8439	99.1
4.	Chhattisgarh	3,788	120,690	97.0	6,699	117,800	94.6	6,322	126,772	95.2
5.	Gujarat	1,587	276,546	99.4	1,446	278,888	99.5	1,032	266,517	99.6
6.	Haryana	1,990	87,903	97.8	12,779	80,171	86.3	10,968	74,783	87.2
7.	Jharkhand	577	41,044	98.6	2,669	81,944	96.8	6,461	94,836	93.6
8.	Karnataka	681	376,279	99.8	995	375,313	99.7	766	374,537	99.8
9.	Kerala	1,583	149,488	99.0	1,456	131,544	98.9	976	126,725	99.2
10.	Madhya Pradesh	15,091	353,948	95.9	30,625	336,305	91.7	10,972	355,870	97.0
11.	Maharashtra	41,341	648,406	94.0	29,795	629,762	95.5	21,425	574,303	96.4
12.	Orissa	1,498	99,819	98.5	951	82,098	98.9	790	92,9419	99.2
13.	Punjab	4,012	98,456	96.1	15,782	91,829	85.4	5,615	88,143	94.0
14.	Rajasthan	8,671	325,210	97.4	18,048	299,259	94.3	6,366	281,723	97.8
15.	Tamil Nadu	676	416,351	99.8	629	379,399	99.8	734	358,202	99.8
16.	Uttar Pradesh	10,000	493,599	98.0	4,568	445,863	99.0	2,669	426,772	99.4
17.	West Bengal	--	287,432	99.5	827	194,166	99.6	1,828	134,929	98.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>II. Smaller States</b>										
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	2,100	100.0	3	1,414	99.8	12	1,934	99.4
2.	Delhi	2,060	37,581	94.8	1,816	32,552	95.3	1,320	27,562	95.4
3.	Goa	25	5,171	99.5	20	5,331	99.6	39	5,286	99.3
4.	Himachal Pradesh	2,956	30,575	91.2	2,880	25,503	89.9	3,144	23,301	88.1
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	482	21,115	97.8	322	21,144	98.5	455	18,826	97.6
6.	Manipur	23	495	95.6	133	1,610	92.4	4	402	99.0
7.	Meghalaya	16	2,189	99.3	5	2,259	99.8	45	2,488	98.2
8.	Mizoram	0	2,140	100.0	7	2,313	99.7	—	2,342	100.0
9.	Nagaland	19	735	97.5	12	1,183	99.0	11	961	98.9
10.	Sikkim	167	1,006	85.8	372	1,146	75.5	—	1,471	100.0
11.	Tripura	24	2,250	98.9	18	3,960	99.5	13	3,290	99.6
12.	Uttaranchal	1,718	33,081	95.1	217	34,763	99.4	1,417	31,350	95.7
<b>III. Union Territories</b>										
1.	A&N Islands	3	1,415	99.8	11	1,100	99.0	9	979	99.1
2.	Chandigarh	53	2,340	97.8	30	2,172	98.8	41	2,344	98.3
3.	D&N Haveli	11	932	98.8	3	927	99.7	1	977	99.9
4.	Daman & Diu	3	576	99.5	5	464	98.9	6	494	98.6
5.	Lakshadweep	0	22	100.0	3	20	87.0	—	40	100.0
6.	Pondicherry	17	11,915	99.9	19	10,194	99.8	24	10,459	99.8
<b>IV. Other Agencies</b>										
1.	M/o Defence	5,082	12,587	71.2	4,587	11,617	71.7	2,705	10,754	79.9
2.	M/o Railways	586	6,295	91.5	508	5,186	91.1	445	4,476	91.0
<b>All India</b>		<b>136,445</b>	<b>4,783,699</b>	<b>97.2</b>	<b>165,342</b>	<b>4,526,690</b>	<b>96.5</b>	<b>114,125</b>	<b>4,402,139</b>	<b>97.5</b>

\*Figures are provided

Nil

**Statement II***Expenditure Under Family Planning*

Sl.No	Name of State/UT	2005-06 (Rs.)	2006-07 (Rs.)	2007-08 (April-Sept'2007) (Rs.)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	778636	672900	63000
2.	A&N Island	217334	501744	141000
3.	Andhra Pradesh	102837724	295863000	116145000
4.	Assam	—	4901000	159000
5.	Bihar	0	57415217	6359000
6.	Chandigarh	152100	0	840000
7.	Chhattisgarh	32700860	50338000	12809000
8.	D&N Haveli	242997	334603	102000
9.	Daman & Diu	35485	294439	30000
10.	Delhi	8949701	7211141	3909000
11.	Goa	482213	1101997	193000
12.	Gujarat	2034597	50390023	16699000
13.	Haryana	2066366	24647251	15637000
14.	Himachal	—	5474000	2607000
15.	J&K	1491532	6320969	992000
16.	Jharkhand	883690	40130000	9224000
17.	Karnataka	—	112099000	28555000
18.	Kerala	202164	14162533	3626000
19.	Lakshadweep	—	0	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	—	216507819	56618000
21.	Maharashtra	90842770	95321231	15906000
22.	Manipur	0	0	0
23.	Meghalaya	0	8229000	0
24.	Mizoram	972660	916857	37000
25.	Nagaland	—	0	0
26.	Orissa	20683118	32492700	14336000

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Pondicherry	0	0	0
28.	Punjab	33174002	39023000	20217000
29.	Rajasthan	68674066	105755000	37537000
30.	Sikkim	757541	2169000	294000
31.	Tamil Nadu		116295000	69881385
32.	Tripura	66120	243716	657000
33.	Uttar Pradesh	17391260	335708000	102325000
34.	Uttaranchal		14365282	3759000
35.	West Bengal	485959	17943000	26969000
Grand Total		386122895	1656827422	566626385

### Eye Donation

2754. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA:  
DR. K. DHANARAJU:

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

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to ascertain the number of blind persons who need eye transplantation;

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

(c) the details of the eyes donated and eye transplant operations taken during the last three years in the country, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any special schemes to facilitate donation of eyes by the people; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per the survey 2001-04 conducted under the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB), there are around 12 million blind persons in the country, out of which around 1.5 million are corneal blind. A statement-I showing State-wise blind population is enclosed.

(c) A statement II showing number of donated eyes (state-wise) for corneal transplantation operations during the last three years is enclosed.

(d) and (e) Information Education Communication (IEC) is an on-going activity under the National Programme for Control of Blindness. A wariness among masses about Eye donation is created through print and electronic media at central as well as state and district levels as a part of IEC activity.

The most important event to promote eye donation under NPCB is observance of "National Eye Donation Fortnight" in the country from 25th August to 8th September every year with a view to accelerate educational and motivational efforts amongst the public to donate eyes and make it a family tradition. During the fortnight, the following major activities are undertaken:

- i) Awareness campaign on Eye donation through NGOs, Senior Citizen Groups, Youth Associations and Resident Welfare Associations etc.
- ii) Involve teachers and school children in spreading the message on eye donation.
- iii) Involve corporate sector to participate and sponsor activities like sponsoring grief counselor/ Medical Social Worker in major hospitals to motivate the family members of the deceased to donate eyes.

- iv) Involve cable operators and cinema halls to flash messages on eye donation.
- v) Involve influential persons such as politicians, sports persons, celebrities etc. to promote eye donation.
- vi) Enhance collection of donated eyes through "Hospitals Retrieval Programme" in Hospitals.

**Statement I***Estimated Blind Persons in India 2001-04*

S.No.	State	Estimated Blind Persons
1	2	3
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Island	3919
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1075331
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	24877
4.	Assam	812471
5.	Bihar	646455
6.	Chandigarh	9099
7.	Chhattisgarh	334815
8.	D&N Haveli	2359
9.	Daman & Diu	1691
10.	Delhi	155748
11.	Goa	20429
12.	Gujarat	541388
13.	Haryana	398488
14.	Himachal Pradesh	42541
15.	Jammu & Kashmir	162126
16.	Jharkhand	379423
17.	Karnataka	938664
18.	Kerala	178296
19.	Lakshadweep	667
20.	Madhya Pradesh	700467

1	2	3
21.	Maharashtra	919146
22.	Manipur	32963
23.	Meghalaya	17065
24.	Mizoram	6950
25.	Nagaland	20881
26.	Orissa	513897
27.	Pondicherry	7596
28.	Punjab	245322
29.	Rajasthan	875333
30.	Sikkim	3513
31.	Tamil Nadu	484465
32.	Tripura	24572
33.	Uttar Pradesh	1560897
34.	Uttaranchal	47486
35.	West Bengal	954632
Total		12143952

**Statement II***No. of Donated Eyes Collected*

State	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
1	2	3	4
<b>Major States</b>			
Andhra Pradesh	2,929	3334	3437
Bihar	31	38	38
Chhattisgarh	44	303	108
Goa			
Gujarat	5,803	6685	6151
Haryana	353	401	206
Himachal Pradesh			
Jammu & Kashmir	100		

1	2	3	4
Jharkhand	24	22	28
Karnataka	1,315	1481	2143
Kerala	666	727	786
Madhya Pradesh	246	208	312
Maharashtra	2,853	3946	3989
Orissa	8	42	18
Punjab	204	239	611
Rajasthan	324	955	757
Tamilnadu	5,661	5662	6938
Uttar Pradesh	329	320	336
Uttaranchal	—	—	—
West Bengal	790	1128	1574
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>21,680</b>	<b>25491</b>	<b>27432</b>
<b>North Eastern States</b>			
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
Assam	84	155	192
Manipur			
Meghalaya			125
Mizoram			
Nagaland			
Sikkim			
Tripura			2
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>319</b>
<b>UTs</b>			
A&N Nicobar			2
Chandigarh	322	399	432
D&N Haveli			
Daman & Diu			
Delhi	1,453	1792	1552
Lakshadweep			

1	2	3	4
Pondicherry	14	170	297
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>1,789</b>	<b>2,361</b>	<b>2,283</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>23,553</b>	<b>28,007</b>	<b>30,034</b>

#### Arrest of Indians In France

2755. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Indians have been arrested in France recently;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) A group of 30 people reported to be from India, driven in a truck by an Indian national staying in Italy, was intercepted by the French police on 26th October, 2007 near Mont Blanc tunnel on the French-Italian border, trying to enter France without visas. The Indian driver has been detained by the French police for further investigation, and the other persons were sent back to Italy from where they had entered French territory. The Indian Mission in France sought to interview the detainees but in the meantime, they had been sent back to Italy.

[English]

#### Environmental Degradation

2756. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the level of environmental degradation is on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) whether the large scale dependency on fossil fuel is a major cause of environmental degradation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Environmental degradation is caused by rapid growth of population, industrial pollution, unplanned urbanization and unsustainable production and consumption patterns. Area under forest and tree cover, quality of water resources, air quality, etc; are some of the parameters for perceiving the level of environmental degradation. The State of Forest Report 2003 reveals that the forest cover in the country is 678,333 km<sup>2</sup> and constitutes 20.64 per cent of its geographic area. A comparison with the forest cover assessment of 2001 reveals an overall increase of 2,795 km<sup>2</sup> or 0.41 per cent in forest cover of the country. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) is monitoring air quality at 339 locations under the National Air Quality Monitoring Programme (NAMP). The monitored data reveals that the level of sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) are within the prescribed air quality standards in residential areas of most of the cities. However, the levels of respirable suspended particulate matter (RSPM) exceed the prescribed norms. The Biochemical Oxygen Demand is considered as the pollution indicator for any river in the country. Out of total riverine length of approximately 45,000 kms in our country, CPCB study indicates that 14% of riverine length is severely polluted with biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) more than 6 mg/liter, 19% is moderately polluted with BOD 3-6 mg/liter. In order to improve the water quality of the rivers, the Ministry is implementing the National River Conservation Plan by providing assistance to the State Governments.

(e) The existing legal framework and policies, such as Air (Prevention & Control) Act 1980 & 1988, Water (Prevention & Control) Act 1974, Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, and National Environmental Policy 2006 and various programmes of the Government address the concerns regarding environmental degradation.

#### **AIDS Control Programme**

2757. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any complaints regarding misuse of the financial assistance provided the Union Government to Karnataka for the AIDS Control Programme in the State during the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

#### **Review of the Functioning Atomic Power Plants**

2758. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the performance of the Nuclear Power Plants in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has any proposal to set up Nuclear Power Plants during the Eleventh Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The performance of nuclear power plants in the country is reviewed periodically by the Government. The performance, both in terms of operation and safety, has been good and comparable to performance of nuclear power plants world over.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) XI plan proposals envisage commencement of work on eight indigenous Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors of 700 MWe each and ten Light Water Reactors of 1000 MWe each and above based on foreign co-operation

#### **Introduction of E-Emigration Facility**

2759. SHRI K.C. PALLANI SHAMY: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the people are facing a lot of difficulties due to lack of modern facilities in the emigration offices in the country;



(b) if so, whether the Government has any proposal to introduce e-emigration to make the clearance process faster and easier;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the proposal is likely to come into effect; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) To bring in greater transparency, efficiency and accountability in the emigration process, the Ministry has undertaken comprehensive computerization of all the 8 offices of Protector of Emigrants (POE). The on-line emigration processing has already started in 6 POE offices at Delhi, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Thriuvananthapuram, Mumbai and Kolkata. The computerization in the remaining 2 offices at Kochi and Chennai is underway.

(d) Does not arise.

#### Shukla Commission Report on NE Region

2760. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reviewed the implementation of the Shukla Commission report on economic development of North East Region;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the action taken for implementation of the recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRIMATI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (d) Following up on the Shukla Commission's recommendations dated 7 March 1997, Government created a Central Resources Pool called the 'Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR)'. The unspent balances out of the mandatory minimum provision of 10% of the Gross Budgetary Support made by various Central Ministries/ Departments for the North Eastern Region (NER) are credited to NLCPR. The Ministry of Finance provide a Budgetary provision to the Ministry of Development of North Eastern

Region (MDONER) through this Pool to create infrastructure, including that for Basic Minimum Services, in the region. As on 30 September 2007, 859 projects in various sectors have been sanctioned. Their sector-wise allocation, in terms of cost, is as follows:

Sector	No. of Projects	Cost (Rs. In Crore)
Agriculture & Allied	05	23.60
Power	170	1324.81
Roads & Bridges	266	1838.26
Irrigation & Flood Control	151	397.20
Education	089	814.27
Water Supply	069	704.61
Health	037	465.54
Miscellaneous	072	522.82
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>859</b>	<b>6091.11</b>

It was subsequently decided in April, 2005 that a Vision 2020 document be prepared which would, inter-alia, take into account the sector-wise findings of the decade old Shukla Commission and update them as also add new dimensions in the light of contemporary developments. The next plenary session of the North East Council, due to be held on 17-18 December 2007, will be considering the draft Vision 2020 document.

#### Recommendations of NKC on Survey Outcomes

2761. DR. M. JAGANNATH:  
DR. K.S. MANOJ:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission (NKC) has submitted its findings and recommendations of the first every survey conducted by it;

(b) if so, the salient features of the findings of the survey;

(c) whether the Government has accepted the findings of the survey; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (d) The National Knowledge Commission (NKC) till November, 2007 has submitted recommendations relating to:

- Libraries
- Translation
- Language
- Knowledge Network
- Right to Education
- Health Information Network
- Portals (Water, Energy)
- Vocational Education
- Higher Education
- Legal Education
- Medical Education
- Management Education
- Open and Distance Education
- Open Educational Courseware
- National Science and Social Science Foundation
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Innovation
- E-governance

The recommendations are under examination.

#### Promoting Various Sport Disciplines

2762. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:  
SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH:  
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:  
SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to enquire into allegation of discriminatory treatments given to the winning Cricket team and the Hockey team when they returned

to India after winning the International Competition in their respective games;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to promote and popularize other sports in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) The reception and other incentives to winning cricket and hockey teams have been given by the National Sports Federations (NSFs) concerned. Government have had no role in this regard. However, Government gives Cash Awards to the medal winners of international events and their coaches as incentives under its scheme of 'Special Awards to Winners in International Events and their Coaches' This Award is not applicable to cricketers.

(c) The primary responsibility for the development and popularization of various sports disciplines vests in the NSFs concerned. Government supplements their efforts through financial assistance for holding national/international events in India, participation of Indian sports-persons/teams in international sports events abroad, training and arrangements for coaches, both Indian and foreign, procurement of equipment and consumables etc. as per agreed Long Term Development Plans. In addition, Government is also providing assistance to meritorious sportspersons for purchase of equipment, provision of scientific support and training and participation within the country and abroad, under the 'Scheme relating to Talent Search & Training' and through 'National Sports Development Fund'.

No financial assistance is provided by the Government to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) or any individual cricket player under these schemes.

#### Study of ICRIER

2763. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Council for Research and International Economic Relations (ICRIER) has, in a study, found that sizable number of blue collar workers in

companies are more prone to acute chronic diseases like AIDS and TB as reported in the Times of India, dated September, 13, 2007;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any independent study to find out the reasons for this malady; and

(d) If so, the steps taken by the Government to control these diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to assess the impact of preventive health care on the Indian Industry, a survey of some of the best performing companies was undertaken during 2006 by the Indian Council for Research and International Economic Relations (ICRIER). The study observed that White collar workers were found to be more prone to stress and lifestyle related health conditions while the blue collar workers with low income were more afflicted with infectious diseases such as malaria, diarrhoea, influenza, Tuberculosis and HIV infection. Further, six percent of Blue-collared workers were reported to have chronic infectious diseases such as Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS in comparison to 1% of senior level officers (White Collared).

(c) and (d) Separate study covering the employees of industries has not been done. The Government of India is supporting the state government for the control of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis, malaria. Healthy lifestyles are promoted through health educational programmes.

#### Construction/Replacement of Bridge on NH

2764. SHRI P.C. GADDIGUDAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received proposals from various State Government for construction/ elevation and replacement of Bridges on National Highways;

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

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to construct/replace the Bridge at Bennehalla and at Kerur village on NH-218 in Karnataka and Bailey Bridge at km. 393/0 of NH-67 extension in Tamil Nadu;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of the proposals received from various State Governments for construction and replacement of bridges on National Highways. Location-wise and State-wise are enclosed as statement.

(c) to (e) There is no proposal for reconstruction of the bridge at Bennehalla in the State of Karnataka. The preparation of detailed project report (DPR) for the construction of new bridge at Km 115/600 on NH-218 near Kerur village in the State of Karnataka is in progress and the work for construction of a new bridge at Km. 393/000 of NH-67 extension in the State of Tamil Nadu has already commenced on 22.11.2007.

#### Statement

Sl.No	State	Details of proposals for new construction		Details of proposals for replacement.	
		National Highway Number	Location	National Highway Number	Location
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16	Km 135/200	16 18 202	Km 190/00 & 191/000 Km 95/600 & km 122/800 Km 197/600 & Km 201/400
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		Nil		Nil
3.	Assam		Nil		Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Bihar		Nil	28B 30A 80 82 104 105 106	Km 83/000 & Km 44/00 Km 4/818, 7/066, 8/149, 21/957, 22/ 315 & 25/013 Km 123/000 & 155/000 Km 110/000, 114/000 143/000 & 145/000 Km 21/100 23/100 & Km 95/000 Km 5/000, 7/000, 8/000 & 43/000 Km 118/000
5.	Delhi		Nil		Nil
6.	Chhattisgarh	217	Km 12/200	43 200	Km 270/200 Km 178/100
7.	Gujarat	8A Ext.	Km 68/00 & Km 78/020		Nil
8.	Goa		Nil		Nil
9.	Haryana		Nil		Nil
10.	Himachal Pradesh		Nil		Nil
11.	Jammu & Kashmir		Nil		Nil
12.	Jharkhand	33	Km 130/000		Nil
13.	Karnataka		Nil	63	Km 286/400
14.	Kerala	17	Km 172/100		Nil
15.	Madhya Pradesh		Nil		Nil
16.	Maharashtra		Nil	6 69	Km 320/600 Km 7/950 & Km 18/00
17.	Manipur		Nil		Nil
18.	Meghalaya		Nil	62	Km 141/600, 142/400, 166/500, & 179/200
19.	Mizoram		Nil		Nil
20.	Nagaland		Nil		Nil
21.	Orissa		Nil		Nil
22.	Pondicherry	45A	Km 180/000		Nil
23.	Punjab		Nil		Nil

1	2	3	4	5	6
24.	Rajasthan	11A 15 116	Km 49/000 & Km 60/000 Km 120/000 Km 15/000, 16/000, 23/000, 31/000, 32/000, 38/000 & 39/000		Nil
25.	Sikkim		Nil		Nil
26.	Tamil Nadu		Nil	4 208 209 210	Km 112/200 Km 123/400 & 181/400 Km 33/200 Km 116/800
27.	Tripura		Nil		Nil
28.	Uttarakhand		Nil		Nil
29.	Uttar Pradesh		Nil	76 119	Km 330/200 Km 93/000
30.	West Bengal		Nil	60	Km 213/100

*[Translation]***Banning of Pre-Natal Diagnostic Test**

2765. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has in compliance of the instant order of the Supreme Court of India, issued directives to all the States to ban pre-natal diagnostic test and to seize all those unregistered and unlicensed ultrasound machines being used in the clinics; and

(b) if so, the details of the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Having regard, *inter alia*, to the directions of the hon'ble Supreme Court of India in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 301 of 2000-CEHAT & Ors. Vs. UOI & Ors. The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuses) Act, 1994 and the Rules framed thereunder were amended as 'Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994' (PC & PNDT Act, 1994) are Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and prevention of Misuse) Amendment Rules, 2003.

In terms of the Amended Act and the Rules, sex-selection is prohibited. Similarly, sale or hiring, etc., ultrasound machine or any other equipment capable of detecting sex of the foetus to any Genetic Counselling Centre, Clinic or Genetic Laboratory or any other person not registered under the Act is prohibited, vide Section 3, 3A, 3B, 4, 5, and 6 of the Act and 3A of the Rules.

Under Section 30 of the Act, Appropriate Authorities are empowered with powers of a Civil Court for search, seizure and sealing the machines, equipments and records of the violators of law including sealing of premises of the Genetic Counseling Centre, Genetic Clinic, Genetic Laboratory or any other place found flouting the norms and commissioning of witnesses. It has been made mandatory to maintain proper records in respect of the use of ultrasound machines and other equipments capable of detection of sex of foetus and also in respect of tests and procedures that may lead to pre-conception selection of sex.

Stringent punishments are prescribed in the Act as under so as to serve as a deterrent for minimising violations of the Act, vide Section 22 to 28 of the Act.

- Imprisonment up to 3 years and fine up to Rs. 10,000.

- For any subsequent offences, he/she may be imprisoned up to 5 years and fined up to Rs. 50,000/ 100,000.
- The name of the registered medical practitioner is reported by the Appropriate Authority to the State Medical Council concerned for taking necessary action including suspension of the registration if the charges are framed by the court and till the case is disposed off.

As on 23.11.2007, there were 403 ongoing cases in the Courts/Police for various violations of the law. 132 ultrasound machines were sealed and seized for violation of the law. Though most of the cases relate to non-registration of the centre/clinic, 65 cases relate to determination and disclosure of the sex of the foetus. 37 cases have been filed against people who have given advertisement about facilities of pre-conception/pre-natal sex selection. State government are requested to take effective measure for speedy disposal of ongoing cases.

*[English]*

#### **Sale of Forest Land**

2766. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of sale and plantations in forest land by private persons has come to notice of the Government;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Female Workers in Coal Sector**

2767. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of female workers in coal sector as on 31-3-07, sector-wise, grade-wise;

(b) whether the number of female workers has declined in the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited;

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(d) the corrective steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether some companies have stopped employing female candidates on compassionate ground;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure to provide employment to such female candidates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) A total of 29411 female employees are employed in Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries as on 31.3.2007. Category-wise company wise details of the strength of female employees are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) The details of female workers employed for last three years is given as under.

As on	Total Manpower	No. of female employees	%of females in total manpower
1.4.2007	439343	29411	6.69
1.4.2006	452287	29420	6.50
1.4.2005	468450	29797	6.36

It could be seen that there is no reduction in the percentage of female employees over the total manpower during the above years.

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

(e) No, Sir. Employment on compassionate grounds is being given as per the provisions of the National Coal Wage Agreement (NCWA) in operation.

(f) and (g) Does not arise in view of reply to (e) above.

**Statement***Category wise/company Strength of Female Employees as on 1.4.2007 (Provisional)*

Category	Eastern Coalfields Limited	Bharat Coking Coal Limited	Central Coalfield Limited	Western Coalfields Limited	South Eastern Coalfields Limited	Mahanadi Coalfields Limited	Northern Coalfields Limited	North Eastern Coalfields Limited	Central Mine Planning Design Institute	Dhankuni Coal Complex	Coal India Limited (HQ)	Total CIL
Executive	63	66	101	91	73	28	25	4	25	3	26	505
Monthly/Related	1290	1299	859	1073	917	300	191	92	65	13	128	6227
Daily/Rated	3719	4088	2695	1830	2352	620	318	167	69	18	8	15884
Piece/Rated	3057	1263	1535	87	127	39	0	0	0	0	0	6108
Casual	0	0	97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	97
Badli	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Company Trainees (apprentices)	267	184	53	22	60	1	0	0	0	0	0	587
<b>Total</b>	<b>8397</b>	<b>6902</b>	<b>5340</b>	<b>3103</b>	<b>3529</b>	<b>988</b>	<b>534</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>29411</b>

*[Translation]***Consumer Price Index**

2768. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN"  
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding assessment of Consumer Price Index rate of 59 urban centres in the country during January to July, 2007 as stated by the central Statistical Organisation;

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

(c) its position in comparison to the National Wholesale Price Index?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) and (b) The Central Statistical Organisation releases monthly Consumer Price Index numbers for Urban Non-Manual Employees [CPI (UNME)] on base 1984-85=100 in respect of 59 centres every month. CPI (UNME) numbers from January to July 2007 and percentage change in the indices as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year are given in the enclosed statements I and II respectively.

(c) The National Wholesale Price Index numbers on base 1993-94=100 from January to July 2007 along with the percentage change in the indices as compared to corresponding month of the previous year are given in the statement III enclosed.

**Statement I***Consumer Price Index Number for Urban Non-Manual Employees Base 1984-85=100*

Sl.No	Centre	2007						
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Hyderabad	542	545	541	545	551	556	557
2.	Kurnool	503	493	489	492	497	501	507

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.	Vijayawada	546	552	550	550	550	554	557
4.	Visakhapatnam	508	511	509	510	512	515	523
5.	Warangal	528	532	529	532	539	547	559
6.	Guwahati	488	492	493	496	499	503	507
7.	Patna	463	465	466	464	461	463	475
8.	Muzzaffarpur	503	505	511	511	514	516	520
9.	Ranchi	498	496	498	500	503	509	517
10.	Ahmedabad	432	435	435	436	437	440	448
11.	Bhavnagar	475	476	475	479	482	489	503
12.	Rajkot	440	456	456	454	449	448	459
13.	Surat	428	427	423	432	435	440	447
14.	Rohtak	530	531	534	535	536	532	539
15.	Shimla	499	502	506	508	510	508	507
16.	Srinagar	485	488	496	497	497	502	510
17.	Jammu	489	492	492	500	498	499	507
18.	Bangalore	525	528	527	527	529	532	541
19.	Gulbarga	490	491	489	492	493	501	509
20.	Hubli	532	531	527	530	534	535	545
21.	Mangalore	520	520	517	522	524	525	531
22.	Trivandrum	518	515	512	516	517	527	536
23.	Calicut	454	452	452	453	453	455	464
24.	Bhopal	459	460	461	462	465	468	480
25.	Gwalior	539	536	546	553	549	553	557
26.	Indore	491	492	490	491	493	492	504
27.	Jabalpur	451	455	452	452	453	457	464
28.	Mumbai	489	489	490	491	493	496	502
29.	Aurangabad	563	563	569	577	579	578	578
30.	Nagpur	476	474	473	475	475	477	485
31.	Pune	521	520	517	531	533	538	541



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
32.	Solapur	459	464	464	467	467	470	477
33.	Imphal	479	477	474	477	477	484	497
34.	Shillong	514	518	528	539	544	552	557
35.	Kohima	587	588	591	594	598	602	609
36.	Cuttack	489	489	492	495	497	501	511
37.	Sambalpur	417	417	415	419	421	424	431
38.	Amritsar	408	411	412	412	413	414	417
39.	Jaipur	483	485	491	495	494	493	505
40.	Ajmer	516	517	525	527	528	528	532
41.	Jodhpur	471	472	476	478	476	474	487
42.	Gangtok	513	520	521	520	520	520	529
43.	Chennai	586	588	585	590	595	599	605
44.	Coimbatore	590	592	591	592	595	599	602
45.	Madurai	524	525	526	529	532	539	540
46.	Salem	527	525	530	531	535	544	537
47.	Tiruchirapalli	518	518	518	521	523	528	527
48.	Agartala	570	567	570	572	576	575	584
49.	Lucknow	496	469	471	473	476	481	491
50.	Agra	496	501	507	510	511	514	524
51.	Allahabad	552	553	554	557	559	560	572
52.	Kanpur	453	459	462	466	469	476	488
53.	Meerut	459	462	464	467	471	474	479
54.	Kolkata	444	444	449	455	461	464	479
55.	Asansol	480	481	484	485	491	498	508
56.	Kharagpur	495	500	508	512	518	522	537
57.	Siliguri	504	506	510	511	511	516	522
58.	Chandigarh	649	649	649	651	651	651	665
59.	Delhi	504	506	508	510	511	513	518
	All-India	496	497	498	501	503	506	514

**Statement-II***Percentage change in CPI (UNME) for January-July 2007 over corresponding month of 2006*

Sl.No	Centre	Percentage change in 2007 over 2006						
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Hyderabad	9.9	10.8	9.3	9.4	8.7	8.8	7.7
2.	Kurnool	8.6	8.6	7.2	7.2	5.5	5.3	7.4
3.	Vijayawada	4.2	6.0	5.8	5.8	4.2	4.5	4.5
4.	Visakhapatnam	6.9	8.0	7.8	7.4	7.1	6.2	7.2
5.	Warangal	8.6	9.9	9.3	9.7	8.7	9.2	10.0
6.	Guwahati	6.6	7.9	6.9	7.1	5.5	5.2	5.2
7.	Patna	9.7	9.9	9.4	8.9	7.2	5.9	8.4
8.	Muzzaffarpur	9.1	10.3	10.8	10.6	9.4	8.2	5.9
9.	Ranchi	9.7	8.5	9.0	8.5	7.5	6.5	6.2
10.	Ahmedabad	7.5	9.0	8.7	7.4	6.6	5.8	5.9
11.	Bhavnagar	8.9	8.9	9.4	9.1	8.3	6.1	9.6
12.	Rajkot	10.3	14.0	13.2	11.5	6.9	5.4	6.7
13.	Surat	9.7	8.9	7.1	8.3	7.7	7.3	6.9
14.	Rohtak	9.7	8.8	8.8	9.6	8.7	5.6	5.3
15.	Shimla	6.6	7.0	7.2	7.2	7.4	6.1	5.0
16.	Srinagar	6.6	7.5	8.8	8.5	8.3	9.1	9.7
17.	Jammu	7.0	7.4	7.0	7.8	7.6	5.5	7.4
18.	Bangalore	7.1	8.2	7.8	6.7	6.0	5.8	6.9
19.	Gulbarga	7.2	7.7	7.5	7.9	6.5	7.3	7.8
20.	Hubli	6.0	6.0	5.4	5.4	4.5	3.9	6.7
21.	Mangalore	7.7	7.9	7.3	7.9	7.2	6.7	6.0
22.	Trivandrum	5.1	5.1	4.7	4.7	4.4	5.0	5.1
23.	Calicut	4.8	4.6	4.9	4.9	2.0	1.8	4.3
24.	Bhopal	8.0	7.0	7.0	6.0	5.0	3.3	3.9
25.	Gwalior	9.6	8.5	10.3	11.7	9.4	8.6	7.7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
26.	Indore	7.4	6.0	5.4	5.6	4.9	2.9	6.1
27.	Jabalpur	11.9	13.2	11.1	10.2	8.4	6.3	7.7
28.	Mumbai	7.9	7.7	7.7	7.2	6.7	6.0	6.6
29.	Aurangabad	11.5	11.7	12.9	13.6	12.9	9.7	7.0
30.	Nagpur	7.9	7.0	7.0	6.0	5.1	3.2	4.1
31.	Pune	10.1	9.2	7.7	9.3	8.8	7.4	7.3
32.	Solapur	6.5	8.7	9.2	8.4	6.4	6.3	7.9
33.	Imphal	7.6	7.7	7.0	4.4	3.9	5.9	8.3
34.	Shillong	7.3	8.6	10.9	12.1	12.4	12.9	13.9
35.	Kohima	6.1	6.9	7.3	7.6	8.1	7.7	7.4
36.	Cuttack	8.4	8.2	8.6	9.0	8.3	8.0	7.8
37.	Sambalpur	7.5	7.5	6.4	7.2	6.0	5.7	6.9
38.	Amritsar	5.7	6.2	6.2	5.9	6.2	5.6	5.6
39.	Jaipur	7.3	7.3	8.1	8.8	7.6	5.8	6.1
40.	Ajmer	8.6	8.2	9.4	8.7	7.5	6.5	6.0
41.	Jodhpur	7.3	7.3	7.9	6.9	5.8	4.4	5.9
42.	Gangtok	6.7	8.3	8.8	7.9	7.0	5.5	6.7
43.	Chennai	6.0	6.9	6.8	6.9	6.8	7.5	7.8
44.	Coimbatore	8.3	8.6	9.0	8.4	7.6	8.3	7.9
45.	Madurai	3.4	4.0	5.0	5.0	4.1	4.9	5.9
46.	Salem	5.6	5.8	7.3	6.6	5.7	7.1	6.1
47.	Tiruchirapalli	4.9	5.9	5.9	6.1	5.0	5.8	5.6
48.	Agartala	6.9	7.2	6.9	6.7	5.9	3.8	4.1
49.	Lucknow	6.4	6.8	6.3	6.3	5.8	4.1	5.8
50.	Agra	6.9	7.5	8.8	9.0	8.3	6.2	7.2
51.	Allahabad	6.6	6.3	4.9	6.3	5.7	4.1	5.0
52.	Kanpur	7.9	9.0	7.9	9.6	9.1	8.4	9.2
53.	Meerut	7.5	7.2	7.2	7.4	7.5	7.0	7.6
54.	Kolkata	6.5	6.7	7.2	7.8	7.7	7.2	9.4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
55.	Asansol	3.4	3.7	4.1	2.8	2.5	3.5	4.5
56.	Kharagpur	8.1	9.6	11.4	11.1	9.3	8.5	9.4
57.	Siliguri	5.9	6.1	6.3	6.5	6.2	6.8	7.4
58.	Chandigarh	5.5	5.4	5.0	5.7	5.3	4.0	5.6
59.	Delhi	6.1	6.3	5.6	6.0	5.8	3.8	4.6
	All-India	7.4	7.8	7.6	7.7	6.8	6.1	6.9

**Statement III**

*Wholesale Price Index (WPI) numbers (all commodities) on base 1993-94=100 and percentage change as compared to corresponding month of previous year.*

Year-2007	Wholesale Price Index (WPI)	Percentage Change
Month		
January	208.8	6.4
February	208.9	6.4
March	209.8	6.6
April	211.5	6.3
May	212.3	5.5
June	212.3	4.5
July	213.6	4.7

*[English]*

**Visit of Thailand's Prime Minister to India**

2769. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has held discussions with the Thailand's Prime Minister during his recent visit to India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) The Prime Minister of Thailand General Surayud Chulanont paid a State Visit to India from June 25-27, 2007. He was accompanied by a 14-member official delegation that included the Thai Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Energy.

The two Prime Ministers discussed proposals for enhancing bilateral trade and investment, defence and security ties, connectivity and cultural cooperation.

Two agreements were signed during the visit including an MoU on Enhanced Cooperation in the Field of Renewable Energy and an Executive Programme on Cultural Exchange for the years 2007-2009. A Joint Press Statement enclosed was released at the end of the visit on June 26, 2007.

The State visit of the Prime Minister of Thailand to India in June 2007 helped maintain the momentum of bilateral ties. Both sides reiterated their strong commitment to engaging with each other and to utilise all available opportunities for mutual benefit.

**Statement**

1. His Excellency General Surayud Chulanont (Ret.), the Prime Minister of Thailand, paid a State Visit to India from 25-27 June 2007. The Prime Minister of Thailand was accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Commerce and the Minister of Energy during his visit to India.
2. During the visit, he held bilateral talks with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, on 26 June 2007 who hosted a banquet in honour of the visiting dignitary on the same day. The Minister of

- External Affairs, the Minister of Commerce and Industry and the Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy called on the Prime Minister of Thailand on June 26, 2007. The Leader of the Opposition, Lok Sabha will call on the Prime Minister of Thailand on June 27, 2007. The Prime Minister of Thailand also addressed a Business Summit hosted by the CII, FICCI and the ASSOCHAM on 26 June 2007.
3. On 26 June 2007, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand called on the President of the Republic of India.
  4. On 27 June 2007, the Prime Minister of Thailand will visit Varanasi and Sarnath.
  5. During the visit of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand two important Agreements were signed in the presence of the two Prime Ministers, namely the Memorandum of Understanding on Enhanced Cooperation in the Field of Renewable Energy and Cultural Exchange Programme.
  6. During their discussions, the two Prime Ministers, expressed satisfaction at the progress achieved in bilateral relations. They acknowledged that relations between the two countries which were based on age old historical, civilizational and cultural links had evolved beyond traditional areas of culture and commercial interaction to cooperation in all key areas, namely security, defence, civil aviation, science and technology, greater people to people interaction and a movement towards free trade. They emphasized the importance of utilizing and expanding the existing bilateral institutional frameworks to diversify and deepen the relationship between the two countries.
  7. The two Prime Minister expressed satisfaction that the bilateral trade volume between the two countries had crossed the US\$ 3 billion mark with the implementation of the Early Harvest Scheme of the India-Thailand FTA. They expressed confidence that negotiations on the Free Trade Agreement would conclude at the earliest during the current year. They were also convinced that the target of US\$ 4 billion bilateral trade volume by the end of 2007 was achievable.
  8. Both Prime Minister expressed satisfaction with the growing cooperation between the two countries in the area of defence and security. In this context, they acknowledged with appreciation the good work that was being done by the Joint Working Group on Security Cooperation. They also encouraged the concerned authorities to expedite negotiations of pending defence and security related Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding with a view to achieving their early conclusion and implementation. Recognizing that terrorism constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, the two leaders condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations as criminal and unjustifiable, irrespective of the motives. They resolved to strengthen bilateral cooperation to combat terrorism and to coordinate measures in a comprehensive and sustained manner.
  9. The two Prime Ministers also discussed other promising areas of enhanced cooperation. In this context, they agreed to intensify efforts to further strengthen civil aviation cooperation. They encouraged concerned authorities and the private sector to look into possible methods of fisheries cooperation in accordance with domestic rules and regulations.
  10. The two Prime Ministers agreed that relations between the two countries are poised and ready for a new level enhanced partnership. Thailand's 'Look West' policy and India's 'Look East' policy had become a perfect complement to one another and the relations between the two countries had grown both bilaterally and in the context of enhanced interaction with and within regional frameworks such as the ASEAN, ARF, BIMSTEC, MGC, ACD and the East Asia Summit.
  11. The Indian Prime Minister expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the Royal Thai Government in response to the invitation of the Government of India to seek to develop closer economic and societal ties with the Northeastern States of India. In this context, the visit of the Minister of Commerce of Thailand to New Delhi to participate in the 3rd Northeast Business Summit and his visit to the Northeastern states of India from June 21-24, 2007 was referred to

in the discussions between the two Prime Ministers.

12. The Prime Minister of India announced a contribution of Baht 10 million towards the construction budget of the new building of the Sanskrit Studies Centre in the Silpakorn University in Bangkok. The Sanskrit Studies Centre of the University has made significant contributions to the study of Sanskrit, Indian culture and historical and cultural links between India and Thailand. In this regard, the Prime Minister of Thailand noted with appreciation the aforementioned contribution from the Government of India which is a testament to the significant and valuable historical and cultural ties between the two countries.
13. The State Visit of the Prime Minister of Thailand took place during the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Thailand and was symbolic of the importance that both countries attached to their close and cordial relations with each other. The two countries will be organizing a series of events as part of the celebrations to mark the 60th anniversary year.
14. The Prime Minister of Thailand expressed his appreciation to the Prime Minister of India for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality extended to him and members of his delegation and for all the excellent arrangements made for this State Visit.

New Delhi  
26 June 2007.

#### **Achievements of National Knowledge Commission**

2770. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:  
SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) the achievements of the National Knowledge Commission during the last three years;
- (b) the allocations made during the said period till date; and
- (c) the manner in which the Commission has helped in spreading knowledge across the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN):(a) The National Knowledge Commission (NKC) has submitted till November 2007, recommendations relating to the following: Libraries, Translation, Language, Knowledge Network, Right to Education, Health Information Network, Portals (Water Energy), Vocational Education, Higher Education, Legal Education Medical Education, Management Education, Open and Distance Education, Open Educational Courseware, National Science and Social Science Foundation, Intellectual Property Rights, Innovation, E-governance.

(b) During the past three years, Rs. 105.57 crore has been allocated for the National Knowledge Commission.

(c) The role of the National Knowledge Commission is not to spread knowledge in the country.

#### **Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Graduates**

2771. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to introduce a bill in respect of physiotherapy and occupational therapy graduates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to treat PT and OT graduates at par with NIBBS graduates; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare will be introducing the Paramedical and Physiotherapy Central Council Bill, 2007 during the current session of Parliament for coordinated development in the education of paramedical and physiotherapy with a view to regulating and maintaining standards of such education, maintenance of Register of Paramedics and Physiotherapists.

(c) and (d) As per the Bill there is no such provision to grade PT and OT graduates with respect to graduates of other streams.

**De-contamination Kit by BARC**

2772. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) has designed and developed a portable personnel de-contamination kit;

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

(c) whether this kit has been designed for the use of the general public; and

(d) if so, the locations in the country where the said kit is likely to be available?

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

(b) The Portable Personnel Decontamination Kit (PPDK) is designed for removal of external contamination of people affected in case of any nuclear/radiological emergency. Its tubular structure can be inflated/deflated within 20 minutes by 4 persons. It is equipped with batteries, inverters and pumps to work even in the absence of electrical supply. It requires water supply that will be provided by first responders (such as fire brigade). The whole PPDK gets packed and can be transported in eight rucksacks. Total weight of the packages is 150 kg.

(c) Yes, Sir. The PPDK is designed to be portable for providing basic decontamination services in public domain.

(d) Currently, one such system is available with BARC and is under evaluation by user agencies. Subsequently more units will be kept at selected locations for deployment, as needed.

**Genetically Modified Organisms**

2773. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has notified guidelines for according approval for marketing of processed food containing Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOS);

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

(c) whether any study/research has been conducted on the impact of the processed food containing GMOs on the health of humans before the issue of said notification; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) A draft notification for labelling of Genetically Modified Foods/ingredients under PFA Rules, 1955 was published vide GSR no. 152 (E) dated 10.3.06 for inviting objections & suggestions from the public within 60 days from the date of its publication in the gazette of Government of India. Since the draft rules could not be finalized, the provisions to regulate Genetically Modified Foods have been made under the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006 and would be taken up by the Food Safety Authority, which is under process of constitution.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

**Cadaveric Transplantations**

2774. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cadaveric transplantations are being conducted in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the percentage of Cadaveric transplants conducted in the country in comparison to other developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Section 3 (5) of Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994 (No. 42 of 1994) provides for removal of human organs from the body of a deceased person and Section 5 (1) provides for removal of organs from a dead body lying in the hospital or prison and not claimed by any of the near relatives of the deceased person within 48 hours from the time of the death of the concerned person.

Health being a state subject, it is for the state Government to provide health care service.

(c) Such details are not maintained in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

**Allocation of Funds for Sports  
during Eleventh Plan**

2775. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:  
SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI:

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allocated by the Government for the development of sports during the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the details of ultra modern facilities available for sports persons for their training for International events including Commonwealth Games in Delhi in 2010; and

(c) the details of the new stadia being built across the country in this regard, especially in the NCT?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Planning Commission has communicated a tentative outlay of Rs. 4,237 crore for the development of sports in the country during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(b) The following five stadia under the Sports Authority of India are being upgraded to international standards for the Commonwealth Games to be held in Delhi in 2010:-

- (i) Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium
- (ii) Major Dhyani Chand National Stadium
- (iii) Indira Gandhi Stadium Complex
- (iv) Dr. Syama Prasad Mookherjee Swimming Pool.
- (v) Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Ranges.

(c) There is no proposal at present for the construction of new stadia for the Commonwealth Games, 2010.

**UN Convention Against Corruption**

2776. SHRI M. SHIVANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has signed the United Nations Convention against corruption;

(b) if so, the salient features of the convention;

(c) the time by which the Government is likely to ratify the same;

(d) whether the inter-ministerial Joint Working Group, which was constituted for addressing all relevant issues in this regard, has given its suggestions; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (e) India has signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption on 9th December, 2005.

The Convention prescribes a series of measures for preventing corruption and mandates the parties to consider criminalizing certain conducts in their domestic law such as bribery of national public officials, foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations; embezzlement etc. By a public official, abuse of functions by public officials, bribery and embezzlement of property in the private sector, laundering of proceeds of crime, obstruction of justice, and participation in an offence established in accordance with the Convention etc. The Convention also mandates the parties to provide for sanction against the commission of offences established under the Convention, appropriate prosecution and adjudication measure, confiscation of the proceeds of crime; measures in accordance with its domestic legal system for the protection of witnesses, experts, victims and reporting persons, measure for addressing the consequences of corruption, compensation for damage. The Convention also requires cooperation between national authorities and private sector in investigation and prosecution of offences, and mechanism to overcome obstacles of bank secrecy laws. The Convention also mandates the parties for prevention and detection of transfers of proceeds of crime, mechanisms for recovery of property through international cooperation in confiscation, return and disposal of assets and establishing financial intelligence units to monitor suspicious financial transaction. The Convention also provides for extensive international cooperation.



India is amongst the countries who have signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption but have not yet ratified the same. No fixed time frame has been prescribed for ratification of the convention.

The Joint Working Group has examined various provisions of the Convention, which may not be covered under various laws in force in order to confirm whether the existing laws already in place adequately meet the requirements, which may have to be met by a State Party after it decides to ratify the Convention. On the basis of discussions in the Joint Working Group, the concerned Ministries/Departments have been requested to examine the provisions of the laws administered by them in detail so as to see whether requirements under UN Convention against Corruption are already covered or any amendments would be required.

*[Translation]*

#### **Hindi as an UN Official Language**

2777. SHRI BHUYANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the effective measures taken or proposed to be taken to make Hindi as an official language of the United Nations Organisation;

(b) whether the permanent Secretariat of the Vishwa Hindi Sammelan and the Hindi Secretariat located at Mauritius have started their work in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the efforts made or proposed to be made to use Hindi in the Indian embassies abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) A high level Committee under the Chairmanship of External Affairs Minister was constituted on 26th February, 2003 followed by a sub-Committee under the chairmanship of Minister of State for External Affairs in August, 2003 and a core-group headed by the Additional Secretary (Administration) in the Ministry of External Affairs in September, 2003 to look into this matter and take necessary measures. An Advocacy Paper to present the Indian case with regard to introducing Hindi in the UN was prepared. The procedure for getting any language recognised as one of the Official Languages of the UN involves obtaining

approval of the General Assembly to amend Rule-51 of the Rules of Procedure. Such a proposal has to be approved by more than half of the members of the General Assembly. In addition, recognising any expenditure of the UN necessitating an enhanced contribution by every member country, which is why many members remain reluctant to support such a proposal.

(b) and (c) A meeting of the Executive Board of the Secretariat was held in Mauritius on 24-25 May 2007. The Secretariat will start functioning formally only after the Budget of the Secretariat is approved by the Governing Council. The Secretariat would be responsible for organising World Hindi Conferences. There is no separate Secretariat for World Hindi Conference.

(d) Indian Embassies/High Commissions abroad make use of Hindi in their official work to the extent possible, given the fact that they have to deal mostly with the local governments. Hindi is generally used during interaction with people of Indian community. Indian Missions abroad also organise Hindi related activities from time to time in association with local educational institutions and voluntary organisations. In addition, they also celebrate Hindi Diwas on 14th September and Word Hindi Day on 10th January every year.

#### **Arsenic Pollution Diseases**

2778. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) whether there has been a rapid increase in the diseases caused by arsenic pollution in the country, particularly in the tribal and backward areas of the country;

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

(c) the concrete measures taken by the Union Government to check the diseases caused by arsenic pollution including the measures taken with foreign assistance, if any, received in this regard;

(d) whether the State Government had requested the Union Government to allocate funds for the above purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard including the funds provided to the State Government during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (f) Incidents of arsenic contamination of groundwater are increasingly coming to light due to increased awareness and investigation. The cause of arsenic contamination is geogenic only. Arsenic contamination has been reported from West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Assam. The year-wise details alongwith the names of affected districts are enclosed as statement. Prolonged use of arsenic contaminated water for drinking causes diseases like arsenicosis, dermatosis, keratosis, conjunctivities, bronchitis and gastro enteritis etc. Measures

have been taken by the State Government for diagnosis and treatment of patients affected by such diseases.

Drinking water supply is a State subject and the Central Government is providing technical and financial assistance under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme. 15% of these funds allotted to State Government under the programme are specifically earmarked for tackling water quality problems. Since 1998, the State Government of West Bengal has reported sanction of 10 sub-mission projects at the cost of Rs. 4479.49 lakh with Central share of Rs. 33596.62 lakh.

### **Statement**

#### *Details of incidents of arsenic contamination, year-wise in the country*

S.No	Name of the State	Year of the incident	District most affected	No. of Blocks affected
1.	West Bengal	1983+	Murshidabad	19
			Nadia	17
			North 24 Paraganas	19
			South 24 Paraganas	9
			Malda	7
			Burdwan	5
			Howrah	2
			Hooghly	1
2.	Chhattisgarh	1998+	Rajnandgaon	3
3.	Bihar	2002+	Bhojpur, Buxar	NA
			Patna, Chhapra,	
			Vaishali	
4.	Jharkhand	2002+	Sahebgunje	1
5.	Assam	2004+	Karimgunje, Hallakhandi, Dhemaji	NA
6.	Uttar Pradesh	2004+	Ballia	3

#### **Damage to the House of Indian High Commissioner in Islamabad**

2779. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the house of the Indian High Commission in Islamabad was broken into recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of India has lodged any protest in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The Residence of the High Commissioner of India in Islamabad was broken into on the night of 12 November 2007. A strong protest has been lodged with the Government of Pakistan in Islamabad and with the High Commission of Pakistan in New Delhi. The Government of Pakistan have said that the matter is being investigated.

[English]

#### UN Report on Health and Family Welfare

2780. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recently released reports of the United Nations and the Asian Development Bank have pointed out that India has lagged behind in meeting some of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) identified in 2002, especially in the health and family welfare field;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the spending by the Union and the State Government on health sector account for just 1.37 percent of the GDP;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Report has indicated that India is lagging behind in achieving the Millennium Development Goals respect of child mortality and maternal mortality. In the case of child mortality, the Report has stated that India has 1.9 million children dying annually before reaching the age of 5 and in the case of maternal mortality has shown an MMR of 540 per lakh live births as of 2000. In respect of child mortality, as per official estimates released by Registrar General of India (RGI), the child Mortality Rate (CMR) is 17.3 per 1000 live births. Data in respect of MMR given

in the Report is dated. As per the RGI estimates, according to SRS 2006, MMR was at a level of 301 per lakh live births during 2001-03.

(c) to (e) Public spending on health as a percentage of GDP is in the vicinity of 1% However, if public expenditure is taken in respect of health and other social determinants including inter-alia drinking water and nutrition, public expenditure constitutes 1.39% of GDP according to the Economic Survey 2006-07. The National Common Minimum Programme has mandated that the Government will raise public spending on health to atleast 2-3% of GDP over the next five years with focus on primary healthcare. The strategy being adopted in the 11th Plan is likely to be enhance the levels of public health spending as a % of GDP. This strategy aims at promoting comprehensive primary healthcare under the National Rural Health Mission, develop tertiary healthcare facilities under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) and concrete measures to arrest HIV/AIDS and other communicable and life style diseases.

#### Delay in East-West Corridor Project

2781. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL:

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

(a) whether there has been considerable delay in the implementation of East-West Corridor Project as reported in *Dainik Jagran* dated September 23, 2007;

(b) if so, the present status of the said Corridor Project, State-wise, alongwith the Stretch-wise length approved and completed till date;

(c) whether the delay in the project has resulted in cost escalation;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the funds allocated and spent on the project till date; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) and (b) The status of projects implementation under East-West Corridor alongwith dates of completion/anticipated dates of completion, is given in

statement enclosed. The East-West Corridor is likely to be substantially completed by 2009 excepting few projects which may be completed in 2010.

(c) and (d) In view of the provision of cost escalation clause in the contracts, the cost of construction may increase and final cost of construction can be assessed

only after completion of the project. The cumulative expenditure on the projects as on 31st October, 2007 is given in the enclosed statement I.

(e) The steps taken for early completion of the project are given in the enclosed statement II.

**Statement I**

*Details of East-West Corridor (State-wise)*

(As on 31st October, 2007)

Sl.No	Contract	NH No	Total length (km)	Length Comp. (km)	Compl. Antici. Compl. Date	Project Cost (Rs in crore)	Cum. exp (Rs. in crore)	Present status
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>State-Assam</b>								
1.	Silchar-Udarband	54	32.20	0.00	Dec-2008	154.57	47.19	Under Implementation
2.	Udarband to Harangajo	54	31.00	0.00	-	155	-	Balance for award
3.	Harangajo to Maibang	54	26.00	0.00	Jul-2009	212	22.34	Under Implementation
4.	Harangajo to Maibang	54	24.00	0.00	Jul-2009	196	19.99	Under Implementation
5.	Harangajo to Maibang	54	16.00	0.00	Feb-2009	280	49.02	Under Implementation
6.	Maibang to Lumding	54	21.00	0.00	Apr-2009	200	14.1	Under Implementation
7.	Maibang to Lumding	54	23.00	0.00	Nov-2008	167.64	13.13	Under Implementation
8.	Maibang to Lumding	54	28.00	0.00	Apr-2009	199.81	4.18	Under Implementation
9.	Maibang to Lumding	54	15.00	0.00	Nov-2008	155.04	12.76	Under Implementation
10.	Lumding to Daboka	54	18.50	0.00	-	130	3.88	Under Implementation
11.	Lanka to Daboka	54	24.00	0.00	Dec-2008	225	20.24	Under Implementation
12.	Dabija to Nageon	36	30.50	0.00	Dec-2008	225	21.47	Under Implementation
13.	Nageon bypass	37	23.00	0.00	Dec-2008	230	63.08	Under Implementation
14.	Nageon to Dharamtul	37	25.00	0.00	Dec-2008	264.72	9.83	Under Implementation
15.	Dharamtul to Sonapur	37	25.00	0.00	Dec-2008	200	31.88	Under Implementation
16.	Dharamtul to Sonapur	37	22.00	0.00	Dec-2008	180	19.67	Under Implementation
17.	Sonapur to Guwahati	37	19.00	0.00	Dec-2008	245	76.78	Under Implementation

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
18.	Guwahati bypass	37	8.00	8.00	Dec-2003	54.87	65.34	4 Laned
19.	Guwahati Bypass	37	10.50	10.50	Jun-2004	63.69	71.07	4 Laned
20.	Brahmaputra Bridge	31	5.00	0.00	Apr-2010	217.61	12.84	Under Implementation
21.	Guwahati to Nalbari	31	28.00	0.00	Dec-2008	175.96	22.31	Under Implementation
22.	Guwahati to Nalbari	31	28.00	0.00	Dec-2008	198.16	20.98	Under Implementation
23.	Nalbari to Bijni	31	25.00	0.00	Dec-2008	225	38.97	Under Implementation
24.	Nalbari to Bijni	31	27.30	0.00	Dec-2008	208	13.77	Under Implementation
25.	Nalbari to Bijni	31	30.00	0.00	Dec-2008	200	25.75	Under Implementation
26.	Nalbari to Bijni	31	21.50	0.00	Dec-2008	142	17.41	Under Implementation
27.	Bijini to Assam/WB Border	31C	33.00	0.00	Dec-2008	237.8	32.43	Under Implementation
28.	Bijini to Assam/WB Border	31C	30.00	0.00	Dec-2008	195	26.68	Under Implementation
29.	Bijini to Assam/WB Border	31C	30.00	0.00	Dec-2008	230	33.79	Under Implementation
State-Bihar								
1.	Purnea-Gayakota	31	15.15	13.30	Dec-2007	62.98	78.29	Under Implementation
2.	Purnea-Gayakota	31	28.00	5.00	Mar-2008	205.73	160.45	Under Implementation
3.	Purnea-Forbesganj	57	41.00	10.00	Aug-2008	278	123.46	Under Implementation
4.	Purnea-Forbesganj	57	38.00	0.00	Aug-2008	310	120.2	Under Implementation
5.	Forbesganj-Simrahi	57	40.00	0.00	Dec-2008	332.94	68.19	Under Implementation
6.	Simrahi to Ring bund (missing link)	57	15.00	0.00	Dec-2008	100.5	37.37	Under Implementation
7.	Kosi Bridge including approaches and Guide Bond & Affix Bond	57	10.00	0.00	Mar-2010	418.04	81.78	Under Implementation
8.	Ring bunds to Jhanyharpur	57	45.00	0.00	Dec-2008	340	41.47	Under Implementation
9.	Jhanyharpur to Darbanga	57	40.00	0.00	Dec-2008	340	19.67	Under Implementation
10.	Darbanga to Muzzafarpur	57	40.00	0.00	Dec-2008	305	21.78	Under Implementation
11.	Darbanga to Muzzafarpur	57	30.00	0.00	Dec-2008	291.8	93.34	Under Implementation
12.	Muzzafarpur to Mehsi	28	40.00	0.00	Mar-2009	275	56.95	Under Implementation
13.	Mehsi to Kotwa	28	40.00	0.00	Mar-2009	239	54	Under Implementation
14.	Kotwa to Dewapur	28	38.00	0.00	Mar-2009	240	49.87	Under Implementation
15.	Deewapur to UP/Bihar Border	28	41.09	0.00	Mar-2009	300	83.66	Under Implementation

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<b>State-Gujarat</b>								
1.	Abu Road Deesa Section	14	10.00	10.00	Apr-2001	18.39	22.93	4 Laned
2.	Palanpur-Deesa	14	22.70	22.70	Feb-2003	53.73	57.79	4 Laned
3.	Deesa to Radhanpur	14	85.40	71.50	Mar-2008	479.74	319.1	Under Implementation
4.	Radhanpur to Gagodhar	15	106.20	97.00	Nov-2007	410.24	303.71	Under Implementation
5.	Gagodhar to Garamore	15.8A	90.30	62.00	Jun-2008	479.54	253	Under Implementation
6.	Garamore to Bamanbore	8A	71.40	53.00	Jun-2008	380.7	224.11	Under Implementation
7.	Bamnabor-Rajkot	8B	31.00	31.00	—	—	—	4 Laned
8.	Rajkot-Bypass & Gondal Jetpur	8B	36.00	32.00	Mar-2008	388.09	322.44	Under Implementation
9.	Rajkot-Ribda	8B	15.00	15.00	—	—	—	4 Laned
10.	Ribda to Gondal section	8B	17.00	17.00	Oct-2002	40.44	42.43	4 Laned
11.	Jetpur to Bhiladi	8B	64.50	35.00	Jun-2008	508.5	227.26	Under Implementation
12.	Bhiladi to Porbandar	8B	50.50	50.50	May-2007	276.07	206.08	4 Laned
13.	Palanpur to Swaroopganj (Rajasthan-42 km & Gujarat -34 Km) Gujarat [34] Rajasthan [42]	14	76.00	0.00	Mar-2009	498	75.16	Under Implementation
<b>State-Madhya Pradesh</b>								
1.	Jhansi-Shivpur	25	35.00	0.00	Jun-2008	213.69	95.2	Under Implementation
2.	Shivpuri Bypass & upto MP/RJ Border	25.76	53.00	25.00	Feb-2008	360.34	236.92	Under Implementation
<b>State-Rajasthan</b>								
1.	RJ/MP Border to Kota	76	70.00	39.00	Mar-2008	349.59	194.41	Under Implementation
2.	RJ/MP Border to Kota	76	59.85	26.00	Dec-2008	430.21	186.99	Under Implementation
3.	RJ/MP Border to Kota	76	43.15	10.00	Dec-2008	359.43	107.16	Under Implementation
4.	Kota Bypass	76	25.00	0.00	Jun-2009	250.39	35.24	Under Implementation
5.	Chambal Bridge	76	1.40	0.00	Feb-2010	281.31	33.74	Under Implementation
6.	Kota to Chittorgarh	76	65.00	12.00	Dec-2008	528.44	162.62	Under Implementation
7.	Kota to Chittorgarh	76	63.00	15.50	Jun-2008	503.66	187.15	Under Implementation
8.	Chittorgarh Bypass	76	40.00	12.00	Jun-2008	447.9	170.79	Under Implementation
9.	Chittorgarh-Udaipur	76	106.00	106.00	—	—	—	4 Laned
10.	Gogunda to Udaipur	76	31.00	0.00	Jul-2008	288.06	177.53	Under Implementation

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11.	Bakaria to Gogunda	76	44.00	5.00	May-2008	530.9	249.7	Under Implementation
12.	Swaroopganj to Bakaria	76.14	43.00	0.00	Jun-2008	243.11	108.85	Under Implementation
State-Uttar Pradesh								
1.	UP/Bihar Border to Kasia	28	41.12	0.00	Dec-2008	227	90.88	Under Implementation
2.	Kasia to Gorakhpur	28	40.00	0.00	Dec-2008	242	128.59	Under Implementation
3.	Gorakhpur Bypass	28	32.80	0.00	Oct-2009	600.24	92.08	Under Implementation
4.	Gorakhpur-Ayodhya	28	43.70	0.00	Oct-2008	239	95.99	Under Implementation
5.	Gorakhpur-Ayodhya	28	44.00	0.00	Oct-2008	227	71.74	Under Implementation
6.	Gorakhpur-Ayodhya	28	29.00	0.00	Nov-2008	205	122.58	Under Implementation
7.	Ayodhya-Lucknow	28	41.93	0.00	Nov-2008	212	109.9	Under Implementation
8.	Ayodhya-Lucknow	28	47.00	0.00	Oct-2008	217	109.57	Under Implementation
9.	Ayodhya-Lucknow	28	36.00	0.00	Oct-2008	193	95.26	Under Implementation
10.	Lucknow Bypass	58A&B	22.85	10.00	Dec. 2007	185.52	251.69	Under Implementation
11.	Lucknow Kanpur Section	25	10.42	10.42	Aug-2002	32.85	36.8	4 Laned
12.	Lucknow-Kanpur section	25	22.20	22.20	Feb. 2006	94.91	86.29	4 Laned
13.	Lucknow-Kanpur section	25	15.50	15.50	Mar-2005	50.02	45.47	4 Laned
14.	Lucknow-Kanpur	25	16.00	5.00	Dec.-2007	51.28	36.54	Under Implementation
15.	Ganga Bridge to Rama Devi Crossing	25	5.60	0.00	Sep-2008	201.68	24.22	Under Implementation
16.	Kanpur-Bhognipur section	2	43.00	0.00	-	-	-	4 Laned
17.	Bara to Orai	225	62.80	0.00	Apr-2009	465	15.79	Under Implementation
18.	Orai to Jhansi	25	50.00	0.00	Dec-2008	340.68	41.1	Under Implementation
19.	Orai to Jhansi	25	66.00	0.00	Dec-2008	451.97	168.31	Under Implementation
20.	Jhansi Bypass	25	15.00	0.00	Dec-2008	158.06	47.26	Under Implementation
21.	Jhansi-Shivpuri (UP/MP-1) (UP-11 km & MP-30 km) Uttar Pradesh [11]/ Madhya Pradesh[30]	25	41.00	15.00	Jun-2008	220.31	79.64	Under Implementation
State-West Bengal								
1.	Assam/WB Border to Gairkatta	31C	32.00	0.00	Nov-2008	221.82	26.95	Under Implementation
2.	Ghoelukur (km 351 to NH 31) to Salsalabari (km 226 of NH 31C) via Fulbari-Mainagnri-Dhumpgiri-Falkata	31, 31C	201.00	0.00	-	1200	-	Balance for award

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.	Siliguri to Islampur	31	25.00	0.00	Oct-2008	155	106.08	Under Implementation
4.	Siliguri to Islampur	31	26.00	0.00	Dec-2008	225	34.08	Under Implementation
5.	Dalkola Islampur Sub section	31	23.85	23.85	Nov-2005	90.06	80.81	4 Laned
6.	Dalkola-Islampur	31	23.00	23.00	Mar-2004	72.56	68.87	4 Laned

### **Statement II**

The following steps have been taken to ensure early completion of the project :

- (a) The Contracts are regularly monitored at various levels such as by Supervision Consultant, Project Directors, Senior Officers of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). Progress reviews are also held at the level of Chairman, NHAI, Secretary, Department of Road Transport & Highways and Minister, Shipping, Road Transport & Highways.
- (b) State Government have appointed Senior Officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/pollution/environment clearances etc. These nodal officers hold periodic meetings to review the projects and take action to resolve the problems.
- (c) A Committee of Secretaries has been constituted under Cabinet Secretary to address inter-ministerial and Centre-State issues such as land acquisition, utility shifting, environment approvals, clearance of Road Over Bridges (ROBs) etc.
- (d) The procedure of issue of land acquisition notification has now been simplified.
- (e) To expedite the construction of Road Over Bridges (ROB), an officer of the Railways has been posted to NHAI to coordinate with ministry of Railways. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has also been signed with M/s. IRCON International Limited for construction of some of the Road Over Bridge (ROBs).

(f) Action has been taken against non-performing contractors and they are not allowed to bid for future projects unless they improve the performance in existing contracts.

(g) Steps have been taken to improve cash flow problems of contractors by granting interest bearing discretionary advance at the request of contractor, release of retention money against bank guarantee of equal amount, deferment of recovery of advances (on interest basis) and relaxation in minimum Interim Payment Certificate (IPC) amount.

### **Poaching of Tigers in Dudhwa National Park**

2782. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some tigers were killed in Dudhwa National Park in Lakhimpur Kheri District of Uttar Pradesh and their skin, bones and claws were sold to the professional traders in China;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the poachers and measures adopted to save tigers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):

(a) and (b) As reported by the State, a case of tiger poaching has come to light during January, 2007 in the Kishanpur Sanctuary, adjoining Dudhwa National Park. However, only some decomposed carcass of the poached animal was found at the site. Further, it has been reported that a tiger skin has also been seized in the nearby South Kheri Division during transit this year.

(c) Steps taken by Government of India for conservation of tiger are enclosed as statement.



**Statement**

The steps taken by the Government to protect wild animal including tigers are as below:-

**Legal steps**

1. Amendment of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 for providing enabling provisions for constitution of the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau. The punishment in cases of offence within a tiger reserve has been enhanced. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that has been used for committing any wild life offence.

**Administrative steps**

2. Strengthening of antipoaching activities, including special strategy for monsoon patrolling, by providing funding support to Tiger Reserve States, as proposed by them, for deployment of antipoaching squads involving ex-army personnel/home guards, apart from workforce comprising of local people in addition to strengthening of communication/wireless facilities.
3. Constitution of the National Tiger conservation Authority with effect from 4.09.2006. for strengthening tiger conservation by, inter alia, ensuring normative standards in tiger reserve management preparation of reserve specific tiger conservation plan, laying down annual/audit report before Parliament, constituting State level Steering Committees under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister and establishment of Tiger Conservation Foundation.
4. Constitution of a multidisciplinary Tiger and Other Endangered Species Crime Control Bureau (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) with effect from 6.6.2007 comprising of officers from Police, Forest, Customs and other enforcement agencies to effectively control illegal trade in wildlife.
5. In principle approval accorded for declaring eight new Tiger Reserves.
6. The All India estimation of tigers and other wild animals, including habitat status evaluation, is ongoing as per the revised, enhanced methodology endorsed by the Tiger Task Force

from November, 2005. Estimation relating to four States (Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Chandigarh) has been completed, and the country level figures are expected to be available by December, 2007.

7. The independent evaluation of tiger reserves carried out by a panel of experts has been peer reviewed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). The report as well as the review have been placed the Parliament.
8. Action has been taken for initiating the process for enhancing the relocation/rehabilitation package for villages in the core areas of tiger reserves, apart from developing related norms, based on the report of a professional agency mandated with the task.
9. Action has been taken for providing eco-developmental inputs in the buffer areas of tiger reserves to foster coexistence with local people. The State having Tiger Reserves have been asked to prepare a plan for coexistence with local people by delineating a buffer zone, with cross sectoral eco-development inputs in such areas.

**Financial steps**

11. Financial and technical help is provided to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger and Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to animals.

**International Cooperation**

12. India has a Memorandum of Understanding with Nepal on controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife and conservation, apart from a protocol on tiger conservation with China.
13. A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Renge Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to tiger conservation.
14. During the 14th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES, which was held from 3rd to 15th June, 2007 at the Hague India introduced a resolution along with China, Nepal and the Russian Federation, which contains directions to Parties with operations breeding tigers on a

commercial scale for restricting such captive populations to a level supportive only to conserving wild tigers. This was adopted as a decision with minor amendments. Further, India made an intervention appealing to China to phase out tiger farming, and eliminate stockpiles of Asian big cats body parts and derivatives. The importance of continuing the ban on trade of body parts of tiger was emphasized.

#### **Implementation of Programme of Bharat Nirman**

2783. SHRI SURESH ANGADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to step up for timely implementation of the programme Bharat Nirman

and push for speedy environment clearance for rural road projects; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Bharat Nirman remains the cornerstone of the Government's policy. For Bharat Nirman, as against Budget Estimate 2006-07, the Budget Estimate for 2007-08 has been enhanced by 31.6 per cent. The Budget provisions made for the individual components under Bharat Nirman during the year 2006-07 and 2007-08 are as under. The allocations for the individual components have been stepped up from 24% to 52%.

Component	Budget Allocation 2006-07	Budget Allocation 2007-08	Per cent increase
Irrigation-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme	2350.00	3580.00	52
Rural electrification-Rajiv Gandhi Grammen Vidhyutikaran Yojana	3000.00	3983.00	33
Rural water supply-Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme	5200.00	6500.00	25
Rural Roads-Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana	5225.62	6500.00	24
Rural Housing-Indira Awaaz Yojana	2950.00	4040.00	37
Rural Telephone Connectivity	Outside the Budget through Universal Service Obligation Fund		

The Ministry of Environment and Forests have issued a notification in September 2006 dispensing with the requirement of environmental clearance for construction of rural roads in forest areas and in Himalayan areas.

#### **Coal Production from Underground/ Open-cast Mines**

2784. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether the coal production from underground

mines is more than that of open-cast coal mines; and

(b) if so, the details of the coal production from underground open-cast mines separately during the last 3 years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The details of production of coal from underground and opencast mines during the last 3 years are given below:-

Million Tonnes

	2004-05			2005-06			2006-07		
	Underground	Opencast	Total	Underground	Opencast	Total	Underground	Opencast	Total
CIL	47.04	276.53	323.57	45.82	297.57	343.39	43.32	317.59	360.91
SCCL	12.97	22.33	35.30	12.71	23.42	36.13	11.87	25.83	37.70
Others	2.33	21.40	23.73	2.43	25.07	27.50	2.55	29.65	32.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>62.34</b>	<b>320.26</b>	<b>382.60</b>	<b>60.96</b>	<b>346.06</b>	<b>407.02</b>	<b>57.74</b>	<b>373.07</b>	<b>430.81</b>

CIL — Coal India Limited

SCCL — Singareni Collieries Company Limited.

*[Translation]***Environment Clearance**

2785. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether proposals relating to development of forest conservation and forest villages have been received from various State particularly Chhatisgarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the pending proposals;

(c) the reasons for the pendency in this regard; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Environment and Forest have, so far, received 57 proposals for conversion of forest villages into revenue villages including 19 proposals from the state of Chhattisgarh. Of these 57 proposals, 15 proposals have been accorded approval under the Forest (conservation) Act, 1980, while 5 proposals were closed and 1 was rejected. 18 proposals were returned to the State Government as they were not coming under the purview of the Forest (Conservation) Act. At present one proposals is at an advance stage of consideration in the Ministry and 17 proposals are lying with the concerned State Government for furnishing additional information.

*[English]***Assam Government's Proposal for NH-52**

2786. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal has been received from the Government of Assam to take back NH-52 from the Border Road Organisation (BRO);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) 345 km length of NH-52 from Balhatacharli to North Lakhimpur has been taken back from Border Roads Organisation and entrusted to Government of Assam.

**Limits on Use of Pesticides**

2787. DR. ARVIND SHARMA:  
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

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

(a) whether Sub Committee on Pesticide Residue of the Central Committee on Food Standards (CCFS) has recommended for fixing limits for the use of pesticides;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes Sir. The Sub-Committee on Pesticides Residue constituted by the Central Committee for Food Standards (CCFS) recommends the Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for different pesticides in various food articles. This is a continuous procedure and is a measure of safety.

(b) and (c) The recommended Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) are incorporated in rule 65 of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955.

*[Translation]*

#### **Edusat Scheme of ISRO**

2788. SHRI RAKESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of 'Edusat' scheme of Indian Space Research Organisation, (ISRO);

(b) whether the per Institute fee being charged for obtaining Satellite Interactive Terminal is more than the fee previously prescribed as a result of which middle-level colleges are facing hardships;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to reduce the said fee in the interest of students; and

(d) the criteria for selecting colleges for granting rebate by the ISRO under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) ISRO has launched an exclusive satellite for education called 'Edusat'. Under EDUSAT scheme, it is planned to provide 1 hub and 10 terminals to each state (upto 50 terminals to each state in the North Eastern Region), free of cost, as start up configuration. ISRO is also assisting each state to expand the network. Under this scheme, there are 46 operational networks in the country to beam live programs for 2600 interactive classrooms and 27000 receive only classrooms.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Authority to choose the colleges for implementing EDUSAT terminals lies with the user agency/State Government.

#### **Mini Ratna Award to CCL**

2789. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased:

(a) whether there has been qualitative improvement in the performance and management of Coal India Ltd. and its ancillary companies as a result of which various ancillary companies especially Central Coal Fields Ltd. have been awarded Mini Ratna status;

(b) if so, the details of the various honours/awards received by Coal India Limited and each of its ancillary for better performance during the last three years and current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Coal India Limited (CIL) and its following profit making subsidiary companies have been conferred "Mini Ratna (Category-I) Status" after meeting the eligibility and classification conditions laid down by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE):

- (i) Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd. (MCL),
- (ii) Northern Coalfield Ltd. (NCL),
- (iii) South Eastern Coalfield Ltd. (SECL),
- (iv) Western Coalfield Ltd. (WCL), and
- (v) Central Coalfields Limited (CCL)

In pursuance of the policy objective to make the public sector more efficient and competitive, Government has decided to grant enhanced autonomy and delegation of powers to the profit making public sector enterprises, subject to the eligibility criteria and guidelines as laid down by DPE. The main eligibility criteria for granting of such status is:

Mini Ratna- Category-I: PSEs should have made profit in the last three years continuously, the pre-tax profit should have been Rs. 30 crores or more in at least one of the three years and should have a positive net worth.

(b) The details of various honours/awards received by CIL and its subsidiary companies for better performance during the last three years and current years are as under:

1. The Indian Institutes of Coal Management (IICM)

has been awarded 'Six Sigma Quality Management Certification?

2. South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL).

The following Awards have been received by SECL during last three years:

S.No.	Award	Year
1.	Infraline Energy Black Diamond Award to SECL	2007
2.	(WIPS) Third prize in the Best Enterprise Category	2007
3.	"Green Tech Safety Silver Award"	2006
4.	Excellence Award 2006 by IES	2006
5.	Corporate Award 2006 for Top Indian Company in Mining Sector	2006
6.	Green Tech Environmental Excellence Silver Award	2005
7.	Kunwar Yudhvir Singh Afforestation Award	2005
8.	Excellence Award by Indian School of Economic Studies	2004
9.	Green Teach Excellence Award for Environmental Protection	2004
<b>3. Northern Coalfields Ltd. (NCL):</b>		
1.	Teri Corporate Award for Environmental Excellence-June 2006 (2nd Prize)	2006
<b>4. Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL):</b>		
1.	Greentech Environment Excellence Award	2005
2.	Excellence Award for Productivity, Quality, Innovation & Management	2005
3.	National Safety Award (Mine) for the year 2002, 2003	2007
<b>5. Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL):</b>		
1.	National Safety Award	2006
2.	3rd prize of Rajbhasha Karyanavan Award for best performance in Eastern Zone	2006
<b>6. Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL):</b>		
1.	Greentech Environment Excellence Silver Award	2006
2.	Excellence Award-conferred by The Institute of Economic Studies, New Delhi	2006
3.	Indira Gandhi National Memorial Award Gold Medal for Environmental & Ecological Implementation	2004

**Re-Structure of National Population Commission**

2790. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to restructure the National Population Commission; constituted in the year 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the work of the Commission is being hampered as a result of reconstitution; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The National Commission on Population (NCP) was reconstituted on 11th April 2005 with 40 members under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Prime Minister. Minister of Health & Family Welfare and the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission are Vice Chairmen of the Commission. The membership also includes the Chief Ministers of the States of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Jharkhand, Kerala and Tamil Nadu apart from a number of experts

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

*[English]*

**Investment in Research and Development**

2791. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:  
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has admitted that India's investment in Research and Development (R&D) remains far below the required level as reported in the 'Times of India' dated November 12, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a need for building an infrastructure facilities in colleges/universities/institutions to promote basic science research in academic and research institutions;

(d) if so, the response of the Government thereto; and

(e) the step taken by the Government to increase the investment in R&D up to the required level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Eleventh Five Year Plan document referred to in the 'Times of India' dated 12th November, 2007 has not been finalized yet.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

**Impact of Polio on Tourism Sector**

2792. SHRI NAVEEN JINDAL: Will the minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reported rise of polio cases have adversely affected tourism and India's image abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the World Health Organisation and other international organizations have issued advisories asking people not to visit India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) No such advisory has been issued by World Health Organisation (WHO) or any other International Body.

**NGOs in Health Sector**

2793. SHRI PRAKASH B. JADHAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Non-Governmental Organisations engaged in Health related programmes in Maharashtra;

(b) the amount provided by Central Government to each of these organization during last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether this amount has been fully utilized and if so, the complete details therefo;

(d) whether there are reports regarding misuse of this amount; and

(e) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against the organizations found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) Centre provides lumpsum Grant-in aid to State Health Society, Maharashtra for disbursement to these NGOs as per Mother NGO/Service NGO Scheme. The Grant-in Aid provided to State Health Society, Maharashtra during last 3 years is:-

2004-05	Rs. 120 Lakhs
2005-06	Rs. 531 Lakhs
2006-07	Nil

(c) This amount is yet to be fully utilized.

(d) and (e) No such report has so far been received.

#### **Statement**

##### *List of Mother NGOs in Maharashtra*

District	Name and Address of MNGO
1	2
Aurangabad	Pravara Medical Trust, Loni (BK), 413, 736, Taluka Sri Rampur, Ahmednagar.
Ahmednagar	Do
Sholapur	Sevadharm Trust, 1148, Sadashiv peth, Pune.
Kolhapur	Do
Pune	Society for Service to Voluntary Agencies, Shardham Park, A-Wing, 3rd Floor, Near Jahangir Nursing Home, Pune- 411001
Raigarh	Do

1	2
Jalgaon	Godavari Foundation Godavari Hospital Building, MG College Road, Near Bhaskar Market, Jalgaon-425001.
Nasik	Do
Wardha	Shri Rajiv Yuvak Vikas Sanstha, Kelkarwadi Arvi Road, Dist. Wardha-442001, Maharashtra.
Bhandara	Bharatiya Aushadhi Anusandhan Sanstha, At-Mundi Kota, DIRODA, Distt. Gondia, Maharashtra
Mumbai (Sub-urban)	Centre for Study of Social Change, Plot No.6, F-Block, Opp. Government Colony Building No. 326, Bandra (East) Mumbai- 400051.
Nagpur	Matru Seva Sangh, Mahal Maternity Home, Kothi Road, Mahal, Nagpur-Maharashtra-440002.
Osmanabad	Halo Medical Foundation, Reg. Office-440, South SIDCO N-3, Aurangabad-431 003 Admn. Office-At Post Anadur, Taluka Tuljapur, Distt. Osmanabad-413 603, Maharashtra.
Satara	Shramjivi Janata Sahayak Mandal, 127/1-A, Mangalwar Peth Opp. Municipal School No.6 Satara-415 002, Maharashtra.
Buldana	Vivekanand Ashram, Vivekanand Nagar, Hiwara Ashram, Taluka Mehkar, Dist.-Buldhana-443 301, Maharashtra.
Amravati	Apeksha Homeo Society, Gurukunj Mozari, Taluka Twosa, Dist.-Amravati-444902, Maharashtra.
Chandrapur	Bhartiya Adim Jati Sevak Sangh Nagpur Mr. N.B. Choudhari, Malviya Nagpur, Khamala, Nagpur-440225, Maharashtra
Washim	Mahila Utkarsh Pratishthan, Civil Lines, Risod, Dist. Washim- 444506, Maharashtra.

1	2
Dhule	Shriram Ahirrao Memorial Trust, At+Post-Betawad, Tal. Sindhkheda
Gondia	Shri Ganesh Gramin Vikas Sansth, Gondia-441 614, Maharashtra.
Yavatmal	Saiprem Gramin Vikas Sanstha, Yavatmal-445001, Maharashtra.
Beed	Manavlok, (Marathwada Navanirman Lokayat), P. Box No. 23, Dhadpad Office, Ring Road, Ambejogai, Dist.Beed-431517, Maharashtra.
Jalna	Karmavir Pratishthan, Ramnagar, Post-Savargaon, Tal+Dist. Jalna-431203, Maharashtra.
Nanded	MGM Medical College and Hospital, N-6, CIDCO, Aurangabad Mahatma Gandhi Mission, 12 Bhagyanagar Nanded 431602, Maharashtra.
Latur	Shri Ganesh Shikshan Prasarah Mandal, Khatgaon Road, Dist- Latur-415531 Maharashtra.
Hingoli	Ujwal Shikshan Prasarak Mandal, "Ujwal" Vidya Nagar Tal+Dist.-Hingoli-431513 Maharashtra
Mumbai	Vanavasi Kalyan Kendra, 36 Piroja Mension, Grant Road (E), Mumbai- 07
Ratnagiri	Matru Mandir, At & Tal.-Devrukh, Dist.-Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.
Sangli	Yerala Projects Society, Yerala Bhavan, Near Guest House, Sangli-416415, Maharashtra.
Sindhurg	Foundation for Health, Education & Cultural Activities, Banda, Sindhurg

1	2
Akola	Virdharba Vikas Mahila Bal Kalyan Shikshn Sanstha, Akola C/o Mr. Genesh Borkar, Anusaya Building near Tathok Mangal Karyalaya, Govt. dairy road, Shastri Road, Akola
Parbhani	Lokdeep Manav Vikas Sanstha, Parbhani C/o Dr. Arun B Engale, Plot No. 79, Parvati complex kokmanyanager, Parbhani-431401.
Gadchiroli	Indian Institute of Youth Welfare Mr Manohar Hepat Vikas Bhavan, Talao Road, Gandhi Chowk, Gadchiroli
Nandurbar	Late Shriram Ahirrao Menorial Charitable Trust, C/o Dr. Nilesh Ahirrao, At/Po Betawad Tal. Sindhkheda, Distt. Dhule.

**List of Service NGOs in Maharashtra**

1. Lokmanya Medical Foundation, Pune
2. Dalta Meghe Institute of Medical Sciences Wardha
3. Dattatry Prabhu Bhuuddeshiya Shikshan, Gondiya
4. Ashray Mahila Samudaya Vikas Sanstha, Akola

**Decrease in Medical Seats**

2794. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Medical Council of India has recently cancelled 1800 medical seats in various medical colleges in the State of Andhra Pradesh from the academic year 2007-08;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received any request from Andhra Pradesh Government for restoring the seats; and

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government's?



THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) The Medical Council of India did not recommend to Central Government large reduction in MBBS seats in various Medical Colleges in Andhra Pradesh for 2007-08 academic session. The total intake capacity of Medical Colleges in Andhra

Pradesh for 2006-07 academic year was 3875 MBBS students whereas the intake capacity of all Medical Colleges in Andhra Pradesh for 2007-08 academic year is 4075 MBBS students. The intake capacity of each of the Medical Colleges in Andhra Pradesh has been given in the enclosed statement.

**Statement**

*Intake Capacity of Medical Colleges in Andhra Pradesh for Admission for the Academic Session 2006-07 & 2007-08*

S.No.	Name of Medical College	Recognized/ Permitted	Govt./ Private	Intake capacity for 2006-07	Intake capacity for 2007-08
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Medical College, Visakhapatnam	Recognised	Govt.	150	150
2.	Rangaraya Medical College, Guntur	Recognised	Govt.	150	150
3.	Guntur Medical College, Guntur	Recognised	Govt.	125	125
4.	Siddhartha Medical College Vijayawada	Recognised	Govt.	100	100
5.	Osmania Medical College, Hyderabad	Recognised	Govt.	200	200
6.	Gandhi Medical College, Hyderabad	Recognised	Govt.	150	150
7.	Kakatiya Medical College, Warangal	Recognised	Govt.	150	150
8.	Kumool Medical College, Kumool	Recognised	Govt.	150	150
9.	S.V. Medical College, Tirupati	Recognised	Govt.	150	150
10.	Deccan College of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad	Recognised	Pvt.	150	150
11.	Mamta Medical College, Khammam	Recognised	Pvt.	150	150
12.	Kamineni Institute of Medical Sciences, Narketpalli, Nalgonda	Recognised	Pvt.	150	150
13.	S.V.S. Medical College, Mehboobnagar	Recognised	Pvt.	100	100
14.	Narayana Medical College, Nellore	Recognised	Pvt.	100	150
15.	Govt. Medical College, Apur	Recognised	Govt.	100	100
16.	Asram Medical College, Eluru	Recognised	Pvt.	100	100
17.	MNR Medical College, Sangareddy, Distt. Medak	Permitted u/s 10 A of the Act	Pvt.	100	100

1	2	3	4	5	6
18.	Prathima Institute of Medical Sciences, Nagunur, Karimnagar Distt.	Permitted u/s 10 A of the Act	Pvt.	100	150
19.	PES Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, Kuppam, Chittoor District	Permitted u/s 10A of the Act	Pvt.	100	150
20.	Medicity Institute of Medical Sciences, Ghanpur, Ranga Reddy District	Permitted u/s 10 A of the Act	Pvt.	100	100
21.	Katuri Medical College Guntur	Recognised	Pvt.	100	100
22.	Christian Medical College, Dichipally	Permitted u/s 10 A of the Act	Pvt.	No Permission	No Permission
23.	Dr. Pinnamaneni Siddhartha Institute of Medical Sciences & Research Foundation, Chinoutpally	Permitted u/s 10 A of the Act	Pvt.	100	150
24.	GSL Medical College, Rajamundry	Permitted u/s 10 A of the Act	Pvt.	150	150
25.	Mharaja's Institute of Medical Sciences, Nellimaria, Vizianagaram	Permitted u/s 10 A of the Act	Pvt.	100	100
26.	NRI Medical College, Chinnakakani	Permitted u/s 10 A of the Act	Pvt.	150	150
27.	Chelmada Anand Rao Instt. of Medical Sciences, Karimnagar	Permitted u/s 10 A of the Act	Pvt.	150	150
28.	Shadan Instt. of Medical Sciences, Peeranchuru	Permitted u/s 10 A of the Act	Pvt.	100	100
29.	Bhaskar Medical College, Yenkapally	Permitted u/s 10 A of the Act	Pvt.	100	100
30.	Konaseema Instti of Medical Sciences and Research, Amalapuram	Permitted u/s 10 A of the Act	Pvt.	100	100
31.	Santhiram Medical College, Nandiyal	Permitted u/s 10 A of the Act	Pvt.	100	100
32.	Rajiv Gandhi Instt. of Medical Sciences, Kadappa	Permitted u/s 10 A of the Act	Govt.	150	150
<b>Total</b>				<b>3875</b>	<b>4075</b>

**Measures to Check Depletion of Ozone Layer**

2795. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the some countries have signed any agreement to check emission of harmful chemicals and greenhouse gases which deplete the Ozone Layer;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement signed; and

(c) the measures taken or likely to be taken by India and other developing and the developed countries under the agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 191 countries have signed Vienna Convention for the protection of the ozone layer and the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer. India became a party to the Vienna Convention for the protection of ozone layer on 19th June, 1991 and the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer on 17th September, 1992.

(c) A detailed Country Programme for phaseout of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs) was prepared in 1993. The regulatory and fiscal measures have been taken to ensure phase out of ODSs as per the schedule specified in the Montreal Protocol with financial and technical support received from the Multilateral Fund (MLF). Similarly, developing countries are also phasing out ODSs as per the Protocol.

Developed countries have phased out production and consumption of Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), Carbontetrachloride (CTC) and Halons on 1.1.1996 and will phase out Hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) by 2030.

**NHRC Report on Health**

2796. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NHRC stressed that health and education are two basic human rights and both are part of the fundamental rights;

(b) if so, the main recommendations made by the NHRC; and

(c) the number of recommendations that have been accepted by the Union Government?

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

**Horns in Captivity**

2797. SHRIMATI BOTCHA JHANSI LAKSHMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Assam Rifles personnel have seized a huge quantity of horns and hides of a rare deer and other animals, in North East Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the headless deers are openly sold in the markets in Nagaland and Manipur;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that one-horned rhinos found in Assam are also slaughtered by professional armed poachers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government against the professional armed poachers to save rare animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):

(a) and (b) Based on the reports received from the State Governments, two seizures (on 20-07-2007 and 09.09.2007) of wildlife articles have been made by Assam Rifles near Moreh in Manipur. The seizures consisted of antlers of Sambar and barking deer, horns of Serow, otter skins, claws & incisors of wild boar and body parts of bear.

(c) No, Sir. No such incidents have come to the notice of the Central Government.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. Details of rhinos killed by poachers in Assam during the last three years are given below:-

Year	No. of rhinos killed by poachers
2005	7
2006	5
2007 (up to 28.11.2007)	16

The measures taken by Government of India against the professional armed poachers, inter alia, include the following:

1. Important species of wildlife has been included in the Schedules the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, thus according them legal protection.
2. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau, with a network of five Regional and three Sub Regional Offices, has been set up to control wildlife crimes.
3. Financial support is being provided under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes- Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project Tiger and Project Elephant to the State/UT Governments for the conservation and development of wildlife and its habitats.
4. India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) that regulates international trade in wildlife and its derivatives.

In addition, the State/UT Governments have also taken the following measures to protect wildlife.

1. Development of wildlife habitat to increase the population of wild animals.
2. Intensive patrolling in sensitive areas.
3. Coordination with other law enforcement agencies/Government Departments.
4. Provision for arms & ammunition, and communication facilities to field units.
5. Training to frontline staff.
6. Conducting nature awareness campaigns for the public.

### GDP Growth Rate in North East Region

2798. SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the GDP growth rate during the Tenth Plan period in the North Eastern (NE) States in comparison to all India GDP growth rate, State-wise;

(b) whether any priority sector has been identified in the proposed Eleventh Plan for the North Eastern (NE) States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for faster Socio-Economic growth in the Eleventh Plan Period for North Eastern (NE) Region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The GSDP growth rate of the North Eastern States during first four years of the Tenth Plan Period and the all India GDP growth rate is indicated below:-

#### *Growth rate (first four years of 10th plan)*

States	Growth rate
Arunachal Pradesh	5.6
Assam	6.1
Manipur	11.3
Meghalaya	5.6
Mizoram	5.9*
Nagaland	8.3*
Sikkim	7.7
Tripura	NA
All India	7.2

\*GSDP Data in respect of Mizoram, Nagaland is available for first three years only. For Tripura date not available).

(b) to (d) The 11th Plan document is presently under finalization. During the 11th Plan emphasis would be on the critical parameters for faster growth of NE Region. These are creation of infrastructure in the major sectors

of connectivity (Road, Rail Air, Inland Waterways, telecommunication) and Power; thrust on major social infrastructure (Health, Education Tourism); capacity building and skill development; emphasis on Primary Sector (agriculture and horticulture, Animal Husbandry) etc.

#### **Study on Chikungunya**

2799. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted any scientific study on the after effects of Chikungunya which is prevalent in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether the Government will consider Mass Drug Administration for the eradication of Chikungunya; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Chikungunya is transmitted by the bite of *Aedes* mosquito. Incubation period of the virus is from 4 to 7 days. The main symptoms of the disease are high fever with skin rashes. The infected person suffers from muscular and joints pain which continue for a considerable period even after the acute phase is over.

The first case of Chikungunya was recorded in India in 1963. Subsequently a few outbreaks have occurred and have been associated with disease. Thereafter only a few sporadic cases were recorded till 2005, followed by a massive outbreak in 2006. Due to its quiescence for nearly 32 years not many studies have been taken up on different aspects of Chikungunya during this period. However, currently Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is funding an extramural project entitled "A rural population based study of Chikungunya infection with special reference to persistent rheumatic musculoskeletal disorders". The study is being carried out at Centre for Rheumatic Diseases, Pune. The main objective of the study is to evaluate the long term clinical, serological and immunological profile of Chikungunya infection with special reference to persistent 'rheumatic musculoskeletal disorders'. For this study a total sample size of 400 patients of Chikungunya infection will be enrolled from Pune district. The study has been initiated w.e.f. July 2007 and the final report will be available by the end of 2008.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. There is no drug that acts on Chikungunya virus infection. The cases are treated symptomatically.

#### **Commonwealth Youth Games**

2800. SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed Commonwealth Youth Games is likely to be held at Pune in October, 2008;

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

(c) whether the Government has received a proposal from Government of Maharashtra for grant of amount of Rs. 110 crore for creating additional sports facilities;

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

(e) the present status of the above proposal; and

(f) the time by which the requisite fund would be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Commonwealth Youth Games, a sub-event of the Commonwealth Games, 2010, will be held from the 12th to the 18th October, 2008 in Pune, Maharashtra.

(b) All the Competition Venues and the Athletes Village for the Games will be located at the Shivchhatrapati Sports Complex. Work related to the development of sports infrastructure in this Complex started in February, 2007 and is expected to be completed by May 2008. A Statement showing the present status of the sports infrastructure work for each discipline of the Games is enclosed.

(c) to (f) The Government of Maharashtra had initially projected a budget of Rs. 192.50 crore for the creation/improvement of sports infrastructure in Pune for the Commonwealth Youth Games, 2008 which was later revised to Rs. 285.09 crore and further to Rs. 355.00 crore. An amount of Rs. 110.00 crore has been approved by the Planning Commission for the purpose, as Additional Central Assistance to the Govt. of Maharashtra under State Plan and has advised the Govt. of Maharashtra to meet the additional costs out of their considerably enhanced Annual Plan Outlay for the year 2007-08.

**Statement****Status Report**

S.No.	Discipline	Date of Commencement of construction works	Date of Completion	Progress as on 31.10.2007
1.	Athletics	31.01.2007	31.05.2008	65%
2.	Badminton	04.02.2007	31.05.2008	36%
3.	Boxing	25.01.2007	31.05.2008	55%
4.	Shooting (50 m & 10 m)	14.01.2007	31.05.2008	52%
5.	Shooting (25m)	14.01.2007	31.05.2008	58%
6.	Swimming	01.02.2007	31.05.2008	47%
7.	Table Tennis	10.02.2007	31.05.2008	25%
8.	Tennis	31.01.2007	31.05.2008	58%
9.	Weightlifting	01.06.2007	31.05.2008	20%
10.	Wrestling	15.02.2007	31.05.2008	58%

*[Translation]***'Lands for Lalitpur-Singrauli Rail Line'**

2801. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the area of the forest land being used in Lalitpur district of U.P for construction of Lalitpur-Singrauli rail line and the area of land on which works related to railway lines construction have been completed;

(b) whether the Government had issued No-objection certificate for carrying out non-forest work on forest land and whether the land was transferred to the Railways;

(c) if not, whether the Government proposes to take action against the persons/officials responsible for unauthorised construction of railway line on forest land;

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

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]***Mega Projects**

2802. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:  
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:  
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

Will the Minister of STATICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether at least seven of the 11 mega projects being executed by India in the neighbouring countries were suffering from cost and time overruns;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the countries where these projects are executed;

(d) the cost of these projects;

(e) the original time schedule for their completion; and

(f) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): (a) to (f) According to the definition

adopted for monitoring of Central Sector Projects, projects costing Rs. 1000 crores and above are classified as mega projects. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, 7 projects which are not mega projects, but are under implementation in the neighbouring countries, have time and cost overruns. The country-wise details of these projects including cost, completion schedule, reasons for time and cost overruns and action taken is given in the Statement enclosed.

**Statement**

*Projects under implementation in the neighbouring countries*

S.No./ Country	Name of the Project	Cost (Rs. in Crore)		Remarks
		Original	Revised	
1	2	3	4	5
<b>Afghanistan</b>				
1.	218 Kms. Road from Zaranj to Delaram by Border Roads Organisation (BRO)	377.0	746.79	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project which was earlier scheduled to be completed in December, 2007 is expected to be completed in December, 2008 at the revised cost.</li> <li>Revised estimates are under process by MEA.</li> <li>Project Review Committee (PRC) will closely monitor to avoid further time and cost overruns.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reasons for cost/time overruns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharp increase in prices of major inputs</li> <li>Volatile market, price fluctuation and erratic supplies in Afghanistan.</li> <li>Security problems</li> <li>1400 security local guards deployed at higher prices against the original estimates.</li> <li>No provision of departmental charges in Cabinet approval. However, BRO has incorporated departmental charges @ 7% in the revised estimates.</li> </ul>
2.	Reconstruction and completion of Salma Dam Power Project in Herat Province being executed by M/s Water and Power Consultancy Services (WAPCOS) India	351.58	734.74	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Earlier the completion date of project was January, 2009, which has now been revised to January, 2010.</li> <li>MEA is processing revised cost estimates for approval by the Committee on Non-Plan Expenditure, Ministry of Finance &amp; Cabinet.</li> <li>The Project Review Committee (PRC) will monitor closely to avoid further slippage.</li> </ul> <p><b>Reasons for time and cost overruns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sharp increase in prices of major inputs and civil &amp; electro-mechanical works</li> </ul>

1	2	3	4	5
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heavy floods in early 2007 caused damaged to Coffe dams and other infrastructure.</li> <li>• Problems relating to transit of material and personnel through Pakistan and Iran.</li> <li>• Worsening security situation-two attacks on project sites recently on 27.7.2007 and 9.8.2007</li> </ul>
3.	Construction of Afghanistan's Parliament building by CPWD India	296.45	338.58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project is expected to commence in May, 2008 and is likely to be completed by April, 2011</li> <li>• Increase in cost is due to change in scope requested by Afghan Government,</li> <li>• Building design incorporating additional features has been finalized</li> <li>• Enabling works are in progress</li> <li>• PRC to monitor closely to stick to the time and cost schedule except in circumstances beyond control.</li> </ul>
<b>Nepal</b>				
4.	200-Bed Emergency and Trauma Care Centre in Kathmandu as part of Bir Hospital Expansion	54.11	61.39	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The construction work started in end October, 2006 and the project is tentatively scheduled to be completed by October, 2008</li> <li>• As per Detailed Project Report, the project has a completion period of around 28 months. The construction work started in the end of October, 2006.</li> <li>• The prevailing political &amp; security situation in Nepal to some extent are responsible for increase in cost.</li> <li>• Bandh &amp; Shutdowns in Kathmandu and in Terai Region of Nepal have adversely affected the supplies in past and might delay the completion.</li> </ul>
<b>Bhutan</b>				
5.	Tintibi-Tongsa Bumthan Transmission Line	34.38	61.70	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project is expected to be completed by May, 2008.</li> <li>• Contract awarded to M/s. Utkal Galvanisers, Orissa in joint venture with M/s Bhutan Engineering Company is expected to be completed in May, 2008. Another contract has been awarded to M/s POWERGRID on 28.07.06</li> <li>• Cost was increase based on competitive bidding process</li> <li>• Assisted projects are reviewed each year as per the agreement signed by GOI &amp; Bhutan Govt.</li> <li>• Reviewed by PRC regularly.</li> </ul>



1	2	3	4	5
6.	Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital (JDWNRH) Expansion	65.69	71.60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction works was initially to be completed by June, 2007, which is now expected to be completed by June, 2008</li> <li>• Cost revised in April, 2006. Estimates are vetted by AIMS, New Delhi</li> <li>• Assisted projects are reviewed each year as per the agreement signed by GOI &amp; Bhutan Govt. Reviewed by project Monitoring Committee (PMC) regularly.</li> </ul>
7.	Pasakha-Manitar Road	54.01	55.60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The road was initially to be completed by April, 2007. The Road involves construction of three bridges, and the completion would now be possible only by April, 2008</li> <li>• Project delayed on account of inclement weather and difficult geological formations.</li> <li>• Project DANTAK (Border Roads Organization) had given fresh projection for costs</li> <li>• Revised estimate is based on the approved detailed project report</li> <li>• Assisted projects are reviewed each year as per the agreement signed by GOI &amp; Bhutan Govt. Reviewed by PMC regularly</li> </ul>

#### Uranium Produced in the Country

2803. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of uranium produced in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government proposes to double the production of Uranium in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) It is not the public interest to disclose information on the quantity of uranium produced in the country.

(b) In order to meet the enhanced requirement of uranium for the country's nuclear power programme to augment its production capacity substantially.

(c) and (d) UCIL, a public sector undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy besides operating five mines at jaduguda, Bhatin, Narwaphar, Turamdih & Banduhurang and two processing plants at Jaduguda and Turamdih proposes to set up two mines at Bagjata and Mohuldih all in Jharkhand. Construction activities have commenced for setting up a mine and processing plant at Tummalapalle in the Kadpa district of Andhra Pradesh. In addition pre-project activities have commenced for taking up projects at Lambapur-Peddagattu in Andhra Pradesh and Mawthabah in Meghalaya and Gogi in Karnataka. These projects will be taken up after receipt of all statutory clearances and after the investment decision is taken by the Government.

[Translation]

#### Environmental Restoration Projects

2804. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pollution control and environmental restoration projects of ponds pertaining to Maharashtra is pending for want of approval with Union Government;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHIR NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The Government of Maharashtra had submitted a number of proposals on conservation of lakes to this Ministry, for consideration under the National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP). Out of these, 5 proposals for conservation of 13 lakes have already been approved at a total estimated cost of Rs. 24.25 crore. The remaining proposals on examination in this Ministry were found either technically deficient or not falling within the mandate of NLCP. The State Government has been asked to scrutinize the remaining proposals at their level, keeping the NLCP guidelines in view and also to explore the possibilities of inclusion of some of these lakes in the State Conservation Plan through the state budget available for purpose.

The proposals for new lakes are considered under NLCP subject to their admissibility as per guidelines, prioritization, pollution status and availability of funds under the Plan.

*[English]*

#### Uranium Processing Plant

2805. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to set up Uranium Ore Processing Plant in the country;

(b) if so, the expected of the project, the locations identified for setting up of the same and the number of persons likely to get employment opportunities with the commissioning of the same; and

(c) the time by which the above Plant is likely to be set up?

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

(b) and (c) Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) a public sector undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy, proposes to set up uranium ore

processing plant at Tummalapalle in the Kadapa district, Andhra Pradesh. The estimated cost of the plant is Rs. 694.59 crore. About 384 personnel are likely to be employed in the processing plant and it is expected to be commissioned 36 months

In addition, pre-project activities for processing plants at Seripally in the Nagonda district, Andhra Pradesh and Mawthabah in the West Khasi Hills District of Meghalaya have been taken up. However the projects will be taken up only after all statutory clearances are obtained and investment decision is taken by the Government.

#### Leech Therapy

2806. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to recognize leech therapy for various diseases;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its side-effects; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

#### Promotion of Sports

2807. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of programmes sponsored by the Union Government to promote sports, particularly in Karnataka;

(b) the number of sportspersons from Karnataka who represented at the National and International level in various sports;

(c) whether any scheme is being run under the 'Rural Sports Programme' in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the funds allocated and achievements made as a result thereof during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The Minister was supplementing the efforts of State Governments including that of Karnataka till 31.03.2005 for creating sports facilities in various places, including rural areas in the country by providing assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Sports Infrastructure Scheme, which has been transferred to State w.e.f. 01.04.2005.

(b) The data base with regard to State-wise representation of sportspersons in National and International sports events is not maintained in the Ministry.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Rural Sports Programmes are run by the Ministry through Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports, Patiala in all States/Union Territories.

(e) While Financial Assistance of Rs. 8,00,000/- was given for organizing Rural Sports Programmes in the State of Karnataka during the year 2004-05, no proposals were received during 2005-06 and 2006-07.

#### Legislation of HIV/AIDS

2808. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special legislation on HIV/AIDS is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

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

(b) The salient features of the HIV/AIDS Bill are given in statement enclosed.

(c) The Bill is under consideration, and will be introduced after it has been vetted by Legislative Department.

#### *Statement*

##### *The Salient Features of the HIV/AIDS Bill 2007*

The main objectives of the legislation are to prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS and protect the rights

of those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. The main chapters of the law include:

- i. Prohibition of discrimination related to HIV/AIDS within the public and private spheres. This chapter addresses discrimination in employment, education, healthcare, travel, residence, accommodation, insurance etc. It also addresses the issue of hate and discriminatory speech in the HIV context.
- ii. Requirement of informed consent for HIV-related testing. HIV-related treatment and HIV-related research. This chapter statutorises existing standards of informed consent and the exceptions to it.
- iii. Guarantee of confidentiality of HIV-related information (including HIV+ status) and exceptions to it.
- iv. The right to access treatment related to HIV/AIDS as part of the right to health recognized under the Indian Constitution and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to which India is a signatory. The chapter provides for access to comprehensive HIV-related treatment including diagnostics, ARVs, nutritional supplements etc.
- v. The right to a safe working environment for health care workers and other persons whose occupation may put them at risk of exposure to HIV.
- vi. Protection of strategies for risk reduction, which are otherwise subject to criminal sanction under various laws that have severely impeded risk reduction work with sex workers, injecting drug users and men who have sex with men in the past.
- vii. Norms for Information, Education and Communication programmes and materials.
- viii. The creating of innovative implementation mechanisms including institutional grievance redressal machinery. Health Ombudspersons and HIV/AIDS Authorities. This will be supported by Special Procedures to be followed in courts, including suppression of identity, speedy trials and proceeding etc.

- ix. Special provisions for those who are disproportionately affected by the epidemic, particularly women, children and young persons and persons in care and custody of the State who due to social, economic, legal and other factors find themselves more vulnerable to HIV.

#### **Medical Facilities to Zoos and Wildlife Wings**

2809. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be please to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide medical care and health investigation facilities to India Zoos and Wildlife Wings of various State Government in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the assistance provided by the Government for strengthening diagnostic facilities in the existing centres during 2006-07;

(d) whether the number of veterinary institutions/universities providing disease diagnostic facilities are sufficient to meet the requirement of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to increase such veterinary institutions/universities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):

(a) to (f) Central Zoo Authority provides funds for creation and improvement of veterinary facilities including disease diagnostic facilities across the country in recognized public sector Zoos and Veterinary departments/institutes, viz at Bhubaneswar (Orissa), Anand (Gujarat), Bareilly (Uttar Pradesh), Guwahati (Assam), Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir), Kolkata (West Bengal) and Chennai (Tamil Nadu). The Central Zoo Authority has provided financial assistance to the Tamil nadu Veterinary & Animal Sciences University, Chennai to the tune of Rs. 1,19,693/- during the financial year 2006-07 for strengthening the diagnostic facilities. In addition, the Central Zoo Authority has also established a National Referral Central at the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Bareilly for providing super speciality services and diagnostic facilities to all Indian Zoos.

The above facilities are adequate to meet the current requirements.

#### **Permanent Seat in UNSC**

2810. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:  
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:  
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of India's bid for a permanent seat in UN Security Council;

(b) the total number of countries alongwith their names who have extended their support on the issue;

(c) the stand taken by France in this regard; and

(d) the effort made/proposed to be made by the Government to mobilise support in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) There continues to be wide support for India's candidature for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. This support has been expressed in the UN and bilaterally. France has publicly expressed its firm support for India's candidature for permanent membership of Security Council. The Government continue to mobilise support for India becoming a permanent member of the UN Security Council. Besides actively participating in UN debates on Security Council reforms, Government continue to follow up this with various countries.

*[Translation]*

#### **By-Pass Roads Around Jaipur City**

2811. SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA:  
SHRIMATI SUSHEELA BANGARU LAXMAN:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal for construction of by-pass roads around Jaipur city in view of heavy traffic on the National Highway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Government is likely to approve the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) to (c) Ring road/bypass for Jaipur has been included in the tentative list of cities for stand alone Ring Roads, Bypasses, Elevated Roads, Grade Separated Intersections and Flyovers under National Highway Development Project (NHDP) Phase VII. However, NHDP Phase VII is yet to be approved by the Government.

**Funds Saved Due to Discontinuation of Schemes**

2812. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds likely to be saved and the number of posts likely to be abolished due to the discontinuation of some of the Centrally Sponsored Schemes in the Eleventh Plan;

(b) the sectors where the said funds are proposed to be utilized;

(c) whether arrangement have been made for the adjustment of posts likely to be abolished;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (e) Plan Schemes are discontinued on the basis of zero based Budgeting (ZBB) exercise while preparing a Plan. The primary purpose of ZBB exercise is to ensure convergence, efficiency and efficacy of schemes according to Plan objectives & priorities and also the use of available resources in the most judicious and economically efficient manner. Such an exercise has been done for the Eleventh Five Year Plan also. There is no saving as such. Further, the Centrally Sponsored Schemes are implemented by the State concerned through their mechanism.

*[English]*

**Genetically Modified Organisms in Processed Food**

2813. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to regulate the manufacture, marketing and consumption of processed food containing Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) as per the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and Food Safety and Standard Act, 2005 to address health concerns and to work out measures to fix liability in case of problems affecting the health of consumers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) A Draft notification for labelling of Genetically Modified Foods/ingredients under PFA Rules, 1955 was published vide GSR no. 152(E) dated 10.3.06 for inviting objection & suggestions from the public within 60 days from the date of its publication in the gazette of Government of India. Since the draft rules could not be finalized, the provisions to regulate Genetically Modified Foods have been made under the Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006 which would be taken up by the Food Safety Authority, which is under the process of being set up.

**Survey Regarding Cancer cases**

2814. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA:  
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:  
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:  
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey regarding the cancer cases/deaths in the country;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof, category-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) As per data collected through National Cancer Registry Programme (NCRP) by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), an estimated 4.4 lakhs people die of cancer every year and about 7-9 lakhs new cancer cases are detected every year. At any given point of time there are 2.5 million cancer patients in the country. However, no survey has been conducted regarding the cancer cases/deaths in the country.

Health being a State Subject, it is for the State Governments to ensure that adequate facilities for early detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer are made available. Central Government under the scheme of National Cancer Control Programme lays special emphasis on early detection of Cancer through screening, promoting health education, creating awareness etc. Under District Cancer Control Programme. There are 25 Regional Cancer Centres in the country providing comprehensive cancer care treatment.

*[Translation]*

**High Commissioners and Ambassadors  
Posted in Indian Missions**

2815. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:  
SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA  
DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the High Commissioners and Ambassadors including those belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Castes category posted in various countries as on date, category-wise;

(b) the number of posts of Ambassadors lying vacant and the time since when these posts are lying vacant and are likely to be filled up, country-wise;

(c) the number of High Commissioners and Ambassadors belonging to the Indian Foreign Service, Indian Administrative Service, other Central Service or to persons from public life;

(d) the criteria fixed for selection of High Commissioners/Ambassadors;

(e) the number of IFS officers belonging to SC/ST/OBC category working in the Ministry as on date; and

(f) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to appoint officers of the said category in the Indian missions in proportion to their number?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) 115 High Commissioners/Ambassadors have been posted by India in various countries as on date. Of them, 12 belong to Scheduled Castes (SC) and 8 belong to Scheduled Tribes (ST) category, Recruitment of Officers on the basis of Other

Backward Classis (OBC) category commenced from the year 1994 and consequently officers of OBC category have not yet attained the requisite seniority for being appointed as High Commissioners/Ambassadors.

(b) The posts of High Commissioners/Ambassadors are vacant in Cote D'Ivoire (from August 2007), Czech Republic (from October 2007), Iraq (from December 2004), Madagascar (from June 2007), Jamaica (from July 2007) and Zimbabwe (from October 2007). It is expected that these posts, excluding the post of Ambassador to Iraq, would be filled in near future. No decision has been taken regarding the appointment of the next Ambassador to Iraq.

(c) There are 107 serving Indian Foreign Service Officers posted as High Commissioners/Ambassadors. In addition, there are 3 retired Indian Foreign Service Officers, 1 Indian Administrative Service Officer, 1 retired Indian Administrative Service Officer, and 3 persons from Public life as High Commissioners/Ambassadors.

(d) Indian High Commissioners/Ambassadors are appointed by the President of India on the recommendations of the Prime Minister. These appointments are decided on the basis of a number of criteria, which include, inter alia, their seniority, background, relevant experience and overall suitability to the tasks and the post.

(e) As on date, the number of IFS officers in the Ministry belonging to SC, ST and OBC are 81, 42 and 59 respectively.

(f) The percentages prescribed for reservation in SC, ST and OBC categories are strictly followed at the recruitment stage. There is no policy of reservation in postings in Missions abroad, including at the level of Ambassadors/High Commissioners. However, conscious efforts are made towards appointment of officers belonging to SC/ST/OBC categories who have the requisite background, experience and seniority, as Ambassadors/High Commissioner.

*[English]*

**Special Suicide Prevention Programme**

2816. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI:  
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

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

(a) whether any survey has been conducted regarding the number of persons committing suicide in the country every year;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of persons who have committed suicide during each of the last three years state-wise;

(c) whether the Government proposes to launch special suicide prevention programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the National Institute of Mental Health and Mental Sciences, Bangalore has been urged to make recommendations regarding the first suicide prevention programme; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) No survey is conducted but the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles data received from the State/UTs. A statement

containing State/UT-wise number of suicides during the period 2004 to 2006 as reported to Nation Crime Records Bureau is enclosed.

(c) to (f) Under the National Mental Health Programme, efforts are made to provide mental health services as part of general health system. In this regard, Central Government supplements the State Government's efforts through District Mental Health Programme, Strengthening of Psychiatric Wings of Medical Colleges/ General Hospitals and Modernisation/Upgradation of Mental Hospitals to make them therapeutic units. The Govt. Proposes to re-strategise the National Mental Health Programme with input from National Institute of Mental Health & Neurosciences, Bangalore, during 11th Plan to expand District Mental Health Programme to cover the areas of suicide prevention, stress management, School Mental Health etc. and also to creat infrastructure for production of quality manpower/training of personnel etc. for effective delivery of mental health services.

#### **Statement**

#### *State/UT wise Number of Suicides during 2004-2006*

Sl.No	State/UT	2004 No.of Suicides	2005 No.of Suicides	2006* No. of Suicides
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13526	13442	13276
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	79	70	129
3.	Assam	2839	2846	3031
4.	Bihar	351	543	618
5.	Chhattisgarh	4495	4881	4626
6.	Goa	314	282	275
7.	Gujarat	4778	4765	5035
8.	Haryana	2082	2046	2316
9.	Himachal Pradesh	371	359	457
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	112	294	262
11.	Jharkhand	417	808	856
12.	Karnataka	11937	11557	12212

\*Provisional data.

Source: Accidental deaths and suicides in India.

1	2	3	4	5
13.	Kerala	9053	9244	9026
14.	Madhya Pradesh	6795	5448	6435
15.	Maharashtra	14729	14426	15494
16.	Manipur	41	27	36
17.	Meghalaya	55	71	92
18.	Mizoram	60	55	70
19.	Nagaland	31	27	28
20.	Orissa	4215	4208	4065
21.	Punjab	645	588	772
22.	Rajasthan	3725	4178	4263
23.	Sikkim	98	109	145
24.	Tamil Nadu	12839	12076	12381
25.	Tripura	770	715	765
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3637	3449	3099
27.	Uttaranchal	237	273	326
28.	West Bengal	13424	15015	15725
	<b>Total (States)</b>	<b>111653</b>	<b>111802</b>	<b>115815</b>
	<b>Union Territories</b>			
29.	A&N Islands	122	139	133
30.	Chandigarh	75	89	80
31.	D & N Haveli	39	69	42
32.	Daman & Diu	13	32	22
33.	Delhi (UT)	1256	1245	1492
34.	Lakshadweep	0	0	2
35.	Pondicherry	539	538	526
	<b>Total (UTs)</b>	<b>2044</b>	<b>2112</b>	<b>2297</b>
	<b>Total (All India)</b>	<b>113697</b>	<b>113914</b>	<b>118112</b>



[*Translation*]

**Indo-Bulgaria Agreement on Atomic Energy**

2817. SHRI GANESH SINGH:  
SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bulgaria is going to co-operate with India in the field of atomic energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) During the visit of Bulgarian Prime Minister Sergei Stanishev to India from 10-15 September 2007, only preliminary discussions were held regarding the possibility of exploring cooperation between India and Bulgaria in R&D in civil nuclear energy.

[*English*]

**Coding Scheme for Kala-Azar**

2818. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:  
SHRI JASUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD:

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

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to introduce a coding scheme for kala-azar patients whereby the system will be able to track the patient right down to the primary health sub-centre at the village level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Health Policy (2002) has set the goal for eliminating the disease by 2010;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent of success achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The concept of patient

coding scheme was introduced to line list all the confirmed Kala-Azar cases. The objective of the patient coding scheme is to ensure complete treatment compliance and avoid duplication of cases at different institutions like sub-centre, Primary Health Centre (PHC) and districts.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The National Health Policy (2002) envisages to achieve the goal for elimination of Kala-Azar by 2010 by bringing down the numbers of Kala-Azar cases less than 1 case per 10,000 population at sub-district level.

(e) After the introduction of patient coding scheme, all the cases are being traced to ensure complete treatment so that cases are properly cure and do not act as parasitic reservoir. This will be definitely help in elimination of Kal-Azar disease.

[*Translation*]

**Import of Food Items Without Prescribed Checks**

2819. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:  
SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether the food items are being imported in the country without prescribed checks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The import of any food article is governed under Sections 5 and 6 of the PFA Act, 1954 and section 6(2) of PFA Act provides that such clearance of any imported food articles is the responsibility of the Customs Collectors or their authorized officers. For clearance of consignments of imported foods, the Central Board of Excise and Customs, Department of Revenue, has framed the procedure for 100% testing before clearance. In cases where the samples are found to be conforming to the standards for first five consecutive consignments of each food items imported by individual importer there is a provision for clearance of consignment of food articles on the basis of 5 to 20% random testing.

*[English]***Collaboration on Surveillance of Diseases**

2820. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has entered into any agreement with any countries to collaborate on surveillance of dreaded diseases; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the role of the NGOs in regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) The Government of India has signed a Joint Statement with USA, bilateral Agreements/Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with the Governments of Fiji Islands, Saudi Arabia and Turkmenistan on a number of issues including surveillance of diseases. In addition to the above, the Indian Council of Medical Research has similarly signed MoU with France and Canada. The Joint Collaborative research projects in the identified areas of cooperation are undertaken by Indian and foreign scientists after necessary approval from the competent authority/committees. Under "Call for Proposals" scheme of ICMR, any Research Institute, whether Public, Private or NGO, can submit research proposals to be implemented in collaboration with any other country, subject to review by Indian and Foreign agencies and scrutiny by Health Ministry's Screening Committee, before approval. As the primary focus is on early reporting of epidemic prone diseases, reporting from all the sectors including private hospitals, practitioners and NGOs is encouraged under Integrated Diseases Surveillance Project of the Government.

**Blue Print for Sea Transportation**

2821. SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. (SCI) has prepared a blueprint to meet the growing demands of sea transportation in the liberalized scenario;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) has planned to acquire 62 vessels during the Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012) to replace its existing ageing feet and to augment the fleet of SCI.

(c) The Government has already approved the proposals of SCI for acquisition of 18 vessels of various categories during 2007-08.

**Setting up of Vehicles Inspection Centre**

2822. DR. M. JAGANNATH:  
SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:

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

(a) whether Union Government proposes to set up specialized state-of-the-art vehicle inspection and maintenance centres in all the State/Union Territories; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith vehicle inspection centres proposed to be set up, State-wise?

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

(b) The proposal is at nascent stage and the details have not been finalised.

**Delegation of Financial Powers to Panchayats**

2823. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the names of States which have still not delegated the financial powers to the Panchayats;

(b) the names of States which have fully delegated such powers to the Panchayats;

(c) whether there is any proposal for Constitutional Amendment to transfer the subject of Panchayati Raj from the Directive Principles section to the Fundamental Rights section;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure implementation of the provision of Panchayati Raj Act in letter and spirit in the State of India?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIR AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Devolution of financial powers to Panchayats requires a number of steps to be taken by the State Government. These include, *inter alia* the following:

- (a) Activity mapping for each devolved function tier-wise matched by similar mapping of finances and functionaries;
- (b) Inclusion of a PRI component in the budget of each State/Central Government department based on activity mapping;
- (c) Provision of progressively larger untied funds, tier-wise, to the Panchayats by State/Central governments;
- (d) A schedule, of time within which State Finance Commissions should prepare their reports and submit recommendations for Action Taken Reports;
- (e) Steps to encourage PRIs to raise their own resources.

Inclusion of a Panchayat Sector window in State Budget is the single most essential element of institutionalization of the transfer of funds to the Panchayats. The system of creating a Panchayat Sector window in the budgets of States has been adopted by several State including Chattiegarh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan. However, the efficacy of the system varies from State to State.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The Ministry of Panchayati Raj organized 7 Round Table Conferences of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj between July and December 2004 at which the road map for the empowerment of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) was agreed upon. These covered the effective devolution of functions, finances and functionaries to PRIs, planning by Panchayats, capacity building and training of elected Panchayati Raj representatives and IT enabled

e-governance among others. The devolution of functions to PRIs through the assignment of activities to each level of Panchayats with concomitant transfer of funds and functionaries is the key to the empowerment of PRIs. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj has constantly followed up on these with the States through the institutional mechanism of the Meetings of the Committee of state Secretaries of Panchayati Raj and the Council of State Ministers of Panchayati Raj and the Joint Statements of Conclusions (MoUs) signed by the Union Minister of Panchayati Raj with Chief Ministers of State and the appropriate authorities in Union Territories. 22 Joint Statement of Conclusions have so far been signed.

#### **Grants to NGOs for Eradication of Cancer and AIDS**

2824. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provides grants to the Voluntary Organisations engaged in the eradication of 'Cancer' and 'HIV';

(b) if so, the details of the grants provided to these organizations during the last three years; state-wise, NGO-wise;

(c) whether any monitoring is being done by the Government for the utilization of the grants provided to such organizations;

(d) if so, whether any discrepancies have been revealed during the last three years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details in respect of grant-in-aid released under National Cancer Control Programme (NCCP) is enclosed as statement. The information for the National AIDS Control Organisation is being compiled and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) Under the NCCP, the voluntary organizations are required to submit the utilization certificate under provisions of GFR alongwith audited accounts after actual utilization of funds for the purpose for which it was released.

In addition, as per NACO guidelines the voluntary organizations have to submit monthly activity reports, audited statement of expenditure and utilization certificate on half yearly and annually basis.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

**Statement**

*Details of NGOs assisted under the National Cancer Control Programme during the last three years*

2004-05	Rs. in Lakh
1. RCC Ahmedabad	300.00
2. RCC Chennai	300.00
3. RCC Allahabad	300.00
4. RCC Gawallor	300.00

The scheme for sanctioning grant-in-aid to NGOs under the Cobalt scheme has been discontinued and merged with Development of Oncology Wing scheme hence no grant-in-aid to NGOs for setting up of Cobalt therapy unit was issued during the year.

2004-05*	Rs. in Lakh
1. Malabar Cancer, Calicut (Through RCC)	2.00
2. Maulana Sajjad, Patna (Through RCC)	2.50
3. Sarvajan Kalyan, Allahabad (Through RCC)	2.50
4. LAMP, Kolkata (Through RCC)	1.50
5. Lokmanya Hospital, Pune (Through RCC)	2.00
6. Dr. Venkatrao Dawle Fdn., Latur (Through RCC)	2.50

\*The grant-in-aid was the 2nd and final instalment for completing the project "Health Education and Early Detection of Cancer" under NCCP to NGOs. The scheme was discontinued and merged with District Cancer Control Programme.

2005-06\*

RCC, Ahmedabad 15,00,748/-

**For implementation of the District Cancer Control Programme**

2006-07	Rs. in Lakh
1. RCC Ahmedabad	500.00
2. RCC Allahabad	500.00

\*grant-in-aid was provided under the new scheme namely "Upgradation of the Existing RCCs into Centre of Excellence"

2006-07

\*RCC, Anmedabad 6,99,252/—

\*Balance of first instalment of grant-in-aid for DCCP Project.

**Study on Autopsies of AIDS Deaths**

2825. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the revelation of a study based on autopsies of AIDS deaths by Grant Medical College is correct that virulent forms of contagious diseases are emerging through wakened immune systems of AIDS patients;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) At Sir J.J Hospital and Grant Medical College Mumbai a study based on autopsies of HIV/AIDS patients showed the presence of diseases such as TB, CMV infection, toxoplasmosis, cryptococcosis, Pneumocystis carinii (Jeroveci) Pneumonia and cryptosporidiosis etc among them.

(c) The Govt. is providing financial assistance to states to procure and supply drugs required for treatment of opportunistic infections in Government hospitals. Grant-in-aid is also provided to Community Care Centres for treatment of opportunistic infections.

**Reconstitution of UN Security Council**

2826. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any move for reorganisation and reconstitution of the UN Security Council to make it more effective; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There is a widespread feeling among UN member states that reform and expansion of the UN Security Council in both permanent and non-permanent categories of membership is central to the process of UN reform. The composition of the UN Security Council must reflect contemporary realities and have greater representation from developing

countries. India remains actively engaged in UN debates and with other member states to pursue genuine reform of the Security Council.

**Agreement for Diagnostic and  
Therapeutic Technologies**

2827. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and USA have signed an agreement to collaborate on medical research for developing low-cost diagnostic and therapeutic technologies to treat diseases like malaria, tuberculosis and HIV;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the salient features of the said agreement; and

(d) the extent which it will be helpful for both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Govt. of India has signed a Joint Statement with USA on June 7, 2005. The terms of reference inter-alia include collaboration in capacity building in the operation of high containment laboratories and safe handling of high hazard viruses and bacteria, developing and refining repositories and strengthening capacity to identify new pathogens. The implementation plans on cooperation between the US, Deptt. of Health and Human Services and the ICMR, signed on 16th October, 2007 provide for cooperation between the two countries on emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and diseases surveillance. These plans envisages cooperation in the fields of basic and applied research, planning and design of infectious disease laboratory facilities, collaboration on avian influenza research, training exchanges, and collaboration research between bio-medical research organization in India and the United States.

(d) The partnership between both the countries will increase joint activities in scientific discovery, research innovation and reinforce existing research cooperation, scientific training and capacity development efforts which will be helpful in investigations/studies related to emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases.

**Life Style Diseases**

2828. DR. K.S. MANOJ:  
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Government has conducted any study on the rise in the incidence of Lifestyle diseases in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has evolved any policy under the National Health Policy to look into the various aspects of this problem;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to combat this emerging public health problem?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) and (b) According to Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) there is no authentic data in the country regarding time trends for non-communicable diseases. Various reports estimate that 10-15% of the adults suffer from hypertension; approximately 8 lakh die from coronary heart disease and more than 6 lakh people die from stroke. There are about 20 lakh cases of cancer in India at any given point of time and approximately and incidence of 7 lakhs new cases every year. Over the past decades ICMR's research programs have addressed the major lifestyle related non-communicable diseases. It was estimated that about 22.4 million cases of IHD would have occurred in India in 2004 and 16 million disability adjusted life years would have been lost due to Ischemic Heart Disease (IHD). It was also estimated that 9.3 lakhs cases and 9.3 lakhs deaths would have occurred due to stroke. 37.8 million diabetics were estimated to have occurred during 2004 and about 2.3 million years of potential life lost to diabetes. 8 lakhs of cases of cancer were estimated during 2004 and about 2.5 lakhs were estimated to have died due to cancer. The information on incidence rate of cancer is available through the Population Based Cancer Registries functioning under the National Cancer Registry Programme of ICMR. An exercise to assess the trends in cancer occurrence in these registries areas is being undertaken. The preliminary results of this exercise

indicate increase in cancer incidence rate in Chennai and Bhopal. Two studies of ICMR relate to various aspects of lifestyles in mental health problems in urban areas. The task force study on "Urban mental health problems and service needs" carried out in three major cities in northern and southern India i.e. Chennai, Delhi and Lucknow, has highlighted problems relating to stress, alcohol and adolescent abuse.

(c) to (e) The Govt. of India is administering national programs relating to Cancer, and Mental Health. Recently, a National program on Prevention and Control of CVD, Diabetes and Stroke has been formulated for implementation in pilot phase in current year (2007-08)

#### Joint Exploration of Coal

2829. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL:  
SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has signed any agreement to float special purpose vehicle for joint exploration of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the investment likely to be made by the State for said joint venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) Two coal blocks, namely, Machhakata and Mahanadi with approximate coal reserves of 750 million tonnes and located in the State of Orissa were allocated jointly to the Maharashtra Power Generation Corporation Limited (MAHAGENCO) and the Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Limited (GSECL) in the year 2005. As per the terms of allocation letter, the Maharashtra Power Generation Corporation Limited and the Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Limited have formed a joint venture company viz. the Mahaguj Collieries Limited which would plan for development of these blocks. Coal so extracted would be shared in the ratio of 60% for MAHAGENCO and 40% for GSECL. The Mahaguj Collieries Limited, the Joint Venture Company, would arrange the capital required for development of above blocks.

Two more coal blocks viz Baitarni West and Naini have been allocated recently to the public sector undertakings (PSUs) of the Government of Gujarat jointly with other allocatees as per the details given below and these coal blocks would also be developed by joint venture companies to be formed by the allocatee PSUs:

Name of Blocks	Name of allocatees
Baitarni West	(i) Gujarat Power Corporation Limited.
	(ii) Orissa Hydro Power Corporation Limited.
	(iii) Kerala State Electricity Board.
Naini	(i) Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation.
	(ii) Pondicherry Industrial Promotion Development and Investment Corporation Ltd. (PIPSDCIL)

#### Inter-Island Connectivity

2830. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the poor Inter-island connectivity is creating problems to the people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the same;

(d) whether the Government proposes to start ferry links service with neighbouring countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) to (c) Presently, the inter-island connectivity in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep is maintained with 2x100 passenger vessels. The 5 vessels operating in the island-mainland sector are also being utilized for inter-island connectivity during the voyage. During monsoon period from May to September all fair-weather and inter-island vessels are withdrawn from service and hence the inter-island

passengers mainly depend on the two all-weather vessels. Due to non-availability of any other transport, helicopter service connecting Capital island, Kavaratti with all inhabited islands is also put into operation during the monsoon period. During fair-weather season all the vessels operate and accordingly, the movement of passenger in the inter-island sector do not suffer much.

Keeping in view the long term shipping requirement in Lakshadweep sector, 6 passenger vessels of different sizes under 15 Years Perspective Plan and 4 passenger inter-island high speed vessels under PMGSY Scheme have been recommended for acquisition. Out of these, 3x150 and 1x15 passenger vessels have been delivered this year. The construction of the 3x50 passenger vessels has been completed and the delivery is expected in December, 2007. Contracts have been signed for construction of 2x250 passenger-cum-100 M.T. cargo vessel with M/s. Colombo Dockyard Limited and as per the contract the vessels are to be delivered by 2nd January, 2010 respectively. One more 400 passenger vessel is also being considered for acquisition by the Government.

As regards Andaman and Nicobar islands, presently, there are 5 vessels plying in inter-island sector. The frequency to the southern group of islands has increased from an average of 3 times a month in the past to 6-9 times a month at present. The foreshore sector is serviced by 16 vessels and the frequency has increased as compared to the past.

Government is aware of the need for augmentation of the fleet size to meet the requirement of increased passenger traffic flow on this sector. 4 new vessels are under construction at various shipyards out of which two vessels are at advanced stage of construction and likely to be inducted sometime in 2008. In addition, acquisition of 4 vessels in the inter-island sector and 3 vessels in the for shore sector has been recommended recently to meet the increased traffic flow.

(d) and (e) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

*[Translation]*

#### **Smuggling of Bears**

2831. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:  
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bears are being smuggled to foreign countries, particularly to China and Pakistan at a large scale as reported in 'Lokmat' Newspaper dated August 20, 2007.

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):  
(a) No, Sir. such cases of bears being smuggled out to foreign countries have come to the notice of the Centre Government.

(b) Does not arise.

*[English]*

#### **PSUs In North Eastern Region**

2832. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state that the present status of the proposals for making the regional PSUs operating in the NER like North Eastern Regional Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC) and North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHHDC) commercially viable organizations and the achievement made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): The Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) under this Ministry, viz. North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation Limited (NERAMAC) and North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHHDC) have been incurring losses since inception. The steps planned and being taken up by these Corporation and the Ministry to make them viable are as follows:

#### **NERAMAC**

- Increase in number and quantity of items of procurement by NERAMAC to get reasonable returns and the adoption of a proactive role by its management with the active cooperation of the State Government of North Eastern Region.
- Strengthening of backward linkages for trading items as well as for raw materials required for

processing activities, through entering into Memoranda of Undertaking (MoU) with self help Groups, farmer cooperatives/societies etc.

- Strengthening of forward linkages with the buyers of raw agri-horticulture produce and the processed products through MoUs.
- Rationalisation of existing manpower and induction of professionals and experts in the Corporation.
- Diversification of the Pineapple Juice Concentrate Plant at Nalkata to produce other products, apart from pineapple juice concentrate, to make the unit operational for as many days as the raw material can be available in sufficient quantity.
- Full operationalisation of Ginger Processing Plant at Byrnihat in Meghalaya.
- Setting up of a Cashew Nut processing unit at Mankachar in Assam.
- Working capital requirement of NERAMAC (for smooth functioning of their activities) has been arranged.

#### NEHHDC

- Emphasis on aggressive marketing of North Eastern Handicrafts & Handlooms through various means, including launching of a web-site, development of designs, arranging buyer-seller meets and a more proactive approach on the part of the management of NEHHDC.
- Renovation of existing showrooms.
- Activation of the Common Facility Centre for Bamboo and wood-based products at Guwahati with assistance from the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts.
- Rationalisation of existing manpower and induction of professionals and experts in the Corporation.

All these steps in these PSUs have been initiated recently and would take some time before the Corporations show appreciable results.

*[Translation]*

#### **CBI Inquiry Against Officers**

2833. SHRI HARISINH CHAVDA:  
DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers above the rank of Deputy-Secretary against whom the CBI had sought permission for inquiry during the last three years, till date;

(b) the number of cases in which permission has been granted;

(c) the number of case in which permission has not been granted, Ministries/Department-wise; and

(d) the reasons for not granting such permission for inquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) During the last three years i.e. 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007 (upto 31.10.2007) the CBI has sought permission under section 6A of the DSPE Act in respect of 103 officers of the rank of Joint Secretary and above. The permission has been granted in respect of 77 officers, and declined in respect of 13 officers. The details of the cases in which permission has not been granted are given in the statement enclosed.

(d) Each case is examined by the competent authority and decided on merits.

#### *Statement*

Sl.No	Ministry/Department from which permission was sought	Number of officers in respect of whom permission was sought
1.	M/o Coal	2
2.	M/o Finance	4
3.	M/o Health	1
4.	M/o Textile	1
5.	M/o Steel	1
6.	M/o Shipping, Road transport & Highways	2
7.	M/o Heavy Industries & Public Enterprise	1
8.	M/o Home Affairs	1



**14th SAARC Summit**

2834. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the decision taken and agreements signed by India during the 14th SAARC Summit concluded in April, 2007;

(b) the benefits likely to accrue as a result thereof;

(c) whether India proposes to set up a South Asian University; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the countries which supported the proposal, the location for the said University and the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) The 14th SAARC Summit held in New Delhi on April 3-4, 2007 was a landmark Summit in many respects, Sallient outcomes of the 14th SAARC were:

For the first time in its history, SAARC expanded its membership to welcome Afghanistan as its eighth member. Again, for the first time, five Observers-China, Japan, ROK, EU and US attended the Summit. The leaders also decided to give observer status Iran.

The Summit adopted a comprehensive and a forward-looking Declaration, to promote regional co-operation. It underlined the collective vision of the Heads of State/ Government of SAARC countries of an interconnected South Asia where there was a free flow of people, goods, service and ideas.

There was a recognition that in its third decade of existence, there was a need to move SAARC from a declaratory to an implementation phase. The focus of SAARC would be on implementing collaborative projects that would bring concrete benefits to the people of the region. In this context, SAARC countries committed themselves to early operationalisation of the SAARC Development Fund (SDF).

- It was agreed to improve intra-regional connectivity, particularly physical economic and people-to-people connectivity. The full benefits of an integrated regional multi-modal transport

system were recognised. It was agreed that the SAARC Regional Multimodal Transport Study would be extended to Afghanistan. It was also agreed that pilot projects for improving connectivity would be identified and implemented.

- During the Summit, two important Agreements on the establishment of the South Asian University and the SAARC Food Bank were signed. The Food Bank is an exemplary model of regional cooperation to meet collectively the region's food shortages in times of emergencies and natural calamities. The South Asian University will be developed as a centre of excellence in higher education for the entire region.
- The was agreement that SAFTA was one of the most successful outcomes of SAARC's collective efforts. To realise its full potential, SAFTA should integrate trade in services. The importance of implementing trade facilitation measures was also underlined.
- The SAARC countries agreed to work together on a roadmap, inter alia, in the fields of poverty alleviation, food security, energy, water, environment, climate change trade and transport, information and communication technology tourism, education, culture and counter-terrorism.
- The SAARC countries committed themselves to combat terrorism and agreed to consider India's proposal to work towards finalising an Agreement on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters.

2. Implementation of the decisions taken at the 14th SAARC Summit will move SAARC from the declaratory to the implementation phase especially after the operationalisation of the SAARC Development Fund and South Asian University. These decisions are also intended to boost intra-regional trade and investment; increase co-operation in issues relating to trans-national crimes, particularly terrorism, narcotics & psychotropic substances and on trafficking in women and children; enhance understanding through increased people-to-people contact and promote cultural exchanges and travel within the region. As a follow up of the Summit, the three Ministerial Meetings on Transport, Home and Finance hosted by India have enhanced cooperation in these crucial areas. The SAARC Cultural Festival and the SAARC student exchange programme being organised by India will increase people-to-people connectivity.

*[English]***Iron and Iodine Deficiency Problem**

2835. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 300 million people are suffering from iron deficiency as compared to about 170 million people with iodine related problems in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Anemia Prevalence among the population of the country, as per NFHS-III (2005-06) is as below:

Children (6-59 months)	69.5%
Women	55.3%
Men	24.2%

With regards to Iodine Deficiency Disorders, it has been estimated that 71 million people are affected with Goitre & other Iodine Deficiency Disorders.

(c) Measures taken with regards to iron deficiency and Iodine Deficiency Disorders are given in the statement enclosed.

**Statement***Measures to improve the Anemia and Iodine Deficiency Disorders*

1. The Government of India has launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in order to improve the availability of and access to quality health care. Under this Mission, the Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH-II) for Anemia Control, provides iron and folic acid tablets to all pregnant and lactating women and pre-school/children. Now it has been decided that infants, school going children and adolescent girls would also be given these supplements.

Under the National Rural Health Mission, the states have been advised to organize monthly health and nutrition days where anemia prevention measures are also discussed. Further,

measures for controlling other micronutrient deficiencies such as Iodine deficiency and Vitamin A are also highlighted.

Nutrition Education to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breast feeding and dietary diversification are advocated through health & nutrition programmes.

2. National Iodine Deficiency Disorder Control Programme (NIDDCP)- The programme envisages supply of iodated salt in place of common salt. In order to overcome the problem of nutritional iodine deficiency among the population, the Government of India has restricted the sale of salt other than iodated salt for direct human consumption. To ensure the consumption of iodated salt by the population, information, Education and Communication activities are being carried out through different media agencies. To ensure effective implementation of the programme, financial assistance is provided to all State/UTs for establishment of IDD control cells, IDD monitoring labs, surveys, health education and publicity.

*[Translation]***Governance of Reservation Policy**

2836. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:  
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:  
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reservation policy is being governed by the official directives issued from time to time by the Department of Personnel and Training;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to implement the reservation policy effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) and (b) The policy of reservation in services under the Government of India is administered through executive

instructions issued by the Government from time to time.

(c) Liaison Officers have been appointed in all the Ministries/Departments and offices under the control of Heads of Departments to ensure due compliance of reservation policy.

*[English]*

**Targets and Achievements under Afforestation Programme**

2837. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWASI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the funds spent by the Government on afforestation during the last three years;

(b) whether afforestation target of 18.60 lakh hectare during 2006-07 has been achieved; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):  
(a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests is implementing the National Afforestation Programme (NAP) Scheme through a two-tier setup of Forest Development Agency (FDA) at forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at village level. During the last three years (2004-05 to 2006-07), funds amounting to Rs. 773.87 crores were released under the NAP Scheme, including for maintenance of plantations raised during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(b) and (c) The target for tree planting under the Item 16-B of Twenty Point Programme—1986: "Area Covered (Under Plantation) Public and Forest Lands" was fixed as 18.70 lakh hectares during 2006-07, against which the achievement was 16.56 lakh hectares. The State and Union Territory-wise targets and achievements, as per the Progress Report published by Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, are given in the statement enclosed. Some State and Union Territories could not achieve the targets for various reasons, including timely availability of funds and seedlings, and lands identified for tree planting.

**Statement**

*Progress under Item 16B of Twenty Point Programme-1986: "Area Covered (Under Plantation)-Public & Forest lands" during 2006-07*

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Target 2006-07	Achievements 2006-07	Percent Achievement
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	275000	418479	152
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10000	10116	101
3.	Assam	10000	9663	97
4.	Bihar	10000	8758	88
5.	Chhattisgarh	125000	131209	105
6.	Goa	1000	479	48
7.	Gujarat	100000	109456	109
8.	Haryana	30000	17553	59

1	2	3	4	5
9.	Himachal Pradesh	30000	30071	100
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	35000	12530	36
11.	Jharkhand	100000	33233	33
12.	Karnataka	75000	59761	80
13.	Kerala	20000	4353	22
14.	Madhya Pradesh	230000	233104	101
15.	Maharashtra	100000	39844	40
16.	Manipur	10000	5389	54
17.	Meghalaya	6000	107	2
18.	Mizoram	8500	5197	61
19.	Nagaland	25000	5556	22
20.	Orissa	75000	48021	64
21.	Puducherry	100	192	192
22.	Punjab	25000	3065	12
23.	Rajasthan	80000	83863	105
24.	Sikkim	15000	3550	24
25.	Tamil Nadu	150000	148812	99
26.	Tripura	17000	7589	45
27.	Uttarakhand	145000	149702	103
28.	Uttar Pradesh	50000	59218	118
29.	West Bengal	110000	15382	14
30.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2000	1081	54
31.	Chandigarh	150	181	121
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	200	218	109
33.	Daman and Diu	30	15	50
34.	Lakshadweep	20	0	0
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>1870000</b>	<b>1655727</b>	<b>89</b>

**Central Pool Fund for Doner**

2838. SHRI TAPIR GAO: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Development for North East Region is dependent on the Central Pool funds being controlled by the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the nature of budgetary allocation for various development schemes in NE Region, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYER): (a) to (c) The main Plan

Scheme of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) 'Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources' (NLCPR) is funded from the notional Central Pool of Resources for North-Eastern Region. The Ministry of Finance provide budgetary allocation for the scheme from this Pool. For 2007-08, Rs. 600 Cr have been allocated under this scheme by the Ministry of Finance. In the initial 4 years of the the creation of the Pool, i.e., for 1998-99 to 2001-2002, the funds provided for the Schemes of North Eastern were also deducted from the Pool. This practice has been discontinued from 2002-2003.

For the current financial year, the total Plan budget provided by the Ministry of Finance for the Ministry of DoNER is Rs. 1380.00 Cr.

Budgetary provisions for the other Plan Scheme of the Ministry are made from the regular budget. The names of these other schemes and provisions for 2007-08 are given as under:

Name of the Scheme	Allocation in 2007-08 (BE) (In Rs. Cr)
1. Schemes of North Eastern Council	600.00
2. Special Package for Bodoland Territorial Council	100.00
3. Loans to North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFI)	60.00
4. Technical Assistance & Capacity Building	12.00
5. Advertising & Publicity	6.50
6. Development of Inland Water Transport in North East	1.49
7. Development of cities & Roads in North Eastern States	0.01

No State-wise allocation are made under any of the Schemes.

**Plan for Improving Infrastructure**

2839. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government envisages a comprehensive plan for improvement of infrastructure costing about Rs. 20,18,709 crore for expanding roads, railways, ports, airports, telecom and information;

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

(c) the allocations made for each constituent infrastructure under the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c) The investment requirement and allocation for improvement of infrastructure like roads, railways, ports, airports, telecom, information, etc; in the Eleventh Five Year Plan has not been fixed.

**CVC on Corruption**

2840. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission is planning to set up independent experts in the Government departments to deal with cases of corruption;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent which it is likely to help in checking corruption in Government departments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI):

(a) to (c) The Central Vigilance Commission, in its draft CVC Regulations referred to the Government in terms of section 21(1) of the CVC Act, 2003 has included a provision to enable the Commission to entrust certain complaints/cases involving complex technical matters for an inquiry/investigation to an expert or a Committee of Experts. Such an expert or Committee of Experts would be chosen on the strength of their specialization and expertise in the field of vigilance or the subject matter of the complaint requiring inquiry/investigation.

#### System to Assess Degraded Forest

2841. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any system to assess the area of the degraded forest land in the country;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of the degraded forest land in the country; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):

(a) Forest Survey of India (FSI) does not assess degraded forest land but assesses biennially the forest cover broken down to different density classes. As per the latest State of Forest Report (2003); the open forest and scrub of the country constitute 287,768 km<sup>2</sup> and 40,269 km<sup>2</sup> respectively, with total of 328,038 km<sup>2</sup> which can be categorized as degraded forest.

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

(c) The State-wise open forest and scrub figures as per State of Forest Report, 2003 is given as under:

(Area in km<sup>2</sup>)

State/UT	Geographic Area	Open Forest	Scrub	Open Forest+Scrub
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	275,069	20,040	9,748	29,788
Arunachal Pradesh	83,743	14,508	116	14,624
Assam	78,438	14,784	219	15,003
Bihar	94,163	2,531	150	2,681
Chhattisgarh	135,191	17,018	88	17,106
Delhi	1,483	118	1	119
Goa	3,702	901	0	901
Gujarat	190,022	8,601	1,743	10,344
Haryana	44,212	997	68	1,065
Himachal Pradesh	55,673	5,377	389	5,766
Jammu & Kashmir	222,236	10,770	2,947	13,717
Jharkhand	79,714	11,035	807	11,842

1	2	3	4	5
Krnataka	191,791	13,988	3,141	17,129
Kerala	38,863	5,949	72	6,021
Madhya Pradesh	308,245	34,586	2,378	36,964
Maharashtra	307,713	18,478	4,175	22,653
Manipur	22,327	10,681	74	10,755
Meghalaya	22,429	10,348	169	10517
Mizoram	21,081	10,942	274	11,216
Nagalnd	16,579	7,902	231	8,133
Orissa	155,707	20,196	5,346	25,542
Punjab	50,362	837	22	859
Rajasthan	342,239	11,330	4,564	15,894
Sikkim	7,096	900	360	1,260
Tamilnadu	130,058	10,636	2,040	12,676
Tripura	10,486	3,047	1	3,048
Uttar Pradesh	240,928	8,122	749	8,871
Uttaranchal	53,483	6,043	320	6,363
West Bengal	88,752	6,298	75	6,373
Amdaman & Nicobar	8,249	680	1	681
Chandigarh	114	6	1	7
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	491	80	—	80
Daman & Diu	112	6	—	6
Lakshdweep	32	11	—	11
Pondicherry	480	23	—	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,287,263</b>	<b>287,769</b>	<b>40,269</b>	<b>328,038</b>

### Complete Overhaul of Accounting System

2842. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to completely overhaul the accounting system of the country as reported in 'The Times of India,' dated November 17, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) to (c)

Proposals for reform of the Plan Accounting System to make it more effective would be included in the draft Eleventh Plan document that will be placed before the National Development Council.

#### **Setting up of Environment Statistics Cell**

2843. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the states in the country have setup environment statistics cell;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all the states have submitted 'State of Environment' (SoE) reports;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the time by which the reports are likely to be submitted by all the states?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Seven states namely, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa and Uttarakhand have so far established environment statistics cell.

(c) to (e) So far, thirty three states and Union Territories except Jammu & Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh have submitted 'State of Environment (SoE) report.

*[Translation]*

#### **Sumuggling of Bamboos**

2844. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether revenue loss has been caused to the Government due to large scale smuggling of bamboos from the forest areas as reported by the Nagpur edition of 'Dainik Bhaskar' dated October 13, 2007; and

(b) if so, the details of the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

*[English]*

#### **Completion of Nuclear Power Projects**

2845. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been cost and time over runs in the completion of nuclear power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for timely completion of these project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) No, Sir. TAPP-3&4 nuclear power project has been completed in the year 2006 ahead of approved schedule and with savings in approved cost.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

#### **Auto and Food Cluster Project in Karnataka**

2846. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has urged the Union Government to clear a proposal on auto and food cluster;

(b) if so, whether the proposal has been approved by the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the details of assistance proposed to be provided in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the proposal has been approved by the Union Government.

(c) 1. Establishment of Food Cluster for Woman entrepreneurs in Gubarga.

(i) GOI assistance	15.70 lakh
(ii) State Government and SPV Contribution	7.30 lakh
(iii) Total Project Cost	23.00 lakh



**2. Establishment of CFC in Hubli, Dharwad Auto Cluster.**

(i) GOI assistance	339.50 lakh
(ii) State Government and SPV Contribution	145.50 lakh
(iii) Total Project Cost	485.00 lakh

**Navigation Facilities at JNPT**

2847. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to develop deeper navigation facilities at Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimates expenditure likely to be incurred therein;

(d) the extent to which JNPT will be able to handle vessels after the development of such facilities; and

(e) the time by which the project is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Government has approved the project 'Deepening and Widening of Mumbai Harbour Channel and JN Port Channel' at an estimated cost of Rs. 800 crores.

(d) and (e) The project is expected to be completed within a period of 27 months from the date of issue of work order. On completion of the project, the Port will be able accommodate container vessels requiring a draught up to 14 metres of 6000 Twenty feet Equivalent Units (TEUs) capacity.

*[Translation]*

**Vigilance Cases Against Bureaucrats**

2848. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vigilance/corruption cases registered against the top bureaucrats during the last three years;

(b) the number of charge sheets filed so far against such bureaucrats during the said project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) During the last three years i.e. 2004,2005,2006 and 2007 (upto 31.10.2007), the Central Bureau of Investigation has registered cases under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1998 against 86 officers of the level of Joint Secretary and above in the Central Government, its PSUs/Banks etc.

(b) During the same period, charge sheet has been filed against 42 Officers.

(c) Depending on the outcome of investigation in individual cases, appropriate action as per law and/or relevant disciplinary rules are taken against the concerned officers.

*[English]*

**Mandatory Uploading of Information in Websites**

2849. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for every public authority to publish their details as mentioned in Section 4(b) within on hundred and twenty days from the enactment of Right to Information Act, 2005 on their department's website;

(b) if so, whether Kendriya Bhandar has not published the said details on its website as mandatory under the RTI Act, 2005; and

(c) the reasons therefor and the action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) Section 4(b) of the Right to Information Act, 2005, mandates every public authority to publish the particulars of its organization functions and duties; the powers and duties of its officers and employees etc. within one hundred and twenty days from the enactment of the Act.

(b) and (c) The Kendriya Bhandar has published information with regard to section 4(1)(b) of the Right to Information Act, 2005 on its website.

#### **Operation Gaja**

2850. DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether two Elephants died after the 'Operation Gaja' at Lakhari Sanctuary in Gajapati Districts of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):

(a) and (b) As per report of the Government of Orissa, death of one elephant took place after two of them were captured and translocated from Andhra Pradesh and released in Lakhari Sanctuary in Orissa. The enquiry conducted by the officials of the Government of Orissa ascribed the death due to trauma caused to the elephant in the course of capture and translocation.

(c) Since then the process of capture and transportation of elephants has been suspended.

#### **Eradication of TB**

2851. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the assistance provided by the World Bank for eradication of TB has been found to be inadequate as reported in *The Hindu* dated November 12, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is substantial increase in the number of TB patients in the country inspite of huge investments;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the extent to which the percentage of TB patients have been cured in the country vis-a-vis the target fixed for eradicating TB; and

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

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

(b) The amount requested by the RNTCP in their Project implementation Plan for RNTCP Project submitted to the World Bank has been approved by the World Bank and total outlay of the RNTCP II Project amounts to US\$ 170 million for a period of 5 years from October, 2006 to September 2011.

(c) and (d) No Sir, on the country the incidence and prevalence of TB cases in the country is showing a declining trend.

The ARTI has come down from 1.7% in 2000 to 1.5% in 2003 (National ARTI survey).

The estimated incidence of all cases per lakh population has come down from 184/lakh in 2001 to 168/lakh in 2006 (WHO Global TB report).

Tuberculosis Reserch Centre (TRC) Chennai, has demonstrated that DOTS results in rapid reduction of TB prevalence compared to previous 30 years. In their local survey area, there was an annual decline of approximately 12% in prevalence of TB. Mortality rates due to TB have declined from 42/lakh population in 1990 to 29/lakh population in 2005.

(WHO Global TB report)

(e) and (f) The Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) widely known as DOTS, which is WHO recommended strategy, is being implemented as a 100% Centrally Sponsored Scheme in the entire country. The objective of RNTCP is to achieve cure rate of 85% of new sputum positive cases and to detect at least 70% of such cases.

The Revised National TB control programme has adopted and is implementing all the components of the new global Stop TB Strategy to control TB, including enhancement and expansion of quality DOTS services by means of effective supervision and monitoring; expansion of TB-HIV collaborative activities to the entire country in coordination with the National AIDS Control programme; introduction of DOTS Puls services to diagnose and manage MDR TB; involvement of all health care providers through public-private partnership schemes under the programme and increasing awareness through need based targeted IEC activities.

Under the programme, diagnosis and treatment facilities including a supply of anti TB drugs are provided

free of cost to all TB patients. Medicines/Drugs are provided to the TB patients in patient wise boxes to ensure that all drugs for full course of treatment are earmarked the day one a patient is registered for treatment under the programme. Drugs are provided under direct observation of a DOT provider and the patients are monitored so that they complete their treatment.

For quality diagnosis, designated microscopy centres have been established for every one lac population in the normal areas and for every 50,000 population in the tribal, hilly and difficult areas. More than 12250 microscopy centres have been established in the country.

Treatment centres (DOT centres) have been established in all government hospitals, Community Health Centres (CHC), Primary Health Centres (PHCs) and Sub-centres. In addition, NGOs, Private Practitioners (PPs) Community Volunteers, Anganwadi workers, Women Self Groups etc. also function as DOT Providers/DOT Centres to take the services as close to the residence of patient, as possible.

State TB Cells and District TB Centres have been strengthened by providing key personnel on contract basis and necessary infrastructure such as four wheelers, two wheelers, fax machine, photocopier, computer and internet facilities. For effective supervision of microscopy centres and DOT centres, at the sub-district level a TB Units (TUs) have been setup at sub-district level for every five lakh population (for 2.5 lakh people in tribal and hilly areas). At the TU level one Senior Treatment Supervisor (STS) and one Senior Tuberculosis Laboratory Supervisor (STLS) have been provided on contractual basis who work under designated Medical Officer TB Control (MOTC) responsible for all TB control activities at sub-district level.

To make the programme more accessible to larger segments of the population, and to supplement the Government efforts in this direction, emphasis is being given to also involve medical colleges, all general hospitals, Corporate hospitals, private practitioners and NGOs in the programme.

The programme is consistently achieving a treatment success rate of over 85% and the new smear positive case detection rate in 2nd quarter of 2007 was 78%. Till date, the RNTCP has placed more than 78 lakh patients on treatment thus averting more than 14 lakh deaths.

### **Recruitment of Group 'C' & 'D' Posts**

2852. SHRI M. APPADURAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reservation Policy has been strictly implemented while recruiting group 'C' & 'D' posts in the Union Government establishments; and

(b) if so, the number of persons appointed in Group 'C' and 'D' posts from general and reserved category separately during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Information is being compiled.

### **Survey on Leprosy Patients**

2853. SHRI ABU AYES MONDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted regarding leprosy patients in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Leprosy is a disease which is more predominant among illiterate people and people belonging to lower socio-economic status. Under National Leprosy Eradication Programme, information is collected from the state on the number of female cases, SC and ST cases detected among the new cases which is further compiled at national level.

Data shows that during last 3 years the proportion of female cases among new cases were 34% SC cases were 18.6% and ST cases were 11.7%. However no information is collected from the states on illiteracy and unemployment among leprosy patients nor any survey has been conducted in this regard.

(c) Government of India is implementing the National Leprosy Eradication Programme with following components-

- a. Decentralized Integrated Leprosy Services through General Health Care System.
- b. Timely diagnosis & prompt treatment with Multi-Drug Therapy.
- c. Intensified Information, Education & Communication (IEC) using local & mass media with emphasis to vulnerable populations.
- d. Training of General Health Care Staff in management of Leprosy.
- e. Prevention of Disability and Medical Rehabilitation care.
- f. Intensified Monitoring & Evaluation of programme through Management Information System & Independent Evaluation.

#### **Death of Endangered Deer in Delhi Zoo**

2854. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:  
SHRI MILIND DEORA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some endangered Manipuri dancing deer have died at Delhi Zoo recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons thereof;
- (c) the total number of Manipuri dancing deer in the country;
- (d) whether any probe has been ordered for enquiring into the causes of death of these animals;
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (f) the action taken by the Government against the guilty persons;
- (g) whether several endangered animals have been reported missing from Delhi zoo recently;
- (h) if so, the details thereof; and
- (i) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):  
(a) and (b) Nine Manipuri dancing deer have died on 06.11.2007 in National Zoological Park, Delhi. As per the Post Mortem report death was due to biological shock and stress.

(c) Manipuri dancing deer is endemic to Manipur State. As per the available information there are only about 180 Manipuri deer in wild and about 168 in different Zoos of the country.

(d) to (f) An inquiry has been instituted in the matter and report is awaited.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) and (i) Does not arise.

#### **Increasing Retirement Age**

2855. SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:  
SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to increase the retirement age of the Central Government employees;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether different departments have set different age for retirement; and
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS. (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI):  
(a) No such proposal, at present, is under consideration of the Ministry of Personnel.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) retirement age for the Civilian employees of Central Government is 60 years but in respect of specialists included in the Teaching, Non-Teaching and Public Health Sub-cadres of Central Health Service (CHS) retirement age is 62 years due to shortage of specialists and late entry into service, etc.

*[Translation]*

**Sri Lanka's Concern over Sethusamudram Project**

2856. SHRI RAGHUVeer SHIGN KOSHAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the neighbouring country Sri Lanka has expressed its concern over Sethusamudram canal project as reported in "Seema Sandesh", Jaipur dated October 10, 2007;

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

(c) whether the risk involved in the construction of the Sethusamudram project has been highlighted in the report of Lanka Hydraulic Institute; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) The Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project is an Indian Project and is located within the Indian side of the International Maritime Boundary Line. Certain issues have been raised by the Government of Sri Lanka, particularly on the environmental implications of the project. Consistent with the cordial and friendly relations between the two countries, the Government of India's endeavour is to address the genuine concerns of the Government of Sri Lanka through mutual discussions for which a mechanism has been put in place.

*[English]*

**RTI Act, 2005**

2857. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RTI Act, 2005 has resulted in the welfare of the common man in the rural India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (c) By enacting the RTI Act, 2005, the Government has empowered all sections of society including the rural and marginalized people to get information from the "public authorities".

**Train for AIDS Awareness**

2858. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to run "Red Ribbon Express", a special train to spread awareness on AIDS; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The special train to spread awareness on AIDS will cover 180 stations and will traverse over 27,000 kms in one year. The Red Ribbon Express consists of 7 coaches which include 3 coaches with educational material display, one coach for orientation and sensitization of selected groups such as Panchayati Raj Institutions, Anganwari workers, self-help groups, youth and women. Counselling services will also be provided on the train. The train has outreach activities including cycle caravans and bus caravans to cover 50,000 villages.

**Indians Detained in UAE**

2859. SHRI N.N KRISHNADAS:  
SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:  
SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:

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

(a) whether hundreds of Indians were detained in UAE due to some labour problems recently and are waiting to return to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of India has taken up the issue with the Government of UAE for their rescue; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) As per reports received from the CGI, Dubai, two instances occurred recently in Dubai, where workers, with majority of them being Indians, went on strike against their employers, in demand of increase of their wages etc. In first case, 4300 workers of M/s. Pauling Middle East Company went on strike on 28.10.2007 and were detained by police authorities. Out of these 4141 workers have been released and rejoined work. The remaining 159 workers, including 90 Indians, detained for indulging in violence by the local authorities, have since been deported. The Indian Mission officials were in constant touch with UAE authorities for the release/return of the Indian workers.

In the 2nd case about 35000 workers of M/s. Arabtec Construction Company went on strike from 1.11.2007, most of whom have resumed work after the company announced increase in salary. Around 500 workers from various nationalities, including 230 Indians, who tried to stop others from going to work, were arrested. All the detained workers have been sent back to their respective countries. The Indian Mission in the UAE have taken up the issues of reasonable minimum wages and comprehensive medical insurances of Indian workers with the Government of UAE.

#### Display of Pesticides Limit on Food Items

2860. SHRI M. RAJA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to make mandatory to display the limit of pesticides on the labels of food items under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) As per rule 32 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955, the names of ingredients used in the product in descending order of their composition by weight or volume as the case may be are provided on the label. Since, pesticides are contaminants and not ingredients of the food products; hence mention of their limit on the label has not been prescribed. However, Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) for different pesticides in various food articles have been

prescribed under rule 65 of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955.

The implementation of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954, & Rules, 1955 is carried out by the States/UTs. Governments which take action in case of any violation of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules.

*[Translation]*

#### Marketing of Health Care Products

2861. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the health care products are being marketed by various companies of Direct Selling Association (DSA);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any complaint has been received in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Various kinds of health care products are sold in the country which includes dietary supplements, nutritional products etc. However, MoH & FW is concerned only where those health care products which fall under the category of 'Drugs'. All such products are manufactured under valid manufacturing licence and distributed through wholesalers having valid licences. As per the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act only retail sale of drug is done to consumers and a licence is required for the same.

*[English]*

#### Cargo Handling by Ports

2862. SHRI M. APPADURAI:  
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

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

(a) the total number of ports in Tamil Nadu, A.P., Kerala and Karnataka which are handling cargo and the quantity of cargo handled by them during the last three years and in 2006-07, port-wise;

(b) the target fixed for the cargo handling for the current year and achievement so far, port-wise;

(c) whether workers of some ports have gone on strikes during the last three years:

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

(e) the losses incurred due to these strikes during the said period, port-wise; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) The details of cargo handled by ports of Ennore, Chennai, Tuticorin, Visakhapatnam, Cochin and New Mangalore during the last three years i.e. from 2003-04 to 2005-06 and for the year 2006-07 is as follows:

(In Million Tonnes)

Year	Ennore	Cochin	Visakhapatnam	Chennai	New Mangalore	Tuticorin
2003-04	9.23	13.57	47.74	36.71	26.67	13.68
2004-05	9.48	14.10	50.15	43.80	33.89	15.81
2005-06	9.17	13.88	55.80	47.25	34.45	17.13
2006-07	10.71	15.30	56.39	53.41	32.04	18.00

(b) Port-wise details of the target fixed for the cargo handling for the current year and achievements are as under:-

(In million tonnes)

Port	Target fixed by the Ministry	Actual Traffic handled 2007-08 (upto October, 2007)
Ennore	11.70	6.698
Cochin	16.93	9.23
Visakhapatnam	64.24	40.27
Chennai	55.86	35.98
New Mangalore	34.34	21.34
Tuticorin	13.63	13.48

(c) to (f) Information is being collected.

#### Alternate Medical Therapies

2863. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trend towards alternative medicines Europe is growing as reported in 'The Hindu' dated October 15, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote alternate therapies in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a marked resurgence of interest in traditional and alternative medicine including Ayurveda in European countries. This was also observed in the International Conference-cum-Exhibition on Ayurveda in Budapest, Hungary on 29th September, 2007 organized by Department of AYUSH in collaboration with Indian Embassy and a local NGO.

(c) Department of AYUSH is promoting and propagating Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy within the country by providing financial support under various Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes for upgradation of AYUSH educational institutions, promotion of research in these system and drug standardization and quality control of these systems. Mainstreaming of AYUSH is a core strategy under National Rural Health Mission. Financial assistance is being provided to States for creation of AYUSH facilities in District hospitals, Community Health Centres and Primary Health Centres and assistance is also provided for supply of essential AYUSH medicines in these dispensaries. Several initiatives have been taken for promotion of these systems at the National and international level. AROGYA fairs have been organized since 2001 in Delhi and other regional centres to develop awareness within the country. The First International Conclave of Traditional Medicine was organized at Delhi in November, 2006 and an International Meet of Traditional Medicine Regulators and Industry was organized on the sidelines of AROGYA, 2007 at Delhi in October, 2007.

[Translation]

#### Unused Coal

2864. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge quantity of coal are lying unused in various washeries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to give the unused coal to M/s. Indian Power Limited to set up 100 MW Megawatt capacity power generation plant;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Coal rejects are lying at Kargali Swang, Kathara and Dugda coal washeries and details in this regard are given below:-

(figures in million tonnes)

Name of washery	Stock of rejects
Kargali	2.84
Sawang	0.29
Kathara	6.49
Dugda	0.03

(c) to (e) Government has received a proposal from M/s. India Power Limited to set up 100 Megawatt Capacity Power generation plant based on coal rejects. No final decision has been taken in the matter so far. Standing Linkage Committee has been asked to examine the proposal.

#### Sale of High Grade Coal in Lower Prices

2865. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO: SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether high grade coal produced by NLC Singrauli, has been sold by the NLC at throw-away prices causing loss to the Government

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

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted by the government in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) There is no company in the name of NLC located at Singrauli engaged in coal mining. Northern Coalfields Limited, Singrauli is engaged in coal production and this company has not sold high grade coal at a lower price.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.



**Inviting tender for NLC in Bikaner**

2866. SHRI JIVABHAI A. PATEL:  
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:  
SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Neyveli Lignite Corporation has recently invited tender for undertaking work in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the terms and conditions finalized for submitting the tender; and

(c) the number of companies who have submitted the tender alongwith the number of companies who do not fulfil criteria laid-down for the above tender?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A tender (No. Co. CONTS/0036/K/RP/ Tele Cable/Cont. Mines/2007) was issued by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) for 'Supply, trenching, laying of PIJF telephone cable and supply, fixing of DPs & wiring etc. to NLC township at Barsingsar, Rajasthan. Initially, tender bids were invited on 28/04/2007 and opened on 06/06/2007. 5 companies submitted the bids, out of which 4 companies did not fulfil the conditions laid down in the tender. The same was cancelled and retendered on 01/11/2007. The bids are to be opened on 07/12/2007. Following terms and conditions were stipulated for submitting the above tender (qualifying requirements):

- (i) The Bidder should have supplied or laid not less than 8.4 km. of communication cables/ power/control cables with associated works in a single agreement.
- (ii) A bidder who not meet the above qualifying requirement also participate if he can furnish an evidence that he has carried out the work fully meets above qualifying requirement stipulated as in (i) as a sub contractor to EPC (Engineering, Procurement, Construction) contractor.
- (iii) The bidder shall furnish documentary evidence in the form of work order/agreement along with completion report/finalization certificate for having carried out the work from the user or main contractor.

[English]

**Indo-Russia Collaboration for Mission to Moon**

2867. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia has signed any agreement to collaborate with regard to India's Mission to Moon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the primary objectives/goals of Chandrayan-I and Chandrayan-II;

(d) the estimated cost of these two projects/missions;

(e) whether India proposes to exploit the mineral resources of Moon; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed on 12th November, 2007 between Indian Space Research Organisation and Federal Space Agency (Russia) on cooperation in the field of Joint Lunar Exploration.

(c) The Chandrayaan-I mission is primarily aimed at high-resolution remote sensing of the moon in visible, near Infrared, low energy X-ray and high-energy X-ray regions.

The objective of Chandrayaan-II Mission is to design, realize and deploy a lunar Lander-rover capable of soft landing on a specified lunar site to enable *in situ* detection of chemicals, maximally using the data gathered during Chandrayaan-I mission.

(d) The estimated cost of Chandrayaan-I and Chandrayaan-II missions is Rs. 386 crores and Rs. 425 crores, respectively.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. This will depend on the outcome of Chandrayaan-II mission's *in situ* detection of minerals on the surface of the Moon.

*[Translation]***Generation of Nuclear Power**

2868. SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether targets fixed for the period 2006-07 have been achieved;

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

(c) the details of plant-wise targets fixed for generation of nuclear power during the eleventh five-year plan?

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

(b) The total generation of nuclear power, in the year 2006-07 was 18801 million Units (MUs) against a target of 18408 MUa. The station wise details are.

Unit	Target (MUs)	Generation (MUs)
Kaiga Generating Station (KGS)	2485	2541
Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS)	2325	2446
Madras Atomic Power Station (MAPS)	2603	2622
Narora Atomic Power Station (NAPS)	324	1024
Rajasthan Atomic Power Station (RAPS)	3677	3668
Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS)	6992	6501

(c) The generation target fixed the XI plan period is 163,395 MUs. Plant-wise details are as follows:

Units	Target (MUs)
KGS (Units 1 to 4- 4x220 MWe)	24367
KAPS(Units 1 & 2-2x220 MWe)	10422
MAPS (Units 1 & 2-2x220 MWe)	12853
NAPS (Units 1 & 2-2x220 MWe)	10717
RAPS (Units 2 to 6-200+4x220 MWe)	32953
TAPS (Units 1 to 4-2x160+2x540 MWe)	40108
Kudankulam (KK) Project 1 & 2-2x1000MWe	29784
Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (500 MWe)	2190

The above targets are subject to availability of indigenous fuel in adequate quantity for which actions are on hand and positive developments on international cooperation.

*[English]***Project Snow Leopard**

2869. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has not allocated any money for the 'Project-Snow Leopard' conservation project for the high altitude Himalayan landscape, for the year 2007-08;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the names of the State in which there is need to protect the wild 'Snow Leopard';

(d) whether these States have approached the Central Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of Central government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):

(a) and (b) Though no allocation with particular reference to Snow Leopard has been made by the Planning Commission, but the umbrella scheme of 'Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries covers the conservation of Snow Leopard.

(c) to (f) Snow Leopard is an important flagship species of the mountainous region and is found mainly in the high altitude mountains of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. Both State and Central Government have been involved in developing strategies and action plan for protection and conservation of snow Leopard.

*[Translation]*

#### **Cafeteria Model System of Medicine**

2870. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to introduce the 'Cafeteria Model' system of medicine in the major hospitals of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the effective measures taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government proposes to promote allopathy systems of medicine in the country particularly in Jharkhand and Bihar; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) This Ministry have not formulated any such system of medicine for hospitals in the country and have no information about the same. Allopathy system of medicine is already in vogue throughout the country including Jharkhand and Bihar.

#### **Supply of Food to Patients in Government Hospitals**

2871. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the food items and other items meant for the indoor patients in the Government hospitals in Delhi are not reaching the beneficiaries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any departmental enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check such malpractices in Government hospitals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) The food is prepared and distributed to the patients under the supervision of Head Cook, Steward and Dietician. To prevent and avoid any malpractices like theft/misappropriation of food items by employees, regular check and vigil are maintained by dieticians under the over-all supervision of senior doctors. Vigilance surprise checks are made on food trolleys leaving the kitchen for wards and on the locker of kitchen staff. Whenever any such complaint is received, it is enquired into.

*[English]*

#### **Diseases Due to Depleting Ozone Layer**

2872. SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether diseases like insane births, disabled children etc. have been caused due to depleting Ozone layer;

(b) if so, whether any committee has been constituted by the Government to know the effect of Ozone on public health;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Protection of Wildlife**

2873. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether tigers have been put in some of the forests in Jharkhand for conservation of forest and wildlife; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Funding support, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Project Tiger, is provided to the State for in-situ conservation of tiger in the Palamau Tiger Reserve.

#### **Allocation of Funds from PMSSY**

2874. SHRI RAGHUVVEER SINGH KOSHAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds allocated under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana to set up AIIMS like institutions in the country;

(b) whether Rs. 500 crore out of this funds has been diverted towards National Rural Health Mission;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Out of the total outlay of Rs. 3976 crores for Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), Rs. 2716 crore (including recurring expenditure of Rs. 708 crore) was earmarked for setting up of six AIIMS-like institutions and Rs. 1260 crore for upgradation of 13 existing Government medical college institutions.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

*[English]*

#### **New Initiatives for Orissa**

2875. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to give a fresh look in view of several new initiatives taken by the state Government of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details in thereof;

(c) the details of the growth rate achieved by the State during the Tenth Plan and proposes to achieve in the eleventh plan period; and

(d) the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken to achieve the objectives of eleventh plan in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) Most of the new initiatives of the State Government will supplement the centrally sponsored schemes and other schemes of the Central Government.

(b) The new initiatives of the State Government include schemes such as the Gopabandhu Gramin Yojana which has been launched with a view to providing infrastructure mainly electricity, road and water supply to the districts not covered by the Backward Regions Grant Fund; the Biju Gram Jyoti Scheme which has been initiated to provide electricity, to villages not covered by the Rajiv Gandhi Gramin Vidyutkaran Yojana; and the Biju KBK Yojana which has been started to supplement the Centrally funded Special Plan for the KBK districts.

(c) In the first four years of the Eleventh Plan, the average growth rate of the State of Orissa was 7.26%. The State Government have proposed a growth rate of 9% for the Eleventh Plan.

(d) The State Government have suggested a number of steps which will be taken to achieve the objectives of the proposed Eleventh Plan. These include, *inter alia*, special attention to the marginalized sections of society, particularly Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, Minority communities, adolescent girls, the elderly and the physically challenged; focus on outcomes rather than expenditure; creation of employment opportunities on a large scale; sustained efforts in governance and fiscal reforms; devolution of powers to Panchayati Raj Institutions; doubling agriculture production; industrialization coupled with measures to achieve environmental sustainability and reducing human suffering due to displacement; and stress on economic infrastructure.

#### Improvement in Quality of Medicines

2876. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the data by which the Government can improve the quality of medicines;

(b) the difference in various changes of GMP guidelines of WHO and Schedule M notified by the Government of India;

(c) whether uniform guidelines for inspection have been notified by the Government for the changes required under schedule M and GMP;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Government proposes to improve the quality of medicines by introducing stringent conditions for manufacture and quality control known as Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) notified under Schedule M of the Drugs & Cosmetics Rules. The main objective of this requirement is to prevent cross contamination and ensure consistency.

(b) The Government has not notified the differences that are observed between Schedule M and WHO GMP requirements.

(c) and (d) No uniform guidelines for inspections have been notified. Inspections of manufacturing units have to be carried out for compliance of GMP requirements as specified under Schedule-M which are statutory requirements under the Drug and Cosmetics Rules.

(e) Inspections of manufacturing units are carried out as per the Schedule M (GMP) of the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules which are sufficiently adequate for ensuring proper quality of drug manufacture.

#### Revised Criteria for CSS Officers Empanelment

2877. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any revised criteria for empanelment of CSS officers at the level of Joint Secretary has been introduced;

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

(c) whether the CSS officers belonging to the SCs/ STs with deemed years of entry into Group 'B' as on 1982, 1983, 1984 and 1985 have been empanelled;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI): (a) to (e) In February 2007, the Government has approved that eligibility for empanelment of officers of Central Secretariat Service (CSS) in terms of length of service from the deemed year of their entry into Group 'B' Service of the CSS will be as under:

Level	SC/ST	General (pre-78)	General (post-77)
Joint Secretary	22 Years	24 Years	26 Years

Further the CSS officers, for being considered, for empanelment as Joint Secretary, must fulfil other requirements viz. (i) completion of 8 years of service in

the Selection Grade and should have been assessed suitable for the post of Director for a minimum continuous period of three years; (ii) Having three years residual service; (iii) Availability of requisite ACRs in the CR dossier etc.

As far as the CSS officers, belonging to the SCs/ STs with deemed years of entry into Group 'B' in 1982, 1983, 1984 & 1985 are concerned, their empanelment as Joint Secretary has not yet been taken up, mainly because a large number of CSS officers from earlier batches, empanelled as Joint Secretary, are yet to be appointed as Joint Secretary. These batches of SC/ST officers, will be taken up for empanelment, batch-wise, in order to avoid the situation where a large number of CSS officers, though empanelled as Joint Secretary, remain without an appointment.

The empanelment of CSS officers, at the level of Joint Secretary is done as per the criteria mentioned above.

#### **India-Myanmar-Thailand Highway**

2878. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:  
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:  
SHRI ANWAR HUSSAIN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open the India-Myanmar-Thailand highway corridor through China upto Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the estimated expenditure;

(c) whether there is also any plan to develop the traditional route from the North Eastern region of India to Singapore;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

*[Translation]*

#### **Demand of Indian Workers Abroad**

2879. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign countries have shown interest in calling labourers from India for their manufacturing industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (c) The Ministry was approached by the Government of Poland for developing a framework to facilitate migration of Indian workers for contractual employment in construction, road-building and agriculture. MOIA welcomed the initiative to expand the overseas employment market for Indian workers and to evolve a model for bilateral cooperation for managed legal migration of workers. A draft MOU was sent to the Polish Government with a request for negotiation. The response of the Polish Government is awaited.

*[English]*

#### **Pending NH Projects**

2880. DR. K.S. MANOJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of NH project are pending for want of approval from the appraisal committee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government for early clearance of these projects;

(d) the present status of NHDP in the country, State-wise;

(e) whether all the State Government has signed the Memorandum of Understandings for NHDP project; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has issued guidelines for approval of projects within a given time frame.

(d) The present status of National Highways Development Project (NHDP) (State-wise) is given in the statement enclosed.

(e) and (f) No Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is signed/proposed for signing by State Governments for NHDP Project. However, for the projects taken up on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT), a tripartite state support agreement amongst National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), State Government and the Concessionaire is required to be signed by State Governments. Wherever required, the State Governments have signed the requisite State Support Agreements and in few projects, the signing of State Support Agreement is under process.

### Statement

#### *Present Status of NHDP: State Wise*

S.No	State	NHDP Phase I		NHDP Phase II			NHDP Phase III			NHDP Phase IV		
		Completed	Under Implemen- tation	Completed	Under Implemen- tation	Balance for Award	Completed	Under Implemen- tation	Balance for Award	Completed	Under Implemen- tation	Balance for Award
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1158	15		649	60			520			
2.	Arunachal Pradesh								22			
3.	Assam	19			640	31			658			
4.	Bihar	217	32	10	448				890			
5.	Chattisgarh	18						128	51			
6.	Delhi	34	21						20			
7.	Goa	13							208			
8.	Gujarat	637		401	137				523	148		
9.	Haryana	301	22		30			89	250			
10.	Himachal Pradesh				11			7	100			
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	16	1	2	115	265			101			
12.	Jharkhand	185	7						265			
13.	Karnataka	611	82		61			205	451			
14.	Kerala	34	10		40	88			681			
15.	Madhya Pradesh	42		40	571			166	620			
16.	Maharashtra	571	14		140	95	30	238	549			
17.	Manipur								112			

Government has approved 6-laning of 6500 km of National Highways comprising 5700 km of Golden Quadrilateral and 800 km of other sections to be taken up on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) following Design, Build, Finance and Operate (DBFO) Pattern. Under NHDP Phase V-as on date, the concession agreements for 6 laning of 148 km. length between Vadodara and Surat on NH-8 in Gujarat have been signed in July 2006 and the work is under implementation since Jan. 2007 and balance projects has not yet been awarded.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
18.	Meghalaya								136			
19.	Mizoram								95			
20.	Nagaland								28			
21.	Orissa	380	141						553			
22.	Pondicherry											
22.	Punjab	197			74	20		145	147			
23.	Rajasthan	742		120	416			130	806			
24.	Tamil Nadu	505	72	66	889	82		527	957			
25.	Tripura								195			
26.	Uttar Pradesh	845	77		838			179	484			
27.	Uttaranchal								170			
28.	West Bengal	444	54		83	201			60			

*[Translation]***Pollution in Delhi**

2881. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any representatives from Members of Parliament/Non-Government Organizations and other people regarding adverse impact as a result of pollution in Delhi during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government and the Central Pollution Control Board have conducted any study in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) A large number of representations

have been received during last three years from Hon'ble Members of Parliament. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and individuals expressing concerns over pollution in Delhi and its impact. The representations have highlighted issues relating to industrial pollution, shifting of industries from non-conforming/residential areas, operation of Diesel Generator (DG) sets without acoustic enclosures, burning of garbage etc.

(c) to (e) The steps initiated for mitigating and abating pollution in Delhi include.

Monitoring of ambient air quality at seven locations in Delhi including residential areas, industrial areas and traffic intersection by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB):

Introduction of Bharat Stage III norms at manufacturing stage for vehicles;

Introduction of cleaner fuel in public transport;

Use of beneficiated coal in thermal power plants; and

A Source Apportionment Study initiated in Delhi for ascertaining contribution from various sources to air pollution.



*[English]*

**'Construction Activities in Forest Area for Socio Economic Purpose'**

2882. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAIISI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether construction activities in the forest area have been permitted for socio-economic purposes;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the nature of the activities likely to be carried out in the forest areas; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) to (c) The proposals for diversion of forest land for non-forestry uses including the construction activities for socio-economic purposes such as building of schools, hospitals/dispensaries, community halls, co-operatives, panchayats, tiny rural industrial sheds of the Government of the Government are considered under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

**Air Pollution Due to Pesticides**

2883. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:  
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers using pesticides rich in carcinogenic pollutions like Endosulfans are causing air pollution in Delhi air as reported in the Hindustan Times dated November 3, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the study conducted by the United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe has found heavy contents of pesticides in capital's air; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) In the Hindustan Times of November 3, 2007, a news item had appeared about the use of pesticides causing air pollution in Delhi. No such information is available at present with the Government about the use of pesticides rich in carcinogenic pollutants like Endosulfans causing air pollution in Delhi and about any such study conducted by the United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe.

**Population of Wild Elephant**

2884. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the details of ongoing programmes being implemented under project elephant stating the achievement made in North-Eastern region, particularly in Assam during last three years and the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): Project Elephant Scheme is being implemented since 1992 in all the elephant States of the country including North Eastern Region and Assam. Protection of elephant habitats and corridors, eliciting public cooperation, mitigation of human-elephant conflict, improvement of support services; and monitoring, research and training are the important components of the Scheme for which financial assistance are being provided to all the Elephant States including Assam. The funds released to Assam in the last three financial years and current year are as follows:-

Year	Funds released (Rs. in lakhs)
2004-05	130.00
2005-06	40.00
2006-07	75.00
2007-08	120.00 (as 1st instalment as on 30.11.07)

12.00 hrs.

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under subsection (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited, Koikata, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7706/2007)

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Sethusamudram Corporation Limited, Chennai, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) Annual Report of the Sethusamudram Corporation Limited, Chennai, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7707/2007)

(c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) Annual Report of the Cochin Shipyard Limited, Kochi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7708/2007)

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Shipping Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) Annual Report of the Shipping Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7709/2007)

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Cochin Port Trust, Cochin, for the year 2006-2007, together with audit report thereon.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the audited accounts of the Cochin Port Trust, Cochin, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7710/2007)

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tuticorin Port Trust, Tuticorin, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tuticorin Port Trust, Tuticorin, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7711/2007)

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, together with audit report thereon.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the audited accounts of the Mumbai Port Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7712/2007)

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mormugao Port Trust, Mormugao, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mormugao Port Trust, Mormugao, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7713/2007)

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the New Mangalore Port Trust, Mangalore, for the year 2006-2007.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the New Mangalore Port Trust, Mangalore, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7714/2007)

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Cochin Port Trust, Cochin, for the year 2006-2007, together with audit report thereon.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the audited accounts of the Cochin Port Trust, Cochin, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7710/2007)

(8) (i) A copy of the Annual Administration Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kandla Port Trust, Kandla, for the year 2006-2007.

(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 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7715/2007)

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Mumbai Port Trust, Pension Fund Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, together with audit report thereon.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the audited accounts of the Mumbai Port Trust, Pension Fund Trust, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7716/2007)

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Ship Design and Research Centre, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Ship Design and Research Centre, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7717/2007)

(11) (i) A copy of the Annual Administrative Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Vishakhapatnam Dock Labour Board, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Vishakhapatnam Dock Labour Board, Visakhapatnam, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7718/2007)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI):  
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English Versions) of the Central Vigilance Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2006 under sub-section (3) of Section 14 of the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7719/2007)

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Civil Services Cultural and Sports Board, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Civil Services Cultural and Sports Board, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7720/2007)

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Grih Kalyan Kendra, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Grih Kalyan Kendra, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7721 /2007)
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Civil Services Officers' Institute, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.  
(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Civil Services Officers' Institute, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7722/2007)
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Civil Services Society, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.  
(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Civil Services Society, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7723/2007)
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.  
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7724/2007)
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kendriya Bhandar, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.  
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kendriya Bhandar, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7725/2007)
- (8) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951:—
- (i) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Eighth Amendment Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.553 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 2007.
- (ii) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Fifth Amendment Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.554 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 2007.
- (iii) The Indian Forest Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.702 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th November, 2007.
- (iv) The Indian Forest Service (Pay) Amendment Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.703 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th November, 2007.
- (v) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Third Amendment Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.359(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th May, 2007.
- (vi) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Third Amendment Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.360(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th May, 2007.
- (vii) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Third Amendment Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.362(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th May, 2007.
- (viii) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fourth Amendment Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.391(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 2007.
- (ix) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Third Amendment Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.392(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 2007.

(x) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.415(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th June, 2007.

(xi) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fourth Amendment Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.424(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2007.

(xii) The Indian Police Service (Pay) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.425(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2007.

(xiii) The Indian Police Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Sixth Amendment Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.438 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th June, 2007.

(xiv) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Seventh Amendment Regulations, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.471(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2007.

(xv) The Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Fourth Amendment Rules, 2007 published in Notification No. G.S.R.472(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2007.

(9) Eleven Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (v to xv) of item No. (8) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7726/2007)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Statistical Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7727/2007)

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7728/2007)

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): Sir, on behalf of my colleague, Shrimati Panabakalakshmi, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata, for the year 2005-2006.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7729/2007)

(3) A copy each of the following Annual Reports for the year 2006-2007 (Hindi and English versions) along with Audited Accounts in respect of the following Centres:—

(i) Population Research Centre Gokhale Institute of Politics and Economics, Pune.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7730/2007)

(ii) Population Research Centre, Thiruvananthapuram.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7731/2007)

(iii) Population Research Centre, Visakhapatnam.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7732/2007)

- (iv) Population Research Centre, Vadodara.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7733/2007)
- (v) CRRID Population Research Centre, Chandigarh.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7734/2007)
- (vi) Population Research Centre, Patna.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7735/2007)
- (vii) Population Research Centre, Delhi.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7736/2007)
- (viii) Population Research Centre, Srinagar.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7737/2007)
- (ix) Population Research Centre, Locknow.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7738/2007)
- (x) Population Research Centre, Udaipur.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7739/2007)
- (xi) Population Research Centre, Bhubaneswar.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7740/2007)
- (xii) Population Research Centre, Dharwad.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7741/2007)
- (xiii) Population Research Centre, Sagar.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7742/2007)
- (xiv) Population Research Centre, Gandhigram.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7743/2007)
- (xv) Population Research Centre, Guwahati.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7744/2007)
- (xvi) Population Research Centre, Chandigarh.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7745/2007)
- (xvii) Population Research Centre, Bangalore.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7746/2007)

- (4) A copy each of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the above Centres for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7747/2007)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA): Sir, 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. 1483 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2007 regarding rates of fees to be recovered from the users of the Project facility on National Highway No. 9 (Pune-Hyderabad Road) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (ii) S.O. 1471 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 47 (Walayar - Thrissur Section) in the State of Kerala.
- (iii) S.O. 1500 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th September, 2007 regarding rate of fee to be recovered from the users of four-laned stretch of National Highway No. 2 in the State of Uttar Pradesh.
- (iv) S.O. 1635 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 2007 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096 (E) dated the 4th October, 2005.
- (v) S.O. 1522 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th September, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 5 (Vijayawada-Visakhapatnam Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (vi) S.O. 1555 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th September, 2007 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 808 (E) dated the 9th July, 2004.

- (vii) S.O. 1698 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th October, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Nagpur-Hyderabad Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (viii) S.O. 1803 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd October, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Nagpur-Hyderabad Section) in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (ix) S.O. 1836 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th October, 2007 authorizing the Officers mentioned therein to acquire land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 202, in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- (x) S.O. 1834 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th October, 2007 authorizing the Officers mentioned therein to acquire land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 1, in the State of Punjab.
- (xi) S.O. 1732 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th October, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 10 (Bahadurgarh-Rohtak Section) in the State of Haryana.
- (xii) S.O. 1430 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th August, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (six-laning), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 8 (Vadodara - Surat Section) in the State of Gujarat.
- (xiii) S.O. 1531 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (six-laning), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 8 (Bharuch - Surat Section) in the State of Gujarat.
- (xiv) S.O. 1532 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 2007 making certain amendments in the Notifications No. S.O. 621 (E) dated the 20th April, 2007.
- (xv) S.O. 1536 (E) and S.O. 1537 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (six-laning), maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 8 (Bharuch - Surat Section) in the State of Gujarat.
- (xvi) S.O. 1740 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th October, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (six-laning), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 8 (Bharuch - Surat Section) in the State of Gujarat.
- (xvii) S.O. 1731 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 2007 making certain amendments in the Notifications No. S.O. 1096 (E) dated the 4th August, 2007.
- (xviii) S.O. 1861(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 2007 making certain amendments in the Notifications No. S.O. 1096 (E) dated the 4th August, 2007.
- (xix) S.O. 1887(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th November, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/two lining etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 154 (from Manacherra bazaar to Aenakhali) in the State of Assam.
- (xx) S.O. 1935(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th November, 2007 regarding rates of fee to be recovered from the users of four-laned different stretches of National Highway No. 8 (Gurgaon - Kotpuli Section) in the States of Haryana and Rajasthan.
- (xxi) S.O. 1841(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 2007 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 1318(E) dated the 1st August 2007.

- (xxii) S.O. 1843(E) and S.O. 1844(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 26 (Jhansi - Lakhnadon Section) in the State of Madhya Pradesh.
- (xxiii) S.O. 1923 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th November, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 4 (Bangalore - Nelamangala Section) in the State of Karnataka.
- (xxiv) S.O. 1924 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th November, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore - Hosur Section) in the State of Karnataka.
- (xxv) S.O. 1424 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th August, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 57 (Muzaffarpur-Purnea Section) in the State of Bihar.
- (xxvi) S.O. 1739 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th October, 2007 regarding rates of fee to be recovered from the users of bridge on National Highway No. 57 (Darbhanga-Sakari Section) in the State of Bihar.
- (xxvii) S.O. 1357 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th August, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Hosur-Krishnagiri Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxviii) S.O. 1359 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th August, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 46 (Krishnagiri-Ranipet Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxix) S.O. 1360 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th August, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Athipalli-Krishnagiri Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxx) S.O. 1397 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Salem-Karur Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxi) S.O. 1398 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 2007 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 279(E) dated 23rd February, 2007.
- (xxxii) S.O. 1432 (E) and S.O. 1433 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th August, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (four-laning) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 7 (Salem-Karur Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxiii) S.O. 1434 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th August, 2007 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 265 (E) dated 2nd February, 2007.
- (xxxiv) S.O. 1459 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th August, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 4 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxv) S.O. 1460 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th August, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for construction of Flyover at Airport Junction on National Highway No. 45 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxvi) S.O. 1461 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th August, 2007 regarding



- acquisition of land for construction of Grade Separator at Kathipara Junction on National Highway No. 45 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxvii) S.O. 1468 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 47 including construction of bypasses (Salem-Coimbatore Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxviii) S.O. 1469 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 47 (Salem-Coimbatore Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xxxix) S.O. 1470 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Madurai-Kanniyakumari Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xi) S.O. 1479 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th August, 2007 authorizing the District Revenue Officer, Dindigul, Tamil Nadu as the Competent Authority to acquire land for building (widening of existing National Highway No. 209, including construction of bypasses) maintenance, management and operation in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xli) S.O. 1515 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th September, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 47 (Salem-Coimbatore Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xliii) S.O. 1516 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th September, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Krishnagiri-Thoppur Ghat Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xliv) S.O. 1527 (E) and S.O. 1528 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 45 (Trichy-Dindigul Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xlv) S.O. 1533 (E) and S.O. 1534 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four laning etc.) maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 7 (Krishnagiri-Thoppur Ghat Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xlvi) S.O. 1541 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (construction) of Chennai Bypass (Phase-II) connecting National Highway Nos. 4 and 5 and widening of Chennai Bypass (Phase-I) connecting National Highways Nos. 4 and 45 in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xlvii) S.O. 1542 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for construction of Grade Separator at Kathipara Junction in the Kancheepuram District and Chennai District in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (xlviii) S.O. 1565 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th October, 2007 authorising District Revenue Officer to acquire land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 in the State of Tamil Nadu.

- (xlix) S.O. 1709 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 45B (Tiruchirappalli-Viralimalai-Madurai Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (l) S.O. 1711 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Salem-Karur Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (ii) S.O. 1712 (E) and S.O. 1713 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of different stretches National Highway No. 7 (Bangalore-Salem-Madurai Section), including construction of bypass, in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (iii) S.O. 1714 (E) and S.O. 1715 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of different stretches of National Highway No. 7 (Madurai-Kanniyakumari Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (liii) S.O. 1716 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 2007 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 118 (E) dated 6th February, 2007.
- (liv) S.O. 1717 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Krishnagiri-Thoppur Ghat Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (lv) S.O. 1718 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 2007 regarding acquisition of land for building (widening/four-laning etc.), maintenance, management and operation of National Highway No. 7 (Salem-Karur Section) in the State of Tamil Nadu.
- (2) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (i to iii) of (1) above.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7748/2007)
- (3) 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. 1634 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 2007 entrusting the stretches mentioned therein of National Highway Nos. 1 and 10 to the Highways Authority of India.
- (ii) S.O.1730(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th October, 2007 entrusting the stretch mentioned therein of National Highway No. 6 to the Highways Authority of India.
- (iii) S.O.1860(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st November, 2007 entrusting the stretch mentioned therein of National Highway No. 2 to the Highways Authority of India.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7749/2007)
- (4) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the period from 29.06.2006 to 28.06.2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Road Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the period 29.06.2006 to 28.06.2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7750/2007)
- (5) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1570 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 2007 appointing the Project Directors, mentioned therein, of the National Highways Authority of India in Highway Administration issued under sub-section (1) of

Section 20 of the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7751/2007)

(6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 6 of the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002:—

- (i) S.O. 1571 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 2007 appointing Shri Chaudhari Satish Kishan, ADJ, Nanded as the Presiding Officer in the National Highway Tribunal, Mumbai, subject to certain conditions.
- (ii) Notification No. F. No. NH-11014/2/2004-P&M published in Gazette of India dated the 1st November, 2007 assigning the Additional charge of the National Highway Tribunals, mentioned therein, to the Presiding Officer, National Highway Tribunal, Mumbai, with immediate effect.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7752/2007)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Economic Growth (Development Planning Centre), Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Economic Growth (Development Planning Centre), Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7753/2007)

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Construction Industry Development Council, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working

of the Construction Industry Development Council, New Delhi, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7754/2007)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under subsection (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Rare Earths Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Rare Earths Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7755/2007)

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited, Chennai, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited, Chennai, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7756/2007)

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7757/2007)

- (d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited, Jaduguda, for the year 2006-2007.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Uranium Corporation of India Limited, Jaduguda, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7758/2007)
- (e) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Antrix Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007.  
(ii) Annual Report of the Antrix Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7759/2007)
- (f) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Semiconductor Complex Limited, S.A.S. Nagar, for the year 2006-2007.  
(ii) Annual Report of the Semiconductor Complex Limited, S.A.S. Nagar, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7760/2007)
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Atomic Energy Education Society, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.  
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Atomic Energy Education Society, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7761/2007)
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2006-2007.  
(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2006-2007.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7762/2007)
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.  
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7763/2007)
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.  
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, for the year 2006-2007.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7764/2007)
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute for Plasma Research, Gandhinagar, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.  
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute for Plasma Research, Gandhinagar, for the year 2006-2007.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7765/2007)
- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.  
(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics, Kolkata, for the year 2006-2007.  
(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7766/2007)

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, for the year 2006-2007.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7767/2007)
- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Harish-Chandra Research Institute, Allahabad, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Harish-Chandra Research. Institute, Allahabad, for the year 2006-2007.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7768/2007)
- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad, for the year 2006-2007.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7769/2007)
- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Semi-Conductor Laboratory, Chandigarh, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Semi-Conductor Laboratory, Chandigarh, for the year 2006-2007.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7770/2007)
- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Space Applications Centre, Shillong, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Space Applications Centre, Shillong, for the year 2006-2007.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7771/2007)
- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Atmospheric Research Laboratory, Gadanki, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Atmospheric Research Laboratory, Gadanki, for the year 2006-2007.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7772/2007)
- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, for the year 2006-2007.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7773/2007)
- THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY):  
Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—
- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Plywood Industries Research and Training Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2006-2007.
- (Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7774/2007)
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun,

for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7775/2007)

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7776/2007)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Environment Education, Ahmedabad, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7777/2007)

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the CPR Environmental Education Centre, Chennai, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the CPR Environmental Education Centre, Chennai, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7778/2007)

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, for the year 2006-2007, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, for the year 2006-2007.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7779/2007)

- (4) A copy of the Notification No. S.O.1677 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 2007 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.671 (E) dated the 28th September, 2007, issued under sub-section (3) of section 3 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7780/2007)

- (5) A copy of the Environment (Protection) Amendment Rules, 2007 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.704 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th November, 2007, under section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(Placed in Library, *See* No.LT—7781/2007)

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12.02 hrs.

### COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

#### 33rd Report

[English]

SHRI CHARNJIT SINGH ATWAL (Phillaur): Sir, I beg to present the Thirty-third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

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12.02 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.

### ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

#### 15th Report

[English]

SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI (Madras North): Sir, I beg to present the Fifteenth Report (Hindi and English versions)

of Estimates Committee on action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report of the Estimates Committee (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs - Insurance Division) - 'Insurance Schemes for weaker sections of the society.'

12.03 hrs.

## COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

### Action Taken Statement

*[English]*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Hindi and English versions of the Action Taken Statement of the Committee on Public Undertakings showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I and final replies in respect of Chapter V of the Twelfth (Action Taken) Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) on Power Grid Corporation of India Limited — Extra expenditure in construction of Kishenpur—Moga Transmission System—Additional Expenditure of Rs. 433.81 crores.

12.03½ hrs.

## COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTING OF THE HOUSE

### 9th Report

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (Sitapuri): Sir, I beg to present the Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House.

12.04 hrs.

## COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

### 35th and 36th Reports

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj-Bihar): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English

versions) of the Committee on Petitions:—

- (1) Thirty-fifth Report pertaining to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on the Petition from Shri Mohan Singh, MP requesting for recognition of BDS degree awarded by different dental colleges in Darbhanga, Bihar.
- (2) Thirty-sixth Report on the representations concerning with the Ministries of Coal, Home Affairs and Railways.

12.04½ hrs.

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

### 201st to 205th Reports

*[English]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English versions) of the following Reports of Standing Committee on Human Resource Development:

- (1) 201st Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Hundred Ninety-second Report on Demands for Grants 2007-2008 (Demand no. 56) of the Department of School Education and Literacy.
- (2) 202nd Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Hundred Ninety-third Report on Demands for Grants 2007-2008 (Demand no. 57) of the Department of Higher Education.
- (3) 203rd Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Hundred Ninety-fourth Report on Demands for Grants 2007-2008 (Demand no. 103) of the Ministry of Women and Child Development
- (4) 204th Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Hundred Ninety-fifth Report on Demands for Grants 2007-2008 (Demand no. 104) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- (5) 205th Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations/observations contained

in the Hundred Ninety-First Report on Implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid-Day Meal Scheme and Integrated Child Development Services Scheme in Jammu & Kashmir and North-Eastern States.

12.05 hrs.

## STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (I) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 21st Report of Standing Committee on Rural Development on Demands for Grants (2006-2007) pertaining to the Ministry of Panchayati Raj\***

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ, MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): I beg to lay this Statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-First Report (14th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on the Rural Development in pursuance of the direction 73A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part-II dated September 1, 2004.

The Twenty-First Report of the Standing Committee on Rural Development (14th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 18.5.2006. The report relates to examination of Demands for Grants of Ministry of Panchayati Raj for the year 2006-2007.

Action taken statements on the recommendations/ observations contained in the report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Rural Development in December, 2006.

There are 35 recommendations made by the Committee in the said report where action is called for on the part of the Government. These recommendations mainly pertained to allocation and utilization during 9th and 10th Plans, Panchayati Raj and National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP), Training of elected representatives and officials of PRIs, Devolution of funds, functions and functionaries, Role of Ministry in the Bharat

\*Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library. See No. LT 7782/2007

Nirman Programme, constitution of DPCs, Strategy for the Eleventh Plan and allocation to Panchayats by Twelfth Finance Commission. Further, the scheme-wise analysis of Panchayat Development & Training, Backward Regions Grant Fund, Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Yojana, Panchayat Empowerment Incentive Scheme.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.07<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hrs.

- (II) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 54th Report of Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2006-2007), pertaining to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation\***

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI G.K. VASAN): I beg to lay this statement on the implementation status of the recommendations contained in the Fifty fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Finance in pursuance of Direction 73 A of Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

The Standing Committee on Finance examined the Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme implementation for the year 2006-07 and the Fifty fourth Report was laid on the Table of the House on April 28, 2007. There are 15 recommendations made by the Committee in the said report where action is called for on the part of the Government. The major recommendations mainly relate to:

- (i) Under utilization of budgeted Plan funds.
- (ii) Steps taken by the Ministry to setup the National Statistical Commission (NSC) as a statutory body and Action Taken by the Ministry to ensure passage of the "Collection of Statistics Bill 2007" in Parliament.
- (iii) Role played by the Infrastructure and Project Monitoring Division in highlighting performance slippages and taking corrective measures.

\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 7783/2007.



- (iv) Action taken by the concerned administrative ministries against those held to be responsible for lapses that contributed to cost escalation of projects.
- (v) Status of implementation of India Statistical Strengthening Project.
- (vi) Action taken by the Ministry for holding of Conference of Central Statistical Organisation (COCSSO) at annual intervals.
- (vii) Remedial measures taken by the Ministry to ensure that statistical reports are brought out without delay.
- (viii) Action taken by the Ministry to develop "All India Consumer Price Index" for Urban and Rural populations.
- (ix) Monitoring mechanism proposed under the restructured TPP 20083 vis-a-vis TPP-86 and the improvements expected of the revised monitoring mechanism.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Hon'ble Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my statement which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House and read out the contents of the Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

12.07<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hrs.

- (iii) **Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 175th Report of Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants (2007-2008), pertaining to the Department of Space\***

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): I beg to lay this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 175th Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests on Demands for Grants 2007-2008 of Department of Space, in pursuance

\*Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library. See No. LT 7784/2007.

of direction 73A of Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha, issued under the provisions of Rule 389 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II (No.456) dated September 1, 2004.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee took evidence of the representatives of the Department of Space on 2nd April 2007 while considering Demands for Grants for the year 2007-2008. The Committee recommended the Demands for Grants of the Department of Space in its 175th Report presented to Rajya Sabha on 26th April 2007 and laid on the table of the Lok Sabha on 26th April 2007.

The Standing Committee, in its report, made eight (8) recommendations in respect of 11th Five Year Plan, Space Capsule Recovery Experiment, Planetary Exploration, Space Applications and HRD. The Action Taken Report (ATR) on the actions suggested in the recommendations has been furnished by Department of Space in August 2007, which is under the consideration of the Standing Committee. A statement showing the recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee and the Action Taken Report on the same is also laid on the Table of the House.

12.07<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> hrs.

- (iv) **Status of Implementation of recommendations contained in the 53rd Report of Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for grants (2007-2008), pertaining to the Ministry of Planning.\***

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): I beg to lay this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Fifty-Third Report of the Standing Committee on Finance (14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of the direction 73 A of the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

The Fifty-Third Report of the Standing Committee on Finance (14th Lok Sabha) was presented to the Lok Sabha on 28-04-2007. The report relates to the examination of Demands for Grants of Ministry of Planning for the year 2007-08.

\*Laid on the Table and also Placed in Library. See No. LT 7785/2007.

[Shri M.V. Rajasekharan]

Action Taken Statements on the recommendations/ observations contained in the Fifty-third Report of the Committee had been sent to the Standing Committee on Finance on 9-08-2007.

There are 6 issues examined by the Committee in their Fifty-third Report, which mainly pertain to Performance of the Economy (i) Growth Performance in the Tenth Plan—An Overview (ii) Irrigation and Agriculture Growth (iii) Identification of BPL Households (iv) Payment for Professional and Special Service under the Head 'Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme' (v) Other Administrative Expenses under Tsunami Rehabilitation Programme (vi) Office Expenses under Planning Commission/Planning Board.

The present status of implementation of the various recommendations made by the Committee is indicated in the Annexure to my Statement which is laid on the Table of the House. I would not like to take the valuable time of the House to read out all the contents of this Annexure. I would request that this may be considered as read.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Item No.21—Calling Attention, Dr. Chinta Mohan.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): Sir, I have given a notice that I should raise a question.

MR. SPEAKER: You raised it yesterday.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: No doubt, I have raised it. But here the hon. Chief Ministers of five mineral producing States. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Arjunji, I do not know what you are talking. This is not the time. Now, there is Calling Attention. If you have any matter, you raise it after the Calling Attention, subject to your having given notice.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: All right, I will raise it after the Calling Attention.

MR. SPEAKER: If you have not given notice, then no. If you have given notice, I will call you. If you have given notice, you wait for your turn.

12.09 hrs.

## CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Situation arising out of shortage of fertilizers in various parts of the country and steps taken by the Government in this regard**

[English]

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The situation arising out of shortage of fertilizers in various parts of the country and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rabi season starts on 1.10.2007 and is due to end on 31.3.2008. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture in consultation with State Governments assessed the demand of fertilizers to be as follows:

Urea	—	140.02	Lakh
		Metric	Tonne
		(LMT),	
Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP)	—	49.13	LMT
Muriate of Potash (MOP)	—	19.61	LMT

As against the above requirement, the Department has made plans to supply 155.59 LMT of urea, 55.28 LMT of DAP and 22.06 LMT of MOP. A statement showing availability and sales of these three products, as per information available, is enclosed at Annexure. As can be seen, the availability has always been more than the sales.

Of the three products mentioned above, only Urea is a controlled commodity, the other two products, namely, DAP and MOP are decontrolled. Nevertheless, Government continues to monitor the availability of all the three products keeping the farmers' interests in view. In so far as Rabi 2007-08 is concerned, the position in

all the States is very comfortable in respect of Urea while the stocks have been made available in sufficient quantity to sustain sales in respect of DAP and MOP, as can be seen from the statement. In so far as DAP is concerned, it must be pointed out that worldwide, there is stress in the availability in view of huge demand from countries like USA and Brazil where production of Ethanol from crops like corn and sugarcane have increased its demand. Consequently, the world trade has witnessed a steep and unprecedented increase in prices of DAP as well as its intermediate – Phosphoric acid or its raw material—Rock Phosphate. Simultaneously, the shipping charges have also witnessed a sharp increase. Traditionally, Phosphatic fertilizers are imported by the companies and distributed through their normal trade channels. Contrarily this year, the imports by companies have been substantially less than normal.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure, hon. Members have got the statement. The hon. Minister can lay it on the Table of the House.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, I lay the remaining portion of the statement on the Table of the House.

\*Government stepped in and arranged for imports for the Rabi season. The State Governments were asked, as far back as May 2007, to either arrange for imports themselves or alternatively to nominate a suitable, agency to receive stocks from Central State Trading Agencies and arrange for their distribution within the respective States. States such as Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have made such arrangements and have been able to receive stocks comfortably. Although others did not do so, the Department of Fertilizers made arrangements to ensure that all States receive adequate stocks.

Sensing the constraint in supply of DAP, Government have also brought Mono Ammonium Phosphate (MAP) under the subsidy regime/arranged for its import and have, for this year, kept the MRP of MAP at the same level as that of DAP, although it contains a higher percentage of Phosphorous.

My Ministry has also ensured that the original production schedule of DAP, by companies, 20.19 LMT was revised to 26.13 LMT for Rabi 2007-08. The production schedule is, by and large, being adhered to and has helped alleviate the pressure.

State Governments have been asked to draw, each month, a district-wise and company-wise supply plan indicating the quantities of each of the three products, Urea, DAP and MOP to each of the districts. Contrary to the earlier practice of releasing subsidy based on dispatch (in respect of urea), my ministry is ensuring that subsidy is released only on the stock reaching each and every district as per supply plan. In respect of phosphatic and potassic fertilizers, subsidy continues to be made on the basis of actual sales.

Government is fully alive and sensitive to the requirements of fertilizers by the farmers and is making every effort to ensure that they are supplied in time. It is not out of place, in this context, to mention that this Government have maintained the price line during its tenure despite increasing costs of production/ import and consequently significant rise in subsidy. While Government of India will continue its efforts to oversee that fertilizers are supplied to farmers in all States, the State Governments have a primary responsibility in ensuring their equitable distribution within the States and to ensure that malpractices are not resorted to by traders.

#### Statement

RABI 2007-08

UREA ('000 tonnes)

#### Monthwise availability and sales of Urea

State	Month	Availability	Sales
1	2	3	4
<b>SOUTH ZONE</b>			
Andhra Pradesh	October	431.95	183.54
	November	380.14	119.42

\*.....\* This part of the speech was laid on the Table.

1	2	3	4
Karnataka	October	155.40	94.63
	November	124.13	32.89
Kerala	October	19.20	10.85
	November	23.99	12.84
Tamil Nadu	October	150.52	119.69
	November	157.17	111.40
WEST ZONE			
Gujarat	October	181.25	45.75
	November	291.95	98.65
Madhya Pradesh	October	235.19	166.17
	November	324.30	191.04
Chhattisgarh	October	50.32	5.68
	November	49.34	4.70
Maharashtra	October	243.80	68.30
	November	311.78	86.00
Rajasthan	October	190.15	118.56
	November	207.43	147.20
NORTH ZONE			
Haryana	October	350.00	145.00
	November	393.16	185.00
Punjab	October	270.25	164.90
	November	320.99	195.50
Uttar Pradesh	October	818.00	220.30
	November	973.70	332.49
Uttaranchal	October	21.79	7.00
	November	30.79	10.23
EAST ZONE			
Bihar	October	203.66	84.59
	November	261.35	122.47

1	2	3	4
Jharkhand	October	17.73	4.54
	November	20.77	8.87
Orissa	October	89.48	13.17
	November	83.80	3.04
West Bengal	October	152.72	93.14
	November	149.72	130.71

Figure for the month of October is Actual.

Availability for the month of November is upto 30.11.2007 and sales are provisional.

RABI2007-08

DAP (000 tonnes)

*Monthwise availability and sales of DAP*

State	Month	Availability	Sales
1	2	3	4
<b>SOUTH ZONE</b>			
Andhra Pradesh	October	84.21	75.24
	November	46.45	41.88
Karnataka	October	42.37	42.31
	November	22.79	17.88
Kerala	October	4.50	2.74
	November	2.94	1.15
Tamil Nadu	October	39.92	35.82
	November	22.57	18.04
<b>WEST ZONE</b>			
Gujarat	October	104.34	59.83
	November	132.57	125.81
Madhya Pradesh	October	200.72	90.41
	November	208.44	89.33
Chhattisgarh	October	4.56	3.84
	November	5.56	4.17

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	October	57.15	50.14
	November	48.78	31.93
Rajasthan	October	207.29 *	132.41
	November	145.87	75.06
NORTH ZONE			
Haryana	October	255.59 *	215.25
	November	116.70	95.00
Punjab	October	377.66 *	169.05
	November	274.83	66.87
Uttar Pradesh	October	341.00 *	164.99
	November	459.01	318.00
Uttaranchal	October	3.84	2.56
	November	3.48	2.94
EASTZONE			
Bihar	October	29.89	14.13
	November	94.16	53.16
Jharkhand	October	4.01	3.49
	November	6.81	5.23
Orissa	October	11.28	3.17
	November	15.48	5.21
West Bengal	October	41.71	27.49
	November	30.14	17.81

Figure for the month of October is Actual.

\*Includes State Federation stock availability for the month of November is upto 30.11.2007 and sales are provisional.

RABI 2007-08

MOP ('000 TONNES)

*Monthwise availability and sales of MOP*

State	Month	Availability	Sales
1	2	3	4
SOUTH ZONE			
Andhra Pradesh	October	60.58	50.50
	November	35.41	25.35

1	2	3	4
Karnataka	October	37.86	23.54
	November	32.09	9.97
Kerala	October	9.66	9.66
	November	15.95	14.16
Tamil Nadu	October	74.23	48.04
	November	66.19	41.55
WEST ZONE			
Gujarat	October	23.32	16.94
	November	22.12	15.54
Madhya Pradesh	October	14.74	12.40
	November	5.45	3.27
Chhattisgarh	October	2.97	0.67
	November	4.90	2.60
Maharashtra	October	27.28	9.80
	November	38.38	14.10
Rajasthan	October	4.48	2.26
	November	2.77	1.15
NORTH ZONE			
Haryana	October	6.54	4.94
	November	1.60	0.98
Punjab	October	8.58	7.22
	November	3.77	1.83
Uttar Pradesh	October	9.00	9.00
	November	6.00	3.00
Uttaranchal	October	0.96	0.96
	November	1.59	0.34
Bihar	October	15.45	11.39
	November	26.36	16.18
Jharkhand	October	1.86	1.38
	November	2.18	1.92

1	2	3	4
Orissa	October	26.33	5.09
	November	21.74	1.33
West Bengal	October	32.51	23.12
	November	33.14	24.07

Figure for the month of October is Actual. Availability for the month of November is upto 30.11.2007 and sales\*

*[English]*

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, I have seen the statement given by the hon. Minister and also the reply he gave. Here I would like to seek a few clarifications from his own statement. The hon. Minister said that he made plans to supply fertilizers. I would like to know what plans he made to fill in the shortage of these fertilizers. The second clarification that I would like to know from his own statement is this. He says - the position in all the States is very comfortable. I do not see any comfort in the States. There is a huge demand. There is a big crisis. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, silence please.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: I do not want to use harsh words. But there is a huge demand and farmers are in big distress.

The third clarification I would like to know from the hon. Minister from his own statement is this. He says that the Government stepped in and arranged for imports for the Rabi season. Sir, the Rabi season has already started two months back. I would like to know when did the Government step in to arrange the import of these fertilizers.

The fourth clarification I would like to know from the hon. Minister is this. He says - the Department of Fertilizers made arrangements to ensure that all States receive adequate stocks. How are the States going to receive these stocks?

MR. SPEAKER: Too much of private talks are going on in the House. I am sorry. Hon. Members, please maintain silence.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, the fifth clarification I would like to seek from the hon. Minister is this. In the last

paragraph of his statement he says - Government is fully alive and sensitive to the requirements of fertilizers by the farmers.

I do not know about the drafting of this statement. What does it mean that the Government is fully alive? He could have used a better word. Today, conveniently, the hon. Minister said that there is a shortage of fertilizers in the world and there is a steep increase of demand in Brazil and USA. That is why the shortage has come in India. Here, today there is a big problem in every district, in every village and the farmers are not able to put their crops in and they are not able to go for the transplantation of the crops.

I would like to know from the Minister what his short-term strategy is and what his long-term strategy is. I would also like to know who is accountable for this chaos, for this problem today. I would like to go on record to say that today we are able to supply one bag of fertiliser to the farmer, but by next year, we will not be in a position to supply even one kilogram of fertiliser to the farmer because there is a big shortage of fertilisers in the world and also in our country and we are not taking strong steps to come out of this problem. Fertilisers are going to be in big shortage; power is going to be in big shortage; and food grains are also going to be in big shortage. I wanted to know what his strategy is to meet all these problems.

MR. SPEAKER: 'Power' is not in his jurisdiction.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: Sir, he can reply to matters in his jurisdiction. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Certainly.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI UDAY SINGH (Purnea): Sir, I also want to associate. ...*(Interruptions)*



[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Atleast sometimes follow the rules.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an important issue. Today when we talk about the farmers, we find that they are facing problems in getting the required things. Despite all these problems and hurdles they produce foodgrains and provide them to the people as well as to the Central pool. The Government are not as much concerned about their problems as is required. Importance of the DAP is the foremost for the farmers as it strengthens the roots of the plants. If DAP is not used, agricultural land will become infertile. From the figures, provided by the hon'ble Minister in the statement, it seems that the farmers are not facing any problems in respect of shortage of fertilizers. If there is no problem then why it has been reported in the newspapers published today in Punjab that farmers have resorted to street demonstrations for getting fertilizer. If the production is more and demand is less, then what is the problem? These figures have been given either to mislead the House or perhaps to please the farmers. If the production is more and there is less sale then with whom the fertilizer is dumped? I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that the month of December is very important for the farmers. They urgently require all the three fertilizers-Urea, DAP and MOP in this month. Whether the hon'ble Minister would assure the House that the farmers will not have to run from pillar to post in the time to come for getting fertilizers or they will not have to resort to street marches creating traffic jams on roads and will get fertilizers easily?

I would like to ask one more Question. It is not a matter of a particular time in a year. Fertilizers are required for every crop. I would like to know whether the Government would formulate any such plan to ensure easy availability of fertilizers to farmers in future? The Government imported fertilizers, however, fertilizers are still lying at the port because they were not lifted for transportation. As per the available information, it will take another four months to lift the fertilizers from the port. I would like to know how the consumers and farmers could get fertilizers during these four months. Further, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government would formulate any long term plan to ensure that the farmers do not face any shortage of fertilizers?

MR. SPEAKER: please, ask question only.

Shri Chandra Mani Tripathi: not present.

Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have seen the statement given by the hon'ble Minister. In his statement, the hon'ble Minister has stated that sufficient Quantity of Chemical fertilizers have been supplied to Madhya Pradesh, however the State Government has stated that it did not receive fertilizers in time due to which it had to face severe crisis. Even a delegation of that state had called on the Minister in this regard and had requested him to ensure timely availability of fertilizers to the farmers. At present around 56 big factories and 72 small factories are producing SSP, DAP or Urea in the country. The Government directly provide subsidy to fertilizer produced in those factories. I would like to know whether the Government are making any efforts or are contemplating to give this subsidy directly to the farmers? It is beneficial to give this subsidy directly to the farmers as burden on them has increased. You have been taking up single super phosphate and DAP, however, a mixture of the both is not being properly used and no inquiry in this regard in being conducted? My first question is that whether the quantum of fertilizers demanded by the Madhya Pradesh and other States has been made available to them, and if there is any difficulty in making it available, then the nature of difficulty being felt in this regard. My second question is, whether the Government intends to make available subsidy to the farmers directly and whether there is any controlling agency to exercise a check about the quality of fertilizer and to monitor that fertilizers in required quantity are being made available to them, because single super phosphate is adulterated with other materials, due to which the quality of fertilizer declines, same is true about DAP and other materials. What is the mechanism available with the Government for checking its quality and whether its quality standards are checked from time to time and if so, whether any stringent action has been taken against the erring fertilizer manufacturers?

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Sir, the hon'ble Minister has himself accepted in his statement that the position of availability of urea is very good in all States of the country, this is a wrong statement. The supply of fertilizers received is not distributed properly. The hon'ble Minister has said only this in his statement,

[Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava]

but if he wants to put the blame on the State Government, it is a different issue, but I would definitely like to say that even urea and DAP is not available and there is no proper arrangement for sale of these fertilizers. In the end you have stated that the Government have made and are going to make so and so arrangements. The Government is fully alive and sensitive about the requirements of fertilizers by the farmers, but it is your Government. If the Government wants to put the blame on the State Government or other Governments, then it is a different thing, but I think it is the duty of the hon'ble Minister because for me he is the Government. The Government is making all efforts to ensure timely supply of fertilizers, but I would like to know the time by which the fertilizers would be supplied? Whether the supply would be made when the crops are destroyed. I am not talking about power, regular power cuts are taking place in Rajasthan. Union Government are not able to supply power to my State. At this time, the farmers of Rajasthan are in distress, they are neither getting fertilizers, nor power, therefore their crops are getting destroyed. The Rajasthan Government should get supply of both types of fertilizers. Rajasthan Government is working and it is the duty of the Union Government to mend those State Governments which are not working properly.

Therefore, I would like to submit that not only Rajasthan, but other States are also facing the shortage of fertilizers. The charge of the Department of fertilizers has been with the hon'ble Minister therefore, I would like to request him to make arrangement for the timely supply of fertilizers without making allegations against the State Governments. The fertilizers are perishing in the stores. Therefore, I would like to submit that the Government must ensure that fertilizers are supplied in time to all the States in the country. All other States alongwith Rajasthan should get the supply of fertilizers in time, this is my request. The hon'ble Minister may elaborate the steps taken by the Government to ensure in time supply of fertilizers to all the States.

*[English]*

I would not allow this. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will go to the next issue.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Can you claim it as a matter of right?

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I would not give it.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot transform this into a debate. There are many Members who want to put questions.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Will you take your seats?

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. You never bothered to give any notice. You have never bothered. The other hon. Members have given notices, according to the rules; five names have been selected. I have already announced that I will not do this. Very well, the Minister need not reply, if you do not want to hear his reply. No, I will not give it.

Shri Uday Singh, you are behaving in a very unfortunate manner.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot raise anything as you like, at any time, without my permission.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI UDAY SINGH: My State is in chaos and 'fire', Sir. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why did you not bother to give a notice and come here? You never bothered to give any notice and you say that your State is in 'fire'. Sorry, I would not allow.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: You people may get annoyed but, I will not allow you speak on this issue any more.

[English]

I will not give it. Please sit down; I would not give it, I have said. Shri Krishnadas, you are defying the Chair. Do not defy the Chair.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): I have given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is not a proper notice. Only five Members are allowed on this.

Now, the hon. Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, I would not allow anybody - I said that. I would not. I will not allow you, Shri Krishnadas. You are deliberately defying me.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: You are defying me.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: No, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Saying 'No, Sir', does not mean that you are obeying me.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Please, listen to my submission.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow today, Shri Prabhunath Ji.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to us.

MR. SPEAKER: No, today, I will not listen to you.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have been inviting Calling Attention notices. When I found that this is an important issue, I

have admitted the Calling Attention. I have never received any notice from anybody. Now, you are showing that you are so-concerned.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not interrupt the Chair. It is a bad habit.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have only made a request to you.

MR. SPEAKER: Making request will not serve any purpose. Please sit down.

[English]

I am not bound by your notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU MADHAV JAWALE (Jalgaon): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are also behaving in this manner. Sit down. You are a new Member, you are trying to compete with them.

[Translation]

I am requesting you. Sit down. I would like to say that none of the hon'ble Members have given notice for Discussion under Rule 193.

[English]

I would have been very happy. I announced at the first meeting in view of the Session that I will give as many as Calling Attention notices as possible, which never was done in the past. How many I have given even in this Session? I am giving almost two every day. Today I have given one because for the other Calling Attention, the hon. Minister was not present. Otherwise, there would have been two Calling Attention discussions. I requested everybody.

There is a procedure. When there is only one Member, I go up to five or something like that. But, here there are five hon. Members who have given notices; now, you want to take advantage of another hon. Member's efforts, to have a proper discussion under Calling Attention. I have allowed that, but now, you want to make a general discussion. Today, you are all shedding tears for the people in your Constituencies.

Please cooperate. Now, the hon. Minister.

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at least listen to me.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to request you with folded hands that please sit down. Tomorrow, you give the notice. I will give you time to speak.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sometimes you allow even seven eight Members. Today, not even five Members have spoken.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: That is precisely what I say.

*[Translation]*

Which fifth Member should I allow?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Sir, Give me an opportunity to speak as fifth Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Why shall I give opportunity to you only? No, sorry.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, I have given a notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Krishnadas, you may better take a copy of the rule book and read it.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: I have given a notice in the morning. *...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: No notice is given for calling attention motion.

*[English]*

I have the names of another nine hon. Members. Now, only the hon. Minister's statement will be recorded and nothing else.

*(Interruptions)...\**

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir sometimes you give opportunity to speak to 7-8 Members. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It was old time. I will not give you time to speak. Give notice on tomorrow. I will allow you.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: No, I would not allow, Shri Krishnadas. You are defying me deliberately.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me ask only one question.

MR. SPEAKER: No, sorry. I am sorry. I apologise with folded hands.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you for your suggestion. I have rejected it. Let us behave in a responsible manner.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: I cooperate so much, but you people do not reciprocate, and give no response.

*...(Interruptions)*

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\*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunathji, please take your seat. You are a leader of an important party.

[Translation]

I appeal to all of you to let me run, the House, otherwise what's the need of the chair.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the hon'ble Members Dr. Chinta Mohan, Shri Avinash Rai Khanna, Shri Laxminarayan Pandey, Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava and all other Members who have given notice on this important issue and to you for having accepting this matter as Calling Attention Motion. ...*(Interruptions)* I do not have any objection, if Mr. Speaker gives permission for full discussion on this subject, and I am also ready for it, I do not have any objection. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded except the statement of the hon'ble Minister unless permitted by the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*\*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Most important thing is that, if you permit me, I would try to reply in detail.

This issue is not of one year, every year the issue of fertilizer is raised in respective of whose Government is in power. Many of the colleagues contended that I have levelled allegations on the State Governments in my statement. Actually, I have not levelled allegations against anyone. One of my colleagues from Madhya Pradesh stated that there is a hue and cry in Madhya Pradesh, farmers are committing suicide. ...*(Interruptions)*

I put it on record that 20 days back the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh visited me only to say that he had no complaints in regard to the arrangement for fertilizers made and that he had visited me only to thank me in this regard. He called on me, had tea with me and departed thereafter. The Chief Minister of Punjab has had the same thing to say. I have given the statement. Any hon'ble Member of any State who finds anything wrong in this statement can look into the statement which

is available for ready reference. You can go into the quantum of availability and sale of fertilizers in any of the State. I can be considered guilty if there has been more sale of fertilizers or this has been equal to the availability. However, if there is availability and its sale has not been carried out and still you are levelling allegations against me, then I think it is not proper and in case my statement is wrong. ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me for a minute.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Dr. Pandeya, you can ask afterwards.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been the Member of Parliament since 1977. I have also remained in opposition, now I am in Government. As per the fertilizer monitoring system (FMS), nothing is secret as on date as everything is available on the website. Earlier, subsidy was being provided when fertilizer would reach the State, but now it is being provided at the district level and the details are available with you. You have a right to introduce a privilege motion against me if this is not correct. I am ready to undergo any punishment. However, I do not agree if you say that whatever I have said is not true.

We carry out monitoring. The way you people critically put questions before us, we also keep a tab on all things of our department. I would like to take your 10-15 minutes time in this regard as I would like that the House deliberate on this issue seriously. The production of urea as on date is 200 lac tonnes, the production of DAP is 46 lac tonnes and the rest is imported. While, during 2004-05 the import of urea was of 6 lac tonnes, it has gone upto 73 lac tonnes now. 7 lac tonnes DAP was imported during 2003-04, now its import is to the tune of 30 lac tonnes, 25 lac tonnes MOP was imported during that period which is now being imported to the tune of 36 lac tonnes. In regard to the sales, the figures are - 195 lac tonnes urea was being sold during the year 2003-04 which is 264 lac tonnes now, sale of DAP was 55 lac tonnes which has gone upto 85 lac tonnes now, 16.47 lac tonnes was the sale of MOP which is now 33.78 lac tonnes. Complex is not under us, so it not being monitored by us. Its sale was 47.57 lac tonnes which has gone upto 74.82 lac tonnes now.

Now I am telling you about our demand and how much it is going to rise. During the year 2011-12, the

[Shri Ram Vilas Paswan]

demand of urea will be of 287 lac tonnes while we produce only 200 lac tonnes of urea. It means that we will import the rest of the requirement. Similarly, 95 lac tonnes DAP will have to be imported, now it is required 79 lac tonnes. In the same way the import of complex will rise from 77 to 93 lac tonnes. Irrespective of the Government in power, subsidy is being given to this sector. Rs. 45,000 crore is being given as subsidy. The MRP for the farmers has not been raised, be it in respect of urea, DAP or MOP. The farmers are being provided fertilizers at the same rate at which they were being provided 3-4 years back. You may observe that the international prices have gone up sharply. During the year 2003-04, urea was available at the rate of 156 US \$ per tonne which has gone up to 407 \$ per tonne. DAP was at the rate of 203\$ per tonne, the price of which has gone up to 600 \$ per tonne, MOP was being sold at the rate of 123 \$ per tonne which is now available at the rate of 325\$ per tonne. It was being said from various quarters including the Finance Ministry that the prices of the fertilizers should be raised in view of the four fold increase of their international prices. In the interest of the farmers, we are insisting that we will continue to sell DAP, MOP and urea at MRP at which they are being provided to the farmers and we are continuing to do so. In case of fertilizer subsidy, you may observe that during the year 2003-04, subsidy on urea was 8509 crores which has gone up to 25654 crores, on DAP it was 326 crores which has gone up to 20,005 crores. The total subsidy was 11835 crores which has gone up to 45659 crores, in the interest of the farmers. The cost of the imported DAP comes at 27600 Rupees per tonne and the cost of the indigenous production stands at Rs.18155 per tonne. However, the farmer is being provided at only Rs. 9350 per tonne. We import MOP at the rate of Rs. 12323 and the farmers are provided at the rate of only Rs. 4455 per tonne. The cost of imported urea is Rs. 17780 per tonne and the domestic production cost stands at Rs. 11674 per tonne. However, the farmers are provided at the rate of only Rs. 4830 per tonne. This is factual.

We are being asked about the system. In regard to the system, all the fertilizers, be it urea, DAP or MOP, all were under the control of the Government. Upto the year 2003, urea was under the complete control of the Government. In the year 2003, urea was decontrolled 50%. As on date, all the fertilizers are available under the decontrolled system. Decontrolled means that the same are available in the market like any other thing. The Government has control over 50% urea only which

is moved. However, we have kept in place a monitoring system everywhere. We have got an FMS constituted. Earlier, subsidy was being provided once the fertilizer would reach to the state level. We received a number of complaints from a number of places. We got a website opened for this purpose. In case people want the name of the website, I can give it also. The website for fertilizers is [www.urvarak.co.in](http://www.urvarak.co.in). Any body can look into this site to know how much fertilizers have been dispatched, when it has been dispatched, where and how it has been dispatched and to which station it has reached. You are talking about DAP. I had informed everyone in the month of May. It is not that there is shortage of DAP anywhere. But, yes, I had written letters to the State Governments in regard to the DAP. The problem is with the private companies. Prices are rising every day. The price of DAP, urea gets hiked tomorrow from what it is today. We reach into an agreement with them for an year. They think that the fertilizer department is the least profitable department. That's why no new fertilizer factory has been set up during the last 15 years. During the NDA Government, the fertilizer factories were closed down. ...*(Interruptions)* Till I was in the Government, they had not been closed down. I continued to fight for their sake. When I withdrew from the Government, those factories were closed. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

I do not want to indulge into such things. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Do not interrupt. The Minister is replying. Only his statement will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The Haldia factory in West Bengal is lying closed. The Durgapur factory is also facing the same situation. The Barauni and Sindry factory in Bihar got closed down. The factories of Ramagundam, Gorakhpur and Talcher also got closed down. ...*(Interruptions)*.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: What are you saying? Do not interrupt.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is very improper. The hon. Minister is replying and you do not want to hear him. Please take your seat. What is all this going on?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I am merely saying that all the plants of FCI and HFC were closed down in the year 2003 . ...(Interruptions) You should thank the UPA Government for taking a decision to reopen all those plants ...(Interruptions) We shall be providing 10 lakh tonnes from each plant. ...(Interruptions) There would be production of 80 lakh tonnes in all the eight plants. ...(Interruptions)

Secondly, I would like to state that our job is to allocate the fertilizers to the states. Thereafter, we have no agency. The private sector maintained that they used to import 10 to 12 lakh tonnes. This time they said that the situation is such that they would not be able to import 10 to 12 lakh tonnes. They have imported one point something lakh tonnes during the kharif season, 8.64 lakh tonnes during the Rabi season and have given assurance to import 3.6 lakh tonnes during Rabi crop. We asked the IPL to carry out imports but they lack the proper infrastructure. Private companies have a network of dealers everywhere but we do not have any. We asked the State Governments in the month of May to put in place their respective networks. We said that we were ready to provide them the required funds and even pay the transportation charges. After doing so much we presume that fertilizers would reach the states but if the supply reached Gaya but did not reach Aurangabad, then would the Minister be responsible for it? Is the Central Government responsible for it? They repeatedly raise the issue of rakes. I found that there was no dearth of rakes. Rakes are provided by the Railways. There may be some little problem in lifting the supply. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not record any interruption.

...(Interruptions)...\*

MR. SPEAKER: Only the hon. Minister's statement will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)...\*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: However, the fact remains that the fertilizers do reach there and remain in queue at a particular station waiting to be lifted. The State Governments request the Railways for lifting the cement, foodgrains first. Why do not they ask for lifting fertilizers on priority basis. They have got every right to do that. ...(Interruptions) Fertilizers are lying in Ghaziabad whereas Kanpur is facing a crisis. The State Government has every right to request the Railways to divert it to Kanpur. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Uday Singh, what are you doing? What is troubling you? Is this the way to behave?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kirpal Yadav, this is not the way to behave.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: He should leave. I shall have to send him out.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Surendra Prakash Goyal, what are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am giving a warning. If anybody does behave like this, I will ask him to go out.

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you do not take any action.  
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will take action some day. One day I had asked a Member to leave the House and I really felt bad about that. Nobody appreciates my concern for maintaining decorum in the House. I felt very bad about it that day. I could not even sleep that night.

*[English]*

Now, it seems that the disease is becoming more contagious.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: What else can I do to you? You do not want to listen to the hon'ble Minister. When you put questions to the hon. Minister, would not he give replies?

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I will adjourn the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Uday Babu is standing up time and again. I had gone to Patna. There I read somewhere about the shortage of DAP. After I returned from there, I inquired from my department about its demand there. My department informed me that in October when they were supplying fertilizers, they were told that there were floods at that time and 20 districts were inundated, so they did not need fertilizers. Thereafter, they made a demand for 60 thousand tonnes of fertilizers in November, whereas 94 thousand tonnes of fertilizer has been supplied to them so far. They would have received one lakh 60 thousand tonnes of fertilizer till date. These are not my words, it has been said by an officer of the state whom I do not wish to name in the House. Their officer has certified it in writing. I went to Patna and challenged that if I were wrong I would resign.  
...*(Interruptions)* \*

\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Leave it.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not go into details. Do not go into State matters.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever I am saying is on record and on the basis of receipt. ...*(Interruptions)* All the states which have been given. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I am concluding. Let me conclude. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

I would only like to state that who so ever got up from his seat here should ask their respective State Governments. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will delete it. I will delete the reference to the Chief Minister.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: All the hon'ble Members should ask their respective State Governments. If lesser supply has been made to the State Government, then Union Government is responsible for that. However, if proper supply has been made to the State Government and there is no proper distribution then the onus lies squarely on the State Government. ...*(Interruptions)* The State Government should take proper action.  
...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.



[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not mention any State. You have given the figures.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Morena): Sir, please give me an opportunity to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Item No. 20-A. A Statement is to be made by the hon. Minister Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi.

12.51 hrs.

## STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS-*Contd.*

### (v) Azadi Express

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay a Statement on the 'Azadi Express' and the public response to it at different stations during the course of its journey which is mentioned against my name and listed in the Supplementary List of Business today.

I would like to thank the hon. Railway Minister Shri Lalu ji to have organized this train to travel throughout the country with the execution of the Ministry depicting the entire struggle of 1857 and till 15th August, 1947. It has received the response of millions of students throughout the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

#### \*THE PROJECT

2007 is a memorable year for our nation. This year, the nation is celebrating the 150th Year of First War of Indian Independence, 1857 and 60th Year of Indian Independence. A National Committee under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh and a National Implementation Committee under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Human Resource Development Minister Shri Arjun Singh have chalked a

\*.....\* This part of the speech was laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 7786/2007.

host of programmes to celebrate this auspicious occasion. As part of the celebration a Special Mobile Exhibition on Train was conceptualized to inspire the countrymen in general and youth in particular with the spirit of our glorious freedom struggle and the selfless sacrifice of our freedom fighters and also of the pioneering achievements of the last 60 years. M/o Information & Broadcasting has been made responsible to implement the project in collaboration with M/O Culture and M/O Railways.

#### CONTENT

The 12 coaches of the Mobile Train depict the saga of popular upsurge leading to the first war of independence 1857, the role of nationalist leaders and thinkers in the fight against colonial rule and important events leading to achievements of freedom in 1947, and a journey through post 1947 development.

Coach 1 depicts the pre-1857 golden era.

Coach 2-4 are about the 1857 First War of independence.

Coach 5-7 advent of Gandhiji in the freedom movement leading to 1947.

Coach 8-10 depict resurgent India and march to progress.

Coach 11 is about development of parliamentary democracy.

Coach 12 has a souvenir shop.

#### COST

The total cost of the project was estimated originally at Rs 14.84 cr. However, Ministry of Railways has granted concession of their operational cost by 50% keeping in view the important national objective envisaged by the project. The sanctioned project cost is Rs 9.27 cr as on date.

#### THE FLAG OFF

On the birth centenary day of one of the noblest sons of India Shaheed Bhagat Singhji, i.e. 28th September 2007, the Special Mobile Train Exhibition, aptly named 'Azadi Express' was flagged off by Hon'ble Human Resource Development Minister Shri Arjun Singh from Safdarjung Railway Station, New Delhi.

## ITINERARY

Over a period of eight months the 'Azadi Express' will travel to 21 states halting at 70 major stations. The 'Azadi Express' is scheduled to come back to Delhi on 11.05.2008 after concluding its historical journey.

## STATES/PLACES COVERED

Till date, the Exhibition has covered 20 major places namely Safdarjung station (New Delhi), Porbandar, Sabarmati, Vadodara, Daurai(Ajmer), Gandhinagar(Jaipur), Lalgarh(Bikaner), Amritsar, Pathankot, Jammu Tawi, Chandigarh, Dehradun, Roorkee, Sahibabad, Agra Cantonment, Gwalior, Jhansi, Bhopal, Raipur and Nagpur covering nine states viz. Gujarat, Rajasthan, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttaranchal, part of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh and parts of Maharashtra.

## RESPONSES OF THE PEOPLE Gujarat

After flag off, the Train went straight to Gandhiji's Janambhoomi Porbander and Karambhoomi Sabarmati. The response of the people was so tremendous that they remained in long queue waiting for their turn to enter the train. Some of the members of the family of Father of the Nation also visited the exhibition. **More than 4.5 lakh people including large number of school children visited the exhibition. At Porbandar, the exhibition was opened for public viewing with a prayer session by school children followed by a skit on Mahatma Gandhi. Song and Drama division organized a programme on the occasion, All India Radio Rajkot presented Gandhi bhajans on Gandhi Jayanti day and prominent local families connected with Gandhiji and members of Kirti Mandir trust visited the exhibition. More than 2.5 lakh visitors visited the Azadi Express during its 3 days stay at Porbandar.**

**At Sabarmati, nearly 2 lakh visitors saw the exhibition. Election Commissioner Shri S.Y. Qureshi visited the exhibition.**

**At Vadodara, freedom fighters who participated in Quit India Movement were felicitated when they visited the exhibition. Hon'ble MOS Railways Shri V.J. Rathwa visited exhibition and appreciated it.**

## RAJASTHAN

**In Rajasthan too, the response was overwhelming. Here also more than 4 lakh people visited the**

**exhibition including a large number of school children and veteran freedom fighters.**

**At Jaipur noted freedom fighters, Mrs. Narangi Devi and Mr. Champalal Ranka were the distinguished dignitaries to board the train first on the opening day of the exhibition. DFP unit at Jaipur organized quiz competitions among visiting school children at Daurai and Jaipur. Over 2 lakh people visited the exhibition in Jaipur.**

**At Lalgarh (Bikaner), more than one lakh people visited the exhibition with appreciation from one and all. The response was so tremendous that opinion makers like Mr. Bulaki Das, MLA wrote in visitors book that the Mobile Exhibition inspires the new generation and it should be taken even to tehsil level. Visitors from Bikaner expressed the opinion that it was a beautiful attempt to unite the entire country.**

## PUNJAB

**In spite of the Dussehra festival, the response in Punjab was equally good. At Pathankot a large number of families of Jawans visited the exhibition. More than one lakh people visited the exhibition in Punjab. At Amritsar, Song and Drama division organized a programme on the patriotic theme on the opening day while the Punjab Police Band enthralled the crowds on the closing day of the exhibition.**

## CHANDIGARH

**At Chandigarh during its halt from 31st Oct. to 3rd Nov. 07, large crowds of school students visited the exhibition. On the opening day, Punjab Deputy Speaker Hon'ble Sat Pal Gosain complemented the authorities for organizing such an informative exhibition which he said should be taken to every corner of the country to educate the masses. The Mobile Exhibition was visited by more than one lakh thirty thousand people at Chandigarh.**

## JAMMU &amp; KASHMIR

**The exhibition was welcomed with fanfare and festivities in Jammu & Kashmir. State Government organized a cultural bonanza befitting with the theme of the exhibition. Around one lakh people visited the exhibition in J&K. The train halt at Jammu Tawi Railway station from 28th to 30th Oct. 07. The Academy of Culture, Jammu and Kashmir organized multi media**

cultural events in the city coinciding with the arrival of Azadi Express there. Music and folk dance events were organized depicting the Jammu region on the first day in the presence of Hon'ble Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Gulam Nabi Azad accompanied by Min. of State for Industries, Shri Romesh Sharma and some other prominent leaders visited the exhibition on 28th Oct. 07. Children from large number of schools visited the exhibition during its 3-day halt and evinced keen interest in the multi media exhibits.

#### UTTARANCHAL AND PART OF UP

The response was so positive in Uttaranchal and UP that in couple of places the opening time of the exhibition had to be pre-poned and extended beyond scheduled closing time. **More than 2 lakh people visited the train in Uttaranchal and parts of UP. At Dehradun and Roorkee prominent freedom fighters including Narayan Singh Negi and Dhruv Singh Thapa visited the exhibition on the opening day. The closing time had to be extended in view of heavy rush. At Roorkee, local coordinators decorated the Mobile Exhibition Train - Azadi Express in Deepavali festive mood on the eve of Diwali festival. The Exhibition was watched by over 50,000 viewers. At Sahibabad, there was heavy public response, children from 27 schools visited the exhibition in groups. At one time, the queue was over 300 mtrs. long. More than 50,000 visitors saw the exhibition.**

**At Agra Cantt. A Veteran freedom fighter Raja Rajendra Singh was the first entrant to the exhibition. He is descendant of Raja Mahendra Singh, a freedom fighter of 1857. The exhibition had to be opened earlier than the schedule time because of the heavy rush on 2nd day of its halt on 15th Nov. 07. DFP unit organized quiz contest for the students at the Railway platform. Students from more than 20 schools were among about 50,000 visitors on the final day at Agra Cantt.**

#### MADHYA PARDESH & CHATTISGARH

In all the places of MP and Chattisgarh there was fantastic response from general public, students, youth and freedom fighters. **More than 3 lakh people visited the exhibition in Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh. At Gwallior, there was overwhelming response from schools and colleges. Nearly 65 Govt, and Private school children were among about 50,000 people who visited the exhibition on 20.11.07, the final day of its halt. Several local leaders and freedom fighters visited the exhibition.**

**At Raipur, on the opening day, Rotary club of Raipur organized a programme at adjacent railway platform coinciding with the Mobile Exhibition. State Chief Minister, Home Minister and some other ministers and other leaders visited the exhibition and evinced keen interest. As on today the Train is in Maharashtra. It has received unprecedented response in Nagpur. On the opening day, at Nagpur, local freedom fighters came out in a big procession accompanied by a musical lazium dance by school students to the beating of drums. It was a great festivity by non-political freedom fighters who were highly appreciative of the Government of India for organizing and bringing such an exhibition to their city. All India Radio Nagpur put out one hour live programme on reactions from the public, to the Mobile Train on the opening day of the exhibition at Nagpur on 1.12.07.**

#### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, it seems, the very objective of Mobile Train Exhibition Project to enthuse the youth of India with a sense of passion for the motherland is getting early success.

MR. SPEAKER: Please wait. Shri Arjun Sethi, your's is not the only issue in the country. Please take your seat. I will call you according to the list.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, may I submit this if you permit me for half-a-minute? ...*(Interruptions)*

Today is a very important day. The Order Paper today shows that we have to discuss the Internal Security issue. I am to submit, through you, Sir, to the House that because of your guidance and the cooperation of the entire House, we have been able to pass important legislations. Today, there are three legislations. We have to pass them. One of which, I have to take to the Rajya Sabha tomorrow because tomorrow the Rajya Sabha can discuss it and day after tomorrow is the Private Members' day. Therefore, I will appeal to you, to cancel the recess or Lunch Hour, if possible today. We can continue the business. Again, at 2.30 p.m., we can take up the Internal Security issue.

My only appeal is this. The Bill of Shri A.K. Antony, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha, has come to Lok Sabha. It can wait a little. But the Bill of Shrimati Meira Kumar is very important. It has to go to Rajya Sabha tomorrow. Therefore, it could get the priority before the Bill of Shri A.K. Antony. That is what I am requesting you and the House.

MR. SPEAKER: That will be taken up after finishing Item No.24.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, everyday, we are cancelling the Lunch Hour.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Doctors say these days that if you take a less quantity of lunch, health will be good. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us get dispose of one of the matters before I come to the important matters. Item No.23 - Shri Lalu Prasad. You can move your Resolution.

12.53 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : APPROVAL OF  
RECOMMENDATIONS OF RAILWAY  
CONVENTION COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): I beg to move:

"That this House approves the recommendations of the Railway Convention Committee (2004) as contained in Paras 23 and 24 of their Third Report, which was presented to the Lok Sabha on 12th August, 2005."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House approves the recommendations of the Railway Convention Committee (2004) as contained in Paras 23 and 24 of their Third Report, which was presented to the Lok Sabha on 12th August, 2005."

*The Motion was adopted.*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD: Mamtaji has come to the House today, I welcome her.

[English]

DR. K. DHANARAJU (Tindivanam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to raise a very

important matter of public interest relating to eye donations. ...(Interruptions) Despite several campaigns to promote eye donations, the country is yet to meet the requirement of at least two lakh corneas. ...(Interruptions) According to experts on the subject, so far, only 30,000 eyes have been collected this year.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): Sir, I want to raise a very important matter. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You will be informed tomorrow.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am very much surprised. It is very unfortunate.

DR. K. DHANARAJU: In India, it is estimated that about 12 million people are blind. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have given an opportunity to one hon. Member. He is raising an important issue.

DR. K. DHANARAJU: I would suggest to the Government to appoint one grief Counselor at each Eye Bank as part of the Eleventh Five Year Plan. The procedure for eye donations should be made very simple. ...(Interruptions) A comprehensive database for corneal blindness should also be made. I urge upon the Government of India to give required priority and level of importance to meet the target of the eye bank by giving a wide propaganda/publicity to the donation campaigns and let India see with 100 per cent vision by fixing a target.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ARGAL (Morena): All right, Sir, ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is very unfortunate Shri Argal. Where is the rule that you must be called first?

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please give a notice.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not be misguided by others.

...(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, I am on a point of information. Just now, it has been stated that the CBI has rescued four dead bodies of *kisans* of Nandigram. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

(*Interruptions*)... \*

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know what he was saying. He was raising an important matter. If there is a notice given by you, I shall certainly look into it and decide it. If there is no notice, you cannot raise it like this.

[*Translation*]

Please, take your seats.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: It is my decision. I will decide it. What are you doing?

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 1.30 p.m.

12.55 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes  
past Thirteen of the Clock.*

\*Not recorded.

13.33 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty-three minutes  
past Thirteen of the Clock.*

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

### SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re : Need to consult mineral producing States  
before finalisation of the National Mineral Policy

[*English*]

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): Sir, five hon. Chief Ministers have asked for an audience with the Prime Minister of India before adopting the National Mineral Policy. The hon. Prime Minister of India should give them audience and have interaction with them. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is for the hon. Speaker to decide.

13.34 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Arjun Sethi and some other hon.  
Members came and stood on the floor near the Table*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing should go on record.

(*Interruptions*)... \*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(*Interruptions*)... \*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please go to your seats.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: My hon. friends, there is a democratic way of doing things. You please resume your seats.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: My personal request is that you resume your seats.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a democratic way. You can go to your seats and then speak. This is not the proper way.

I would request you to resume your seats. That is my personal request.

...(*Interruptions*)

\*Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can write the matter to the Speaker and wait for his reaction.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request you to resume your seats. We will conduct the remaining business.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please cooperate to conduct the remaining business.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a solution to every issue. You please resume your seats. Anything can be discussed in this House by giving notice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you have given the notice, the Speaker would have taken it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: My hon. friends, this is just what I have told you; you please give a notice; the Speaker will take a decision. We can discuss it tomorrow with the permission of the Speaker.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please give a notice. We will discuss it tomorrow; there is no harm.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, it is time to take up the Matters under Rule 377. We are running the House as per the Rules of Procedure. We can discuss it only as per the rules.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you please tell me how I can help you. Now, it is time for us to take up the Matters under Rule 377.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no provision in the Rule for taking up a discussion on your issue at this stage.

Now, it is time for us to take up the Matters under Rule 377.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I can do things only as per the rules. I can follow the rules only. Please cooperate.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please go back to your seats. The hon. Home Minister is present here. He wants to reply now.

...(Interruptions)

13.42 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Arjun Sethi and some other hon. Members went back to their seats*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, please allow us one minute. ...*(Interruptions)* We had given a notice for "Calling Attention" on this subject and it was admitted for today. The Minister deliberately avoided to respond this Calling Attention and he remained absent. Any Minister could have replied, and that Calling Attention could have been taken up. ...*(Interruption)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Home Minister speak now.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, our demand is that before the finalization of the National Mineral Policy, Government should share with the States. This is the Constitutional provision. How can the Central Government go ahead without the consultation of the States? Now, the Hooda Committee's recommendation is to take away the power of the States. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take up your seat. The hon. Home Minister wants to speak. Please hear him.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, the Government is in the process of formulating the Mineral Policy. A Committee was appointed and that Committee had given its Report. On the basis of that Committee's Report, a Cabinet Paper on Mineral Policy was prepared and it was presented to the Cabinet. Now, the Cabinet decided that because the Policy is a very important policy, it should be considered by a Group of Ministers. A Group of Ministers was constituted. I was sitting as the Chairman of that Group of Ministers and

there were other Ministers - Finance Minister and other four, five Ministers in that Group. Now, that Group of Ministers had to consider the paper which was prepared and presented to the Cabinet, the Report given by the Hooda Committee and the submissions made by the coal industry, steel industry, labour and all those things. This Policy was communicated to the State Governments and the State Governments had given their statements with respect to this Policy in writing. So, those things were also considered. Not once, but five to six meetings of this Committee took place. Later on, the hon. Chief Ministers wanted to make their presentation in person. So, they thought that they could come to Delhi and make their statement. And because the matter was before the Cabinet and because the Cabinet had constituted the Group of Ministers and the Group of Ministers had considered the views expressed by so many others, the Chief Ministers were invited by the Group of Ministers.

The hon. Chief Ministers of Orissa, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka and others came and presented their case. For nearly two hours, the meeting took place; and later on, they were told: "Look, you have given your views; if you want to give your views, in writing also, you would be most welcome; your officers have already given the views of the State Governments, in writing; and officers of the Government of India have been discussing this matter."

So, this matter was heard. Then, a Report was prepared and it was sent to the Cabinet. The Cabinet is going to discuss the views of all those who have expressed their views before the Committee. When the Cabinet takes a decision on the Mineral Policy, it will definitely come before the hon. Members also, and the hon. Members would be in a position to give their views on those things.

Sir, all the industries—public and private - have been consulted. The States, where the mines are there, have been consulted. The Chief Ministers have been given the opportunity to explain. The Government of India is applying its mind with the help of the experts in all those things. Over and above that the views of the hon. Members also will be expressed, and we will finalise the policy, and then that policy will come into existence. This is the situation.

They wanted to meet the hon. Prime Minister, who generally meets everybody, and we have been meeting the Chief Ministers. We have not only been meeting the

Chief Ministers but whenever there is an occasion, they are asking for something or they are telephoning to us, we have been telephoning to them on certain issues, and we have been talking to them.

So, the Government of India, the hon. Prime Minister or any Minister of the Government of India is only pleased to meet the hon. Chief Ministers - not only hon. Chief Ministers but any Ministers of the State Governments, any MP from any State, any MLA of the State, and any important persons of the State. We have been discussing.

Sir, there appears to be a little bit of misunderstanding. The policy is a very important policy and we can understand the concerns expressed by the hon. Members. Before the policy is finalised and it is adopted by the Government of India, there would be occasion for you also to consider it. That is why I am making a submission that if there are any misunderstandings, misapprehensions on this, they should be dispensed.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, I have a clarification. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No discussion is allowed.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, whether the hon. Minister will ensure that before the finalization of the policy, the draft will be shared by the States. The Minister should reply. ...(*Interruptions*) Now, they are not submitting the Draft Report to States. How will the States know as to what is going on? So, the Draft Report should be shared with the States. That is our request to the hon. Home Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Under the rules, no discussion is permissible.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: But they are not doing it. For the last four to five months, the five Chief Ministers have been requesting. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry. No discussion is permissible.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please resume your seats.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, the Report given by the Hooda Committee is a voluminous Report. The statements made by the State Governments are also voluminous. Then, the coal industry, steel industry and mining industry have all given their views. The documents, which have been collected for this purpose are huge, they run into a large number of pages. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: We are talking about the National Mineral Policy Draft Report. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Let me complete.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, let him speak.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: These are voluminous things, and supposing, I just read only a few pages, then it is not possible for me to understand it. But if I am sitting in a Committee, I am expected to go through all these documents, discuss these matters with officers and the experts, and come to the conclusion. Naturally, the hon. Prime Minister, has to look after so many things, that is why the matter goes to the Cabinet and that is why a Group of Ministers is appointed.

Now, they are saying that before it is finalized, they should be consulted. Definitely, it cannot become a policy without discussing this matter with all concerned. This will be discussed. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: We want to know whether the Draft Report will be shared with the State Governments. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Please understand. All concerned people have been consulted. If they want to discuss, they can again be given opportunity to discuss. There is no difficulty. But do not create the problems just by saying: "Look, they have different views." Even the Chief Ministers views are different. *...(Interruptions)*

\*Not recorded.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: There are no different views.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: There are. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will take up Item No. 24 - further discussion on the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Bill, 2007.

*...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PAUL: It is a secret document. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARJUN SETHI : Sir, what is the harm, what is the difficulty if the Chief Ministers are given another opportunity to present their case before the hon. Prime Minister of India? *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If the Prime Minister has to hear and come to a conclusion, let me say that these are the voluminous reports. That is why a Committee is appointed. More than five Ministers are sitting in the Committee. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, five Chief Ministers have given only one memorandum. So, the views of the Chief Ministers are the same. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: It is not correct.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: It is correct. I can show you a copy of the memorandum. I can lay it on the Table of the House. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, it is not correct. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am on my legs. Hon. Members, please be seated. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: What is the problem with the Government of India in consulting the Chief Ministers? Are they not the head of the States? It is the States' prerogative. It is not the prerogative of the Government of India. Constitution has given those powers to the States. *...(Interruptions)*

\*Not recorded.



MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please resume your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) .. \*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever you are speaking is not going on record. Please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN (Deogarh): Sir, they are misleading the House. ...(Interruptions)

13.55 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

...(Interruptions)

13.55 hrs.

### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377\*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we will go to Item No. 22—Matters under Rule 377. Matters under Rule 377 may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

...(Interruptions)

#### (I) Need to revive the Bharat Heavy Plate and Vessels Limited, Visakhapatnam

SHRI D. VITTAL RAO (Mahabub Nagar): I would like to invite the attention of Government of India for revival the prestigious Bharat Heavy Plate and Vessels Limited (BHPV), Visakhapatnam.

It was taken over by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) long ago. The Government of Andhra Pradesh have already extended its support by waiving off dues to the tune of Rs. 47.00 crores. These dues are outstanding to various local bodies and other Government Departments by BHPV. It is also committed to transfer the land deed in possession of the BHPV as gift title deed waiving registration and stamp duty.

\*Not recorded.

\*Treated as Laid on the Table.

I request that the proposal is cleared by the Union Minister for Finance at the earliest as per the announcement made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister during his recent visit to Visakhapatnam.

#### (II) Need to provide loans on easy terms to farmers engaged in Animal Husbandry sector

SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN (Dindigul): In the Indian economy, 18.4% of GDP is coming from agriculture and balance 81.6% from manufacturing and service sectors. But agricultural employment is 57% out of the Indian population. Again, agriculture is growing @ 2.7% per annum in GDP while service and manufacturing sectors are growing @ 10% per annum. In agriculture sector, Dairy & Animal Husbandry is the only sector which is growing at more than 4% which accounts for 26% of agriculture.

Since the agriculture depends on monsoon, the agriculturists are not able to get reasonable and fair prices for their produces, they are not able to repay the loans which leads to suicidal deaths.

Focus on Dairy to help the farmer for better prosperity in agriculture will help the country and the farmers. Main reason being milk is the only commodity, where farmer can get liquidity for all 365 days in a year. Purchase price of milk is more or less stable.

Thus dairying is the only sector in agriculture which can pay better salaries and help increase productivity in agriculture. The farmer can plant varieties of fodder and reduce the cost of crude protein by better agri practices.

Hence, I urge upon the Hon'ble Prime Minister to initiate various measures like liberal advance with subsidy for the purchase of cattles, fodder cutting machines and appliances and cattles shed at reduced rate of interest, which will definitely be an alternate for agriculture and reduce the financial burden of agriculturists throughout the country.

#### (III) Need to include 'Sanwara' community of Chhattisgarh in the list of Scheduled Tribe Category.

[Translation]

SHRI GUHARAM AJGALLE (Sarangarh): Sir, the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes which has been prepared under Madhya Pradesh Land Revenue

[Shri Guharam Ajgalle]

Code 1959/section 165(1) of the Chhattisgarh Land Revenue code contains the names of communities like 'Sanwar' or 'Sanwara' at serial numbers 42 'Saharia', 'Seharia', 'Sosia' or 'Sor' at serial number 43, Saur at Sl. No. 44 and Saur listed at Sl.No. 45.

Whereas this caste is known as Sainra Sanwra at many places in border areas of Orissa and Mahasamund, Raigarh districts of Chhattisgarh. Sainra, Sanwra are mentioned even in its revenue records and this group is the synonym of Sawar, Sawra, Saur, Sor.

The Special Secretary, Department of Tribal and Scheduled Castes Development, Government of Chhattisgarh has sent a letter dated 24.6.2003 in this regard to the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi for issuing a notification to this effect.

'Sanwara' community came under the category of Scheduled Tribes before the creation of Jharkhand and used to avail benefits of reservation and other facilities extended to Scheduled Tribes in the field of education and employment.

Owing to a clerical error, not amounting to malafide intention, in the spellings, the innocent Sanwara Community has to bear the brunt. It's a matter of great concern.

Therefore, the hon'ble Minister is requested to include Sanwara community in the list of scheduled tribes and issue proper instructions to the State Governments so that the sanwara community could avail the benefits of reservation for the scheduled tribes.

**(iv) Need to modernize Belgaum Airport in Karnataka**

[English]

SHRI SURESH ANGADI (Belgaum): Belgaum is one of the important cities in Karnataka State. It can be mentioned as the second capital of Karnataka after Bangalore. However, the Belgaum Airport has not been developed as per the importance of the city.

Belgaum Airport is a very old one constructed during the British regime. It is now neglected and not developed as per the standard of the city. Belgaum is one of the important military bases of the country and a busy industrial area consisting Sugar and Foundry Industries.

It borders with Goa and Maharashtra. There are a large number of business visitors to the city and they are to use either road or rail only. This consumes a lot of time and energy of the business community. If anyone has to catch flights, they have to reach Hubli which is 150 kms away from Belgaum. From Hubli also they have to fly either to Bangalore or Mumbai to catch the connecting flights for anywhere in the country.

Belgaum is having tourism potential drawing hundreds of foreign and domestic tourists to Gokak Falls and Yellamma Devasthanam. In spite of these attractions for tourists and other, the Belgaum Airport has not been developed. The runway is required to be expanded to facilitate use of ATR flights.

I, therefore, urge the Central Government to take necessary steps immediately to develop the Belgaum Airport keeping in view of the importance of the city on account of its business and tourism potential.

**(v) Need to give exemption of tax to Co-operative Banks in the country**

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat): While presenting the Finance Bill in the House on May 3, 2007, the Finance Minister made a statement that out of 1.11 lakh Cooperative Banks in the country, he has exempted 1.09 lakh Cooperative Banks from Income Tax and taxed only 2,000 Banks.

I would like to submit that there are only 1,828 Cooperative Banks in the country and not 1.11 lakh as he stated. In fact, exemption has been given only to primary and agricultural credit societies. Primary and Agricultural credit societies are meant to support and aid financially to agricultural sector while Cooperative Banks are the way to help the weaker sections of society.

The performance of Cooperative Banks has improved recently and if their profits are taxed, it would lower the moral of Cooperative Banks and the growth of the sector would be affected adversely.

In these circumstances, I urge upon the Government to exempt the profits of all Cooperative Banks as early as possible.

**(vi) Need to introduce rail services in Maharajganj Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh.**

[Translations]

SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY (Maharajganj, U.P.): Sir, there are a number of such cities in this country even

today where there is no facility of railways. People of these cities have to travel miles of distance to catch a train. My parliamentary constituency Maharajganj is an example of it. Maharajganj is the district headquarters of my parliamentary constituency and the people of my constituency have to visit Maharajganj very frequently, but they have to face a lot of problems as there is no railway station at this place. Stations around Maharajganj are located far away and are very old. About 15 years have passed since Maharajganj was declared a district. but it has neither any railway line nor any railway station. It is a matter of great regret.

I, therefore, request the hon'ble Minister of Railways to allocate funds for laying a new broadgauge line from Siswa to Farendia via Maharajganj and to construct a railway station at Maharajganj in the next financial year so that the benefit of this could reach all the people and traders of my constituency and the distance covered by the Gonda bound trains running from Nepal border or Bihar would also be reduced. This step will save fuel and there will be lesser rush at the Gorakhpur station.

**(vii) Need to set up a Manganese ore plant in Rewa district, Madhya Pradesh.**

SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI (Rewa): Sir, my parliamentary constituency Rewa, Madhya Pradesh has a huge reserve of manganese ores in Semariya, which is extracted and transported on a large scale to Bihar and Jharkhand. If the Government of India takes initiative for the setting up of manganese ore plant near Semariya, the problem of unemployment not only in Rewa parliamentary constituency but in Rewa division also will be solved and the unemployed youths who have deviated from their path could be motivated for constructing work. Similarly, there are reserves of Silica sand also near Damaura. A State-manufacturing factory can be set up there. Two cement factories have been set up in Rewa district as this district alone has the lime stone reserves. They are not only earning profits but also contributing to the industrial development of Rewa.

I, therefore, request the Government of India to take necessary steps for the setting up of manganese ore plants in Rewa district so that unemployment could be removed to some extent. Therefore, the Government should take effective and concrete steps at the earliest in this regard.

**(viii) Need to resolve the issue of concession/subsidy claimed by IFFCO on purchase of surplus Ammonia from Oman India Fertilizer Company Limited.**

*[English]*

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): I draw the attention to the Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizer towards the request pending with the Department of Fertilizers IFFCO for allowing to get the gain accruing on account of the difference between the imported price of Ammonia and the fixed price of Ammonia from Oman at 100 Dollar MT.

As it is known that a Joint Venture Fertilizer Plant in the name of Oman India Fertilizer Co. Limited has been set up at Sur in Oman. The Joint venture partners are IFFCO, KRIBHCO and Oman Oil Company. The equity holdings are 25:25:50 per cent respectively and they have the rated capacity to annually produce 16.32 lakh MT ton of urea and 2.34 lakh ton of surplus Ammonia.

The Government of India has entered into a long-term (15 years) agreement for off-take of 16.5 lakh ton urea annually under a long term price agreement. Similarly, IFFCO has entered into a long-term agreement (10 years) for purchase of surplus Ammonia to the tune of 2.34 lakh MT annually at a fixed price of 100 Dollar per ton.

Ammonia was allowed to be taken by IFFCO on the understanding that it will be bought for indigenous use at Kandla. Since the cost of Oman Ammonia is 100 Dollar MT, IFFCO's concession was rightly fixed at this price. The Government of India supported this Ammonia off-take agreement which assured supply to the country and also due to the advantage side by side the price of 100 Dollar per MT for 10 years would bring to the country. Due to these factors the CCEA had approved the agreement.

But, aggrieved with this, IFFCO has filed a writ petition in Delhi High Court a few months ago, claiming concession/subsidy at market price of Ammonia, which is very high. So, if the Government agrees to this request of IFFCO, there will be extra financial burden on the Government of India to the tune of approximate Rs. 250 crore annually.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to kindly direct the Department of Fertilizers from reaching to any out of court settlement which will cause loss to the

[Shri Sunil Khan]

Government of India to the tune of Rs. 250 crore per year.

**(ix) Need to undertake measures to increase the Intellectual Property Rights filings by India**

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (Bhadrachalam): As per the Annual Report, 2004 of the Indian Patent Office there are only 6,857 patents that have been granted by our Patent Office. The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) states in its Patent Report, 2007 that the total number of patents in force across the whole world were a whopping 5.6 million at the end of 2005. In 2004, patent filings by residents per million population across the world was 148, India filed only 7. It has further fallen to 6 in 2005. Whereas China has increased its filings to 71 from 51 per million residents. This shows the pathetic condition in the field of creation of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in India. In ground reality, there is a long way to go, for India to make it big in the real test of intellectual economic power which lies in the ability to generate patents. In this situation what, is necessary is the financial support and a bigger effort to make IPR Administration effective by scaling up its infrastructure and increased manpower to meet the increased filings—as there are huge vacancies. Strict vigilance should be maintained that Indian innovation/patents should not be sneaked to foreign countries.

**(x) Need to conduct a C.B.I. inquiry into the free of cost excess spectrum allotted to private G.S.M. operators**

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV (Sambhal): Private G.S.M. operators (Airtel, Vodafone & Idea) have been given spectrum free of cost in excess of their licence entitlement and in aggregate they have hoarded over 50 MHz of spectrum across different circles. The players are trying to prevent the entry of new players in the G.S.M. segment by cartelization and indulging in anti-consumer activities by increasing tariff. Government has been losing several crores of rupees because these player have formed a cartel. These players should be immediately compelled to surrender the excess spectrum.

C.B.I. enquiry into the allotment of excess spectrum may be instituted immediately.

**(xi) Need to check the problem of recurring floods in Kheri Parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh by constructing dams on rivers originating from Nepal.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government

towards rivers originating from Nepal. I would also like to draw the attention towards heavy damage caused to the Dudhwa National Park situated in district Kheri of Uttar Pradesh and to the agriculture in the border areas.

Sir, there is an urgent need for the water management of these rivers so that proper utilization of this water could be made and the national calamity like floods could be checked.

Sir, there is a need to construct dams on Indo-Nepal border and the roads on these dams. I, therefore, request the Government to make proper utilization of water by constructing dams on Indo-Nepal border and provide civil amenities by constructing roads on these dams.

**(xii) Need to embark on 'Kanhra Irrigation Project' in Jharkhand.**

SHRI GHURAN RAM (Palamu): Sir, there is a longstanding demand to embark on 'Kanhra Irrigation Project' by constructing dams on Kanhra river in the districts Garhwa and Palamu of Jharkhand State. With the launch of the aforesaid project, 50 thousand acres of land could be irrigated. At the same time, 125 MW of electricity could also be generated.

Through the House, the Government are requested to consider the aforesaid project so that the unemployment, need for migration and poverty could be removed from the areas.

**(xiii) Need to accelerate the growth in Agriculture sector**

[English]

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): More than 60% of our population is depended upon agriculture while the agricultural sector's contribution is only about 18% of the G.D.P. Hence there is a low per capita income in the farm sector. 82% of the total land holdings of the farmers is small and marginal. Poor market conditions, lack of cold storage facilities, lack of electricity and irrigation facilities, inferior quality seeds, vagaries of nature, unviable economic conditions, crop failures etc. lead to our farmers to miseries. They get trapped in debts due to crop failures when drought or flood affects them. In some cases they are driven to commit suicide.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to bring immediate measures to accelerate the overall growth of

the agricultural sector and improve the well being of millions of farmers in the country.

*[English]*

**(xiii) Need to monitor and augment Banking Services in Santhal Parganas, Jharkhand.**

*[Translation]*

SHRI HEMMAL MARMU (Rajmahal): Sir, there is a great deal of inconsistency in the performance of the Banks in Bihar and Jharkhand. Appalling condition prevails in the Banks in Santhal Paraganas of Jharkhand on account of inadequate number of branches, circulation of fake currencies from their counters, realization of excess service charges for issuance of drafts and cheques, inordinate delay in clearing the chaques, lack of security arrangements in bank premises, dissatisfactory customer services, no payment of big amount as per demand of the customers from the counters of the rural branches, non-sanctioning and distribution of loans in consonance with the fixed targets to the customers, particularly the target groups, the poor condition of distribution of loans to the small farmers under the various schemes like Kisan Credit Cards and so on. Bank loans are often distributed to unwanted elements due to which target groups remain deprived of Government's welfare programmes.

The Central Government are, therefore, requested to regulate, monitor and augment the Banking services to the satisfaction of the customers, take action against the irresponsible personnel and take effective steps for the extension of the bank branches in the rural and the semi-urban areas in the districts of Sahibganj, Pakud, Dumka and Godda in Santhal Parganas of Jharkhand.

**(xv) Need to permit operation of international flights from Calicut airport to Gulf Countries by foreign Airlines**

*[English]*

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): In spite of the fact that Calicut Airport has been recognized as an international airport, foreign airlines are not permitted to operate flights to outside destinations. People of Malabar region have to travel to Cochin to catch international flights which is time consuming and causes a lot of problems. Almost 61 percent of the air traffic generated at Cochin airport is from Malabar whose commercial and cultural capital is Calicut. People of this

region have been demanding for several years that foreign airlines be allowed to operate from Calicut for the reason that the monopoly enjoyed by Indian Airlines/Air India has resulted in tardy and deteriorating service to them. Cancellation and delay of the flights are regular phenomenon. But their genuine demand is being overlooked without any valid reason. The lacunae mentioned earlier in this regard like lack of handling facilities and short runways have since been resolved.

I, therefore, strongly urge the Government to sympathetically examine the long pending demand of the people of Malabar region and allow foreign airlines to operate to destinations outside the country especially to gulf region from Calicut airport.

**(xvi) Need to enhance the quota of rice for Mizoram**

SHRI VANLAL ZAWMA (Mizoram) I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government especially the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution towards the impending famine in the state of Mizoram due to the rampant flowering of bamboos.

The local product of rice is inadequate to feed half of the population of the State even in the normal period. Due to flowering of bamboos, rats are increasing enormously and have eaten up the rice and other agricultural products since 2006. The worse period is to come by 2008.

The present allotment of rice which is 4260 MT is not enough to meet our requirement. The total population of Mizoram is 10,35,853 as per record of the ration cards. The Minimum requirement of rice is 4 kg per week for an adult. Based on that calculation, the minimum requirement is 10,000 MT per month besides BPL and AAY Quota.

The additional requirement of rice in Mizoram is 5740 MT per month to save the people from starvation from today onwards. If immediate action is not taken, the State is going to face serious problem due to famine.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to give additional allotment of APL rice to the tune of 5740 MT to save the people of Mizoram from starvation deaths.

13.56 hrs.

INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL TRIBAL  
UNIVERSITY BILL, 2007—Contd.*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Prof. Basudeb Barman.

*...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Basudeb Barman can speak.

*...(Interruptions)*THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ  
V. PATIL): What we have said is also on the record.  
*...(Interruptions)*PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN (Mathurapur): Mr.  
Chairman, Sir, I want to speak on the Indira Gandhi  
National Tribal University Bill, 2007. *...(Interruptions)* Mr.  
Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the Bill and I want to  
make some points. *...(Interruptions)* Sir, I appreciate the  
move by the Government to establish the Indira Gandhi  
National Tribal University. *...(Interruptions)* This will meet  
the need of the Tribal people all over the country.  
*...(Interruptions)*MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Home Minister gave his  
explanation. He explained the whole thing.*...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: What does it mean?

*...(Interruptions)*MR. CHAIRMAN: If you do not allow me, I will  
adjourn the House.*...(Interruptions)*MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to  
meet again at 2.30 p.m.13.56 $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till thirty minutes past  
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.32 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at thirty-two minutes  
past Fourteen of the Clock.*(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)*[English]*MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I want to know from the  
hon. Members whether we should take up Item no. 24,  
the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Bill or Item  
no. 27, the discussion on internal security under Rule  
193.*[Translation]*

What do you want to take up?

*...(Interruptions)**[Translation]*SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): It has been  
listed for 2 p.m. So it should be taken up *...(Interruptions)*PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): It  
was postponed two three days back. Today morning it  
was to be taken up at 12.00 hrs, then it was postponed  
till 2. p.m. and now you further postpone it beyond  
2.30 hrs.*[English]*after all, it is a very very important discussion. How  
can it be postponed?THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF  
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF  
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY  
AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Sir, is it possible to  
start the discussion under Rule 193 at about 3.30 p.m.?  
In the meantime we can dispose of the Bill.  
*...(Interruptions)*PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Please take up  
the Bill tomorrow. *...(Interruptions)*SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: Sir, this can be taken up at  
3.30 p.m. We can dispose of the Bill. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will take up the discussion under Rule 193.

14.33 hrs.

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

### Internal Security

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the House is taking up a very important issue like internal security. For the last three days, there has been a lead news on all the T.V. channels and print media that the I.B. has alerted the Delhi Police and the Government about the possibility of occurrence of some terrorist incidents in Delhi. Such an incident can occur within two weeks or around 6th of December. 16 million people of Delhi are living under the threat of terrorist attack. Recently, a few days back, during an annual conference of DGPs, the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs had stated that there was serious threat to our nuclear plants, power installations, defence establishments and all other establishments. He had also expressed his apprehension about the eventuality of terrorist attacks from land, water and air.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our security advisor has been giving constant warnings for the last two years that our four metropolitan cities are facing the threat. They are repeatedly saying that there are serious threats to important places in our country. Yesterday Shri. P. Chadambaram has also admitted in Rajya Sabha that large amounts of money owned by terrorists is being invested in the stock exchanges of our country due to which it is having an adverse impact on the stock exchanges. There is no outcome of all these warnings and the incidents of terrorism has been on the constant rise. People are living under the threat of terrorists, and there is no terror that can terrorize the terrorists. Terrorists do not get terrorized at all, but the life of the common people is becoming miserable due to which they have lost their faith in this Government because it is not in a position to deal with terrorists even after all these warnings. So, the Government is always apprehensive about the eventuality of terrorist incidents.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention here the incidents of terrorism which have occurred during last

two-three years. There were bomb blasts in Lucknow, Varanasi and in the Court premises of Faizabad on 23rd November of 2007 in which 14 people were killed and more than 59 were injured. All this happened after sounding of alert. There was warning that a prominent person of the House Shri Rahul Gandhi was likely to be abducted. Terrorists were hatching such a plan.

There had been warning that Tihar Jail, Delhi will be broken and terrorists will be freed, despite that this incident occurred in U.P. There was a bomb blast in a cinema hall in Ludhiana on 14th October 2007 in which 6 persons were killed and 25 were injured. On 25th August 2007 there was a serial bomb blast in Hyderabad in which 42 persons were killed and 54 injured. On 18 May 2007, there was a bomb blast in Mecca Masjid, Hyderabad in which 14 persons were killed and 100 injured. On 19th April, 2007 there was a bomb blast in Samjauta Express near Panipat in which 68 persons were killed and 125 injured. On 11th July 2006 there were bomb blasts in Mumbai metro rail in which 187 persons were killed and 700 injured. On 8th September 2006 bomb blast occurred in Malegaon in which 27 persons were killed. On 7 March, 2006 there was a bomb blast in Sankat Mochan Hanuman Mandir, Varanasi in which 16 persons were killed and 100 injured. On 29th October 2005 in Delhi. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I may be permitted to intervene for a minute.

Sir, I, on behalf of the Government, made a request in the presence of you, Sir, sitting in the Chair and the entire House agreed, that today two important Bills have to be cleared. One Bill has to go to Rajya Sabha tomorrow. In-between I was in Rajya Sabha. In the meanwhile, for any reason, it is obvious that the House was adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

Let him speak, but if the passage of this Bill is not ensured today, how can I take it to Rajya Sabha tomorrow? The Government business cannot be a casualty, always like this. I have never seen it at any time. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : It was for you to bring it in time. ...*(Interruptions)* It is written here. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

[Translation]

It has been mentioned here that the debate on it will be started at 2.30 o'clock.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No, it is not my fault. I did not hide it. I said it that

[Translation]

any business would take place after this. I had told it in the House. I had said so on behalf of the Government. At that time you were also present. ...*(Interruptions)* After that I went to Rajya Sabha. Then I came to know that the discussion on this subject was started. If you do not cooperate then how will it work, when will this Bill would be sent to Rajya Sabha after having been passed in this House? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Presently, you let it continue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: No, I am not making any complaint. My suggestion is that hon'ble Malhotraji should complete his speech, I will not interrupt him. Let this discussion continue, however, I only want that you should clear these two Bills any time by holding the discussion in between.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Please continue discussion after six o' clock.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: At six o' clock any Member will rise and say that there is no quorum, then how these Bills will be passed.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: It is your responsibility to maintain quorum.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I asked it from the hon. Members of the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am not objecting.

[Translation]

I do not want to interrupt Malhotraji. He may continue his speech, however, I would like to request that today

these two Bills should be cleared so that it may be referred to Rajya Sabha tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us continue this discussion up to 4 o' clock. Thereafter we will take up legislative business.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, tomorrow again please continue this discussion after 4 o' clock.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That will continue.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): You continue. We have already taken up the topic. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: With your permission I am continuing.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on 7th March 2006, there was bomb explosion in Sankat Mochan temple, Varanasi in which 16 persons were killed and 100 injured. On 10th October 2005, 57 persons were killed and 153 injured in Delhi. I have given details about the major incidents that occurred during the last two years, however, the matter of concern about all these incidents is that not even a single terrorist was killed in all these shocking and unfortunate incidents. There is also no information that any terrorist involved in these incidents have been caught or case is going on against any. The next day after every major incident, it was reported in screaming headlines that those involved in these incidents have been identified and arrested and the cases are being solved. However, not even a single terrorist involved in the terrorist incidents occurring during the last two years have been caught and tried nor killed in encounter. It is not the situation. When the Congress President went to Gujarat, she said that the terrorist incidents were also occurring during the NDA regime whether it is attack on Raghunath temple, Akshardham temple or the Parliament. She reiterated that such incidents did occur during that period as well. It is not the question whether such incidents did occur or not at that time. I accept that such incidents occurred during that period as well, however, in all those three four incidents, that she mentioned, all the terrorists who had come to execute the incidents were either killed



and were later on nabbed or arrested and action was taken against them under POTA and many of them were sentenced, thus they were punished. However, no terrorist was killed in the incidents that occurred during the last two years. Not even a single incident out of the incidents that I have mentioned was solved or detected.

Initially it was claimed that cases have been solved, calls were made to Karachi and the terrorists went to Bangladesh and Indore, however, after that the entire cases are lying in cold storage. Former director of the Intelligence Bureau is of the opinion that when a terrorist infiltrates in to India he does not have any fear or terror in his mind. He feels as if he is on some excursion here. He has several shelters in India. The security system inside the country is very lax and inattentive and the Government is not committed to fight terrorism. The terrorists have the confidence that they can easily disappear after executing terrorist incidents or will easily return to Pakistan or Bangladesh. Even if he is caught he can easily get bail, as now POTA is not in force. So now, getting bail has become easily. The allegation can be easily leveled against police that it is committing atrocity against the people belonging to a particular community. If there is trial then there is more possibility that either he will be acquitted and in case he is sentenced there will be many people was masquerading as human right activists who will come forward to protect him. In nutshell, there is less risk and possibility of getting away is more. In this situation what problem is there with the terrorists to infiltrate into India. They can infiltrate inside India through any route.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was a terrorist attack on 11th September in America. Seven years have elapsed since then but no such incident has occurred in America after that. Why did not such incidents recur because America considered it as attack on its own and tried to tackle terrorism on a war footing. They made their laws very stringent and the intelligence agencies became so strong that no such incident occurred during these seven years. Spain and England have also tried to make their laws more stringent and also nabbed and punished the terrorists, however, the unfortunate thing is that our country is worst affected by terrorism and 90 thousand persons have been killed till now in terrorist attacks where as we have fought four wars and in those four wars 8023 people were killed. However, the number of persons who were killed by terrorists was more than 90 thousand. So many persons were killed but what was done in this regard? What did we do to tackle terrorism? We had only one

Act, POTA, that could have been used to tackle the problem of terrorism but instead of using it we have repealed this Act. Under the resolution 1373 United Nation have appealed the entire world to formulate Special Act to fight terrorism and block the financial assistance that terrorists are getting. But ours is the only unfortunate country, which has instead of formulating new laws, repealed the act that already existed. Our laws are very archaic and are not fit to tackle the emerging challenges. So, I would like to submit that the Government have betrayed the interest of this country by repealing the Acts like POTA for the sake of politics of their vote banks. They have let the country in the hands of terrorists who, whenever anywhere, anyway want. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Where is vote bank in POTA.

POTA. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Vote bank is there in POTA. To give impression to the terrorists. ...(*Interruptions*) To give impression to Muslims. ...(*Interruptions*) [*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Those hon. Members who speak without my permission, should not be recorded. Only the speech of Prof. Malhotra should be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

(*Interruptions*)...

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The country has been betrayed for which the coming generations would never forgive. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do not waste the time of the House. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record.

(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing is going on record except what Prof. Malhotra Says.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

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\*Not recorded.

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The United Nations has prepared a report on the preparedness to combat terrorism. Excerpts of that report were published in the Hindustan Times dated 11th September. It has been stated in the report that they had submitted the report to the Government in the month of July. According to report published in Hindustan times.

*[English]*

"A confidential United Nations report has punched huge holes in India's anti-terrorism preparedness, after its first ever scrutiny of everything from national laws to border check posts to judiciary to banks to police work and passports.

The draft report of the Counter Terrorism Committee of the UN Security Council, seen by HT, is a stinging indictment of how the country's counter-terrorism structures are in disarray. The report was given to the Indian Government in July.

Terrorism in India, according to some estimates, has claimed 70,000 lives over the years.

Many of the problems faced by India's current counter-terrorism regime could be tackled if India were to adopt comprehensive counter-terrorism legislation, the report said. Some of India's counter-terrorism legislation dates back to Independence, and the primary terrorism-related law, the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act was passed in 1967 with successive amendments. Two anti-terrorism laws, known as TADA and POTA by their acronyms, have been scrapped. Under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, India set up a Financial Intelligence Unit in March 2006.

It is a cause of concern that Indian law enforcement structures lack a national counter-terrorism database which would enable them to remain informed on a real time basis, of terrorist related events that occur from the country."

*[Translation]*

I am not reading the entire report in front of you but the indictment of government and the weaknesses of the Government exposed in this report reflects the failure of this Government in its fight against terrorism. Neither it

has the intention nor the will to combat terrorism and as I had said earlier on which objections were also raised, that this was done just to garner votes and convey a message. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Next speaker is from your party. He could reply.

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: One of the major threat to our internal security is that bomb blasts are being carried out in the entire country by ISI or other institutions. Besides, we are facing other threats like one in Jammu and Kashmir where terrorism is being sponsored by Pakistan as a part of its state policy, which they call as Islamic terrorism. Further, bomb blasts and other kinds of acts of terrorism committed by ISI sponsored Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, HUIJ organisation, violent activities carried out in major parts of the country by Maoists and naxalite groups, particularly, the spreading network of Madrasas on our border, Jehadi mentality of students, who have received education in those Madrasas, large supply of funds and weapons being received by terrorists from ISI, Al-Qaida and foreign Jehadi groups, large scale infiltration from Bangladesh and law and order situation, all these are posing threat to our internal security.

With regard to the conditions prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir, it is being said that the condition has improved to some extent. The internal situation of Pakistan. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Lal Singhji, when you will be on your legs, how will it possible for me to control them?

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: I have got all those press-clippings. If I start reading as to how 16 year old children are being butchered, their eye-balls are taken out of their eye-sockets, their hearts are pierced

through, their livers are cut into pieces terming them as informers, their families are being ruined and by simply saying that the condition is improving. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded except the speech of Shri Malhotra.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: The Congress President remembered Gujarat riots but forgot the massacre of Sikhs in Delhi and 5 lakh Kashmiri Pandits who have been forced to migrate. About 70,000 people have been killed and she has not uttered even a single word about them. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded except the speech of Shri Malhotra.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: A little change can be seen in Jammu and Kashmir due to deteriorated internal conditions in Pakistan however terrorist camps are still existing in Pakistan. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, hon'ble Home Minister and Shri Antony all have already admitted this fact. Everybody has said that terrorist camps are still existing in Pakistan, hence we need to be cautious. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Nothing is going on record.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Several attacks have been made on our army at the border and though attacks were admitted but they were attributed to be made

\*Not recorded.

by intruders and not by Pakistani army. They resorted to firing from across the border. 20 such odd incidents were reported but it is being said that Pakistan army did not resort to firing. Our Jawans have been killed. Such kind of incidents are taking place there. Hence we need to be very cautious, we should not think that the condition would improve. There is no doubt that once the situation improves, such incidents will again increase. I would certainly like to say that the issue concerning Kashmiri Pandits who had become victim of terrorism and are living in a miserable condition, has been raised in the House time and again. So far no comprehensive policy has been formulated for their rehabilitation or their safe return and resettlement in Kashmir. There is a need to be considerate about them also. I had mentioned an issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Goyal ji, when members of your party speak, then they will give reply to all these things.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Today he should be given an opportunity to speak. The Whip of the party should say that today, only he will speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All of you please resume your seats.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, till now, I have not asked anything. ...(*Interruptions*)

\*Not recorded.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Do not waste the time of the House. Shri Lal Singh, Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Lal Singhji, you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the members sometimes mention irrelevant things. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now there should be no disturbance.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please keep silent, Shri Goyal.

...(Interruptions)

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: If at all, I would have to ask a question, I would like to know as to how many dead bodies and killings of the people is required for enactment of POTA.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Handique ji, tell your Members that the Bill has got to be passed by four O'clock.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the second thing which I would like to say is that besides the problem prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir, there exists the naxalite problem in the country. There are a total of 604 districts in the country, out of which they are having control over 160 to 180 districts in a way. Judicial mechanism is in their hands. They recover taxes, distribute lands, including the Government lands

and indulge in racklers violence. They kill innocent people and police forces. The situation has reached to such an extent that the CPI, the CPM which have had very close relationship with the Maoists are being made to say that the incidents in Nandigram have taken place due to Maoism and Naxalism. Earlier, they were busy in strengthening ties with them. They went to Nepal, the CPM leaders held a lot of discussion with Maoists in Nepal. Now, Maoists have reached Nandigram. The situation is worsening in Bengal due to the Maoists. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Md. Salim, you are the next speaker.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can reply when you will speak. Now, please keep silent.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

...(Interruptions)...

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, arms and funds are supplied by the Maoists of Nepal. All things are smuggled from there due to which Naxalism and Maoism is spreading across the country. Today, 160 to 180 districts are in their grip. The number of such districts is gradually increasing, but it is not proper to swap it under the carpet by saying that this is a State matter. Unless and until the Union Government provide sufficient funds, required assistance to the States, naxalims will continue to rise. Developmental works are not being carried out over there, due to that also naxalism is spreading. However, contending this much will not serve the purpose that there are a few misguided people who are our own and dialogue with them should be held in a benevolent manner. There is a need to handle them with a carrot and stick policy. There is a need to deal with them in a strict manner. There is a need to combat them as well as carry out developmental work over there.

15.00 hrs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just assuming that terrorists are outsiders and they come from Pakistan, or Afganistan

or Sudan or they belong to the Taliban, will not be enough. Al-Qaida is gradually strengthening its roots in our own country and it is spreading here at various places. They have set up their bases in this country also. There are Madrasas in Pakistan and Bangladesh where Jehadi mindset is ingrained in the students' mind, but now there is a need to be cautious in regard to the various Madrasas being run in our country, particularly along border areas. Sometimes back, the Government had constituted a task force on border management. It had said in its report that:-

*[English]*

"The Task Force has noted with concern the rapid spread of Madrassas and Mosques in the border areas on almost all borders. Most of these constructions have come up without any formal approval of the competent authorities. In several cases, considerable foreign funds have become available to these institutions through non-banking institutions. Efforts at Talibanisation of Muslims and their education are matters of concern which should not be dismissed light-heartedly. The intriguing thing is that these have come up where there is very small or no population of minority community."

*[Translation]*

Mr. Deputy-Speaker. Sir, this committee had also said in regard to them.

*[English]*

"Talibanisation of Madrassas is taking place due to spread of fundamental ideology in these institutions. Madrassas in some places are reported to be sheltering ISI agents and subversive elements."

*[Translation]*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not reading out the entire report, but some excerpts which need immediate attention. At present, Madrasas are being registered in Pakistan, and they are being asked to comply with this direction so that they may be monitored. I have also got an opportunity to visit many other Muslim nations, they are also very apprehensive about their Madrasas and are keeping a watchful eye on them. But in our country, the Government have withdrawn even the little control over Madrasas, which it was having earlier. Earlier,

registration of educational institutions was mandatory in our country, now that has also been withdrawn. Neither there is any procedure of registration for them nor any monitoring of their functioning is done, nor are there any set of rules and laws for them. No efforts are made for imparting modern education there and nor any initiatives are taken to imbibe a sense of patriotism and loyalty for country. No such education is given in madarasas.  
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: No education against the interests of the country is given in madarasas.  
...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, you are speaking without my permission. Please sit down.

*[Translation]*

You can speak when it is the turn of your party members to speak.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, Bangladesh is turning into a hotbed of terrorism. Pakistan was already the hotbed of terrorism and still it is one but now Bangladesh is turning into hotbed of terrorism. All the terrorist organizations be it Huji, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Laskar-e-Taiba, Al Quaida or Ulfa responsible for carrying out all terrorist activities in our country at present have their genesis in Bangladesh. Hence, while holding any talks with Bangladesh, it is imperative to hold a comprehensive discussion in this regard for dismantling various hideouts of terrorists therein. There is a need to take a tough stand while talking to them but so far we have not been able to talk to them as firmly as desired. The intrusion of Bangladeshis into our country has been going on at a fast pace. The government had started the work of fencing along the border but so far the fencing of not more than 25 per cent area has been completed, which has made it difficult to check the intrusion of Bangladeshis. It has been shown on various T.V. channels as how easy it is to cross the border even by spending as meagre an amount as Rs. 100. If it is possible for ordinary people to cross the border by spending Rs. 100, terrorist can easily cross the border without much difficulty. Such incidents from the Bangladesh are a matter of grave concern for us and there is a need to stop them. Intrusion from Bangladesh has been taking place in our country about which I have just mentioned. Owing to it,

[Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra]

approximately four crore Bangladeshis have arrived into our country and their number is more than four lakhs in Delhi alone. These figures have been quoted by the former Minister of Home Affairs. Four judgements by the Supreme Court and four by High Court, Delhi have been delivered in this regard in which it has been clearly stipulated that intrusion from Bangladesh is proving invasion on our country which should be stopped. The Supreme Court have gone so far as to state that the government that has failed to check the intrusion from Bangladesh, it has no right to be in power. If one look at previous four years' record, there would not be even hundred persons who have been repatriated to their country. The High Court had asked the government to repatriate one thousand persons everyday while the Supreme Court had directed to repatriate all four crore intruders responsible for law and order problem in our country by launching terrorist attacks. Therefore, the Government needs to ponder over this important issue.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one of the issues of grave concern for us is the intrusion of ISI in our forces. The then Minister of Defence Shri Pranab Mukherjee had made a statement in the House on 23rd October—I would

*[English]*

like to quote what Shri Pranab Mukherjee told reporters:

"The Armed Forces would conduct internal investigations to ascertain the extent of Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) penetration into the Indian armed forces, and its likely impact. It is a matter of concern that the ISI is trying to infiltrate and subvert our armed forces."

*[Translation]*

This issue has been raised even by our National Security Advisor. Two people have been caught in Jammu and Kashmir who were sending information outside the country. Then it was accepted that ISI has been intruding even into our armed forces. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps have been taken by the government in this regard and to check such intrusion of ISI our armed forces? It seems that in the recent past, announcement with much fanfare were made. Whether it is Sachar Committee, Prime Minister's Fifteen Point Programme or the special cell of the Prime Minister, all of them have expressed satisfaction over the increasing recruitment of the people belonging to the Minority communities especially Muslims in the armed

forces and the para-military forces. We do not have any objection on the recruitment based on merit. However, appointing people without any qualification on the basis of religion or caste by making special recruitment drives for increasing their proportion is tantamount to inviting terrorism. This is tantamount to inviting them to get appointment in our armed forces and para-military forces. In one way, it is a *carte blanche* for the terrorists. If things go on like that the army will also get divided and the ISI will get an opportunity to infiltrate it. To combat terrorism effectively there is a need to carry out certain things urgently.

First of all, the terrorists who got the attack carried out on our parliament, the heart of the country and the temple of the democracy, should be hanged. The verdict for this sentence has come from the Supreme Court, however, ten months have gone by and his death sentence is still on hold. It sends a message to the terrorists that first of all they would not be apprehended for their activities and in case, they are they can get out on bail. If they fail to get out of jail and are sentenced, they are not going to get the punishment. Therefore, first of all Afzal should be hanged. This will send a message to other terrorists that this Government is ready to fight against them and will not, at any cost, tolerate terrorism.

Secondly, a more stringent law than that of POTA, be enacted. I had said earlier as well that terrorism is a betrayal with the country. You have taken oath to protect the constitution and only POTA can restrain the people who are bent upon damaging the constitution and can check the funds being invested in our markets by them. However, that law is no longer existing and if such funds are detected under common laws, the culprit gets out on bail.

Therefore, there is a need for a more stringent law than POTA. Don't wait for more such incidents in the country to make you think that such a law is required. The Finance Minister, too, had expressed apprehension that terrorists are investing in the stock market. As such, there is a need to have strict monitoring of the stock markets and other financial institutions. It is being said for the last several years that a large number of counterfeit currencies are being circulated in our country. These currencies are being pumped from outside and several times they have been seized. This is a big conspiracy to destroy the economy of our country by pumping counterfeit currencies. Our stock exchanges have witnessed a boom and the Sensex has crossed 19

thousand points. The investment in this regard has been from such elements. Yesterday, hon'ble Chidambaram Saheb acceded to this fact and more strict action is required in this regard. A strict warning may be issued to dismantle the terrorist bases of Pakistan and Bangladesh and till they carry out this demand, no talks be held with them - this is urgently required as well.

The Madarasas should be strictly monitored and they should be got registered. Strict action be taken to repatriate the Bangladeshi infiltrators.

*[English]*

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): You have to speak about the Godhra incident also. ...*(Interruptions)* Do not drag Madam Sonia Gandhi in this matter. ...*(Interruptions)* Shri Modi has said in a public meeting that the Zorabudin murder is legal. But it is wrong. Action has to be taken against the real culprits. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I know. Please sit down. He is going to conclude now.

*[Translation]*

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID : He has been continuing his speech for more than 40 minutes, I have also to speak.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am concluding and am not going to give him more trouble as my speech is pinching him much. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is my allegation that the Government is very soft on terrorism. In a way, our country is being invaded upon and instead of combating the invasion, we are behaving like an ostrich for the sake of our vote bank, our politics. If we continue to betray the interest of our country in this manner, the future generations will never pardon us. This is what I want to convey.

*[English]*

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY (Katihar): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on this subject.

Sir, this august House is discussing the situation of internal security. I must begin, first, by saying that the condition of internal security in the country has never been better. I say this with a full sense of responsibility and knowledge.

I know there have been instances of terrorist nature. But if we were to go back in time, we will see that the number of such incidents has come down, the areas affected by such instances have also shrunk and there is every indication that the administration is fighting a winning battle against terrorism.

I would just like to go back to the situation in Punjab in the 1980s and till the mid-1990s. It appeared that terrorism would tear this country apart. It was a serious threat. Still, we were able to ride the wave of terrorism, restore normalcy in Punjab. If we did that, it was entirely because we followed a democratic process. We encouraged a democratic style of Government. I remember that the Punjab Chief Minister became a martyr to the cause of restoring peace in the strife-torn State. He was assassinated. But his assassination proved to be a wonderful contribution to the cause of peace in this country and in the State of Punjab. Even in Jammu and Kashmir, which has seen terrorism for a very long time - almost now two decades - we are in a position to win this war. If we are going to win this war, it is once again because of a process of democratic functioning that has been there for some time now. It is this democratic functioning that gives the people of the State, the people of this country an inherent faith in the administration.

It is commonly believed that terrorism feeds on causes of discontent. If these causes are addressed in time, then no amount of terrorist activities will mislead the public. People will have an inherent faith in the quality of governance and it is this feeling which will enable them to remain quiet and see how the events unfold themselves. When I say all this, especially with reference to the situation in Punjab in 1980s and now in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, I am conscious of the fact that no special laws had proved to be effective in controlling the situation. We have heard enough in this hon. House about how special laws will bring about this, will bring

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about that improved in the situation. I am personally aware of what laws can do and what special laws can do. So much is being said about special laws.

It was the Government of 1984-89 that first thought that special laws would be an important aid to combat terrorism and TADA was passed. Then, unfortunately and tragically, TADA was enforced. At that time even, there were host of such terrorist acts that took place all over the country. They could not be brought under control; they could not be prevented. My question is what those special provisions were in a special law that could not help the administration to prevent terrorism. The administration could not control terrorism. Now, what are those provisions which are not available even now under any of our laws? It is this which has become a matter of question mark. That is why, there is no special law. Special law, if it is necessary, will most certainly be brought in. Special laws, however, have been found not to be of any great assistance in aiding or assisting the administration, in controlling and combating terrorism.

There is one other matter about special laws that this House and the whole country should take notice of. It is because it is considered to be a special law, there is a feeling among most of the law enforcing authorities that they can get away with it. It is this psychology that led to massive misuse of TADA. Therefore, at the time, when it needed to be renewed, it was allowed to lapse and it was in April, 1995, that the then Government decided not to renew, not to extend it and not to give it a fresh lease of life and TADA was allowed to lapse. Six years later POTA was brought in. I would only like to ask what POTA gave us. What has POTA contributed to combating terrorism in this country in a very effective manner? What has POTA got in its provisions that, let us say, any other general law does not have. But, the law enforcing authorities are not in a position to use it to combat terrorism. Unless we address these questions as to what are the provisions in a special law which are helpful to the Government, to the administration and to the law enforcing authorities to combat terrorism effectively that we will get an answer. It does not quite help. If you just go on harping that there should be the special law, after all, there were assassinations of so many people with even TADA. It was in the wake of the assassination of our late Prime Minister, Shrimati Gandhi that this Act came so that such tragic incidents could never happen in the future. It did not do that.

Let us once and for all settle this matter and allow it to rest in peace that special laws are not necessary. On the other hand, whatever provisions which are already available to us in our general laws are quite adequate for any enforcing authority if it deals with this matter in a sincere manner to combat terrorism and combat terrorism very effectively.

Sir, only the other day, the hon. House was discussing the instances of bomb blasts in Uttar Pradesh. My dear colleague Shri Rajesh Verma is not here now. He mentioned that the Central intelligence agencies had not advised the Government of Uttar Pradesh about this impending strike. I would like to remind our dear colleague that it is in Uttar Pradesh that a wonderful piece of investigation and detection was done when some terrorist organisation was planning an assault on our young Member of Parliament Shri Rahul Gandhi and much was made of the ability of the CID and Intelligence Wings of the UP Police in having been able to unearth this sinister plot. We all compliment the UP Government on this wonderful work and this work was done entirely by the UP Police itself. It claimed credit for that and we are proud to give credit. In the case of these bomb blasts, I would like to make it clear that there are two types of intelligence collection. I am sorry I am veering around into some kind of professional dissertation, but this is a fact which needs to be understood by this hon. House.

The Central intelligence agency is obliged to advise and alert the State Governments about an impending strike. But any strike that takes place is brought about only with the assistance of local people. Unless there is local assistance, unless there is complicity or involvement of the local people, no terrorist strike can take place and so, which are the people involved and who are in complicity with these terrorist organisations is for the local intelligence agency to find out and the UP Government has an excellent arrangement in having a local intelligence unit in every district. It is this unit which identifies the people who are supposed to be in league with or in complicity with terrorist organisations. Once an advice comes from the Centre to be prepared and to be alert, it is these units which are supposed to work and collect intelligence that should go to prevent such strikes. So, I am not saying that the UP Government is to be blamed or the UP Government has failed or some such thing because I have already complimented and paid tributes to the UP Government for unearthing that sinister plot. Therefore, it is not necessary to blame the Central intelligence agency of the Central Government for what



is basically a job that has to be done at the local level, at the district level.

The other point is something that was mentioned very rightly by Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, that is the threat of naxalism. I really feel that the threat of naxal activities today is even more serious and sinister than the threat posed by terrorism which is imported from across the border. I would like to go back to the time when India gained Independence. It was at that time that we chose to ourselves a parliamentary system of democracy, a parliamentary system of governance. We did that in the hope that we will be able to identify people's grievances, sit down with them, obtain their views, obtain their difficulties and take suitable measures to redress them. It amounts to a question of governance. This governance has been lacking in this country and it is this lack of governance which is being exploited in the form of ideology. The ideology does say that there should be socio-economic equality, there should be removal of rural inequality and there should be removal of the divide between rural and urban areas.

Prosperity must go to the countryside because, indeed, India lives in its villages and unless the villages of this country are prosperous, unless they are in a position to have access to resources, India will never improve. It will never develop. So, it is a lack of development in the rural countryside, which is the basic cause of Left Wing extremism in the country.

Having said that we must also now see as to why it has not been possible to redress grievances of our people living in the rural countryside. It is not that we have not been able to identify measures to redress the grievances. It is not that the Centre, particularly, the present UPA Government has not identified socio-economic, social security and other such welfare schemes. There are host of them. It is also not that the Central Government has not been giving funds.

Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra mentioned that there should be no hesitation in giving funds to the States regardless of the political colour and complexion of the State Government concerned. This has been done. I do not wish to cast aspersions on the State Government concerned, but I just cite one instance. There is one very interesting scheme, the Indira Awaas Yojana, which seeks to give a roof over the heads to all people who are below the poverty line. In my home State, Bihar, Rs.600 and odd crore were given. Why is it that less

than 50 per cent of that has been so far utilised in this entire financial year of 2006-07?

This Government conceived of an excellent scheme which if implemented would have gone a long way, if not in removing poverty, in certainly reducing poverty in the countryside. I am speaking of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. Once again I cite the instance of Bihar. In the whole financial year of 2006-07, more than adequate funds were given to the State, but by the end of the financial year less than 35 per cent of the funds have been spent.

Now, this is something that needs to be understood and appreciated as to why the State Government is not in a position to spend the money that has been given to it by the Centre. We have been talking about there being a need, as was made out at the time of last election, of *bijli, sadak, pani*. Under the Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana and the then Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana, which has now been renamed as the Backward Region Development Fund, hundreds of crores of rupees have been given to the States. Roads are being built by the Central agencies, for instance, IRCON, but still it is not enough. The roads will have to be made also by the State Governments. Why is it that the roads which are supposed to be built by the State Governments are not being built?

The question does not arise of the Centre giving funds to the State Governments for building of roads which come under the purview of the State Governments. If the State Governments ask for it, perhaps, the Centre will immediately comply and provide the necessary funds, but whatever funds have been given, they are not being used.

I shall cite to you another very pathetic instance, extremely pathetic instance. People who live below the poverty line, who do not have enough means of livelihood to themselves a wonderful scheme has been conceived of giving them pension, pension for those who are under the old-age scheme and who are deserving of social security. Once again, hundreds of crores of rupees have been given to the State Government and I am aware and I say this with my personal knowledge of my own constituency. This money is not being spent. People are not being given the pension that are supposed to be given. Why is this?

The question does not arise of what Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra said that funds should be given. Funds are being

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given, but if the funds that are being given are not being utilised to the maximum extent by the State Governments, something is wrong in the State Governments concerned and it is a question of poor governance. We need to improve this poor governance. We need to improve our quality of governance; we need to give our people good governance. I would suggest that one important aspect which has an impact on the public mind is the need for immediate redressal of their grievances. It could relate to any kind of dispute. It could be a dispute relating to land; it could be a dispute relating to money-lending; it could be a dispute relating to some crime. What happens is that it is in the criminal justice system that the people look for redressal and succour. This takes a lot of time. It is this which is being exploited by the Left Wing extremists. They hold *jan adalats*. The impression that is given to the public at large is: "Do not go to the criminal justice system. It will not give you justice. Not only will it be very expensive, which you cannot afford; it will take a long time. Here we are. We will give you ready justice." Indeed this is being done. Why cannot the Administration, why cannot this Government of the day itself do something resembling a *jan adalats*. I would suggest that the Government may consider holding local courts in a fast track mode at the level of at least subdivisions, if not *prakhands* meaning blocks. If it is difficult to hold them at the prakhand level, hold them at the sub-division level. But, hold them, by turns in the *prakhands*. That is going to give a great deal of relief to the people, to the poor who have a lot of grievances.

The second thing is that we keep talking of landless people. Why are these landless people not being given land that they should be given? There is a regular scheme of being given, awarded, allotted land to the landless. There is in my district, for instance, an identification of people who are below the poverty line, who are landless and who should be given land. A number of these people exist on that list. But, why is it that the Government of the day in Bihar and the district administration is not in a position to distribute that land? I would suggest that this is a serious matter and even though it happens to be within the ambit of a State Government, our Central Government should take the initiative and get the State Government to report progress in the question of distribution of land.

I wanted to say some more things but, I think, these two suggestions regarding good governance especially with reference to criminal justice system and holding of

something akin to a *jan adalat* at the sub-divisional level should be taken note of. The other thing is about redistribution of land to the landless.

I would now like to invite the attention, through you, to the Government to a problem that is developing in our North-Eastern State of Mizoram. I have been there. I spent time there. There is a peculiar phenomenon. It takes place almost every 50 years. It is called motham. There is a special brand, special quality of bamboos that grows every 48-50 years. When rats, rodents, bugs feed on them, their reproductive powers increase and their population multiplies several times, several fold, and they eat up all the available food and crops. This happened in 1916; it happened in 1966; and it is now going to happen in 2007-2008. It happens almost 50 years. Already, I have found out that the crop in Mizoram is very poor. There has been hardly any cultivation in the past two years. It is time that the Central Government woke up to this very serious threat and redress people's grievances by making it possible for the Centre to provide whatever food, whatever foodgrains etc. are needed by the people. This supply of foodgrains to the State of Mizoram must be organised without any delay. It should be done effectively. If it is not done, then we will go back to the spectre in 1966 when a serious threat emerged with the formation of the Mizo National Front, an underground organisation, and for 20 years that organisation held the Central Government at bay. Had it not been for Rajiv Gandhi's foresight and commitment to integrity or maintaining integrity of this nation, we would not have been able to sign a deal with Shri Laldenga.

It was done in 1986. Thereafter, that State is peaceful. Thereafter, that State has not been a threat to the integrity of this country. That kind of threat is very likely to happen now and it is time that the Central Government woke up and saw to it that necessary steps for the redressal of people's grievances in Mizoram are taken.

Sir, I am very grateful to you for having given me so much of time.

[*Translation*]

MD. SALIM (Kolkata, North east): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is good that the Member speaking prior to me Shri Nikhil Kumarji is having professional experience as well as experience as a Member of Parliament. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That's why I gave him 25-26 minutes to speak.

MD. SALIM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think that when the issue of internal security is raised here, accusations are levelled by one side againsts the other side. We understand that internal security is a matter of concern for our country. Internal insecurity is rising as during elections we try to outscore each other. However, we are concerned.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are discussing this issue in a democratic manner in the Parliament after the month of July. For the first time, after 60 years of the country's independence, such an incident was witnessed in Chhattisgarh. You must have observed that proceedings of a special session was conducted of the Assembly over there and what to speak of in camera, but the media and even the employees of the assembly were kept out. This discussion went on for around quarter to 8 hours. The IG, the Chief Secretary, the DG and the Home Secretary took part in this discussion. As the matter was of serious nature, I do not want to make any further comment thereupon. I am telling this because such a situation is not prevailing in the country that such a discussion could be necessitated. Though, there are special rules framed by the Speaker, such a rule can be framed any time by him as per the requirement, however, such a situation got evolved in the Chhattisgarh Assembly. This is not a matter of that State only, this is of the country at large. Today, there is a lack of security in the country. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, Kachh to Kohima this problem is being faced with varying degree from district to district and State to State at distinct time periods. I would like to submit that we may brand them as handiwork of distinct organizations. More often than not it's done by Maoist organisation and there are terrorist attacks, and bomb explosions as well. Sometimes back, bomb explosions took place in Varanasi, Lucknow and Faizabad. I would not like to go into these figures. For years together, militancy is going on in the north-eastern States and Jammu-Kashmir. Lives are being lost. Whenever we raise the question in the parliament, the hon'ble Minister replies that the figures are rising or declining. The reason is, the one side blames the other side contending that such incidents have occurred during their regime. However, such incidents have been taking place for a very long time. I think that there should be a holistic approach in regard to internal security. It is easy to speak a lot in this regard but the problems are plenty that come in the way. Discussion should be held in this regard by the State Government, the Union Government and the various political parties. However, a

holistic approach is a must. As has been said that several States of the country are witnessing Maoist incidents, that organization has got a unitary command system. Such incidents are taking place in the country in the States of West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and some parts of Karnataka. Whatever strategy the Government may frame, would have to be made in totality.

Second thing is that the sense of security, I am not talking about the security of the VVIP, through undoubtedly important. Our Parliament House has become more secure after the terrorist attack, but the sense of in security prevailing among the common man is an indicator for us. This is rising and falling as per the prevailing scenario. At times, we announce red alert on the occasion of Diwali Rath Yatra, led and during the month of Ramjan or on other festivals, whenever people feel less secure. There is a need to do risk analysis of the Indian citizens belonging to the different States and districts all across the country as is done in case of the analysis of threat perception to the VIP and security provisions corresponding adjustment. This mean that there should be a data. There is already a data but it's not a modern one. We are world leaders in the field of IT. However, in the case of real data collection, the actionable intelligence on which we will have to take action, different agencies are active among which coordination is urgently required. I would like to give an instance. Bomb explosions take place in the north east, Jammu and Kashmir and in the naxal affected areas. At some places, there are land-mine blasts, at other places powerful bombs explode. RDX and IED get smuggled into our country. However, when we look at the State police forces, they have got obsolete bomb disposal squads.

Suppose they receive an information about a suspicious box placed somewhere, they reach the spot alongwith their whole paraphernalia including sniffer dogs used to sniff and identify the object. Subsequently, they defuse it. But, now, the technology has undergone a paradigm shift. Some people are imparting training to them in the new technology. Someone importing it from other countries whereas others are working on it in our own country. Today, we read in the newspapers about chemical explosions taking place using nitrates etc. The time has come when we shall have to ponder over how to deal with and check the incidence of IED blasts taking place. There are isolated occasions when the culprit is apprehended. What usually happens is that the police

[Md. Salim]

receives the information after the blast has taken place like the one, for instance, in Faizabad. So the question is how effective is our post-blast mechanism? Why, at all, do we press into service the bomb disposal squad of the police department? The police are imparted training in defusing a bomb before it explodes but what after the explosion has taken place? Do they know what to do in a post explosion scenario? How to collect the data, how to collect the evidence, how to collect and analyze that in a scientific manner and how to establish the source thereof? In view of such explosions taking place for the past many years, we can observe, after going through the newspaper and television reporting, that the television channels have their own experts in the field. The news-readers take no time in naming the organization responsible for the blasts. Then, the reporters' report the incident. While collecting the data I observed that after every explosion, some kind of reports are reported by different names and published from different places. About the source, it is reported that it is the police in some cases, the Government in other, the intelligence reports or the hon'ble Minister in yet others. But, after every explosion it is claimed that we have pieced together the evidence, some people have been apprehended, the investigation is in progress and yet, not a single culprit behind the explosions has been arrested, be it the explosion taken place at Mecca Masjid, or Malegaon, the Mumbai blasts or the one at Ajmer Sharif, Varanasi, Sankatmochan temple or Akshardham temple. ...*(Interruptions)* I am only revealing the truth about the prevailing situation in our country in the capacity of a people's representative. One news may prompt other people to criticize Mohd. Salim and another news may prompt me to do so. ...*(Interruptions)*

*(English)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Salim, please address the Chair.

*(Translation)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: He does not want to address the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM: I was saying that one can make any kind of observation in a piecemeal manner guided by his own perception. ...*(Interruptions)* However, for ensuring the security of the people of the country, we should come forward only after collecting the data. We should go through the national data on bomb explosions and find

out where these explosions have taken place, what kind of explosives were used and what developments are taking place in this field. This is the age of modern management. I am not playing politics. In order to face a challenge, we shall have to mobilize all our sources and resources. The hon. Minister may say that he is leaving no stone unturned. There is an underlying perception that heroism works where one has to deal with Maoist, terrorist or militant activities or the organized crime. We have cops turning into super cops in the police force and such gun totting, trigger-happy super cops resort to indiscriminate shootout in Cannught Place. The media eulogizes them as heroes. He is sometimes invited by a T.V. channel for election campaigning. At times we eulogize the heroic deeds of a DGP or an IGP and believe that if he is transferred to a troubled area he would restore normalcy there. This is called machoism. Like it happens in Bollywood or Hollywood movies, this machoism is sometimes resorted to in real life too to deal with militants, terrorists or organized gangs and it has both a visual appeal as well as news value. At times it clicks and at others it may not. Like in the case of Shri K.P.S. Gill. Agreed, that he is a very competent person. His contribution in Punjab has been remarkable. We have no hesitation in calling him a machoman. We transfer him to Chhattiagarh in the hope that he would restore peace there. This is the spirit of machoism. It is like a Bollywood flick which becomes a hit at the box-office. The hero of the film is signed by one director after another to cash in on his popularity. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, this is a very serious issue. I am not targeting anyone. ...*(Interruptions)*

*(English)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Silence please. Please address the Chair.

*(Translation)*

MD. SALIM: Secondly, machoism reflects a sense of devotion to duty, a spirit of service. Here, people opinion that it is a politically sensitive issue. The police believes that more stringent laws should be formulated. That again is the spirit of machoism. The police say that they can better tackle the situation only if they are armed with more powers or have the leverage by way of laws allowing them to kill, resort to third degree torture, thrash, or send militants to the gallows, However, a sense of insecurity is increasingly gripping the people across the world and posing a great challenge. With this, terrorism

is also spreading its tentacles. There is a growing tendency of terrorism in South Asian countries like Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka and that is having its ripple effect in India, too. This is not a case in isolation. The entire geopolitical situation is such. You will have to address this problem of internal security in the backdrop of the situation prevailing the world over in South Asian sub-continent, including our country and not with an eye on the ensuing election and political parochialism. It is easier said than done. Allegations and counter allegations of engaging in vote bank politics are floating in the air. If issues like TADA and POTA were to be encashed for vote bank politics then the ruling Congress party which invoked TADA would not have lost. They would have won every election on TADA card. Similarly, the BJP invoked POTA for cashing in on its vote bank. Owing to POTA, they should not have lost the elections. On the contrary, they are blaming us of playing the vote bank politics since we are opposed to POTA or TADA. This vote bank is not like any SBI account or the A.T.M. card that you simply have to press a button and you can get as many votes as you like. We look at it very simply and level allegations. Thirdly, as I had mentioned at the outset that if we intend to provide a sense of security to the country, we need to develop a strategic mindset and make fundamental changes in our political approach and ideologies. Risk is involved and risk management would be done on the basis of risk analysis. We should not harbour the notion that the onus of risk management lies squarely on the police. We all shall have to contribute our inputs be they political leaders, the executive or the police force. I appreciate the concern expressed by Nikhilji. The hon. Prime Minister also averred it. I am also echoing their views. Our mindset and approach also matures. If we do not address the developmental issues in the backward areas like Dantewada in Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh or West Midnapur, Bankura or Purulia zone or the tribal belts. ...*(Interruptions)* There is nothing to laugh about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur):  
You should name Nandigram as well. ...*(Interruptions)*

*(English)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No disturbance please.

15.50 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

*(Translation)*

MD. SALIM: If they think that you will make to the Assembly on the issue of Nandigram, you are mistaken. It is not that easy. Our experience will help you combat with naxalites in Chhattisgarh and Maoists as well. We have learnt from experience. Today they are stretching issue beyond scams. That is why I am referring to Chhattisgarh. I was saying that what is more important is that we shall have to change our strategic thinking. My words should not be taken lightly. Efforts should be made subsequently to execute that strategy. The onus of execution lies both on the Central and the State Governments. There is a need for coordination between the Union and the State Governments. If you allow Maoists have their way in Chhattisgarh or Jharkhand, would the adjoining borders of West Bengal and Orissa remain safe? Certainly not, because they are more active in border areas.

*(Translation)*

Organized crimes occur in the border areas of two police stations or border areas of police stations along the border of two districts. Militants take advantage of border lines and it may be even international border. They are causing threats to internal security in the border areas of states. You may have the reason to be happy that the nuisance has been created in others' boundaries, not in ours. If you glance at Chhattisgarh, you will have a feel of the situation. The Government has the figures. There is a district called Dantewada having a population of 65 thousand and most of the people are tribal there. They are away from villages migrating from the district. This is all because of internal migration. Due to internal security threats these 65 thousand people have taken shelter in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. Why? Because they were associated with the *Sahwajudum*. You said the tribal boys were given the job of police by giving them the salary of Rs. 2½ thousand, then, the Maoists retaliated. Villagers fled away from the villages. This year there is no crop on 42 thousand hectares of land. I am quoting the figures of Chhattisgarh Government. There is no crop at all in the district of Dantewada in Chhattisgarh. It has 1354 villages. Out of them 600 villages have had no crops at all. That day I had read out the miniature of National Security advisor. You did not hear the strategy

[Md. Salim]

which the Maoists, terrorists or the militants follow. I was speaking in response to what Shri Nikhil Kumar Singh ji has stated. First, they strive for no governance, by ensuring that no Government agency functions there. Everybody including the Prime Minister Security Advisor, my self and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) is of the opinion that the development works should also be undertaken. You also said that there should be a bilateral approach, but the first thing that they do is to see that there is no development, and then they exploit the lack of development. They would not allow construction of roads and return of people to their villages. It has been stated that there is no crop in 42 thousand hectare of land. Leave apart eradications of poverty, poverty is rather increasing there. So, this is a dichotomy. Their strategy hinges on preventing implementation of Government's development schemes in the villages. Notwithstanding other intricacies like corruption their intention is to ensure the absence of even the minimum of development works even though we maintain that the interests of the people will not be served unless work for development is done. So, they will have to change your strategic action, too.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you conclude.

MD. SALIM: Saheb, you may taken up second, third subject, but you cannot deviate from this subject.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Do not conclude this debate today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not saying to conclude this debate, but telling the hon'ble Member to conclude his speech. Debate will continue.

MD. SALIM: Sir, my submission to you is that if you ask me to speak on Nandigram, I will do so, but there has been such situation that during 11 months of this year, was compelled to go into further indepth study of it. So, I thought that I should share my feelings with my colleagues and the whole country as well. If you feel that I am trying to hush up the matter, of course, you have the full authority to ask; somewhere or the other we must have to give importance to this subject. That is why I am requesting the Government to give it importance. However, I have raised four points. I will speak on all these four points. The first one is the militancy affected area which belongs to North-East and Jammu and Kashmir; the second one is the Maoist i.e. left extremism;

the third one is terrorist attacks and the fourth one is religious bigotry, fundamentalism. I am speaking as a secularist. Younger generations are being deviated by exploiting all these things. So, these are the threats to our country, whether they exist today or tomorrow, in this district or that district. Till now I was dealing with the Maoists alone. If you allow one, I will speak on other three points. I will not go into the details of the figures because the figures are complete. I would just say right from the beginning that you have to go with the development along with the requirement of massive system, super cops and good mechanism proper vehicles are also required. But some policemen are saying that the Government, keeping in view the increasing challenges, are spending Rs. 40-50 thousand crores per year through various sources like centre, states and other agencies for the internal security in this poor country, and this expense will go up further, we have to increase it. But, I am saying that the amount of 40-50 thousand crores which we are spending [English] how much intelligently, strategically, target-oriented, performance - driven [Translation] Now, it is upto the Parliament to see as to how we can fix and achieve the goal. Parliament will recommended you to spend Rs. 60 thousand crores in place of the required amount of Rs. 50 thousand crores, [English] but it should be result oriented [Translation] we are purchasing arms and equipments and also sending them, if it is necessary. It should not be so. We have the figures. Shri Advani ji had raised this issue last time. In response to it our Minister had stated that the incidents of killing in the naxalite affected areas have been on decline all over the country, but it was Chhattisgarh due to which the figures have gone up. I do not want to see Chhattisgarh in isolation. If Chhattisgarh slips out of our hands, other states like Andhra Pradesh, Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and so on will also follow the suit in future. There is a saying in Bangla that implied that one laughing at the fate of other should understand that he is also going to meet the same fate in the coming days. I was telling Shri Shahnawaz ji not to do like that.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: I was telling Salim Saheb to speak few words against terrorists also.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat, hon'ble Member is not yielding.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing. Shri Shahnawaz Hussain, please take your seat.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Member, please address the Chair. [*Translation*] You are not yielding, why you are on your legs? Mr. Salim, Are you yielding.

...(*Interruptions*)

MD. SALIM: Many opinion this is command thinking. If I say something in joke, he reacts as a representative of the whole minority, which minority has appointed him its representative, ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: He is telling this while looking at Shri Malhotraji. Do I not understand his indication? I very well understand the indication he has made. ...(*Interruptions*)

MD. SALIM: See, he has become minority in the BJP and is asking Malhotraji to become a majority. ...(*Interruptions*) At times we sneer on one another. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Salimji, you may conclude now. It is going to be 4 o' clock now, so I will take up another subject. I will have to take up another topic, as such, you may please conclude.

MD. SALIM: I was telling that the geo-political. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have got two minutes time within which you conclude your speech. At 4 o' clock, I will have to take up another subject, as it has been decided so.

MD. SALIM: If we do not keep in mind the geopolitical situation of our country, we will not be able to fulfil the work whatever expenditure we may make. The objective of my speech is to present the things in right perspective.

Whatever happened in Guwahati, Assam; being a tribal area, the discontent, the commotion prevailing as a result of lack of development, being exploited. The demands of the tribals were flared up and the subsequent retaliation that occurred, which was telecast on television that how a tribal girl was being subjected to brutal behaviour, to a rouse the sentiments of the people. We may be politically against one another or against the Government as a political party. But the extremism and militancy are anti-state by their very nature.

16.00 hrs.

Those who are anti-government, anti-establishment are trying to replace the entire state, as an establishment. We should keep in mind that such a scenario should never ever be allowed to evolve where a party opposing the other can be exploited against the country as a whole. Fundamentalists, militancy, extremism and terrorism cannot be allowed to undermine the state. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may conclude quickly. The Bill has to be taken up at 4 o' clock.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Let him speak out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may conclude quickly.

MD. SALIM: Sir, there is no question of concluding quickly. That is why they exploit that. Along with it, the question of finances is also very important. That's why, these were included in the money laundering legislation. Just now, Malhotraji read out a report. A report has been published of the UN in the 'Hindustan Times' which touches many subjects. Malhotraji, talked about a law. There could be differences between him and us in that regard. I would like to tell about that subsequently, however, our financial intelligence unit is active in regard to carrying out intelligence for trapping the master-minds who move funds to create insecurity and carry out terrorist attacks. I observed that the Hawala business that is being carried out across the countries for transmitting funds, is done internally in the country as well. For this purpose, instead of going for bank drafts etc. a saving deal is entered into and it could involve black as well as white money. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb.

\*Not recorded.

MD. SALIM: The transaction which is undertaken under a shadow can be trapped by the Financial banks. As our finance Minister had stated that the remittances from bank accounts should be accounted for. The UN Report also states that the financial transaction should be trapped and the funding method should be detected. Unless we do that we cannot catch the route. The said report also states about the two-three books that have been recently published on expertise on intelligence gathering highlighting the way work is being carried out in our intelligence agencies such as RAW. Subversive activities are being carried out in our country, foreign elements and outside intelligence agencies may be blamed for that, they must have got some hand as well. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You conclude please.

MD. SALIM: There is no question of concluding, I have started my speech just now. Alright, if there is something else on the agenda for today, I will speak tomorrow. I need twenty more minutes to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You conclude please.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, let him speak.

MD. SALIM: If discussion will go on till tomorrow, I will speak tomorrow. I have no problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already spoken for 27 minutes. You may please conclude now.

MD. SALIM: Since last Saturday, I have been waiting to ensure that discussion may be held on this subject without any interruptions. This had been introduced last Saturday. If you intend to take up this bill at 4 o'clock, I am ready to conclude tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: First you conclude, thereafter that will be taken up.

MD. SALIM: You will have to give me ten minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already spoken for twenty seven minutes, you conclude your speech in five minutes now.

MD. SALIM: The way bomb explosions etc. are taking place, you may find that the Muslim teenagers, the post 92 generation has got a different thinking. This thinking

is like a fodder to be utilized by the fundamentalist organizations and religious organisations when they come to understand that moderate voices have become ineffective. The Muslim Organisations and their reputed leaders are not being heeded to by the Muslim youth because the Hindu communalism grew rapidly during the decades of 80's and 90's. If anything crosses the moderate line, a counter response gets generated as it triggers the moderates to become hardliners and that is what is happening across the country. It is a big threat for us. Not only the inside elements but also the outside forces would target them. You may observe that across the world, be it Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand or in our neighbouring countries of Pakistan and Bangladesh, post 9/11, Mr. Bush has created such a situation that a strange geopolitical scenario has evolved creating a politico-religious upsurge. What is happening in our country? Today is 5 December. After the bomb explosions of 1992, the Librahan Commission is still being given extensions, but no reports have come out. India is the only country in the world where reverse counting is being carried out. We had invented zero. 1992 comes first, thereafter comes 1993. There were bomb explosions in Mumbai, no doubt all the guilty should get punishment and after 16 years punishment is being given. However, punishment is being given to the guilty of 1993 and the guilty of 1992 are scot free. This creates a strange feeling among the people. This is creating a communal divide. The people, who want to carry on a communal politics among the minorities, the fundamentalist forces within the minority community, are getting strength. The liberal voice is getting squeezed and at times we support the above forces for our local political gains. Ultimately, this politics will get out of the communal leadership's hands and would go to the hands of the extremists and further again to a more dangerous hands.

However what do we do on the other hand suppose there is a bomb explosion. There are some standard means. We make statement that so and so organization, terrorist organizations are behind this. Proper investigation should be conducted regarding the incident and the guilty persons should be punished. The extremist organization whether they are left extremists, religious bigots or militant organizations, carry out terrorist incidents to get cheap publicity. They distribute leaflets to propagate what they are doing. They make telephone calls to newspaper office and make anonymous calls and e-mail to television channels because they want to terrorize common people and get cheap publicity. Even if they are following wrong



ideology they try to propagate it through negative publicity. These days no organization takes the responsibility of the bomb explosion occurring in our country. When they are executing their terrorists designs by investing money and imparting training to terrorists then they are also supposed to so make claim for carrying out terrorist incident. It is a new tendency, a new trend. That is why, I said that the Government should further strengthen the information gathering system and the Government, police and media. ...(*Interruptions*) should go to the roots of the fact. We need it. It is possible that they might be adopting different tactics at different places as these days contract criminals are also hired. However, I would not like to go in its detail. I would like to request the Government to provide me figures regarding the explosions occurred during the last three years, number of persons initially arrested in this connection, number of persons against whom cases were filed, number of persons charge sheeted, number of persons released and the names of the terrorist organisations and the names of the head of the groups or gang behind the incidents. ...(*Interruptions*) It is a serious issue.

Along with this, at the end I would like to submit a word of caution. The terrorist activities are very intense in Pakistan and Afganistan. It may be possible that presently there is lull in Jammu and Kashmir, however, the security Advisor of the Government of India has himself said that the militants who have infiltrated in the country will recruit some locals as I have already said that whenever such situation prevail they resort to local recruitment. Our position is not very secured. As long as there is disturbance in north frontier areas of Afganistan and Pakistan, it can once again affect Kashmir. The Government will have to be cautious in this regard as well. Similar is the situation in Bangladesh. It is on account of absence of democracy in Bangladesh that the charges of corruptions are levelled against the two established political parties. Though I would not like to speak on their internal politics but the way they are being tackled is paving way for the emergence of fundamentalist forces and they are getting unbridled. When the democratic forces, political parties do not perform, the political system ceases to function and then the extremist forces get opportunity to flourish. Their impact is visible in north-east area and Bengal. Besides, there may be danger along Bihar Bengal border which is called chicken neck and from where our Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has been elected. Nepal and Bhutan border is soft border which is not strictly guarded. Any person of the third country may use it as transit to enter into our country

and create internal disturbance and the same persons are using it.

Then there is the issue of red corridor. As far the issue of Maoist is concerned, we will have to decide whether we will provide them political support, we will use them for our petty interest and use them against other party or we will have to adopt a political method for this. We can express our disagreement through democratic method and fight for this however, for deriving immediate political mileage we for a long. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chowdhury, I am not allowing you. Please sit down. Nothing will go in the record except the speech of Md. Salim.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*Translation*]

MD. SALIM: At the end, I would like to submit only one thing that the Maoists, left extremists and militancy in north east and in Jammu and Kashmir are the major threat to our internal security. The fundamentalists forces whatever may be their religion are the organized crime syndicates. Maoist one, fundamentalists two and militancy third. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing would go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)\*

[*Translation*]

MD. SALIM: It is only organized crime syndicates. I did not mention any one by name. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at what time Rule 193 will be taken tomorrow. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is sitting here, he should tell us about this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may know about it from the list of Business.

...(*Interruptions*)

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\*Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): I had said in the House that the discussion will continue tomorrow as well. The hon'ble Speaker will decide about the time after the Question Hour. Accordingly the discussion will be conducted. I cannot tell you about the time right now. The hon'ble Speaker has himself said that he would continue this discussion tomorrow as well. Now the hon'ble Speaker will decide about the time. When the list of Business is finalized in the evening then it will be printed. However, tomorrow you should cooperate with the Chair so that House may run.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN (Bhagalpur): They will create disturbance. Today he has announced, so tomorrow they will create commotion. When it is our turn to speak they will disturb. What is its guarantee that tomorrow they will not disturb? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the discussion on it will be held tomorrow again. The time for the discussion will be decided in the evening. You may consult the List of Business. Presently we are taking up item no. 24. There are three Bills in it. I would like to request all the hon'ble Members that each Member should take five minutes to express his views. Only then the Bill can be passed. Now we are taking up the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Bill, 2007.

16.14 hrs.

### INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL TRIBAL UNIVERSITY BILL, 2007—*Contd.*

*[English]*

PROF. BASUDEB BARMAN (Mathurapur): Sir, I welcome the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Bill, 2007. To me, this Bill is the fulfilment of the long standing requirement of our country. In my opinion, our tribal brethren were not properly looked after. And this Bill will be instrumental for fulfilling their aspirations through establishing the University at Amarkantak to a great extent.

While I appreciate certain provisions of the Bill, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to some points. I appreciate particularly the objects of the University - Section 4 (i) and (ii). I shall not be reading the sections as these are all with the hon. Members.

I would like to highlight that this Bill provides avenues for higher education and research facilities primarily for the tribal population of India. The word 'primarily' is important and is consistent with Section 7 on page 5 wherein it has been provided that the University shall be open to persons of either sex and of whatever race, creed, caste, etc. Therefore, this provision primarily is for the tribal population of India and the provisions under Section 7 are quite consistent.

The second point which I want to make is that the jurisdiction of the University shall extend to the whole of India, which has been given under section 6. This is highly welcome and I would like to request my hon. colleagues to consider the provisions of this section with the provision of section 5 (xii) wherein it has been stated that the University will be having the power to establish, with the prior approval of the Central Government, such campuses, special centres, specialised laboratories, etc. I hope and I do believe that, when the University starts functioning with the aid of the Central Government, this University will be establishing a number of campuses and centres in different regions and areas of the country where the tribal population dominates. This actually will be very good not only for the tribal population of our country but also for the whole of India.

After saying this, I would like to point out certain small things which I do not move as amendments. I am drawing the attention of the Government to section 23 in page 9. It says about the constitution of the Court, the constitution of the Executive Council and the constitution of the Academic Council. You may kindly note that it has been said that the Court, the Executive Council and the Academic Council shall have adequate number of members from among the Scheduled Tribes. Now, in my opinion, the word 'adequate' is not adequate. The word 'adequate' is inadequate. I would suggest that, in the case of the first Court which will be having 31 members as has been provided under Section 50, we should specify that the Court should have at least 15 members from the tribal communities. For the first Executive Council where the total number of members is 11, in my opinion, 'adequate' should be removed and we should write that at least five members of the community should be in the Executive Council. Similarly, at least ten such members should be in the Academic Council.

Why am I saying this? By the word 'adequate', there may be certain designs meaning that the tribal people will not be having adequate or proper representation in

these bodies which will be constituted for making the basic rules and regulations for running of this University.

Another important thing is in page 12, Section 32. It has been written that the first Ordinances shall be made by the Vice-Chancellor. I would very humbly suggest that there should be a time frame for this. The wordings should be like "the first Ordinances shall be made by the first Vice-Chancellor within a period of, say, six months or nine months or three months." Otherwise, the running of the University will be difficult.

In page 21, Statute 9 (1), there is a small thing to be corrected. But I would like to point out that all officers like the Registrar, the Controller, and others are salaried officers. In the case of Librarian, the word 'salaried' is missing. This may be corrected.

Lastly, I would come to a point which, in my opinion, is important. It is about the constitution of Students Council and its functioning. It has been provided in Statute 38 of page 32. It is said that there shall be constituted, in the University, a Students' Council. It has been provided that 20 students may be nominated by the Academic Council. It is very good.

In the last line, it has been stated: "such number of elected representatives of students as may be specified by the Academic Council." I do differ with this. I would like to suggest to the Government that the number should be provided. If there are 20 students to be nominated by the Academic Council on the Students' Council, in my opinion, the number of elected students on the Students' Council should be at least 25 or 30. This has to be specified. While framing the rules this should be taken care of.

Finally, in the same statute, it has been said: "The Students Council should meet at least once in an academic year." If we see the responsibilities of the Students Council, you will find that it has many functions, like making suggestions to the appropriate authorities of the University in regard to programmes of studies, students welfare and other matters of importance.

I wish to suggest to the Government that the Students' Council should meet at least thrice in an academic year and not once in a year. Otherwise, the Students' Council will be in existence only in name and not in its functioning.

16.22 hrs.

## BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Forty-fourth Report

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, I beg to present the 44th Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

16.25 hrs.

## INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL TRIBAL UNIVERSITY BILL, 2007—*Contd.*

[*Translation*]

\*SHRI SUGRIB SINGH (Phulbani) : Thank you Chairman Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on a very important Bill. Sir, we are discussing the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Bill 2007 which is meant to benefit the tribal youth of our nation. I welcome this Bill. The Bill seeks to set up an university exclusively for tribal students at Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh. It has been said that this place offers good communication facilities, well-habitable and is conducive from every angle. The Government plans to spend Rs.60 crores for this project. Annually the Government will spend Rs.12 crores for the education of tribal youths.

While I welcome this Bill, I would like to point out here that, after coming to power the UPA Government has been giving a step-motherly treatment to Orissa. In different situations the UPA Government has taken decisions which are contrary to the interest of Orissa. During the NDA regime the Government had consented for setting up an IIT in Orissa, but the UPA Government changed that. The Ravenshaw college in Orissa was to be given the status of a Central University but that was withdrawn. The NDA Government had taken a decision to set up AIIMS at different parts of the country including Orissa. Five years have passed but there is no progress in this direction. Similarly regarding the setting up of National Science Institution the UPA Government has shifted the venue from Orissa. Another example of the UPA Government's apathy towards Orissa in the proposal of setting up of the National Marine University at Tamil Nadu, instead of the earlier proposed Paradeep in Orissa.

\*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Oriya.

[Shri Sugrib Singh]

Sir all these examples amply show how shabbily the UPA Government treats Orissa.

Sir, now the new National Mineral Policy is being formulated. This policy will harm the interest of Orissa severely. The Central Government in snatching away the benefits which should naturally go to Orissa. Orissa figures so low in the UPA's priority list that not a single leader from Orissa has a place in the Union Cabinet. It's a matter of regret and shame. Orissa has the maximum number of tribal population yet the Tribal University is being set up at Madhya Pradesh. The tribal students of Orissa also can excel in higher education and in the fields of science and technology if provided with the right environment.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the following factor. The Government is setting up a Tribal University which is well and good. But why should it be named after Indira Gandhi? Why can't it be named after a tribal leader? Does it mean that tribals have made no contribution for the cause of the nation? Sir there are many leaders from the tribal and backward communities who have sacrificed their lives for the cause of India's independence. Why they should be forgotten and why always the new institution be named after either Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi, Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi? Why these institutions should always be located in their constituencies only? What is the rationale behind it? All the Members present here should protest strongly against this injustice. The tribals have given their blood for this nation too.

Sir, now that the discussion to set up this university has already been taken, I would like to emphasize the following point. The few states with sizeable no of tribal students like Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Chhatisgarh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat etc. should be proportionally given seats in this new university, so that there is no injustice. This will mean giving a fair chance to each and every state with tribal population. I am hopeful that if a certain no of seats are reserved for the tribal student the people of my state will be benefited. And the students will get to study at Indira Gandhi National Tribal University. In the times to come, I urge upon you not to treat Orissa with a step-motherly attitude, because it will be a threat to national integration otherwise.

*(English)*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): Mr. Chalmrman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Sir, the UPA has made a lot of promises to the tribals and in fulfilling those promises — the Common Minimum Programme's assurance—they have brought one of the most important Bills on the tribals which was called 'the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.' Now, it is being followed by Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Bill.

Sir, here I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fate of the earlier Bill which was passed, viz, 'the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006' of the tribals and forest dwellers. That Bill was introduced in 2005 and a unanimous report was given by the Select Committee for having the Bill amended in such a way that it will go a long way to improve the livelihood etc., of the tribals. That is watered down and adopted. Now, eight months passed. The tribals were sitting on a *dharna* in Jantar Mantar for a week. Why were they sitting there? It is because the rules have not been framed. It was a great betrayal of the tribal people by the UPA Government. The Bill had been passed half-heartedly. These rules are not framed and the provisions of the Bill, in effect, are not implemented. That happened once. I am speaking about the Forest Rights Bill. This is the second step in the form of the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Bill. I support this Bill. We supported the earlier Bill also.

Sir, the Bill is very good. There is nothing to object. But the name could have been somewhat different. I am not against Shrimati Indira Gandhi. She was a great woman. By bringing forward this kind of a Bill, you are rather defaming her. If you have a historic approach, I think the hon. Minister will agree with me though she may agree to an amendment, why should not this University have been named after Birsa Munda? Birsa Munda was one of the leaders of whom the Indian History will be very proud. I say this because even before the Indian National Congress was formed, even before the National Movement was there, the tribals in India fought the British in the entire eastern part and the northern part. The Portuguese were fought in Kerala by the tribals. They had their own leaders. Shri Antony will remember that Pazhassey Raja was the leader of the tribals who fought against the Portuguese in Kerala.

Now, I draw the attention of the hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)* The hon. Minister is engaged in some other discussion.

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon 'ble Minister is noting down your points.

*[English]*

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA : The Minister should hear my speech. What I am saying is that with all praise for Shrimati Indira Gandhi, with all appreciation for whatever she had done for the country, I would have liked this Bill to be named after Birsa Munda. The entire tribal population of the country will be very happy. We are all freedom fighters and the patriotic sections of this country will be proud of this. So, this University should have been named after him. I am not moving a formal amendment. But, in its wisdom, if the Government accepts this suggestion, it can move an amendment. It will be a good service that you are rendering to this country and to the tribal people of India also.

Coming to the Bill and its provisions, I would like to say that it is a good Bill. It is for providing higher education and all that. What about the primary education of the tribals? After all, the tribals should be given primary education, secondary education and then higher education. Otherwise, this Bill will be providing a tribal University but it will be educating the other people. So, please pay attention to this. Nowadays, you are saying that you are doing so. But there should be more concrete programmes for the tribals to be made literate, educated at the primary and secondary levels, University level and then we should provide higher education. We are trying to reform them at the higher level where they will not be there to come to the University. So, you may have to assure this House that you will take sufficient steps so that tribals will be benefited by the services of this University.

Now, I come to the last point. I am speaking only on this Bill. There are provisions. I would like to draw your attention to the concrete provision - that is - Clause 23. I am surprised about one thing. This is a new style that the Central Government is following. They are making national institutes where this House is not represented. This was never done before. This House should be represented in those institutions so that those institutions will have accountability to the Parliament. It is not that

two MPs will go and sit there. This question of accountability of those institutions to Parliament means that they are accountable to the country and to the people. So, I would suggest that 2 MPs from Lok Sabha and one MP from Rajya Sabha should be included in the university court. There is no provision like that.

Lastly, another new invention of the Bill that has come from your Ministry is that the concept of student union has been denied. You yourself were a product of the student politics in your younger days. I and Shri Antony also came out from student unions. If you take a look at this Bill, there is no provision of a students union. There is only the provision for a Welfare Committee headed by a Dean. What is that? In modern times, when we are giving right to vote to people at the age of 18, there is no reason for you to keep them away from politics, away from association. There must be a provision by which students will constitute student union in the university and the affiliated universities of the campuses also. There is no such provision. I am very surprised. It is an undemocratic attitude. These things should be taken into account and also the will of the employees. In Section 37, the provision is very inadequate. It is a very authoritarian provision that you are denying the students and the employees their rights and the name of the University given is Indira Gandhi University. By doing this, you are not bringing any credit to Shrimati Indira Gandhi. So, I would request that that name should be changed to Birsa Munda National Tribal University. With these words, I support this Bill because it has a great cause behind it.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA (Salumber): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to extend my thanks to you for giving me time to speak. Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Bill 2007 has been moved in the House and today the discussion is being held on it. After 60 years of independence it came to the notice of the UPA Government that some bill should be brought for the educational upliftment of the tribal people. Whosoever Minister has brought this Bill, I would like to extend my thanks to the Government.

Regarding the objectives of the Bill, it has been mentioned that the work will be done to facilitate higher education and research facilities for the tribal population of India for their upliftment irrespective of regions.

[Shri Mahavir Bhagora]

As far the question of higher education is concerned, after independence till 1952, the Ministry of Tribal Welfare worked for the educational and economic development of tribal population. Thereafter the name of the Ministry was changed and it was renamed as the Ministry of social welfare. Now it has become the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. Thus the name of the Ministry has been changed thrice. The discussion on the Bill was held earlier also. Whatever may be the name of the Ministry but I want that whatever Bill is introduced in the House by the Government I would like to request the present Government that it should properly implement the Bill. The objective of the Bill is very noble. The Ministry of Tribal Welfare was constituted in the year 1952 and the tribal research and training institutes were set up in the various states of India. Research and training work were assigned to those institutes. Crores of rupees were allocated for this however, did tribal people benefit from it? I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that though research work has been done and funds have been earmarked for conducting research on the tribals but the general category people have benefited on account of this and have acquired Ph.D. degrees. I would like to especially request the Government that it should evaluate the extent of contribution of the said research in formulating welfare schemes for tribals.

The second point of the Bill is about the higher education. The bill deals with Management and administrative system. So more and more tribal scholars and academicians should be recruited for this purpose. Alongwith this, administrative officers who are tribals, whether they are IAS or IPS officers and other academicians should be associated with the administrative system so that the academic system may move smoothly and talented children of tribal community may come forward and may guide the coming generation by conducting relevant research in this regard. The rough sketch has been given in the Bill. I was looking into the provisions in regard to the number of posts. There is no mention anywhere about the posts and also as to who will be appointed on these posts. I would like to know as to what has been the attitude of the persons sitting on these posts towards the tribal community till now and whether the same system will continue in future as well? If it is so then I would like to know whether the purpose for which the Bill has been introduced, will be fulfilled? I would like to know especially about this. I want that the maximum number of people from tribal community should

be given representation in the management Board and I do not have any objection if other persons who are scholars, efficient academicians and able administrative officers are also associated with the Board.

As far the name of the University is concerned, I would like to submit that there has been many scholars, leaders belonging to tribal communities who have fought for the independence of the country, So the University should be named after such persons. I would especially like to mention about my area where Bhilu Rana Punja was born who fought for the independence of the country. So the University should be named after him. I would like to extend my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG (Koraput): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Bill because this university is being set up for the education of tribal students.

Sir, the name given to this university is definitely justified because the emphasis given to tribal development at all levels was started during Shrimati Indira Gandhi's time. Now, whatever development is there in each and every level, it is due to the efforts taken by Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Some of the Members who spoke earlier mentioned that this name should be changed. I would like to tell them that when they keep their own leader's name in Orissa, there is no objection, but at the national level, when this name is kept, they are objecting to it. The demand which the Government of Orissa or the MPs have made should be justified and that demand should be considered without any discrimination. But at the same time, I would like to remind this House as to what they have demanded when they were in power and what they got. That also should be taken into consideration here.

Sir, I would definitely like to say that this is a new concept.

Sir, when I was the Chief Minister of Orissa, I started three State level universities. One university is cultural university in the State of Orissa. But this concept is a very new concept and I think, whatever subjects which they have mentioned, whether it will be only to give the education or it will link it with employment opportunities to be provided to the tribals. That will have to be

assessed whether the university will be like other State or Central universities or the university of their own, by the tribals, for the tribals, of the tribals. If that is so, then I think, the knowledge will improve and the tribals will be benefiting out of this in employment opportunities. Otherwise, knowledge-wise, it is fine.

Sir, I would say that all these areas which they are covering are for Fifth Schedule Area. For the first time, we have this type of university in the Fifth Schedule Area, though there are a number of Central universities, not this type of tribal university, in North-Eastern States. That is either in the Sixth Schedule Area or in the Hill areas of the North-Eastern States. Therefore, this type of concept which the UFA Government has adopted, I think, will give a new dimension in education and employment which is proposed in this Bill.

Sir, the UPA Government, especially, the Prime Minister announced a number of institutions for education development where they have announced 30-centre university, one each of the State, which do not have any such university. That means, definitely, the State Government of Orissa deserve one or two such universities. But it should be confined only in the Schedule Area because it will be one of the components of the Tribal Sub-Plan Concept and whatever the money is there, that will have to be given as a Tribal-Sub-Plan Concept and whatever schemes of education development, which they have announced, each and every aspect of that should be demarcated or earmarked for the Fifth Schedule Area of this country.

Sir, I belong to Koraput; the undivided Koraput is a larger Schedule Area, where I announced at that time that there will be a university by the Government of Orissa. But I could not do that. The Schedule Area of Koraput does not have any university, though in the other Schedule Area of my State, I have started a university, that is, the Northern University.

Sir, I would like to say that I accept each and every provision of this Bill provided that it should give employment opportunities through education to the vulnerable tribal students, but you will have to start from down below so that the scheme for education development of the country, which the Government of India announced, benefit the poorest of the tribals. This can be done starting from 30 Central universities, 6,000 new high quality schools, 370 new colleges in the districts and like that new industrial training institutes, 10,000 new

vocational schools, 50,000 new development centres as all these things will be linked with the Central university. If this is done, I think, the university will be a university providing employment through education. I think, this is there in the Bill which we are intending to pass. This is to give education and employment to the tribal students who would get admissions in that.

In conclusion, I would say that it is for the first time, from the Fifth Plan to the Ten Plan I am here, except once, that the Government recognized the education development in Fifth Schedule Area. Therefore, definitely, it is best located and justifications is also there. This may not be in each and every Schedule Area but the Central University deserves that out 30 at least ten are in the Fifth Schedule Area.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU (Jhargram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to speak in Santhali.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have you given a notice in advance for speaking in Santhali.

SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government have included two tribal languages in the eighth schedule. But there is no interpreter .....\* for Santhali and Bodo languages in the House.

*[English]*

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (KOKRAJHAR): Sir, it is truth. It is a very serious matter. I have raised this matter time and again. I also support him.....(*Interruptions*)

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing else will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)\*....

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\*Not recorded.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Mr. Chairman Sir, my first demand is that Interpreters should be appointed.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Rupchand Murmu says

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of my party and on my own behalf I welcome the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Bill, 2007.  
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon'ble Member should get his blood pressure checked on time. You can put forth your views only, when your name is called. Whenever your blood pressure shoots you stand up.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not fair. You should cooperate

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except Shri Rupchand Murmu.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome this bill and thank the Government for taking a decision to set up the first national tribal university. It is a welcome step. Shri Basudeb Barman has already dwelt upon the technical points of this Bill and I do not want to repeat that. The purpose of this Bill is to empower the

tribal youth and to provide higher education to them. The population of aborigines in this country is eight and a half crore. During pre-independence period, the tribal people never lagged behind others in waging a war against the British imperialism. All of us know that Brisa Munda, Tilka Murmu, Siddhu Kanu and others sacrificed their lives in the struggle against British regime. At present also tribals are second to none in contributing their mite in the agricultural and industrial sectors. But even after 60 years of independence, the tribals are still poor and backward and are considered untouchables. The country cannot progress by neglecting the tribals. You know that Shri Rabindra Nath Tagore had said in Bangla:

"Niche Jare Rakho, Se Tomare Tanibe je Neeche, Paschate Rekhechho Jare Se Tomare Tanichhae Pashchate." The persons who are left behind, pull you from behind. I would like to say that all the Members shall rise above party politics and think for the upliftment of the tribals. The bill will definitely get passed and all of us will support it, but it should be implemented properly. A year ago, we had passed another tribal bill, the Forest Rights Bill. That Bill was passed one year ago, but so far it has not been implemented. Through you, I would like to request the Government to properly implement the earlier bill and also the current bill which is being discussed. With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI DHAN SINGH RAWAT (BANSWARA): Thank you, I rise to support the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Bill, 2007 brought by the Government. Mr. Chairman, Sir, this university has been named after the former Prime Minister of the country, Shrimati Indira Gandhiji. Had this university been named after a tribal, the common tribals of the country would have been proud that a university has been named after a tribal. Many great men like Birsa Munda have come from tribal background but despite this fact tribals are not looked upon with respect. Still we feel proud that this university is named after our former Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. I would like that the Regional Centres of this university be opened in the entire country which should be named after the tribal leaders or social workers of that region. Through you, I would like to request the Government to open its branches in States which have tribal dominated areas. For instance, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards my parliamentary constituency, Banswara, Dungarpur, which is in southern Rajasthan. Rana Poonja had participated in the war of independence from this Mewar region. There is also a tribal pilgrim Centre, Beneshwar Dam, it would be better



if a university or its branch is opened over there in the name of Rana Punja or Beneshwar Dham.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, one definitely feels proud after going through the objects and reasons of this bill. For realizing these objects and reasons, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards clause 2 of the bill which is about the teachers of the university what should be the percentage of tribals in the teaching faculty of the university is an important factor. If tribal teachers are not given priority in this university, it will serve no good because tribal students, even if they are intelligent are awarded less marks in practical exams in all the courses, whether it is B.Ed., M.B.B.S. or Ph.D. In theory these students score 75% marks but discrimination is made against them in practical exams, because their being scheduled castes or scheduled tribes category. Therefore, I want that there should be a proper teaching system in the university. If this system is not proper, the objective of the bill will not be achieved. While supporting this bill, I conclude my speech.

*[English]*

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (INNER MANIPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Bill, 2007 as passed by the Rajya Sabha on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of this month.

While supporting the Bill, I would like to take the indulgence of the hon. Members here on the basic objectives and reasons. We know that the accessibility of our tribal brothers and sisters to higher education is very much limited.

17.00 hrs.

At the same time, the tribal youth are equally disadvantaged while joining the higher education and higher studies facilities in terms of research and further studies. But where is this tribal population? It is the most important question. The tribal population is scattered all over the country, and one of the most cluster areas is the North-Eastern Region where the tribal population is very large. At the same time, there are other areas in the country, viz., Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, Orissa, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, where we have a good number of tribal population. There are many other States where we have a large number of tribal population.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY :  
What about Bodoland?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Bwiswmuthiary, please do not disturb him.

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA : The North-East include perhaps my friend's Bodoland also.

Sir, in the Bill, while it is mentioned that the North-Eastern States have a good number of central universities. Anyway, it is fine. But there, we ought to have central universities purely for tribal population. The present Indira Gandhi National Tribal University is going to be established. It is proposed that this University will be a teaching as well as an affiliated university like the other universities. It shall be located at Amarkantak in the State of Madhya Pradesh because it is the area where the tribal population is the largest at the moment, and moreover it is centrally located in the country.

Here, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to Clause 2, which is Definitions Clause. I would refer Clause 2(w) relating to definition of Regional Centres read with Clause 2(f) relating to definition of Campus. If at all we are going to have the Regional Centres under this University, I would prefer to have as many Regional Centres as possible because tribal population is there everywhere in the country. For example, in the case of Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, which are the international border areas, we have a large number of tribal population, but they are very much disadvantaged. When we sit here in Delhi or in Parliament, we do not actually understand the plight of those brothers in the countryside. They have a lot of problems. Therefore, I would suggest that we should try to have as many Regional Centres as possible so that when we take up these general curriculum of the general universities, we should also think in terms of introducing some studies on their history, languages, cultural heritage, customs and conventions of these tribals, so that the rest of the country, our brothers here in the mainland do understand their practices. For the integrity and solidarity of the country, this is a must.

Sir, in Clause 6, we have defined jurisdiction all over the country. It is fine. We most welcome it because it should be there. In the beginning, this University at Madhya Pradesh should have some arrangements so that we get students from all these areas before we start the Regional Centres. The moment we start the Regional Centres, perhaps we can go down there.

[Dr. Thokchom Meinya]

Sir, Clause 8 relates to residence of students. About the residence of the students, I think, we can go in for a complete residential university for those who are coming from outside. This is very much necessary because they may not be having the facilities to come and go frequently.

So, these are some of my suggestions, which I have put forward. I wholeheartedly support the Bill.

We have got certain reservations when the Members from the other side discussed the name of the University, I fully appreciate the stand of the Government saying that the name of Indira Gandhi was not less a personality to whom we can suggest such type of discussion. I do not agree with that. So, let us support the Bill and pass the Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I rise to support the Bill. But at the same time I will be failing in my duty if I do not point out the difficulties that may arise in future.

The first thing which I have to mention is this. This is a National University which has jurisdiction throughout India, in all the States. So, the University itself in character is unique. It is unique in the sense that its activities may cover almost all the States in India where there are tribal people. In every part of the country, the cardinal principle to be followed in the functioning of the University shall be 'unity in diversity'. If that policy is not strictly followed, then the net result will be that this University will be reduced to a Madhya Pradesh University. It is because the tribal people follow different cultures. They follow different dialects. Some of their cultures are dying. Some of them are dying arts. We want to revive them. That is one of the purposes for which this University is going to be established, and this purpose can be achieved only if we follow the principle, as I have already mentioned, 'unity in diversity'. So, the fund allotment and all these matters will have to be looked into strictly according to this principle.

The University provides for opening up of Regional Centres. So, there will be Regional Centres in almost all the States where the tribal people reside. These Regional Centres must be given due representation in the authorities constituted under the provisions of this Act. I will cite a simple example. Now, there is a provision for Students' Council. The Students' Council will meet once in a year at the beginning of each year. That is not enough. It must at least meet twice in a year.

Secondly, the representation given in the Students' Council is that 20 students will be nominated by the Vice-Chancellor or Chancellor or Chairman. Twenty students are nominated, according to merit. It is all right. Then it is given, "...and as such students may be elected as the Statute provides." The number is not fixed. So, when the statutes are framed, they must take care of that so that each and every region shall have representation in the Students' Council. There is no provision in the Statute. Otherwise, the tribal people, who will be residing in Andhra Pradesh or in Kerala or in many other places where the Naxalite activities are on the high, will not get representation. We must take abundant caution to see that the people of that section, which is within the jurisdiction of the University, shall definitely have a representation in the functioning of the University.

These are some of the important matters which I would like to mention. Once again, before I conclude, I say that representation should be given. There is a provision that the President is the Visitor of the University. Every time he can visit but separate Vice-Chancellors are appointed. But at the same time this is open to all castes, irrespective of religion, creed or colour or anything. Everybody can seek admission to this University but the only thing is that it will give special attention or special provision for admission to the tribal students.

Those who are taking distant education need not come; but all others should be residential students in a hall or a centre that is provided within the campus of the University. The important authority to control is the University court. Who constitute it, the representation of the court is not defined in this Bill.

Sir, these are some of the difficulties that may arise. I think that when it comes into operation, these aspects may be considered and you should see that the University functions as a national university in the name of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. But this should not be reduced to a Madhya Pradesh University. This is my humble request.

Diverse and composite tribal people are to come to this University. It is not an easy thing. Only a strenuous and unified system where unity in diversity is followed, that this will be a success. Otherwise, the name of Shrimati Indira Gandhi will also be got reduced to Madhya Pradesh. That should not happen. They must take double care to see that the University functions as an all-India University in its nature.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are discussing this Bill, the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Bill, 2007. The objective of the Bill is just to promote the entire tribal culture, their tradition, about all these things.

But there is one thing to which I would draw the attention of the Government through you that they have decided to have this University in Amarkantak in Madhya Pradesh. The case of Orissa is also required to be considered. We have been demanding for such a University in the past. According to the 2001 census, 22.13 per cent of the total population of Orissa constitute as tribals and they are 9.66 per cent of the total tribal population of the country. Sir, there are 62 categories of Scheduled Tribes including 13 primitive tribal groups who are staying in Orissa. This is the highest in the country.

The KBK region of the State, which has since 1992-93 been divided into eight districts, has the highest concentration of tribal population. The place Amarkantak which has been decided for this University is in Madhya Pradesh. I do not have any objection. But as per the census, they are having only 20.3 per cent of the tribal concentration whereas Orissa has 22.13 per cent of tribal concentration which is the highest in the country so far as the tribal concentration in comparison to the total population is concerned.

My request is this. The Government also should have considered, when they have decided a place, to consider KBK region which has the highest concentration of tribal population. When we are going for a tribal University it is well and good. The other hon. Members have told that it should be named after a tribal leader. Then it would have given them more self respect and the tribal people would feel proud out of all these things because of their contribution in the freedom movement.

But, what has happened in the case of primary education and the secondary education? I am just giving one example. In KBK region, there is one district which is called Nowrangpur. Hon. Madam Minister is piloting the Bill. She is a woman. In that district of Nowrangpur women literacy is only two per cent and something, less than three per cent. You can imagine. Only two per cent of tribal women literacy is there in that district.

17.14 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

If this is the situation, the Government should also take care for primary education and secondary education of the tribal people of the country along with establishment of this University.

Sir, there is a provision in the Bill which is very feudal in character and thinking. There will be no students'

union and there will be no scope for the employees to have their organisation. This is feudal thinking. Then, there is no provision to have representation of the MPs in this university. Of course, that is not a good idea. In other Central Universities, MPs are also representing. So, in this particular university also, there should be a provision for MPs to represent, particularly the tribal MPs from both the Houses of Parliament. It will be better also as they can pay more attention to the improvement of the university. Why is there no scope for the students' union and employees' union?

I would also request Government that they should come forward with an amendment to change the name of the university. I do not have so much of objection to the present name, but it would be better if it will be named after a tribal leader. I am supporting this Bill because of the good objectives of this Bill, but they should make some amendments so far as representation of MPs in the university is concerned and the provision should be made accordingly. There should also be a provision for the constitution of students' union and to have an organisational scope for the employees.

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I rise here to support this Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Bill, but with half heart and with great regret that the UPA Government has really hurt the sentiments of the tribal people of this country. Now I feel that this Congress Government, the UPA Government has inherited this ill-treatment to the tribals in this great country right from the days of the Maharashtra when Eklavya's thumb was got cut by his guru in the name of *guru dakshina* because he was a tribal. There were no monkeys at the time of the *Ramayana*, but all the tribals of South India were fighting for Lord Rama along with Hanuman, but in the history those tribal people have been made as the monkeys till today. That is why, I have got greatly hurt on going through this Bill and therefore, I would request. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will tell you the difficulty. You please hear me.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted to the parties for speaking on the Bill is already over. All of you are speaking on concessional time. So, I would request you to conclude your speeches within the time allotted.

SHRI TAPIR GAO : Sir, I will conclude.

Therefore, I have got a few suggestions on this issue. If the UPA Government is really serious to establish

regional institutes all over the country, then it is my submission that we have got existing colleges in tribal States and they can directly adopt such existing colleges and affiliate them to this University from all over the country.

Secondly, the tribal should not be made specimen of a museum to study in this university, as per your guideline. You should make all the Departments required in this university, including IT, petrochemicals, computers etc. so that this university is up to the mark and there are departments according to the present day needs of the society where people can study. All the job-oriented subjects and departments should be opened in this University.

Hon. Minister, I have got really hurt by the name of the university. I have got full respect for Madam Indira Gandhi. In this country, there are only four institutions which have been left without the trade mark of 'Gandhi'

Rashtrapati Bhawan, Parliament House, North Block and South Block. If Shrimati Indira Gandhi's name has to be included in the name of this university, the UPA Government could have called it The Tribal Appeasement University. If the name of one of the senior tribal leaders who fought the British fiercely and who dedicated his life for bringing social uplift is not given to this university, it would hurt the sentiments of the tribal people of the country. The Government would be known as the proponent of policy of tribal appeasement. Therefore, renaming of the university be kindly looked into. The sentiments of the tribal people in the country should be respected. Tribals of the country should not be treated as specimens of study in this university.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): Mr. Chairman, I thank the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development for bringing this landmark amendment to set up this university named after our great leader late Indira Gandhi.

Some hon. Members suggested that the name of the university should be changed to that of a tribal leader. Actually, establishment of such a university was the dream of Indiraji. On 4<sup>th</sup> September, 1970, Madam Indira Gandhi stated in this very House:

"The advance in education has been considerable. We know it is not enough. There are still many difficulties which boys from the SCs and STs still

find in getting jobs and even getting the right kind of education. I believe if any of them is below standard it is not because of an inherent weakness but because their talents and capabilities have not been given the opportunity to blossom. That opportunity we must do our best to provide."

This was the dream of Indiraji. Therefore, naming this university after her is a perfectly correct step.

The national average literacy rate is 68.88 per cent. Rate of literacy among the tribal population is only one per cent. In Clause 8 there is a mention of the students. It says that students who are not studying under distance education programme have to stay in the hostels. Who is going to bear the cost of those students? Secondly, regional centres are going to be set up in different tribal areas throughout the country. Who would be funding these centres?

About 99 per cent of the seven per cent posts reserved for STs are lying vacant in different parts of the country. Is reservation for tribal students going to be given in this university or are the posts going to be filled from candidates belong to all castes? Not allowing students union elections in the university is undemocratic. Students' union elections must be allowed.

With these words, I welcome the Bill.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a submission to make. I made this request many times today and once again I would make this request. Today I am in a critical situation because I have to take the Bill of Shrimati Meira Kumar to Rajya Sabha tomorrow. If I cannot send it to Rashtrapati Bhavan and make the Secretary-General report it, the process cannot be completed. Therefore, with folded hands I appeal that after Shri Bwiswmuthiary's speech, the Minister may be allowed to reply. I hope the Opposition has no problem.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Sir, Please give two minutes each to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You can go on speaking for ten minutes everyday...*(Interruptions)* You are, perhaps, not aware of the time constraint. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY (KOKRAJHAR): Respected Chairman, Sir, I thank you for having given me this chance to speak on the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Bill, 2007. I rise to support this Bill with some suggestions.

If possible, instead of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, let this national central university be re-christened after the name of a great Bodo hero called 'Jaolia Dewan' who fought against the British. Secondly, in the university court, there should be adequate representation of tribals coming from each and every tribal dominated region across the country.

Thirdly, in the University's Student Council, there should be equal representation from among the students coming from each and every respective tribal-dominated region. This Central University should be purely residential Central University. In this Central University, more than 75 per cent of the tribal students should get admission; more than 75 per cent of the professors, teachers -the teaching and non-teaching staff- should be appointed from the tribals; that is, more than 75 per cent of the tribal people should get employment in that very University.

Apart from this Indira Gandhi National Central University, I would like to appeal to the Government of India to set up, on the same pattern, a National Tribal Medical University. Another National Tribal University for Information Technology also be set up in the country. Apart from this, I would like to urge upon the Government of India to set up a separate Bodoland National Central University at Kokrajhar for the people of Bodoland area. Let there be another Central Bodoland Agricultural University for the Bodoland area. Let there be one IIT and one IIM for Bodoland territory. Let there be 10 numbers of polytechnic institutes as well as 10 numbers of ITIs for the tribal people of Bodoland area.

Here, I would like to raise a very serious matter which relates to the discriminatory approach adopted by both the State Government of Assam as well as the Government of India with regard to the Bodo Medium Education. Bodo language had been introduced as a Medium of Instruction since 1963; this language was recognized as one of the national languages under the provision of the 8<sup>th</sup> Schedule to the Constitution of India in 2003.

Today, I wanted to speak in my mother-tongue 'Bodo language', but in vain.; the reason being that ...\* It is a great injustice. I am extremely sorry to remind you of this hard fact.

Here, I would like to mention that as on today, there are 724 numbers of lower primary schools of Bodo Medium being run by the tribal people in Assam. These schools have not been provincialized or taken up by the State Government of Assam on the plea of lack of funds. The total number of Venture Middle English Schools or upper primary schools of Bodo Medium is 320. These schools also have not been taken up by the Government of Assam. Tens and thousands of students have been languishing like anything since long decades back. The Government of India always talk about *Sarva Siksha Abhiyan*, universalization of education and so on and so forth. But they have not done anything for the upliftment of the Bodo Medium Education.

In the high school level also, there are more than 180 numbers of Bodo Medium High Schools which have not yet been taken up by the Government of India and the State Government of Assam. Why is this kind of discrimination being done against the Bodos?

A few days ago, I put a question during the Question Hour. This hon. lady Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resources Development, Shrimati Purandeswari replied that the Government of India deals only with the Central Schools, Navodaya Vidyalayas, Central Universities, IITs and IIMs, and not the State Education subject. What will happen to the Bodo students in such a situation? I, therefore, would like to appeal to the Government of India to mount tremendous pressure upon the Government of Assam to take up all these schools, and the Government of India also should allocate adequate amount of money from the Central Pool to the Government of Assam so that all these schools of Bodo Medium in Assam can be provincialized and the Bodo tribal students would get their due as is being given to the students of other advanced communities in the country. Then only you can expect unity and integrity of this great country — India. There is a lot of discrimination against Bodo tribal people in particular, and against all other tribal people in respect to overall developmental spheres across the country. It is a great injustice.

[Translation]

The cup of injustice has overflowed, the tribals are feeling exasperated how their exasperation would be pacified? ...*(Interruptions)*

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\*Not recorded.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I say that nothing would go on record, please conclude.

SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISWMUTHIARY : There are 15 numbers of venture colleges which are languishing like anything in Bodo Land. I met Mr. Arjun Singh, the Union Minister of Human Resource Development on the 2nd of April and also on 5th of May, 2007. He assured me of addressing many of the problems being faced by Bodos, but nothing has been done so far.

Once again I would like to reiterate my demand that let there be a Bodo Land National central university for Bodo Land area, let there be one IIT and let there be one IIM and let there be ten numbers of polytechnic institutes and let there be ten numbers of ITIs for Bodo Land territory and all the venture English High Schools, Middle English Schools and lower primary schools of Bodo medium should be provincialised.

\*SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Bobbili): Sir, first of all, I rise to support the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Bill, 2007 brought forward by the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development. Coming from Bobbili parliamentary, predominantly a tribal belt, I thank the hon. Minister, on behalf of the tribal people, for introducing this historic piece of legislation. For the first time, since Independence, they are going to have a knowledge university for themselves. So far, they are being spoken as pre-historic people. Sir, tribal people are very simple. Not only that, they are very honest and their integrity, is completely above suspicion. Their society treats both men and women on equal footing. A number of commissions were set up to go into various issues concerning tribals and how these people were exploited and how their resources were plundered. The present conditions of their literacy, poverty situation, infant mortality rate are far below other non-tribal people. I am sure the UPA Government would take steps to improve their conditions so that they can come to the mainstream and become equal citizens in the society. Now through this Bill they are going to have a place for reflection, for thinking as well as for action. I am very grateful to the

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\*The speech was laid on the Table.

Minister for creating a new seat of learning for tribals, to enable them to contribute to the country, to its development and to its posterity. In spite of globalization and liberalization, they have maintained their identity and survived. They have also maintained their ethnicity.

Before I conclude, I would like to deal with their health problems. They live in forests. They are prone to malaria. The Government should set up primary health centers to take care of their health. Otherwise, their population will become extinct. They will not make use of the facilities or opportunities provided by the new university. The hon. Minister may kindly enlighten the process of selection of faculty members; as well as admission of students. Will it be confined to tribal students or students from any community can study?

Adivasis were dear to the heart of the former Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi and this Bill which has been named after her would really reflect her love for them.

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17.31 hrs.

#### RE: POSTPONEMENT OF HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, the Half-an-Hour Discussion listed for today, may be taken up day after tomorrow. The Minister has also agreed that he will be available.

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17.32 hrs.

#### INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL TRIBAL UNIVERSITY BILL, 2007—*Contd.*

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): Sir, at the outset, I would like to thank all my hon. colleagues Shri Ganesh Singhji, Shri Adhir Chowdharyji, Shri Basudeb Burmanji, and Shri Sugrib Singhji. . . *(Interruptions)* MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the Minister has approached you and told you the situation. It is none of my fault. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: I also thank Shri Chandrappanji, Shri Mahavirji, Shri Giridhar Gamangji, Shri Rupchand Murmuji, Shri Rawatji, Shri Meinyaji, Shri Tripathiji, Shri Tapir Gaoji, Shri Kharventhanji, and Shri Biewamuthiaryji.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those hon. Members who have given their names, can lay their speeches, if they so desire. Now the hon. Minister can reply.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, initially, I would like to thank all my colleagues for participating in the deliberations and for supporting the establishment of Indira Gandhi National Tribal University at Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh.

Sir, I also thank the Members for the unanimity with which this Bill has been supported on the floor of this House. The support had come from all the quarters cutting across party lines. This unanimous support itself speaks of the importance and the necessity of establishing a very unique university of this kind. Education, as we all know, is fundamental for creating, applying and spreading new ideas and technologies which are critical for development and growth. It has always been our unstinted effort to ensure that such education is being imparted to our children. Even as we have been trying to ensure that all our children are given education, we also stand committed to inclusive education. But it is a fact that a large section of the tribal youths do not have access to higher education facilities. This is a big disadvantage to the tribal youth. This has led to their low status in both economic and educational aspects.

Apart from eight North-Eastern States which predominantly have a tribal population, there are eight other States all over the country which house almost 83 per cent of the tribal population. Though, there is a Central University that exists in almost all the States, presently, in such States which do not have an existing Central University would be getting one sooner. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing would go on record.

...*(Interruptions)*\*

A specific university that has been dedicated to concentrate on the developmental activities of the tribal population has not been there till now. The House has already appreciated, across board, the fact that this has been a unique and a commendable endeavour of the

Ministry of Human Resource Development. This university, even as I mentioned earlier, is a very unique university both in its location as well as in its objective. Amarkantak, the location of the university, is very unique. The place besides being a tribal dominated area and besides being the place of origin for two rivers, namely, Sone and Namada, one flowing East and the other flowing West, it is also very centrally located. This is very easily accessible to the tribal dominated areas. The States that have predominantly a tribal population, actually encircle Amarkantak. So many hon. Members have raised apprehension about the location of the place. But this is the reason as to why this place was chosen so that there is accessibility. It is centrally located for all those ten States which have a large tribal population.

Sir, turning to the objectives, I would like to submit, this is a university that would come into existence and would provide avenues for higher education and research primarily for the tribal population and also would promote study and research on tribal history, art, culture, sports, language, medicinal systems, forest based economic activities etc. to support tribal population. Besides having the headquarters at Amarkantak, the university also has an all India jurisdiction as has been mentioned by many of my colleagues here. Regional centres can be opened in all those areas which have a concentration of tribal population and in turn, this university or even the regional centres can network with the university in the North-Eastern region and also the tribal research institutions like the Anthropological Survey of India, the CIL, Mysore etc. The Bill also envisages that the university will establish at least one model school at every regional centre to actually ensure that education is provided to the children in that area also. It is because, for various reasons, sometimes the children do not step out of their periphery and their areas and these schools can actually provide access to the tribal children and these children, in turn, can graduate into these regional centres and the university. Therefore, this is a very unique university as has already been mentioned by my colleagues in this House. However, they also have expressed certain apprehensions and I would like to dispel those apprehensions to the best of my capacity.

Sir, Shri Ganesh Singh ji raise the issue of preserving the traditional knowledge of predicting disasters and so on and so forth. Clause 4, sub-section (vi) of the Bill provides that the university can take up any area of knowledge as it may deem fit. These areas could also be explored and these areas could also actually be looked into and strengthened.

\*Not recorded.

[Shrimati D. Purandeswari]

Shri Basudeb Burman spoke about adequacy of tribal members in each body of the university and he also talked about providing specific numbers in such bodies must be ensured. It is for the university authorities to decide and specify the exact number of tribal representatives on such bodies and also on the Academic Committees and so on.

There was an issue raised by Shri Sugrib Singh wherein he mentioned that step-motherly treatment has been meted out to the State of Orissa. Again, I would like emphasise here that any such State where there is no central university existing, Orissa is one such State that does not have a central university. A central university would be given to the State. There has also been a persistent demand for setting up of a university in the KBK region, I am sure this would answer that question.

Sir, Shri Chandrappan had raised the issue about the name. There was so much of apprehension about the name of the university. There have been several tribal leaders who have dedicated themselves to the country, particularly during the tribal movement. In all humble respect to such great leaders, there has been a demand from various sections of the House about this.

There has been a demand to be named the University after Birsa Mundaji; there was a demand to be named the University after Gundadurji; there was a demand to be named after Vir Narayanan Singhji of Chhattisgarh and after Allury Sita Ramraju from Andhra Pradesh. Taking into account the sentiments of the House and realising the sensitivity of the issue, it was then decided that it will be named after a national leader who had worked selflessly and who had great empathy for the tribal population. It has been just mentioned by my colleague, Shri Kharventhan - while he just read out his speech - about her empathy for the tribals and the Scheduled Castes. It was she who actually also initiated the Sub-Plan for the Scheduled Castes to assist the States in the development of the tribal population. So, keeping in view her empathy and commitment to the tribal people and the work she had done for them, it was then decided that it could be named after Shrimati Indira Gandhi whereas the Regional Centres definitely could be named after the local tribal leaders of that particular area, with all due respect to all the great tribal leaders.

In every University Act, the University amends the statutes and includes the representation of the nominees of both the Houses. So, there is no necessity to really

provide for that. It is only proper that this tradition of the University suggesting the representation of the Parliament should continue.

Dr. Meinya has spoken about the regional campusus. The University can set up campusus at Regional Centres even in the tribal areas of the North-East and these can also affiliate colleges from the areas in and around the region.

Sir, as regards the suggestions made by you yourself, we can no less agree with you that the proposed University is definitely a model in promoting unity in diversity. It has many campusus that may come up. Each branch campus could capture the ethos and uniqueness of that very region where it is situated. Whereas the main campus could actually capture the spirit of convergence in the melting pot of harmony and unity.

Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy has raised the issue of students' union. Students' union is actually not provided in the Bill of the University. But however, the University can provide for it in its statutes and ordinances.

With this, I have tried, to the best of my ability, to address the apprehensions raised by most of the hon. Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You need not cover point-by-point. Important points can be covered and given as a general reply. That is the reply required to be given for the discussion of the Bill.

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Sir, I have covered almost all the points. I seek the support of my colleagues in passing this Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to establish and incorporate a teaching and affiliating University at Amarkantak in the State of Madhya Pradesh to facilitate and promote avenues of higher education and research facilities for the tribal population in India and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Hansraj Ahir, you may move your amendment.



**Clause 2****Definition***[Translation]*

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that

Page 3, line 21 for "Indira Gandhi" Substitute "Bhagwan Birsa Munda" (2)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had asked for time to speak on this bill. The hon'ble Minister has given many good suggestions in this regard. I would only like to add one more suggestion that there should also be a medical college for providing Ayurvedic Health Services to the tribal brethren living in far-flung areas. There is shortage of doctors in our country and this shortage can be met only when Doctors will serve in the rural and tribal dominated areas. Doctors are not willing to serve in Adivasi dominated areas. If they go there then only the tribal people will benefit from their services.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall, now, put amendment no. 2 moved by Shri Hansraj Gangaramji Ahir to the vote of the House.

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 2 was added to the Bill.***Clause 3****Establishment of University***[Translation]*

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Mr. Chairman Sir, I beg to move that page 3, line. 23 for "Indira Gandhi" substitute "Bhagwan Birsa Munda"

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put amendment no. 3 moved by Shri Hansraj Gangaramji Ahir to the vote of the House.

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 3 was added to the Bill.**Clause 4 was added to the Bill.***Clause 5****Powers of University***[Translation]*

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that. Page 5, line 16,-

"To set up and run colleges, institution and hostels", substitute "to set up and run colleges, institutions and hostels and provide free hostel facilities to the people belonging to tribal areas."

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put amendment no. 4 moved by Shri Hansraj Gangaramji Ahir to the vote of the House.

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 5 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 5 was added to the Bill.**Clauses 6 to 28 were added to the Bill.***Clause 29****Other Authorities of University***[Translation]*

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Page 11, line 15 and 16,-

for "adequate number of"

substitute "not less than 50 per cent of"

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put amendment no. 5 moved by Shri Hansraj Gangaramji Ahir to the vote of the House.

*Amendment was put and negatived.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 29 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 29 was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 30 to 50 were added to the Bill.*

*The Schedule was added to the Bill.*

**Clause 1**

*[Translation]*

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that Page 1, line 3, for "Indira Gandhi"

Substitute "Bhagwan Birsa Munda."(I)

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I shall now put amendment No. 1 moved by Shri Hansraj G. Ahir to the vote of the House.

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

17.51 hrs.

**MAINTENANCE AND WELFARE OF PARENTS  
AND SENIOR CITIZENS BILL, 2007**

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up Item No. 26. Shrimati Meira Kumar.

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for more effective provisions for the maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens guaranteed and recognized under the Constitution and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak about the Bill. It is a very important Bill concerning senior citizens of India. They are neglected and they will have to be protected. You can speak about the details of the Bill. There is a provision also in the Constitution and we are only implementing it.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Sir, the Bill that I am presenting for the consideration of the House is in response to a new emerging social reality which is, on the one hand, very laudable, very satisfying, and, on the other hand, is also very challenging and, to some extent, disturbing.

Sir, in our culture, in our civilization, in our revered tradition, we are brought up to obey our elders. We are taught, we are brought up to touch the feet of our elders and take their blessings not only on special occasions but also as a matter of routine. We take pride in serving our elders and taking care of them. This is the tradition, but the new realities are different. These new realities have necessitated that this kind of a Bill should be presented before the House for consideration and passing.

Ageing has become a global phenomenon with amazing advancement in medical science, with improvement in standards of living. People all over the world are living much longer. Longevity has increased in India also.

In India also, I am happy to report that more and more people are living much longer. In 2001 census, we found that there were 7.6 crore elders in our country, senior citizens who were 60 plus. This is the number. This number is increasing. By 2026, this number will increase to 17.3 crore. At the moment, the number of our senior citizens is 6.9 per cent of our population. In 2026, it is estimated to be more than double this number, that is, 12.4 per cent of our population.

There are certain interesting features about the elderly people. A majority of our elderly people live in the rural

areas. Most of our elderly people are about 80 plus. This is also an interesting phenomenon that the world over there is an increasing feminisation of the elderly. More and more women are constituting a large number of the elderly the world over. In our country, by the year 2016, they will be 51 per cent. In our country, the elderly, the senior citizens constitute 30 per cent who are below the poverty-line. These are some of the facts and figures so far as the senior citizens of our country are concerned.

I have mentioned right at the beginning that it is very satisfying and it is a matter of great happiness that longevity has increased. We have a very large number of elderly people to bless us. But it is also very disturbing and it poses a great challenge before us that the joint family system is withering away, it is disintegrating. The best place where the elderly should live is their home and not the old-age home. They are being taken care of with great respect within the environment of their homes. But with the fading away of the joint family system, they find themselves neglected, marginalised and abandoned. This is the sad reality. This is the reason why we have brought forward this Bill.

The senior citizens are those who are 60 and above. But in our family we have our parents who may not be 60 years. There might be a widowed mother or a widowed aunt who might be less than 60 years. There might be a father or an uncle who is less than 60 years.

18.00 hrs.

They need to be taken care of. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Just a minute. I would like to take the sense of the House. It is already 6 o'clock. We have two Bills posted for today. This one and the other one by the Defence Minister. The time allotted for these two Bills is 2 hours each. If we want to conclude it today, we will have to sit up to 10 o'clock. So, we will have to extend the time.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill is really important, so please allot two hours for the Bill. ... (*Interruption*)

[*English*]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (PURI): We should discuss this Bill today. The other Bill can be taken up tomorrow. .... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): Till both the Bills are passed, time of the House is to be extended. .... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (MIDNAPORE): The other Bill can be taken up tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there an agreement?

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: It will be very difficult. There is more Government business for tomorrow. So, let us conclude today. If we can reduce the number of speakers, then it will be over soon .... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: In the morning, it was decided that two Bills have to be passed today.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABODH PANDA : The passing of this Bill will take time. The other Bill may be taken up tomorrow. .... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE: We want to take both the Bills because there is no time. It is the Government business, so it has to be disposed of.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will do one thing. We will sit up to 7 o'clock. Afterwards, we will decide it. The time is extended up to 7 o'clock. Then at 7 o'clock, we will decide what is to be done further. About Zero Hour, I cannot say anything. If this item is over till 7 o'clock, then the Zero Hour can be taken up. Otherwise, it is not possible. Now, the Minister may continue.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: I must clarify that the Bill is for the maintenance and welfare of both the parents who may be below 60, mother and father who may be below 60, or also for the senior citizens who are 60-plus. Now, with the withering away of the joint family system, these parents who are in need of care and protection and the senior citizens are suffering. Most of them are suffering from ill health. There is absence of social security for them. There is absence of social role for them. They have no work to do. So, they feel very rejected. There

is no sense of purpose and sense of belonging. There is no opportunity for them to engage themselves in any creative work during their free time. All these things are very important in our society. A number of Members on several occasions have expressed their concern about the plight of the and also of parents in our society. In view of the concern that they have shown, from time to time, we thought of formulating a Bill in response to those concerns.

Before formulating the Bill, we held very wide consultations with the State Governments, with the stake holders, with the NGOs, with the experts and with various organisations which have elderly persons as their members. We also held regional conferences in various regions of the country to discuss the various provisions of this Bill and also to invite public opinion. After that, we formulated this Bill. It was introduced in the Lok Sabha on the 20th of March this year. The hon. Speaker referred the Bill to the Standing Committee relating to my Ministry on the 27th of April and the Standing Committee has given its Report on the 7th of September. Most of the recommendations and the valuable suggestions of the Standing Committee have been taken into consideration by the Government and now the Bill has come to this final shape.

Now, I would like to mention some of the salient features of the Bill. The target group for the benefit of whom this Bill is being brought are short of two things. Being in the evening of their lives, they are short of time and they are also short of finance. In Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code of 1973, there is already a provision for maintenance of parents. But that means going to the court and engaging lawyers which would not only be a very cumbersome process but also be very time consuming, needless to say that it would also be exorbitant. So, we thought that we would set up tribunals in every district of the country which would be presided over by the SDM (Civil) of the district. There will be a Conciliation Officer in the Tribunal, there will also be a Welfare Officer in the Tribunal and the District Magistrate would be the Appellate Authority.

The parents or the senior citizens can approach the tribunal by directly giving an application there or they can authorise someone to apply on their behalf or the tribunal can *suo motu* take cognisance of the plight of the senior citizens.

18.09 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

The emphasis is on conciliation. As I said earlier, because there will be emphasis on conciliation, there will not be advocates. The tribunal will follow summary procedure and the claims will be disposed of in a time-bound manner.

Now the maintenance order will be imposed with the same force and effect as an order passed under Chapter 9 of CrPC. Maintenance order will be executed in the same manner as prescribed for execution of such order by CrPC.

We see and so many times we get very disturbed. I got a report that in Godhara in Gujarat, one son had locked up his old father in a room for the last two years and had not taken care of that elderly man. I got a report once that in a certain part of the country, there was an elderly man of 90 years who was abandoned at the bus stop by his children. There was another case where at the Railway Junction the elderly were abandoned. We keep hearing such cases of these elderly parents being abandoned either by their own children or by those who are supposed to take care of them. We have also provided for penal punishment for those who abandon the elderly, Another thing which happens is that sometimes some family member of the elderly or their own children or grand children, adopted children or step children or some other relative swept of these elderly into giving away or writing the properties of elderly in their names. They show them that once they are given the property, they will be looking after them and sometimes they threaten them to write the property in their names and these parents find themselves cast aside, nobody is there to look after them. In that case, the property will revert to them. This is another provision in the Bill.

There are some elderly who do not have children or other people to look after them.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Madam, I have to make a submission.

[*English*]

I have a long list of speakers with me. Please be brief.

[*Translation*]

You also have to give a reply.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: I am coming to an end, but I have to give the salient features. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing should be recorded.

(*Interruptions*) ... \*

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: Sir, I am coming to an end. I was not giving the details, I was just giving the salient features.

There are certain elderly people who do not have any children. They are indigent. They are destitute. So, we have made provisions for old age homes in every district for those. We have also made provisions for better medical facilities. We have also made provisions that the State Governments will institutionalize a mechanism to ensure the security and the protection of the life and property of the elderly.

These are the various salient features of the Bill, which I thought I should briefly enumerate. Now, I present the Bill for the consideration of the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for more effective provisions for the maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens guaranteed and recognized under the Constitution and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

[*Translation*]

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (HOSHIARPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am being given a chance to speak on the Bill presented in view of the hour. It is a strange issue different from the Indian values and traits. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir if we recall the history of this country, we are descendants of those great men who went into exile at the instance of his father at a point of time when he was about to be crowned—I am referring to Lord Shri Rama.

The manner in which Shrawana Kumar roamed across the country carrying his blind parents on his shoulders reflects our tradition. We have served our

\*Not recorded.

elders. I read a story in which a person once thought of making someone his Guru, so he went to a Guru. The Guru asked him if he had parents and he replied in the affirmative. The Guru sent him back. The greatest human beings on this Earth are parents and one who has parents is not in need of a guru. Such was the importance of our parents but due to some reasons the families started withering away and the importance of elders diminished gradually.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the effects of education on the present day society. An elderly person called me up and informed me that he had read in one of the books of his grand child that it was being taught in the CBSE second class that Joint Family system was not good. He asked me if I agree with it? I wrote a letter to the hon. Minister of H.R.D. immediately conveying him the sentiments of that elderly person and asked him to clarify if such things were being taught in books. I got a reply that there was no such book under H.R.D., which criticized the Joint Family System. I sent the copy of that reply to that elderly person, however, he called me up to say that the contents of the letter were incorrect. He had a photocopy of the chapter which he wished to send across to me. He sent me the copy which contained the composition of single family that appeared to be quite happy and joint family was shown to be fraught with bickering. The concluding line was that Joint Family System was not a good set up. I have sent entire things to the hon. Minister, however, I have not received any reply. Here we want to concentrate on the issues that we need to pay attention to our samskaras as well. If we have to get our elder ones respected then we will have to imbibe values in our children.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I through you I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards some points since the implementation of this Act would be very difficult after its enactment, there would be so much litigation. If we would be able to plug whatever lacunae are there in this Bill, and then present it, we would be able to do justice with the elderly people and fulfil the aspirations of the House. There is a provision of maintenance in the CRPC alongwith section-9 and section-125, there is a provision of maintenance for Mother and Father under section 125-D, however, this maintenance is only upto Rs. Five Hundred. You will have to clarify the impact of section 125-D on this Act and the impact of this section on CRPC to avoid the growing intricacies and the maintenance that you wish to provide so easily would not be available. Similarly there is section-11

[Shri Avinash Rai Khanna]

relating to the enforcement of the order. This provision is quite vague. Kindly simplify it. Once the order relating to maintenance is passed, what would happen, if the enforcement would be on the lines of the courts? We daily come across thousands of pending cases. Hon. Minister should make some provisions for easy enforcement. Section-17 states that no legal representative advocate would be involved, however, this Act nowhere mentions that how it would be applied and whether court fee would be charged on it or not.

Sir, I would like to cite an example before you. Supposing old parents are leading a dejected life in India whereas their children are staying abroad. So, how summons would be served on them, it cannot be done without publication. So, the provision in regard to serving summons should be amended, as to how these should be served, whether court fee would be charged or not, whether processing fee would be paid or not. This act is completely silent about it. So, Madam, there would be a lot of legal complications.

There is a very good provision in it that when parents are alive the children get the property transferred in their name by giving them false assurances. Be it a gift, sale or will. Will has its impact after death however there might be some difficulty about gift or sale. It will not be void, as you have mentioned, since once property is sold or gifted, then it will go in litigation. If a clause is added to the Bill that the sale or gift deed would be effective only if the child would serve the parent. And if he does otherwise it should be treated void. Do not leave any room for litigation. If you would make a provision for litigation then the son may give an evidence that he is serving his parents and they are lying. This would cause unnecessary harassment to the old parents they would neither get property nor money. So please simplify it a little.

A provision of evidence has been made in this Bill. Consumer Protection Act is a very simple Act. There is a provision by which one can send one's application by post, however, if an elderly person is lying sick in the house and is unable to move out of the house so how would he move the tribunal or the authority and file a complaint that he was not being looked after by his children. Since it is a new act so we can think on all these possibilities. So such entry cases should be avoided. He should send the application by simple post and then it should be the duty of the Government or the officer

concerned to serve summons. If we make the provision of giving evidence then such cases would linger on for years. So it is requested that it should be simplified a bit.

Sir, another point can be raised about burden of proof. Certain changes were made in Section-304 (b) of I.P.C. and a clause was added which is entirely different. Therein the burden was laid on the accused to prove that he was innocent. Similarly if an elderly files an application and tries to prove that his son does not look after him or his daughter-in-law neglects him or does not provide him maintenance then the poor fellow would keep on trying in vain to indicate his claim and would not get anything. So if any such application is received then the burden of proof should be on the respondent, the children to provide whether or not if they are maintaining their parents? Only then they would get some justice.

Sir, if we make a provision for a compromise in any section and do away with litigation, it would be better. There should be a provision for reconciliation if an application is received by which the son would agree to give maintenance to his father. If we will put it in litigation, the procedure would become lengthy since a provision of appeal has been made. He will appeal against the Appellate order.

Thus, it will turn into an endless litigation. Suppose the parents are living in old age home, shall the children have to pay maintenance to their parents in that case? The State Governments have a number of policies to dole out old age pension. Will the children have to pay maintenance to the parents who are receiving taking old age pension? There is no such provision in the Bill; or, otherwise it should be provided that the children shall have to maintain their parents if the latter do not have sufficient income for their maintenance. The Bill is also silent on the responsibility of the children in case the parents are getting Rs. 200 as old age pension. The children may say as to why they should maintain their parents when the latter are in receipt of pension.

Thus, it will turn into an endless litigation. Suppose the parents are living in old age home, shall the children have to pay maintenance to their parents in that case? The State Governments have a number of policies to dole out old age pension. Will the children have to pay maintenance to the parents who are receiving taking old age pension? There is no such provision in the Bill; or, otherwise it should be provided that the children shall have to maintain their parents if the latter do not have

sufficient income for their maintenance. The Bill is also silent on the responsibility of the children in case the parents are getting Rs. 200 as old age pension. The children may say as to why they should maintain their parents whom the latter are in receipt of pension.

Through you, I would like to make one submission. The people of Treasury Benches are sitting here. One person pays taxes the whole life. The Government runs with these taxes, but he gets nothing in return. If the Government wants to increase its revenue and provide security and protection to the aged persons by giving them some amount as old age pensions from the amount which they have paid as taxes, then I think the government will be able to discharge its great obligation because the government have imposed the burden of Old Age Home on the State Governments. In that case, the people will pay more taxes, because they will know that if they become old or their business get failed due to some reasons and if their children do not maintain them, the Government will do this since they have paid taxes to the Government. So, this obligation should also be the part of the Government.

Suppose one person has no son and his daughters get married and he has paid taxes for the whole life so what about his security? I would request the Government to make such a provision in the Bill so that the Government should bear the burden and responsibility of the aged persons for their maintenance as they constitutes seven percent of our total population as per figures furnished by you. Out of them figures regarding the number of aged persons who are living in Old Age Homes should also be shown. I have seen on a TV channel the plight of an aged person sitting outside his home in Delhi. He was turned out of his home by his children. The TV channel was giving live telecast. It is a matter of great shame that the children did not bother to bring him back to home. So, this is the good reason of bringing this bill.

I do understand that the time of childhood and youth simple flies away. In those days, hours and years are very short, but when the old age arrives, even hour become endless period. So, it becomes our duty to maintain and respect the old age people. I would like to say that keeping in view the intention with which this Bill has been brought, we should not put old age persons in some intricacy. In this Bill you have written one word 'summary procedure'. There were lots of deliberations on 'Summary Procedure' I am an advocate. I have seen the

consequences. We have put the section 138 in summary. What was its result. We had it in negotiations instrument, summary, but what was the result of it. By taking advantage of it appeal moves to the consumer forum. The Bill must implement the world Summary in spirit.

I would request you some suggestions that you have done a commendable job by bringing this Bill. Of course, the old age persons will feel relieved that the Government is doing something for them. But at the same time, the the Government have to see that the benefits of it must reach them.

With these words I extend many many thanks to you.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have got a list of 15 speakers to speak on this very Bill. To accommodate them, I would, therefore, request them to be very brief. It would be better if they give only suggestions.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): Sir, I would request you to permit me from this seat.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right. You may speak from here.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN : Sir, at the outset, I am thankful to the hon. Minister for bringing forward this landmark Bill.

According to the present law, the aged parents and senior citizens can approach both the civil courts by way of maintenance suit and also the criminal courts under Section 125 CrPC. According to this piece of legislation, the State Government is given power under Clause 7 to constitute a Tribunal. The Tribunal will be headed by a person not less than the rank of a Sub Divisional Officer. Against the Tribunal Order, the Appellate Tribunal will be constituted under Section 15.

Sir, even though this Bill is a very welcome measure, yet I have got some reservations. The senior citizens, old aged parents can approach the Tribunals by way of filing applications. Those who are not able to file applications, the Organisation can file applications. What is the meaning of the Organization? It is the NGOs. They can file the applications to go to the Tribunals.

In this Bill, I want to categorically mention about Clause 17. "Notwithstanding anything contained in any

[Shri S.K. Kharventhan]

law, no party to a proceeding before a Tribunal or Appellate Tribunal shall be represented by a legal practitioner." Whenever in this country, we started constituting Tribunals like the Central Administrative Tribunal or the State Administrative Tribunal, the more the Tribunals are coming, the more the powers of the courts are shrinking. Even Section 30 of the Advocates Act has not yet been implemented to the lawyers to appear and all that. This is taking away the powers of the lawyers. This has to be modified. This is my humble request.

Another thing is that if the lawyer is not appearing, what will happen? Now, we are giving power to the NGOs. The NGOs are only going to file the application before the Tribunal. For conducting the cases and giving evidence, we are going to appoint a Maintenance Officer, a Government servant. Either the NGO or the Maintenance Officer will collect the money from the parties or from the deposits of the Tribunals. What is the accountability? What is the guarantee? If a lawyer commits a mistake, there is a State Bar Council and there is an All-India Bar Council to control the lawyer. How the NGOs and the Maintenance Officer will be controlled? Now, we are seeing everyday that a large number of complaints coming against the misuse of funds by the NGOs. So, giving power to the NGOs will not serve the purpose. It will not help the senior citizens. This is one aspect.

Another thing is, according to Clause 14, the power is given. Those petitions, which are pending in the Magistrate Court under Section 125C of Cr.P.C., the power is given to withdraw the criminal proceeding. What will happen to the suits that are pending in civil courts? If a senior citizen has filed a civil suit before the Munsif Court and he wants to withdraw it, How he will withdraw? It is not mentioned in this Bill.

Another thing is that the Divisional Officer is RDO. In the Southern Region, he is called as RDO. He is the Tribunal's head. The District Collector is the Appellate Tribunal's Chairman. Now, we are seeing that the Divisional Officer and the District Collector are having a large number of works. They are working day and night. How can they spare the time to hear the senior people, call once in a week to the Collectorate and hear them? Under the Head of the Divisional Officer or under the Head of the Collector, a separate Welfare Officer should be appointed to hear them. That is another suggestion.

One other suggestion is that, now under the present Act, according to Sec. 125 Cr.P.C., Rs.500 is permissible.

It is a lesser amount. I agree that this lesser amount and this has to be increased. According to this proposal, Clause 9, sub-clause (2), the Tribunal is empowered to grant up to Rs.1 0,000. How is it possible to pay monthly Rs.10,000/- by son or daughter. All are not rich people. If the Tribunal has awarded Rs.10,000 per mensem, it will come to Rs.1,20,000 per year. How is it possible? Then coming to the interest rate also, the interest is five per cent and not more than 18 per cent for non-payment of the money within the stipulated period. In the rural areas, how is it possible? This must be reduced. The amount of Rs.10,000 must also be reduced. The interest rate also must be reduced.

Another important proposal is establishment of Old Age Homes, that is, Clause 19, sub-clause (1). It is a welcome one. "No civil court shall have jurisdiction in respect of any matter to which any provision of this Act applies." In respect of any order passed by the Tribunal or Appellate Tribunal, the civil court is having no power to pass any stay order. It is another welcome step. These are all some welcoming steps.

Except removing the Clause of non-appearance of lawyer, remaining portions are welcomeable steps. Also, the quantum of amount and the quantum of interest to be paid must be reduced. By altering these things, this is a welcomeable step taken for protecting the interests of the senior citizens and also oldage people.

Another important one is Clause 5, sub-clause (6), "Where a maintenance order was made against more than one person, the death of one of them does not affect the liability of others to continue paying maintenance." Suppose a father is having three sons. The Tribunal passed an award against the three sons. All the three sons are enjoying the property of the father. If one son died, I want to know whether the two sons have to pay the entire money. The power must be given to add the legal heirs. The son of the deceased or daughter or those who are going to enjoy the property must pay the maintenance to the senior citizen or aged parents. That has to be clarified in this Bill.

With these words, I am welcoming and supporting the Bill. I am also congratulating the Minister for introducing this landmark Bill.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: New Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan will spoke.

...(Interruption)



SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, I may also be allowed to speak. ...(*Interruption*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan is a sear citizen that is way I have called him to speak.

...(*Interruption*)

[*English*]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, can I speak for five minutes?

I rise to support this Bill. There is a provision in our Constitution towards maintenance of persons with some disability. After 60 years of Independence, we have now come to a stage to take up the responsibility of maintaining aged persons. When we became independent, the longevity of life was too short. Now, after the passing of years, the death rate has reduced and the longevity of human life has increased to a considerable extent. Now there are senior citizens above the above 70 of 80 who are in lakhs of numbers. The percentage also has increased. I do not have the exact figures with me. But it is quite certain that the number of people deserving to be maintained has considerably increased. Our constitutional obligation has now been taken up. The Bill is a laudable step in the right direction.

Sir, we have some traditional values in India. As per the Hindu philosophy the *Karnavar* or the Head of the family is considered to be the most respected member of the family. When we were following the joint family system, we were duty-bound by traditional values to maintain the aged head of the family and that is the main content of Hindu philosophy. Hinduism believed in such values. But, unfortunately, I do not know, how our new friends in the BJP have taken up this matter. But it is the bounden duty of every Hindu to maintain the Head of the family. It is not only in Hinduism but in all families it is now existing in India.

The Hindutwa philosophy has been taken up. But nobody has taken up the philosophy of maintaining the senior citizens. Fortunately, they have taken up this matter. We all speak about Hindu philosophy, its kindness, its greatness and all these things. We even propagate on political gains. We talk of vote bank. But the poor senior citizen is not a vote bank. So, he is duly neglected by the people who are propagating Hindu philosophy. The

head of the family is the most important person. That is our traditional value and we will have to maintain it.

After the Partition came, each and every member of the family got his share and gone away. The head of the family is left unlocked, uncared and unwept. Not only that. It is so not only regarding aged male members but even the widowed people are also left in darkness. Their condition has become miserable and there is nobody to look after them. It is the bounden duty of the society to take up the cause of senior citizens including widows.

We have another provision in our law. I am a lawyer for a long time. We have the Criminal Procedure Code as amended in 1973. There is a provision for maintenance in that Act also. But that is a cumbersome procedure. We have a bitter experience that widows or deserted wives, craving for maintenance, who are deserted are approaching the maintenance courts constituted under the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code. It will take years to get the maintenance awarded.

There occurs inordinate delay in getting maintenance for the disserted wife and widowed woman. It is a matter of curse for the society. How to make it correct? How can we get easier maintenance for these deserted women? The Criminal Procedure Code and subsequent functioning of the Family Courts did not proceed much. We have a plenty of Family Courts apart from criminal courts which are dealing with the matter under the Criminal Procedure Code. But these courts could not satisfy this social evil. Now we are taking up this matter in a legalised form and this Bill is the result of that effort. I welcome it.

At the same time, there are some points which have to be noted very eagerly. The first thing is that as per the provisions of this Act, a Tribunal will be appointed. A person who is aggrieved that his sons and daughters or heirs are not looking after him can apply to the Tribunal for getting maintenance. If he is still not happy with its decision, there will be an Appellate Tribunal for each and every district which will be presided by a District Magistrate. In the case of Tribunals, these will be presided by a Sub-Divisional Officer. The petition will have to be decided in three months by the Tribunal and time is also limited in the case of Appellate Tribunal. The decision of the Appellate Tribunal shall be final and there is no provision for second appeal. This is the position. I do appreciate it. But the question is how to work it. That is the major question.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

There is a provision for some punishment also in this Bill. It is for punishment of three months. If there is any default in payment of maintenance, there will be one month punishment. Let it be there. The question is not the punishment but how to get it. There is another provision in this Bill which is defective in many ways. Sons and children who are taking share from the guardian are the legal heirs and it will apply to them if they neglect the parents. Let it be. Only heirs are not doing it. A son who is affluent and is an earning person, he is believed to be liable for maintaining his aged father whether he has inherited property or not is immaterial because being a son, he is duty-bound to maintain his father during his old age. There is no dispute about that. But unfortunately, there is a provision that if he is inheriting property of the father, then alone he will be liable. That is not correct. A son may not inherit property. The father is maintaining his baby even at the time when he was born and the father has brought him up as a grown up man. After growing up, he becomes a rich man in the society. Then, even though he has not inherited a pie from his father, he should be legally bound to maintain his father. He should also come within the purview of this Act. We should not let him go. There are sons, who are earning lakhs of rupees, but his father may not have been able to earn so much during his time, but he had maintained his son during his childhood. If that is the position, that is not good. All sons and children, and legal heirs should maintain their parents irrespective of whether they inherit any property or not. Only testamentary obligation is not enough. He must be made liable.

With regard to establishment of old age homes in each and every district, the State Governments should be helped. The Central Government should find funds to be given to the State Governments for establishing old age homes in each and every district. Without that, the State Governments may not be able to do it and they will not do it. The Act will remain on paper unless the financing aspect of the matter is taken care offer establishment of old age homes. It is not good.

So, there must be provision in the statute and the State Governments should be financed by the Central Government also towards the implementation of this Act.

I now come to the health problem of senior citizens. Medical Department is made liable now but that is not enough. It must be specified that every senior citizen will get physical aid whenever he approaches a Government

medical hospital or a primary health centre. He should get immediate assistance. There must be some arrangement so that treatment towards senior citizens is made a separate duty for each and every surgeon. That must be made specific.

These provisions will have to be correctly implemented through the State Governments. The Central Government should take the initiative to see that this Bill is implemented in the true spirit of the word and senior citizens who are now uncared for do get some concessions and some relief at their old age.

The Minister must be careful. Her speech is not enough. She should take initiative to see that each and every word of the Bill is implemented in the right sense and spirit. I think Minister Meira Kumari will take the initiative and the old people will always remember her.

I am doing one thing in my constituency. I have constructed old age homes for senior citizens in my constituency with the MPLAD Fund. MPLAD fund is being utilised for that purpose. I have constructed three or four old age homes in my constituency towards maintaining the senior citizens with the help of MPLAD funds. ...  
(Interruptions')

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY (Berhampore, West Bengal): You will be rehabilitated there.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : This is my experience. With these words, I support the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (PATNA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Maintenance and Welfare of parents and Senior Citizens Bill, 2007.

I am grateful to hon'ble Minister Shrimati Meira Kumar who has brought such an historical Bill in the House. Really, there was a need of it and as per that need he has brought a very good Bill which better late than never. The Bill is historic and commendable.

Sir, India has its own civilization and culture and there has been its own history. I think, the people not only from our country but also from other countries have been learning about the civilization and culture of this country. I think, the way by which the condition of our civilization and culture is now deteriorating is a matter of

great concern. This is the India to which history is the testimony that son like Shrawan Kumar, who, while serving his parents, had attained the popularity as an obedient son, was born here only. Each person wants to have a child like Shrawan Kumar who had got his parents enjoy the places of pilgrimage by carrying them on his shoulders because there was no transportation facility at that time. This is the India where when Shri Ganesh, the son of God Shankar, was asked to take a round of the whole world, he did His course completed by saying that He has taken a round of His parents. It has been our civilization and culture that we are brought up and nourished in joint families. Here have been the people who have honoured the parents more than God. Today, 60 years have passed since the country became independent. We are going to adopt the modern culture. Today there is no one to look after the parents. Not to speak of the concept of joint family, even the children are not ready to take care of their parents. It is the mother who nurtures her child in her womb till nine months, gives birth to him with great penance and pain, but the same child having grown up does not care of her. He does not want even to see that mother. The parents bring up and grow their children, but when the parents retire and are not in position to earn a livelihood in old age, they have the expectations from their children. In what conditions are they living now? Somewhere they are being kept in cowshed, near the door of the house and hardly served loaves of dry bread in the tin platter. We all coming from the rural background know this thing.

Now the situation is deteriorating very much. I am speaking with a great pain. Where we were and where we are going now? Due to greediness of wealth how our society is getting deteriorated. The result of it is that some of the children are even killing their parents. What kind of society is being formed? Definitely, it is a matter of great concern for us.

In our country the ratio of senior citizens' population is 30 percent of the total population. I would like to show it by giving the figures. The number of senior citizens associated with the unorganized sectors is 90 percent. 30 percent senior citizens are living below the poverty line, 50 percent senior citizens live in villages. Out of them, 13 percent are illiterate and unable to do physical labour. The number of female senior citizens is about 55 percent. Out of this most of the aged women are disregarded in their families. This is the situation before us. People living below the Poverty line are the poor themselves, so are the conditions of their aged persons?

You cannot imagine it. By knowing this you will be horrified. There was no provision for them in law till date.

I would like to give the figure in this regard that the number of aged person is growing day-by-day. Where the population of old aged persons was one crore and 90 lakh in 1951, there this figure has gone up to 7 crore and 70 lakh in 2001.

If the number of elderly persons goes on increasing like this, it is estimated that their number will reach 17 crore 70 lakh by the year 2025. If we do not secure their future, then in coming days they will be left with no other option than committing suicide. That is why many elderly persons are compelled to commit suicide.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, please conclude, because you have already spoken for six minutes.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am describing the present situation of the society in plain words with great agony. I was not allowed to speak on the previous bill also. Therefore, kindly allot me some more time.

While not taking much time, I would like to mention some points. The Government have implemented Old Age Pension Scheme covering 50 lakh people, now it will cover 7 crore people. The Government have enacted a new legislation in this regard under which provision of pension has been made for the persons above 60 years. I would like to thank the Government for this. But the situation is getting grim and due attention is not being paid towards senior citizens. In the joint family, the condition of mother-father, Aunt-Uncle is very pathetic.

They will definitely get a basic support after passing of this bill. The Government has made provisions in the law. The hon'ble Minister has said that Centre would provide funds for health services on demand by the State Governments. But I would like to suggest that the Government of India should itself take the initiative and give the said amount directly to the old people. When an elderly person falls sick, nobody cares for him, and it becomes difficult for him to get even two square meals. He must be convinced by your words. It has been stated that Old Age Homes will be set up through one-two NGOs, it is a good thing that the Central Government is itself taking the initiative to set up these Old Age Homes.

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

But I understand that there is a need to further strengthen this law.

What kind of arrangement for monitoring would be made? The Government would allocate funds is the mechanism being set up under the law proving effective or not? Who will ensure it? Law are enacted in abundance but scarcely abided by, so they should be complied with.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): You should speak briefly. If a prominent leader like you speaks for one-two minutes, it is sufficient, please cooperate.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Last time, I sat down on your request. Sir, I was saying that there should be a mechanism for monitoring to ensure proper implementation of law and the benefit of provisions made in the law reach the parents.

I will not take much time because again and again you are directing me to sit down. I would like to say that the percentage of octogenarians is 6.5 percent and in coming days it will be 13 percent. Therefore, there is urgent need to pay attention towards them. Through this bill he will make provision for their security and the shortcomings in this regard would definitely be removed and effective steps taken for the welfare of elderly people. While thanking the hon<sup>ble</sup> Minister and UPA Government, I strongly support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY (Sriperumbudur): Sir, I rise to support this Bill. This is a very timely presented Bill. The UPA Government is taking steps to save the rights of the senior citizens. One year back also, it got passed a Bill against atrocities on women and today they are going to pass the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Bill. Today, the life span has extended because of the treatment and medicines people get. The youngsters go outside the country for employment leaving behind their parents in the country. Therefore, for protecting the interest, rights and life of the senior citizens, this Bill has been brought for the consideration of the House and I support it.

One of the very important issues is that they would get Rs. 10,000 as maintenance and it is a welcome step. There is a provision in the CrPC under which the old

parents and even the widows and distressed women could not get more than Rs.500 and for getting Rs.500, they will have to challenge respondent for the years together.

19.00 hrs.

In this Bill there is a provision for payment of Rs. 10,000/-. This is a welcome step. But at the same time there has been a provision made in the Bill, in clause 17, that legal practitioners cannot participate in the event of a dispute. The lawyers and advocates have been discouraged, but in case of a legal problem, the only option left for the civil society is to approach legal redressal.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You may please wait for a minute.

Hon. Members, I have a list of eleven Members who want to speak on this very Bill and the time of the House was extended till 7 P.M. What is the opinion of the House?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We would sit up to 8 P.M.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: So, the time of the House is extended for one more hour.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Any man facing problem in his life, he knocks the door of an advocate to seek redressal. But clause 17 provides that the legal practitioners shall not participate and simultaneously it has also been provided that if anybody files case in a court of the Magistrate, they can withdraw their cases. If anyone wants an order through the courts and if they take the legal course, then they would have to approach the criminal courts and can file cases under CrPC.

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Then do not support the Bill.

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY: I am only making suggestions to the hon. Minister. In Tribunals advocates are not allowed. It is a very serious matter. Why would these people have to file a case only in the Tribunals? Most of them do not know whether there exists something called a Tribunal or not. A year back this august House passed the Domestic Violence Bill regarding atrocities on women. Now, how many women have complaint about violence in the Tribunal? How many people have been convicted under this Act? There is already an all women police station in every district. They are dealing with the

problems relating to the families. Affected women do not want to approach the courts, they normally do not want to file cases against their husbands. If such women seek legal redressal and if they go by the provisions as contained in that Bill, then their husband either would be fined or imprisoned. But if the Government considers allowing legal practitioners to participate in this, then they could provide them with the right kind of advice and they could take them through the Tribunal.

SHRI B. MAHTAB : Are you asking for an assurance from the Minister?

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : The hon. Minister should respond to this point.

Now, in every district there is an old age home. How many old age homes does the Government propose to set up in each district of the country? There could be a thousand old age people seeking shelter in an old age home in a district; in some districts there could be 2,000 such people and in some districts the number could even be more. Would the Government provide only one old age home in every district? No mention of that has been made in this Bill. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*) ...\*

SHRI A. KRISHNASWAMY : Sir, I support this Bill. There are a few very good clauses in this Bill, however, it requires a little more improvement through the addition of a few new clauses.

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK (Kendrapara): Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Bill, 2007. This is a very important Bill as it seeks more effective provisions for the maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens guaranteed under the Constitution.

Sir, senior citizens are the most neglected persons in our country. Their own children for whom they have spent so much money and worked hard throughout their life throw them on the streets when their parents become old and sick. In some cases, property and money are taken from the aged parents and then they are neglected and tortured. The joint family system is gradually

disappearing from our society. Hence, there is an urgent need to bring more stringent laws to punish the people who show disregard and neglect towards their parents. There are a number of aged parents who are victims of cruel treatment at the hands of their own sons and daughters-in-law.

More old-age homes should be set up in every district in the country. The Central Government should allot more funds to the State Governments in this regard. Provision should be made in the Bill so that free medical facilities are available to senior citizens who do not have any other person to look after them. Some old-age homes should be set up by the Government where the inmates can stay there giving payment for their food, security and medical facilities.

Similarly, those elderly persons living alone in the houses are subject to theft and exploitation. Law should be made more stringent to ensure the safety of such elderly citizens in the country.

In some cases, the parents might have spent everything for their children. They might not have any house or money to live. In such a situation, it is the duty of the children to look after the parents. They should not deny their duty to look after the parents on the pretext that they have not given property or money.

Above all, a number of laws have been made by the Government which remain only in our statute book. Therefore, unless and until laws are implemented effectively, such laws have no use to the society. Hence, I urge upon the Government to ensure effective implementation of the law made by us.

Another point is that the cases relating to the neglect of senior or old-age persons should be settled in a time-bound manner. Justice delayed is justice denied.

With these words, I support Shrimati Meira Kumar, hon. Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment for bringing this important Bill which will bring comfort and help to the old as well as senior citizens of the country.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, I rise to support this good piece of legislation, namely, the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Bill, 2007.

Sir, the hon. Minister, in her speech, made some important points which are helping us to understand the contents of the Bill.

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\*Not recorded.

[Shri Prabodh Panda]

Many good things are there. Many good things that have been said are like the Directive Principles of our Constitution. But I must say that there is a slip between cup and lip.

In the Financial Memorandum of this Bill, no amount is mentioned. Everything is left to the State Governments. The financial condition of the States is known to all of us. I am talking about old-age homes. More than 600 districts are there in our country. If we go to the sub-divisional level, the number will be more. But it is not sufficient if we construct old-age homes even at the sub-divisional level. We are required to construct old-age homes at the block level.

I appreciate this Bill as it will be helpful to the children of affluent parents, upper middle class parents and middle class parents. But what about the poor people? I would like to draw your attention to Clause 9. It provides:

"If children or relatives, as the case may be, neglect or refuse to maintain a senior citizen being unable to maintain himself, the Tribunal may, on being satisfied of such neglect or refusal, order such children or relatives to make a monthly allowance at such monthly rate for the maintenance of such senior citizen, as the Tribunal may deem fit and to pay the same to such senior citizen as the Tribunal may, from time to time, direct.

All these things are there. So many agencies have conducted surveys. It is known to us that poor people, like marginal farmers and labourers, earn not more than Rs. 20 per day. How can a person who earns just Rs. 20 per day on an average maintain his parents? He is not able to maintain himself. Nothing is said about it.

My point is that, if we want this legislation to be effective, then it should be translated into practice. We have to make serious efforts. Our hon. Minister should apply her mind so that all the poor families can be covered under the provisions of this Bill.

More money should be given to the State Governments. Even *panchayats* should be involved. Otherwise, that cannot be done.

The next point is about the time taken to settle the cases. The hon. Minister also mentioned this point. How long will applying to the Tribunals and passing judgements take? This is a matter of concern. This is a very important thing.

Coming to the Tribunals, the District Magistrate is the Appellate Authority. It is said that the SDOs or the officers of the rank of the SDOs will conduct and monitor all these things. They are over loaded. My request is that a separate mechanism should be constituted for this. Putting more load on the district administration or on the sub-divisional administration is not correct.

There are so many Departments for the welfare of the people, like Department of Youth, Department of Children, etc. So, a Department to take care of the senior citizens should be constituted. This is most urgently needed. There is nothing new in this Bill. Only some good wishes are there.

There are no clauses for the monetary allocations and for applications of these ideas. So, I am concerned about it. I express my apprehension in this regard that how far it will be implemented and how far this idea would be translated into practice.

Sir, with these few words, I support the Bill.

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA (Janjgir): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir sticking to your orders, I will speak in brief, Hon'ble Minister Shrimati Meira Kumar has brought the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Bill, 2007. I welcome this Bill. We are honouring this Bill, and our sentiments are also attached with this Bill. No one had imagined that after 60 years of independence, our elderly persons, parents would be in this state and we all honestly accept that it is we people who have driven them to this condition. Today the country may have become independent, telecom revolution may have happened, we have become self reliant in food, we have made progress through various schemes, we have earned good name in foreign countries, but we have lost our values, culture and virtuous conduct. We cannot hold any party responsible for it, all of us are responsible for it. Because after independence we did not pay attention in this regard. Why this issue arises. . . (Interruptions) Varmaji, you may also express your views. Probably, we have followed western culture after the independence. We have started calling our 'ma' as Mom, 'Pita' as Dad and relations of 'Tau', 'Chacha', 'Chachi', 'Bua', 'Fufa' have got lost in Uncle and Aunti and probably due to this our elders are compelled to lead such a pitiable life.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Meeraji has included many clauses in the Bill. An hon'ble Member was championing the cause of the poor. As far as I

understand, this bill has not been brought for the poor. Such anomalies do not exist in the poor families. They give similar respect to their parents, as Raja Ram had given to Dashrath and Kaushalya. They respect their parents like Shravan Kumar. This bill has been brought for rich Indians living in foreign countries. This bill has been brought for the welfare of parents of IAS and IPS officers in Government jobs and persons of similar rank in non-government jobs. I am saying all these things because I have seen such stories on TV and more over I have undergone such an experience with a family. I am taking care of parents of that family. They have three sons and a daughter. That mother would never had imagined this day as when her sons were born, she has celebrated their birth and now in old age her three sons have got registered the house in their names and are not giving maintenance to their parents. One can imagine that when they fall sick, their children get them admitted to the Government Hospital and give Rs. 100-200 to hospital for giving meal to them twice a day but what happens when the canteen remains closed on Sunday? Then that old woman sleeps empty stomach on that day. This bill has been probably brought for rich persons who do not take care of their parents.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have two-three suggestions, after that I will conclude my speech. My first suggestion is that first of all TV serials on family relations should be banned. If anybody has ruined our culture, it is the serials based on the family relations. In TV serial, 'Ghar Ghar ki Kahani', hatching of conspiracy is being taught, and 'Saas bhi kabhi Bahu Thi' serial is showing, how a mother-in-law and daughter-in-law commit atrocities against each other. Unless these serials are banned, our culture, will not get preserved, the pride of the country will not be maintained and the ethics and behaviour of the people of country will not improve. I understand that these should be definitely banned.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government has left everything on the State Governments. I do not doubt the intentions of the State Governments, they have the will to work. Unless the Union Government makes funds available to the State Governments, this work will not be completed. Similarly, there is proposal to set up Old Age Homes. The person who has led his entire life in the village with his relations and neighbours, will not go to the Old Age Homes. The Government should implement this scheme at development blocks level, then only welfare of elderly persons will be possible.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the Government has made a mention of Old Age Homes, and it appears that the Government thinks that these persons have grown very old. My suggestion is that this word should be replaced by 'Senior Citizen Home'. This 'Home' should have all facilities so that these people may not miss the support of their families, which have abandoned them and they may be able to live with this family in the Home.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our country has started following western culture and we are losing our culture due to the impact of western culture. The country where question mark is put on the name of Ram, the elderly people of country meet this kind of treatment, efforts are made to destroy the culture and history of the country, there the elderly people will not get respect by enactment of law, but by following our tradition and culture. I welcome the Bill brought by the hon'ble Minister.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please be very brief. Please give your suggestions.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : Sir, our hon. Members have already spoken very little.

At the outset, I would like to say that the hon. Minister deserves to be applauded loudly for piloting this outstanding Bill which will usher in an era of social security for the elderly people of our country. The Bill titled as Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Bill, 2007 will be a watershed in the history of our legislation. One old man says:

"I have no more thing to offer to the world as I am growing old. But if peace and security can be provided, I will be remaining youth and bold."

Therefore, the social security net is an imperative to sustain the growth and development of our country. The founding fathers of our Constitution envisaged it and incorporated it in the Directive Principles of our Constitution. Article 41 says that the State should provide social assistance to the aged people of our country. The aged people should not be treated as our burden rather they should be treated as wealth especially for the progeny because their experience and expertise that they gathered throughout their career will render very good service to our generations to come. It will help to enrich our moral values.

[Shri Adhir Chowdhury]

The Bill is quite evident that we are heading towards an age of moral decadence. Therefore, the Government has been compelled to bring forward this legislative document so as to make it mandatory for the children of elderly people to provide maintenance.

We should not expect that overnight the Bill will start acting as an ambrosia for the elderly population. However, we must appreciate, everybody must appreciate, that already we have started a new journey to the path of social security. Financial independence of our elderly will be a great contribution to our country so that they could contribute, so that they could optimally use their free time. Then they should be provided part time jobs also. This legislative document aims at creating an enabling instrument so that the elderly person could earn their need-based requirements for their own livelihood. Provision of maintenance, under Criminal Procedure Code 1913 is in vogue, but as the Minister has already stated that it is cumbersome, it is time-consuming and it is exorbitant. Therefore, the Bill intends to simplify the entire procedure to make it more smooth and facile.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Thank you.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : I will take two or three more minutes. India is now heading towards a progressive demographic situation. In the wake of the eradication of communicable diseases, the life expectancy of our people has increased. I will refer to a few statistics. In the year 1911-12, the life expectancy of Indian people was only 20 years. At the time of Independence, our life expectancy was only 32 years, but now it has increased to 68 years. In the year 1951, the number of aged population was only two crore. In the year, 2001, it is 7.6 crore. In 2026, it is anticipated that the aged population will be growing up to 13.7 crore and in 2030, it is anticipated to reach to 20 crores. The number of persons with 80 or more years of age is also increasing. Himachal Pradesh has already introduced this kind of legislative document, but we ought to study the entire spectrum of the society. In the year 1995 under the Congress regime, National Assistance Scheme for the Aged People was introduced. You will remember that in earlier stages only Rs. 75 was given to the elderly population as a pension. But, now, it has been increased by 200 Rs. with an appeal to the State Government that if they can provide a matching figure, then it could be Rs. 400. We are the country which is poised to home the second largest aged population in the world.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Thank you.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : The elderly population needs physical, economic, psychological and emotional support which they are deprived of.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. K.S. Manoj.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY : As far as West Bengal is concerned, thousands of widows are languishing in Varanasi and other religious places without two square meals. So, I would request hon. Minister to take care of those widows who are languishing their lives in those religious places.

Sir, these elderly persons die twice, once when they retire from the job and second when they retire from the life by saying good bye. So, it is the duty of their heirs to say them good bye at a later stage.

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this very important Bill, namely the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Bill, 2007.

Sir, though I do appreciate the hon. Minister for having introduced this Bill in this House, I fear that the intention of the Bill will not be served. In the Bill, even though there are measures to ensure maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens, the Minister has entrusted everything to the State Governments. The main purpose of this Bill is to constitute merely tribunals and appellate tribunals.

Sir, out of my curiosity, I looked into the Financial Memorandum of this Bill. In the Financial Memorandum, no money is provided from the Consolidated Fund of India. For everything it is mentioned that the existing facilities would be utilized. The Sub Divisional Magistrate will be the Chairperson of the Tribunals and the District Magistrate will be the Chairperson of the Appellate Tribunal. So, only by utilizing the existing facilities, the Minister is seeking to form all these tribunals. I would like to submit that if the real intention of the Bill is to be served, there should be separate facilities and also those facilities should be empowered to function properly.

Then, there are also provisions in this Bill to construct Old Age Homes, at least one in every district, in the country. I personally do not prefer construction of Old Age Homes. There should not be Old Age Homes, but there should be Day Care Centres because in the Old



Age Homes, the senior citizens and all the elderly persons will remain as destitute. They will not be looked after by their children. The children should look after them. Moreover, if Day Care Centres are formed, when they spend last days of their life, during the day time like-minded persons can assemble and share their happiness and sorrows and they can also get mutual support by sharing their views with each other. Apart from constructing Old Age Homes, the Government should form more Day Care Centres. In Malayalam, we call them *Pagal Veedu*. So, I would request the Government to construct more such Day Care Centres in the country.

Then, in our country there is no Geriatric Policy. We have so many policies. We have the Health Policy, we have the Sports Policy and other such policies, but there is no Geriatric Policy. The Minister should pay attention to evolve a Geriatric Policy for senior citizens in future. The hon. Minister is aware that there is no Geriatric Wing in either the Medical Colleges or Government Hospitals. So, in consultation with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, something should be done in this regard. Some research and development should be done because the health problems of senior citizens are very grave.

It is because the life expectancy has increased and because of today's lifestyle diseases like diabetes, hypertension, etc. are there. So, at least, in every district hospital geriatric clinics should be there and proper attention should be given to the senior citizens.

With these few words, I do support this Bill with the request to the hon. Minister that more attention and emphasis should be given to the problems of the senior citizens.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to extend my thanks to you that you gave me an opportunity to speak on the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Bill, 2007. It is a fact that this Bill has been the need of the entire country as has also been indicated in the Bill itself because elderly people are being neglected. Earlier there was a tradition of a joint family and all family members lived together and old parents had social security, as they were useful and important. However, with the spread and influence of western culture and tradition the neglect of aged parents kept on increasing.

As hon'ble Karuna Shukla has said that many children after completing their study have migrated and their parents are being neglected here. This Bill has been primarily moved for them only.

Sir, second thing that I would like to submit is that whenever discussion on this Bill is held it has been observed that the people especially young men and women laugh at the Bill as to what type of Bill it is, however, they forget this fact that tomorrow they will also grow old. So, it is essential that they should take care of their aged parents and provide them security. If they do so their children will also take care of them in coming years when they grow old.

Sir, the earlier provisions of maintenance under the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 has been amended. The hon'ble Minister in this Bill has mentioned about Old Age Homes that will have 150 housing units. I support this proposal. However, it has been mentioned in the Bill that the old age homes will be set up at district level. I want that these homes should be set up at block level, because old parents from rural areas will not like to move away from their homes to other towns or districts. So, efforts should be to set up these homes at the block or Tehsil level. Only then the objective of the Bill will be fulfilled.

Sir, there has been a mention about the medical treatment of the senior citizens in the Bill. I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that free medical treatment should be provided to our senior citizens in CHC or PHC of the districts or in CGHS hospitals. Secondly, regarding the senior citizens hon'ble Karuna Shukla said that when people grow old and become senior citizen their entire movable and immovable properties are usurped by their children. It should be protected. There should be a provision that if anyone inherits his parents' property then he should ensure that he takes care of aged parent till they are alive. It should be made mandatory for the children to take care of their parents as long as they are alive if they inherit their movable and immovable property. Only then the purpose of this Bill will be fulfilled.

Sir, as far the offence involving the abandoning of protected senior citizens is concerned; there is a provision of punishment of only three months imprisonment and a fine of five thousand rupees. It is not sufficient. There should be a punishment of at least three years imprisonment and a fine of about 20-25 thousands rupees. Only then it will be a deterrent. There is also a need to increase the amount of pension for senior citizens.

[Shri Shalendra Kumar]

Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that we are fighting for this cause. So if each voter of India is given a pension of Rs. 1750 p.m., then I feel that it will not only fulfil the objective of the Bill but senior citizens and parents will also feel secured. Along with this I would also like to submit that recently I had gone to participate in the meeting of the Parliamentary Advisory Committee on Ministry of Rural Development. Earlier the Central Government used to release Rs. 75 per senior citizen as the pension to the State Governments. On 19 November the said amount was increased to Rs. 200 on the occasion of birth anniversary of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. The Government of Goa is providing a pension of Rs. 1000 p.m. by contributing on its behalf Rs. 800 and Delhi Government is paying Rs. 600 p.m. as old age pension. Some State governments pay only Rs. 200 which is provided by the Central Government while some states pay Rs. 275 or Rs. 300 per month. I would like that in the Indira Gandhi Old Age Pension Scheme, it should be made mandatory for the State Governments that they provide at least Rs. 1000 to the poor people having BPL cards. The State Government should be compelled to do so only then the objective of the Bill will be fulfilled and our senior citizens would be looked after in a proper manner.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

\*SHRI MOHAN JENA (Jaipur): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on a very important subject. I thank Mrs. Meira Kumar for bringing "The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Bill 2007" for discussion.

Sir, society has undergone a sea-change. Both materialistically and emotionally there is a huge transformation. The traditional value-system which was influencing us for centuries is no longer the same. It has eroded significantly. Nothing is static in this world and thus change is quite natural. But change is not always for the better. The negative aspects of a changed society is more visible now. The repercussions are being brunt by our aging parents, senior citizens and the old and the helpless.

In this context, sir I am reminded of an Oriya short story which I had studied in my school days. The story is called 'Daka Munshi' (Post Master), where a common

man wants his son to be a Bada Sahib (Big officer) when he grows up. He, with his limited means gives higher education to his son and sacrifices a lot to make him an officer. The son ultimately becomes a post-master but his mind changes with his changed status.

He feels ashamed of his downtrodden father and his shabby attire. One day he drives him away from his posh home. This old story reflects the selfishness of the society then. Things have changed for the worst now. Our society is now full of such Daka Munshis. Parents bestow all their love and care on the children, but when they are older, need care and attention, children shirk from their responsibility and betray them. Hence this Bill is very appropriate and timely which will offer protection to our senior citizens.

Sir, as per the reports of the World Economic and Social Survey 2007, the population of older people is likely to increase substantially by 2050 in developing countries as compared to the developed countries. The report implies that by 2050, 79 percent of those aged 60 or above will live in developing countries. The number of the aged in the country has risen from two crores in 1951 to 7.6 crores in 2001. By 2030 India will have to take care of 20 crores of elderly people.

Last October, when we were observing the 'International Day of Older Persons', the Hon. Finance Minister Mr. P.Chidambaram had said that all the poor, helpless and old people will get old-age pension. How far have we progressed in this direction? Is there any systematic survey as to find out whether the existing pension amount is reaching the target population or not?

Sir, it seems the officials, who implement the policies of the Government have no sincerity. In many families disputes relating to property is being observed. In many cases aged parents are being driven out of their own homes. They are either begging in the streets or lying in a forlorn geriatric ward. There is nobody to look after their treatment or well-being. Sometimes they are being murdered. Every other day we come across these type of news. Especially in cities, this kind of apathy is rampant. We have nearly 75 million elderly persons in our country. We have to be concerned for them. If we don't care for the weaker sections of our population like, the old, the physically challenged, blind or women, how can we claim to be a welfare state? The Government must take up such welfare measures. Its already too late.

\* English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Oriya.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister, to some aspects of the Bill. Firstly in chapter 1, Section 2(b), it has been mentioned that 'maintenance' includes provision for food, clothing, residence and medical attendance and treatment. Sir, I want to tell you that old parents are not animals that they will be satisfied with the bare minimum needs. Everybody wants a life of dignity. Hon. Supreme Court has given the directive that the phrase 'Right to Life' under Fundamental Right is to mean Right to Life with dignity. Thus the word dignity must find a place in this Bill.

Secondly Sir, if we go through Section A of chapter II, it feels as if the state has no responsibility. The word Government or State should find a mention here.

Thirdly Sir, while going through the chapter IV on Offences and Procedure, it seems as if there is a lenient view towards the offender. There should be provision of exemplary punishment, in the form of imprisonment and fine.

Fourthly Sir, this Bill mentions about establishment of Old Age Homes. Instead of districts every block should have a 'Old Age Home', which will really benefit the people. In those homes the inmates should not be ill-treated and if they are neglected, the staff should be punished. The punishment should be severe.

Lastly Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Minister to another important matter. It is seen that the Homes are sometimes managed by NGOs. Only those NGOs with very good track record should be given this responsibility. NGOs with doubtful credentials who may embezzle fund should not be given the management of Old Age Homes.

Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Bill has been moved with a noble purpose. Its objective is noble, its ultimate goal is good, however, the required means, the financial management has been neglected. In fact, it is a very important subject which the Government want to leave at the door of the State Governments. Some newspapers have also made their observations from *The Indian Express* dated 2 December, 2006:

"The proposed legislation for senior citizens misses a major point: economic problems can best be solved with economic tools."

[Translation]

Now if there is no means, then how will it work?

October, 2007:

[English]

Now, I quote from the 'Telegraph' dated 4th October, 2007.

"Loving wisely and well: Instead of involving the State, the new Senior Citizens Bill makes relatively solely responsible for their elders."

[Translation]

Somat Bhosal has written like this

[English]

The Indian Express dated 5th May 2007 says: "Good idea, bad law.

The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Bill...

[Translation]

It is to be note whatever has been said about it.

[English]

It says:

"The Bill neatly sidesteps the directive in the Constitution (Article 41), which directs the State to provide public assistance in cases of old age. The Bill does state that, 'The State Government may establish and maintain such number of old age homes at accessible places, as it may deem necessary, in a phased manner, beginning with at least one in each district to accommodate in such homes a minimum of 150 senior citizens who are indigent.' ..."

It further says: "... Note the use of 'may' instead of 'shall'."

[Translation]

It depends on their will whether they will do it or not. Till date, it has not been done. A nice Bill has been moved. Its objectives have also been mentioned. The Bill will put in place a system to provide need based maintenance to parents and senior citizens, however, where are necessary resources? The necessary inputs and other infrastructure required for the smooth functioning of the system has been left out. It has been mentioned

[Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya]

in the financial statement that since the project will be implemented in a phased manner so there will be no financial implication of the project on the consolidated fund of India. However, if there are no funds for this, then, how will it be implemented? The hon'ble Minister has said that necessary arrangements are going to be made for the medical treatment. It has been mentioned in chapter four-that the Government hospitals, Government aided hospitals will provide beds to the senior citizens as far as possible. Hence, it is mentioned 'as far as possible' while it should have been ten percent, twenty percent or any fixed percentage because only then it could have become mandatory. There is a need to make it binding on them. The Bill that has been moved must contain binding provisions as without doing so the Bill will not be effective. There should be a provision of a separate queue for senior citizens. It is ok that there will be separate lines for them, however who will ensure it? All these things have been left out. Medical facility will be provided to senior citizens for the treatment of incurable diseases, but how much amount will be provided for this purpose? It is a good thing that research activities regarding incurable old age diseases are proposed to be expanded. The Government should do it. The research regarding the treatment of old age diseases is to be done to gain experience. How much money is to be spent-how much will be spent on the treatment of some one's ailment who will bear that cost? It is true that intention is good. Intention may be noble but where is the way and without the way, one cannot reach the goal.

The Standing Committee has also pointed out in its report. The moment the State Governments adopt this act, it will be the responsibility of the State Government to implement its provisions that includes setting up of necessary infrastructure and provision of facilities. What is being done to meet needs of required infrastructure? In short, it is a very good step. The Indian Express has written, 'Good idea, bad law'. The law is not bad, law is good, however, we should incorporate some mandatory clauses in it to make this law effective.

Ours is Lok Sabha. You are here and some senior Members are also present here. 'Na sa Sabha Yatra na Santi Vridha'- It has been said that people should be everywhere. However, it is possible only when aged people survive. They will survive only when we protect them. 'Vridha na te na Vadanti Dharmam'- About the elderly people it has been said that one who talks about Dharma, observe Dharma and talks about principles of

Dharma is an old man. 'Dharmah sa no Yatra na Satyamsti'- where there is no truth, there is no Dharma. 'Satyam na tad Yat Chhalem Abhiyupatti'-where there is deceit, it cannot be truth.

We should work for implementing all these things that we have discussed here for the welfare of senior citizens. Their population in the country has been increasing constantly. In 1951, the population in the age group of 60 year and above was 2 crore which increased to 5.7 crore in 1991. In 2007 their population has reached 7.6 crore and in 2013 their population is likely to be increased to 19.8 crore. The population of India is ageing but what will be done to utilize the services of those aged persons for the prosperity of India. The life expectancy of the people is increasing with the increasing medical facilities. In 1947 life expectancy was 29 years which is now 63 years. The population of old persons is increasing so we should think about their welfare. Every chapter of this Bill is very good, all the chapter are well thought and have been prepared with a good intention, however, allocation is required to be made for this. So what measures are to be taken for this? The hon'ble Minister of Finance had made a statement in which too he has said that he is going to make some arrangement in this regard. The Government should make arrangement and along with this it should enact laws.... *(Interruptions)*. The objective of this Bill is not going to be accomplished unless the resources that are required for this purpose are arranged. Whatever is said about aged persons is less. In fact, the words fall short to describe their contribution for the prosperity of the country. So the Central Government and the State Governments should certainly take measures to express their gratitude towards the old persons.

19.53 hrs

(SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the chair*)

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has also come here. He will also be inclined to do all these things. However, how it will be done and who will do, who will take lead? All are silent on this issue. I am requesting to provide financial assistance for this. By the way it is said in our country-

Abhivadan Shalisya  
Nitya Vridhopsevinah  
Chatwari Taaya Vridhyante  
Ayuaah Vidha Yashovalam

So, there are three thousand organizations in our country which are serving and providing treatment to the aged people. It costs Rs. 10,000 to keep one old person in an old age home. Who will bear Rs. 10,000. Old age is in itself a disease so what should be done to care this disease and to provide means of survival to the old people. You are also in this category, however, there are many people who are going to join this age group, because those who are born will certainly grow old. So, I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that he should take into account all these measures. He has toiled a lot to prepare this Bill, however, in order to make this effort meaningful and effective the Government should take all necessary measures on its own instead of depending on the State Governments. The measures have been taken in the financial provision for the said purpose and there should be no anomaly in it.... (*Interruptions*).

At the end it has been said that the existing infrastructure will be used for this purpose and there is no possibility of additional expenditure in this regard. It is a noble act to say a good thing about old people and to work for their welfare. However, if this purpose is served without providing required resources by saying only good things about them then it should certainly be done. But I know and you also know that for doing any work resources are also required. The Government should take the responsibility to arrange resources for meeting those requirements. I hope that in coming days the Government will certainly take necessary measures to fulfil those requirements.

Sir, the Bill has been moved with a good intension, so, I welcome this Bill. I will certainly like to request the Government that it should provide financial resources for the said purpose.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Shivanna, do not take much time. It is already late.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Shivannaji, myself and yourself will become senior citizens after so many years.

We will have to send it to the Rashtrapati Bhawan. Please take one minute only.

[*Translation*]

\*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamarajnagar): Sir, the Hon. Minister Smt. Meira Kumar Ji has brought a very significant Bill regarding maintenance and welfare of senior

citizens. So I would like to congratulate the Hon'ble Minister for bringing the historic Bill before the House.

Our country is known for joint family system but these days joint families are disintegrating. All the members of the family-father, mother and children were living under the same roof. As it was already stated my colleague Smt. Karuna Shaukla Ji, parents of IAS, IPS officers and other high ranking officers are facing great difficulties. Many parents of these officers have sacrificed their lives for their children to make them officers and to give them a good life. Unfortunately, some parents of these children are being ill treated. I want to cite an example of my village a family of four members father, mother and two children. Now the two children have become officers, their parents have sacrificed every thing for them. But now both these parents are thrown out on the street by both the children. It is a matter of great concern that the parents who have sacrificed to build the future of their children are neglected.

Therefore, I would like to suggest only few things about this Bill. All the senior citizens irrespective of caste, creed, sex should be given old age pension of atleast Rs.2000/- per month. All the Government hospitals and private nursing homes should be made available for free treatment to all the senior citizens. The Government should bring an insurance scheme for the senior citizens and the premium amount should be paid by the Government on behalf of the senior citizens.

Sufficient funds should be provided to the State Governments to set up old age homes at the Panchayat level.

As concession for senior citizens is provided for Train and Bus journeys the Airlines should also provide similar concession for the senior citizens.

The Government should ensure safety and security of the senior citizens in all respects. With these words, once again, I congratulate the Hon. Minister and I conclude my speech.

20.00 hrs.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now it is 8 o'clock. We will extend the time of the House, with your consent, by half an hour. By that time, we will be able to pass this Bill.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

\*English Translation of the Speech originally delivered in Kannada.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI SUSMITA BAURI (Vishnupur): Sir, I am thankful to you that you gave me an opportunity to speak. I support this Bill. I would like to extend my congratulation to the hon'ble Minister that she has moved this Bill today at the right time. Today, 60 years of our independence have been completed and we know the condition of old people. People do not take care of their parents these days and they consider them a burden. Parents bear all types of hardships and bring up their children by sacrificing their own pleasures and comforts. I support whatever has been said by hon'ble Member Shrimati Karuna Shukla that if parents file a case in the court under Section 125 against their children for the maintenance, they fail to pursue the case wholeheartedly as the adversary is also their own blood. Though they are their parents yet their children do not want to take care of them. I support this Bill about which all the hon'ble Members have expressed their views. Presently there has been a trend of nuclear family i.e. 'we two-our two' that does not have any place for old parents. The adverse impact of a nuclear family is being felt by the small children as well, because nobody is there in the family to tell them folk tales and so most of the time child sticks to television viewing. The impact of this is that criminal tendencies are developing in children. So it is a good Bill. Regarding the provisions made about the old age persons I would like to submit that the old age homes should be set up at the block level as well and the money required for this purpose should be provided by the State Government?:

Since there is paucity of time, so without saying anything more, I conclude and extend my thanks to the Minister for bringing this Bill.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Members, I am sorry to intervene, but this Bill has to go to Rajya Sabha tomorrow and it has to be passed before the end of this session. That is the difficulty. I would only agree with you.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Sir, I am pleased to see Maintenance and Welfare of Senior Citizen Bill, 2007 and I feel that my longstanding demand is

being fulfilled. When I looked into its financial implication, I found that there is no financial provision in it because there is no financial burden on the Government on account of this. The Government intend to formulate laws to rein in those persons who do not take care of their parents and want to implement it through a tribunal; however, the purpose for which the law is being enacted is not going to be fulfilled by merely formulating the law.

This objective cannot be achieved by law because our civilization, culture and traditions have been of the highest order in the world. As he has also said that even the mother-in-law was daughter-in-law at one point of time, so the daughter-in-law should also be conscious of the fact that she would also become mother-in-law one day. It is said that women are themselves responsible for the exploitation of women. I have seen that today the young people are more attached to their in-laws than their parents. I had a foreigner friend. I have heard from him that he was in office when he received the news of his father's death and on receiving this news he gave the contract for the funeral of his father on the telephone itself. Such is the foreign culture. However, we have a thousands of years old culture of respecting our elders and seeking their blessings without which we do not initiate any work. Saint Sewa Lalji Maharaj had once said that when a rupee would fetch only bowl of water, the son would find it a burden to take care of his mother. Such is the situation prevailing today. I would like to say that there should be some provision in the Bill for the propagation of the same through T.V. and Radio.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: This is already being Publicised on T.V. currently.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: The preachings, of our saints should be shown on T.V. They tell good things and are making efforts to save our culture and values.

This Bill is merely window-dressing and is not going to make any significant change. There is a need to increase the allocation under the Rajiv Gandhi Niradhar Yojana and the Indra Gandhi Niradhar Yojana. When we visit a village, it is commonly observed that everybody wants to talk to an elder person having good money as he is in possession of mean to survive.

Supporting this Bill, I would like to say that if you give Rs. 1750 to every voter, then all problems would be solved.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister can speak now. You have covered all the points in your introductory speeches.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are sixteen hon. Members who have taken part in the debate. I am very grateful to them for having supported this Bill wholeheartedly. I am also grateful to them for their very valuable suggestions.

I would have very much liked to go into all the details but, as you know, we are running short of time. So, I would say that all their suggestions are noted down very meticulously including yours, Mr. Chairman, and we will consider them when we implement this Bill. Of course, we will also be making rules and regulations and we will also be making various schemes. I would very much like to include all these valuable suggestions while doing that.

I just want to say to you, Sir, and all the hon. Members that the sense of the House says that we greatly respect our elders and we appreciate and value the services they have rendered to our society and our country. Through this Bill, we want to give them the place and respect that we have in our hearts for them. We want to show them how much we care for them and how much we want to do for them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no controversy in this Bill.

The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for more effective provisions for the maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens guaranteed and recognized under the Constitution and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

#### Clause 2

##### Definition

*Amendments made:*

Page 2, line 16, -

*omit* "and includes parent whether or not a senior citizen". (1) Page 2, *after* line 19, *insert*, -

'(k) "welfare" means provision for food, health care, recreation centers and other amenities necessary for the senior citizen.'. (2)

(Shrimati Meira Kumar)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 3 and 4 were added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 5

##### Application for Maintenance

*Amendments made:*

Page 3, *after* line 14,—

*omit* "as far as possible". (3) Page 3, *after* line 15, *insert*, —

"Provided that the Tribunal may extend the said period, once for a maximum period of thirty days in exceptional circumstances for reasons to be recorded in writing.". (4)

(Shrimati Meira Kumar)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 6 was added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 7

##### Contribution of maintenance tribunal

*Amendment made:*

Page 4, line 14,—

*for* "may", *substitute* "shall within a period of six months from the date of the commencement of this Act". (5)

(Shrimati Meira Kumar)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 7, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 7, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*Clauses 8 to 30 were added to the Bill.*

**Motion Re : Suspension of Rule 80 (I)**

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: I beg to move:

"That this House do suspend clause (I) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 6\* to the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Bill, 2007 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do suspend clause (I) of rule 80 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in so far as it requires that an amendment shall be within the scope of the Bill and relevant to the subject matter of the clause to which it relates, in its application to the Government amendment No. 6\* to the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Bill, 2007 and that this amendment may be allowed to be moved."

Vide Amendment List No. 1 circulated on 4.12.2007.

*The motion was adopted.*

#### **New Clause 30A**

#### **Power to review of the Central Government**

*Amendment made:*

Page 8, after line 4, insert, —

"30A. The Central Government may make periodic review and monitor the progress of the implementation of the provisions of this Act by the State Governments." (6)

(Shrimati Meira Kumar)

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That new clause 30A be added to the Bill."

*The motion was adopted. New Clause 30A was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 31 was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we will take up 'Zero Hour'.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): Sir, if the Members want to speak on the same subject, I think only association will be allowed.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): Sir, after the assumption of office by the UPA at the Centre, 580 new line projects have been announced, out of which, for nearly 250 projects, positive survey results were submitted to the Ministry of Railways and they are kept pending for consideration.

One such Railway project, which is pending, is Erode — Palani *via* Dharapuram new Railway line. It connects Chennimalai — Kangayam which are famous for textiles, modern rice mills and made-goods. From these places, rice is exported to various parts of the country and abroad through various modes of transport. Moreover, Chennimalai and Palani are famous abode of Lord Karthik and it attracts lakhs of devotees from within the country and abroad.

Hence, I urge upon the Ministry of Railways to take up Erode - Palani *via* Dharapuram new Railway line project on priority basis. It should be approved as early



as possible and necessary funds have to be allocated in the coming Budget for this project.

[Translation]

SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE (Akola): Sir, we have been demanding since long the gauge-conversion of Akola-Khandwa railway line falling under the Central Railways. This railway line is 50 year old, which used to connect Kachiguda-Ajmer. The work of gauge conversion from Kachiguda to Purna has already been completed while the work upto Akola is likely to be completed by February, 2008. Further, there is an urgent need to complete the work upto Akola-Khandwa station at the earliest. With the implementation of this important scheme South and North India could be brought closer and besides, it will also result in development of states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh to a great extent.

My request to hon'ble Railway Minister is that necessary steps should be taken to complete the work of gauge conversion at the earliest.

\*SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN (Mukundapuram): Sir, the Central Government has given a specification that all roads constructed under the Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana, should have minimum eight mtrs. width. The Centre has also suggested that in order to evaluate the quality, and transparency in construction, the Members of Parliament along with other representatives, officials, should examine the roads, once in six months. Kerala is the southern most state in India. Due to high density of population, difficulty in getting lands and high land price, the PMGSY Project is facing many a difficulties. Considering the Geo-Social conditions in Kerala the minimum width of all PMGSY roads should be reduced from eight mtrs. to six mtrs. The Kerala Government has already made this request to the Centre. This is the ideal season for road construction in Kerala. Therefore, the Centre should immediately issue orders reducing the minimum required width of Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana roads from eight mtrs. to six mtrs.

20.18 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

\*\*SHRI M. SHIVANNA (Chamrajnagar) : Sir, my Parliamentary constituency, Chamrajnagar, is one of the famous places in South India. Nanjungud here known as

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

\*\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

'Dakshina Kashi. The Lord Nanjundeshwara is the deity of this holy place. Talkadu is famous for 'Panchalinga Darshanam'. Once in 12 years Panchalinga Darshan takes place here. Mudukutore is a famous pilgrim centre. Sri Mallikarjuna Swamy and Sri Bhrmarambha Temple is situated at the top of the hill. Somanthapura's 'Keshava' Temple is one of the grandset of Hoysala monuments. Mahadeshwara Swamy Temple at malai Mahadeshwara Hill, Sri Ranganatha Swamy Temple at Blligiri Rangana Hill are also famous pilgrim centres. Bandipur bird sanctuary and Nagarahole are popular tourists centres. But the irony is that all these famous places are not having basic infrastructures like roads, guesthouse, bathrooms, toilets and transport facilities. Every day pilgrims and tourists throng this place in huge numbers. But due to inadequate infrastructure like drinking water, lodging and boarding etc. pilgrims are facing lots of difficulties. Hence, I urge upon the Government to provide infrastructure facilities in order to promote tourism in these places in my constituency.

SHRIMATI SUMAN MAHATO (Jamshedpur): Sir, the Indian cable company located in Jamshedpur city of eastern Singhbhum district of Jharkhand State has been lying closed for the last seven years. Thousands of employees were employed in this company. After closure of this company, the economic condition of employees' has deteriorated and many of them have died. Hence, I request that the company may be revived in public interest.

\*SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South): Thank you Sir, I am very much greatful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak in Kannada. For the last three years people of Kamataka have been taking part in Rail Roko, Road Roko demonstrations etc. demanding recognition of Kannada as a "Classical language".

Sir, Karnataka is one of the four southern states. Kannada is its language. It has a history of more than 2000 years. The Government of India has already accorded classical status to Tamil language. Kannada like Tamil is also one of the Dravidian languages. It has all the features to get a classical status. Through you I would like to bring these features of Kannada to the notice of the Union Government.

Sir, over 25,000 inscriptions of Kannada language have been found in Maharastra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu. 1st Kannada inscription 'Halmidi has been recorded during 450 A.D and the ancient book Kavirajamarga was written in 850 A.D.

\*English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

[Shri Manjunath Kunnur]

10th century poets like Pampa, Ranna, Janna, Ponna and 12th century Vachanakara's like Jagajyoti-Basaveshwara, Akkamahadevi, Allama Prabhu have contributed a lot to enrich Kannada language and literature. In modern times, Kannada language has bagged seven Jnanapeeth Awards the highest award for literature in the country. Kuvempu, D.R.Bendre, Shivaram Karant, Masti Venkatesh Iyengar, V. K. Gokak, U. R. Anantamurthy and Girish Karnad are the awardees. Dr. D.Javaregowda, former vice Chancellor of Mysore University, poet, literature of Kannada language was on hunger strike (unto death) demanding classical status for Kannada language. Original in Kannada.

Sir, I breath in Kannada, it is in my blood. Hence, I urge upon the Government of India to take immediate steps to accord classical status to Kannada language without further delay. Otherwise it would affect the peace, law and order of the state.

SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA (Jammu): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to make a submission before the Government particularly to the Ministry of Railways that there are 20 assembly segments in my Jammu, Poonch Parliamentary constituency which is the largest constituency in the country. All the assembly segments are situated along the actual line of control and international border. The work of laying of railway line is being carried out expeditiously in the entire country particularly in Jammu-Kashmir where Jammu-Udhampur-Baramulla Kajikund railway line is being laid, however, the border districts Rajouri and Poonch are still deprived of railway connectivity from Jammu. Many divisions of army are stationed there and army personnel from all over the country are serving there. You are aware that several army Jawans have lost their lives in the various militant attacks involving IDs during past few years.

Therefore, I would like to request that a survey should be conducted for laying railway line from Jammu to Rajouri, Poonch via Akhnoor and provision of funds made in the ensuing budget so that the work could be started in a phased manner to fulfil the long standing demand of the people.

SHRI SURESH WAGHMARE (Wardha): Sir, there is an urgent need to take adequate safety measures for the villages, towns, which are in the vicinity of the Ordinance Depot of Defence Ministry to protect them from various incidents of fire. This issue has several times

been raised but no action has been taken so far. There is the Pulgaon Depot in my parliamentary constituency Wardha where bomb explosions have led to fire leading to evacuation call due to which ensuing stampede resulted in the death of 1 to 2 persons and no security arrangement has been made so far. Therefore, I request the Government and the concerned Department that it is very essential to take safety measures and provide facilities to such villages which are located in the vicinity of Ordinance Depot. Many villages do not have the facilities of electricity, road and water also. Hence I request that all these facilities should be provided in all those villages, which are in the vicinity of Ordinance Depot and provide relief to them.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, more than two and a half crore cases are pending in various courts of the country. It is hard to imagine as to how many families have been suffering on this account.

One can draw an inference from the fact that the case has not been decided even after 50 years. In another case, a woman spent 37 years in incarceration and succumbed to her jail life, and, yet, her case is still pending. This reflects the State of procedural procrastination in the system of delivery of justice in the country. People are now losing faith and wonder if they can get justice on time or not? People have become disillusioned. This is an unfortunate and serious situation. The recommendations of the Law Commission are not being complied with so that the vacancies of judges are filled and their number raised five fold. There is another face of it. The number of P.I.L.s and other cases is increasing day by day and the Judiciary also takes interest in it since these are politically motivated cases. P.I.L.s consume one full day of the Court and hundreds of other cases remain pending. It is an important issue and the Government should take immediate steps after giving it a serious thought.

[English]

SHRIMATI JHANSI LAKSHMI BOTCHA (Bobbili): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government a matter of urgent public importance.

This is regarding the National Cadet Corps training in schools and colleges across the country. The NCC was conceived in 1917 when India Defence Act was promulgated with an object of making up the deficiencies

in the Armed Forces by raising the University Corps. The NCC was established at the behest of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru for training and motivating the youth of the country to become better citizens and leaders in all walks of life. It helps the youth to realise the intimate relationship between man and the community, between community and nature and their inter-dependability.

With increasing anti-social activities, the role of the NCC has become more relevant. Of late, the role of the NCC has been diminishing in schools and colleges, when the need of the hour is to strengthen it. The NCC should be made compulsory in all the Government schools and colleges. But as of now, the choice is given to the students whether to join or not. While it should be free in the Government educational institutions, in private and aided educational institutions, the cost of the NCC training should be borne in the ratio of 50:50 between the NCC and the private schools/colleges. Special campaigns should be launched to create awareness about the NCC among the targeted group and the benefits that accrue to students after joining the NCC. As in Defence forces, weightage should be given to the NCC certificate holders in the selection process for jobs in the Central and the State Governments also.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Central Government to increase funding for the NCC training to make it more popular and a success for which it has been created by an Act of Parliament.

*[Translation]*

RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to apprise the Government that owing to financial compulsions lakhs of men, women and children earn their livelihood by picking rags and are leading a miserable life. In Delhi alone, nearly sixty thousand people pick up rags and dispose them off. They pick up approximately one thousand tonnes of rag in a single day. However, there are neither housing facilities nor medical facilities for them. There are no social security schemes for them. That is why, they are being exploited. They are all a part of recycling industry. However, in the absence of any suitable rules and legislations they are becoming victims of exploitation. Therefore, in view of their miserable condition, I request the Government to provide them adequate facilities and frame laws in this regard.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (YAVATMAL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the issue of denotified nomadic tribes before you. The right to citizenship adult franchise and right to freedom are available to all the people of the country. However, the people I am referring to number more than 15 crore in the country. As pointed out by my colleague right now, there are crores of such people like rag pickers, jugglers (madaris), snake charmers who have neither houses nor ration cards. Their names do not appear in the voting lists. The nandis who roam about here and there and crores of such people are a part of denotified tribes. Nothing has been done for them so far. Once the most reverent Baba Ambedkar ji asked Mahatma Gandhi ji- "Mr. Gandhi, where is my motherland?" He did not ask him only a question, in the provision made in Article 16, it has been mentioned-

*[English]*

In article 16(4) it is provided:

"Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for reservation of appointments or posts in favour of any backward class of citizens."

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please say what do you want from the Government?

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: I would like to state that it has not been interpreted, so far. The backward class therein. . . .*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am referring to those 15 crore people. The Government shows concern towards SCs, STs, OBCs and minorities but no one talks about denotified nomadic tribes. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel and Baba Saheb Ambedkar knew about denotified nomadic tribes. . . .*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please put your question.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD: A scheme should be formulated in this regard. We are repeatedly demanding. Provisions should be made for them as well...  
.*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your question? I want to know what is your question.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIBHAU RAHOD: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there should be some planning for them. Until it is done you cannot provide them justice.

*[English]*

DR. K.S MANOJ (Alleppey): India is the world's second populous country. The density of population in our country is 274 per square kilometer. Out of 28 States and seven Union Territories, Kerala is the most densely populated State. Kerala has one per cent of country's area, but 3.44 per cent of total population. The density of population in Kerala is 819 per square kilometer. That is almost thrice that of the national average.

Sir, my district Allappuzha is the most densely populated district in the country with a density of 1496 per square kilometer. It is almost six times that of national average.

The guideline put forward by PMGSY is that land width is eight meters for the PMGSY road. In a densely populated State like Kerala, this criterion is not consistent with the ground realities, viz, physical and geographical features of the State. So, the funds could not be utilized.

Hence, the Government of Kerala has requested for relaxation of the land width from eight meters to six meters for PMGSY roads. So, I urge upon the Government to relax this criterion from eight kilometers to six kilometers so that the funds can be properly utilized to provide all weather-proof roads to the rural poor.

*[Translation]*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India is our country with its boundaries touching Pakistan and Bangladesh, but fencing has not been erected on the entire stretch of border. Our forces are, of course, deployed at the borders due to which we are safe. In Pakistan people are being given training to spread terrorism in India and arms are also supplied from there. Opium is also smuggled from there.

People infiltrate from China too. So, there is an urgent need of fencing at the borders in order to check smuggling and ensure security of India.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, terrorists are purchasing land in Barmer district of Rajasthan. There should be a check in this regard. If at all it is necessary to settle someone the borders, then, the farmers are there because their crops are getting destroyed there. Ex-servicemen should be settled there and fencing should be carried out and compensation should be given to the farmers whose lands are acquired for fencing. My request is that ex-servicemen should be settled at the border of Barmer. This is the question of national security. So, the Central Government should urgently pay attention towards this issue.

*[English]*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, we are all proud that a few moments back, we have been able to pass the Bill to honour the senior citizens and our parents. But the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) pensioners are getting a small amount as pension. Is it not hypocrisy? We say that we are going to honour them. But, at the same time, we are not respecting our elders and seniors who have given a lot of efforts for the country, for the places where they live and for their families. There are about 80 lakhs of people who come under this category. The EPF fund has exceeded to a large extent. It goes around Rs. 30,000 crore and the Government is trying to invest it into the stock market and trying to make more money.

It is trying to make more money. It is good. But can we forget these poor people? They cannot make a living now. So, my humble submission to the Government, through you, Sir, is that this has to be taken very seriously on this auspicious day when we have passed the great Bill which has become an Act.

Hence, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Labour as well as the Government to see that pension is revised urgently and also they are paid some interim relief immediately because they have been put to very great harassment for quite a long time.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, the Kerala Legislative Assembly had unanimously adopted a Resolution requesting the Central Government to take steps towards the establishment of a permanent

Bench of the Kerala High Court in the State Capital, Thiruvananthapuram. Though the Resolution was passed long ago, so far, nothing has materialized. I understand that the Kerala Government also had approached the Central Government and even given word that it would meet the entire expenditure. Still, the matter did not materialize.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to take steps towards the establishment of a Bench of the Kerala High Court at Thiruvananthapuram without further delay.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (Bhadrachalam): Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity.

The Primitive Tribal Groups need protection and survival rights. There are about 12 Primitive Tribal Groups in Andhra Pradesh. They are now under threat of extinction, particularly the Chenchu community. The total population of PTG is decreasing day by day. If we see the census of 1961, their total population was 1,23,269. It rose to 1,95,264 in 1971. After a decade, in 1981, it became 1,89,968. In 1991, it became 1,86,078. So, their population decreased. They are living in Nallamalla Forest Reserve Area of Kurnool, Guntur, Prakasam and Mahaboobnagar districts on either side of river Krishna. There is the Nagarjuna Sagar Tiger Reserve of about 3600 sq. kms in these districts. About 2500 families from 25 core villages of Chenchus were evicted without recognizing their rights of relocation.

For instance, about 12 habitations of the Chenchus were shifted to Appapur and another chenchu village in the plain was also shifted against their will. Further, the Forest Department is threatening to evict them from there also because it falls under the reserve forest.

Hence, I demand the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and the Ministry of Environment and Forests to protect their rights, consider their right to live there and extend the help. It was promised to provide Rs.10 lakh as *ex gratia* to these families and also two acres of land for cultivation for each family.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very important matter. It is about the National Institute of Technology in Imphal. It is a welcome decision that this Institute is established in Manipur as a part of the Prime Minister's

package. Unfortunately, so far as selection of site is concerned, earlier the site was selected in Kyamgei Loukon. But this has been changed and now the proposal they made is to have the site in Langol Patta Land areas and in the wet land at Lamphelpat. As a result of this, a large number of tribal population of those areas has become extremely apprehensive. A Joint Action Committee has been formed. The students, the tribal population have become so apprehensive that they are saying that there could be a repetition of Nandigram in Imphal. Under the circumstances, people from Churachandpur, Bishanpur and all these areas have offered alternate site. So, I urge upon the Government to consider having the institute in those sites without displacing the tribal population which might lead to a lot of tension.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Hansraj Ahir ji. You can raise only one matter at a time. You are allowed to raise one matter only.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR (Chandrapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, big industries are set up in the country at the special request of the State Governments. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the emerging practice of closing and shifting the industries after availing or for availing the benefits or facilities extended by the State Governments in the course of time. There are so many states where industries are set up at the request of State Government offering concession in taxes for bringing industries to their States and, of course, industries are set up there, but due to trend of winding up the industries after the expiry of tax holiday period, the labourers working in such industries face the problem of untimely retirement or unemployment. In my constituency there was a refrigerator-manufacturing unit owned by Voltas company in Varoda which was sold to Multinational Company Electrolux. Before the sell out, there were 1500 labourers working in this factory and now out of them 700 people have been given VRS. The number of labourers and employees has been curtailed. Now the Electrolux company also has sold it to Videocon Company. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is a State matter.

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Sir, this is not a State matter. I am speaking about the misdeeds of multinational companies. ... (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your demand?

SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that the State Government is helping them. I would like to tell the Central Government that the Videocon company to which the Electrolux company has been sold has now closed its whole plant and due to this about 700 people are facing untimely retrenchment. They have become jobless. I request the Government to check such a system of shifting industries from one State to another State for seeking tax benefits from the later as the Videocon is shifting its establishment to Kashipur Uttranchal so that it could avail tax benefits from Uttranchal Government. .... *(Interruptions)*.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I request the Government to intervene in this emerging system of setting up of industries in the States in this manner to save the poor from becoming unemployed.

*[English]*

SHRI R. PRABHU (NILGIRIS): I would like to bring to the attention of the Government, especially of the Minister of Commerce and the Minister of Finance, to the pitiable plight of the small tea growers. In this country, we have nearly 2 lakh small tea growers who have less than one hectare or 1.5 hectares of land and they have small tea plantations. There are 65 thousand such people in my constituency and others are in Darjeeling and Assam. This is the true small scale industry of the tea sector. They have been getting unremunerative prices and they have been suffering for the last many years. For the last three years now, we have been requesting the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Finance to give them a statutory minimum support price of Rs. 10 per kilogram of green tea leaves. The break even point is around Rs. 8 and even today, they are getting five and a half rupees or six rupees per kilogram of green leaves. Now, they are suffering. They are committing suicides. They are facing many hardships. They are not able to send their children to schools. They are not able to have medical facilities or anything. I would urge upon the Government, as they have the power under the Tea Control Order of 1953 to fix maximum or minimum price for tea, that they have to fix the minimum price of tea and tea leaves which they sell.

You know, Sir, this Government has passed a very far-reaching National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme under the guidance of Madam Sonia Gandhi.

Our traditional industries in this country are plantations, textiles, sugar and all agro-based industries. Here, by killing these industries, we are reducing employment. On the one hand, we are trying to give employment and on the other hand we are reducing it. So, I would urge upon the Government to look into this. Mr. Kamal Nath, Commerce and Industry Minister, while speaking, at an UPASI function last September, had assured the small tea growers there that he would ensure a statutory minimum support price for them.

*[Translation]*

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO (Giridih): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while drawing your attention through the House, I would like to state that a number of Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes, extremely backward class people from the weaker sections of the society of Jharkhand State have been living in Delhi for years together to earn their livelihood in the areas like Vasant Kunj, Kotla of South Delhi, Karampura, Janakpuri, Vikaspuri of West Delhi and in various localities of East Delhi, but it is a matter of regret that they have not been issued the ration cards till date due to which they are deprived of the benefits extended by the Government.

So, in public interest my demand is that the instructions may be issued to the concerned department to issue ration cards to the people living in Delhi like other States.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (Jalaun): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to bring to the notice of the Central Government a very important subject. There is a post office in Kaunch Nagar of my parliamentary constituency Jalaun Garotha. That post office has been there from British times. It is so old that it has come to a crumbling condition. Water leaks, from its ceiling. When the staff of this post office sit and work there, then, it seems that there may be mishap any time with the collapse of its roof. If the roof collapses, definitely there will be a major mishap. Through you, I urge the Central Government that the old building of this post office may be replaced by a new one so that any kind of accident could be avoided and the safety of employees of the post office could be ensured before time. This is my demand.

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI (Sarguja): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. In my Parliamentary constituency, the National Highway No. 78 from Katni to

Gumla is in a very dilapidated condition. It has extension from Katni to Gumla ahead of Jaspur via Shadol, Anuppur, Kotma, Mahendragarh, Baikunthpur, Ambikapur, Sitapur and Patthar Gaon Kunkuri. The length of this highway is 600 kilometres. It connects three States—Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand. It is also linked with the seven districts of the three States, such as Katni, Shadol, Anuppur, Korla, Sarguja, Jaspur and Gumla. This highway affects the life of over 2 crore people out of which 80 per cent population belongs to SCs/STs. It is very regretful that the condition of this highway is so bad and pitiable that it has large potholes at places. If you walk on this road, it is difficult to imagine whether the potholes are on the road or the road is on the potholes. I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Surface Transport and the Government of India that the very important highway in the densely populated tribal areas may be included in

the budget at the earliest to make it motorable while making provision for the required funds. Adequate funds should be provided for this purpose and the work for its repair and improvement be initiated at the earliest. I am very much thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House now stands adjourned to meet tomorrow.

20.52 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the  
Clock on Thursday, December 6, 2007/  
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